



**Opinion**

## Our Amir, the grievances of your people will reach you

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE State leadership that focuses on the stability of the people and advancement of the country needs trustees to assist in its work. It should carefully select these individuals to ensure they do not dash hopes, and that there is no barrier between them and the populace.



Al-Jarallah

This perspective is supported by the remarks made by First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef. In a press statement, he asserted: "Today, I am the Minister of Interior. One of my duties is to visit all areas in the country to look into needs of the people. His Highness

the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah ordered me to do so when he said: 'O Fahad, you must go everywhere in Kuwait, and see what the people need, or any grievance they might have, so that you can report it.

In this manner, the citizen does not complain in front of the public.' His Highness the Amir told me not to write on the phone or tweet. He added: 'Instead, he should give it to you, bring it to me and I will investigate the matter.'

Your people have demanded this, O our

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Email: [ahmed@aljarallah.com](mailto:ahmed@aljarallah.com)

Follow me on:



[ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com](mailto:ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com)

## Amir Representative heads to Qatar Wednesday

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-

Hamad Al-Sabah will leave to Qatar on Wednesday to head Kuwait's delegation to the Third Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD).

# Iran launches strikes as Israel sirens blare

Residents ordered to stay near bomb shelters

JERUSALEM, Oct 1, (AP): The Israeli military said Tuesday that Iran has fired missiles at Israel, and air raid sirens sounded across the country as residents were ordered to remain close to bomb shelters.

Israel and the United States have warned there would be severe consequences if Iran attacks.

The orders to shelter in place were sent to Israelis' mobile phones and announced on national television. TV stations reported sirens in parts of

Jerusalem as well as central Israel. The alerts were sounded after a day of rocket and missile attacks from Lebanon, and as Israel said it had begun limited ground operations in southern Lebanon.

Israeli airstrikes and artillery fire pounded southern Lebanese villages where people were ordered to evacuate, and Hezbollah militants responded by firing a barrage of rockets into Israel. There was no immediate word on casualties as fighting intensified and concerns of a wider regional war grew.

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Deeper global integration sought

## Kuwait focuses on stronger ties with int'l organizations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait continued to pursue stronger relations with international partners and the global community, which came in line with the country's long legacy of improving diplomatic ties with all countries in the world.

After his ascension to power on December 16, 2023, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah immediately began visiting brotherly and friendly nations to boost relations and solidify alliances.

In late January 2024, His Highness the Amir began a GCC tour, which started 45 days after becoming leader of Kuwait, deepening ties with Gulf countries in all possible domains as well as bolstering already strong and historic relations with GCC brethren.

On to the Arab world, His Highness the Amir's visit to Egypt had been seen as another milestone in the decades-long relations and this is reflected in the joint Kuwaiti-Egyptian statement that followed the visit.

Between May 7-8, His Highness the

Amir's visit to Turkiye and his meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan coincided with 60 years of relations. The visit resulted in the signing of six agreements and MoUs.

The Amir tour came along with directives to the Kuwaiti government to expand and bolster ties on all levels with the world.

The strategic meetings and talks among the GCC countries, Russia, Brazil, and India on September ninth in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was a chance for Kuwait to expand relations with all those involved in the meetings.

Kuwait, represented by Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, utilized the 162nd session of the Arab League council to boost ties with fellow Arab countries during meetings and discussions held in Cairo last month.

Back in September also, the supreme joint Kuwaiti-UAE committee held in Abu Dhabi was also an opportunity to expand ties and such occurred with the

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The Kuwait Towers stand tall as sunlight pierces through the clouds. The country has faced unstable weather since Tuesday morning, resulting in dust-raising winds in certain areas. Director of the Meteorology Department Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi forecasts a return to calmer conditions after midnight as the winds are expected to lessen.

Photo by Leah Qurtal

## Kuwait backs global coalition's strong stance against ISIS

WASHINGTON, Oct 1, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya commended the outcomes of the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, held in Washington on Monday.

The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of the coalition members to coordination of the international actions against the terrorist organization of the so-called Islamic State (ISIS or Daesh), he said in post-event statements to KUNA.

"The meeting, convened under a call from US

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, reaffirmed joint resolute action by the coalition members to dismantle the international networks of the ISIS and stem their future risks," Al-Yahya pointed out.

"During the meeting, we have discussed with Iraq the progress of the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq, to be phased out in September of next year," the Kuwaiti minister disclosed.

Al-Yahya noted that he held talks on the fringes of the meeting with Secretary Blinken on a range

of main topics of common concern.

In his inaugural speech to the ministerial meeting, Secretary Blinken announced that the United States set aside USD 148 million to the enhancement of border security and counter-terrorism operations in the Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia, besides USD 168 million to the stabilization of Iraq and Syria.

The United States and Iraq announced in a joint statement on Friday, a two-phase transition plan for the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation In-

herent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) operations in Iraq.

The global coalition will start ending its military mission in Iraq over one year, end in September 2025.

Meanwhile, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya said that the recent speech delivered by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at the United Nations focused on the main interests of the State of Kuwait and the countries of the region in general, in light of the escalating developments witnessed in the region.

Transfer rules set for Nov 3 rollout

## KD 350 fee for project to private visa change

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: In a significant development for labor regulations, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, has amended the rules governing the transfer of workers between employers.

This decision introduces specific guidelines for the transfer of workers on government contracts to the private sector, effective November 3, 2024.

The new directive includes the cancellation of Clause No. 5 of Article No. 3 of PAM Resolution No. 842 of 2015, which previously restricted the transfer of expatriate workers to the cooperative societies and unions sector.

Under the amended regulations, workers who were brought into the country to work on government contracts and projects will now be allowed to transfer to sectors outside of government contracts, provided they meet certain conditions.

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## Rising alerts over fraudulent offers

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Dr. Safaa Zaman, head of the Kuwait Association for Information Security (KAIS), confirmed that consumers' suspicions have been aroused by the proliferation of advertisements for a variety of products; particularly food products, with enticing discounts and payment through bank links.

In fact, it was discovered that the source of these advertisements is financial fraud bait, in which a large number of people have fallen victim.

In a statement to the newspaper, Zaman clarified that bank links have demonstrated their ineffectiveness in minimizing fraudulent transactions; because they are utilized extensively and have caused

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## Kuwait, Saudi in bid to boost cultural ties

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have strengthened their cultural ties by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in various cultural fields, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The agreement was signed by Abdurrahman Al-Mutairi, Kuwait's Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, and Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, and Saudi Minister of Culture, Prince Bader bin Abdullah Al-Saud.

This step reflects the close and fraternal relations between the two nations, emphasizing a commitment to cultural collaboration.

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KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdurrahman Al-Mutairi and his Saudi counterpart Prince Bader bin Abdullah Al-Saud during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in various cultural fields.

**Day by Day**

I WOULD like to know if the Council of Ministers, including His Highness the Prime Minister, is genuinely concerned about ensuring food security in Kuwait. If they are, it is essential to protect local farms from the mafia that controls the fruit and vegetable markets.

Countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman have established strong domestic food security measures, with their governments actively supporting farmers.

When we talk about food security, it means multiple interconnected factors that need to be addressed. The challenge is not simply about having sufficient production; it is also about providing protection and encouraging producers.

A significant problem is the frequent change of senior officials running the agricultural sector, as each new appointee brings his own vision and strategy. This instability, combined with the damaging influence of market control, complicates efforts to build a resilient agricultural framework.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

**NewsWatch**

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Tuesday sent a cable to NATO's new Secretary-General Mark Rutte, congratulating him on assuming his post.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished Rutte best of luck and success in attaining the NATO's aspired goals and promoting international security and peace.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent their congratulations to Rutte, wishing him well in his new role. (KUNA) — See Also Page 6

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	04:22	Asr .....	15:02
Sunrise ..	05:41	Maghrib ..	17:34
Zohr .....	11:38	Isha .....	18:51

# Local

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Hot and humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to south-easterly wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

**By Night:** Rather hot and humid especially over coastal ar-

## Weather

eas with light variable wind to light to moderate northerly wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h with a chance for light fog forming over some areas and some scattered clouds will appear.

**Station** Max Exp Min Rec  
Kuwait City 40 28

Kuwait Airport	40	29
Abdaly	42	28
Bubyah	33	29
Jahra	44	29
Failaka Island	33	26
Salmiyah	32	30
Ahmadi	31	22
Jal Aliyah	43	29
Nuwaisib	40	28

# KPC on road to oil sector overhaul

Mergers, transfers to achieve 'Vision 2040'

## Amir, Crown Prince, Prime Minister congratulate China on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable to President of China Xi Jinping, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

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

## Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable to President of China Xi Jinping, congratulating him on his country's National Day, wishing him lasting health and wellness.

## Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable to President of China Xi Jinping, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

## Condolences over Nepal flood deaths

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of condolences to the President of Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel, expressing sympathy to the families of victims of flash floods and heavy rain that swept through the country, which resulted in several casualties and property damage.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir Meshal expressed wishes of swift recovery to the injured and for Nepal to overcome the tragedy.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of condolences to the President of Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel, expressing sympathy and condolences to the families' victims of flash floods and heavy rain that swept through the country, which resulted in several casualties and property damage.

## PAAET to hold third student fair for 3 days from Oct 6-8

By Abdulrahman Al-Shamari  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Under the patronage and in the presence of Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and acting Minister of Education Prof. Dr. Nader Abdullah Al-Jalal, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), represented by the Deanship of Student Affairs, will organize the third student exhibition from Oct 6-8, 2024 at the authority's main general theater in Shuwaikh Educational District.

Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Abdullah Al-Ajmi said this exhibition, which will be held for the third consecutive year, has witnessed a great turnout during the past years; which motivated the Deanship to continue organizing it.

Through the exhibition, direct communication is made with continuing or new

students, answering all their inquiries and providing important advice and guidance that will ensure a successful academic life for them -- whether related to the registration mechanism and conditions for internal transfer or the method of applying for social assistance or the excellence reward and rare specializations, he explained.

He disclosed this is in addition to introducing the students to the programs and specializations offered by the applied colleges and newly established training institutes, and the job opportunities available for those specializations through the participation of some concerned authorities.

"New and continuing students and their parents are invited to the exhibition to benefit from the services it provides. We hope this exhibition will achieve the desired goals and serve its visitors to the fullest," he concluded.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi presents a memento to an elderly citizen.

## Services launched on 'Sahel' for elderly

## Strict penalties underway for parking at spot for old people

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi has announced the launching of a priority service and issuance of license plate for the elderly through the Sahel application.

On the eve of the ministry's commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons, with the theme, "Our Elderly are a Blessing," Al-Ajmi reaffirmed in a press statement that "the ministry is striving to implement the Elderly Law provisions, which make our parents' daily lives easier."

He confirmed the ministry is keen on working with its Interior counterpart to impose the specified penalties on those who exploit parking spaces for the elderly in public places.

He said the ministry is focusing on the expansion of the digital transformation in its sectors through the inclusion of all services on Sahel application. He stressed that the ministry will be fully digital soon.

He attributed the ministry's accomplishment of 99 percent of its objectives to the joint efforts of the technical team. He stated that the ministry attained the high and notable percentage among all government agencies; because of the efforts and directives of the minister, as well as the efforts of all

employees.

In his speech on behalf of the minister, he pointed out that the meeting on this occasion embodies the State of Kuwait's commitment and hard work to improve the conditions of the elderly, cover their needs and to adapt them to the specificities of society.

He disclosed that Kuwait is one of the nations upholding human rights in general, and the rights of the elderly in particular, citing Article One of the Constitution and Social Care for the Elderly Law No. 18/2016. He pointed out this is because the State recognizes the value of the elderly and the need to create laws that protect their rights, uphold their dignity and promote their integration into society while drawing on their life experiences.

He stressed that the ministry is keen on providing all means of health, social, psychological, and living care for the elderly who have no family through the residential care for the elderly, in addition to the mobile service for the elderly.

He said the ministry provides social, psychological and medical care for the elderly in their homes and among their families through specialized technical manpower; in addition to daycare provided in clubs and special offices for the elderly for them to spend their free time in worthwhile activities and activate their role in society.

## Brazil envoy's Independence Day speech



The cake-cutting ceremony.



Photos by Leah Qurtal

The Brazilian ambassador with guests.

## Brazil, Kuwait trade & bilateral ties to flourish in next 10 years

Your Excellency Nawaf Al-Ahmad, Assistant Minister for the Americas, distinguished officials of the State of Kuwait, Your Excellency Ambassador Zubaydo Zubay-dzo-da, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, my colleagues the heads of diplomatic missions in Kuwait, our friends from the Brazilian community, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our celebration of the two hundred and second anniversary of Brazil's independence! It is a pleasure to celebrate tonight the singular journey of Brazil through history with our guests from Kuwait, from Brazil and from other friendly nations.

## Generations

Over the course of those two centuries, successive generations have helped Brazil grow and develop into the country that it is today.

Perhaps one of the most evident aspects of that legacy is Brazil's diversity. Brazil is rich in cultural traditions, in artistic expressions, in beliefs, in ecosystems, diverse in every sense. Out of that diversity, a large, complex and sophisticated society emerged, with a multifaceted people of different races, creeds and origins. That diversity is our strength.

Other aspects of that legacy are also important. Brazil is blessed with a large territory, one of the largest in the world. With a sizeable population, with over 210 million people. And with a significant economy - last year Brazil's economy was among the ten largest on the planet. Over the last fifty years, thanks to research and development in tropical agriculture, Brazil became the world's third largest exporter of agricultural products.

Our country is also a top producer of renewable power, 85% of our electricity is renewable, 90% of Brazil's cars can run on petrol or on sustainable sugarcane ethanol, or any mixture thereof.

## Challenges

We are aware of our strengths, we are also aware of our challenges. We are facing the challenges of inequality and poverty with innovative social programs designed to protect the younger generations and to empower our citizens. We hope that Brazil's experience with social programs such as the National School Meals Program and the Bolsa Familia (which is an award-winning conditional cash transfer program) will be of value to a new initiative that the Group of 20 will launch this November, under Brazil's presidency.

Let me tell you about this initiative. The G20 Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty aims to facilitate and mobilize knowledge and financial resources, to enable large-scale implementation of public policies to tackle those problems. The process will be led by the countries that request cooperation, especially those most affected by hunger and extreme poverty.

As stated in the Alliance's foundational documents, "In a divided world, we need more unity". This initiative is born within the G20 but will be open to all who wish to

join in this effort.

The Alliance grew out of one of Brazil's three priorities for its G20 presidency. The other two are sustainable development and global governance reform.

The G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York, last Wednesday, which was open to all UN members, was an unprecedented opportunity for the Group and other UN Member States to join hands in favor of a "Call to Action" for the reform of global governance institutions, with the United Nations at its center.

And next year, Brazil will host the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference.

We are already preparing for COP 30. It will take place in November 2025, among the wondrous scenery of the Amazon, in the Brazilian city of Belém. It is our hope that the parties to the Paris Agreement will be ambitious in their nationally determined contributions, and that national mitigation actions and commitments are achieved.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we celebrate Brazil's independence, it is only appropriate that we celebrate Brazil-Kuwait relations. Over 56 years, our two nations have developed strong, solid ties, for the benefit of our societies. And another milestone is coming - next year it will be fifty years since Brazil opened its resident embassy in Kuwait.

## Relations

Our relations with our Kuwaiti partners have been boosted by the recent meeting of our Foreign Ministers in the margins of the GCC-Brazil dialogue earlier this month. It was an excellent occasion to discuss international, regional and bilateral issues and to help move our bilateral agenda forward.

One important aspect of that agenda is trade and investment. In 2024, Brazil and Kuwait are on course to have our highest trade values in ten years, which is a testament to the dynamism of that area of bilateral relations.

Brazil is proud to be an important partner of Kuwait in food security and to have in Kuwait a key partner in our energy security. We hope to continue to develop those roles, to diversify our bilateral commerce and to increase investments, as the ministers discussed in early September.

Based on the shared principles which guide the foreign policy of both our nations, such as cooperation as a tool for development, non-interference, and peaceful resolution of disputes, the Kuwait-Brazil friendship no doubt will continue to flourish, as our countries strive towards development and justice.

My friends, this is my first time celebrating the Brazilian Independence Day in Kuwait. My wife Carol and I would like to express our thanks to all our friends in Kuwait for the warm welcome my family and I have received.

Long live Brazil! Long live Kuwait!  
Thank you and enjoy the party.

Rodrigo d'Araújo Gabsch  
Brazilian Ambassador

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) issued a decision on the comprehensive restructuring of the oil sector in an effort to achieve the comprehensive renaissance that the corporation is hoping for in the coming years, through which it can achieve its oil 'Vision 2040'.

This decision is a step towards implementing the merger of oil companies affiliated with the corporation in a wise manner.

According to the first article of the decision, the Supreme Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Restructuring Project for the Oil Sector will be formed, with the KPC CEO as chairman; while the CEOs of Kuwait Oil Company, Gulf Oil, National Petroleum Company, Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company, Petrochemical Industries Company, Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company, Kuwait Petroleum International Company and Kuwait Oil Tanker Company will be the members.

Other members are the managing directors for global marketing, planning, finance, human resources and comprehensive services, and deputy managing director for planning at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

According to the decision, the committee's responsibilities will be to oversee the general development of detailed executive plans for the comprehensive restructuring project for the oil sector, approve the implementation methodology and plan, which will include the implementation mechanism and timetable for the change management plan, and approve the implementation of the comprehensive restructuring plan for each sector going forward.

It will also provide the necessary support to all committees and specialized teams complementing the implementation of the comprehensive restructuring project for the oil sector and to follow up the implementation of the approved work plan, and to approve and monitor the results according to the timetables.

Article Two of the decision stipulates the formation of a working group committee for the overall restructuring project for the oil industry. The committee's members include the Chairman, KPC Deputy Managing Director for Planning, Deputy CEO for Planning and Innovation Directorate at Kuwait Oil Company, Deputy CEO for Joint Operations at Kuwait Gulf Oil Company, e Deputy CEO for Administrative and Commercial Affairs at Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Deputy CEO for Administrative and Commercial Affairs at Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company, Deputy CEO at Kuwait Petroleum International for Planning and Finance, and Deputy CEO at Kuwait Oil Tanker Company for Fleet Operations.

The group will coordinate the implementation of the oil sector restructuring plan among various sectors and affiliated companies, develop a methodology and change management plan, support and assist the specialized steering committees and any work teams assigned to them, help them overcome any challenges they may encounter, and then provide suitable solutions to ensure and provide the workflow and monitor its progress with the sectors and affiliated companies involved.

## Committees

The group will also submit periodic reports, recommendations, and observations to the Supreme Steering Committee for the Oil Sector Restructuring Project.

Article Three of the decision states the formation of specialized steering committees to implement the complete restructuring project for the oil sector as follows:

(1) The specialized steering committee for the exploration and production sector within the State of Kuwait:

■ The CEO of Kuwait Oil Company shall assume the specialized steering committee for the exploration and production sector within the State of Kuwait, and the membership of the CEO of Kuwait Gulf Oil Company.

■ The Chairman of the Committee shall select the Committee members from among those he considers to be the Deputy CEOs and Directors of the Kuwait Oil Company and the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company.

■ The committee shall be responsible for implementing a project to restructure the exploration and production sector within the State of Kuwait, including the implementation of Resolution No. 2024/60 regarding the approval of the transfer of shares of Kuwait Gulf Oil Company from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation to Kuwait Oil Company, after obtaining the approval for the formation of the Supreme Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Restructuring Project for the Oil Sector.

(2) The Specialized Steering Committee for the Refining and Manufacturing Sector within the State of Kuwait:

■ The CEO of the Kuwait National Petroleum Company shall chair the specialized steering committee concerned with the refining and manufacturing sector within the State of Kuwait, and the CEO of the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company shall be a member.

■ The Chairman shall select the members of the committee and whoever he deems appropriate from among the Deputy CEOs and managers of both the Kuwait National Petroleum Company and the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company.

■ The committee shall be responsible for implementing the restructuring project for the refining and manufacturing sector within the State of Kuwait, including the implementation of Resolution No. 2024/61 regarding the approval of the merger of the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company with the National Petroleum Company, after obtaining the approval of the formation of the Supreme Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Restructuring Project for the Sector Oil.

(3) Steering Committee for Transferring Assets and Operations of Gas Cylinder Filling Plants:

■ The CEO of the Kuwait National Petroleum Company shall chair the specialized steering committee for transferring the assets and operations of gas cylinder filling plants to the Kuwait National Petroleum Company and the membership of the CEO of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company.

## Seminar sheds light on translation issue

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): The European Union (EU) embassy in the State of Kuwait, in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), organized a special seminar on Monday, marking the September 30th day of the International Day of Translation.

The lecturer, Majdi Al-Musaed, a Media Officer at the EU Delegation, stated that translation between languages contributes to cultural exchange.

He emphasized that translation, whether literary, scientific, or legal, requires a diligent and well-informed reader who understands the context before translating.

During the seminar, Al-Musaed emphasized that translators should avoid literal translation to ensure the text retains its intended meaning. Translators should master typing skills in both Arabic and English to enhance their efficiency, he added.

Regarding news translation, Al-Musaed explained that it differs from translating speeches, documentaries, or diplomatic texts for embassies, where the translator is closely tied to the original text. He added that translators should also be capable of developing creative content, as most embassies manage social media accounts. Al-Musaed emphasized that press release translators need strong confidence on camera and a solid understanding of the subject matter.

## 'Vision of Saudi leaders ... building unified Gulf for future generations'

"ON THE occasion of Saudi National Day, I recalled the twelve years I spent in Riyadh, supervising the course of the Gulf Cooperation Council since its inception in May 1981. I accompanied its early stages, communicating with various Saudi and Gulf ministries to ensure the success of the historic project undertaken by the Gulf leaders, supported by the Kingdom's strong belief in constructing a historic edifice," columnist, former permanent envoy of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations (UN), the former Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) secretary general **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.



Bishara

"This was in line with the vision of these leaders and Riyadh's appreciation of the Gulf leaders' trust in Saudi determination to initiate work according to their visions, while providing all necessary resources to build a headquarters fitting the Council's mission. "The Kingdom's determination to meet these needs symbolized the Saudi leadership's will to begin work as quickly and efficiently as possible, utilizing all available mechanisms. "Here, the characteristics of the Saudi approach to fulfilling difficult missions become clear, no matter how challenging they are. I sensed that the founding phase was marked by the Kingdom's leadership's determination to provide the Council with all the ingredients for success.

"The late Prince Saud Al-Faisal, brilliant in diplomacy, closely followed the details, reflecting the leadership's commitment to excellence.

"The result was a growing sense of assurance that the Council and its requirements were given exceptional priority by the leadership, contributing to the rapid progress achieved through a collective Saudi effort, including the Royal Court, Prince Saud, and the Minister of Finance, Sheikh Mohammed Abu Al-Khalil.

"The years I spent in the Kingdom gave me ample opportunity to reflect on its history, from its beginnings to the developments, the conflicts among brothers and relatives, and the period spent in Kuwait.

"This allowed the leadership to strengthen ties with global powers, especially Britain, during which King Abdulaziz bin Saud gained significant political and diplomatic experience. He returned victorious to Riyadh in 1902, continuing the work begun by the founders of the First Saudi State and, through his victories, culminating in the declaration of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932.

"The history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is like an exciting novel, where leaders emerged with radiant courage and lofty ambitions. The last of these founding leaders was King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud. "Anyone who reads his history is struck by his series of successive victories, driven by rare qualities: immense patience, faith-fueled boldness, sacrifice for principles, fairness in dealings, tolerance in adversity, and rewarding those who deserved it.

"Above all, he achieved remarkable success without resorting to deception. His ambition was to restore what belonged to his ancestors. Despite his victories and the reclamation of Riyadh, humility remained his constant companion, justice his driving force, and tolerance his source of joy. He did not resort to violence in his disagreements with his supporters, even when they opposed his peaceful approach towards former adversaries.

"These virtues that characterized King Abdulaziz became the foundation of Saudi conduct. Firmness appears in times of danger, generosity nurtures harmony, forgiveness embodies tolerance, understanding ends disputes, and dignity preserves status.

"In truth, this set of virtues became the cornerstone of Saudi diplomacy. I observed it later at the United Nations and understood its essence during my time with the GCC.

"The most striking quality that captivated me was loyalty, as I am a son of Kuwait. I remember the path of loyalty towards Kuwait. In 1938, King Abdulaziz summoned the British ambassador in Jeddah, who took several days to reach Riyadh.

"During their meeting, the king asked him to convey to London the necessity of Iraq withdrawing its forces from the Kuwaiti border. If this did not happen, he had his own options, and the king's request was fulfilled. He sent his son Saud to Kuwait in 1939 to reaffirm his support for Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber during the Legislative Council crisis.

"King Saud upheld loyalty with great integrity in response to the claims made by the Iraqi Prime Minister regarding Kuwait's subordination. He dispatched a force of a thousand soldiers with orders to confront and open fire and raised Iraqi threats with President Gamal Abdel Nasser, while insisting on Kuwait's swift admission into the Arab League.

"The Saudi-Kuwaiti bond strengthened in every aspect, and the Kingdom stood with Kuwait against Saddam Hussein's conspiracy and deception. When the invasion occurred, we saw the King's envoy, Amir of the Eastern Province Muhammad bin Fahd, sta-

tioned at the Saudi police post on the Kuwaiti border, overseeing the provision of all necessary resources to the Amir of Kuwait and his government.

"Preparations for liberation began with a collective Islamic mobilization under Saudi leadership, and the Kingdom hosted the allies as they committed to implementing the Security Council resolutions for Kuwait's liberation.

"All of this took place on Saudi soil, with Saudi Arabia fully dedicated to fulfilling the pledge made by King Fahd and his government. Ultimately, Kuwait was liberated, to global joy and sympathy, with the rejection of Iraq's futile proposals. We returned to our homeland, led by our Amir, returning from Taif under the provisions of Saudi hospitality.

"This is an epic that history recounts, cherished by the Kuwaiti people, who recognize the loyalty ingrained in the Al Saud's legacy of supporting Kuwait's aspirations for the security of its homeland.

"In 1965, the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem, made an official visit to Cairo. The circumstances were ripe for the Amir to suggest to President Gamal Abdel Nasser that Kuwait could help resolve the Yemeni crisis.

"President Nasser welcomed the intervention, hoping for a successful outcome. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad took on the role of mediator, enjoying a special rapport with the Egyptian president, who trusted in his Arab integrity.

"Sheikh Sabah also held the trust of King Faisal, and thus took on the burden of the mission. After a meeting with King Faisal, who displayed a firm yet accepting stance, an agreement was made to bring experts together at a meeting in Kuwait.

"Despite initial tension and later flexibility, Hassan Sabry Al-Kholi represented President Nasser, and Dr. Rashad Farouq represented King Faisal. Ahmed Al-Ayyoub Al-Qanai and I oversaw the arrangements. Although the meetings did not result in an agreement acceptable to both parties, the efforts did not hinder Sheikh Sabah, who continued his visits.

"King Faisal needed assurances from Egypt not to interfere in Yemen if an agreement was reached, while President Nasser doubted that Saudi Arabia would merely watch the Egyptian army withdraw without acting in favor of the Yemeni side.

"This was the situation in mid-1966. Sheikh Sabah sought to facilitate a meeting between the two leaders in Kuwait, after all other efforts had failed. He decided to propose the meeting to President Nasser during a gathering in Alexandria in August 1966.

"Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, accompanied by Ambassador Hamad Al-Rujaib and me as the minister's office director, went to meet President Nasser. From the outset, President Nasser was in a negative mood. Sheikh Sabah proposed the meeting, outlining its benefits and pointing out the experts' failures in creating a mutually acceptable agenda.

"When Sheikh Sabah insisted on the necessity of the meeting, President Nasser responded negatively, expressing skepticism about its potential success and repeating that it would benefit King Faisal but not Egypt. The meeting ended without resolution, and from that point, the decline escalated, culminating in the defeat of June 5, 1967.

"I felt that the Saudi strategy in Yemen was not seeking to gain benefits, but highlights the deep-rooted values and strategic foresight of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, particularly in its handling of the Yemeni crisis and other regional challenges.

"The Saudi strategy in Yemen, was not about seeking gains, but about safeguarding the Kingdom's stability and political integrity. The threat posed by the Egyptian military presence was indeed perceived as a significant risk, and Saudi Arabia's response was decisive, drawing from the enduring courage and boldness that have defined the leadership of the Al Saud from the founding of the Kingdom.

"Saudi Arabia's history is one of resilience, where political diplomacy coexists with an unyielding readiness to confront and fight when necessary, particularly when the dignity of the nation is at stake.

"The Kingdom's handling of the invasion and its steadfast response under King Faisal's leadership, as seen in his interactions with Sheikh Sabah, underscores this duality. It's a history filled with moments of bold confrontation balanced by acts of magnanimity and support, as demonstrated in the aftermath of the 1967 defeat during the Khartoum Conference.

"King Faisal's generous rescue plan, with Kuwait's collaboration, exemplified the Kingdom's commitment to collective Arab solidarity, contributing significantly to the region's recovery.

"The Saudi leadership and people reflect an acknowledgment of the Kingdom's enduring role in the Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian spheres. It has consistently been a steadfast ally and source of support for its neighbors and the broader region, embodying principles of generosity and loyalty.

"The Kingdom's historical role, is one of unwavering support, ensuring stability and providing assistance to others in times of need. Congratulations to Saudi Arabia for its leadership and continued strength, and to those of us who benefit from its steadfastness and support."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Traffic and Operations Sector at the Ministry of Interior, under the field supervision of Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic and Operations Affairs Major General Yousef Al-Khadda, continued its security and traffic campaigns to control the traffic and security situation along the external and internal roads in the governorates, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The security campaigns of the General Traffic Department (GTD) over the past week resulted in the issuance of 56,581 traffic violation citations, arrest of 71 reckless drivers, impoundment of 96 vehicles and 77 motorcycles, and referral of 39 juveniles to the Juvenile Prosecution for driving without a license.

Deputy Director of the Public Relations and Awareness Department at GTD Lieutenant Colonel

Abdullah Bu Hassan disclosed that "the GTD patrols in the six governorates, in addition to that of the Traffic Operations and Traffic Investigation departments carried out a series of traffic and security campaigns throughout the past week, which resulted in issuance of 56,581 citations for various violations,



Al-Khadda

arrest of 39 minors for driving without a license, and impounding of 96 vehicles and 77 motorcycles.

He added the GTD patrols dealt with 1,482 accidents -- 215 of which led to injuries; and respond-

ed to 2,876 reports. He said they referred 34 persons wanted by law to the concerned authorities for violating the Residency Law and committing various crimes, while 76 vehicles wanted by security and judicial authorities were impounded, three drug and alcohol cases were registered, seven persons were arrested for failure to present a valid identification document and two others who were in an abnormal condition.

He said the patrols of Rescue Police General Department also carried out a number of security campaigns in various governorates; which resulted in the arrest of 156 people wanted by security and judicial authorities, including 46 people for whom arrest warrants were issued. They arrested 52 expatriates with absconding cases registered against them, recorded 6,886 traffic violations, referred

eight vehicles to the impounding garage of GTD and confiscated 82 vehicles wanted by law.

He stated these patrols referred 24 people to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) after they were arrested in an abnormal state with an undisclosed quantity of narcotics and drug substances found in their possession, and arrested 22 people who were under the influence of alcohol.

He went on to say that the emergency police patrols dealt with 95 traffic accidents, two kidnapping reports, two theft reports, 15 fight reports, six suspicion reports, 35 fire reports and five death reports; provided assistance through 408 reports that reached the ministry's Operations Unit; recorded 528 without identification proof cases; and arrested 33 expatriates without residency permits.

# Court denies release of 2 Syrians linked to fake citizenship scheme

## Asian found dead in Mutla'a; police officer dismissed

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif Naif Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The sentence renewal judge on Tuesday rejected a request to release two Syrians employed at the Criminal Investigation Department and Kuwait Municipality and whose father purchased fake Kuwaiti citizenship for them from citizens for KD30,000. They were arrested by citizenship investigation officers, while the father was outside the country.**

Case files indicate that the nationality investigations officers uncovered the case of tampering with the nationality file. Results of investigations led to two citizens -- two Syrian brothers -- whose Kuwaiti citizenship is based on their relationship with a Kuwaiti citizen.

During investigation, they confessed that they are of Syrian nationality and that their Syrian father was outside the country, indicating he purchased Kuwaiti nationality for them at a cost of KD15,000 each in 2003.

They also confessed that they have another brother whose nationality is under another Kuwaiti citizen, and he was arrested as well.

He confessed that he obtained Kuwaiti nationality when he was seven years old, and when he reached the age of twenty and started working, his fake father demanded sums of money from him.

When he refused, he went to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to obtain a death certificate for him,

stating he died in a traffic accident. All this was done without his knowledge and his death was documented at the Kuwaiti embassy in Riyadh. The document was submitted to the Kuwaiti authorities, so this person is deceased in the eyes of the law.

For this reason, the Syrian was forced to obtain a passport and a residency stamp. When he was arrested and his fingerprints were matched, the truth of what he said was confirmed due to the presence of both Kuwaiti and Syrian fingerprints.

The two accused were referred to the Public Prosecution on charges of forging the Kuwaiti nationality, while the third brother was deported.

**Asian found dead:** An Asian was found dead in Mutla'a and his remains were referred to the Forensic Medicine Department to determine the cause of death.

According to a security source, the Ministry of Interior's Operations Unit received a report about the Asian lying on the ground with traces of blood on him.

Security personnel and paramedics rushed to the location. Upon their arrival, they discovered that the Asian was already dead.

A case was registered and investigations are ongoing to establish the circumstances leading to the Asian's death.

**Asian commits suicide:** An Asian committed suicide by hanging inside a stable in Salmi and his body was transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department.

According to a security source, the Ministry of Interior's Operations Unit received a report that an Asian committed suicide in a stable at the Artal area in Salmi.

Security and medical emergency personnel rushed to the site. Upon their arrival, they found that the Asian was already dead and his remains were referred to forensics.



KUNA photo  
Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef during the honoring ceremony.

## Minister promotes Al-Mekrad & Al-Roumi to Major General rank

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, promoted Dr. Faisal Al-Mekrad and Talal Al-Roumi to the rank of Major General on Tuesday. This promotion follows the issuance of an Amiri Decree by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, which officially recognized their appointments.

In a press release, the General Department of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior stated that Sheikh Fahad congratulated Major General Al-Mekrad and Major General Al-Roumi on earning

the trust of the political leadership. He wished them success in their new roles, emphasizing the need for intensified efforts to uphold the rule of law and advance the firefighting system for the benefit of the country and its citizens.

The Amiri Decree, issued on Monday, elevated Brigadier General Faisal Al-Mekrad to the rank of Major General within the police force, appointing him as Director General of the General Department of Investigations at the Ministry of Interior. Similarly, Brigadier General Talal Al-Roumi was promoted to the rank of Fire Brigadier General and appointed as Deputy Chief of the General Fire Force.

A case was registered and investigations are underway to determine the circumstances that prompted the Asian to take his own life.

**Police officer dismissed:** Security sources disclosed to Al-Rai daily that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Interior, has ordered the dismissal of a police officer from patrol duty.

This decision comes after the officer admitted to violating proper search protocols during an encounter with a female citizen.

According to the sources, the incident began when the young woman filed a formal complaint with the General Department of Inspection.

She alleged that a patrol officer had stopped her while on duty, exited his vehicle, and ordered her to present her identification and exit her car.

## KM confirms upgrades

### New land allocation system

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Kuwait Municipality has confirmed the development of the land allocation system in its response to the question of Municipal Council member Eng. Munira Al-Amir, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Municipality explained that the system was presented to the Organization Department and the workflow steps are being reviewed to make amendments and then start the trial operation.

It has contacted the concerned authorities to start training them on using the system, as well as the Survey Department and other concerned entities to provide updated data on the infrastructure that will be used as basis in quickly responding to the queries of the Municipal Council.

It affirmed that the potential obstacles to implementing the system will be identified from the beginning and an alternative site will be provided.

It added that the current system relies on the infrastructure data and recent satellite images in the geographic database of the Survey Department.

It clarified the mechanism of land allocation, indicating this is done by submitting the allocation request on its website; so each party allowed to submit such request should have a username and password for this purpose. It stated that each institution must fill the required data, attach the required documents, and specify the requested location.

Electronic maps have also been provided to the Municipality using the GPS; hence, the requested location could be specified on the map.

## Illegal expat injured in fall

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: A 41-year-old expatriate sustained fractures in different parts of his body when he fell from the second floor of a house in Mutla'a, reports Al-Anba daily.

Security patrols and medical emergency workers rushed to the location after the Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry received a report about the accident. They took the injured expatriate to Jahra Hospital; where he is under tight security, as he was found to be wanted by the residency affairs authorities for violating the Residency Law two years ago. He will most likely be deported upon completion of his treatment.



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Al-Seyassah photo  
Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdul Latif Al-Mishari during his inspection of the South Saad Al-Abdullah City Project.

## South Saad housing moves forward

### Al-Mishari calls for project acceleration

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Housing Affairs Abdul Latif Al-Mishari has highlighted the importance of overcoming obstacles to ensure the timely completion of the South Saad Al-Abdullah Housing Project reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During an inspection tour, he commended the engineering and supervisory team for their dedica-

tion to quality work and the significant progress achieved thus far, with completion rates exceeding 5.148 percent of the work schedule.

The Minister called for enhanced coordination with relevant government agencies to address any impediments to the project.

According to the Public Institution for Housing Care, the rainwater drainage network has surpassed a 22

percent completion rate, while various other components, including soil works, roads, retaining walls, bridges, tunnels, water networks, and rainwater tanks, are actively underway.

This ambitious project, covering an area of 64 sq km and comprising 23,551 housing units, began in November 2023, with a contractual period set to conclude in November 2027.

## KPC denies misleading recruitment claims

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has refuted recent rumors circulating on social media regarding the opening of recruitment for high school and university graduates, promising attractive salaries, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement posted on the social networking site X, KPC categorically denied these claims, emphasizing that no such recruitment is taking place.

KPC warned the public against being misled by these

false advertisements, urging individuals to exercise caution and avoid suspicious websites that promote misleading information.

Moreover, sources revealed to Al-Seyassah that KPC and its affiliated companies have not experienced any technological disruptions despite recent internet issues in Kuwait caused by a fault in one of the submarine cables.

The corporation reassured stakeholders that its operations remain stable and unaffected by these external challenges.

# Municipal Council approves Shuwaikh seafront revamp

Jahra Corniche plan for further review

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Municipal Council on Monday approved the proposal to develop and rehabilitate the Shuwaikh seafront — opposite Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, and to allocate sites for future commercial use.**

Abdullah Al-Mahri presided over the council's meeting on Monday that also led to the approval of the following:

■ Request of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare to amend the council's decision regarding the eastern expansion of South Saad Al-Abdullah Residential City by reducing the expansion area from 8.6 to 6.8 square kilometers with the approval of some amendments in the technical opinion;

■ Request of Kuwait Ports Authority to allocate land for the development project in South East Doha Port;

■ Proposal of member Fahad Al-Abduljader to allocate some of the yards in Shuwaikh Industrial Area to be managed by the Public Facilities Management Company;

■ Request of the Expropriation Department for Public Benefit to reject issuing a public benefit decision to divide Block Five in Surra;

■ Request of Zakat House to allocate a site for its branch in Block Seven, Mubarak Al-Abdullah;

■ Reorganize part of Block One in Qibla (final approval);

■ Request of the Ministry of Finance to convert the use of a surface parking site to a multi-storey parking building in Sharq, Block Two;

■ Proposal of Sherifa Al-Shalfan on separating bath-

room cleaning contracts from new public cleaning contracts;

■ Request to reorganize Block 14 in Qibla, which includes a number of plots, Salihiya Police Station and public facilities in accordance with the rules and conditions;

■ Response of the executive body to the proposal of Abdullatif Al-Daai regarding the study on floods before allocating sites for new cities, especially housing cities;

■ Reorganize part of Block Four in Siddeeq by amending plot numbers 145 to 153 (final approval);

■ Proposal of member Alia Al-Farsi to provide a service for removing large-sized residential waste;

■ Proposal of some members to create an overpass as an exit for cars from Hamoud Al-Tasha Street in Abdullah Al-Mubarak to Hamoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Road.

In the same context, and after deliberations that lasted for half an hour, the council, by the vote of 10 members, referred the Jahra Waterfront Project 'Jahra Corniche' in its new form to the executive body in Kuwait Municipality for further amendments, with the setting of five conditions — a feasibility study; an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the project; taking into account the opinions of economic specialists and the private sector; estimating the number of residents and workers and providing a detailed legal opinion on the project.

The council also returned to the executive body a proposal to increase registration fees in the bidders' registry and to reconsider the fees for selling auction documents and company qualification brochures to provide it with a table of the percentages of increase in fees approved by other government agencies that took the same step.

## PAHW, SEDA explore housing collaboration

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare, (PAHW), led by Acting Director General Rashid Al-Anzi, held a two-day meeting with representatives from the Saudi Export Development Authority (SEDA), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The discussions focused on potential cooperation in residential and investment projects, aiming to enhance

strategic partnerships that benefit both nations.

The meeting emphasized the importance of exchanging expertise and strengthening Kuwaiti-Saudi relations in housing and investment sectors.

The Saudi delegation's visit was part of a promotional tour to boost exports and attract local investors, particularly in housing and investment ventures.

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# October

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Photo during PAHW and SEDA meeting.

## Admissions process, structure outlined

### KU College of Graduate Studies holds open meeting with program directors

By Abdulrahman Al-Shimmari  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The College of Graduate Studies at Kuwait University recently organized an open meeting with program directors, attended by key figures including Acting Dean Dr. Ahmed Al-Makhial, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishari Al-Aifan, and Assistant Dean for Planning and Development Dr. Muhammad Al-Samawi.

During the meeting, Dr. Al-Makhial congratulated the program directors on the commencement of the new academic year and highlighted the importance of the gathering in addressing various regulations essential for organizing the study process.

He emphasized the significance of the College of Graduate Studies, which focuses on its students and the academic degrees it offers, including PhDs, Master's degrees, and Diplomas. Dr. Al-Makhial discussed the different types of admissions—part-time and full-time—and noted that doctoral students are only accepted through the regular admission system.

He outlined the administrative structure of the college, mentioning that the Graduate Studies College Council serves as the highest decision-making authority, composed of

heads from all university colleges, followed by the program directors.

Dr. Al-Makhial underscored the integral role of program management within the college, detailing the responsibilities and tasks assigned to program directors.

Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Prof. Dr. Mishari Khalifa Al-Aifan, elaborated on the roles of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.

He highlighted the need for continuous development of academic programs, whether through innovation, modifications, or evaluations.

He also stressed that the program director acts as a crucial link between the program and the college, particularly in overseeing student theses.

Additionally, Dr. Muhammad Al-Samawi, the Assistant Dean for Planning and Development, emphasized the importance of fostering scientific research tools to achieve the college's goals and vision.

He noted that advancing scientific research programs is essential for benefiting both students and the broader academic community.

The meeting served as an important platform for reinforcing the responsibilities and collaborative efforts needed to enhance the educational experience at Kuwait University.

Final chance to avoid grade retention

## Makeup exams for students with health conditions set for October

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Students, whose health conditions prevented them from taking the end-of-year exams on the specified dates, can take the makeup exams starting from the middle of October; and this is applicable to all educational stages, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources from the ministry.

Sources revealed this is the last chance for the above mentioned students to take the end-of-year exams, warning that failure to take the exams this time will result in a 'failure' mark and they have to return to the corresponding grade level. Sources said the ministry will announce the exam dates in the coming days.

On the other hand, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Affairs Mansour Al-Dhafiri has instructed the educational dis-

tricts to limit the number of students in special classes and provide him with the related data.

In his letter to the educational districts, Al-Dhafiri stated: Please provide us with the data about schools that have special classes, as well as the current number of students and teachers in each class, along with comments regarding students in special classes, if any.

Meanwhile, the Public Relations and Educational Media Department organized a blood donation campaign on Sunday as part of the celebration of World Heart Day, in cooperation with the Central Blood Bank, under the slogan "Revive Life". This initiative aims to highlight the importance of supporting the Central Blood Bank.

In addition, the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States held the 93rd Executive Council meeting at its headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A number of senior educational sector officials attended the meeting; including Matrouk Al-Mutairi who represented Kuwait on behalf of the Education Ministry undersecretary.



Al-Dhafiri

## LOCAL

## 48th session of Arab Central Banks kicks off

CAIRO, Oct 1, (KUNA): The 48th ordinary session of the Council of Arab Central Banks and Monetary Authorities' Governors kicked off Tuesday here with the participation of Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), Basel Al-Haroon.

During his speech in the opening session, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. Mostafa Madbouly said that this session came amid extremely complex

regional and international circumstances, with severe repercussions placing Arab governments in front of unconventional challenges.

These challenges require close coordination and cooperation between those responsible for formulating economic policies, and regional and international financial institutions, he noted, adding that the investment gap require achiev-

ing the goals of 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy; estimated at about USD four trillion according to UN estimates.

For his part, Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abu al-Gheit stressed that these economic challenges cannot be separated from the increasing security risks that threaten conflict between major countries and the global economy.

## KFH organizes visits for students under 'back-to-school' campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), represented by the Public Relations team, organized multiple visits to several schools on the new academic year and the return of students to their studies. As part of its strategic partnership with the Ministry of Interior and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, and the Center for Government Communication, the KFH public relations delegation met with groups of students and took part in numerous activities related to the beginning of the academic year.

KFH team distributed gifts and participated in providing advice, guidance, and some activities as well as security information to students at the beginning of the new academic year. These initiatives, which include raising awareness of traffic issues and offering safety advice, are part of the Ministry of Interior's "With Our Determination We Achieve Our Dream" campaign.

Through these visits and participa-



KFH activities

tions, KFH endeavors to strengthen its relationships and bonds with diverse segments of society. By actively participating in various events and seasons, KFH supports public educational institutions in fulfilling their mission of certifying and graduating students. This aligns with KFH's strategy of training, development, and education.

KFH's support for education underscores the Bank's conviction that education is vital and should always come first on the priorities list.

ernment contracts.

**Employer Approval** -- The transfer requires the approval of the original employer under whose name the worker is registered.

**Fee Payment** -- An additional fee of 350 dinars must be paid as part of the transfer process.

The implementation of this decision signifies a shift towards greater flexibility in labor mobility within Kuwait's workforce, while ensuring that all necessary protocols are adhered to.

Any previous regulations that conflict with these new provisions are considered null and void.

## Rising alerts

Continued from Page 1

significant losses for the general public. Some banks have been unable to prevent fraud, she added.

She pointed out that the most significant source of fraud are people disclosing their financial information to unidentified parties and clicking erroneous bank links that direct them to a different website trying to obtain personal financial information.

She went on to say that this information is used to withdraw the bank card balance; because con artists use people's psychological needs, such as the need to win a financial or in-kind prize, get a job or financing or receive discounts and alluring offers, to trap victims in their fraudulent schemes. She suggested that in order to minimize fraudulent operations, both the State and the individual must take action.

She added that "for the individual, this means scrutinizing the product or offer before completing a financial transaction; as well as being aware and keeping up to date with financial fraud techniques and the warnings issued by the concerned government agencies. Take some time to consider your options before completing any financial transaction or providing personal or financial information to anyone through a phone call, text message, website or electronic link that purports to be from a government or commercial entity.

"Last but not least, the person has to promptly report any suspicion of financial fraud to the appropriate security authorities, as well as the financial entity with whom he is dealing. This includes confirming the legitimacy and identity of any party that requests personal or financial data informally through text messages, email links or social media; as these requests are usually fraudulent. Aside from avoiding entering your personal or banking information on a website you do not know, and if you need to enter sensitive information, you must check the reliability and security of the site by using the address bar in the browser. Do not share any confidential information via phone, text messages or emails with any person or entity under any circumstances."

She said that on the part of the State, it must conduct a comprehensive study on fraud and scams to identify the defect and address it by using modern technical tools. The State should also set regulations and laws that control financial transactions, keep amending and developing legislation, and continuously educate society about the means of fraud and how to curtail them, she concluded.

## Iran launches

Continued from Page 1

A senior White House official warned of "severe consequences" should Iran launch a ballistic missile against Israel. U.S. ships and aircraft are positioned in the region to assist Israel in the event of an attack from Iran. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence.

Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari also warned of consequences if Iran fired missiles into Israel. He urged the public to stay close to sheltered areas. "The Iranian strike

## Our Amir,

Continued from Page 1

Amir. As per your orders to the First Deputy Prime Minister, we will have a mobile and direct grievances office that reaches Your Highness. May your glory last.

"We can build on this matter, because when His Highness the Amir orders the ministers to follow up the affairs and concerns of the people; it means, firstly, that the open-door policy has begun to bear fruit.

Secondly, there is no doubt that the statement of the First Deputy confirmed, once again, that there is a ruler who monitors the challenges of the people and solves them, away from the media. This means the ruler knows that the greatest challenge comes from the smallest.

Thirdly, this Amiri order has cut off all talk that the National Assembly was the voice of the people. What the past three decades have witnessed in terms of practices, which brought the country to the bottom, has proven the opposite. The parliamentarians were not the voice of the people, rather they were the voice of their interests.

This is the reason why corruption has spread and 'wasta' has become rampant; up to the point that they attempted to sabotage the judiciary, which is the nerve of reform and stability in any country.

Fourth, diwanis have been the window for consultation between the people and the leadership since the founding of Kuwait. This inherited tradition was like a gauge, through which the popular mood was measured; and on the basis of which, convictions were built.

Therefore, when His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad orders the First Deputy Prime Minister to convey the people's concerns to the leadership, without exposing the needy person himself through social media; he does so in order to preserve the dignity of the people, and the chastity of the soul that the people of Kuwait are built upon.

His Highness always asks those he meets to convey to him the people's suffering, so their grievances are not used as a means for political blackmail.

His Highness' conviction is that the individual expresses the concerns of a segment. His concerns do not stop with him. Addressing these concerns is the basis for ending the challenges that a group of people are facing.

Here is the head of the State, giving the ministers and other members of the leadership instructions to open their doors, engage with the populace, and find solutions to their problems.

Simultaneously, he instructs the Council of Ministers to quickly resolve the perennial problems caused by 50 years of neglect.

Without a doubt, it is necessary for this Cabinet to settle this as soon as possible; but not too soon. Because of this heavy burden, we implore Almighty Allah to grant His Highness the Amir health, well-being and the capacity to carry this enormous trust.

May Almighty Allah assist him in completing such a daunting task. Amen.

## KD 350

Continued from Page 1

The decision outlines six essential criteria for the transfer:

**Completion of Contract** -- The government contract or project must be officially completed.

**Official Notification** -- The transferring authority must provide a letter from the relevant government entity, confirming the end of the contract and stating that the services of the workers are no longer needed.

**Time Requirement** -- A minimum of one year must have elapsed since the worker was initially recruited for gov-

## Council set to address road guidelines and beach plans

Ahmadi Governorate to hold 3rd meeting

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Reform and Development Committee of the Municipal Council will hold its second meeting for the third round, headed by Abdullatif Al-Daai, on Thursday to discuss a number of items on its agenda, most notably the two questions submitted by council member Sherifa Al-Shalfan regarding the road and bridge design guide.**

The committee will also discuss the executive body's response to the question of member Dr. Hassan Kamal regarding studies and approvals to implement entrances

and exits in Sabah Al-Salem, his question regarding the allocation of truck gathering sites in the country, and his question regarding the project for beautification, construction, and maintenance of public beaches.

This is in addition to the question of Vice Chairman of the council Khaled Al-Mutairi regarding the parking of heavy vehicles and trucks in the yards in residential areas.

Furthermore, the Ahmadi Governorate Committee will hold its third meeting on Thursday, headed by member Fahad Al-Khenin, to discuss a number of items on its agenda as follows:

- Request to add a part of the square adjacent to Plot No. 13 in the Mangaf, Block 52, Block 1;

- Request of Kuwait National Petroleum Company to allocate a site for Fuel Filling Station No. 49 in Mahboula Block 3;

- Letter from the Integrated Petroleum Company regarding the allocation of the Air Defense site for the Zour Refinery;

- Two requests from the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation -- the first on allocating basins, water channels, and network connections to collect and drain rainwater in Maqwa area to serve Ahmadi and Mangaf, and the second is on allocating only 10 basins with 7 water channels and an earthen barrier to collect and drain rainwater in Sabah Al-Ahmad and South Sabah Al-Ahmad;

- Proposal of member Fahad Al-Khenin regarding the establishment of a joint market for fodder, selling livestock, and a slaughterhouse in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City;

- Two requests from the Ministry of Social Affairs -- first is to amend the council's decision regarding the allocation of a small central market in Hadiya, Block 1, and the second is related to the construction of a walkway, three children's playgrounds, lighting, landscaping, and a network in Fahaheel, Block 4;

- Request of members Nasser Al-Jadaan and Nassar Al-Azmi to allocate a walkway in Fahaheel, Block 1.

## 'Renewable energy is region's concern'

CAIRO, Oct 1, (KUNA): Representing Kuwait, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) Ahmad Al-Dossari said issues of energy security and production from renewable and clean sources are a concern due to their great importance to sustainable development.

Al-Dossari added in the opening speech of Cairo's Sustainable Week on Tuesday that the region is witnessing challenges in terms of energy transition, as well as providing investment and financing in the sustainable energy sector.

He stressed that the session focuses on finding innovative solutions and enhancing cooperation regarding sustainable energy in "all parts of our region."

He called on the private sector to participate in the transformation strategies in the energy and climate fields, expressing hope that the sessions will contribute to achieving this goal.

Cairo Sustainable Energy Week is held in cooperation between RCREEE, the Arab League and Union for the Mediterranean, in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

RCREEE is an intergovernmental organization with diplomatic status that aims to enable and increase the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency practices across pan-Arab countries.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Moscow with Alexander Lukashenko, President of Belarus.

## Kuwait Ambassador in Moscow presents credentials to Belarus

MOSCOW, Oct 1, (KUNA): Ambassador of Kuwait in Moscow Rashid Al-Adwani presented his credentials to President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko as non-resident ambassador to Belarus.

Ambassador Al-Adwani conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, to President Lukashenko, along with their aspirations to strengthen relations between the two countries in all areas.

He also expressed their wishes for continued progress and prosperity for Belarus and its president.

For his part, President Lukashenko emphasized his country's interest in enhancing relations with Kuwait in various fields, stressing the importance of investing in Belarus.

## Kuwait focuses

Continued from Page 1

signing of numerous MoUs and agreements including in the field of infrastructural development, communication, cybersecurity, and more.

The latest official visit by First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah to the UAE also pushed forward the bolstering of GCC relations and coordinating efforts on all possible aspects.

Within the field of social affairs, charity, and humanitarian efforts, Kuwait recently had signed MoUs with Qatar and Saudi Arabia, further expanding inter-GCC cooperation.

The 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York represented a chance for Kuwait to extend its cooperation with world countries.

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah have received and met numerous Gulf, Arab, and global officials during participation in the UNGA.

The discussions with global leaders during the UNGA reflected Kuwait's keen political, military, security, and economic visions.

## Kuwait, Saudi

Continued from Page 1

The MoU outlines cooperation in key cultural areas, such as heritage, architecture, design, museums, visual arts, theatre, performing arts, literature, publishing, translation, fashion, culinary arts, and films.

It also emphasized the exchange of expertise in regulations, policies, and systems related to culture, as well as participation in cultural festivals and events hosted by both countries. Additionally, the agreement highlights collaboration on projects related to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) agreements that both nations have signed, and joint cultural initiatives in various fields.

The partnership will involve official delegations and experts from both sides, fostering cultural development through training programs, workshops, and seminars for specialists, intellectuals, and artists.

The agreement reflects the shared vision of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to enhance cultural relations and support projects that preserve their rich heritage while promoting future aspirations.

After the signing ceremony, Minister Al-Mutairi toured the Riyadh International Book Fair with Prince Badr, where they visited the pavilions of the exhibition, which featured around 2,000 publishing houses.

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**Ex-prez tours hard-hit areas in south Georgia**

**Trump makes false claims about federal response to Hurricane Helene**



Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump walks outside the Chez What furniture store as he visits Valdosta, Ga., a town impacted by Hurricane Helene on Sept. 30. (AP)

VALDOSTA, Ga., Oct. 1, (AP): Donald Trump repeatedly spread falsehoods about the federal response to Hurricane Helene despite claiming not to be politicizing the disaster as he toured hard-hit areas in south Georgia.

The former president and Republican nominee claimed upon landing in Valdosta that President Joe Biden was "sleeping" and not responding to Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, who he said was "calling the president and hasn't been able to get him." He repeated the claim at an event with reporters after being told Kemp said he had spoken to Biden.

"He's lying, and the governor told him he was lying," Biden said Monday.

The White House previously announced that Biden spoke by phone Sunday night with Kemp and North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, as well as Scott Matheson, mayor of Valdosta, Georgia, and Florida Emergency Management Director John Louk. Kemp confirmed Monday morning that he spoke to Biden the night before.

"The president just called me yesterday afternoon and I missed him and

called him right back and he just said 'Hey, what do you need?' And I told him, you know, we've got what we need, we'll work through the federal process," Kemp said. "He offered if there are other things we need just to call him directly, which I appreciate that."

In addition to being humanitarian crises, natural disasters can create political tests for elected officials, particularly in the closing weeks of a presidential campaign in which among the hardest-hit states were North Carolina and Georgia, two battlegrounds. Trump over the last several days has used the damage wrought by Helene to attack Harris, the Democratic nominee, and suggest she and Biden are playing politics with the storm - something he was accused of doing when president.

While the White House highlighted Biden's call to Kemp and others, the president faced questions about his decision to spend the weekend at his beach house in Delaware, rather than the White House, to monitor the storm.

"I was commanding it," Biden told reporters after delivering remarks at the White House on the federal government's response. "I was on the phone

for at least two hours yesterday and the day before as well. I commanded it. It's called a telephone."

Biden received frequent updates on the storm, the White House said, as did Harris aboard Air Force Two as she made a West Coast campaign swing. The vice president cut short her campaign trip Monday to return to Washington for a briefing from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Trump, writing on his social media platform Monday, also claimed without evidence that the federal government and North Carolina's Democratic governor were "going out of their way to not help people in Republican areas." Asheville, which was devastated by the storm, is solidly Democratic, as is much of Buncombe County, which surrounds it.

The death toll from Helene has surpassed 100 people, with some of the worst damage caused by inland flooding in North Carolina.

Biden said he will travel to North Carolina on Wednesday to get a first-hand look at the devastation, but will limit his footprint so as not to distract from the ongoing recovery efforts.

**White House doubles down on 'tough' asylum restrictions at southern border**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1, (AP): The Biden administration said Monday it is making asylum restrictions at the southern border even tougher, as it's increasingly eager to show voters uneasy over immigration that it is taking a hard stance on border security.

The new rules, which toughen restrictions announced in June, bar migrants from being granted asylum when U.S. officials deem that the southern border is overwhelmed.

Under the previous rules, the US could restrict asylum access when the number of migrants trying to enter the country between the official border crossings hit 2,500 per day. The daily numbers had to average below 1,500 per day for a week in order for the restrictions to be lifted.

The version rolled out Monday says the daily numbers will have to be below 1,500 for nearly a month before the restrictions can be lifted. And the administration is now counting all

children toward that number, whereas previously only migrant children from Mexico were counted.

These changes, which go into effect on Tuesday, will make it much more difficult to lift the restrictions and allow people entering the country between the official border crossings eventually to apply for asylum in the US.

But the restrictions implemented in June have never been lifted because the numbers of border encounters have never gotten low enough for long enough, raising the question of why the administration felt the need to make them even tougher now. The seven-day average has gotten down to about 1,800 migrant encounters per day, the Department of Homeland Security said.

A senior administration official said Monday that the longer timeline was necessary to make sure that drops in immigration are sustained and not due to a one-time event. The official spoke

on condition of anonymity to brief reporters about the tighter restrictions before they were made public.

Immigration advocates had harshly criticized the restrictions announced in June, saying the administration was slashing away at vital protections for people fleeing persecution.

Many weighed in Monday, saying that by making the rules even tougher the administration was sending people back into danger and not living up to its humanitarian obligations.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association said the new rule is effectively an asylum ban and that the exceptions aren't as substantive as the administration has made them out to be. The group said at the current rates of border crossings the asylum restrictions would be in place indefinitely.

"It is imperative that our nation have safe, orderly, and efficient processes at the border that also ensure fair and humane treatment of asylum seekers.



A member of the Texas Army National Guard patrols the Rio Grande from atop a line of shipping containers in Eagle Pass, Texas, on Aug. 9. (AP)

**Stoltenberg emotional**

**NATO's longtime chief hands over to Rutte**

BRUSSELS, Oct. 1, (AP): One of NATO's longest serving top officials, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, stepped down on Tuesday, handing over the reins to former Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte as the military alliance confronts some of the biggest challenges in its history.

The two men, who first sat together at NATO's table 14 years ago as the leaders of Norway and the Netherlands, greeted each other warmly outside the alliance's Brussels headquarters, before laying a wreath to fallen military personnel, surrounded by the flags of the 32 member countries.

"Mark has the perfect background to become a great secretary general," a visibly emotional Stoltenberg said as he ended a decade in office.

"He has served as prime minister for 14 years and led four different

coalition governments, so therefore he knows how to make compromises, create consensus, and these are skills which are very much valued here at NATO," Stoltenberg said.

Rutte said that he "cannot wait to get to work."

After hundreds of NATO staffers applauded the two men as they moved inside to the great hall where North Atlantic Council meetings are held at the level of ambassadors, ministers or leaders, Stoltenberg helped his successor to get started by presenting him with a Viking gavel to use when chairing meetings.

Rutte said his priorities would be NATO's support for Ukraine, with the war now in its third year, increasing defense spending and strengthening partnerships that the alliance has established with other countries around the world, notably in Asia and the Middle

East. Rutte also underlined the importance of keeping the trans-Atlantic bond between the United States, Canada and Europe strong, and expressed confidence that he can work well with whoever is elected to the White House.

Surveys suggest the US election in November will be a close race. It could see the return of Donald Trump, whose bluster during his last term of office about low defense spending among European allies and Canada undermined trust of NATO member countries.

It became an existential challenge, as smaller members feared that the U.S. under Trump would renege on NATO's security pledge that all countries must come to the rescue of any ally in trouble, the foundation stone the alliance is built on.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, (right), and the new NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte make statements during a handover ceremony at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on Oct. 1. (AP)

**WikiLeaks founder gives 1st public remarks**

**I pleaded 'guilty to journalism', says Assange**

NICE, France, Oct. 1, (AP): WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said Tuesday that he was freed after years of incarceration because he "pled guilty to journalism."

Assange gave evidence of the impact of his detention and conviction to the legal affairs and human rights committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. The Parliamentary Assembly includes lawmakers from 46 European countries.

Assange was released in June after five years in a British prison after he pleaded guilty to obtaining and publishing US military secrets in a deal with Justice Department prosecutors that concluded a drawn-out legal saga. Prior to his time in prison, he had

spent seven years in self-imposed exile in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he claimed asylum on the grounds of political persecution.

"I am not free today because the system worked," Assange said in his first public remarks since he was released. "I am free today after years of incarceration because I pled guilty to journalism."

He added: "I pled guilty to seeking information from a source. I pled guilty to obtaining information from a source. And I pled guilty to informing the public what that information was."

The transition from years of confinement in a maximum security prison to addressing the European parliamentarians has been a "profound and a surreal shift," Assange said as he detailed the experience of years of isolation in a

small cell. "It strips away one's sense of self, leaving only the raw essence of existence," he said, his voice cracking while he offered an apology for his "faltering words" and an "unpolished presentation."

"I'm not yet fully equipped to speak about what I have endured - the relentless struggle to stay alive, both physically and mentally," Assange said.

The Australian internet publisher was accused of receiving and publishing hundreds of thousands of war logs and diplomatic cables that included details of U.S. military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan. His activities were celebrated by press freedom advocates, who heralded his role in bringing to light military conduct that might otherwise have been concealed.

**Russia strike on Kherson kills six**

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct. 1, (AP): An apparent Russian artillery strike hit a market in the southern Ukraine city of Kherson on Tuesday, killing at least six people and wounding three others, authorities said, on a morning when Ukrainians across the country were observing a minute's silence for their military and war dead.

The strike happened as shoppers made their way between stalls at the city center market, regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said.

He published a video showing the blurred corpses of people in civilian clothes lying near a stall with tomatoes and other vegetables.

Ukraine's General Prosecutor's Office said the strike was "most likely" carried out by Russian artillery and hit close to a public transport stop.

It initially reported that seven people were killed but later corrected that toll to six, saying a severely wounded person thought to be dead was in intensive care at a local hospital.



People react during a nationwide minute of silence in memory of fallen soldiers, who defended their homeland in war with Russia, on Defenders Day at the improvised war memorial in Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine on Oct. 1. (AP)

**America**

**Top aide to NY mayor quits:** Another top adviser to New York City Mayor Eric Adams resigned Monday, even as the Democrat's lawyer criticized the federal corruption case against him and asked a judge to toss out bribery charges.

Timothy Pearson, one of the mayor's closest confidants, submitted his resignation Monday evening, weeks after federal agents seized cellphones, documents and cash from his Long Island home, said his attorney, Hugh H. Mo.

Pearson, a retired police inspector who served in the department alongside Eric Adams, had a broad role that included overseeing contracts and security at migrant shelters while also

maintaining significant influence over the police department. (AP)

**Buffalo mayor leaves City Hall:** Buffalo's longest-serving mayor, Byron Brown, said Monday he will leave City Hall in a few weeks to lead an off-track betting agency.

"After nearly two decades as mayor, I have loved serving the people of Buffalo as mayor. But Michelle and I think the time is right to transition to a new role," he said at a news conference, referencing his wife.

Brown, 66, a Democrat, will be paid an annual salary of \$295,000 to become president and chief executive of Western Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. He will oversee operations at the agency's betting sites in several counties in New York and Batavia Downs,

which offers live harness horse racing and a video game casino. As mayor, he is paid \$178,500 a year. His term was set to end Dec. 31, 2025. (AP)

**Man kills grandmother:** A 23-year-old man has been accused of killing his grandmother with a hammer in New Hampshire.

The man was being held without bail and was scheduled to be arraigned on Monday, the attorney general's office said in a news release. It wasn't immediately known if he is a lawyer who could speak on his behalf. Court documents have not been filed in the case.

The man's grandmother, 76, was found dead at her home in Easton on Saturday, the attorney general's office said. The grandson was arrested that night on a charge of second-degree murder. (AP)



Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, (center), his wife Stella Assange, left, and editor-in-chief of WikiLeaks Kristinn Hrafnsson, listen to the opening speech at the Council of Europe while his wife Stella Assange sits next to him, in Strasbourg, eastern France on Oct. 1. (AP)

Kishida's govt dogged by scandals

Japan's new premier Ishiba forms Cabinet

TOKYO, Oct 1, (AP): Japan's parliament elected Shigeru Ishiba as the new prime minister on Tuesday, tasked with addressing public outrage over his governing party's corruption scandals ahead of a parliamentary election later this month, while trying to boost the economy and tackle security challenges from China and North Korea.

Ishiba replaces Fumio Kishida, who stepped down earlier Tuesday to pave the way for a fresh leader after Kishida's government was dogged by scandals.

Ishiba entered the Prime Minister's Office and formed his Cabinet, which includes several security and defense experts, as he has called for a stronger regional military alliance and a more equal Japan-U.S. security partnership.

Ishiba will hold a news conference later Tuesday to announce his Cabinet and some of his policy priorities.

Ishiba said he plans to call a parliamentary election for Oct. 27 so his new administration can have "the people's judgement" as soon as possible. Ishiba appointed to his Cabinet two former defense ministers with whom he has

worked closely - Takeshi Iwaya as foreign minister and Gen Nakatani as defense chief - underscoring his emphasis on defense and security policies.

Only two of the 19 ministers are women: actor-turned-lawmaker Junko Mihara as children's policy minister and Toshiko Abe as education minister. The government is under pressure to increase the number of women in public office. Women now account for only 10% of the lower house, placing Japan near the bottom of global gender-equality rankings.

Ishiba appointed several ministers who voted for him in the party leadership poll and retained Kishida's top confidante, Yoshimasa Hayashi, as chief Cabinet secretary. He also appointed Katsunobu Kato as finance minister. Hayashi also previously served as defense minister.

The majority of his Cabinet members, including Ishiba, are unaffiliated with factions led and controlled by party heavyweights, and none are from former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's powerful group linked to damaging scandals.

Ishiba's lack of a stable power base could also mean his government will be fragile and "could quickly collapse" even though Ishiba hopes to build party unity as it prepares for the upcoming election, the liberal-leaning Asahi newspaper said.

The move is also seen as revenge by Ishiba, who was largely pushed to the side during most of Abe's reign.

Ishiba announced his party's leaders Monday ahead of naming his Cabinet. Former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, who came in third in the party leadership race, will head the party's election task force.

"I will squarely face the people, discuss policies sincerely to gain their understanding. My government won't walk away from challenges and get things done," Ishiba said before the parliamentary vote.

Opposition leaders criticized Ishiba for announcing such a plan before even becoming leader and allowing only several days for his policies to be examined and discussed in parliament before the national election.



Shigeru Ishiba, (center), the head of Japan's ruling party, the Liberal Democratic Party, is applauded after being elected as Japan's prime minister at the extraordinary session of parliament's lower house on Oct 1 in Tokyo. (AP)

HK, Macao commemorate event

China marks 75 yrs of Communist Party rule as security threats linger

BEIJING, Oct 1, (AP): China is marking the 75th year of Communist Party rule as economic challenges and security threats linger over the massive state.

No festivities have been announced for the occasion Tuesday, save for a flag-raising ceremony at Tiananmen Square, with an honor guard marching from the entrance of the sprawling palace that in past centuries was the home of Chinese emperors. The entirely state-controlled media ran constant reports on China's economic progress and social stability, with no mention of challenges ranging from a declining birth rate to the disruption in supply chains that has harmed the largely export-driven economy.

Commemorations were also held in the former British colony of Hong Kong and Portugal's former territory of Macao, both of which returned to Chinese sovereignty in the late 1990s in a key indication of Beijing's determination to overcome what it has called a "Century of Humiliation."

In recent decades, China has mounted military parades and displays of the country's economic might only at the turn of decades, such as for the 60th and 70th anniversaries.

The world's second largest economy has struggled to regain momentum after the COVID-19 pandemic.

A prolonged property slump led to a spillover effect on other parts of the economy, from construction to sales of

home appliances. Last week, China announced a slew of measures to boost the economy, including lower interest rates and smaller down payment requirements for mortgages.

Party leader and head of state Xi Jinping has largely avoided overseas travel since the pandemic, while continuing with his purges at home of top officials considered insufficiently loyal or being suspected of corruption or personal indiscretions.

"The road ahead will not be smooth, there will definitely be difficulties and obstacles, and we may encounter major tests such as high winds and rough seas, or even stormy waves" Xi warned during a banquet on the eve of the anniversary.

"We must be vigilant in times of peace, plan ahead, and rely closely on the entire Party, the entire army, and people of all ethnic groups across the country" he said, "no difficulties can stop the Chinese people from moving forward."

The anniversary also comes as China is facing growing frictions with neighbors including Japan, South Korea and the Philippines over territorial claims and their close relationships with Beijing's chief rival, the United States. The Communists under Mao Zedong seized power in 1949 amid a civil war with the Nationalists, also known as the KMT, led by Chiang Kai-shek, who shifted their political, economic and military power to the now self-governing island democracy of Taiwan.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and other party and state leaders including Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng attend a ceremony to present flower baskets to fallen heroes at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 30, 2024. The event was held to mark Martyrs' Day, observed one day prior to National Day. (Xinhua)



Rescuers work at the site of a bus that caught fire, carrying young students with their teachers, in suburban Bangkok on Oct 1. (AP)

More than 20 feared dead in Thailand school bus fire

A bus carrying young students and their teachers on a school trip caught fire in suburban Bangkok on Tuesday, leaving more than 20 feared dead, officials and rescuers said.

The bus with 45 passengers - six teachers and 39 elementary and junior high school students - was traveling from the central Uthai Thani province when it caught fire in Pathum Thani province, a northern suburb of Thailand's capital, acting police commissioner Kitrat Phanphet said.

The fire was first reported around noon and was put out less than an hour later, but rescuers said they could

not get on board for hours as the heat inside the natural gas-fueled vehicle could have caused more explosions.

Police were still working to identify the dead but three teachers and 20 students remain unaccounted for, Kitrat said.

The cause of the blaze was not immediately known. Kitrat said the initial investigation indicates a tire had exploded and caused sparks, which ignited a blaze that spread through the bus. He did not elaborate.

No other vehicles were involved, he said.

There were discrepancies in reports on the number of the people aboard the bus. (AP)

Yoon warns North's regime

S.Korea unveils its most powerful missile

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 1, (AP): South Korea unveiled its most powerful ballistic missile and other weapons targeting North Korea during a massive Armed Forces Day ceremony Tuesday, as the South's president warned the North's regime would collapse if it attempts to use nuclear weapons.

South Korea's weapons displays and warning against North Korea came after its northern rival recently rose regional animosities by disclosing its uranium-enrichment facility and tested missiles ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November.

"If North Korea attempts to use nuclear weapons, it will face the resolute and overwhelming response of our military and the (South Korea)-US alliance," President Yoon Suk Yeol told thousands of troops gathered at a military airport near Seoul. "That day will be the end of the North Korean regime."

"The North Korean regime must abandon the delusion that nuclear weapons will protect them," Yoon said.

During the ceremony, the South Korean military displayed about 340 military equipment and weapons systems. Among them was its most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile, which observers say is capable of carrying an 8-ton conventional warhead that can penetrate deep into the earth and destroy underground bunkers in North Korea. It was the first time for South Korea to disclose that missile.

The US flew a long-range B-1B bomber during the ceremony in an



South Korea's missiles are carried in a parade during the 76th Armed Forces Day ceremony in Seoul, South Korea on Oct 1. (AP)

apparent demonstration of its security commitment to its Asian ally. South Korea also flew some of its most advanced fighter jets.

Also Tuesday, South Korea launched its strategic command that officials say integrates South Korea's conventional capabilities with U.S. nuclear weapons. South Korea has no nuclear weapons.

Since taking office in 2022, Yoon, a conservative, has put a stronger military alliance with the U.S. and an improved trilateral Seoul-Washington-Tokyo security cooperation at the center of his security policies to cope with North Korea's advancing nuclear program. In recent years, North Korea has performed a provocative of missile tests and threatened to use nuclear weapons preemptively in potential conflicts with South Korea and the United States.



Kenya's President William Ruto, (right), and Transition Council President Edgard Leblanc, arrive to the Kenyan base in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Sept 21. (AP)

UNSC extends Kenya-led force to tackle gang violence in Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 1, (AP): The UN Security Council (UNSC) voted unanimously Monday to extend the mandate of the Kenya-led multinational force helping to tackle gang violence in Haiti, after brushing off a call from Haiti to start talks on transforming it into a U.N. peacekeeping mission.

According to the final draft obtained by The Associated Press, China and Russia succeeded in eliminating the paragraph in the resolution that acknowledged the call by the president of Haiti's transitional presidential council at the UN General Assembly "to start a discussion" on moving to a U.N. peacekeeping force.

Last Thursday's call by Edgard Leblanc Filis was the first public announcement of support by a government official since the United States proposed a UN peacekeeping mission in early September as a way to secure more resources for the Kenya-led mission.

Nearly 400 Kenyan officers are now

in Haiti, joined by nearly two dozen police officers and soldiers from Jamaica. The officers fall significantly short of the 2,500 pledged by various countries, including Chad, Benin, Bangladesh and Barbados for the mission. It is also seriously short of funding.

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the Security Council that the 15-0 vote "sends a strong message to the people of Haiti: The world is standing with you. And we are unwavering in our efforts to help restore security and stability and put the country on the path to peace and stability."

She said additional financial contributions are urgently needed for the multinational force and also called on council members to heed Haiti's call for a UN-funded peacekeeping operation. A senior US official said adoption of the resolution will trigger a U.S. effort to work with Haitian authorities and partners to transform the operation into a peacekeeping force.

Africa

**No arrests in S.Africa shootings:** One more person has died from mass shootings at two houses on the same street in a South African village over the weekend, bringing the death toll to 18, officials said Monday.

Police are still searching for the assailants who opened fire Saturday on people who had reportedly gathered for a family event in Lusikisiki village in Eastern Cape province.

The shootings, which took place in two separate houses on the same street, fueled outrage over a recent spate of mass shootings in the country.

The motive for the killings remains unknown and police said on Monday that the investigation is continuing and no arrests have been made.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa condemned the killings and promised that the government would deploy all needed resources in the investigation.

He said Monday that 38 people had been killed in previous mass shootings

in the past two years and 25 suspects have been arrested. (AP)

**MSF raises alarm on violence:** Doctors Without Borders treated more than 25,000 victims of sexual violence in the Congo last year, by far the highest level it has seen there and most of it in the east where armed groups vie for power, the aid group said Monday.

The vast majority of victims - averaging more than two per hour - were treated in displacement camps near Goma, the capital of Congo's eastern province of North Kivu, the group said.

"According to the testimonies of our patients, two-thirds of them were assaulted at gunpoint," Christopher Mambula, the group's program manager in Congo, said in the report.

Eastern Congo has struggled with armed violence as more than 120 armed groups fight for power, land and valuable mineral resources while others try to defend their communities. (AP)

Country	Index	Change	Closing pts
SAUDI	TASI	+27.44	12,253.54
JAPAN	Nikkei 225	+732.42	38,651.97
PHILIPPINES	PSEI	+107.67	7,380.32
EGYPT	EGX 30	+279.02	31,866.06
PAKISTAN	KSE 100	+687.56	81,861.13

'A comprehensive initiative to train and hire fresh graduates across multiple disciplines'

# ACICO Group launches ACICO Academy for young talent development

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: ACICO Group is pleased to announce the launch of ACICO Academy, an initiative dedicated to fostering the growth and development of fresh talent. ACICO Academy aims to onboard 25 graduates, comprising both Bachelor's and Diploma holders from various academic disciplines, to undergo a tailored training program that will equip them with the skills needed to thrive in the industry.

The academy's program will run for three months starting October 1st, 2024, in partnership with renowned organizations such as INJAZ, the Youth Public Authority, and the Kuwait Industries Union, all of which bring invaluable expertise to the training process. This collaboration further reinforces the academy's commitment to developing well-rounded professionals ready to contribute to Kuwait's industrial and construction sectors.

"We are proud to introduce ACICO Academy as a

steppingstone for young professionals to not only learn but also to contribute to the growth of our organization," said Eng. Ahmad Ragab, Senior Group Director - HR & Administration at ACICO. "Through this initiative, graduates will gain critical skills that are essential in the industrial and construction sectors, including leadership, problem-solving, adaptability, and analytical thinking. By engaging in real-world projects and on-the-job training, they will also develop practical expertise in teamwork, communication, and technical operations. We believe that by offering such a comprehensive program, we are preparing them to excel in the industry and emerge as the next generation of leaders."

ACICO Academy will offer participants a combination of



Eng. Ahmad Ragab, ACICO

soft skills training and technical rotations across ACICO's different departments, plants, and factories. This approach will give the candidates hands-on exposure to the company's operations, ensuring they gain a deep understanding of the business and its various functions.

The recruitment process began with an open day event held in collaboration with the Public Authority of Manpower. This event was instrumental in identifying and selecting the top candidates for the academy who also underwent an English assessment as part of the next steps in their journey.

During the initial six weeks, participants will focus on developing essential soft skills such as public speaking, time management, leadership, and teamwork. The subsequent phase will see them engage in a project that identifies

areas for improvement within the company. This project will serve as an opportunity for the trainees to apply their newly acquired skills to real-world challenges, ensuring they gain practical experience.

In the final phase, candidates will be assigned to specific departments for on-the-job training, where their progress will be closely monitored by department heads. This evaluation will play a pivotal role in determining the eligibility of some of them for full-time employment with ACICO Group.

"We are excited about the future of ACICO Academy and the opportunities it will offer to young professionals," Ragab added. "The academy reflects our values of innovation, development, and commitment to our Kuwaiti community as part of our social responsibility by providing a robust foundation for graduates to start their careers. We look forward to welcoming its first cohort and are confident that the program will play a critical role in the professional growth of the next generation."

# Duqm Petrochemical Complex study to be completed in 2025

## KPI, OQ Oman and SABIC collaborate on Duqm project

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The study on establishing Duqm Petrochemical Complex in the Sultanate of Oman, near the Duqm Refinery, will be completed next year.

According to sources, Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) and OQ Oman are the owners of the complex. Sources stated that arrangements are underway between KPI, OQ Oman and Saudi SABIC to take the basic steps that precede the implementation operations, especially since the study focuses on the success of this project due to its location in the Duqm Economic Zone -- one of the important investment areas for the Sultanate, the Gulf and Arab regions due to its distance from political conflicts such as those taking place in the Red Sea.

Sources said CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud and members of the corporation's Board of Directors reviewed the results of the study on the project some time ago. "After approving the study, several directives were issued, the most important of which is strengthening coordination between KPI and the Omani side to obtain final approvals for the huge project," sources revealed.

This is in addition to eliminating obstacles to the implementation of the project, with the necessity of studying the important incentives to move towards the speedy completion of the complex. It is expected that the foundation stone for the complex will be laid by the end of next year; that is, after the completion of the engineering designs, sources stated.

Sources attributed the speed of the move to implement the project, which was proposed several years ago, to the success of operating the Duqm Refinery in partnership with Oman and Kuwait, which accelerated starting the implemen-

tation of the project, especially since it will depend mainly on feedstock from the Duqm Refinery, such as liquefied petroleum gas and naphtha, in addition to natural gas that will be brought from Omani gas.

The same sources confirmed that studies are currently being conducted to increase the production capacity of Duqm Refinery by 10 to 15 percent in 2025, stressing that planning is underway to increase the production capacity of the refinery from 230,000 to about 255,000 to 260,000 barrels per day.

Therefore, the joint management of the Kuwaiti and Omani sides is currently working on developing oil processing and refining units, in addition to seeking to convert some waste into other materials, sources confirmed.

Sources added that the partners are also working to increase various products produced by Duqm Refinery due to the high demand for them from international companies in Europe and Africa, explaining that the Omani Sohar Refinery is responsible for the local consumption aspect.

The Duqm Refinery is responsible for covering global markets with its products that comply with international requirements. The success of the Duqm Refinery is due to the experience KPI in managing and operating refineries and its long history in marketing petroleum products to all global markets, sources affirmed.

It is noteworthy that a memorandum of understanding was signed by KPI, the Omani Integrated Energy Group 'OQ' and SABIC on Dec 8, 2022, which aimed to establish the complex.

In addition, this project was proposed in 2019 and was supposed to be implemented in 2020, but the Corona pandemic prevented its implementation. The commercial and operational opening of Duqm Refinery on Nov 7, 2024 and the increase in global demand to purchase the refinery's products motivated KPC, in cooperation with KPI, to move forward with the implementation of the project with the Omani Integrated Energy Group 'OQ', as well as with the third Saudi partner, to seize the opportunity of the success of the Duqm Refinery to also expand in the petrochemical industry, which is gaining popularity globally.

# Kuwait oil price up 48 cents to \$74.32 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil edged 48 cents higher in Monday's trading to reach USD 74.32 per barrel compared with USD 73.84 pb last Friday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Tuesday.

Benchmark Brent futures for November dropped 21 cents to USD 71.77 pb while Brent futures for December gained 27 cents to 71.81 pb. West Texas Intermediate dropped one cent to USD 68.71 pb.

Oil markets lost 17 percent in value in the third quarter due to geopolitical tension in the Middle East and its possible impacts on oil supplies. Brent lost 3.7 percent last week and WTA declined by five percent.

# Al-Bidaa coastal plots sold for KD 15.5 million at auction

## Real estate auctions in Kuwait surge by 8.93 pct in the first nine months of 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Ministry of Justice in Kuwait held several real estate auctions during the first nine months of 2024, with the residential sector dominating sales, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The total value of properties sold during these auctions amounted to approximately 111.54 million dinars, marking an 8.93 percent increase from the initial value of 102.3 million dinars, equivalent to an additional 9.15 million dinars.

In 2023, real estate auction sales reached 168.6 million dinars, up by 18.1

million dinars from the initial estimate of 150.5 million, a growth of 12 percent.

However, this figure was slightly lower compared to 2022, when auction sales amounted to 171.1 million dinars.

The fourth quarter of 2024 is expected to see a further rise in real estate transaction values, as more properties are lined up for auction, attracting both citizens and investors.

In September alone, the value of traded properties stood at 19.1 million dinars, a 2.1 percent increase from the initial value of 18.7 million dinars.

Residential properties sold in this period reached 3.5 million dinars, a 12.6 percent increase over the starting value of 3.1 million dinars. Notably, coastal plots in the Al-Bidaa area were sold at their initial value of 15.5 million dinars.

Real estate experts confirm that the Ministry of Justice auctions have become a preferred choice for many looking for residential or investment properties, particularly given the ongoing housing crisis. The demand for properties, especially in the residential sector, is expected to continue rising.

## CMA warns investment firms over capital shortfalls

# Regulatory capital of 3 investment firms plummet below minimum requirements

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The regulatory capital of three Kuwaiti investment companies has fallen below the required minimum risk-based capital level of 100 percent, with levels dropping to approximately 86 percent, -19 percent, and 94 percent, according to informed sources, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has emphasized the need for these companies to address the shortfall in their qualified regulatory capital, calculated based on risks.

Some companies have been warned, while others face financial penalties for non-compliance with capital adequacy regulations.

The CMA stressed the importance of maintaining qualified regulatory capital that exceeds risk-based requirements to ensure that licensed entities can cover their obligations and withstand potential losses.

These capital adequacy standards play a crucial role in classifying companies' resilience to market shocks and

their ability to meet investor protection standards.

The CMA recently amended its capital adequacy instructions to enhance the performance of licensed securities companies and ensure the safety of their financial positions.

The updated standards account for a variety of risks, including market, operational, investment, and credit risks, as well as Islamic investment operations, to create a secure investment environment and protect investors' rights.

## Main market index climbs 41.04 points

# Bursa Kuwait general index gains 20.43 points

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): Bursa Kuwait closed Tuesday with the general index up by 20.43 points, or 0.29 percent, reaching 7,156.71 points.

A total of 493.8 million shares were traded through 24,161 cash transactions, valued at KWD 77.6 million (USD 236.6 million).

The main market index climbed 41.04 points, or 0.65 percent, to settle at 6,317.72 points, with 401.5 million shares traded through 16,764 transactions, worth KWD 48.2 mil-

lion (USD 147 million).

Similarly, the premier market index increased by 15.95 points, or 0.21 percent, to reach 7,724.67 points, with 92.3 million shares traded in 7,397 transactions, valued at KWD 29.3 million (USD 89.3 million).

Meanwhile, the (Main 50) index surged by 57.46 points, or 0.93 percent, to hit 6,211.31 points, as 300.3 million shares were traded through 11,716 transactions, totaling KWD 36 million (USD 109.8 million).

## Kuwait's Bursa all-share index drops 0.6%, main market sees gains

# GCC index sees gains led by positive global market sentiments

By KAMCO Invest

GCC equity markets mostly closed with monthly gains during September-2024 taking cues from the rally in global financial markets that was seen during the second half of the month. The surge that was seen across most asset classes globally came after the US Fed implemented a larger-than-expected rate cut of 50 bps so as not to be late in providing the necessary boost to the economy. The fall in funding costs is expected to benefit a majority of the sectors and is expected to boost investments. On the other hand, the escalation of geopolitical issues in the Middle East region had only a minimal impact on the performance.

The MSCI GCC index witnessed a gain of 0.9% during the month reflecting positive performance in five out of seven exchanges in the region. Dubai was the best performing market during the month with a gain of 4.1% closely followed by Qatar and Bahrain with gains of 4.0% and 2.8%, respectively. Saudi Arabia's TASI witnessed a marginal gain of 0.7% while Oman and Kuwait witnessed marginal declines. Gains during September-2024 helped to partly offset the YTD-2024 decline in the MSCI GCC index that closed with a marginal decline of 0.2%. Within the GCC, Dubai's General Index now shows double-digit gains of 10.9%, the biggest in the region, followed by Kuwait and Oman with smaller gains of 4.7% and 4.3%, respectively.

The GCC sector performance chart for the month showed a majority of the sectors in the green. Utilities and Pharma & Biotech were the best performing indices during the month with gains of 10.6% and 7.5%, respectively, followed by retailing with a gain of 5.2%. Large cap sectors like Banks and Energy declined during the month by 0.3% and 1.5%, respectively, while Insurance witnessed the biggest decline

Monthly Indicators	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
<b>Premier Market Index</b>	7,142.7	7,291.7	7,477.0	7,959.5	8,159.0	8,036.7	7,691.5	7,682.6	7,543.6	7,899.5	7,822.0	7,708.7
Monthly % Change	(5.0%)	2.1%	2.5%	6.5%	2.5%	(1.5%)	(4.3%)	(0.1%)	(1.8%)	4.7%	(1.0%)	(1.4%)
<b>Main 50 Index</b>	5,277.4	5,361.0	5,487.4	5,919.2	5,957.0	5,875.9	5,755.1	5,790.9	5,762.5	5,938.4	5,904.6	6,153.9
Monthly % Change	(7.6%)	1.6%	2.4%	7.9%	0.6%	(1.4%)	(2.1%)	0.6%	(0.5%)	3.1%	(0.6%)	4.2%
<b>Main Market Index</b>	5,396.0	5,453.5	5,569.7	5,973.1	6,086.1	5,985.6	5,919.8	5,957.7	5,912.4	6,068.6	6,070.7	6,276.7
Monthly % Change	(6.6%)	1.1%	2.1%	7.2%	1.9%	(1.7%)	(1.1%)	0.6%	(0.8%)	2.6%	0.03%	3.4%
<b>All Share Market Index</b>	6,531.8	6,653.8	6,817.3	7,268.4	7,440.6	7,327.2	7,051.1	7,051.9	6,937.0	7,239.4	7,180.9	7,136.3
Monthly % Change	(5.2%)	1.9%	2.5%	6.6%	2.4%	(1.5%)	(3.8%)	0.0%	(1.6%)	4.4%	(0.8%)	(0.6%)



of 7.6%. In terms of YTD-2024 performance, Utilities showed healthy gain of 33.9% while Energy was the biggest decliner at -7.9%.

**Boursa Kuwait**  
The Boursa Kuwait All Share index closed September-2024 with a marginal monthly decline of 0.6% at 7,136.3 points. The decline was mainly led by large-cap stocks,

including Banks, with the concurrence of the Premier Market Index witnessing a fall of 1.4% during September-2024 as the performance of most of the constituent stocks in the index declined. The Main 50 Index and the Main Market Index reported monthly gains of 4.2% and 3.4%, respectively. In terms of YTD-2024 performance, all the market

segments continue to remain in the green with the Main Market Index up by 12.7% followed by a 12.1% gain for the Main 50 Index. The All-Share Market Index and the Premier Market Index advanced by 4.7% and 3.1%, respectively.

The monthly sector performance chart remained mixed during the month. On the gainer's side, the

Health Care index topped during September-2024 with a gain of 6.6% followed by Insurance and Real Estate indices with returns of 6.2% and 2.4%, respectively. On the other hand, the Technology sector witnessed the steepest decline of 9.5% followed by the Industrials and Utilities sector with declines of 4.6% and 3.3%, respectively. Gains

in the Health Care sector was mainly led by 10.1% surge in shares of Al-Maidan Clinic. The performance of the Insurance index was supported by gains of 18.5% in shares of Gulf Insurance Group and 17.0% gain in shares of First Takaful Insurance Co. The decline in the Technology sector was led by the fall in the shares of its sole constituent Automated Systems Co. Large-cap indices like Banking declined after shares of most banks dropped, indicating seasonal weakness and profit booking on elevated prices. In the Telecom sector, all the constituent stocks reported marginal gains during the month.

The monthly stock performance chart was topped with MENA Real Estate with its shares more than doubling during the month followed by Kuwait Business Town Real Estate Co. and United Real Estate Co. with gains of 80.0% and 78.7%, respectively. On the decliners side, Ektitab Holding Co. topped with a decline of 15.7% followed by Agility and Arabi Holding Group Co. with declines of 14.5% and 13.2%, respectively.

In terms of trading activity, volume traded during the month surged by 66.4% to reach 8.2 Bn shares in September-2024 as compared to 4.9 Bn shares in August-2024. The aggregate value of shares traded during the month also increased by 31.2% to reach KWD 1.5 Bn as compared to KWD 1.1 Bn during August-2024. Ininvest topped the monthly volume traded chart with 567.9 Mn traded shares followed by Mazaya Real Estate and Int'l Financial Advisors at 485.5 Mn shares and 473.5 Mn shares, respectively. On the value traded chart, Int'l Financial Advisors topped with KWD 181.8 Mn worth of trades during the month followed by Kuwait Finance House and MENA Real Estate Co. at KWD 146.2 Mn and KWD 87.7Mn, respectively.



Celebrating its first anniversary and recognition as the “Best Momentum Fund Innovation” by Global Finance

# Markaz hosts an exclusive event for clients and investors to highlight the “GCC Momentum Fund”



Ali H. Khalil, Chief Executive Officer at Markaz

Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” hosted an exclusive event for its esteemed clients and investors to showcase the performance, potential, and investment opportunities offered by the “GCC Momentum Fund.” This special gathering follows the Fund’s prestigious recognition as the “Best Momentum Fund Innovation” by Global Finance during its inaugural year. The event underscores Markaz’s unwavering commitment to introducing distinctive investment vehicles tailored to meet the diverse needs of its clients. Held at the Four Seasons Hotel on 30 September 2024, the event featured a keynote address by the CEO of Markaz, a detailed presentation from the MENA Equities team, and an engaging panel discussion, moderated by a representative from the Wealth Management and Business Development team. The panel discussion delved into the Fund’s strategy, investment factors, long-term wealth-building opportunities, and ways to capitalize on emerging market trends, and answered questions by the attendees.



Sharefah Bensalamah, Senior Relationship Officer, Wealth Management and Business Development



Panel discussion about the GCC Momentum Fund

In his opening remarks, Mr. Ali H. Khalil, CEO of Markaz, said: “Innovation has been an intrinsic pillar of Markaz’s DNA since its inception. Over the past five decades, we have pioneered innovation in the financial services realm, both locally and regionally. This is exemplified by Markaz’s track record in crafting investment tools with unique attributes and opening new investment frontiers. Today, we proudly celebrate one of our most recent innovations, the ‘GCC Momentum Fund,’ which embodies our commitment to delivering the best-in-class investment opportunities and solutions that align with our clients’ aspirations, as their partner in wealth creation. We take great pride in marking this milestone as part of Markaz’s 50-year legacy, which has consistently prioritized the interests of our clients. This trust in our expertise inspires us to continuously innovate and evolve across all operational and strategic dimensions.”

During the presentation, Mr. Fahad S. Al Rushaid, Senior Vice President, MENA Equities at Markaz, elaborated on the core principles underpinning the momentum strategy, stating: “The GCC Momentum Fund is the first passive fund of its kind to invest in GCC markets through a momentum-based methodology. This strategy targets top-performing stocks in the GCC, while meticulously tracking components of the S&P GCC Momentum Composite Index. Since its inception in 2008, the S&P GCC Momentum Composite Index has on an average outperformed the S&P GCC Composite Index by an

average of 4.5% annually. This trend is expected to continue, bolstered by the region’s robust economic prospects, particularly the ambitious growth initiatives in Saudi Arabia, which accounts for over half of the GCC’s market capitalization. The Fund strategically selects stocks that collectively represent approximately 50% of the GCC market capitalization, thereby enhancing volatility management.”

In the subsequent panel discussion, Mr. Mohammed A. Al-Ghannam, Senior Vice President, MENA Equities at Markaz, added: “The momentum strategy has resonated strongly with our clients, and building on the unprecedented economic boom and expected growth in the non-oil economy, the Fund serves investors particularly those seeking to invest in GCC markets with a long-term, risk-adjusted approach. The Fund’s methodology allows investors to benefit from the compounding returns over time, while its focus on top-performing companies with solid fundamentals ensures optimized returns. This approach mitigates market volatility by distributing risks across various sectors. The success of this strategy has been evidenced in global markets, and its adoption in the GCC is a natural evolution. The development of the Fund’s mechanism is the result of two years of rigorous research and analysis by the MENA Equities team, optimizing the strategy’s efficacy in driving long-term returns.”

Mr. Mohammad AlSmaiee, Assistant Vice President, Wealth Management and Business Development at



Fahad AlRushaid, Senior Vice President, MENA Equities

Markaz, added: “As trusted investment advisors, it is incumbent upon us to closely monitor market trends and seize optimal opportunities that align with our clients’ financial goals. This philosophy is what led to the creation of the ‘GCC Momentum Fund,’ a fund built upon a globally recognized and valued performance methodology. The ‘Best Momentum Fund Innovation’ award from Global Finance, granted within the Fund’s first year, stands as a testament to the strength of our strategy, guided by global benchmarks. We remain committed to developing further innovations that enhance market offerings and provide our clients with unparalleled growth opportunities.

Concluding the event, Markaz team engaged with interested attendees, addressing inquiries about the momentum strategy and providing detailed guidance on how to subscribe to the Fund and explore other portfolio services, either digitally or in person at Markaz’s headquarters. The GCC Momentum Fund is the latest in a series of innovative investment products launched by Markaz, underscoring its commitment to staying ahead of market developments locally, regionally, and globally.

**MARKAZ**

**Disclaimer**



<https://tinyurl.com/vm8y4dp>

**Information about the Fund**



<https://bit.ly/3LZiBPG>

## Agility Global invests in new Middle East & Africa venture capital fund

UAE-based VC fund targets region’s promising startups, entrepreneurs

ABU DHABI, Oct 1: Agility Global, a multi-business operator and long-term investor, said its corporate venture capital arm will invest in a new fund aimed at providing capital to early-stage Middle East and Africa companies.

The new fund is managed by Global Ventures, a Dubai-based investment firm that specializes in early-stage emerging markets investing in MEA and has more than \$300 million of assets under management.

Through its venture capital arm,

Agility Global has built a portfolio of investments that includes stakes in clean energy, digital logistics, e-commerce, healthcare and agri-tech startups. Its portfolio includes companies that are MEA-based or pursuing market opportunities and expansion in the region.

Agility Global has backed efforts to strengthen the MEA’s entrepreneurial ecosystems and provided resources and expertise to early-stage companies developing go-to-market strategies.

“We are passionate champions and advocates for businesses led by the region’s new generation of entrepreneurs and innovators,” said Agility Global Chairman Tarek Sultan. “The Middle East and Africa are brimming



Agility Global logo

with innovation and entrepreneurial energy. Through our venture capital arm, Agility Ventures, and our investment in Global Ventures’ new MEA fund, we are encouraging the region’s startups and entrepreneurs to commercialize and scale great ideas and innovations.”

Sultan said: “We’re conscious that



Tarek Sultan

only about 15% of all VC ‘check-writers’ are women, and we’re excited to be backing a women-led fund

in the region. We hope that as the ventures ecosystem in the region continues to grow, it will create new opportunities for a range of stakeholders, including women-led businesses, and we’re committed to being part of growing that broader ecosystem.”

Noor Sweid, Founder and Managing Partner at Global Ventures, said: “Anticipating a shift towards resource efficiency in sectors such as supply chain, our new fund, Fund III, is strategically aligned with industries poised for technological transformation in emerging markets over the next decade. With our focus on supply chain technology, we are incredibly grateful for the support of Agility Global, a long-standing leader in the supply chain sector regionally and

globally. We are thrilled to have a true partner in Agility Global as we continue to back mission-driven founders addressing critical challenges across the Middle East and Africa.”

Global Ventures manages three funds, all of which target innovation companies in the Middle East and Africa. Agility Global will invest in Global Ventures’ third fund, which was established earlier this year to provide capital to startups innovating in the areas of supply chain technology, energy technology, and agri-tech.

Global Ventures’ first fund, launched in 2018, has a thematic focus on fintech. The firm established a second fund in 2022 to focus on investments in health tech and digital health innovation.

### OQ launches historic public offering

## Oil prices rise amid Middle East tensions

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Oil prices increased on Monday morning due to growing concerns over potential supply disruptions from the oil-producing Middle East, following intensified attacks by Israel on groups allied with Iran, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Brent crude futures for November delivery rose by 16 cents (0.22 percent) to \$72.14 per barrel. The more actively traded December contract increased by 10 cents (0.14 percent) to \$71.64 per barrel; West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures climbed by 8 cents (0.12 percent) to \$68.26 per barrel.

Last week, Brent crude dropped about 3 percent, while WTI crude fell roughly 5 percent, fueled by concerns over demand following China’s fiscal

stimulus, which failed to boost market confidence.

However, oil prices found support on Monday amid the rising conflict in the Middle East, with Iran, a key OPEC producer, possibly being drawn into the confrontation after Israel escalated its attacks on Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Iran-aligned Houthis in Yemen.

Analysts at ANZ Research noted that the escalating situation in the Middle East raises the likelihood of Iran’s direct involvement in the conflict, posing a risk of supply disruption. Israel expanded its confrontations by targeting Houthi forces in Yemen after the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, intensifying the conflict.

Oil market participants are also looking forward to remarks by US

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell later on Monday for guidance on monetary policy. Meanwhile, OPEC+ plans to raise production by 180,000 barrels per day in December, and Libya’s oil exports are expected to resume, adding to supply.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak stated that tensions in the Middle East are unlikely to cause major fluctuations in oil prices, as the market has already factored in these risks. Novak also expressed confidence that Russia’s sanctions-hit economy would withstand pressure and price restrictions imposed by the West.

In the Gulf of Mexico, 3 percent of oil production and 1 percent of natural gas production remain halted following Hurricane Helen, with losses peak-

ing at 511,000 barrels last Wednesday.

In other news, Oman’s OQ Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Company has launched the largest public offering in the history of Oman, offering 2 billion shares (25 percent of its shares) for subscription.

The subscription for individuals will run until October 9, while institutions will have access starting October 10. This move is seen as part of OQ’s efforts to diversify its investor base and contribute to Oman’s economic development.

The company’s CEO, Ahmed Al-Ezkawi, emphasized that the public offering aligns with OQ’s vision to enhance economic growth and investment opportunities in Oman’s energy sector.

## Asian markets mixed and Japanese stocks rebound

HONG KONG, Oct 1, (AP): Asian shares were mixed on Tuesday, with Japan’s Nikkei 225 index regaining some of its sharp losses from a day earlier.

A quarterly “tankan” survey by the Bank of Japan showed business confidence among large manufacturers remained steady at 13, indicating an improved outlook for business conditions. A positive number indicates that more companies maintain an optimistic outlook on business conditions than those who feel pessimistic.

The survey is closely monitored for clues about the impact of the Bank of Japan’s interest rate decisions, especially after the central bank ended negative

rates in March and raised its short-term rate to 0.25% in July.

Japan also reported that its unemployment rate for August fell to 2.5% from 2.7% in July, in line with market expectations.

Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 rallied 1.9% to close at 38,651.97 as the yen weakened. The dollar was trading at 144.44 yen, up from 143.62 yen.

On Monday, the Nikkei tumbled nearly 5% as markets reacted to the selection of Shigeru Ishiba to be Japan’s next prime minister. Ishiba was due to take office Tuesday following the resignation of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Ishiba, an expert on defense and on

domestic economic issues, was seen as a less favorable choice than some of his rivals in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, partly because he has voiced support for raising interest rates. That caused the Japanese yen to briefly jump in value against the dollar, which would hurt profits of large export manufacturers.

Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 dipped 0.9% to 8,195.90 after the data showed that retail sales in August rose 3.1% from the same period last year, which is above expectation.

Markets in China and South Korea were shut for holidays. Mainland Chinese markets, which had their best day since 2008 on Monday, will remain

closed until Oct. 7 for the National Day break.

On Monday, the S&P 500 climbed 0.4% to reached an all-time high at 5,762.48 and clinched its fifth straight winning month and fourth straight winning quarter. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added less than 0.1% to 42,330.15. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.4% to 18,189.17.

Wall Street has catapulted to records on hopes the slowing U.S. economy can keep growing while the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates to offer it more juice. A big test will arrive Friday, when the U.S. government offers its latest monthly update on the job market.

### Gradual rate cuts coming

## US economy is in ‘solid shape,’ says Fed chair

WASHINGTON, Oct 1, (AP): Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell signaled Monday that more interest rate cuts are in the pipeline but suggested they would occur at a measured pace intended to support a still-healthy economy.

His comments, at a conference of the National Association for Business Economics in Nashville, Tennessee, disappointed the hopes of many investors that the Fed would implement another steep half-point reduction in its key rate before the end of the year. The Fed cut its rate by a larger-than-usual half point earlier this month as it has moved past its inflation fight and pivoted toward supporting the job market.

The broad S&P 500 stock index initially fell 0.6% after his remarks, but recovered afterwards to close about 0.4% higher.

“We’re looking at it as a process that will play out over some time,” Powell said during a question and answer session, referring to the Fed’s interest rate reductions, “not something that we need to go fast on. It’ll depend on the data, the speed at which we actually go.”

Economists are already pointing to Friday’s jobs report as a key piece of data that could alter the Fed’s policy path. If the unemployment rate rises noticeably or hiring stumbles, officials could consider a sharper rate cut later this year.

At their last meeting Sept. 18, Fed officials reduced their rate to 4.8%,

from a two-decade high of 5.3%, and penciled in two more quarter-point rate cuts in November and December. On Monday, Powell said that remains the most likely outcome.

“If the economy performs as expected, that would mean two more cuts this year,” both by a quarter-point, Powell said.

In prepared remarks, Powell said the U.S. economy and hiring are largely healthy and emphasized that the Fed is “rebalancing” its key interest rate, as opposed to cutting rapidly as it would in an emergency.

He also said the rate is headed “to a more neutral stance,” a level that doesn’t stimulate or hold back the economy. Fed officials have pegged the so-called “neutral rate” at about 3%, significantly below its current level.

Powell emphasized that the Fed’s current goal is to support a largely healthy economy and job market, rather than rescue a struggling economy or prevent a recession.

“Overall, the economy is in solid shape,” Powell said in written remarks. “We intend to use our tools to keep it there.”

Inflation, according to the Fed’s preferred measure, fell to just 2.2% in August, the government reported Friday. Core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and energy categories and typically provides a better read on underlying price trends, ticked up slightly to 2.7%.

Visionary ideas, engaging topics, and pushing the boundaries of what is possible

## stc sponsors TEDxSafat Square as part of its 'weyak' initiative

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, sponsored the TEDxSafat Square event, which took place under the theme "Growth: Embracing Endless Possibilities". The sponsorship comes as part of stc's ongoing efforts to foster innovation and entrepreneurship within the community, aligning with its core CSR strategy.

The TEDxSafat Square event, held at the National Library, brought together over 100 participants, including industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and students, to engage with more than 10 prominent speakers who shared their experiences and expertise. The platform provided meaningful connections and encouraged attendees to engage with ideas that challenged their perspectives, ignited curiosity, and transformed the way they perceive growth. The theme as well as the concept behind the platform strongly align with the objectives set under stc's CSR framework, especially under its 'weyak' initiative which aims to stimulate the economy through the innovative work of entrepreneurs and startups.

Among the notable speakers at the TEDxSafat Square event were Bader Al-Essa (Bonabil), Founder of EM-CAN, a digital platform for entrepreneurs, and Yarub Bourahmah, an acclaimed director and trainer. Their presentations highlighted the importance of embracing digital transformation and leveraging technology to unlock new avenues for personal and professional development.

Aside from stc's role, the event was supported by several esteemed sponsors,



A glimpse of the lectures and workshops that were held.

including Rapture, M2R Group as the exclusive media partner, Fhghah, Astroshot, and Insync. Their contributions played a pivotal role in the success of TEDxSafat Square, further emphasizing the collaborative spirit that drives growth and innovation in the community.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Danah AlJasem, General Manager of

Corporate Communications at stc, said, "We believe in the power of knowledge and innovation as key drivers of growth and development in the community. Our sponsorship of TEDxSafat Square reflects our dedication to supporting initiatives that empower young minds and aspiring entrepreneurs to turn their visions into reality. We are proud to have



Attendance of the company's team and the winning entrepreneurs of the first edition of Inspire U in Kuwait.

been part of an event that fostered creativity and opened the door to endless entrepreneurial possibilities for the youth in Kuwait."

stc's participation in TEDxSafat Square was part of its broader "weyak" initiative, which focuses on nurturing talent, supporting innovative projects, and promoting the spirit of entrepre-

neurship across Kuwait. Through such initiatives, stc continues to reinforce its role as a key enabler of digital transformation and a strong supporter of empowering the younger generation for the betterment of the community.

AllJasem added, "Through partnering with platforms like TEDx, we aim to inspire and support the next genera-

tion by linking them with the tools and confidence needed to navigate the ever-evolving digital world. This aligns with our vision to be a catalyst for digital transformation and a leading supporter of national initiatives that contribute to Kuwait's sustainable development."

TEDxSafat Square, an independently organized TED event, is known for bringing together a powerful blend of pre-recorded TED Talks and inspiring live speakers to ignite change and foster deep discussions within an intimate audience in Kuwait. This year's theme, "Growth," explored various aspects of development, from personal growth to societal evolution. Attendees experienced a thought-provoking journey, delving into topics ranging from resilience and overcoming adversity to visionary ideas that push the boundaries of what is possible.

**About stc**

Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company incorporated pursuant to Amiri Decree No. 187 on 22 July, 2008, to operate and manage the third GSM mobile network in Kuwait as per Law No. 2 of 2008. Accordingly, stc launched its operations in December 2008 and was listed on Bursa Kuwait in December 2014.

stc Kuwait is a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and solutions to customers, both for individuals and enterprises, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and is a subsidiary of stc Group. stc Kuwait has expanded its portfolio by acquiring companies such as Qualitynet General Trading and Contracting Company (solutions by stc) in Kuwait, and e-portal Holding Company and its subsidiaries.

To support sustainable transformation

## Warba Bank launches fourth edition of the book of Sharia Fatwas

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Warba Bank announced the distribution of the fourth edition of the book of Sharia Fatwas for the second time this year, following the great demand and interest that the book witnessed during its first distribution, which was during the AAOIFI 22nd Annual Shari'ah Boards Conference, which was held in Bahrain on April 28 and 29, 2024 under the golden sponsorship of Warba Bank, aiming to sponsor and enhance the spread of Islamic banking and treating its Sharia issues at the local and international levels.

This book is distinguished by the depth of its content related to the fatwas of the Sharia Supervisory Board related to the Bank's activities and products; in addition to its distinctive printing on environmentally friendly paper, in accordance with Warba Bank's strategy to preserve the envi-



Abdullah Fakhru

ronment and support sustainable transformation.

Abdullah Abdul Rahim Fakhru, Acting Senior Director of Sharia Management, explained that the fourth edi-

tion of the Fatwas book contains the decisions of the Sharia Supervisory Board regarding the Bank's various services and products, and a presentation of the Sharia treatments for some of the delicate issues of specialization. Warba Bank also provided an interactive version of it in Arabic and English via the Warba Bank application, which customers and non-customers can benefit from, in addition to a copy in PDF format.

Fakhru stated that publishing the decisions and fatwas of the Sharia Supervisory Board comes in accordance with the requirements of Sharia Supervisory Governance issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait on December 20, 2016, to enhance the principle of transparency with clients and increase their confidence in the legitimacy of the services and products provided by Warba Bank, which leads to enhancing

the role of Islamic banking in society.

Fakhru said: The Sharia sector in Islamic banks, with all its specializations, is no longer just a tool for monitoring the institution's work; rather, it has become a major contributor to all the products and services it provides, and all the activities it undertakes, and the continuous work to develop them in accordance with the provisions of Sharia.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that have achieved great successes in a short period of time, as it has occupied a leading position by providing innovative digital banking services in accordance with Islamic Sharia for individuals and companies, and is one of the local banks with the largest number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent elements that make the Bank close to all members of society.



KIB's Al Dirwaza account

Best account offering highest returns

## KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza account's draw

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2024 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The fifth weekly draw, based on customers' August deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. The KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Khamees Rashed Abdullah Alrashed, Nouf Shareef Jassim Mohammed, Shajahan Thotingalthodika, Ibrahim Eid Ibrahim Elmasry, Eiman Abdulkareem Theyab Zankowi, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Feda Abdallah Mahmoud Alqaisi, Hasan Abdelnabi Hajdar, Anas Abdulsalam Asskar, Ibrahiem Nada Nazir Omar, Ashraf Mohamed Hussein Kasbar, Ali Hussain Akbar Hasan, Re-faah Nayef Methri Alshammari.

It serves to note that Al Dirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the cus-

tomers' account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes a two-month cycle in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

Al Dirwaza account is also in compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Supervisory Board. Furthermore, the account comes with a wide range of benefits, including the ease of opening the account, which does not require a salary transfer, and the customer's ability to open it remotely without visiting a branch through KIB Online on the Bank's website or KIB Mobile application on smartphones.

Additionally, Al Dirwaza account automatically grants customers instant issuance of an ATM card, with a KD 2,000 ATM daily withdrawal limit, as well as the ability to issue credit cards against the cash collateral in the account. To open the account and participate in its draws, a minimum of KD 100 is required and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.

As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance customers' banking experience

## Burgan Bank launches Qatar Airways co-branded cards with Visa

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Burgan Bank announced launching its co-branded Qatar Airways credit and prepaid cards under the umbrella of its expanding partnership with the world leader in digital payments, Visa.

Introduced in a bid to make travel easier and more rewarding for its loyal customers, the new Qatar Airways co-branded cards are set to offer cardholders exclusive benefits and rewards.

This comes as part of Burgan Bank's unwavering efforts to add ease and convenience to its banking experience by partnering with world-class service providers and modifying its products and services in response to customers' evolving needs and aspirations.

"Every Burgan banking card is designed with a customer segment in mind, whereby every feature, upgrade, and privilege caters to their particular lifestyle and guarantees to make everyday purchases and transactions more rewarding," Mr. Manaf Al-Menaifi, Acting General Manager - Retail Banking at Burgan Bank, said.

"With our new Visa Qatar Airways credit and prepaid cards, we are merging the best in financial and travel services for an all-around rewarding and convenient travel experience."

With Qatar Airways and Visa, Burgan Bank offers seasoned travelers three card variants: Qatar Airways Visa Infinite, Qatar Airways Visa Plati-



Manaf Al-Menaifi, Acting General Manager - Retail Banking at Burgan Bank

num, and Qatar Airways Visa Prepaid. By choosing to make everyday purchases using any of the Qatar Airways and Visa card variants, Qatar Airways Visa Infinite cardholders earn 6 reward points (Avios) for every KD 1 spent locally, 7 Avios for every KD 1 spent across the EU countries, and 12 Avios for every KD 1 spent internationally (outside of the EU).

Furthermore, new cardholders receive a complimentary welcome bonus Avios of 20,000 upon paying the annual card fee upfront.

"This collaboration underscores Visa's global leadership in airline co-brands and our commitment to enriching the payment experience for frequent travelers in Kuwait. Our advanced security technology and Visa's worldwide acceptance



Burgan Bank cards

network, with over 130 million merchant partners, also allow Burgan Bank's Visa cardholders to use their cards with confidence anywhere in the world.

We are excited to partner with Burgan Bank in bringing this unique proposition to their Visa cardholders and supporting the growth of digital commerce in Kuwait," said Mohamed Reyad, Head of Financial Institutions at Visa - Kuwait.

In addition to exchanging Avios for Qatar Airways miles, travelers can enjoy complimentary lounge access to over 1000+ airport lounges in 300 cities worldwide with Visa

Infinite. Throughout their longstanding partnership, Burgan Bank and Visa introduced several campaigns, offering cardholders exclusive benefits and valuable gifts.

This includes the latest draw campaign, "Visa Olympics", which offered four lucky Visa cardholders an all-expense-covered trip to Paris to attend the 2024 Olympics.

To find out more about the Visa and Qatar Airways co-branded credit and prepaid cards, call Burgan's customer service at 1804080 or visit the Bank's website www.burgan.com.

## AmCham Kuwait hosts third Diversity &amp; Inclusion Diwaniya of 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The American Chamber of Commerce Kuwait's (AmCham Kuwait) Women in Business Focus Group recently hosted its third Diversity & Inclusion Diwaniya of the year, gathering professionals across industries to discuss the role of diversity and mentorship in shaping the future of leadership in Kuwait. The Diwaniya focused on best practices to successfully establish a mentorship program, building on the insights from both individual and organizational growth.

The event featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Arezou Harraf, a well-known advocate for professional development, DEI, and Capacity Building: Where Do We Stand and Ways Forward, focused on the crucial role mentorship plays in fostering both personal and professional growth, es-



Photo during the event.

pecially for women in business. Dr. Harraf highlighted the need for clear

goals in mentorship relationships to ensure both mentor and mentee are

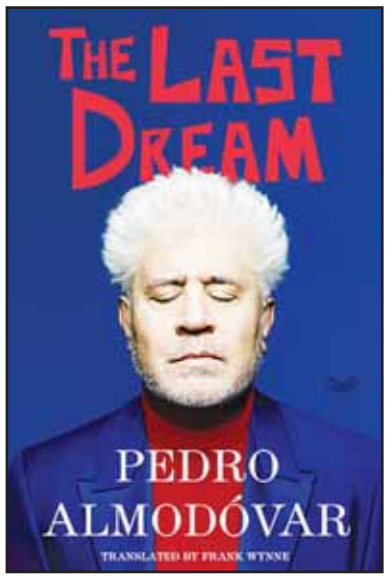
working toward shared outcomes. She emphasized that mentorship should be

tailored to individual needs, not a one-size-fits-all approach, and stressed the

importance of developing transferable skills like leadership and communication to keep up with today's evolving workplace.

Following the opening remarks, the event transitioned into a lively and engaging discussion among attendees. Participants shared their experiences with mentorship and diversity within their organizations, leading to an interactive discussion about how what principles can be applied to improve the workplace. The gathering provided a valuable platform for professionals to exchange ideas and reflect on how diversity and inclusion can lead to a stronger, more adaptable business environment.

The Diwaniya also provided ample networking opportunities, allowing attendees to exchange their experiences with mentorship and diversity initiatives in their workplaces.



This cover image released by HarperVia shows 'The Last Dream' by Pedro Almodovar. (AP)

## A journey through memory and fiction

# 'The Last Dream,' short stories echoing Almodovar films

NEW YORK, Oct 1, (AP) — The seeds of Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar's later cinematic work are scattered throughout the pages of "The Last Dream," his newly published collection of short writings.

The stories and essays were gathered together by Almodóvar's longtime assistant, including many pieces he said he forgot about long ago. One, called "The Life and Death of Miguel," dates back more than a half-century to the period shortly after he graduated from high school.

The screenwriter and director of iconic films like "Volver," "Everything About My Mother," and the breakout hit "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown," writes that reading these shorter pieces again gave him new insights about himself and his work.

"Everything is in this book," Almodóvar writes. "In it, I discover that, when I first got to Madrid in the early seventies, I was already the person I would become."

He said his story "The Visit" was transformed in 2004 into "Bad Education," a Spanish drama film he wrote and directed about a woman who was sexually molested by a priest at a Roman Catholic boarding school.

In "The Visit," Almodóvar, a man who was educated at a Catholic school in provincial Spain, writes about a student being forced to grope one priest, and then describes another priest who hears confession dressed as a woman.

There is also an homage to his friend and muse Chavela Vargas, a gender bending,

Costa Rican-born singer who was beloved in her adopted country of Mexico, as well as in Spain, for her interpretations of traditional ranchera music from a masculine perspective.

But the main piece, the one the book takes its title from, is the star of the pack, as Almodóvar ruminates on his beloved mother's life and death, her habit of inventing happy details in the family letters she read as a favor to the illiterate neighbor who sought her help.

"My mother would fill in the gaps in the letters, tell the neighbors what they wanted to hear, often things the writers had probably forgotten but would happily have signed their names to," he wrote. It seems to be a memory Almodóvar has carried with him

while creating his transgressive, sometimes mysterious films.

"These improvisations were a great object lesson to me," Almodóvar writes. "They set out the difference between fiction and reality, and how reality needs fictions in order to be more complete, more pleasurable, more bearable."

Almodovar's films are distinguished by melodrama, irreverent humour, bold colour, glossy décor, quotations from popular culture, and complex narratives. Desire, passion, family, motherhood, and identity are among Almodovar's most frequently explored subjects. As one of the most internationally successful Spanish filmmakers, Almodovar and his films have developed a cult following.

## Variety

NEW YORK: The 50th season of "Saturday Night Live" is off to a strong ratings start and is a record-breaker for the streaming service Peacock.

NBC said Monday that 5.3 million people watched the premiere live, the best opening for the show since 2020, when Alec Baldwin reprised his role as then-President Donald Trump and Chris Rock hosted with musical guest Megan Thee Stallion.



Rudolph

The sketch comedy show welcomed back several alums this weekend for its opening skit about this year's US presidential race, with Maya Rudolph playing Kamala Harris and Dana Carvey playing President Joe Biden.

The episode is the most-watched "SNL" ever on Peacock in its first weekend, NBC said.

Jean Smart hosted the 50th season premiere and country sensation Jelly Roll was the musical guest.

The opening sketch could be a preview of the season ahead, with alum Andy Samberg returning to play Harris' husband, Doug Emhoff, and actor-comedian Jim Gaffigan playing Harris' running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. Only Rudolph as Harris was expected, although "SNL" hadn't confirmed she would reprise the role. (AP)

SANTA FE, N.M.: A New Mexico judge on Monday upheld an involuntary manslaughter conviction against a movie armorer in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by Alec Baldwin on the set of the Western film "Rust."

Armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed asked a court to dismiss her conviction or convene a new trial, alleging that prosecutors failed to share evidence that could have cleared her.

Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer in her written order noted that the armorer's attorneys did not establish that there was a reasonable possibility that the outcome of the trial would have been different had the evidence been available to Gutierrez-Reed.

The judge also rejected a request from Gutierrez-Reed that she be released from custody, saying it was moot because the request for a new trial was denied.

Marlowe Sommer halted and ended Baldwin's trial in July based on misconduct of police and prosecutors and their withholding evidence from the defense in the 2021 shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set outside Santa Fe.

Baldwin, the lead actor and co-producer for "Rust," was pointing a gun at Hutchins during a rehearsal on a movie set outside Santa Fe when the revolver went off, killing Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza. (AP)

NEW YORK: Sean "Diddy" Combs is appealing a federal judge's decision to keep him in jail while he awaits trial on sex trafficking charges.

The hip-hop mogul's lawyers filed a notice of appeal Monday in the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after previously saying they would ask the appeals court to overturn Judge Andrew L. Carter's ruling and release him.

Combs, 54, has been locked up at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn since pleaded not guilty Sept. 17 to charges that he used his "power and prestige" to induce female victims into drugged-up, elaborately produced sexual performances with male sex workers in events dubbed "Freak Offs."



Combs

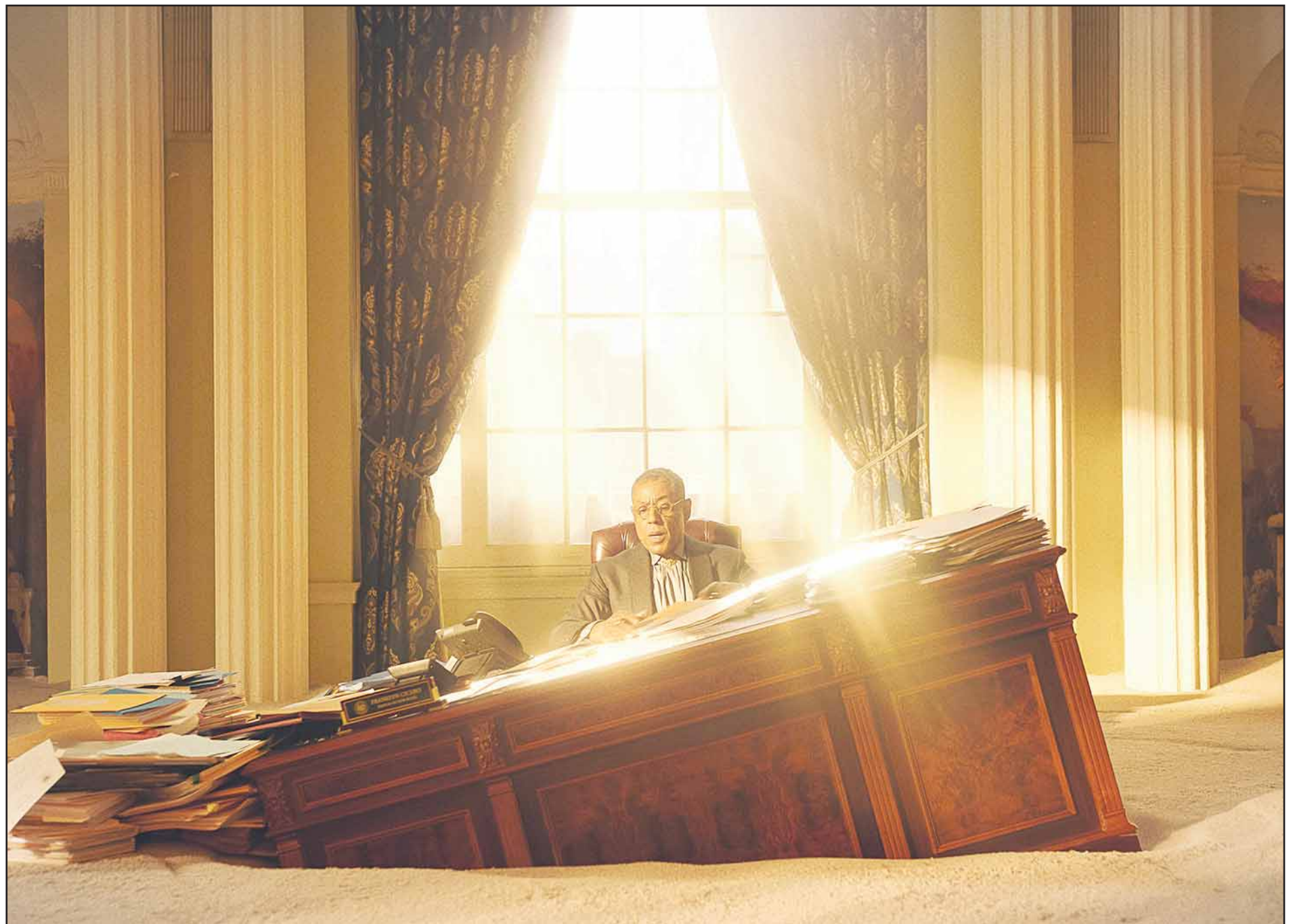
Carter rejected a defense proposal that would've allowed the "I'll Be Missing You" singer to be placed under house arrest at his Florida mansion with GPS monitoring and strict limits on visitors.

The judge said the plan, which included a \$50 million bail offer, was "insufficient" to ensure the safety of the community and the integrity of Combs' case. Carter said that "no condition or set of conditions" for Combs' release could guard against the risk of him threatening or harming witnesses.

Combs' lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, had suggested moving him from the Brooklyn jail, which has been plagued by rampant violence and horrific conditions, to one in Essex County, New Jersey.

He later abandoned that idea. (AP)

## Film



This image released by Lionsgate shows Giancarlo Esposito as Mayor Cicero in a scene from 'Megalopolis.' (AP)

## Coppola's film delivers a mixed bag of intrigue

# 'Megalopolis' is a wild dream of excess

By Lindsey Bahr

If anything is clear about "Megalopolis," it's that Francis Ford Coppola has a lot on his mind.

The legendary filmmaker spent decades on this Roman-style epic, set in the present day, about a civilization on the brink of collapse. A wealthy and powerful few of the old guard are running the gilded city of New Rome into the ground, a new generation is embroiled in a stalemate of a culture war between hedonists and puritans and a visionary architect caught in the middle is dreaming up a different future.

But none of that captures the wild experience of actually watching "Megalopolis," a sprawling, operatic, clumsy and fascinating film that should inspire discussions for many years to come.

"Megalopolis" is not a disaster, but it's far from a success. It's a bacchanalia that's bursting with so many ideas, so many characters, so many great lines and truly terrible ones as well that it's nearly impossible to digest in a single, baffling viewing.

If there is a center to this story it's Adam Driver's Cesar Catilina, an artist who can stop time and who believes that a substance called Megalopolis, a shimmering people mover that can be

used to make a translucent (but not naked) dress or reconstruct a face mangled by a gunshot, is the way to a utopia. Driver is a great actor who is utterly misused here as a grief-stricken, alcoholic, "Hamlet"-quoting megalomaniac aristocrat who spends his days in an art deco ivory tower (the Chrysler Building) fretting about time and what the corrupt Mayor Franklyn Cicero (Giancarlo Esposito) is doing to the city.

### Dialogue

We're supposed to believe that Cesar is a widely desired catch who would attract the mayor's beautiful daughter Julia (Nathalie Emmanuel) to his side. But Kyo Ren had more charisma than Cesar. The story's ability to sell Cesar as something special is not helped by Julia, more symbol than character despite plentiful screentime, whose leaden dialogue is not given any life or spark by Emmanuel.

Their Romeo-and-Juliet love story is labored, to say the least, despite some stunning shots that might suggest otherwise. It's a problem with much of the conflicts and connections in the film, which all sound great on paper - they should, as much of it is drawn from juicy Roman history - but fumble in execution.

That's not to say that all the actors wither

under the excess. The great Talia Shire, as Cesar's cold mother, does more than either Driver or Emmanuel, with just a handful of lines and scenes. Aubrey Plaza, too, seems to have understood exactly what "Megalopolis" needed from a character named Wow Platinum, a social-climbing broadcast journalist who marries Jon Voight's bank scion Hamilton Crassus III: a high dose of camp. She embraces the silliness of her dialogue, seeing the comedic potential in every ridiculous moment.

It's hard to stress just how much there is stuffed into two hours and 18 minutes. Shia LaBeouf is Clodio Pulcher, the rich kid son of Crassus, who has Mae West eyebrows and long feral hair. He is in love with Julia, jealous of Cesar and may be having an incestuous relationship with his party girl socialite sister Clodia (Chloe Fineman). He attempts his own political bid, preying on the city's desperate peasant class. Laurence Fishburne is Cesar's driver (and the narrator of the film). Dustin Hoffman is a fixer. Jason Schwartzman is around (and delightful, as always). There's a pop star named Vesta Sweetwater (Grace VanderWaal) who has taken a virginity pledge. Even Romy Mars plays a teen reporter!

"Megalopolis" shines brightest with its crafts,

including Milena Canonero's decadent Roman-inspired frocks, Osvaldo Golijov's sweeping, romantic score and Mihai Mlaimare Jr.'s golden cinematography that makes the feast of the production design glow lovingly.

But this is a film that I can only in good conscience recommend fully to cinephiles, who were most certainly going to see it regardless. It's Coppola's first in 13 years, after all, and one that he boldly and admirably self-financed. I hope that it's the movie he wanted to make. For anyone else, it's a tougher sell - not unworthy of someone's time and money, but also not guaranteed to be especially rewarding or satisfying for anyone hoping that he's made another "Godfather" (and who hasn't watched "Twixt" or "Tetro").

Coppola is an artist whose films sometimes take time to find their place in audiences' hearts and minds. No one understands that as pointedly as he does. Whether or not there's a drastic reappraisal somewhere down the line, "Megalopolis" will forever be a fascination.

"Megalopolis," a Lionsgate released in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "sexual content, nudity, drug use, language and some violence." Running time: 138 minutes. Two stars out of four. (AP)

## JJ Velazquez declares victory after exoneration

# 'Sing Sing' actor exonerated of murder after 24 years

NEW YORK, Oct 1, (AP) — After serving nearly 24 years in prison before being granted clemency and starring in last year's movie "Sing Sing," Jon-Adrian "JJ" Velazquez has officially been exonerated of a murder prosecutors now say he didn't commit.

A Manhattan judge on Monday vacated the 48-year-old's wrongful conviction in the killing of retired New York City police officer Albert Ward during a robbery in 1998.

Outside of court, Velazquez donned a cap with the phrase "End of an Error" and he and his mother raised their hands in victory. He told reporters he considered himself a "lucky man" that so many people believed in him over the years.

But Velazquez said he also wondered if he was free only because of the notoriety of his case, which has been the subject of a documentary, podcasts, a movie and a book.

"We should not have a system where it's so much easier to imprison the poor than it is to free the innocent," he said. "It has always been this way, but it doesn't have to be, because we deserve better."

The judge's order came after Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office joined in Velazquez's request to vacate the conviction.

Prosecutors, in filings ahead of Monday's hearing, cited newly discovered DNA evidence that they argued cleared Velazquez's name.

"JJ Velazquez has lived in the shadow of

his conviction for more than 25 years, and I hope that today brings with it a new chapter for him," Bragg said in a statement.

Velazquez appeared as himself in "Sing Sing," a film starring other former inmates and actor Colman Domingo as an incarcerated man who helps lead a theater program at the nearly two century old maximum-security prison 30 miles (48 kilometers) upriver from New York City.

Velazquez had been sentenced to 25 years to life at Sing Sing before then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo granted him early release in 2021.

Prosecutors say two people had been robbing an underground gambling parlor in Harlem on Jan. 27, 1998 when Ward pulled out a gun. A struggle ensued and the 59-year-old

was shot and killed by one of the robbers.

Velazquez was convicted in 1999 in a case that largely hinged on four eyewitness accounts.

But Velazquez and his mother maintained he was on the phone with her from his Bronx home at the time of the shooting.

Two of the witnesses recanted their statements identifying Velazquez, although one would later change his mind again.

Bragg's office reopened the case in 2022 and had the medical examiner's office compare Velazquez's DNA to a betting slip handled by the suspect.

The DNA comparison - which was not available at the time of his trial - found that Velazquez's DNA wasn't on the slip.

## Obituaries

## Gavin Creel dies at 48

## 'Days of Our Lives' star Drake Hogestyn dead

NEW YORK, Oct 1, (AP): Drake Hogestyn, the "Days of Our Lives" star who appeared on the show for 38 years, died Saturday, his family confirmed. He was 70.

The actor was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and his family said in a statement that Hogestyn died after "putting up an unbelievable fight" against the disease.

"He was the most amazing husband, father, papa, and actor. He loved performing for the 'Days' audience and sharing the stage with the greatest cast, crew, and production team in the business," the statement, signed "The Hogestyn Family," continued. "We love him and we will miss him all the Days of our Lives."

Hogestyn died the day before what would have been his 71st birthday.

The actor played the beloved character John Black in over 4,200 episodes of the popular soap opera, joining in 1986. He broke into the television world just four years before with a role in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." He appeared in several other projects throughout his career, but he is most synonymous with his long-running soap opera role.

His final appearance on the show was in an episode that aired on Sept. 9. On "Days of Our Lives," Hogestyn's John and Marlena Evans (played by Deidre Hall) were a longtime super couple.

"This is a very difficult one for all of us," said Ken Corday, the executive producer of "Days of Our Lives." "Hogey was the ultimate team player and there are not sufficient words to express how deeply he will be missed. His impact on our show, personally and professionally, was profound and will forever remain unmatched."

Hogestyn is survived by his wife Victoria; their four children, Rachael, Ben, Whitney and Alexandra and their partners; and seven grandchildren.

Before his foray into acting, Hogestyn was a baseball player and played for a New York Yankees-affiliated minor league team. Several "Days of Our Lives" cast members have shared tributes to Hogestyn on social media, including Alison Sweeney, who played Sami Brady until 2014.

Gavin Creel, a Broadway musical theater veteran who won a Tony Award for "Hello, Dolly!" opposite Bette Midler and earned nominations for "Hair" and "Thoroughly Modern Millie," died Monday of a rare and aggressive form of cancer. He was 48.

Publicist Matt Polk said Creel

died at his home in Manhattan of metastatic melanotic peripheral nerve sheath sarcoma. He was diagnosed in July 2024.

"I looked forward to working with him every single night. He was fantastic. I can't believe he's gone. What a loss," Midler wrote on X. Idina Menzel shared a photo of Creel on Instagram, writing, "Sweet sweet Gavin Creel. An angel among the angels."

Creel had a knack for Golden Age Broadway revivals, but he also performed in modern fare, like in the role of Dr. Pomatter in Sara Bareilles' musical "Waitress" on Broadway in 2019 and on the West End in 2020. He won an Olivier Award for "The Book of Mormon."

Composer and playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda recalled on social media that Creel was his first King George III when the soon-to-be-smash "Hamilton" was being workshopped: "He wrapped the audience around his finger with nothing but a Burger King crown and his mind-blowing charisma and talent. He is so loved and it is unimaginable that he's no longer with us."

Creel was raised in Findlay, Ohio, and graduated in 1998 from the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance. He toured and did regional work before landing the breakout role of Jimmy Smith, opposite then-fellow newcomer Sutton Foster, in the Broadway production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie." He also worked on Stephen Sondheim's penultimate musical, "Bounce," directed by Hal Prince.

A key role was as the fastidious



Creel

missionary Elder Price in "The Book of Mormon." He starred in the show's first national tour in 2012 and took the role to London's West End, where he won a Olivier Award

in 2014. He played Jean-Michel in the revival of "La Cage Aux Folles" in 2004 and returned to Broadway in 2009 as Claude Hooper Bukowski in the Public Theater's revival of Hair.

The Associated Press' critic Michael Kuchwara was full of praise: "Gavin Creel, besides possessing a powerhouse voice, brings a sweet-tempered poignancy to Claude, the most anguished member of the tribe. It's Claude who has the most back story in the show: a conventional, middle-class upbringing in Queens; a total fascination with all things British, expressed in the song 'Manchester, England'; and an uneasy sense of duty that eventually gets him drafted and into the Vietnam War. Creel handles it all with assurance."

## Musical inspiration

## Nagaland's blind pianist says music is what keeps me alive

KOHIMA, India, Oct 1, (AP): Takosangba Pongen had his vision for 14 years. He has been blind for the past 13. But in front of a piano, nobody can tell.

"Playing the piano transports me to another dimension. After losing my vision, music has been one thing that has kept me alive. It opened a window to see the world. It gives me energy and hope to go forward," he said.

On Sunday night, he performed for a crowd at the Brillante Piano Festival in Bengaluru, the capital of the southern Indian state of Karnataka.

Pongen, 27, plays by ear. He is self-taught, with help from YouTube tutorials that he began in 2020. He said he would like to be a professional musician someday but that finding an institute that teaches the visually impaired has been a challenge.

He first noticed problems with his sight when he couldn't read what his schoolteacher was writing on the blackboard. Then he recalls having difficulty seeing small glass marbles

as he played with his siblings. Surgery made the problem worse. By 14, he was blind.

"I sometimes wish I could see. But after all these years, I have accepted my fate as God's plan for me. He wants to use me as a tool to inspire and motivate others. If a blind man can do it, why can't others who are fully able?" he said.

Brillante originated in the small mountain town of Kohima, in the northeastern Indian state of Nagaland, not far from where Pongen now studies. Festival organizers said they "believe in the transformative power of music as an agent of social development." Pongen is a part of their "Specially Abled Musicians" program.

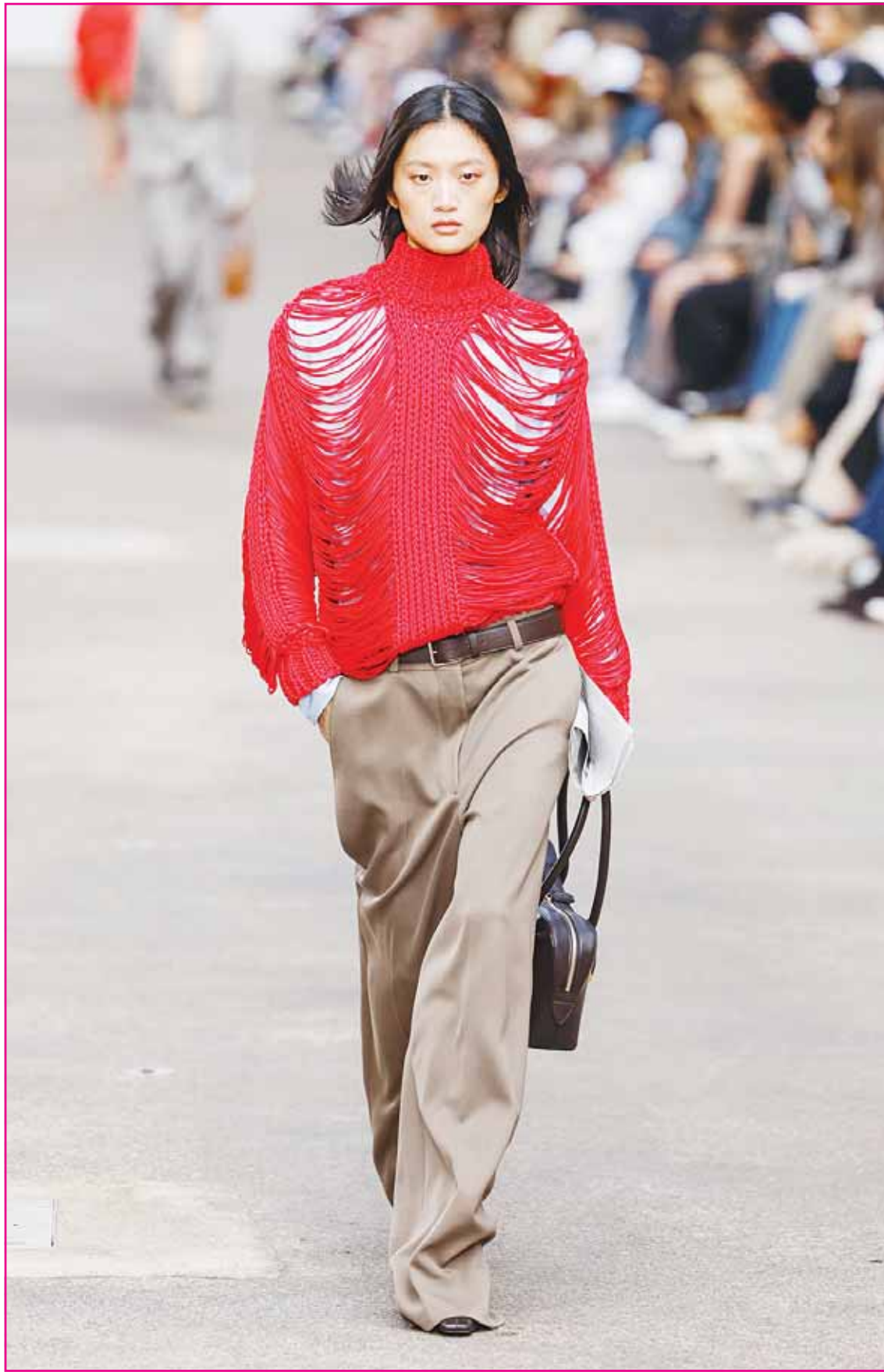
He played Nocturne in B Flat Minor by the 19th century composer Frederic Chopin. It is a piece inspired by the night. Pongen said Chopin is his favorite classical composer and that he also hopes to play modern and fusion jazz someday.



Takosangba Pongen, 27, a blind pianist, performs at a shopping mall during the two-day Brillante Piano Festival in Bengaluru, India, Sunday, Sept. 29. (AP)

## McCartney puts on high-octane fashion

## Balenciaga upturns luxury in Paris



A model wears a creation as part of the Stella McCartney Spring/Summer 2025 collection presented Monday, Sept. 30, 2024 in Paris. (AP)



From left: Nathalie Emmanuel, Maria Sharapova and Jodie Comer attend the Paris Fashion Week, in Paris on Oct 1. (AP)

PARIS, Oct 1, (AP): On an ordinary Parisian market street on an ordinary rainy fall day, Stella McCartney's high-octane show on Monday was anything but.

Guests gasped as the drizzle ceased, the clouds parted, and the sun emerged moments before the show - a heavenly metaphor, perhaps, for McCartney's optimistic and nature-inspired display.

Meanwhile, inside the storied grounds of Les Invalides with its golden dome, Balenciaga's guests had to present a golden ring instead of an invitation to enter the show. Snaking corridors led to a dark atrium with a lavish 100-meter polished, inlaid wooden billiard table. The front row, including US Vogue Editor Anna Wintour, sat on ornate chairs around that table, creating an intimate and up-close experience.

Here are some highlights of spring-summer 2025 ready-to-wear shows in Paris, including Balenciaga:

The show opened with lingerie, accessorized with surreally pointed shoes and shades, setting an intimate tone against a backdrop of blues music. Interestingly, instead of undressing, the collection gradually added layers. A loose, ruched 70s dress at the front featured kinky strapping at the back, highlighting a key theme of the collection - dualities. This subtle play on contrasts, something Demna frequently toys with, emphasized the tension between the polished and the raw.

## Jackets

As the show progressed, jeans with constricting webbing almost held the legs together, adding a sense of constraint that played with notions of freedom and restriction. Truncated puffer jackets gave the looks an edgy, fashion-forward vibe, while moments of irreverence emerged through giant



Mirren

gold and metallic sneakers that looked almost clown-like, springing as the models walked. A cap, worn low and decorated with spikes resembling a wolf's teeth, further amplified Balenciaga's punk undercurrent.

Torn chap jeans that looked like they could have been customized from a thrift store made their appearance on the luxury runway - a striking commentary on Demna's unwavering belief that true luxury isn't about opulence or exclusivity, but about reimagining the ordinary. The contrast was clear: Mundane items, such as a men's striped T-shirt, were juxtaposed with dazzling diamond earrings. It was Demna's anti-luxury, bottom-up approach in full force, dismantling the traditional top-down view of high fashion and asserting that authenticity, ingenuity, and subversion are the new symbols of luxury.

There were also moments of unexpected poetry - a black leather coat, loosely tied around the waist, exposing the model's naked shoulders. These pieces went beyond garments; they were statements on vulnerability and imperfection, two of Balenciaga's core themes. The imperfect beauty, the spontaneous and seemingly haphazard creations, spoke to Demna's love of the coexistence of perfection and imperfection.

The uber-cool, eclectic collection was cohesive only in its madness, unpredictability, and humor. It was an unabashed celebration of creativity as the ultimate luxury - a bold reminder that, in a world overwhelmed by content, true originality is the rarest and most valuable commodity of all.

The designs were dazzling, fusing sparkle, wit, and sharp tailoring to capture a disco-ready sense of fun.

VIPs including Natalie Portman, Greta Gerwig, and Paris Jackson couldn't resist tapping their feet amid the most infectious soundtrack of Paris Fashion Week thus far. Models strutted with clever hairstyles swaying theatrically, reminiscent of Gerwig's own film, Barbie, adding another playful element to the spectacle.

Savile Row tailoring was reimagined in true Stella style - strong-shouldered jackets paired with slimline blazers and exaggerated belt loops, while voluminous trousers and cheeky boxer culottes kept things playful. This isn't new territory for McCartney, who often reworks classic tailoring with an edge.

## Symbol

McCartney's show kicked off with Helen Mirren delivering a 'Save What You Love' manifesto - a direct punch that was a gentle plea. Inspired by Jonathan Franzen's "The End of the Earth," Mirren's voice rang out, urging action before it's too late. Birds, which are disappearing, were the symbol, a reminder of what's at stake if we don't get our act together.

Guests were also each given a newspaper made for the show humorously called the "Stella Times" that spelled out a tongue-in-cheek, yet serious, message about sustainability. McCartney's advice to readers to spur on positive action: "Read! Because I don't think people read anymore." And "get a copy of our newspaper. I'll give you all of the information you need to know. Be more conscious, be more curious, and find out the facts of fashion to be more the future of fashion."

McCartney has long been ahead of the game regarding eco-conscious fashion. She was one of the first designers to champion sustainability, well before it was on anyone else's radar. With fashion being one of the world's biggest polluters, her 91% conscious materials and animal-free production were another sign that the designer is taking the message seriously.

## Wins 'best dresser' award

## 81-year-old Korean Miss Universe bid fails

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 1, (AP): An 81-year-old model fell short in her bid to become the oldest Miss Universe contestant after competing in the South Korea pageant against much younger rivals.

Dressed in a beaded white gown, the silver-haired Choi Soon-hwa strutted across the stage and performed in a singing contest at the Miss Universe Korea pageant held Monday at a hotel in South Korea's capital, Seoul.

She missed out on the crown but did take home the "best dresser" award.

Han Ariel, a 22-year-old fashion school student, won the contest and will head to Mexico City for the Miss Universe pageant in November.

Choi, a former hospital care worker who began her modeling career in her



South Korean Choi Soon-hwa, 81-year-old, poses with best dress award. (AP)

70s, was announced as a Miss Universe Korea finalist earlier this month along with 31 other contestants.

"Even at this age, I had the courage to grab onto an opportunity and take on a challenge," Choi told The Associated Press hours before Monday's pageant.

"I want people to look at me and realize that you can live healthier and find joy in life when you find things you want to do and challenge yourself to achieve that dream."

It would have been impossible for Choi to compete in the pageant a year ago as Miss Universe had limited the participation to women between 18 and 28. The age limit, which had long drawn criticism, was lifted this year to make the competition more modern and diverse.

## Stars pay tribute to Kris Kristofferson

NEW YORK, Oct 1, (AP): Reaction to the death of Kris Kristofferson. The singer-songwriter and actor died Saturday at his home in Hawaii surrounded by family at age 88.

"The first time I saw Kris performing at the Troubadour club in L.A. I knew he was something special." - Barbra Streisand, Kristofferson's co-star in "A Star is Born," on X and Instagram.

"Right now, I'm on a small boat between Ustica and Palermo, listening to 'Me and Bobby McGee,' remembering Kris Kristofferson. Just like half of the world. I was lucky enough to work with Kris. He was a poet. Truly. Inside and out. And a damn good actor, a remarkable screen presence. Spending time with Kris when we made 'Alice

Doesn't Live Here Anymore' was one of the highlights of my life." - Martin Scorsese in a statement.

"It is hard to imagine a world without Kris Kristofferson in it. Knowing and singing with him has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. I feel certain he will be holding court in heaven." - Sheryl Crow, via Instagram.

"What a great loss. What a great writer. What a great actor. What a great friend. I will always love you, Dolly." - Dolly Parton on X.

"Hey Whistler ... you keep making those weapons-love, passion, skill-mastery, and swag-and I'll keep using them." - Wesley Snipes on X, calling Kristofferson by the name of the mentor and armorer he played to Snipes'

title character in "Blade."

"Every experience I had with Kris Kristofferson had the touch and feel of magic. Tough & kind. Authentic. Genuine. Real." - Ethan Hawke on Instagram.

"The ultimate life well lived. Thank you for being a beacon of light in a darkening world. You were my hero and my role model. And even then, you managed to exceed my expectations when you became my friend." - Eric Church on Instagram.

"Loved this man, his talent, his mind and his beautiful heart. Journey well, my friend." - Melissa Etheridge on X.

Rest in peace singer, songwriter, veteran, working class hero." - Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine, on Instagram.

## HEALTH



Photos from the event.

## Bank empowers employees with free health screenings

## Gulf Bank champions heart health with wellness campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: In celebration of World Heart Day, Gulf Bank, in collaboration with the Kuwait Heart Foundation, launched a comprehensive health awareness campaign for its employees. The initiative aimed to promote heart health awareness and provide employees with essential tools for managing their well-being.

As part of the campaign, employees received free

health screenings for diabetes, cholesterol, and blood pressure; vital tests that help in detecting early signs of heart disease and ensuring proactive health management.

World Heart Day serves as a global reminder to prioritize heart care through regular exercise, balanced nutrition and adopting healthier lifestyle habits.

Aligned with Gulf Bank's comprehensive sustainabil-

ity strategy, this wellness campaign is just one example of the Bank's dedication to promoting employee well-being. By focusing on health, wellness, and sports initiatives, Gulf Bank fosters a work culture that values both the physical and mental health of its employees, enabling its diverse and inclusive workplace delivering exceptional banking solutions and serviceto the community.

In line with Kuwait Vision 2035 'New Kuwait', Gulf Bank continues to champion sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. Through strategic collaborations and diverse programs, the Bank plays an active role in supporting the Nation's vision of a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future.

## Dr. Wang honored at 100 for APL cure

## Chinese doctor's revolutionary battle against deadly leukemia

BEIJING, Oct 1, (Xinhua): The year 2024 is meant to be an important year for Chinese doctor Wang Zhenyi. Turning 100 this year, the celebrated medical scientist has been conferred the Medal of the Republic, China's highest national honor, for his outstanding achievements.

Wang has loved being a doctor since the first day he put on a white coat, enjoying the sense of accomplishment that comes from curing patients' illnesses.

However, in his encounters with leukemia over several decades he had been defeated time after time, becoming overwhelmed by frustration, until one day he was able to claim victory in the battle against his fiercest enemy, acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL), a most rare and fatal disease.

In 1948, Wang graduated from the medical school of the former Aurora University in Shanghai. He then began his medical career at the Guangci Hospital, now known as the prestigious Ruijin Hospital, affiliated to the Shanghai Jiao Tong University's school of medicine. Back then, Wang had already set himself the ambitious goal of conquering leukemia.

## Cancer

The goal was a difficult one, as leukemia, also known as blood cancer, had long been regarded as a tough opponent for doctors.

Wang repeatedly experienced the formidable power of this disease. In the middle of the last century, he witnessed about 60 patients dying of the disease in a single year.

"As a doctor, it pains me most to see a patient being tortured by illness when there is nothing I can do," Wang said.

However, this did not deter Wang, but made him all the more determined to succeed.

Each day, after finishing his routine work, Wang spent almost all his spare time in libraries, archive rooms and laboratories, doing research. After years of tireless work and countless trials and errors, an element called all-trans-retinoic acid (ATRA) came into the picture as a hopeful cure for APL, the most dangerous form of leukemia.



Dr. Wang Zhenyi

At the time, the five-year survival rate for APL was only about 10 percent, and many patients died within just a week of diagnosis, leaving little opportunity for doctors to do anything.

In 1986, Wang received a five-year-old girl who was diagnosed with APL and was expected to face the same fate. However, Wang decided to try something different this time, prescribing ATRA therapy.

Although Wang and his colleagues had been working on the therapy for about eight years, it was still at the experimental stage, and some felt the move was too bold. But Wang insisted, saying, "I believe in science, and I am confident."

Seven days after the treatment, a "miracle" happened. The girl's symptoms improved significantly, and a month later they were completely relieved.

That year, Wang and his team treated 24 patients suffering from the disease and 23 of them saw their symptoms effectively alleviated by the treatment without having to resort to chemotherapy.

The results did not only mean that the patients were given a new lease of life, but also meant that for the first time in medical history, APL patients and their doctors had an effective weapon in their fight against the dis-

ease.

Though overjoyed by the results, Wang was not content. He and his students decided to take an even bolder step -- to further develop the therapy by introducing arsenic trioxide (ATO), a well-known toxic element, into the treatment to deal with the relapse of symptoms in some cases.

At first, the use of the toxic compound was met with much suspicion. "Some said we were poisoning patients, placing us under great pressure," recalled Chen Zhu, one of Wang's students, who is now an established medical expert and a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Nevertheless, the new therapy was proved effective. "After a fourth patient suffering from relapsing symptoms was successfully treated, we knew the therapy worked and were as happy as could be," said Chen.

With the new ATRA-ATO combination therapy, the five-year survival rate for APL rose from 10 percent to more than 97 percent, making the dreadful APL essentially a curable form of leukemia.

## Therapy

The ground-breaking therapy also won global recognition, offering the promise of considerable financial reward if it resulted in a patented pharmaceutical product.

But Wang has decided not to apply for a patent, either for the procedure or its medical composition, in the hope that it will be more broadly available and save more patients.

Today in China, a box of 10 ATRA capsules can be purchased at a reasonable price of about 300 yuan (about 43 U.S. dollars), and the expenditure is covered by the country's medical insurance system.

"A doctor should put the welfare of patients first," said Wang. "Maybe I could have made a fortune or built up my reputation, but those were of no interest to me. I only wish my patients well."

The beneficiaries of the therapy are not limited to China.

In 2015, Bernadette Giandomenico, a former APL patient from the United

## Awareness, early detection vital for recovery

## Kuwait leads Gulf in breast cancer rates

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: On the eve of World Breast Cancer Awareness month, also known as 'Pink October', and in spite of the fact that the disease has spread widely throughout the globe and killed roughly 670,000 people as of 2022 according to World Health Organization statistics, awareness and the availability of early detection programs and prompt diagnosis remain the vital components that help raise recovery rates reach 98 percent, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Asma Hussein, head of the National Program for Early Detection of Breast Diseases, confirmed that the Health Ministry started the program in 2014 and keeps up with its efforts all year long to reach the target population.

She said the program offers high-quality breast cancer screening services and encourages Kuwaiti women 40 years and older who do not exhibit symptoms to undergo routine check-ups and mammograms by booking an appointment through the Kuwait Health or unified government applications (Sahel).

## Mammography

She added that one in eight women is at risk of developing breast cancer and emphasized the value of mammography in early detection of the disease. She also disclosed that the ministry has designated five primary healthcare centers in various governorates so that citizens can easily undergo the check-up specified within the program. These centers are Egaila, Zahra, Na'em, Khaitan South, Sheikhan Al-Farsi, and Sharifah Al-Awadhi in Surra.

Dr. Latifa Al-Kandari, Head of the Radiology Department at Adan Hospital, added that 1,728 women had mammograms performed at the hospital between 2023 and 2024, while 70 cases of breast cancer were found in 2023 and 64 cases in 2024.

Al-Kandari stated that the department has completed over 6,000 cases since its founding in November 2015 and it has two units for doing breast exams. It also offers all kinds of tests.

She continued: "We performed 2,410 mammograms by screening, 3,687 mammograms by 3D technology, 8,656 ultrasounds, 1,588 tissue samples, 1,140 fine needle aspirations, 179 stereotactic needle biopsies and 71 vacuum-assisted biopsy.

She said that in collaboration with surgeons, 63 cases were carried out to precisely locate the tumor prior to surgery by inserting a surgical wire inside the tu-



Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Campaign for Cancer Awareness (CAN), Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh.



KUNA photos

Breast cancer awareness campaigns of the Radiology Department at Adan Hospital.

mor. She also mentioned that 431 cases of breast cancer were found at Adan Hospital during that time.

She emphasized the importance of regular mammography and preventive exams, as well as the fact that the earlier the signs of breast cancer are identified, the better the prognosis. She went on to say that incidence of breast cancer in Kuwait reached 35 percent of all cancer cases in 2019, according to the statistics.

Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Campaign for Cancer Awareness (CAN), revealed that Kuwait and the Gulf region see an annual increase in cancer detection rates of 1 to 5 percent.

He made note of the fact that, in comparison to other cancers for the same age

group, the rate of infection among women under 40 years of age is 26 percent and that the incidence of breast cancer accounted for 40 percent of all cancer cases reported in the nation.

He said the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which has its headquarters in Lyon, France, predicts that there will be over 35 million new cases of cancer in 2050 -- 77 percent increase over the projected 20 million cases in 2022.

Dr. Taifa Al-Kandari added that Kuwait has the highest rate of breast cancer in the Gulf because of unhealthy lifestyle, stress, tension, and inactivity. She also mentioned that the infection rate among women is estimated to be 53.4 per 100,000 people locally and 46.3 per 100,000 people globally.

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## Urawa kicks off against India's Odisha on Thursday

## Women's soccer on a high as new Asian CL launches

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1, (AP): Women's soccer is on a high in Asia in the wake of some World Cup performances that captivated nations, raising expectations for the new AFC Champions League.

North Korea's win over Japan in the women's Under-20 World Cup last month has the women's game back in focus across the continent. Australia's run to the semifinals at the Women's World Cup it co-hosted last year with New Zealand drew record crowds and attention to the talent in the region.

Now the continental club championship has been revamped and the group stage of the Women's Asian Champions League launches this week with the Urawa Red Diamond Ladies flying the flag for Japan.

The Reds defeated South Korea's Incheon Red Angels in the final of the Women's Club Championship in May, a pilot tournament for the AFC's Women's Champions League, and would like nothing more than to repeat that success.

"To have two Asian nations in the

(under-20) World Cup final is good for Asia and good for us, too, as we have rivals to compete with," Urawa coach Naoki Kusunose said. "We are grateful for this new challenge in club soccer - and we want to move on to the next step and win the Women's AFC Champions League."

The 12-team tournament, including four teams that advanced through a preliminary stage, is divided into three groups of four.

Urawa kicks off against India's Odisha on Thursday and will go on to face Ho Chi Minh City and Taiwanese team Taichung Blue Whale.

The Group C games will take place in Vietnam as each group is played in a single venue over nine days, with the top two advancing to the quarterfinals next March along with the two best third-placed teams. The semifinals and final will be held in May of 2025.

Australia's Melbourne City is in Group B and kicks off against Iran's Bam Khatoon in Thailand. Melbourne City will also face Kaya-Iloilo of the Philippines and Thailand's Col-

lege of Asian Scholars.

"For women's football in general in Asia, it's a great opportunity," Melbourne City coach Michael Matricciani said. "To be in the inaugural campaign, it's an honor for us representing Australia, and also an opportunity for silverware and to test ourselves against the best in Asia."

Incheon Red Angels are in Group A along with Sabah of Malaysia, China's Wuhan Jiangda and Abu Dhabi Country Club from the United Arab Emirates.

The Asian Football Confederation has confirmed that the champion will receive at least \$1.3 million in prize money.

"We are confident that the competition will empower women in Asian football, contributing to gender equality and breaking down societal barriers, to make a positive impact on the growth of the women's game," AFC president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said in a statement.

With varying degrees of professionalism in the women's game

across the continent, going deep into the tournament can make a difference financially.

There are concerns, however, that the new tournament does not reflect the reality of women's soccer in Asia.

FIFPro Asia/Oceania, part of a worldwide organization representing 65,000 soccer players, compiled a report on the tournament in August based on 88 players who participated in the pilot Women's Club Championship.

It found that just 62% of players in the tournament identified as professional, less than half earned more than \$10,000 from soccer per season and a quarter reported that the sport was not their primary income.

FIFPro wants more co-operation between the AFC and other stakeholders.

"Whilst the potential of the women's game in Asia is immense, we must ensure it is developed in a way that is responsive to the lived realities illustrated in this report," said Kathryn Gill, a FIFPro board member and former Australia international.



North Korean players celebrate with the trophy after winning the U-20 Women's World Cup final soccer match against Japan at El Campin stadium in Bogota, Colombia. (AP)

"This can only occur through establishing a genuine partnership between the AFC, leagues, clubs and

players, and not through unilaterally overlaying regulations that are fit for men's competitions onto female competitions."



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain returns a shot from Daniil Medvedev of Russia during their men's singles semi-final match for the China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Center in Beijing. (AP)

## Sinner to play Alcaraz in final

## Pegula crashes out

BEIJING, Oct 1, (AP): Top-ranked Jannik Sinner will play rival Carlos Alcaraz in the final of the China Open after recording a 6-3, 7-6 (3) victory against home favorite Bu Yunchaokete in the semifinals on Tuesday.

Sinner and Alcaraz accounted for all four Grand Slam titles this year between them. Alcaraz leads the head-to-head series 5-4 - including wins at both their meetings this year - but Sinner doesn't believe that recent history will have a bearing on Wednesday's final.

"It's going to be a tough match," Sinner said. "We know each other very well now, but every match is different, so the situation on the court is also a bit different than it was the last two matches. But let's see."

The 23-year-old Italian is the defending champion and hasn't appeared distracted by the World Anti-Doping Agency announcing Saturday it was seeking a ban of one to two years for the U.S. Open champion, who tested positive twice for an anabolic steroid in March.

Chinese wild card Yunchaokete, ranked 96th, held his own in the heavy baseline exchanges to put pressure on Sinner's service games, but couldn't take any of his three break-point chances in the first set.

Sinner's experience proved crucial during the pivotal moments, especially in the second-set tiebreaker, where he surged to a 6-1 lead.

Earlier, third-ranked Alcaraz's athleticism was again on show as he advanced to the final with a 7-5,

6-3 victory over Daniil Medvedev.

"I felt great on the court once again, so I'm really happy about it," Alcaraz said. "I think I couldn't ask for a better semifinal."

The four-time Grand Slam champion - including this year's French Open and Wimbledon - extended his head-to-head record against the Russian to 6-2.

The 21-year-old Spaniard found his way through a testing first set that had five breaks of serve, but crucially it was Alcaraz's third service break in the 12th game that secured the set.

With the confidence of a set lead, Alcaraz accelerated and Medvedev had no answers as the Spaniard wrapped up the semifinal in 88 minutes.

Alcaraz has now won eight straight matches - across the Davis Cup, Laver Cup and in Beijing - since his loss to Botić van de Zandschulp in the second round at the U.S. Open.

Paula Badosa reeled off 11 of the last 12 games in a 6-4, 6-0 victory over U.S. Open finalist Jessica Pegula at the China Open to reach her eighth career quarterfinal at a WTA 1000-level event.

From 3-1 down in the opening set, former No. 2-ranked Badosa dominated in her first-ever win over third-ranked Pegula.

"She's one of the of the players I never want to face - she's very solid, hits very flat, changes very well direction," said Badosa, who was 0-3 previously against Pegula. "I prepared myself for a battle, but I think today everything worked pretty well."

Badosa next faces 35-year-old Chinese player Zhang Shuai, who continued her resurgence with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Magdalena Frech of Poland.

Zhang entered the China Open on a 24-match los-

ing streak and ranked No. 595, but she's yet to drop a set in four matches this week.

Zhang is now into her first women's tour quarterfinal since Tokyo in 2022, and her first at a WTA 1000 tournament since Cincinnati in the same year.

"In this draw, everyone has a higher ranking than me," Zhang said. "Just step on court, just play. So I do not have much to think about, to prepare. I will just focus on myself."

Yulia Starodubtseva of Ukraine also caused an upset loss beating No. 14-ranked Anna Kalinskaya 7-5, 6-0.

The No. 115-ranked Starodubtseva will play the winner of the marquee women's match of the day between four-time major winner Naomi Osaka and sixth-ranked Coco Gauff in the quarterfinals.

It will be the first meeting between the two Grand Slam champions in more than two years, with the head-to-head series tied at 2-2.

Arthur Fils gave a gritty performance and rallied to beat French compatriot Ugo Humbert 5-7, 7-6 (6), 6-3 in the final of the Japan Open.

Fils saved a championship point in the second-set tiebreaker before completing the turnaround to earn his third tour-level title.

The 20-year-old Fils struggled with an injury to his left leg for much of the second set and when trailing 4-3 in the second set - with three break points for his opponent - it looked almost certain that Humbert would go on to win his seventh final in seven appearances.

Fils defeated four top-20 opponents - U.S. Open finalist Taylor Fritz, defending champion Ben Shelton, Holger Rune and Humbert - on his way to the title.

## Pistons 2023 1st-round pick

## Thompson out of training camp after having blood clot

DETROIT, Oct 1, (AP): Detroit Pistons small forward Ausar Thompson is being held out of contact drills at the start of training camp after having a season-ending blood clot during his rookie year.

Pistons president of basketball operations Trajan Langdon said Thompson is working through a medical process with the NBA and National Basketball Players Association.

Thompson said Monday that he feels great, but doesn't know when he will be fully cleared for training camp.

"It's not really in our hands," he said. "No timeline right now."

Langdon said Thompson has been cleared for non-contact drills, conditioning and strength training.

"We're supporting him as much as possible and just waiting for the resolution," Langdon said at the team's media day. "We look forward to having him back."

Detroit drafted the 6-foot-6 Thompson with the No. 5 overall pick in 2023 out of the Overtime Elite developmental program. He averaged 8.8 points, 6.4 rebounds and 1.9 assists in 63 games.

He played his last game of the season March 9 and later that month, the team announced he would miss the rest of the year due to a blood clot.

"I'm glad the doctors caught it," former Pistons coach Monty Williams said last spring.

The team previously said doctors cleared Thompson to resume conditioning after last season along with non-contact basketball activities and expected him to make a full return for the 2024-25 season.

Detroit is revving up another rebuilding plan this season under owner Tom Gores, trying to restore pride for a three-time championship franchise that had the NBA's worst record the last two years.

## Villarreal moves into third

## Cagliari off bottom of Serie A

PARMA, Italy, Oct 1, (AP): Cagliari moved off the bottom of Serie A after a hard-fought 3-2 win at Parma.

The Sardinian club started the day in last place, one of only two teams yet to record a win. It moved up to 16th place.

Cagliari refused to buckle when Parma twice cancelled out its lead.

It started the brighter team and took a deserved lead in the 34th minute. The Parma defense failed to clear the ball and Angolan winger Zito Luvumbo crossed for Nadir Zortea to head home unchallenged.

Parma equalized after 62 minutes. Woyo Coulibaly showed some fancy footwork on the left wing before cutting back for Dennis Man to slot home with aplomb.

Romanian midfielder Marin replaced Luvumbo after 73 minutes and two minutes later he put his side ahead again.

Michel Adopo drove forward from midfield and fed Marin on the edge of the box and he steered a sublime shot into the far corner from 20 meters out.

Brazilian midfielder Hernani equalized from the penalty spot for Parma in the 87th but Cagliari was not to be denied and less than 60 seconds later Roberto Piccoli fired the winner.

Cagliari has five points from six

games, the same as Parma, which is 15th.

## Also

MADRID: Villarreal moved into third place in La Liga after a comprehensive 3-1 win over bottom club Las Palmas.

Villarreal took the lead a minute before halftime through Nicolas Pépé but Fabio Silva equalized a minute into the second half when he ran on to a sublime pass from Adnan Januzaj and fired home from 15 meters out.

The home side controlled the match throughout but had to wait until the 82nd to get its nose back in front. Second-half substitute Alejandro Baena whipped in a cross from the left and Thierno Barry nodded it past the goalkeeper from close in.

Baena made sure of all three points when he ran from his own half to finish off a counterattack six minutes into stoppage time.

Villarreal could have made the win more comfortable but Baena missed a penalty early in the second half and Barry had a goal disallowed for offside when he needlessly finished off a goal-bound header from Eric Bailly.

The result means Villarreal has 17 points, one behind Real Madrid and four behind table-topper Barcelona. Atletico Madrid was fourth with 16.



Parma's Hernani Jr, right, fights for the ball with Cagliari's Terry Mina during the Serie A soccer match between Parma and Cagliari in Parma, Italy. (AP)

## Bach visits and meets with LA28 organizing committee

GENEVA, Oct 1, (Agencies): The International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has visited Los Angeles and met with the Organizing Committee of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the IOC announced here on Tuesday.

Bach visited the swimming, basketball and American football venues during his stay, accompanied by LA28 President Casey Wasserman, IOC Vice-President Nicole Hoevertz, as well as IOC Members Anita DeFrantz and Zhang Hong.

The President also watched the National Football League (NFL) game between the LA Chargers and the Kansas City Chiefs at the SoFi Stadium,

which will be installed a swimming pool inside the stadium. The Olympic swimming competitions will be held here and this will be the largest swimming pool in the Olympic history, with a capacity of 38,000.

The new Intuit Dome, which opened just two months ago, also impressed Bach with its 18,000-seat arena. The stadium will host the basketball competitions of the LA28 and will serve as home for the National Basketball Association (NBA) team LA Clippers.

"These venues are impressive, the athletes can look forward to an extraordinary experience at the Olympic Games LA28," Bach said. "LA28 will

do what Paris 2024 did - offer authentic Olympic Games. The Games always represent the sports culture of the host country, and LA has a lot to offer. I am very much looking forward to LA."

Declaring the U.S. the "greatest sports nation in the history of the world," President Joe Biden welcomed U.S. Olympians and Paralympians at the White House on Monday to recognize their achievement in this summer's Games in Paris.

"Thank you for representing the very best of America," Biden said on the South Lawn, hailing the athletes for setting the example for young people across the country. "They see you and they begin to believe in themselves," he said.

## Change Name

I, arwa holder of Passport No. X8050867 change to arwa (as Given name) ezzy (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Arwa ezzy and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

## Basketball Hall of Famer Mutombo dies at 58 from brain cancer

WASHINGTON, Oct 1, (AP): Dikembe Mutombo, a Basketball Hall of Famer who was one of the best defensive players in NBA history and a longtime global ambassador for the game, died Monday from brain cancer, the league announced. He was 58.

His family revealed two years ago that he was undergoing treatment in Atlanta for a brain tumor. The NBA said he died surrounded by his family.

"Dikembe Mutombo was simply larger than life," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "On the

court, he was one of the greatest shot blockers and defensive players in the history of the NBA. Off the floor, he poured his heart and soul into helping others."

Mutombo was distinctive in so many ways - the playful finger wag at opponents after blocking their shots, his height, his deep and gravelly voice, his massive smile. Players of this generation were always drawn to him and Philadelphia 76ers star Joel Embiid, who was born in Cameroon, looked to Mutombo as an inspiration.

"It's a sad day, especially for us Africans, and really the whole world," Embiid said Monday. "Other than what he's accomplished on the basketball court, I think he was even better off the court. He's one of the guys that I look up to, as far as having an impact, not just on the court, but off the court. He's done a lot of great things. He did a lot of great things for a lot of people. He was a role model of mine. It is a sad day."

Mutombo spent 18 seasons in the NBA, playing for Denver, Atlanta, Houston, Philadelphia, New

York and the then-New Jersey Nets. The 7-foot-2 center out of Georgetown was an eight-time All-Star, three-time All-NBA selection and went into the Hall of Fame in 2015 after averaging 9.8 points and 10.3 rebounds per game for his career.

He also was part of one of the league's most iconic playoff moments, helping eighth-seeded Denver oust top-seeded Seattle in the first round of the 1994 Western Conference playoffs. That best-of-five series marked the first time a No. 8 beat a No. 1 in NBA history.



Players fighting for the ball.

## Gonzaga set to join rebuilt Pac-12

WASHINGTON, Oct 1, (AP): Basketball powerhouse Gonzaga will become the latest member of the rebuilt Pac-12 Conference, the school announced Tuesday.

Gonzaga will move from the West Coast Conference where it has dominated for most of the last quarter century into a conference that was being rebuilt around football, but should be pretty stout on the basketball court. Gonzaga will become the eighth member along with holdovers Washington State and Oregon State, and fellow newcomers Boise State, San Diego State, Fresno State, Utah State and Colorado State.

Adding Gonzaga still leaves the Pac-12 in need of another football-playing member for CFP purposes. Gonzaga does not have a football program.

Last year, Washington State, Boise State, San Diego State, Colorado State, Utah State and Gonzaga all reached the NCAA Tournament in men's basket-

ball and two seasons ago San Diego State reached the national championship game.

The Pac-12 began to restock for a 2026 relaunch last month by nabbing the five schools from the Mountain West to join Washington State and Oregon State, the only two Pac-12 schools left after a dramatic round of realignment took effect this summer.

The Bulldogs have thrived in the WCC, reaching the NCAA Tournament every year it has been played since 1998, with two Final Four appearances and eight seasons of at least 30 victories.

The school has in the past talked to the Big East about conference affiliation, and the Big 12 has discussed potentially adding Gonzaga to its strong men's basketball lineup, as it did with UConn earlier this year.

The Zags have also become a perennial tournament team in women's basketball.

## Best of the Rest

### Sun, Lin get respective win:

Sun Yingsha and Lin Shidong secured victories in their respective women's and men's singles Chinese derbies in the round of 32 at the World Table Tennis (WTT) China Smash on Tuesday.

Facing top-seeded Sun, 20-year-old Kuai Man took an early lead, winning the first set 11-8. However, Sun quickly regained momentum, dominating the following three sets 11-6, 11-6, and 11-4.

"We know each other well. I had a slow start today and then improved the quality and speed of my serves and returns," said Sun. "I am happy to play in front of so many fans on China's National Day." In the men's singles, sixth-seeded Lin secured an 11-4, 11-6, 11-8 victory over qualifier Xue Fei. "The process was not that easy. I tried to be aggressive, ad-

justed my mindset to stay calm, and finally took the win," Lin said after the match. He will face Anton Kallberg of Sweden in the last 16.

On Tuesday evening, world No. 1 Wang Chuqin is set to take on Anders Lind of Denmark, while Lin will pair with Kuai Man to compete against the Japanese duo Sora Matsushima and Miwa Harimoto in the mixed doubles. (Xinhua)

**Brisbane hires Maguire:** Michael Maguire was hired as head coach of the Brisbane Broncos on Tuesday, five days after Kevin Walters departed following the club's National Rugby League slide from runners-up in 2023 to 12th place this season.

Maguire signed a three-year contract and will take over ahead of the 2025 season. (AP)

Girona ready for home debut

## Mbappe back for Real in Champions League

MADRID, Oct 1, (Xinhua): Girona make its home debut in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid play away matches in the group stage of the tournament.

Girona coach Michel Sanchez has almost a full squad available for the game against Dutch side Feyenoord at the Montilivi Stadium, which will have a festive atmosphere as it hosts its first-ever European match.

A late goal against Paris Saint-Germain denied the Spanish side a point in their Champions League opener two weeks ago. To keep its hopes of qualifying for the knockout stages alive, Girona need to secure wins in its home fixtures.

Key departures like Artem Dovbyk, Aleix Garcia, Eric Garcia, Yan Couto, and Savinho have led to significant changes in the Girona squad following its impressive third-place finish in La Liga last season. However, a 1-1 draw away to Celta Vigo over the weekend suggests that the new lineup is beginning to find its rhythm.

In a surprise move, Kylian Mbappe has been included in Real Madrid's squad traveling to Lille, despite expectations that the French striker would not play before the international break due to a muscle injury.

Dani Ceballos, David Alaba, and Brahim Diaz remain sidelined with injuries, and they are joined by Thibaut Courtois, who suffered an abductor injury in Sunday's derby

against Atletico Madrid. Andriy Lunin will replace Courtois as goalkeeper, having provided cover for much of last season when Courtois was recovering from a knee operation.

Much attention from the Madrid derby has centered on the misconduct of the 'Frente Atletico' supporters group, who threw various objects at Courtois in the second half, forcing a 15-minute stoppage in play.

Atletico Madrid could face a significant fine and a partial stadium closure due to Sunday's incidents, and all eyes will be on their fan behavior during the upcoming away match against Benfica in Lisbon.

Meanwhile, Spain's Minister for Education, Professional Training and Sports, Pilar Alegria, said on Tuesday that the government will act forcefully to punish those behind the shameful incidents in Sunday's La Liga match between Atletico and Real Madrid.

The game at Atletico's Metropolitan Stadium had to be halted by the referee for 15 minutes after members of Atletico's 'Frente Atletico' ultra group hurled objects, including cigarette lighter and plastic bottles at Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois after Eder Militao had put Real Madrid ahead in a match that ended 1-1.

The Spanish Football Federation will meet on Wednesday to discuss a sanction, with possible punishments ranging from a fine for Atletico, to a partial or full closure of their ground.



Atletico Madrid's Alexander Sorloth, left, and Real Madrid's Antonio Rudiger jump for the ball during the La Liga soccer match between Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid at the Metropolitan stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

## Al-Qadsiya takes on Kazma

# Kuwait Club, Burgan face off in Cup quarters

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The quarter-finals of the 56th edition of the Handball Federation Cup are set to kick off at the Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall. Defending champion Kuwait Club will face Burgan at 5:00 pm followed by Al-Sulaibikhat vs. Al-Salmiya at 6:30 pm.

The quarter-finals will conclude tomorrow with Al-Qadsiya taking on Kazma and Al-Nasr battling Al-Arabi. The tournament will wrap up on October 7.

Kuwait Club earned a direct quarter-final spot as last season's league and cup champions, while Burgan advanced by defeating Al-Fahaheel 34-30 in the preliminary round. Al-Sulaibikhat qualified by beating Al-Fahaheel 38-28, and Al-Salmiya secured its spot with a 26-23 victory over Al-Yarmouk.

Group Two's preliminary matches saw Kazma thrash Al-Sahel 42-15, Al-Nasr

dominate Al-Tadamon 44-24, and Al-Arabi edge Khaitan 27-26.

The Handball Federation had postponed the 56th Cup competition from last season, scheduling it for the start of this season in a knockout format with 14 teams, while Al-Jahra and Al-Shabbab remain absent.

Kuwait Club holds the record for the most Cup titles with 13, followed by Al-Arabi with 10, Al-Salmiya and Kazma with eight each, Al-Qadsiya with seven, Khaitan with four, Al-Fahaheel with three, and Al-Sulaibikhat with two.

Following the Cup, the Merger League Championship will begin on October 9 and run until March 2025. In November, matches involving Kuwait and Kazma will be postponed due to their participation in the Asian Club Championship in Qatar, though the league will continue. The competition will pause on December 6 for Kuwait's national team to prepare for the World Cup in January 2025, with an optional tournament held during the break, concluding on January 13.

# Southampton still winless

Bournemouth prolongs Southampton miserable start to Premier League

**BOURNEMOUTH, England, Oct 1, (AP): Bournemouth beat Southampton 3-1 and prolonged the latter's miserable start to the English Premier League.**

Southampton remains without a win after six games and is tied on one point at the bottom of the table with Wolverhampton. The

run marks the newly promoted side's worst start to a league since 1998.

Brazilian striker Evanilson got his first goal for the Cherries and Antoine Semenyo starred, scoring one and making another as Bournemouth plundered all three goals in a rampant first 45 minutes.

Bournemouth moved up to 11th.

The home side started well and took the lead after 17 minutes. Marcus Tavernier was the architect, cleverly

taking a quick free kick that caught the Southampton defense off guard. Evanilson ran on and flicked the ball past the goalkeeper.

Former Bristol City winger Semenyo was always a threat on the right and after 32 minutes his cutback found Lewis Cook, whose shot was deflected in by Dango Ouattara.

Five minutes later, the Ghanaian international got his own name on the scoresheet with some nifty footwork before drilling an angled drive low into the far corner.

Taylor Harwood-Bellis pulled a goal back for Southampton early in the second half but it failed to spark a comeback. The home side had more of the ball in the second half but rarely threatened the Bournemouth goal.

"I didn't recognise our team," Southampton boss Russell Martin said. "There was no aggression or courage. They were looking around and in self-preservation mode on the pitch. I didn't like it one bit. They showed fight in the second half but it was too late."



Crystal Palace's Jean-Philippe Mateta (top) and Everton's Jarrad Branthwaite battle for the ball during the British Premier League soccer match between Everton and Crystal Palace, at Goodison Park, Liverpool, England. (AP)

Players want more

## Messi and Inter Miami on the brink of MLS Supporters' Shield

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Oct 1, (AP): There are any number of ways for Lionel Messi and Inter Miami to wrap up the Supporters' Shield and claim the No. 1 overall seed for the MLS Cup playoffs that start later this month.

The preseason Major League Soccer title favorites - with a lineup featuring Messi, Luis Suarez, Jordi Alba and Sergio Busquets - are on the brink of another trophy. They can clinch the Supporters' Shield, given to the team with the top MLS regular-season record, on Wednesday night with a win at Columbus.

"It's a great opportunity for us," Inter Miami midfielder Matias Rojas said. "We're taking it step by step. This team has built itself one step at a time. So, on Wednesday, we will go to win and achieve that goal."

It would take total collapse over their final three matches for Inter Miami to not go into the playoffs with the No. 1 overall seed, and the Supporters' Shield would become the second trophy in club history - following the Leagues Cup title that was won in 2023, not long after Messi arrived and instantly turned the club into a global phenomenon.

A Miami team - the long-defunct Fusion - has won the Supporters' Shield before. The Fusion won it in 2001, which became the club's final season because of attendance and revenue problems. Inter Miami has never been close to the top of the MLS table before; it was 19th out of 26 teams in 2020, 20th out of 27 teams in 2021, 12th out of 28 teams in 2022 and 27th out of 29 clubs last season.

This year was expected to be totally different and has delivered. The club opened 3-2-1 in its first six MLS matches and has gone 16-2-7 since.



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi chases down a ball during the second half of an MLS soccer match against Charlotte FC in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

It is already, by far, the best record in club history and a 3-0-0 finish would give Inter Miami the MLS mark for most points in a regular season.

They could finish with 74, one more than New England's 73 in 2021.

"When a team like Inter has 65 points and has lost only four matches all season and you compare it with teams from previous seasons, we should recognize all the good things we have accomplished this season," Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said.

And it's not all Messi.

He's missed 15 of Inter Miami's MLS matches this season, either because of commitments to Argentina's national team or the two-month absence that he needed to recover from a badly injured ankle - an injury that happened during his nation's run to the Copa America title in July. Inter Miami, in MLS play this sea-

son, is 9-1-6 with Messi in the lineup. That's probably not a surprise; his teams have been hard to beat for the better part of the last 20 years. This part is the surprise: Inter Miami is 10-3-2 when Messi hasn't played in league matches.

With Messi, the team averages 2.06 standings points per match out of a possible three, and the team averages 2.13 standings points without him. It makes no sense for the record to be better without the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and consensus greatest player ever in the lineup, but somehow, those are the numbers.

That proves the Inter Miami lineup isn't just Messi and a bunch of other guys, goalkeeper Drake Callender said.

"That's just, I think, the versatility of our team," Callender said. "We gained depth throughout the season because a lot of these guys didn't have many minutes to start the year. But they get more experience now, we have more options, and we have more versatility in how we want to play. So, I think we're in a pretty good spot going forward."

If the clinch - which comes with home-field advantage throughout the entirety of the MLS Cup playoffs, all the way to the final - doesn't come on Wednesday, Inter Miami's final two regular-season matches are at Toronto on Saturday and then at home against New England on Oct. 19. Inter Miami's playoff run will start at home on the final weekend of October.

The primary focus is the playoff title, the MLS Cup. But the No. 1 seed also matters, Alba said.

"We hope to win against a great team like Columbus, and we will go in with a winning mentality," Alba said. "Winning the Supporters' Shield would be a nice achievement in the club's history, but in the end, what we want to win is MLS Cup."



India's Yashasvi Jaiswal plays a shot on the fifth and final day of the second cricket test match between Bangladesh and India in Kanpur, India. (AP)

# Sports

## India completes series sweep over Bangladesh

Jadeja and Ashwin take three wickets each

**KANPUR, India, Oct 1, (AP):** India sealed a 2-0 series win over Bangladesh on Tuesday after a dramatic turnaround in the second cricket test following 2 1/2 days of play lost because of rain or a wet outfield.

Chasing 95 for victory, India finished on 98-3 in 17.2 overs to win the match by seven wickets.

Yashasvi Jaiswal (51) and Virat Kohli (29 not out) put on 58 off 67 balls for the third wicket of the second innings. India lost Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill cheaply, but had no major issues chasing down the target before tea.

Paceman Jasprit Bumrah and spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin had each taken three wickets to help bundle Bangladesh out for 146 earlier Tuesday in the second innings, leaving India two sessions to get the runs required to complete a series sweep.

India won the first test by 280 runs.

India set up a series sweep when it scored runs quickly and declared at 285-9 late on Day 4, a first-innings lead of 52.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz took 2-44 and dismissed both Sharma (8) and Gill (6) in India's otherwise comfortable run chase. He also had a leg-before-wicket decision against Kohli turned down on review.

Jaiswal hit eight fours and a six in his second half-century of the test after 72 in the first innings. He was caught off Taijul Islam on the cusp of victory.

Rishabh Pant scored the winning runs. Kohli's 37-ball knock included four boundaries.

Momentum had gone in India's favor on the fifth morning of the match.

Jadeja took 3-34 as Bangladesh lost four wickets for three

runs and eventually lost its last seven wickets for 110. Ashwin returned 3-50, and Bumrah snared 3-17 in 10 overs.

Most of the first day and all of the second and third days of the test were washed out, leaving little prospect for a result in Kanpur unless something dramatic happened.

And so play had resumed on Day 4 with India making a charge for victory in search of valuable World Test Championship points - 437 runs were scored for 18 wickets in 85 overs.

Resuming Day 5 on 26-2, Bangladesh lost first-innings century maker Mominul Haque (2) when he was caught off Ashwin's bowling with the addition of 10 to the total.

Opener Shadman Islam added 55 with skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto for the fourth wicket. In doing so, Islam scored 50 off 101 balls, becoming the first Bangladesh opener to score a test half-century on Indian soil.

But he couldn't regain concentration and was out soon after, with Jaiswal taking a fine catch at gully off pace bowler Akash Deep.

Just six balls earlier, Jadeja bowled Shanto for 19 runs and the batting collapse was underway.

Litton Das was caught behind off Jadeja, and Shakib al Hasan returned a simple catch for a two-ball duck in what could be his last test innings.

Jadeja picked three wickets in three overs as Bangladesh slumped to 94-7.

Bumrah then had Miraz (9) caught behind and trapped Islam lbw for a duck.

Veteran batter Mushfiqur Rahim hung in for a determined 37 off 63 balls as India desperately searched for the last wicket in an extended three-hour session.

Rahim threw it away on the final ball pre-lunch, going for a wild swipe off Bumrah and was bowled.



Indian players celebrate with the trophy after winning the two match test series against Bangladesh in Kanpur, India. (AP)

## Kuwait Club wins Super Cup in nail-biting shootout

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1:** Kuwait Club's futsal team claimed the 2024-2025 local Super Cup title after a thrilling 7-6 victory over Kazma. The match ended 5-5 after regular and extra time, setting the stage for a dramatic shootout.

Kuwait Club's experienced players played a pivotal role in securing the win, particularly after trailing by two goals early in the game. Despite this, they mounted a strong comeback to claim the cup in a marathon match where both teams showcased periods of dominance.

Kazma took an early lead with goals from Brazilian Chris and Radhi Al-Ham-

dan, while Kuwait Club's first goal came from Spaniard Borja Diaz. In the second half, Abdulrahman Al-Tawil leveled the score for Kuwait Club, only for Kazma's Chris to restore the lead. Despite being down a player, Kuwait equalized again through Stringari.

Kazma's woes deepened when they conceded an own goal by Saleh Haidar, but Romanian Felipe Manca brought the score back to 4-4. Stringari then scored Kuwait Club's fifth goal, only for Ali Yasser to equalize once again, sending the match to penalties, where Kuwait emerged victorious.

## Kuwait Club aims to build momentum as Irbid looms

By Hassan Musa  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**AMMAN, Oct 1:** Kuwait Club faces Al-Hussein Irbid of Jordan tonight at 7:00 pm at Amman International Stadium in the second round of Group 4 of the AFC Champions League 2.

Both teams are looking to improve upon their first-round results. Kuwait Club drew 0-0 with Uzbekistan's Nasaf Qarshi, while Al-Hussein Irbid suffered a 1-3 loss to Shabab Al-Ahli from the UAE.

In another Group 4 clash, Shabab Al-Ahli will take on Nasaf Qarshi at the Central Stadium in Karshi, Uzbekistan, at 5:00 pm.

Kuwait Club, led by Montenegrin coach Nebojsa Jovic, enters the match with high confidence after securing the top spot in the Zain Premier League with a 2-0 victory over Al-Arabi last Friday. It now sits three points ahead of their nearest rival. Jovic and his squad know that a win today is crucial for their chances of advancing to the next round, but they face a determined Al-Hussein side, eager to secure its first victory, bolstered by home support.

The Kuwait Club squad boasts a mix of talented and experienced players across all positions. Key foreign players include Moroccans Yahya Jabrane and Ayman Abu Al-Fath, Tunisian Yassin Al-Khenisi, Bahraini Mohammed Marhoon, and Congolese Arsene "Malik" Zola. The team is also supported by stand-out local talents such as Mohammed Daham, Mishari Ghannam, Yousef Nasser, Sami Al-Sanea, Fahad Hamoud, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, and others.

Al-Hussein Irbid currently holds second place in the Jordanian Professional League, with 13 points, just behind leaders Al-Ramtha, who have played one more match.

This match marks the debut of Al-Hussein Irbid's new coach, Portuguese Joao Motta, who replaced his compatriot Thiago Moutinho. Moutinho departed the club due to inconsistent performances both domestically and in Asia. Motta, who had been coaching Al-Tadamon this season and led the team to a strong start, stepped down after receiving the offer from Al-Hussein Irbid and resigned after the fourth round of his previous assignment.



Kuwait Club celebrates after winning the Super Cup.

Al-Ahli edges Al-Wasl in AFC Champions League Elite

## Ronaldo scores winner as Al-Nassr edges Al-Rayyan

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Oct 1, (AP):** Cristiano Ronaldo scored the winning goal as Al-Nassr of Saudi Arabia defeated Al-Rayyan of Qatar 2-1 in the AFC Champions League Elite group

stage. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner missed Al-Nassr's opening 1-1 draw against Al-Shorta of Iraq two weeks ago because of a viral infection. On

Monday, he had a goal ruled out for offside, but his shot into the top corner with 14 minutes remaining in Riyadh proved to be decisive. Former Liverpool forward Sadio

Mane headed home for Al-Nassr just before the break and the points seemed secure when Ronaldo added a second.

Al-Rayyan came back in the game three minutes from the end when Roger Guedes scored from close range.

Al-Nassr, seeking a first Asian title, hung on, however.

Riyadh Mahrez scored his first goal of the season as Al-Ahli of Saudi Arabia won at Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates 2-0 for a second straight win.

The Algerian attacker, who joined the Jeddah club from Manchester City in 2023, had been struggling for fitness.

Mahrez opened the scoring after just three minutes. He ran on to a long pass from defender Roger Ibanez and shot home from inside the area. He returned the favor seven minutes before the break as his corner was headed home powerfully by Ibanez.

Elsewhere, Al-Sadd of Qatar defeated Esteghlal of Iran 2-0, whose Tehran rival Persepolis drew with Pakhtakor of Uzbekistan 1-1.

The 24 teams are divided into two groups of 12 - one based in the west and one in the east - with the top eight from each progressing to the round of 16.



Ahmed Al-Dhafiri trains for the upcoming game against Irbid.

## Cameroon FA president banned

**ZURICH, Oct 1, (AP):** Cameroon soccer great Samuel Eto'o was banned by FIFA on Monday from attending any national team games for six months.

Eto'o, who has been president of the Cameroon soccer federation since 2021, faced two charges from an incident at the Under-20 Women's World Cup in Colombia on Sept. 11.

FIFA did not specify details of what happened at the round of 16 game that Brazil won against Cameroon 3-1 after extra time.

Eto'o was judged to have broken disciplinary rules relating to "offensive behavior and violations of the principles of fair play" and misconduct of officials, FIFA said.

"The ban imposed on Mr. Eto'o prevents him from attending men's

and women's matches involving (Cameroon) teams of all categories and age groups," FIFA said in a statement.

That period through March includes men's national team games in qualifying groups for the 2026 World Cup and 2025 Africa Cup of Nations.

The 43-year-old Eto'o played for Cameroon at four World Cups from 1998 to 2014, missing only the 2006 edition, and scored a record 56 goals for the Indomitable Lions. He played in two Africa Cup of Nations title-winning teams, in 2000 and 2002.

He won three Champions League titles, including back to back in 2009 with Barcelona and 2010 with Inter Milan, in a storied career as one of soccer's top forwards.



Al-Nassr players join Ronaldo in celebrating the winning goal.