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Illicit gains under fire from Nazaha

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority, better known as Nazaha, on Sunday sent state officials, including a senior one, to the Public Prosecution for committing suspected crimes of illicit gain and submitting false financial disclosures.

In a post on its X account, the authority underlined that it would carry on its efforts and measures to check and gather information and reports regarding any violation.

It urged all those subject to the provisions of financial disclosures to ensure accuracy and transparency while filling out financial disclosure forms and submitting them dully, considering this a national and ethical duty that contributes to protecting public funds, establishing integrity and cementing public confidence in state institutions.



HH the Amir receives a commemorative gift.

Amiri Diwan photo

HH Amir, Crown Prince briefed on major gas find

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday at Bayan Palace Minister of Oil Tareq Al-Roumi, Deputy Chairman of the Board and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and CEO of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan.

During the reception, they briefed His Highness the Amir on the newly discovered Al-Jazza field of natural gas, which is considered an accomplishment in the Kuwait maritime area, recording

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HH Amir departs Tuesday for fraternal visit to Oman

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, will depart the country on Tuesday, October 14, heading to the Sultanate of Oman on a fraternal visit, accompanied by an official delegation.

Kuwait Amir's Representative in Egypt as world leaders throw weight behind Gaza ceasefire deal

Swap sees Hamas free 20 Israelis as Israel releases hundreds of Palestinians



PM Diwan photo

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and the accompanying delegation arrive in Egypt on Monday to take part in the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit.



People gather to greet freed Palestinian prisoners arriving on buses in the Gaza Strip after their release from Israeli jails under a ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel, outside Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, Monday, Oct. 13, 2025. (AP)

SHARM ELSHEIKH, Oct 13, (Agencies): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Egypt to head the delegation of the State of Kuwait participating in the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit.

Upon arrival, His Highness the Prime Minister was received by Egypt's Minister of Civil Aviation Dr. Samih Ahmed El-Hefny, Kuwaiti Ambas-

sador to Egypt Ghanem Al-Ghanem, and members of the Kuwaiti embassy.

In a press statement, His Highness the Prime Minister underlined the importance of the summit in ensuring the implementation of the peace deal toward ending the war in the Gaza Strip and alleviating the humanitarian suffering of the brotherly Palestinian people.

His Highness the Prime Minister praised the tireless regional and international efforts made by friendly and brotherly nations, which led to the agreement on a ceasefire, expressing hope that the summit would help pave the way for a political process that leads to a just and comprehensive peace.

His Highness the Prime Minister reaffirmed Kuwait's principled and firm position in supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of their independent state, adding that achieving just and lasting peace

requires genuine will, constructive dialogue, and mutual respect among all parties.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump arrived in Egypt on Monday for a global summit on Gaza's future as he tries to advance peace in the Middle East after visiting Israel to celebrate a US-brokered ceasefire with Hamas.

The whirlwind trip, which included a speech at the Knesset in Jerusalem earlier in the day, comes at a fragile moment of hope for ending two years of war between Israel and Hamas.

"Everybody said it's not possible to do. And it's going to happen. And it is happening before your very eyes," Trump said alongside Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

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Interior Minister inspects AI-equipped police patrol

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah on Monday inspected a new smart police patrol developed by the Human Resources (HR) and Information Technology (IT) sector as part of the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) digital transformation.

Head of the HR and IT Sector at MoI, Brigadier Anwar Al-Yatama briefed Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef on systems built by national IT and cybersecurity teams, the ministry said in a press statement.

The patrol is equipped with mobile smart cameras linked to facial and license-plate recognition, a portable fingerprint device for instant identification, real-time connections to MoI databases to flag wanted individuals and vehicles, and artificial intelligence (AI) tools for on-the-spot image analysis.

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Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah inspects a new smart police patrol.

Unauthorized tenants impact value of family homes

Bachelor housing violations persist in residential areas

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Despite intensive campaigns and strict legislation, bachelor housing continues to be a problem in private residential areas, disrupting the social fabric and threatening the stability of family neighborhoods.

Between a law that is not fully enforced and a reality that continues to spread, violations are quietly expanding, turning the issue into a growing dilemma marked by randomness and neglect.

Citizens wonder why bachelors are still allowed to live in the heart of model residential areas, despite laws prohibiting it.

Kuwait Municipality's Law No. 33/2016 explicitly bans the leasing of residential units or parts thereof to non-families in

private and model residential zones. Violators face a fine of no less than KD 1,000 and up to KD 5,000. In the case of repeat offenses, the fine may be doubled to KD 10,000. Residential properties found in violation are referred to the Public Prosecution for judicial eviction, and non-compliance is subject to a daily fine of KD 20.

Areas where renting to bachelors is prohibited include Adailiya, Khaldiya, Shuwaikh Residential, Kaifan, Surra, Bayan, Mishref, Al-Nuzha, Rawda, Qurtoba, Salaam, and Faiha. Bachelor housing is only permitted in designated investment and industrial areas, and under specific conditions. These areas include Hawally, Salmiya, Farwaniya, Khaitan, Bneid Al-Gar, Mahboula, Fahaheel, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, and Sulabikhat Investment area.

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Day by Day

DEAR Minister of Justice, court fees need to be reviewed to make them more fair. Currently, the fees are exorbitant, and litigants are forced to pay them even though they are uncertain whether they will ultimately obtain their rights or face legal judgments against them.

Some of these individuals are struggling financially and do not have enough money to pay these fees.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Companies and funds can own real estate under strict controls

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: As part of the State's efforts to regulate the ownership of investment and commercial real estate and ensure balance between attracting foreign investment and preserving the privacy of the local market, Decree No. 195/2025 on the controls for real estate ownership by companies, real estate funds and investment portfolios was issued.

This is in implementation of the provisions of Decree-Law No. 74/1979 regulating real estate ownership by non-Kuwaitis.

Article One of the decree, which was published in 'Kuwait Al-Youm' recently, stipulates that subject to the provisions of the aforementioned law, companies with non-Kuwaiti partners and listed on licensed stock exchanges in Kuwait, as well as real estate funds and investment portfolios licensed by the competent authorities, may own real estate within the country, subject to specific controls.

The decree indicates that one of the basic conditions is that the purpose of the company, fund or portfolio must include dealing in real estate.

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2 Kuwaiti-Spanish ties spiraling towards new heights: Ambassador Gamallo

8 NBK becomes the first bank in GCC & Middle East to launch 'Tap-to-Add with PIN'



8 ABK continues to enhance its mobile banking app with cutting-edge features & innovations

12 Gulf's first China Cultural Center opens in Kuwait

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:29	Asr	14:52
Sunrise ..	05:47	Maghrib ..	17:21
Zohr	11:34	Isha	18:37

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h.

By Night: Mild with light to moderate freshening at times

Weather

over coastal areas northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-45 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec		
Kuwait City	38	26	Bubyan	34
Kuwait Airport	37	20	Jahra	38
Abdaly	37	20	Faiilaka Island	35
			Salmiyah	35
			Ahmadi	37
			Nuwaib	34
			Wafra	37
				23
				24
				27
				22
				18
				20

'50,000 tourists from Kuwait visited this year'

Kuwaiti-Spanish ties spiraling towards new heights: Ambassador Gamallo



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad and the Spanish Ambassador Manuel Hernández Gamallo cutting the cake.

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the State of Kuwait Manuel Hernández Gamallo confirmed the depth of historical and cultural ties between the two countries, revealing that bilateral relations are currently witnessing unprecedented growth at the economic, cultural and educational levels.

Gamallo made the statement at the celebration of the National Day of Spain, organized by the Spanish Embassy recently, in the presence of a number of senior State officials, including Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of international organizations and the Spanish community in Kuwait.

In his speech on this occasion, the Ambassador said "Spain is one of the oldest countries in the world, a country rich in cultural and linguistic diversity, whose people are united by a shared national feeling and a single identity."

He explained that Oct 12 is also a day of commemorating the deep historical ties that unite Spain with the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, which straddle both shores of the Atlantic Ocean.



Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah (center), Spanish and Bahraini ambassadors at the function.

He pointed out that Spain is proud of its great historical relations with the Arab world, as reflected in its rich cultural heritage. He stressed that "relations between Kuwait and Spain are solid and growing, and are witnessing continuous development in various fields, thanks to mutual understanding and rapprochement between the two peoples."

He disclosed that more than 50,000 people from Kuwait visited Spain this year, praising the facilitation of visa procedures to the Schengen Area, which contributed to enhancing travel and tourism between the two countries.

He also cited the convening of the Spanish-Kuwaiti Joint Economic Committee in May, with the attendance of a large number of representatives from Spanish economic sectors participating in the implementation of Kuwait Vision 2035. He added that the two countries are currently working toward the signing of several agreements to strengthen economic and investment cooperation.

In the academic field, he affirmed that the concerned Kuwaiti authorities have accredited degrees issued by 45 Spanish universities and have awarded the 'excellent' rating to many courses at the universities of Madrid, Navarra and Barcelona. He is hoping that the number of Kuwaitis studying in Spain will increase in the coming years.

He announced the resumption of direct flights between Madrid and Ku-



Photos by Mohammad Morsi
The Spanish ambassador with prominent personalities at the ceremony to mark National Day of Spain.

wait, joining the existing route to Barcelona and seasonal flights to Malaga, which will contribute to expanding tourism and trade exchange between the two countries.

On his country's foreign policy, he stated that "Spain believes in dialogue and coexistence among civilizations, respect for State sovereignty and human rights, and continues to support the two-state solution and the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East." He affirmed his country's support for the rights of the Palestinian people and its pride in the role of Kuwait as a steadfast defender of international legitimacy and a major contributor to global humanitarian efforts.

Concluding his remarks, he paid tribute to the Spanish community residing in Kuwait, which numbers around 450 people, praising their contributions to education, health, energy, infrastructure, sports, engineering and other sectors. He said the embassy will continue to support them and protect their interests.

He thanked the Spanish and Kuwaiti companies that sponsored the celebration, as well as the embassy staff and the Waldorf Astoria team, for their fruitful cooperation in organizing the event.

He then conveyed the wish of King Felipe VI of Spain and his government – for the leadership and people of the State of Kuwait to continue enjoying progress and prosperity.

Kuwait eyes China, UN skills to up women leadership role

'We fully support fairer, prosperous world for women'

BEIJING, Oct 13, (KUNA): Ambassador to China Jassem Al-Najem reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to strengthening women's roles in leadership and entrepreneurship during the opening of the Global Women's Summit in Beijing, attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Al-Najem highlighted Kuwait's desire to enhance cooperation with China and UN Women to implement joint programs that build the capacities of Kuwaiti and Arab women across sectors.

He noted the summit is a key platform to renew global commitment to women's empowerment and inclusive development, stressing Kuwait's full support for efforts to build a fairer and more prosperous world for women.

President Xi announced USD 10 million for UN Women, USD 100 million for women's development projects, support for 1,000 small businesses, training for 50,000 women, and the launch of a global women's capacity-building center.

He also proposed measures to



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to China Jassem Al-Najem at the opening of the Global Women's Summit in Beijing.

accelerate women's development, including promoting peace, combating violence, empowering women through innovation and technology, improving governance, expanding access to education and healthcare, and enhancing international cooperation with UN support.

The summit saw broad international participation, including UN agencies, diplomats, and global or-

ganizations.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to Indonesia Khaled Al-Yassin discussed on Monday with the Head of the Indonesian Red Cross Society, Muhammad Kalla, ways to enhance cooperation in the areas of humanitarian relief and natural disaster response. This meeting occurred at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Jakarta, said in a press statement received by Kuwait News

Agency (KUNA).

During the meeting, Ambassador Al-Yassin stressed the State of Kuwait's keenness to provide aid and necessary humanitarian and relief assistance to countries, including Indonesia, after natural disasters.

He explained that this assistance is part of Kuwait's pioneering role in the field of humanitarian and relief work around the world, without discrimination or distinction.

On his part, the Indonesian official praised the prominent humanitarian role played by the State of Kuwait in the field of charitable and relief work in Indonesia over the past years.

He also stressed that Kuwaiti aid had a significant impact in alleviating the suffering of the local population and supporting the state's emergency response efforts.

Indonesia is considered one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters due to its geographical location within the so-called "Ring of Fire."

It experiences dozens of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and floods annually, necessitating enhanced international cooperation in relief and rapid response, particularly with countries and organizations with extensive field experience in this area.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah receives Fahd Faris Al-Jarba and Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Reesh in his office.

Al-Jarallah praises historian for chronicling Kuwait story

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Dean of Kuwait Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah received in his office at Dar Al-Seyassah a historical researcher specializing in the history of Kuwait and the Arabian Peninsula Fahd Faris Al-Jarba, in the presence of Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Reesh, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the importance of documenting the history of the Red Palace and the role of researchers in enriching its cultural and heritage content.

Researcher Al-Jarba highlighted his contributions to supporting the Red Palace Rehabilitation and Restoration Project, which was reopened in November 2024 under the patronage of the Minister of Information, Culture, and Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

He revealed that he had presented a collection of rare historical documents, sources, and photos related to the Red Palace and the history of Sheikh Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah as part of his volunteer efforts in cooperation with the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) under the Red Palace Historical Content Enrich-

ment Project.

The Dean of Kuwait Journalism, Ahmed Al-Jarallah, expressed his deep appreciation for Al-Jarba's research role in preserving and documenting Kuwaiti history.

He affirmed that serious individual initiatives help strengthen national identity and highlight the historical symbols that form Kuwait's authentic heritage.

Al-Jarba praised Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers' role in supporting the cultural and heritage movement, noting it was one of the first media outlets to highlight the Red Palace after its restoration.

It is worth mentioning that the editor-in-chief had conducted a field visit to the palace last March to review the development and renovation work, including its facilities and historical content.

At the end of the meeting, both sides emphasized the importance of continued cooperation between the media, researchers, and cultural institutions to document Kuwait's history and preserve national heritage. They praised the prominent role of NCCAL and the significant support provided by Minister Al-Mutairi for projects to revitalize historical landmarks, especially the Red Palace, which represents an icon of patriotism and national unity.



KUNA photo
Chief of the Kuwaiti Army General Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraiaan receives the Bangladeshi Ambassador to Kuwait Major General Sayed Tareq Hussain.

Army Chief, Bangladesh envoy eye military co-op

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Chief of the Kuwaiti Army General Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraiaan met on Monday with Bangladeshi Ambassador in Kuwait Major General Sayed Tareq Hussain on issues of mutual interest, mainly military ones.

The Bangladeshi military attaché Brigadier General Rakibul Karim Chowdhury was present at the meeting, the Army General Staff said in a press release.

Meanwhile, Chief of the General Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraiaan, conferred on Monday, the rank of Colonel on the 35th batch of officers, in implementation of the Amiri Decree issued by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

In a press statement, the General Staff of the Army said that Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraiaan conveyed to the promoted officers the congratulations of the Minister of Defense, Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Sabah, wishing that this promotion would be an incentive for them to exert even more effort and dedication in serving homeland.

PAM urges employers to use 'Ashal', pay salaries on time

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) urged employers to familiarize themselves with the mechanism for using the salary tracking system on 'Ashal' portal for companies.

This mechanism allows employers to enter salary shortages and document the associated legal reasons.

PAM affirmed that this step is in line with its efforts to ensure the employers are committed to paying salaries on time and guarantee transparency in the workplace.

In an introductory video on social media, PAM explained that the system allows employers to access the main file of the company to search for workers – whether registered in the general file or

working on a specific government contract. Through the system, employers can view details like the number of workers in the month of salary transfer, number of shortages, and status of fulfillment for each individual case.

PAM added that the system provides options to determine the reason for not transferring the salary or deduction, with the ability to attach supporting documents for each case through the portal, thereby, easing the review and documentation process and enhancing data accuracy.

It went on to say that the system allows the identification of workers for whom the reason for salary non-transfer or deduction was not entered, ascertaining that all required data are complete, thus, improving the efficiency of salary tracking and adherence to approved labor standards.

Court bails lawyer in libel case

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Misdemeanor Court refrained from pronouncing punishment for a well-known lawyer, subject to a six-month pledge of good conduct and bail of KD500, while the civil lawsuit was referred to the competent court, reports Al-Anba daily.

The defendant was referred to the judiciary after the Public Prosecution charged him with insulting the chief investigator at a police station through videos and photos posted on his SnapChat account in 2023.

Attorney Nawaf Al-Wahib, lawyer for

the plaintiff, stated that the defendant's action was considered an insult and humiliation that undermined the dignity and reputation of his client as a public employee. He asserted that the elements of the crime were established against the defendant and the charges were proven.

Al-Wahib explained that the ruling to refrain from pronouncing punishment is a legal conviction for the defendant, affirming his intention to proceed to the civil court to demand compensation for the damages sustained by his client.

School teams vie for Amir Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwaiti high school teams, via TV Show "With Students", vied for His Highness the Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's Cup.

Speaking to KUNA, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said he was pleased to attend this 13-episode program that targets school students who represent the present and bright future of Kuwait.

He commended His Highness the Amir's patronage of this student championship as reflecting his great support for young people and his deep belief in their role in building the future and Kuwait's backing to giftedness and creativity.

He added that the idea and educational and media goals of the event mark a special model of merging education and media, making awareness, contributing to boosting students' skills, developing their positive competitive spirit and bolstering their capa-

bilities of expression and creativity in a safe and encouraging environment.

The minister described this event as being part of the ministry's vision of promoting societal partnership and state institutions' role integration.

Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaci, also speaking to KUNA, hailed the efforts of VO Company in organizing the TV Show "With Students", and highly touted its distinguished level as combining pleasure and learning.

He regarded it as one of the best TV shows since it aligns with students' thinking and studies, appreciating participating students' high competitive edge.

For her part, Chairwoman of VO Company Sheikhah Ohoud Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah said the program marks the first-of-its-kind partnership between VO Company and the ministries of information and education.

She said this experiment is deemed a special example of cooperation between both public and private sectors in supporting youth and educational programs.

The grand prize is worth KD 4,000 for each student of the winning team, while each student of the second-ranked team will receive KD 1,000, provided by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).



Al-Mutairi

'Kuwait not a banquet table; success in unity'

"ONE might be embarrassed to talk about a country the size of Kuwait City whose economy is ten times larger than that of Kuwait, and whose population, including both citizens and expatriates, is one and a half times that of Kuwait. This country - tiny Singapore - is considered a success story by experts, economists, and visitors alike." Kuwaiti journalist Hassan Ali Karam wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.



Hassan Ali Karam

"This success is not limited to the economy, but extends to the management of state affairs, led by a veiled Muslim woman of southern Yemeni origin, specifically from Hadhramaut. She is known for beginning her day with the dawn prayer and is part of a leadership team that makes effective decisions and implements successful plans.

"Singapore's area is about one-third the size of Kuwait, or perhaps even less. But size is not the issue. There are countries smaller than Singapore that are wealthier, and their citizens do not face poverty or unemployment.

"Let me tell you where success begins. You might say, with effective government administration. And you'd be right. Singapore has a successful education system, hospitals that attract patients from abroad, thriving industries, and a global port.

"Meanwhile, here we are, nearly twenty years after the plans for Mubarak Port were drawn up to make it our gateway to the world. Yet we are still hoping that Greater China will take on a burden beyond our capacity. How much have we spent in both dinars and dollars on a project that continues to swing between success and failure, caught in the middle of political and border disputes?

"The disputes will eventually find a solution... that's not the main issue. What matters more is recognizing who we are and what our actual successes look like.

"When we talk about Singapore, its unemployment rate is just two percent. In Kuwait, while the official unemployment rate among citizens is also two percent, the reality of disguised unemployment may involve up to 150,000 citizens, not expatriates.

"The actual need within government administration is only a few thousand dedicated employees. Yet the truth is that three-quarters of public sector employees are simply a financial burden on the state budget, a reflection of the administration's failure and inability to direct citizens to real, productive work.

"Singapore is a hybrid nation, much like Kuwait, with a mix of different peoples, including Muslims and followers of other religions. Yet they function without sensitivity or racism, and that is one of the reasons for their success. This doesn't mean the people there are without religion; rather, they are free from racism, hostility, and the practice of excommunicating others.

"Singapore was once part of Malaysia, but it seceded and became an independent country, ultimately emerging as a successful model. Perhaps the mother country, Malaysia, has learned from that success.

"We are no less capable of success than Singapore, if we set aside our arrogance and believe that we all serve a nation that embraces us. The success of a wage earner is no less important than that of a manager, a minister, or even a janitor. Everyone succeeds in their own field, and the success of a country depends on the integration of its people into the melting pot of one nation, one homeland.

"Today, we can sense some positive changes taking shape, and that gives us reason for optimism and hope to build a Kuwait founded on success. But success will not come to us on its own. It requires that we move forward together, united.

"Kuwait is not a banquet table for us to feast on and walk away. It is our homeland, and we must rid ourselves of all destructive and divisive tendencies."

Also:

"In light of the growing and diverse challenges facing the national press, we are confronted with a complex reality that requires cooperation and mutual understanding from everyone to preserve press freedom and uphold professionalism." Kuwaiti writer Imad Khamis Al-Aqab wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"Some government officials have leveled accusations against journalists, despite being expected to be the strongest defenders of press freedom. This underscores the importance of balancing press freedom with professional responsibility.

"National journalism plays a vital role in conveying the truth and monitoring government performance, making it a pillar of democracy. Therefore, accusations by government officials

against journalists should not be taken lightly. They must be handled carefully, supported by concrete evidence, and addressed through legal channels.

"Unfortunately, these accusations sometimes become tools to pressure and restrict journalists, threatening media freedom and undermining its oversight role.

"Ministers and government officials are expected to protect constitutional and legal rights, including freedom of expression and the press. However, when journalists are accused by these officials, the situation becomes more complex and raises questions about the government's commitment to democratic principles.

"Transparency and accountability are the foundation of the relationship between the government and the press. If there is criticism or an accusation against a journalist, it must be based on clear evidence and handled through appropriate legal channels. Otherwise, it opens the door to further pressure and violations of freedom of expression.

"On the other hand, journalists must adhere to professionalism and journalistic ethics, and verify the accuracy of information before publishing. Journalism, particularly investigative journalism, demands great accuracy and caution, as any mistake could be used as a pretext for unjustified accusations or restrictions on press freedom.

"Ultimately, there must be a delicate balance between press freedom and professional accountability. This balance requires both journalists and government officials to respect the law and professional ethics.

"Through this balance, the role of the national press as the 'fourth authority', which contributes to the strengthening of democracy and transparency, can be preserved.

"I would like to send a message to His Excellency not to allow journalists' freedom to be infringed upon or to threaten them with lawsuits. Such actions are counterproductive. My message is clear - to correct misconduct and expose wrongdoing and abuse."

□ □ □

"At the end of last September, the United Nations celebrated International Translation Day, which was adopted by the General Assembly on May 24, 2017, through Resolution 71/288. The day serves to recognize the work of language professionals, who play a vital role in bringing countries and peoples

closer together and facilitating dialogue and understanding." Syrian writer Dr. Adnan Mahrez wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.



Dr. Mahrez

"Translation is defined as a tool for conveying and transmitting information, transferring what the human mind produces from one society to another. It is a process of communication between two languages - the source language and the target language. This involves converting an original written text (the source text) from the source language into a written text (the target text) in the other language.

"The role of translation is not limited to conveying text and information or facilitating dialogue and understanding; it is a transfer of civilization, culture, and thought. Translation has played, and continues to play, a vital role in spreading awareness and culture, strengthening relations between peoples, opening doors to other civilizations, and accessing their scientific, intellectual, and cultural achievements.

"The Gulf states place great importance on translation, viewing it as a fundamental pillar that has helped build bridges of cultural and civilizational communication between peoples worldwide. Kuwait has been a pioneer in translation efforts as part of its leadership in the cultural movement.

"Linguistics professor Dr. Yousef Al-Badr explains that the first linguistic contact between Kuwait and European languages was with Greek, as evidenced by artifacts found on Failaka Island. He notes that the second European language was Portuguese, which entered Kuwait in the sixteenth century and still influences Kuwaiti navigational and maritime terminology today. Other languages followed, including Turkish, Persian, Urdu, and English.

"The development and interest in translation have reached unprecedented levels today, thanks to advanced technologies, machine translation programs, websites, and tools like Google Translate. Although the quality of machine translation has not yet achieved high accuracy, its usage is widespread. This raises an important question - What will remain for human translators in light of the rise of machine translation?"

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Call to promote respect for global humanitarian law

KUWAIT CITY Oct 13: In the presence of Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, a specialized training course titled "International Humanitarian Law in the Military Judiciary Environment" was officially launched Sunday morning, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The course, running from October 12 to 16, is organized in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The opening session featured remarks from several key figures, including Major General (Jurist) Owaid Al-Hattlani, Head of the Military Judiciary Authority and member of the Permanent National Committee for International Humanitarian Law; Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Sabah, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Human Rights Affairs; Mamadou Sow, Head of the ICRC's Regional Mission in the GCC countries; and Counselor Abdulrahman Ibrahim Al-Muhanna, Vice-Chairman of the Permanent National Committee for International Humanitarian Law.

Speakers emphasized the importance of promoting respect for international humanitarian law, spreading awareness of its principles, and highlighting the role of military and security institutions in implementing and upholding international treaties. They also underlined the need for education and training to safeguard human rights and dignity during both peace and conflict.

This course is part of ongoing cooperation between the Military Judiciary Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the ICRC. It aims to strengthen participants' knowledge of international humanitarian law, enhance their legal and operational skills, and encourage the exchange of experiences to reinforce a commitment to these humanitarian principles.

Participants include representatives from various units of the Kuwaiti Army, Ministry of Interior, National Guard, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Al-Seyassah photo
Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Sabah and Major General (Jurist) Owaid Al-Hattlani.

Hearing put off in wife murder case; 4 yrs upheld for blogger

Court acquits 'fraud by magic' accused

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Criminal Court adjourned to October 27 the case filed against a citizen who is accused of murdering his wife in Mutla'a desert on the first day of Eid al-Fitr.

According to the case files, the defendant lured his wife to a remote area in Mutla'a and deliberately ran her over with his vehicle, causing her immediate death.

Security forces arrested the defendant a few hours after the crime. He was referred to the Criminal Court after the Public Prosecution completed its investigation and charged him with deliberate and premeditated murder.

□ □ □

Blogger jail-term upheld: The Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Sultan Bourseli, upheld the verdict issued by the Court of Appeals to sentence blogger Anwar Hayati to four years imprisonment with hard labor and a fine of KD 10,000. He was convicted of offending

the rights and authorities granted to His Highness the Amir and inciting sectarian strife.

The court acquitted Hayati of the charge of insulting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Public Prosecution had previously charged the defendant with publicly offending the rights and powers of the Amir, inciting sectarian strife, and insulting Saudi Arabia through his X account. The defendant denied the charges leveled against him before the court.

□ □ □

Court acquits fraudster: The Misdemeanor Court acquitted a defendant of fraud through sorcery, after it was determined that the accusation was tainted by ignorance and failed to identify any victims.

The court explained that criminal rulings are based on certainty and conviction, not doubt and speculation. It emphasized that there is no crime or punishment without a text, and that Kuwaiti legislation has no explicit provision criminalizing sorcery or sorcery.

Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan, who appeared in court on behalf of the defendant, argued that the Public Prosecution's arrest and search warrant was invalid, as it was based on frivolous investigations related to a crime that

has yet to occur.

The court responded to this argument by stating that the warrant was issued based on explicit and clear investigations that included sufficient information that justifies its issuance. It pointed out that the seriousness of such investigations is subject to the investigative authority under the supervision of the trial court, and that it is not subject to review as long as the warrant was issued in connection with a crime that was committed.

The court then tackled the merits of the case, indicating that the crime of fraud, under Articles 231 and 232 of the Penal Code, entails fraud that leads to the delivery of funds based on legally defined deception. This was not proven in the case at hand, as the documents contained no evidence of the delivery of funds or the identification of victims.

The court added that the accusation presented by the prosecution was vague and lacked a precise statement of the facts, rendering the crime tainted by obfuscation and preventing the formation of a definitive judicial opinion.

The court acquitted the defendant, pursuant to Article 172/1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Court specifies alimony disbursement for male, female kids

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Head of the General Department of Enforcement at the Ministry of Justice Counselor Abdullah Al-Qassimi issued an administrative circular on Sunday, regulating the mechanism for implementing child support rulings.

The circular specified the cases in which alimony for sons and daughters is suspended, in accordance with the regulations and official documents.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the circular, stating that for male children, alimony is suspended if the concerned person provides proof that the son has reached adulthood and is capable of earning and supporting himself, such as if he has taken up employment that generates a suitable income. This must be proven by official documents like the latest certificate from the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS).

For female children, the circular stipulates that alimony payments will be suspended in the event of marriage, after official verification and asking the daughter whether the marriage has been consummated. In this case, alimony

payments will be suspended temporarily. If the daughter fails to appear without an acceptable excuse, the matter will be reconsidered after she appears at the department.

The circular emphasized the need for all enforcement judges, department directors and employees to adhere to its provisions and act in accordance with them from the date of its issuance.

It added that this procedure is part of efforts to ensure the smooth flow of work and fairness in the implementation of alimony rulings, consistent with reality and legal principles.



Al-Seyassah photo
A warning letter is pasted on a violating establishment.

KFF issues 61 warnings during Mubarakiya tour

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) carried out an inspection campaign on Sunday evening at Souk Mubarakiya to identify shops and buildings in violation of safety and fire prevention regulations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign resulted in the issuance of 61 notices and warnings to several establishments and shops for failing to comply with KFF requirements.

Expat found sleeping at work loses his job

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: An expatriate filed a case of phone misuse at Al-Qashaniyah Police Station, claiming that this misuse caused him significant harm and led to the termination of his employment, reports Al-Anba daily.

The expatriate is now pursuing a compensation claim against the individual responsible for this serious damage. The complaint included a transcript of a video clip showing him asleep during work hours.

According to the expatriate, born in 1984, his colleague - of the same nationality and born in 1983 - recorded him sleeping during his shift. The colleague not only filmed him, but also sent the clip to their supervisor and superior.

The supervisor forwarded the clip to the complainant along with a letter terminating his services for negligence in performing his duties. The complainant insisted that he was not neglectful at work, but was simply exhausted and momentarily overcome by sleep. He asserted that his colleague's action caused him harm. Interestingly, the complainant stated that he previously intervened in support of the person who caused his dismissal.

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MoSA plans a major resort project to enhance quality of life for the elderly

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Al-Mutlaa nears full completion

By **Mohammad Al-Enezi**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

Social aid for September delayed, ministry coordinating swift resolution

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khalid Al-Ajmi confirmed that the Sabah Al-Ahmad Resort project is still being considered by relevant authorities, with the aim of establishing an expanded partnership to deliver a project befitting the State of Kuwait and its generous people.



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khalid Al-Ajmi poses for a group photo during the celebration of Arab Elderly Day.

Al-Ajmi made the announcement during the celebration of Arab Elderly Day, organized by the Elderly Care Department at the Social Care Sector in the ministry, under the patronage of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah.

He said the ministry is working round the clock to complete this unique project, which is part of the future considerations of the Elderly Care Department. He stressed that the ministry is keen on implementing vital projects that improve the quality of life of the elderly, indicating that Sabah Al-Ahmad Resort will be a prominent landmark in the region, not just in Kuwait, as it is a qualitative leap in the social and recreational services provided to this valued group.

He added "taking care of the elderly conveys a civilized message and it is a national duty, as it is an expression of a deep sense of loyalty to a generation that founded and gave." He pointed out that Kuwait — its leadership, government and people — put the elderly at the center of its social policies, embodying compassion and solidarity through an integrated system of legislation, services and care that guar-



Ministry of Social Affairs photos Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khalid Al-Ajmi delivers his speech during the ceremony.

antees them a dignified life and active participation in society.

He clarified "Kuwait's celebration of its fathers and grandfathers is a celebration of the roots that sprouted pride and the hands that planted the meanings of sacrifice and devotion on the land of Kuwait and Arabism. The

generation that created the present and laid, with their effort and sweat, the foundations of renaissance and societal and humanitarian values will remain a beacon and an exemplary approach in continuing the journey."

He disclosed that the number of registered beneficiaries in the independent

service for the elderly has exceeded 4,000, while more than 29,000 priority cards were issued, allowing holders to benefit from numerous benefits and services. He also confirmed the operation of 97 sites serving the elderly in various governorates.

He reiterated that Kuwait remains a

symbol of humanity and compassion, a home of solidarity and giving, and that it will continue its journey of protecting the rights of the elderly and caring for their needs, in recognition of their great role and based on the belief that the advancement of nations can only be built through loyalty to their roots.

Regarding the delay in disbursing social assistance for the month of September, Al-Ajmi explained that the ministry is currently coordinating with the concerned authorities to complete the necessary procedures as quickly as possible. He stated this issue requires careful coordination between multiple entities to ensure the clarity and integrity of data. "I would like to reassure citizens that aid will reach those who deserve it very soon. We are coordinating with the relevant authorities to verify the data to ensure that aid reaches those who deserve it in an accurate and fair manner."

On the other hand, Director of the Elderly Care Department Abdulrahman Al-Enezi asserted that the elderly are considered a blessing for homes, pillar of society, and a source of wisdom and experience. "It is our duty to protect their dignity and provide them with a dignified life and comprehensive care, befitting their status. The department is keen on developing its services and programs to include residential care and mobile services, in addition to strengthening partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector, in order to provide a supportive health and social environment that meets the needs of the elderly and ensures their positive integration into society."

He said the Arab Elderly Day is not just an occasion to celebrate, as it is a moment to affirm that caring for the elderly is a shared humanitarian and national responsibility, which requires the cooperation of the family, society and all institutions.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced the completion of medium and low-voltage networks, outdoor lighting, traffic signals, speed cameras, and variable message systems in Al-Mutlaa Residential City.

In a press statement issued on Monday, acting Director General of PAHW **Rashed Al-Enezi** explained that the authority has completed the supply and extension of all medium and low-voltage cable networks in five suburbs of Al-Mutlaa Residential City - N2, N3, N4, N5, and N12 - covering 11,945 plots. About 65 percent of the remaining work in N1 suburb has been completed, with preparations finalized for 1,551 residential plots, in addition to the six suburbs completed in 2023, which comprise 13,934 residential plots.

Al-Enezi went on to explain that PAHW has completed work in 11 suburbs, along with 65 percent of the last suburb, bringing the total number of residential plots ready for electricity connection to 27,439 out of 28,288 in Al-Mutlaa (97 percent). Only 858 plots remain, with procedures expected to be completed during the current month.

Lighting poles have been installed on the city's main roads, with many already operational. The remaining poles are currently undergoing inspection for activation. Work has also been completed on supplying and installing traffic signals, speed survey cameras, and variable message signs on the city's highways, with coordination ongoing with the Ministry of Interior for inspection and activation.

Al-Enezi expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy for their cooperation with PAHW, which has enabled these achievements more than three months ahead of the contractual deadlines.



Al-Enezi

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CAPT sets Oct 27 for price talks on Jaber Al-Ahmad entrances project

By **Mohammad Ghanem**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has approved the request of the Ministry of Public Works to set Oct 27 as the date for negotiating prices with the four companies bidding for the establishment of entrances and exits at Jaber Al-Ahmad City.

CAPT made the decision during its meeting last Wednesday.

All bidders have been required to include detailed price and quantity tables in their bids.

The agency excluded two companies for not meeting the conditions and specifications, and the bidding process closed on Feb 18.

The project includes the establishment of entrances and exits in two locations in Jaber Al-Ahmad Residential City -- one is the southern entrance and exit linking to Jahra Road, and the other is the eastern entrance and exit linking to Doha Road.

It is worth noting that the ministry has been holding negotiation sessions with the winning companies to determine the best and most cost-effective bid.



Al-Sadu Society's Expo 2025 participation offers glimpse into Kuwaiti tradition, heritage.

Visitors experience live weaving demonstrations

Expo Osaka features Kuwait's Sadu art

OSAKA, Oct 13, (KUNA): Al-Sadu Society's participation in Expo Osaka 2025 offered visitors and the Japanese public with a glimpse into Kuwaiti tradition and heritage.

In a statement by Al-Sadu Society, obtained by KUNA, the live Sadu weaving experience -- featuring members Manar Marafi, Sana Al-Adwani, Mastoura Al-Shaihan, and Fatha Al-Omar -- provided visitors with an up-close experience of this traditional craft.

The participation focused on boosting global awareness on the traditional art of Sadu weaving, affirmed the society.

Both Honorary Chairperson of the society Sheikha Altaf Salme Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and Director General Sheikha Bibi Duaij Al-Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah were present in Al-Sadu Society's participation, affirming that Expo Osaka 2025 is an important venue to share Sadu weaving.

Kuwait Cultural Office in UK outlines procedures to lift academic warnings

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Cultural Office at the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in the United Kingdom announced the procedures for submitting a request to lift an academic warning, stating that the students must submit a written request to their academic advisor, expressing their wish to have the warning lifted and the request must include a clear explanation

of the reasons for doing so, reports Al-Jarida daily.

On its official 'X' account, the Office stated that "the request will not be considered unless it is submitted by the student himself and supported with valid reasons." It also urged the students to strictly follow the procedures when submitting requests to lift an academic warning.

Al-Huwailah emphasizes empowerment, gender equality and Palestinian support

Kuwait pledges support to Arab social justice, developmental efforts

CAIRO, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood and Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, affirmed on Monday Kuwait's commitment to enhancing joint Arab social and developmental efforts that serve humanitarian causes and promote social justice.

Speaking at the 82nd session of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, Al-Huwailah expressed deep sorrow over the tragic death of three members of Qatar's Amiri Diwan in a car accident in Sharm El-Sheikh, extending sincere condolences and wishing a speedy recovery for the injured.

The minister highlighted Kuwait's pride in participating in the session, which addresses key social and devel-

opmental issues, and expressed hope that its outcomes would promote social justice, empower women, girls, and persons with disabilities, and ensure gender equality. She noted that the session would adopt the agenda for the 45th session of the Council and prepare for the 2025 Doha World Summit for Social Development, encouraging active Arab participation and the sharing of experiences.

Al-Huwailah also thanked Egyptian Minister of Social Solidarity Dr. Maya Morsy for her warm hospitality and efforts, praising Egypt's role in hosting the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit and striving for an end to the war in Palestine.

The Arab Social Affairs Ministers' Executive Bureau, chaired by Egypt, convened to discuss priority social issues, with a focus on supporting social conditions in Pal-

estine, particularly in Gaza, amid ongoing humanitarian challenges caused by the Israeli occupation. Kuwait is participating with a delegation led by Dr. Al-Huwailah.

The Bureau reviewed key issues related to joint Arab social development and reaffirmed Palestinian support as a permanent agenda item. It also prepared for the Second World Summit for Social Development, scheduled in Doha from November 4 to 6, 2025, under a UN General Assembly resolution, reflecting Arab priorities since the 1995 Copenhagen summit.

Ministers also discussed preparations for the upcoming Arab Summit in Saudi Arabia in 2026, focusing on social issues affecting Arab citizens, persons with disabilities, the elderly, families, and children, in alignment with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



KUNA photo
Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood and Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Governors with the Minister of State for Housing Affairs during a coordination meeting.

Push for efficient governance

Governors, Al-Mishari review 'Municipality 139' application

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received at his office on Monday morning the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and the Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari for a coordination meeting to discuss frameworks for joint cooperation between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the governorates.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the meeting was attended by Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor and acting Governor of Hawally Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Other attendees included acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality Manal Al-Asfour, Deputy Director General for Financial and Administrative Affairs at Kuwait Municipality Yousef Al-Azmi, Head of the Department for Removing Encroachments on State Property Yousef Ahmed Al-Fajji, Head of the Project Implementation Department at the Information Systems Department of Kuwait Municipality Nadia Al-Fadhli, Khaled Al-

Ajmi from the Office of the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, and Khaled Al-Mutairi from the Office of the Director General of Kuwait Municipality.

They carried out a detailed review of the "Municipality 139" application, and all its features and functions. The application aims to enhance services and improve the efficiency of administrative and fieldwork in various governorates.

They also discussed plans and work mechanisms designed to realize the shared vision and support the state's overall policy in implementing development projects.

Minister Al-Mishari praised the vital role played by the governorates in supporting the ministry's field efforts, noting that the next phase will see increased coordination, cooperation, and achievements.

The governors expressed their gratitude for the full support of the political leadership and government in strengthening their role in serving Kuwait. They also commended the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs for his ongoing cooperation with the governorates in completing vital projects in all governorates.

Kuwait and Japan partner to map antiquities with drones

NCCAL adopts high-tech approach to protect heritage

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), organized a workshop on Sunday, in cooperation with the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, on mapping archaeological sites using drones.

NCCAL Assistant Secretary-General for Antiquities and Museums Mohammad bin Redha told KUNA that the three-day workshop is part of the council's commitment to developing modern archaeological research tools and methods.

He added that the workshop aims to share experiences and discuss best practices for using drones in the field of archaeology, and to address the technical and ethical challenges associated with them.

This serves the council's goals of protecting and preserving cultural heritage for future generations, he said.

Bin Redha pointed out that tapping the Japanese expertise in this area is a valuable addition to archaeological work in Kuwait.

The use of 3D imaging and drone technologies has become an effective tool for documenting, mapping, and monitoring archaeological sites without compromising their safety, he clarified.

For his part, Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Kuwait University Dr. Hassan Ashkanani told KUNA that the event aims to promote sustainable development while preserving cultural heritage in the State of Kuwait, particularly on Failaka Island, which has numerous



Dr. Hassan Ashkanani and Acting Assistant Secretary-General Mohammed bin Redha in group photo with participants.



Participating lecturer providing a detailed explanation during the workshop.



KUNA photos

archaeological and historical sites. Ashkanani stated that the purpose of cooperation with the Tokyo National Institute is to explore the use of

drones for mapping and documenting archaeological sites.

This technology contributes to the rapid and accurate collection of data

on archaeological sites, helps create 3D models of hard-to-reach areas, and enables exploration without damaging sites, he indicated.

Continued from Page 1

HH Amir,

the highest production rate of a vertical well in Al-Manaqeesh area in the history of Kuwait, as part of KOC's efforts.

The top officials presented His Highness the Amir with a commemorative gift on this occasion.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the same delegation and update at Bayan Palace. The officials honored the Crown Prince with a commemorative gift as they discussed the significance of the Al-Jazza field and the historic production milestone for Kuwait's energy sector.

Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), announced on Monday a new exploratory achievement in Kuwait's offshore area with the discovery of the Al-Jazza offshore natural gas field.

The field recorded the highest production rate from a vertical well in Kuwait's history from the Minagish formation, as part of the company's ongoing efforts to develop the nation's hydrocarbon resources.

According to a statement released by KPC to KUNA, this discovery follows a series of successive offshore exploration successes, including the Nokhatha Field discovery in July 2024 and the Julaiyah Field in January 2025 reflecting significant progress in Kuwait's offshore exploration capabilities.

Initial test results from the Jazah-1 well showed exceptional production exceeding 29 million cubic feet of gas per day. The reservoir is characterized by low carbon dioxide levels and is free from hydrogen sulfide and associated water, making it an environmentally and technically rare discovery.

The field's preliminary area is estimated at around 40 square kilometers, with potential reserves of approximately 1 trillion cubic feet of gas. These figures are preliminary and may increase with continued exploration in adjacent reservoirs.

Minister of Oil and Chairman of KPC, Dr. Tariq Al-Roumi, stated that this discovery represents a strategic milestone within KPC and KOC's 2040 vision to enhance national energy security and boost production capacity.

He added that efforts are underway to accelerate the development of offshore fields and integrate them into the production system, supporting economic growth and creating new job opportunities for Kuwaiti talent.

KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah expressed pride in the achievement, saying that these discoveries reflect professionalism of Kuwaiti teams exploring unprecedented frontiers in the oil and gas sector.

He added that the findings confirm the high environmental quality of Kuwaiti petroleum, characterized by low emissions, in line with the country's long-term sustainable energy strategy.

Meanwhile, KOC Chairman Ahmad Al-Aidan praised the company's staff for their efforts in achieving such promising hydrocarbon discoveries, emphasizing that these accomplishments are the result of teamwork, excellence, and innovation.

He reaffirmed that the company will continue advancing toward development and industry leadership.

Bachelor housing

In a statement to the daily, Deputy Director General of Kuwait Municipality for Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer

Governorates Engineer Nawaf Al-Kandari explained that bachelor residences in private and model residential areas are strictly prohibited. The issue is being addressed through joint efforts between Kuwait Municipality and the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Electricity and Water, with power being cut off to violating properties.

The municipality has adopted several measures to tackle this issue, most notably Bachelors Law No. 92/125 and Resolution No. 39/2019, which ban bachelors from residing in residential areas and require property owners to vacate such tenants immediately. Resolution No. 8/2021 also established an executive mechanism for enforcement in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

Kuwait Amir's

Nearly three dozen countries, including some from Europe and the Middle East, are represented at the summit. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was invited but declined, with his office saying it was too close to a Jewish holiday.

Despite unanswered questions about next steps in Gaza, which has been devastated during the conflict, Trump is determined to seize an opportunity to chase an elusive regional harmony.

"We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put the old feuds and bitter hatreds behind us, and to declare that our future will not be ruled by the fights of generations past," Trump plans to say during the summit, according to excerpts released by the White House.

He expressed a similar sense of finality about the war in his speech at the Knesset, which welcomed him as a hero.

"You've won," he told Israeli lawmakers. "Now it is time to translate these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity for the entire Middle East."

Trump promised to help rebuild Gaza, and he urged Palestinians to "turn forever from the path of terror and violence." "After tremendous pain and death and hardship," he said, "now is the time to concentrate on building their people up instead of trying to tear Israel down."

Trump even made a gesture to Iran, where he bombed three nuclear sites during the country's brief war with Israel earlier this year, by saying "the hand of friendship and cooperation is always open."

Israel has rejected any role in Gaza for the internationally backed Palestinian Authority, whose leader, Mahmoud Abbas, arrived in the Egyptian Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh on Monday afternoon, ahead of the gathering.

The summit comes as Hamas released 20 remaining living Israeli hostages and Israel started to free hundreds of Palestinians from its prisons, crucial steps under the ceasefire that began on Friday.

But major questions remain unanswered over what happens next, raising the risk of a slide back into war - even as the world pushes for peace.

Trump has said there's a window to reshape the region and reset long-fraught relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

"The war is over, OK?" Trump told reporters traveling with him aboard Air Force One.

"I think people are tired of it," he said, emphasizing that he believed the ceasefire would hold because of that.

He said the chance of peace was enabled by his Republican administration's support of Israel's decimation of Iranian proxies, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The White House said momentum is also building because Arab and Muslim states are demonstrating a renewed focus on resolving the broader, decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict and, in some cases, deepening relations with the United States.

In February, Trump had predicted that Gaza could be redeveloped into what he called "the Riviera of the Middle East." But on Sunday aboard Air Force One, he was more circumspect.

"I don't know about the Riviera for a while," Trump said. "It's blasted. This is like a demolition site." But he said he hoped to one day visit the territory. "I'd like to put my feet on it, at least," he said.

The sides have not agreed on Gaza's postwar governance, the territory's reconstruction and Israel's demand that Hamas disarm. Negotiations over those issues could break down, and Israel has hinted it may resume military operations if its demands are not met.

Much of Gaza has been reduced to rubble, and the territory's roughly 2 million residents continue to struggle in desperate conditions. Under the deal, Israel agreed to reopen five border crossings, which will help ease the flow of food and other supplies into Gaza, parts of which are experiencing famine.

Roughly 200 U.S. troops will help support and monitor the ceasefire deal as part of a team that includes partner nations, nongovernmental organizations and private-sector players.

In a critical day for the Middle East, Hamas has released 20 Israeli hostages and Israel has released nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners under a breakthrough Gaza ceasefire deal.

U.S. President Donald Trump, whose administration brokered the deal, made a whirlwind visit to the region, first to Israel where he addressed the parliament to repeated applause. He landed Monday afternoon in Egypt for the "Summit of Peace" where world leaders are to discuss the ceasefire plan.

More ramped-up aid was being readied for Gaza, much of which is in ruins after two years of war that began when Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 as hostages. In Israel's ensuing offensive, more than 67,600 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

What we know and what remains unknown: Monday was day 738 since the hostages were taken, a number many Israelis have updated daily on strips of adhesive tape worn in a national commemoration.

Twenty living hostages were returned Monday to Israel to be reunited with their families and then transferred to hospitals, the Israeli military said.

Hamas first released seven and then 13 hostages. Israel meanwhile said it had freed over 1,900 Palestinian prisoners under the truce agreement. The ceasefire in the two-year Israel-Hamas war is the first phase of a plan brokered by the Trump administration.

Hamas said it will deliver on Monday four of the 28 remains of Israelis it holds in Gaza. It appeared unlikely that the other remains will be returned by the end of the day. Medical experts and advocates say that would be crucial to begin the healing process for many families, and for the Israeli society at large.

One ceasefire document contains stipulations for remains that aren't returned within 72 hours of the end of the fighting

- a deadline that expired around noon Monday. On Sunday, Israel said "an international body" will help locate the remains if they are not released on Monday.

Companies and

It prohibits any form of dealing in real estate, plots or land designated for private housing in any location or within any project, in a move aimed at protecting the residential character and preventing speculation in this vital sector.

Article Two of the decree clarifies that its provisions do not prejudice the right of entities subject to the supervision of the Central Bank of Kuwait or others to own real estate in accordance with the law. It affirmed that citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries shall continue to be treated the same as Kuwaitis with regard to ownership of land and built property in the State of Kuwait.

Article Three states that the ministers—each within their respective jurisdiction—shall be responsible for implementing the provisions of the decree, which shall take effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

Interior Minister

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef underscored the importance of modern technology in support of field operations and commended national talent behind the project.

The ministry said it will continue upgrading security systems and deploying advanced technology to strengthen public safety.



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'DC is under attack as at no other time in recent history'

Trump's intervention in Washington prompts calls for 18-term House delegate to step down

WASHINGTON, Oct 13, (AP): Troops patrol train stations and streets in the nation's capital. Masked federal law enforcement agents detain District of Columbia residents. Congress passes bills that further squeeze the city's autonomy. And the one person who could act as a voice for Washington on Capitol Hill has been a rare sight.

Even longtime allies say Democrat Eleanor Holmes Norton, the district's non-voting delegate in the House, has not risen to the challenge of pushing back against the Trump administration's intervention into her city. They cite her age, 88, and her diminished demeanor.

That has raised questions about the 18-term lawmaker's future in that office and has led to calls for her to step aside and make way for a new generation of leaders. The race to replace her has begun in earnest, with two members of the DC Council, including a former Norton aide, announcing campaigns for the 2026 contest.

"DC is under attack as at no other time in recent history, and we need a new champion to defend us," Donna Brazile, a onetime Norton chief of staff, wrote in a Washington Post opinion essay.

Brazile acknowledged Norton's legendary service and why she might wish to continue. "As I've told her in person," Brazile said, "retirement from Congress is the right next chapter for her - and for the District."

Norton has so far resisted that call. Her office declined to make her available for an interview and her campaign office did not respond to requests for comment. The oldest member of the House, Norton came to office in 1991 and has indicated she plans to run next year.

Washington is granted autonomy through a limited home rule agreement passed by Congress in 1973 that allowed residents to elect a mayor and a city council. But federal political leaders retain ultimate control over local affairs, including the approval of the budget and laws passed by that council.

That freedom came under further restrictions after Republican President Donald Trump issued an emergency order in August. It was meant to combat crime as he federalized the city's police department and poured federal agents and National Guard troops into the city. Trump's emergency order expired in September, but the troops and federal officers remain.



Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC, (center), is joined by Rep Judy Chu, D-Calif. (far left), and Rep Jesus Garcia, D-Ill. (right), at a news conference opposing President Trump's deployment of National Guard troops and federal law enforcement officers to combat crime on the streets of Chicago, Baltimore, and other American cities, at the Capitol in Washington on Sept 3. (AP)

While the DC delegate position is a nonvoting one, it grants the people of the district, who have no other representation in Congress, a voice through speechmaking on the House floor and bill introduction.

Even without a vote in Congress, "there are so many things that the delegate can do from that position, even if it's just using the bully pulpit," said Cliff

Albright, co-founder of Black Voters Matter, a voting rights group. "Even if it's just giving folks encouragement or showing that fight that a lot of people want to see." At public appearances, Norton has seemed unsteady and struggled to read from prepared notes, including at a recent committee hearing focused on stripping some of Washington's independence on prosecuting crime.

During Trump's monthlong security emergency and since, Norton has not been as publicly visible as city officials, who attended protests and held media events denouncing the intervention.

Without a push for party unity from congressional leaders on Washington's interests, the delegate's role has added importance, said George Derek Musgrove, associate professor of history at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

"The delegate really has to be a one-person whip operation to try and hold the caucus in line against this Republican onslaught," Musgrove said.

It is unclear what a more energetic delegate could have done, given Trump's expansive view of executive power and Republican control of Congress. Nonetheless, some critics of her performance have suggested it might have helped the city avoid a recent federal budget plan that created a \$1.1 billion budget hole earlier this year. Months later, Congress has yet to approve a fix for the shortfall, even though Trump has endorsed one.

With Norton quiet, other leaders in the Democratic-run city have filled the void since Trump's emergency declaration.

Mayor Muriel Bowser has stepped in as the district's main mediator with the administration and Congress, joined by the council, although that outreach has been fragmented. D.C. Attorney General Brian Schwab sued the administration in the most combative stance against the federal government's actions.

As she left a recent House hearing about the district, she responded with a strong "no" when asked by reporters whether she would retire.

Among those seeking to challenge her in next year's Democratic primary are two council members - Robert White Jr., a former Norton aide, and Brooke Pinto. Many others in the city have expressed interest. Allies, including Bowser and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, have declined to publicly endorse another Norton run.

Biden receiving radiation, hormone therapy to treat prostate cancer

WASHINGTON, Oct 13, (AP): Former US president Joe Biden is receiving radiation and hormone therapy as part of a new phase of treating the aggressive form of prostate cancer he was diagnosed with after leaving office, a spokesperson said Saturday.

"As part of a treatment plan for prostate cancer, President Biden is currently undergoing radiation therapy and hormone treatment," said Biden aide Kelly Scully.

The 82-year-old Democrat left office in January after he had dropped his bid for re-election six months earlier following a disastrous debate against Republican Donald Trump amid concerns about Biden's age, health and mental fitness. Trump defeated Democrat Kamala Harris, who was Biden's vice president.

In May, Biden's postpresidential office announced that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer and that it had spread to his bone. The discovery came after he reported urinary symptoms.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump is in "exceptional health," his physician said after he underwent a checkup that included lab tests and preventive health assessments at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.



US President Joe Biden walks out to speak at the International African American Museum in Charleston, SC on Jan 19. (AP)

Trump spent roughly three hours at the Bethesda, Maryland, hospital earlier Friday for what his doctor, Navy Capt. Sean Barbabella, called a "scheduled follow-up evaluation" that was a "part of his ongoing health maintenance plan." While there, Trump also got his yearly flu shot, as well as a COVID-19 booster vaccine.

"President Donald J. Trump re-

mains in exceptional health, exhibiting strong cardiovascular, pulmonary, neurological and physical performance," Barbabella wrote in a one-page memo released Friday night by the White House. The doctor noted in the memo that the evaluation helped prepare for Trump's upcoming overseas trips and included advanced imaging, lab testing and preventive health assessments.

Federal shutdown enters 12th day

Deeper cuts ahead for workers: VP

WASHINGTON, Oct 13, (AP): US Vice President JD Vance on Sunday said there will be deeper cuts to the federal workforce the longer the government shutdown goes on, adding to the uncertainty facing hundreds of thousands who are already furloughed without pay amid the stubborn stalemate in Congress.

Vance warned that as the federal shutdown entered its 12th day, the new cuts would be "painful," even as he said the Trump administration worked to ensure that the military is paid this week and some services would be preserved for low-income Americans, including food assistance.

Still, hundreds of thousands of government workers have been furloughed in recent days and, in a court filing on Friday, the Office of Management and Budget said well over 4,000 federal employees would soon be fired in conjunction with the shutdown. The effects of the shutdown also grew Sunday with the Smithsonian announcing its museums, research centers and the National Zoo are temporarily closing going forward for lack of funding.

"The longer this goes on, the deeper the cuts are going to be," Vance said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures." "To be clear, some of these cuts are going to be painful. This is not a situation that we relish. This is not



US Vice President JD Vance, gestures while speaking with reporters in the James Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House on Oct 1, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

something that we're looking forward to, but the Democrats have dealt us a pretty difficult set of cards."

Labor unions have already filed a lawsuit to stop the aggressive move by President Donald Trump's budget office, which goes far beyond what usually happens in a government shutdown, further inflaming tensions between the Republicans who control Congress and the Democratic minority.

The shutdown began on Oct. 1 af-

ter Democrats rejected a short-term funding fix and demanded that the bill include an extension of federal subsidies for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. The expiration of those subsidies at the end of the year will result in monthly cost increases for millions.

Trump and Republican leaders have said they are open to negotiations on the health subsidies, but insist the government must reopen first.

Sarkozy informed of when, where to report to jail

French PM Lecornu announces new cabinet

PARIS, Oct 13, (AP): France's newly reappointed Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu named a new government Sunday, as he faces pressure to urgently produce a budget and quell political turmoil that is scaring businesses and investors and staining the country's image.

The Cabinet includes several familiar faces from previous governments who hail from French President Emmanuel Macron's centrist camp as well as allied conservatives, and some people from outside the political sphere.

It is unclear how long this new team will last. Macron, whose term ends in 2027, lacks a majority in the deeply fractured parliament and is losing support from his own ranks. Meanwhile Marine Le Pen's ascendant far-right National Rally party is calling for new elections, while far-left France Unbowed wants the president to resign.

Also:

PARIS: France's financial prosecution office informed former French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Monday which prison to report to and



Reappointed French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu shakes hands with policemen as he visits a police station in L'Hay-les-Roses, outside Paris on Oct 11. (AP)

when, pending his appeal after being sentenced to five years for criminal conspiracy involving the use of funds from Libya to finance his winning 2007 campaign. The details were not immediately made public.

Sarkozy, the first ex-president in modern French history to be imprisoned, has maintained his innocence and has protested the decision to be put behind bars while waiting for the result of his appeal.



High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas, (right), and Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha, (second from left), attend a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Oct 13, in Kyiv, Ukraine. (AP)

'US may send Ukraine Tomahawks if Moscow doesn't settle war soon'

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE, Oct 13, (AP): US President Donald Trump on Sunday warned Russia that he may send Ukraine long-range Tomahawk missiles if Moscow doesn't settle its war there soon - suggesting that he could be ready to increase the pressure on Vladimir Putin's government using a key weapons system.

"I might say, 'Look: if this war is not going to get settled, I'm going to send them Tomahawks,'" Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to Israel. "The Tomahawk is an incredible weapon, very offensive weapon. And honestly, Russia does not need that."

Trump also said, "I might tell them that if the war is not settled -- that we may very well." He added, "We may not, but we may do it. I think it's ap-

propriate to bring up."

His comments came after Trump spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and Trump said he mentioned possibly sending Tomahawks during that conversation.

"Do they want to have Tomahawks going in that direction? I don't think so," Trump said of Russia. "I think I might speak to Russia about that." He added that "Tomahawks are a new step of aggression."

His suggestions followed Russia having attacked Ukraine's power grid overnight, part of an ongoing campaign to cripple Ukrainian energy infrastructure before winter. Moscow also expressed "extreme concern" over the US potentially providing Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine.

Putin himself has previously sug-

gested that the United States supplying long-range missiles to Ukraine will seriously damage relations between Moscow and Washington.

For his part, Zelenskyy described his latest call with Trump as "very productive," and said the pair had discussed strengthening Ukraine's "air defense, resilience, and long-range capabilities," along with "details related to the energy sector."

In an interview with Fox News Channel's "The Sunday Briefing" after his call with Trump, Zelenskyy was asked whether Trump had approved the Tomahawks and said, "we work on it."

"I'm waiting for president to yes," Zelenskyy said. "Of course we count on such decisions, but we will see. We will see."

Europe

2 trains collide in Slovakia, dozens hurt: Two fast trains collided in eastern Slovakia on Monday, injuring dozens of passengers, including two in critical condition, officials said.

The crash occurred near the town of Rožňava shortly after 10 a.m. local time (0800 GMT). The Slovak Railways said, Slovak police said that about 80 passengers were estimated to be onboard, but didn't immediately offer more details.

Interior Minister Matúš Štáňo said two of the injured were in critical condition while the other injuries

weren't serious.

Images from the collision showed the front part of one engine badly damaged, while the other train derailed. (AP)

□ □ □

Lisbon voters re-elect mayor: Voters have returned Lisbon's mayor to office in Portugal's municipal elections, less than six weeks after a streetcar crash in the Portuguese capital killed 16 people, including 11 tourists, and caused a public outcry.

Mayor Carlos Moedas, heading a right-of-center coalition, won 42% of the vote in Lisbon, compared with 34% for second-placed left-of-center leader Alexandra Leitão, according to official results published late Sunday. (AP)

Germany prez accepts invitation for state visit to UK in December

LONDON, Oct 13, (AP): Germany's president will make a state visit to the United Kingdom in early December, Buckingham Palace said Monday.

King Charles III and Queen Camilla will host Frank-Walter Steinmeier and first lady Elke Bundenbender at Windsor Castle from Dec 3-5.

While Steinmeier has visited the UK on a number of occasions, the trip will mark the first time since 1958 that the German head of state will be feted with a formal state visit - a unique experience for any visiting dignitary.

Such visits involve all the best in pomp and pageantry that Britain can offer, including salutes from soldiers in tall bearskin hats, carriage rides and a lavish state banquet. The events often celebrate the close ties between Britain and its allies, but they can also be used to put pressure on less friendly states to make concessions.

Invitations for state visits are made by the monarch at the request of the elected government.

Charles visited Germany in 2023 on his first foreign trip as Britain's mon-



German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, (right), and his wife Elke Bundenbender, (left), welcome Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla, in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin on March 29, 2023. (AP)

arch, hoping to improve the UK's relations with the European Union and show he can win hearts and minds abroad, just as his mother did for seven decades.

In a speech in which the king flipped from English to German, Charles

stressed the close bonds between the United Kingdom and Germany going back centuries, including his own family links to the royal House of Hannover and the present-day economic, scientific, cultural and military cooperation between the two countries.

INTERNATIONAL

Asia

Nauru leader Adeang re-elected to parliament: Incumbent President David Adeang has been re-elected to Nauru's parliament in the Micronesian nation's general election.

Adeang, who has served as president since October 2023, was one of 19 members of parliament elected to represent Nauru's eight multi-member constituencies at the election on Saturday.

According to official results shared by the Nauru Electoral Commission on social media on Sunday and Monday, Adeang received the highest number of votes out of four MPs elected to represent Ubenide, which is Nauru's most populous constituency.

However, his re-election as an MP does not mean that Adeang will continue as president, with the new parliament to choose the nation's leader from among its ranks.

Russ Kun, who preceded Adeang as president, was re-elected as an MP with the third-most votes in Ubenide and Lionel Aingimea, who was president between 2019 and 2022, received the most votes in the constituency of Meneng.

Nauru uses the preferential voting system, where voters rank candidates in order of preference, and parliament elects the country's president. (Xinhua)

S.Korea's Lee approval rating falls to 64.8 pct: South Korean President Lee Jae-myung's approval rating fell 2.6 percentage points to 64.8 percent last week compared to the fourth week of September, a weekly poll showed Monday.

The negative assessment on Lee's conduct of state affairs increased 3.0 percentage points to 34.6 percent, according to computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) by local pollster Flower Research.



Adeang

The survey in the first week of this month was omitted amid the Chuseok holiday, the South Korean version of Thanksgiving Day.

The ruling liberal Democratic Party's support advanced 1.9 percentage points to 53.3 percent, while the conservative opposition People Power Party's approval score gained 1.5 percentage points to 29.0 percent.

Support rate for the minor left-leaning Rebuilding Korea Party and the minor rightist New Reform Party logged 2.6 percent and 2.8 percent each last week.

The pollster's separate survey of the automated response system (ARS) showed that Lee's approval rating declined 4.6 percentage points to 56.4 percent last week compared to two weeks earlier.

The CATI and the ARS surveyed 1,011 and 1,009 voters each from Friday to Saturday. They had a plus and minus 3.1 percentage points in margin of error with a confidence level of 95 percent. (Xinhua)

'Govt uses all available laws to deal with Qantas': Australia's Minister for Home Affairs Tony Burke said on Monday that the federal government will use all available laws to deal with the Qantas data breach, involving the personal data of about 5.7 million customers.

Burke told Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio on Monday morning that Qantas has the obligation to provide cybersecurity, which doesn't just mean having the right technical measures in place but also means making sure that its staff are fully trained.

The airline on Sunday confirmed that it was one of a number of companies globally to have had stolen data released by a hacker group that targeted customers of software giant Salesforce between April 2024 and September 2025. The personal data of 5.7 million Qantas customers, including names, frequent flyer numbers, contact details and birth dates, was stolen in the attack on June 30. Qantas said in July that the hacker group had targeted a third-party system used by an offshore Qantas call center.

According to local industry publication Information & Data Manager, Qantas could face substantial penalties if the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) determines the breach constitutes a "serious interference with privacy." (Xinhua)



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, co-chairs the fourth round of China-Switzerland Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Swiss Federal Councillor and Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis in Bellinzona, Switzerland on Oct 10. (Xinhua)

Chinese FM invites Swiss to visit China to expand cooperation

China welcomes more Swiss friends to become "new-era Walter Bosshards," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks at a reception hosted by Swiss Federal Councillor and Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis in Bellinzona, where he held exchanges with local officials.

Wang recalled that in the 1930s, Swiss journalist Walter Bosshard undertook an arduous journey to China, becoming the first European journalist to visit Yan'an, the CPC's wartime headquarters and key revolutionary base in Shaanxi, and interview Chairman Mao Zedong.

At a time when there were many false reports about the CPC in the international community, Bosshard,

drawing on his first-hand experience in Yan'an, wrote that China's hope lay in Yan'an, as the CPC represented a union of discipline and ideals, Wang said.

Wang said China is a country with a long history and one that is constantly developing and transforming. If any country in the world has undergone the greatest transformation and achieved the fastest growth, it would be China, he said. (Xinhua)

Philippines suspends in-person classes in Metro Manila

Inflation and corruption top concerns for Filipinos, says Pulse Asia Research Inc

MANILA, Oct 13, (Xinhua): Inflation and corruption are the top concerns for Filipinos, according to a nationwide survey by an independent polling firm released on Monday.

In a survey of 1,200 adults conducted in September, pollster Pulse Asia Research Inc said that 54 percent expressed concern about inflation and 51 percent about corruption.

"Amidst the ongoing congressional investigations into budget insertions and ghost infrastructure projects, 51 percent of Filipino adults cite the need to fight graft and corruption in government as a national concern that the incumbent administration needs to address immediately," the survey said.

It mentioned that this overall level of concern is essentially the same as that recorded on the issue of inflation (54 percent) -- "an issue that has consistently been the leading urgent national concern of adults in the country."

In distant third place is increasing the pay of workers, which is followed by a set of issues that includes fighting criminality, reducing poverty, fighting the widespread sale and use of illegal drugs, and creating more jobs.

In September, massive protests were held in Manila and other major cities across the Philippines, denouncing widespread corruption involving high-ranking officials overseeing the government's flood control and related projects.

Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos has described the alleged scale of corruption as "horrible."

Also:

MANILA: The Philippines' Department of Education (DepEd) has suspended face-to-face classes on Monday and Tuesday in public schools in Metro Manila due to influenza-like illnesses and recent earthquakes.

The DepEd said in an advisory released on Sunday that the two-day suspension aims to "provide time for disinfection, sanitation, and building inspection" of public schools in Metro Manila.

The advisory did not provide the number of cases of the respiratory illness.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), the number of influenza-like illnesses at the national level is 8 percent lower this year than last year, with 121,716 cases recorded from January to Sept. 27 this year, compared to 132,538 cases



In this photo provided by the Bureau of Fire Protection, firefighters wear protective suits as they respond to a chemical spill incident at the San Pedro College following a strong earthquake in Davao City, southern Philippines on Oct 10. (AP)

logged in the same period of last year.

"(The advisory) is a sound precaution for local and institutional health authorities to practice preventive measures to keep the number down," DOH spokesperson Albert Domingo said on Monday.

The DepEd also said it will conduct building inspections in schools in Metro Manila during the two-day school break following the recent earthquakes that shook various parts of the country.

During the two-day suspension, schools are directed to implement Alternative Delivery Modalities, using either synchronous or asynchronous learning methods. Enditem

Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos has directed government agencies to immediately evacuate people in the coastal areas threatened by a tsunami after a powerful earthquake struck off the coast of Davao Oriental province in the southern Philippines on Friday morning.

In a statement, Marcos urged people to "stay alert and calm," and "move to higher ground and stay away from the shore until authorities declare it safe."

"I have directed the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the Office of Civil Defense, the Armed Forces, the Philippine Coast Guard, and all concerned agencies to immediately carry out evacuations in coastal areas, activate emergency communication lines, and coordinate closely with local governments," he said.

The president said search, rescue, and relief operations are already being prepared and "will be deployed as soon as it is safe to do so."

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has downgraded the offshore earthquake from a magnitude 7.6 to 7.4.

In an updated bulletin, the institute said that the quake, which occurred at 9:43 a.m. local time (0143 GMT), struck at a depth of 23 kilometers, approximately 43 kilometers northeast of the municipality of Manay.

The institute also issued a tsunami warning in the coastal areas in Mindanao and at least three central Philippine provinces.

"These waves may continue for hours," the warning said, urging residents in the coastal areas to immediately evacuate to higher ground or move farther inland.

Many netizens shared their feelings and experiences of the earthquake on social media. Images showed part of a shopping mall that collapsed in Butuan City, Agusan del Norte, with debris crashing onto several parked cars.

The Davao International Airport sustained damage from the earthquake, according to local reports.

Local media have reported two deaths: a man from Mati City in Davao Oriental province who was reportedly crushed by a fallen wall in his house, and another buried in a landslide in Pantukan town in Davao de Oro province.



Demonstrators protest President Daniel Noboa's government, in Quito, Ecuador on Oct 12. (AP)

Protesters clash with police in Ecuador amid nationwide strike over fuel prices

QUITO, Ecuador, Oct 13, (Agencies): Crowds protesting a spike in fuel prices spilled into the streets of Ecuador's capital of Quito Sunday, burning tires, blocking roads and facing off against police officers who responded with volleys of tear gas.

It was the latest confrontation in a series of nationwide demonstrations testing President Daniel Noboa.

Protesters on Sunday whistled and chanted "Noboa out, out!" as they marched from southern Quito toward a park further north. Before they could reach the plaza, police officers on motorbikes dispersed the rally, firing tear gas into the crowd. No injuries were immediately reported.

Ecuador's largest Indigenous organization called the strikes 21 days ago in response to the removal of a fuel subsidy that raised the price of diesel from \$1.80 per gallon to \$2.80.

The protests have frequently turned violent, with one civilian reported killed so far, dozens injured and over a hundred arrested in clashes with police.

Noboa has imposed a state of emergency in 10 provinces, restricting public gatherings in Quito and other areas. Last week, protesters attacked Noboa's motorcade with rocks in a major escalation.

As the protests have been largely concentrated in the country's northern



Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa acknowledges supporters from the balcony of the presidential palace after his swearing-in ceremony for a second term in Quito, Ecuador, May 24. (AP)

provinces, Sunday's rally in Quito put authorities on high alert. Thousands of police in riot gear streamed into the capital in recent days.

The latest demonstration coincided with the Day of Interculturality and Plurinationality, Ecuador's replacement for Columbus Day that recognizes its Indigenous population rather than the Italian explorer's arrival in the

Americas in 1492.

The hike in fuel prices particularly affects Indigenous people who work in Ecuador's crucial agricultural, fishing and transport sectors.

President Noboa argues that the government needed to slash the \$1.1 billion subsidy to shore up the country's finances and combat rampant fuel smuggling across Ecuador's borders into Colombia and Peru.

But the measures drew widespread anger.

"The different social sectors, Indigenous movement, workers, youth, neighborhoods of Quito, peoples of Ecuador, we are rising up against the neoliberal and hunger-inducing policies of the dictator Noboa," Nelson Eraso, a union leader at Sunday's rally, told The Associated Press, referring to the government's subsidy removal and Noboa's other recent cost-cutting measures, like dismissal of thousands of public workers.

Noboa has toured several restive regions and provided bonuses to cash-strapped farmers and public transport workers. But he has refused to negotiate with the Indigenous federation.

Ecuadorian government said recently it had filed a criminal complaint over an alleged assassination attempt on Noboa during a visit to the southern province of Canar.

Bus crash in mountainous region of S.Africa kills at least 42 people

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 13, (AP): A bus veered off a road and plunged down an embankment on a steep mountain pass in northern South Africa, killing at least 42 people and leaving another 49 passengers injured, authorities said Monday.

The crash happened around 6 p.m. Sunday on the N1 highway near the town of Louis Trichardt, around 400 kilometers (248 miles) north of the capital, Pretoria.

The Transport Ministry said in a statement that the victims included seven children, 17 men and 18 women. It said six people were critically injured and another 31 had serious injuries and had been taken to several hospitals. One critically injured child was airlifted to a hospital, the ministry said.

Images released by authorities showed the blue bus lying upside down in the embankment with rescuers working underneath it to search for victims. The Limpopo provincial government said rescue operations continued late into Sunday night.

The bus was traveling to Zimbabwe and was carrying Zimbabwean and Malawian nationals who were on their way to their home countries, the Transport Ministry said. It said the cause of the crash was not yet known.

In a statement, South African Presi-



In this photo made available by the South African Department of Transport and Community Safety, Police officers and emergency rescue workers search for victims from a bus lying upside down in the embankment, in Louis Trichardt, South Africa on Oct 12. (AP)

dent Cyril Ramaphosa offered "his deep condolences to the nations of Zimbabwe and Malawi who have lost compatriots." "This sadness is compounded by the fact that this incident has taken place during our annual transport month, where we place a special focus on the importance of safety on our roads," Ramaphosa said.

Last year, 45 people were killed in a bus crash in the same Limpopo province when their vehicle veered off a bridge and into a ravine. An 8-year-old girl was the only survivor of that crash. That bus was carrying mainly Botswana nationals who were traveling to an Easter church gathering in South Africa.

Mexico looks for missing people after rains kill 64

POZA RICA, Mexico, Oct 13, (AP): The death toll from Mexico's torrential rains rose to 64 on Monday as the fall-out mounted from flooding and landslides in different states around the country, as the authorities were rushing to help affected residents, look for missing people and try to clean several areas.

Days after heavy rains drenched several parts of Mexico, the country saw over the weekend the extension of devastation in some states, where the flooding swept away vehicles and destroyed houses and roads.

President Claudia Sheinbaum traveled to some of the states and said the government will begin a census among affected people to distribute aid.

Mexico's Civil Protection agency said as of Sunday night, the heavy rains had killed 18 people in Veracruz state on the Gulf Coast and 16 people in Hidalgo state, north of Mexico City.

At least 12 people were killed in Puebla, east of Mexico City. Earlier, in the central state of Querétaro, a child died being caught in a landslide. That toll could still rise as rescue workers continued to dig through sodden villages clogged with mud and debris on Sunday.



Sheinbaum

Africa

SAF claims killing of over 100 RSF fighters:

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) said on Sunday that more than 100 fighters from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were killed in battles in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State in western Sudan.

In a statement, the SAF's 6th Infantry Division said it had "successfully repelled a fierce attack launched by the militia on the city of El Fasher early Sunday."

"Our forces bravely confronted the attackers, inflicting heavy losses in personnel and equipment, with more than 100 militia fighters killed and others wounded," it added. (AP)

Ivory Coast arrests 237 protesters: At least 237 people were arrested Saturday in Ivory Coast during a protest against what activists called the country's authoritarian drift, according to a statement by the Minister of the Interior and Security on national television.

Protesters reported the use of tear gas and makeshift roadblocks near the planned start of the march.

Ivory Coast, a nation of 32 million and the largest economy in Francophone West Africa, is due to hold a presidential election in two weeks.

Earlier this year, four main opposition figures, including former President Laurent Gbagbo and former Credit Suisse chief executive Tidjane Thiam, were barred from running by the electoral commission. (AP)

Dollar stable at KD 0.305

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): The US dollar exchange rate against the Kuwaiti dinar stabilized at KD 0.305 on Monday, while the euro rose 0.03 percent to KD 0.355 compared to yesterday's rates.

The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said in its daily bulletin on its website that the British pound stabilized at KD 0.408, while the Swiss franc went down 0.22 percent to KD 0.381. The Japanese yen stabilized at KD 0.002.

Business

The new feature offers a faster and safer way to provision cards for Apple Wallet

NBK becomes the first bank in GCC & Middle East to launch 'Tap-to-Add with PIN'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced it will be the first bank in the GCC and Middle East to launch the new Tap-to-Add Card with PIN feature on Apple Pay, enabling customers to instantly add their NBK Mastercard cards to Apple Wallet by simply tapping their physical card on their iPhone and entering their PIN. The feature is now available with iOS 26.

This launch marks another milestone in NBK's digital transformation journey and reflects the Bank's commitment to offering customers faster, simpler, and more secure digital banking experiences. By eliminating the need for manual data entry, Tap-to-Add Card with PIN makes onboarding seamless and reinforces NBK's strategy of delivering innovative, customer-first solutions.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Mo-

Al-Othman: A significant step forward in NBK's digital transformation journey
Cakar: This collaboration with NBK pushes digital finance boundaries

ammed Al-Othman, Chief Executive Officer, Consumer and Digital Banking Group at National Bank of Kuwait, said: "This achievement marks a significant step forward in our digital transformation journey. With Apple introducing this digital advancement first through NBK in the GCC and the Middle East. This step reinforces our position as a regional pioneer in delivering secure and streamlined digital banking experiences."

Echoing this vision, Erdem Cakar, Country Manager, Qatar & Kuwait at Mastercard, said: "This collaboration with NBK pushes digital finance boundaries, demonstrating our com-

mitment to intelligent, seamless payment experiences. With Apple's technology, Mastercard's network, and NBK's forward-looking approach, we enhance seamless and secure payments for Kuwaitis."

Aligned with its strategic digital agenda, NBK invests in next-generation technologies to strengthen its leadership in payments, security, and customer experience. This launch complements its vision to accelerate the shift toward a cashless society, foster financial inclusion, and position Kuwait as a regional innovation hub. By embedding advanced digital



Mohammed Al-Othman

capabilities in everyday banking, NBK aims to create long-term value for customers, shareholders, and the economy.



Supports debit, prepaid, and 'Jeel' cards

Weyay Bank is first digital bank in Middle East to launch 'Tap-to-Add with PIN' for adding bank cards to Apple Pay

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Weyay Bank has announced the launch of its "Tap-to-Add with PIN" feature with "Apple Pay", making it the first digital bank in the Middle East to offer this service.

This new feature allows customers to instantly add their Weyay bank card to their Apple Wallet without the need for manual card data entry or multiple steps. By simply holding a card near the back of an iPhone and entering the PIN, the card is ready for use with "Apple Pay" in just seconds. This feature is available for all Weyay cards, including the debit card, prepaid cards, and the "Jeel" card for users aged 13 and above who are eligible to use "Apple Pay".

This initiative is part of Weyay Bank's commitment to providing a seamless payment experience for its customers by enabling quick card activation. It enhances the security and convenience of electronic payments, which is a key part of Weyay's vision to offer smart banking solutions that fit the lifestyle of its customers, especially the youth.

Weyay Bank is proud to be the first digital bank in the region to introduce "Tap-to-Add with PIN" for "Apple Pay". This innovative feature, reflecting the bank's commitment to simplifying banking, enables



customers to add their cards to "Apple Pay" with just a single tap. It offers a seamless and secure experience, placing convenience at the forefront of the customer's financial journey. This launch reinforces Weyay Bank's position as a leader in digital banking innovation and highlights its dedication to delivering cutting-edge solutions that meet the evolving needs of users.

Alongside the launch of this new feature, Weyay Bank continues to advance its digital services with the recent introduction of automatic top-up for prepaid cards. By enabling the auto-transfer option through the Weyay app, customers no longer need to take multiple steps when their card balance runs low. This ensures continuous access to funds, allowing users to make payments and transactions smoothly and without interruption—ultimately enhancing their overall digital experience.

Weyay Bank continues to provide innovative digital banking solutions specifically designed to meet the aspirations of the new generation in Kuwait. These efforts enrich the banking experience for its customers and reinforce its position at the forefront of digital transformation in the Kuwaiti banking sector.

Empowering financial professionals

The UIC organizes training on futures contracts & valuation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Amid profound transformations reshaping the global financial system, derivative instruments have emerged as a cornerstone for policymakers, investors, asset managers, and investment banks. Once viewed merely as speculative tools, derivatives are today a strategic infrastructure that enables markets to forecast prices, distribute risk, create advanced liquidity structures, and ensure pricing stability across short- and long-term horizons.

In this evolving financial landscape, the Union of Investment Companies (UIC) through its training arm, the Investment Studies Center (ISC), successfully organized a specialized professional training program entitled: "Future Contracts Characteristics and Valuation." The program was held on October 12-13, 2025 at UIC headquarters, with the participation of leading figures from the financial and investment sectors, senior asset managers, analysts, and regulatory specialists.

From Traditional Investment to Dynamic Risk Management

Global financial markets are witnessing a structural shift in investment philosophy. Once dominated by conventional instruments such as equities, bonds, and real estate, today's markets rely on advanced financial tools – including futures, forwards, swaps, and options. These instruments allow institutions to transition from expectation-driven investing to strategy-based risk management, enabling hedging against price volatility, securing long-term investment positions, managing liquidity flows more efficiently, and enhancing overall market stability.

Futures Contracts: Definition and Strategic Role

Futures contracts are legally binding agreements to buy or sell a financial asset or commodity at a predetermined price and date. They are similar to forward contracts in principle, but differ in key aspects: they are traded on regulated exchanges, cleared through clearinghouses that guarantee settlement, supervised by regulatory bodies, and provide higher liquidity and transparency.

During the training, participants gained a clear understanding of forward commitments versus contingent claims, the relationship between futures prices and spot markets, and the role of interest rates in determining fair value.

Daily Settlement Mechanisms and the Role of Clearinghouses

One of the most powerful features of futures contracts is the Mark-to-Market daily settlement mechanism, which recalculates traders' positions at the end of each trading day. This approach minimizes counterparty risk and enhances market integrity. Clearinghouses act as the central counterparty to all transactions, ensuring contract fulfillment and removing bilateral credit risk. The training highlighted the role of initial and maintenance margins, how margin calls protect against extreme volatility, and how these mechanisms strengthen overall financial stability.

The Economic Dimension of Derivatives

Derivatives are not just trading instruments – they serve as economic indicators of future market expectations, a means to redistribute risk among

market participants, and an effective liquidity enhancer. Global benchmarks, such as crude oil or gold futures, are closely monitored by investors and central banks to gauge market sentiment and guide policy responses. This underscores why mastering derivatives is critical for markets seeking deeper integration with the global financial system.

Case Study: Crude Oil as a Global Indicator

The program explored crude oil futures as a key practical example, demonstrating how producers, consumers, and institutional investors use these contracts to hedge against price fluctuations. Discussions also addressed how professional traders and hedge funds shape forward curves, distinguishing between Contango (futures prices trading at a premium) and Backwardation (futures trading at a discount). These structures influence both hedging strategies and profit opportunities.

Technical and Financial Analysis of Futures

Participants examined in depth the mathematical relationship between spot prices and futures prices, with particular focus on the no-arbitrage pricing principle.

Adjustments under the cost of carry model, including storage costs and non-monetary yields, were also discussed. The distinction between contract value and contract price over the life of the agreement was illustrated using real-world examples involving commodities such as gold and major indices.

Additional Case Studies: Gold and Currencies

The program also analyzed gold futures – one of the world's most actively traded contracts – exploring how interest rates, storage costs, and convenience yield affect pricing. Another focus was on currency futures, highlighting how central banks and financial institutions use them to hedge exchange-rate risks and ensure cash flow stability.

Impact on Participants

Participants unanimously expressed that the program exceeded their expectations. It provided advanced pricing and valuation skills, deeper understanding of global futures markets, tools for dynamic hedging, and greater confidence in making data-driven investment decisions.

The Role of the Investment Studies Center

ISC stressed that this program is part of a broader strategy to promote financial literacy and advanced investment knowledge, support Kuwait's financial transformation, build a specialized professional community capable of regional and global competition, and contribute to shaping a regulatory environment that fosters innovation and market depth.

Conclusion

UIC affirms that specialized financial knowledge is the real infrastructure of any competitive economy. Through this advanced program, UIC and ISCAffirm the importance of Kuwait's financial market remaining aligned with international best practices, and its ability to confidently adapt to global developments.

"Mastering futures contracts is not merely theoretical knowledge – it is the key to risk management in a world defined by volatility." – Union of Investment Companies (UIC)

Main Market leads gains with 1.04% increase

Boursa Kuwait closes higher as ASI gains 0.73%

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Monday's session on a positive note, with the All Share Index climbing 64.29 points, or 0.73 percent, to close at 8,840.28 points.

Trading activity saw a total of 892.15 million shares exchanged through 39,351 transactions, with a total value of KD 153.3 million (USD 467.5 million).

The Main Market Index advanced 88.17 points, or 1.04 percent, finishing at 8,579.71 points. This came on the back of trading 626.3 million shares worth KD 80.2 million (USD 244.6 million) across 27,801 transactions.

The Premier Market Index also moved higher, gaining 61.51 points, or 0.66 percent, to settle at 9,342.07 points. A total of 265.8 million shares were traded in this category through 11,550 transactions, with a value of KD 73.1 million (USD 222.9 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index recorded the strongest performance of the day, surging 155.06 points, or 1.78 percent, to reach 8,867.37 points.

Trading for this segment included 423.4 million shares across 16,363 deals, amounting to KD 54.12 million (approximately USD 165 million).

Bank reinforces leadership in Kuwait's financial innovation

ABK continues to enhance its mobile banking app with cutting-edge features & innovations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: In line with its commitment to staying at the forefront of digital developments and providing the best banking services and solutions, Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) continues to advance the capabilities of its mobile banking application, reinforcing its position as a leading institution driving digital transformation in Kuwait's financial sector.

Digital transformation remains a cornerstone of ABK's strategy to enhance the quality of its banking services for all customer segments, solidifying its standing as one of the key players embracing rapid technological evolution locally, regionally, and globally.

The ABK mobile app stands as a testament to the Bank's efforts to introduce new features that elevate customer satisfaction and meet their growing expectations for a secure, seamless, and round-the-clock banking experience.

Recently redesigned with a completely new interface, the app now offers over 30 diversified services, enabling users to complete their transactions within seconds from anywhere at any time making it an integral part of their daily lives.

The vision behind the app's continued development stems from ABK's deep understanding of the accelerating shift toward mobile-based banking. As more customers favor digital platforms, the Bank aims to meet this rising demand with user-centric solutions that combine convenience, security, and innovation.

Serving as one of ABK's primary digital channels, the app seamlessly integrates with all other online banking touchpoints, connecting services into a unified ecosystem that enables customers to conduct their financial activities with confidence and ease.

On this occasion, Mohammad Al Qattan, Chief Consumer Officer at ABK, said, "Digital transformation is a strategic necessity and a direct response to the evolving landscape of customer expectations and the Bank takes pride in embracing technological advancement, as reflected in the continuous enhancement of its mobile app features and functionalities."

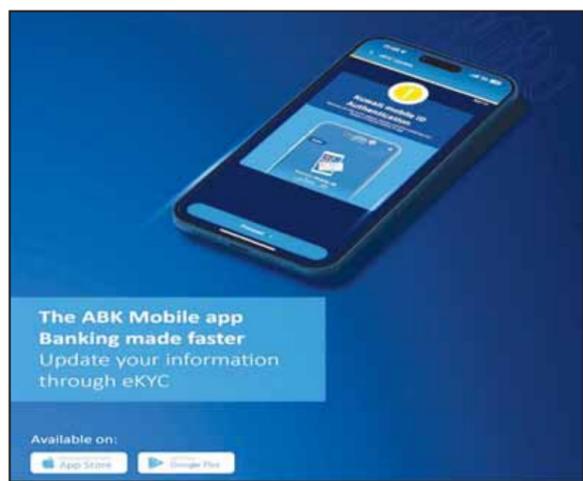
Mohammad Al Qattan emphasized



Mohammad Al Qattan, Chief Consumer Officer



Khalil Al Qattan, Chief Digital Transformation & Innovation Officer



that ABK continues to invest heavily in digital innovation, artificial intelligence, and modern financial technologies, enabling the Bank to deliver a customer experience that enhances satisfaction and provides the best digital banking services in the market. He also noted that ABK places priority on security, adopting the highest international standards to safeguard customer data and protect them

from potential risks. To achieve this, the Bank actively collaborates with leading global technology and cybersecurity firms to ensure that its digital ecosystem remains among the most trusted in the region.

Moreover, Khalil Al Qattan, Chief Digital Transformation and Innovation Officer, stated: "The mobile app was designed to ensure the smoothest pos-

sible banking journey, with a focus on providing users with a seamless and intuitive experience and that it serves as a platform anticipating the future needs of customers amid the rapid pace of digital advancement.

He also highlighted the app's speed, performance, and ease of navigation, emphasizing its use of the latest security protocols to protect user data and enable customers to manage their accounts and complete transactions without visiting a branch.

ABK's mobile app also offers a personalized service menu tailored to customer segments, delivering an exceptional and unique banking experience. It caters to three main segments: Retail, Elite, and Private Banking each designed around the customer's financial goals and lifestyle. This approach ensures that users receive services and advisory solutions that align with their individual needs, promoting better financial management and fostering deeper loyalty to the Bank.

Through the app, customers can access a wide range of digital services, including reactivating dormant accounts without visiting a branch, requesting credit or prepaid cards, adding beneficiaries via QR code, managing transfers electronically, updating "Know Your Customer" information, opening new accounts, printing salary certificates, and more.

ABK continues to refine and expand its mobile banking offering through collaboration among its internal teams, ensuring ongoing improvements in digital quality and customer experience.

Concluding his remarks, Khalil Al Qattan noted ABK's continued success in earning international recognition, having received multiple awards from Global Finance, including Best Consumer Digital Bank in the Middle East, Best User Experience (UX) Design in Kuwait, Best Mobile Banking App in Kuwait, Most Innovative Digital Bank in Kuwait, and Best in Transformation in Kuwait. These accolades underscore ABK's commitment to excellence in digital innovation, customer experience, and performance enhancement across all its operations.



Group photo during the event.

ALSAYER Group renews strategic partnership for the 4th edition of Kuwait National Robotics Competition to empower youth innovation



Photos during the Kuwait National Robotics Competition.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Reaffirming its commitment to community development and technological advancement, ALSAYER Group proudly renewed its strategic partnership for the 4th consecutive edition of the Kuwait National Robotics Championship (KNRC).

This continued collaboration underscores ALSAYER Group's dedication to nurturing young talents and supporting innovation and creativity in the fields of robotics and technology. Through active engagement in tournaments, competitions, and educational initiatives, ALSAYER work to inspire the next generation and enhance future employment prospects in the evolving digital landscape.

Mr. Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer, Executive Board Member and Sustainability Committee Chairman, stated, "It is a proud moment for ALSAYER Group to

continue our journey with the Kuwait National Robotics Competition (KNRC) 2025-2026 at the Strategic Partnership level, empowering youth through technological learning and innovation. Each year, this competition helps bridge the gap between global and local trends in digitization and modern technology, while providing Kuwaiti participants with valuable international exposure to global innovation platforms. We are proud to witness this progress made possible through the collaborative support of public and private partnerships. ALSAYER truly values the strategic alliance between the Department of Computer Science at the College of Science (Kuwait University), the Ministry of Education, the Youth Public Authority, and all private sector organizations working tirelessly to empower youth and contribute to Kuwait Vision 2035."

Eng. Nehad Al Haj Ali, Group Manager of Corporate Excellence Department at ALSAYER Group, added, "At ALSAYER, we believe that investing in young minds passionate about technological innovation and robotics will strengthen our society with their creativity, knowledge & drive for positive change. Their fresh ideas and technological skills are key to shaping a sustainable and competitive future for Kuwait."

The event reinforced the importance of investing in the next generation of innovators, emphasizing how early exposure to science, technology, and robotics can play a pivotal role in preparing students for the workforce of tomorrow and aligning their skills with global technological advancements.

Organized under its educational 'upgrade' initiative

stc hosts AI film workshop and screening festival in alliance with Shift Productions

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers enabling digital transformation in Kuwait, hosted an AI film workshop and screening festival in collaboration with the media agency specializing in AI film making, Shift Productions. The objective behind the initiative was to bring participants together to explore the creative potential and possibilities of AI film making through hands-on training delivered by a specialized AI trainer. The initiative was organized under the umbrella of stc's educational 'upgrade' initiative, which falls under one of the key pillars of its extensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) program.

The two-day workshop, led by AI Trainer, Abdulrahman Al-Khamees, introduced participants to creative AI-powered film production techniques and guided them in creating their own short films. Held at stc's headquarters, the program welcomed more than 30 participants from diverse age groups and backgrounds, reflecting growing interest in merging creativity with the latest AI film production technology. Participants were exposed to insights and guidelines that assisted them in creating their own unique productions, while utilizing Al-Khamees's expertise throughout their journey.

To celebrate the outcomes of the



Anoud Muthaib honors the participants and winners of the training course.



AI Trainer, Abdulrahman Al-Khamees presenting guidelines at the training course.

workshop, stc organized a dedicated AI Film Festival, in the presence of

Al Sudairy and Chief Transformation and Synergies Officer – Mrs. Anoud Muthaib, where participants

premiered their films. The festival served as a platform to highlight the innovative ways AI can enhance storytelling, empowering participants to experiment with cinematic techniques beyond traditional methods. The winners and participants were honored for their efforts and creative vision in producing AI films.

Commenting on the initiative, Ahmed Al Nowaibet, Director of Public Relations and Social Media at stc, said, "Through our educational 'upgrade' initiative, we at stc aim to educate and equip the younger generation with the tools and experiences that inspire innovation and creativity in today's evolving digital world. With the rise of AI tools and solutions that assist in film making and production, we believe that such workshops can grant participants the opportunity to express their creativity with fewer limitations and discover new possibilities."

Al Nowaibet added, "We would like to thank Shift Productions for their collaborative efforts in hosting this unique initiative. Their expertise and support contributed to a truly engaging experience. At stc, we continue to build strategic partnerships with leading institutions across the public and private sectors to deliver initiatives that reflect our CSR values and support our sustainability objectives. This in return positions stc as a pioneer and enabler of innovation, education, and community development."

Geopolitical factors weigh

KPC reports KD 1.36 bln profit for fiscal 2024/'25

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries announced that their net profits for fiscal 2024/2025 reached KD1.365 billion, compared to KD1.46 billion in fiscal 2023/2024.

Decree-Law No. 146/2025 was issued and published in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youm', approving the final accounts of KPC and its subsidiaries for the current fiscal year.

Article One of the decree states that the revenues of KPC and its subsidiaries for the current fiscal year amounted to KD30.06 billion, while expenditures reached KD28.697 billion.

Article Two states that the net profits of KPC and its subsidiaries for fiscal 2024/2025, amounted to KD1.365 billion, and it will be transferred to the general reserve of the corporation.

Article Three mandates the Prime Minister and the ministers to implement this decree, which takes effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

The introduction to this decree states that it was issued after reviewing the Constitution, the Amiri Order issued on May 10, 2024 and Decree-Law No. 31/1978 on the rules for preparing general budgets, monitoring their implementation, and the final accounts, and the laws amending it.

Decree-Law No. 146/2025 is based on Decree Law No. 6/1980 on establishing KPC amended by Law No. 54/1982, Decree Law No. 43/2024 linking the budget of KPC and its subsidiaries for fiscal

2024/2025, the decree issued on Jan 17, 1981 regarding the financial principles related to the marketing of State-owned crude oil and gas by KPC, proposal of the acting Minister of Finance, and approval of the Council of Ministers.

Reliable sources told the newspaper that the decline in profits of KPC and its subsidiaries in fiscal 2024/2025 compared to the previous fiscal year is due to the impact of the turbulent political events in the region. Sources said geopolitical factors played a significant role in oil supply operations, resulting in higher costs through other routes, in addition to the decline in oil prices during the past year and the year before, as well as the decline in demand for petroleum products.

Sources expect KPC's profits to grow in fiscal 2025/2026, considering the political calm in the region, particularly the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, as well as the gradual return of Kuwait's oil production quota by OPEC following the voluntary reduction of Kuwaiti oil production. Sources pointed out that Kuwait is one of the countries to implement voluntary reduction in production, in addition to the collective reduction.

Sources also cited the upcoming entry of Zour Refinery into production, with a capacity of 615,000 barrels per day, as among the factors supporting the profit growth of KPC in fiscal 2025/2026, not to mention the new local explorations, and petrochemical sector partnerships with China and some Asian countries.

Banking and real estate lead recent market rally

Kamco Invest strengthens its presence in Saudi Arabia's expanding investment landscape

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, reaffirmed its active engagement in providing portfolio management and advisory solutions that capitalize on the expanding investment landscape in Saudi Arabia, as the Kingdom's capital market continues to attract growing regional and international interest.

Recent market developments have further strengthened Saudi Arabia's position as a leading financial hub in the region, enhancing market liquidity, deepening institutional participation, and supporting the Kingdom's long-term capital market development goals. These positive dynamics reflect the continued success of regulatory reforms and economic diversification efforts under Vision 2030, which are fostering a more vibrant and inclusive investment environment.

In recent weeks, the Saudi stock market has witnessed a notable improvement in performance, with year-to-date losses narrowing significantly and investor confidence strengthening. The benchmark index saw broad-based gains led by the banking and real estate sectors, driven by optimism surrounding ongoing market reforms and improved global sentiment.

Commenting on the market developments, Salah A. Al Wuhaib, Managing Director of Equity and Fixed Income at Kamco Invest and Board Member at Kamco



Al Wuhaib: Saudi Arabia continues to represent a compelling investment destination within the region



Al-Faris: Kamco Invest is well-positioned to serve investors seeking exposure to the Saudi capital market

Invest - Saudi, said: "Saudi Arabia continues to represent a compelling investment destination within the region. The ongoing evolution of its capital markets is creating attractive opportunities for regional and international investors, supported by robust regulation, increased liquidity, and growing institutional participation."

Kamco Invest - Saudi has been serving institutional and high-net-worth clients in Saudi as well as regional and international investors seeking exposure to the Saudi market, offering discretionary and advisory portfolio management solutions that align with clients' long-term investment objectives. Kamco Invest - Saudi, combines its on-the-ground market knowledge with Kamco In-

vest's regional investment platform, leveraging disciplined research and robust governance to deliver value-driven results.

Mohammed Al-Faris, Chief Executive Officer of Kamco Invest - Saudi, commented: "Kamco Invest is well-positioned to serve investors seeking exposure to the Saudi capital market through a range of strategies, discretionary portfolio management, and advisory services. Our Saudi-based strategies rank among the top performers in their respective categories, supported by a solid track record spanning more than 15 years."

It is worth noting that the conventional equity strategy managed by Kamco Invest in the Kingdom is the largest in its category with capital of SAR1.2bn and has achieved 8.24% return in the first 9 months of 2025.

Al-Faris added: "We have recently relocated our office to the King Abdullah Financial District (KAFD) and have expanded our team in the Kingdom to provide enhanced service to our clients."

Al Wuhaib concluded: "As an established presence in the Kingdom, Kamco Invest remains committed to enabling clients to navigate this evolving market landscape and capture its sustainable growth potential. Furthermore, we are in the process of launching new products and services in the Saudi market, further expanding our on-ground capabilities to complement our existing portfolio management and advisory offerings."

Cementing its position as a market leader in human capital development

Burgan Bank receives Brandon Hall Gold Award of Excellence in Best Learning Strategy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Burgan Bank has once again been recognized on the global stage for its market-leading human capital development strategy for the third year in a row, receiving the prestigious Brandon Hall Group Human Capital Management (HCM) Gold Award of Excellence for "Shaping Culture Through Learning", under the "Best Learning Strategy" category.

This prestigious award reaffirms Burgan Bank's unwavering commitment to developing Kuwait's human capital as a cornerstone of sustainable business growth. It also reflects the Bank's mission to be an employer of choice, fostering a culture of continuous learning, innovation, and empowerment.

"We are honored and delighted to be recognized for the third time by the prestigious Brandon Hall Group for our ongoing efforts to foster a culture of continuous learning, which merges innovation, advanced Learning tools, and a deep understanding of our employees' and market's needs. Learning and Development (L&D) continues to be a strategic pillar upon which Burgan Bank's sustainable business growth rests," commented Mr. Bashar Al-Qattan, Executive Manager - Learning and Talent Development at Burgan Bank. "Among the factors that contribute to Burgan Bank's leading culture of continuous learning is paying equal attention to expanding employees' horizons of expertise as well as supporting their personal development, encouraging them to fulfill their potential in their careers



Bashar Al-Qattan, Executive Manager - Learning and Talent Development at Burgan Bank



Brandon Hall Gold Award of Excellence in Best Learning Strategy

and outside the workplace."

To guarantee an impartial evaluation of applications, Brandon Hall Group bases its selection of winners on the review and recommendations of a panel of independent senior industry experts. After reviewing various submissions from around the

world, the panel awarded Burgan Bank the Gold Award of Excellence for "Shaping Culture Through Learning" under the "Best Learning Strategy" category in recognition of its innovative methodology for reinforcing cooperation and the exchange of knowledge across the organization. Among the criteria of assessment was the seamless integration of Burgan Bank's learning and development program into its forward-looking future-focused strategies for business growth, sustainability, and ESG. In addition, winning entries were awarded for their excellence in deploying latest tools to create an engaging learning experience that guarantees a lasting impact on individuals and the institutional culture.

Burgan Bank's award-winning learning and talent development program and the culture of continuous learning it supports are ingrained in every employee's journey as soon as they are onboarded, whereby a learning trajectory is designed to encourage individuals' growth in their fields of expertise in line with their interests, skills, and preferred learning styles. This holistic learning approach takes many routes, including in-person mentorship, workshops, and support groups, as well as self-paced learning opportunities through various channels such as educational content posted to the Bank's employee social media page, LTD portal and valuable discussions recorded for the Bank's dedicated podcast.

Besides employees' individual learning and development journeys, Burgan Bank also continues to roll out a wide range of intensive, customized programs throughout the year, such as its flagship program for leadership development "Ro'ya". Other programs include "Entelaqah" for fresh graduate hires, Retail Banking Academy, Investment, Wealth Management Academy, "Burgan Lab Academy", and "Empower Her" initiative.

The Bank's presence at international events among the highly acclaimed pioneers and trailblazers is a testament to its unwavering commitment to achieving excellence on all fronts, from human resource management and development to business operations, community development, and more. This honor underscores the Bank's commitment to lasting progress and continuous innovation.

IMF-World Bank Autumn Meetings 2025 set in motion with Kuwait's participation

Kuwait delegation led by Finance Minister Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem

WASHINGTON, Oct 13, (KUNA): The 2025 Autumn Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank kicked off on Monday with participants, including Kuwait, set to discuss variety issues of financial and monetary issues.

Kuwait's delegation is expected to be headed by Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance, and Acting Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem.

The Autumn Meetings will continue until next Saturday, with discussions and meetings focusing on matters such as "Structural Shifts in Life Insurance and Implications for Financial Stability" and "Global Trade Policy Spillovers to ASEAN", both featured on the first day.

First-day discussions will also include "A Panorama of the External Financing

Landscape in Sub-Saharan Africa" and "Supply Chain Diversification and Resilience". The Autumn Meetings will also reveal statistics and data on a variety of issues and also will witness the release of the October 2025 Global Financial Stability Report.

The report provides an evaluation of the international financial system and markets as well as the funding of outlook for emerging markets within the global context.

A session on reconstructing Syria will be featured during the Autumn Meetings after years of war in the Middle Eastern country.

Syrian Finance Minister Mohammad Yisr Barnieh will brief the meeting on efforts to revive the economy with international partners and the involvement of the IMF and the World Bank.

Other sessions in the Autumn Meetings will include financial crimes, fraud, and corruption, and ways to tackle such alarming problems.

The Autumn Meetings are an annual event providing a platform for policymakers and international experts to discuss the current state of the world.

Committee warns: Growth depends on nurturing innovation

Nobel economics prize goes to 3 researchers for explaining innovation-driven economic growth

STOCKHOLM, Oct 13, (AP): Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt won the Nobel memorial prize in economics Monday for explaining how innovation creates new products and promotes economic growth and human welfare even as it leaves old businesses in the dust.

Their work was credited with helping economists better understand how new ideas and inventions come about - a process as old as steam locomotives replacing horse-drawn transport and as contemporary as e-commerce shuttering shopping malls.

Dutch-born Mokyr, 79, is at Northwestern University; Aghion, 69, at the Collège de France and the London School of Economics; and Canadian-born Howitt, 79, at Brown University.

The winners were credited with better explaining and quantifying "creative destruction," a key concept in economics that refers to the process in which beneficial new innovations replace - and thus destroy - older technologies and businesses.

The concept is usually associated with economist Joseph Schumpeter, who outlined it in his 1942 book "Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy." Schumpeter called the concept "the essential fact about capitalism."

Committee

The Nobel committee said Mokyr "demonstrated that if innovations are to succeed one another in a self-generating process, we not only need to know that something works, but we also need to have scientific explanations for why."

Aghion and Howitt studied the mechanisms behind sustained growth, including in a 1992 article where they constructed a complex mathematical model for creative destruction that added new aspects not included in earlier models.

Examples of creative destruction include e-commerce disrupting retail, streaming services replacing videocassette and DVD rentals and internet advertising undermining newspaper advertising.

The winners represent contrasting but complementary approaches to economics. Mokyr is an economic historian who delved into long-term trends using historical sources, while Howitt and Aghion relied on mathematics to explain how creative destruction works.

"The laureates' work shows that economic growth cannot be taken for granted. We must uphold the mechanisms that underlie creative destruction, so that we do not fall back into stagnation," said John Hassler, chair



Professor John Hassler, from left, Hans Ellegren, Permanent Secretary of the Academy of Sciences and Professor Kerstin Enflo, announce Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt as the recipients the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics during a press conference at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden, Monday, Oct. 13, 2025. (AP)

of the committee for the prize in economic sciences.

Mokyr has long been known as an optimist about recent technological innovation. About a decade ago, many economists took a more pessimistic view, arguing that inventions such as smart phones or even the internet had less of an economic impact than previous developments such as the airplane or the car.

Mokyr responded that because many new services were either so cheap or free, their impact wasn't evident in economic data, but they still provided enormous benefits.

In an interview with The Associated Press in 2015, he cited the music streaming service Spotify as an example of an "absolutely astonishing" innovation that economists had difficulty measuring. Mokyr noted he once owned more than 1,000 CDs and, before that, "I spent a large amount of my graduate student budget on vinyl records," but now he could access a huge music library for a small monthly fee.

The Nobel Committee noted that for much of human history, economic stagnation, rather than growth, was the norm. Starting with the industrial revolution in the 18th century, however, European and later other economies began to grow steadily.

In a 2000 paper, Mokyr credited

greater scientific research stemming from the Enlightenment with driving innovation and growth.

"The key to the Industrial Revolution was technology, and technology is knowledge," he wrote.

Mokyr acknowledged the links between knowledge, technology and growth seemed "so self-evident" but noted that "economists actually rarely have dealt with it explicitly."

Productivity

Innovation - and how to foster it - is an urgent question in Europe, where a report by former European Central Bank head Mario Draghi argued that Europe faces a rising productivity gap with the U.S. in digital technology. Aghion said the challenge was for Europe not to fall behind the U.S. and China in innovation but to promote research and the venture capital financing to turn ideas into businesses.

"We have fantastic basic research ... but we need to harness the full power of innovation," he said.

Mokyr was still trying to get his morning coffee when he was reached by an AP reporter. He said he was shocked to win the prize.

"People always say this, but in this case I am being truthful - I had no clue that anything like this was going to happen," he said.

His students had asked him about

the possibility he would win the Nobel, he said. "I told them that I was more likely to be elected pope than to win the Nobel prize in economics - and I am Jewish, by the way."

Mokyr will turn 80 next summer but said he has no plans to retire. "This is the type of job that I dreamed about my entire life," he said.

He then hung up to go walk his dog before heading in to Chicago.

One half of the 11 million Swedish kronor (nearly \$1.2 million) prize goes to Mokyr and the other half is shared by Aghion and Howitt. Winners also receive an 18-carat gold medal and a diploma.

The economics prize is formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The central bank established it in 1968 as a memorial to Nobel, the 19th-century Swedish businessman and chemist who invented dynamite and established the five Nobel Prizes.

Since then, it has been awarded 57 times to a total of 99 laureates. Only three of the winners have been women.

Nobel purists stress that the economics prize is technically not a Nobel Prize, but it is always presented together with the others on Dec. 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death in 1896.

Hiring expected to fall below 500K

Retailers delay seasonal hiring amid economic, tariff concern

NEW YORK, Oct 13 (AP): Uncertainty over the economy and tariffs is forcing retailers to pull back or delay plans to hire seasonal workers who pack orders at distribution centers, serve shoppers at stores and build holiday displays during the most important selling season of the year.

American Christmas LLC, which creates elaborate holiday installations for commercial properties such as New York's Rockefeller Center and Radio City Music Hall, plans to hire 220 temporary workers and is ramping up recruitment nearly two months later than usual. CEO Dan Casterella said. Last year, the company took on 300 people during its busy period.

The main reason? The company wants to offset its tariff bill, which Casterella expects to be as big as \$1.5 million this year, more than double last year's \$600,000.

"The issue is if you overstaff and then you underperform, it's too late," Casterella said. "I think everyone's more mindful now than ever."

Job placement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas forecasts hiring for the last three months of the year will likely fall under 500,000 positions. That's fewer than last year's 543,000 level and also marks the smallest seasonal gain in 16 years when retailers hired 495,800 temporary workers, the firm said. The average seasonal gain since 2005 has been 653,363 workers, the firm said.

Among other companies cutting holiday payrolls: Radial, which powers deliveries for roughly 120 brands like Lands' End and Cole Haan and operates 20 fulfillment sites. It plans to hire 6,500 workers, fewer than last year's 7,000, and is waiting to the last minute to ramp up hiring for some of its clients, chief human resources officer Sabrina Wnorowski, said.

Bath & Body Works, based in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, said it plans to hire 32,000 workers, lower than the 32,700 a year ago.

Among the bright spots: Online behemoth Amazon Inc. said Monday it intends to hire 250,000 full-, part-time and seasonal workers for the crucial shopping period, the same level as a year ago.

Expectations

"We saw real strong signals that there's been a cooling in the labor market, even beyond what our expectations were in the first nine months of the year," Challenger's senior vice president Andy Challenger said. "We are having lots of regular conversations with companies about pending layoffs and changes they're making to their workforce."

In addition to overall economic uncertainty, Challenger noted companies are using artificial intelligence bots to replace some workers, particularly those working in call centers. And he's also seeing companies hiring workers closer to when they need them.

Meanwhile, the list of companies staying mum about their specific holiday hiring goals keeps growing. Target Corp., UPS and Macy's are declining to offer figures, a departure from the past. UPS had hired 125,000 seasonal hires last year, while Target announced last year it planned to hire 100,000 workers. Macy's last year said it would hire 31,500 seasonal workers. Retailers' hiring plans mark the first clues to what's in store for the U.S. holiday shopping season and come as the U.S. job market has lost momentum this year, partly because Trump's trade wars have created uncertainty that's paralyzing managers trying to make hiring decisions.

The Labor Department reported in early September that U.S. employers - companies, government agencies and nonprofits - added just 22,000 jobs in August, down from 79,000 in July and well below the 80,000 that economists had expected.

The government shutdown, which started Oct. 1 and has delayed the release of economic reports, could worsen the job picture.

In an attempt to exert more pressure on Democratic lawmakers as the government shutdown continues, the White House budget office said Friday that mass firings of federal workers have started.

The firings are happening as hundreds of thousands are already furloughed and still others are being required to report to duty without pay.

Analysts will be closely monitoring the shutdown's impact on spending. For now, many retailers say that consumers, while resilient, are choosy about what they buying. Analysts will also be closely watching how shoppers will react as retailers push through price increases as a result of high tariff costs in the next few months, experts said.

Given an economic slowdown, holiday spending growth is expected to be smaller than a year ago, according to several forecasts.

Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks spending across all payment methods including cash, predicts that holiday sales will be up 3.6% from Nov. 1 through Dec. 24. That compares with a 4.1% increase during the year-ago period.

Forecasts

Deloitte Services LP forecasts holiday retail sales to be up between 2.9% to 3.4% from Nov. 1 through Jan. 31. That's compared to the same year-ago period when retail sales increased 4.2% from the year before.

Adobe expects U.S. online sales to hit \$253.4 billion this holiday season from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, representing a 5.3% growth. That's smaller than last year's 8.7% growth.

Given the uncertainty, companies increasingly want to hire workers closer to when they need them, experts said.

"In today's environment, brands are really looking for us to be agile," Radial's Wnorowski said. "Radial is meeting that need of the customer and the consumer with a more flexible and disciplined approach to hiring."

So for some of its clients, Radial will now be hiring two weeks before Thanksgiving weekend, the traditional start for the holiday shopping season, instead of four weeks before the kickoff, she said. Radial is also speeding up training of holiday hires due to new technology that's simplifying their tasks. It used to take a couple of days to train a worker, but now it only takes a couple of hours, she said.

Meanwhile, Target said it's again embracing a three-prong approach. It starts first by offering current workers additional hours and then taps into a separate pool of workers - 43,000 - who pick up shifts that work for their schedules. The Minneapolis-based company also hires seasonal workers across its nearly 2,000 stores and more than 60 distribution facilities to meet demand, it said.

For the past few years, Walmart, the nation's largest retailer and the largest private employer, has been offering the extra hours available during the holidays to its workers, a Walmart spokesperson said, noting it's worked well and the feedback from customers and workers has been "overwhelmingly positive."

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based retailer said there may be some seasonal hiring on a store-by-store basis, but the majority of stores will dole out those hours to current workers.

Waiting until the last minute to hire workers could mean a mad scramble to find talent, but companies say that due to the slowing economy, they don't anticipate having a hard time finding the needed pool.

Meanwhile, the temporary halting of the release of economic reports leaves retailers in the dark about forecasting sales and the workers they need to meet the demand. "Certainly, for our customers not having access to data will put more of a challenge on their ability to forecast," Wnorowski of Radial said. "But we'll stay very close to them as we go into peak and we'll adjust as soon we see things changing."

Channing Tatum's 'Roofman' opens modestly at No. 2

'Tron: Ares' tops box office but falls short of expectations

LOS ANGELES, Oct 13, (AP) — "Tron: Ares" powered up the box office grid in the top spot this weekend, but Disney's third entry in the sci-fi franchise fell short of expectations.

Despite some favorable reviews - including a three-out-of-four-star one from The Associated Press - the new "Tron" film starring Jared Leto, Greta Lee and Jeff Bridges earned \$33.5 million, according to Comscore estimates on Sunday. The big-budget project, reported to cost around \$150 million, arrived 15 years after "Tron: Legacy" opened to \$44 million before grossing more than \$400 million globally.

The latest chapter follows a battle between two powerful technology firms, Emcom and Dillinger, who face off against the same artificial intelligence barrier. Both can generate physical creations using laser-based 3D printers - but each creation lasts only 29 minutes before collapsing into ash.

"Tron: Ares" was packed with action and nostalgia, but it wasn't enough to draw big numbers across more than 4,000 theaters.

"It's been tough for that franchise to gain traction for it to become a big mega franchise," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

He noted that the original "Tron" movie in 1982 initially struggled at the box office, but it ultimately grew a cult following.

Dergarabedian said the international numbers could play a key role toward the film's profitability.

"It still topped the box office," he said. "It picked a solid release date. All eyes are on a big Disney film that is a huge brand, known and has been around for decades." It wasn't the only new release that struggled to connect.

"Roofman," which starred Channing Tatum and Kirsten Dunst in the blue-collar dramedy about a construction worker trying to rebuild his life, opened in second place with a modest \$8 million debut.

Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another" came in third with \$6.6 million. "Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie" held steady in fourth place with \$3.3 million. The Netflix and DreamWorks family release - based on the popular preschool series - continues to perform well with younger audiences in its third weekend.

In fifth, "Soul on Fire" debuted with \$3 million. The



This image released by Disney shows Greta Lee, (from left), Jared Leto and Arturo Castro in a scene from 'Tron: Ares.' (AP)

faith-based drama tells the true story of burn survivor and motivational speaker John O'Leary, featuring perfor-

mances from Joel Courtney, William H. Macy and John Corbett.

"The Conjuring: Last Rites" followed with \$2.9 million, marking another steady entry in Warner Bros.' long-running horror franchise.

In seventh, "Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba - Infinity Castle" brought in \$2.2 million, continuing the anime franchise's strong theatrical momentum worldwide.

"The Smashing Machine," starring Dwayne Johnson as UFC legend Mark Kerr, added \$1.7 million in eighth place.

Rounding out the top 10 were "The Strangers: Chapter 2" with \$1.5 million and "Good Boy" with \$1.3 million.

After a couple big weekends last month, the box office has taken a hit in October - a month that Dergarabedian calls a bridge month between summer and holiday movie seasons. He said this month is perfect for films like "The Smashing Machine" and "After the Hunt," which releases Oct. 17, to shine in their own way.

"If you're a movie fan, particularly in the indie, art house, award season types of film, this is a great month," he said. "Moviegoers should embrace the eclectic offerings out there on the big screen."

Podcast finale

Obama helps Maron wrap 16-yr WTF run

LOS ANGELES, Oct 13, (AP) — Barack Obama helped Marc Maron lock the gates on his podcast Monday, returning to the show for the final episode after 16 years and more than 1,600 episodes.

The former president gave new status to "WTF With Marc Maron" and to podcasts in general when he visited Maron's Los Angeles garage studio while still in office a decade ago. Obama brought the 62-year-old host, stand-up comic and actor to his Washington office for the last interview.

Obama asked the initial questions. "How are you feeling about this whole thing?" he said, "transition, moving on from this thing that has been one of the defining parts of your career and your life?"

"I feel OK," Maron answered. "I feel like I'm sort of ready for the break, but there is sort of a fear there, of what do I do now? I'm busy. But, not unlike your job... I've got a lot of people who over the last 16 years have grown to rely on me."

Maron laughed as he acknowledged he was comparing his podcasting gig to the presidency.

"I think it's pretty similar," Obama said.

The identity of the guest was not revealed until the episode dropped, and fans had been speculating. Obama was a popular guess, both because of his relationship with "WTF" and because Maron in an interview with Variety in July said Obama would be his ideal final conversation.

The host explained the decision in an unusually brief and straightforward introduction to the episode.

"It became clear that the guest we needed to have was singular," Maron said, "in that he could address the importance of this being our final episode, but also address how we move through the world we're living in, as frightening as it is."

Maron asked Obama for advice on moving on from your life's biggest job.

Satisfaction

"You've still got a couple of chapters left," Obama said. "Don't rush into what the next thing is. Take a beat. Take some satisfaction looking backwards."

After a much talk on the state of the world, Obama brought it back around to Maron's farewell.

"I think we're going to be OK," Obama said. "I think part of the reason you had such a big fan base during this 16-year run is there was a core decency to you and the conversations that you had."

He added, "I think speaks to who we are."

Maron avoided sentimental farewell talk during the episode - he got that out of the way on Thursday in his penultimate episode, where talked directly and emotionally to his listeners.

"I'm grateful to have been part of your lives," he said. "We've been through a lot of stuff together. A lot of breakups. Death. Cats. The world."

The new Obama episode was No. 1,686 of the pioneering and influential long-form interview podcast that had humble beginnings in 2009 as a place where he worked out his issues with other stand-up comedians in the garage of his home that he dubbed "The Cat Ranch."

Maron's cats were always an essential part of the show. His final words on Monday's episode were tributes to the ones who had died.

"Cat angels everywhere," he said.

For most of its years the show has opened with a fan-composed rock 'n' roll theme song that opens with an audio sample of Maron in his small role in the film "Almost Famous" shouting, "Lock the gates!" The song is named for one of Maron's common phrases, "Are We Doing This?" Another such phrase, "Are we good?" was often his last question to guests and is the title of a new documentary on him.

Eventually, with help from guests like Obama, Robin Williams and Paul McCartney, "WTF" became a media institution where authors, artists, musicians, Hollywood stars and political leaders would give him their backstory.

Maron announced in June that he and longtime producing partner Brendan McDonald had decided to end the show. He said there was no particular reason, other than that he was tired and utterly satisfied with the work they had done.

On Monday, Maron seemed moved as he read from a pseudolegal document that he had drawn up for Obama to sign, releasing McDonald "from the professional responsibility to listening to me talk."



Comedian and podcaster Marc Maron poses for a portrait in New York on April 11, 2013. (AP)

Film



This image released by Netflix shows Rebecca Ferguson in a scene from 'A House of Dynamite.' (AP)

Bigelow revisits nuclear panic in tense new thriller

'Dynamite' lights a fuse, but fizzles

LOS ANGELES, Oct 13, (AP) — In Kathryn Bigelow's "A House of Dynamite," when a mysterious missile launches from the Pacific and begins bearing down on the Midwest, the biggest threat initially at the White House is a pile of paper work.

The ho-hum response that kicks off Bigelow's firecracker of a film is quickly shattered. But that transition from routine to imminent danger, replayed three times over in this "Rashomon" meets "Dr. Strangelove," is the defining register of Bigelow's urgent, if heavy-handed nuclear wake-up call.

Words across the screen open the film, noting that global powers once worked to decrease nuclear weapons. "That era is now over," declares the movie.

You might be thinking: As if we didn't have enough to worry about. But no matter how many other existential concerns might be making a restful night of sleep a thing of pure fantasy, filmmakers have long been particularly attuned to the threat of nuclear warfare. "A House of Dynamite" joins a cinematic lineage going back to "Dr. Strangelove" and "Fail Safe" in 1964. And it comes amid a modern revival of big-screen nuclear anxiety including 2023's "Oppenheimer" and preceding James Cameron's announced plans to make "Ghosts of Hiroshima."

But Bigelow, working from a script by the former NBC News president Noah Oppenheim, takes her own bracingly contemporary, precisely granular approach to envisioning the very sudden emergence of a nuclear weapon heading toward the U.S. mainland. With riveting efficiency, Bigelow constructs a taut, real-time thriller that opens explosively but dissipates with each progressive iteration.

The first section of the film, which opens in theaters Friday before streaming Oct. 24 on Netflix, is its most powerful. It begins with a routine, workaday morning. Soon after Captain Olivia Walker (Rebecca Ferguson) arrives at a command center at the White House, a military base in Alaska reports the unexpected launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. Its launch was unsighted, making the origin and nature of the attack unclear. Everyone's first reaction is that it will likely splashdown somewhere in the Sea of Japan.

Realization

But in the moments that follow, a new realization dawns: the missile is headed for Chicago. In 18 minutes, millions of Americans may die. The DEFCON level worsens. Long-used playbooks get dusted off. Communication, and protocol, are fast and immediate - military leaders appear on a video call where the president is a quiet black screen - but the solutions not nearly as many of us might assume.

Ferguson, a deft, intelligent actor, commands the operation with quicksilver savvy and humanity. As the minutes tick away, the urge grows to get her phone out of a lock box - a bit of daily White House protocol - and call her family. As impact nears, as you might expect, the intensity swells.

But just before that moment arrives, "A House of Dynamite" turns the clock back to launch. The next two sections of the film replay the same moments, but from different points of view. The second chapter leans largely on National Security Advisor Jake Baerington (Gabriel Basso), and the fast-moving attempts

to pinpoint the possible strategy of the missile launch and who might have fired it. Could it be North Korea? Russia? Is this an accidental event or, by the rules of engagement, does it set off a chain reaction leading irrevocably to mutual destruction?

The third section takes the frantic debate to the more solitary figure of the president (Idris Elba, who has managed to play both the British Prime Minister and POTUS in one calendar year). By this point, though, "A House of Dynamite" has begun to spin its wheels, retreading ground it already covered, and leaving Elba searching for direction in his scenes.

The rewind-and-replay narrative offers some benefits. By three times returning to the beginning of a new day, each time met by all with its familiar habits - the need for coffee, traffic in the commute, maybe a quick round of golf - "A House of Dynamite" each time reinforces how rapidly our sense of normalcy might be forever shattered.

But the structure also dampens the fuse initially lit by "A House of Dynamite." What carries it through, above all, is the great command of Bigelow ("Zero Dark Thirty," "Detroit"), who knows perhaps better than any working filmmaker how to turn bracing real-life, or near-real-life crises into heart-pounding thrillers. Aiding that cause is a fine ensemble of actors (Tracy Letts, Jared Harris, Greta Lee, Anthony Ramos, Jason Clarke) with the gravitas to enhance Bigelow's verisimilitude. But the higher up the chain of command "A House of Dynamite" goes, the more it loses its grip on plausibility.

"A House of Dynamite," a Netflix release is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language. Running time: 112 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Variety

LONDON: The NFL has been spicing up its international games with halftime performers, a bit like mini-Super Bowls.

British rapper **Giggs** performed Sunday at halftime of the game between the New York Jets and Denver Broncos at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. The Broncos won 13-11.

"It's a huge moment to be a part of the London Games," Gigs said. "I've been on a journey with my music, and to get to share that with my city and the NFL fans is something I'm really proud of."

The south London native's 2007 single "Talkin' da Hardest" remains a popular anthem among his fans. Cleveland Browns players unfamiliar with the song liked what they heard when it was played last week.

Giggs has done collaborations with artists including Drake, 21 Savage, Ed Sheeran and Dave.

Last week, British singer Raye performed a halftime show at Tottenham with a nearly seven-minute set that included



Gigs

her hit "Where is My Husband!" The Minnesota Vikings beat Cleveland 21-17 in the game.

British singer-songwriter Myles Smith was chosen to headline the halftime show at the first-ever regular-season NFL game in Ireland. At Croke Park, the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Vikings 24-21 two weeks ago.

Last month, Grammy award-winning Karol G performed in São Paulo, Brazil when the Los Angeles Chargers beat the Kansas City Chiefs 27-21 at Corinthians Arena. (AP)

INDIANAPOLIS: Former NFL quarterback and sports analyst Mark Sanchez was released from custody Sunday, about a week after police said he was stabbed during a fight with a truck driver outside an Indiana hotel.

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department confirmed Sanchez's release. He faces a felony battery charge, along with several misdemeanor charges, for what prosecutors have said was a fight over parking.

A police affidavit says the 38-year-old Sanchez, smelling of alcohol, backed 69-year-old Perry Tole, who had backed his truck into a hotel's loading docks in downtown Indianapolis on Oct. 4. Tole claims in a lawsuit filed Monday that Sanchez entered the truck without permission, then physically blocked and shoved Tole, who then doused Sanchez with pepper spray.

When Sanchez advanced after being sprayed, Tole pulled a knife to defend himself, authorities said.

Sanchez was hospitalized with stab wounds to his upper right torso, according to a police affidavit. A picture of Tole circulating online shows him in a neck brace on a hospital bed, covered in blood with a deep slash to the side of his face. (AP)

ATLANTA: The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation announced a \$50 million donation to Atlanta's historically Black colleges and universities on Monday, aiming to close financial aid gaps that might otherwise prevent students from completing their degrees.

The money will support nearly 10,000 students with "gap scholarships" if they are approaching graduation in good academic standing and have exhausted all other sources of financial support. The aim is to raise graduation rates at Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morris Brown College and Spelman College, according to the foundation's announcement.

"These grants are a material investment in hope," said Fay Twersky, the foundation's president.

The 10-year commitment comes days after the Trump administration said it would redirect nearly \$500 million in federal funding toward HBCUs and tribal colleges as a one-time investment. (AP)

New book highlights China's economic path

Open China, Global Prosperity makes a splash at Riyadh Book Fair

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Oct. 13, (AP): A news report from China Daily: A sharing event of the book Open China, Global Prosperity was held in the China pavilion at the Riyadh International Book Fair 2025 (Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University) on Oct 6. Compiled by China Daily and published by China Intercontinental Press, the book made its official debut at the book fair in Riyadh on Oct 2. It brings together in-depth observations and analyses of China's economy from numerous internationally recognized figures, attracting widespread attention from global publishers and readers.

The book distinguished lineup of contributors in-

cludes many experts and leaders such as Gim Huay Neo, managing director of the World Economic Forum, Harley Seyedin, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in South China, and Csaba Kandrács, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Hungary.

Many visitors at the book fair spoke highly of the book, describing it as a well-researched and insightful work that systematically outlines the trajectory and latest developments of China's economy. They noted that the book serves as an important reference for overseas readers seeking to understand the implementation of Chinese modernization, its benefits for the people, and the global opportunities it presents.

Some readers highlighted the book's value in helping the international community understand China's high-quality development direction during the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period, offering clarity on how the technological revolution is transforming Chinese industries and their prospects. Other readers added that it also illustrates the new opportunities for global cooperation arising from China's ongoing progress.

Sharing his reflections on the book, a reader named Haytham Saeed observed that China is steadily advancing a distinct form of modernization-one that pursues common prosperity, balances material and spiritual progress, emphasizes harmony between humanity and

nature, and adheres to peaceful development. This path, he noted, demonstrates through its outcomes that modernization does not necessarily mean Westernization.

Another reader Abdulrahman Marshoud Al-Jahni noted that the book deepened his understanding of China's green development strategy. He said China leads the world in installed wind and photovoltaic capacity, ranks among the top global markets for electric vehicle sales and actively collaborates internationally on green technology, which demonstrates how the country's green growth strategy advances both its domestic sustainable development and global climate governance. The book fair was held from Oct 2 to 11.



Sheikha Al-Anoud (center) with Chinese officials at the inauguration of the China Cultural Center in Kuwait.



Liu Xiang, Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait, speaks at the inauguration of the China Cultural Center.

Center ushers in a new chapter of cultural exchange

Gulf's first China Cultural Center opens in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: China Cultural Center in Kuwait, the first of its kind in the Gulf region, held its grand inauguration on Monday under the theme "Step into the Endless Peach Blossoms. Together with CCC-Kuwait." The ceremony highlighted the growing cultural exchange between China and Kuwait, marking an important milestone in strengthening mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

The ceremony was attended by H.E. Liu Xiang, Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait; H.E. Sheikha Al-Anoud Ibrahim Al-Sabah, Acting Assistant Secretary-General of NCCAL; as well as senior Kuwaiti officials and distinguished guests.

H.E. Liu Xiang, H.E. Sheikha Al-Anoud Ibrahim Al-Sabah, and Liu Jinhong, Director of China Cultural Center in Kuwait delivered speeches at the ceremony.

Promotional film premiere: A look back at the Center's development

A specially produced video retraced the Center's journey — from the signing of the Agreement between the Governments of China and Kuwait on the establishment of China Cultural Center in Kuwait in 2017, through its trial operations in 2023, to today's official unveiling. The film showcased how China Cultural Center in Kuwait has gradually become an important platform for the local public to learn about China and experience Chinese culture, reflecting its vision of serving as a cultural bridge between the two countries.

Artistic performances highlight dialogue of civilizations

The event featured a captivating lineup of cultural performances. A Kuwaiti band presented both the local favorite "Hona Hona" and the Chinese classic "Jasmine Flower", highlighting the fusion and mutual appreciation of the two cultures. Wang Fei, inheritor of Qingcheng Martial Arts - an intangible cultural heritage item from Chengdu in southwest China - delivered a powerful Tai Chi performance that vividly embodied the balance of strength and grace central to traditional Chinese martial arts philosophy.



A photo from the opening of the Chinese Cultural Center in Kuwait.



Sheikha Al-Anoud Ibrahim Al-Sabah tours the China Cultural Center.



Photos by Samer Shaqir A Chinese cultural performance at the opening of the China Cultural Center.

Symbolic gifts and hands-on cultural experiences

In a gesture of friendship, intangible cultural heritage (ICH) inheritors from Chengdu presented their artworks to the Center. Director Liu Jinhong accepted the gifts on behalf of the Center. The paper-cutting artwork symbolizes good fortune and a bright future, while the knotting piece represents the vibrant growth of China-Kuwait cultural exchange.

Visitors are also invited to ex-

perience interactive cultural experience, including Chinese ICH workshops, tea art demonstrations, a panda-themed exhibition, and a Photo Exhibition showcasing the Center's Milestones. Guests try paper-cutting, knotting, and Tai Chi, while enjoying authentic Chinese tea. The photo exhibition captures key moments from the Center's establishment, reflecting the fruitful achievements of China-Kuwait cultural cooperation.

A new starting point for deeper

cultural ties

The official inauguration of China Cultural Center in Kuwait marks the beginning of a new journey. Moving forward, the Center will remain committed to building a high-quality platform for cultural exchange, sharing China's stories well. Together with the people of Kuwait, it will continue to enrich the narrative of China-Kuwait cultural cooperation and foster deeper mutual understanding between the two nations.

Batik and modernity shine

Indonesia fashion fest displays cultural unity

JAKARTA, Oct 13, (Xinhua): Models walked confidently down the runway in long, layered outfits that combined elegance with modesty. In the audience, guests from Indonesia and abroad raised their cameras, capturing every detail of the sophisticated ensembles that define the country's growing modest fashion industry.

Featuring more than 1,650 creations by 214 Indonesian designers and 11 international ones, the 2025 Indonesia International Modest Fashion Festival was held from Oct. 8 to 12 at JIEXPO Jakarta. The annual event was complemented by a series of programs, including seminars, business matching sessions, and international market forums aimed at promoting collaboration and innovation in the modest fashion sector.

Opening the festival, Batik Widayati presented 24 pieces under the theme "Blossom as You Are," using eco-friendly natural dyes. The collection featured blouses, skirts, blazers, dresses, and vests adorned with "tropical garden" motifs combined with batik truntum patterns from the royal palace of Solo, Central Java, symbolizing harmony, love, and women's resilience.

"I want women to be beautiful in their own way, like flowers in a vertical garden that grow even in limited space," said Wiewiek Widayati, owner of Batik Widayati, in an interview with Xinhua after the opening show.

Wiewiek's journey into fashion began after she was laid off from her banking job in 2018. Turning to batik as a form of healing, she found a new purpose in creative expression.

"Since then, I've devoted myself to using canting and sketching batik designs, and that's how Batik Widayati was born," she said. With strong institutional support, includ-

ing training from national designers, her 400-piece collection now sells out at exhibitions.

Dubai-based designer and psychologist Sheida Fadaei showcased eight abaya designs inspired by the psychology of color, form, and texture. "Every abaya I make carries a story and psychological meaning. I want women to feel confident and energized when they wear it," she told Xinhua.

For Sheida, modest fashion represents more than just covered clothing -- it is a form of emotional and spiritual expression. She recalled how one of her clients, struggling with depression, regained confidence after wearing one of her designs. "That's my goal: to help women find strength through clothing," she said.

Sheida also expressed plans to collaborate with designers from Thailand, Australia, and Türkiye, incorporating local cultural symbols, such as kangaroo motifs from Australia, into her future abaya collections to promote cross-cultural friendship.

Indonesia's Minister of Tourism Widiyanti Putri said that modest fashion not only supports economic growth but also enhances the nation's tourism image. "Indonesia has extraordinary cultural heritage and creativity, including in the modest fashion industry," Widiyanti said.

Lenny Agustini, National Chairperson of the Indonesia Fashion Chamber, noted that the modest fashion market continues to expand both domestically and internationally. With a population of over 280 million, Indonesia offers vast potential for the industry.

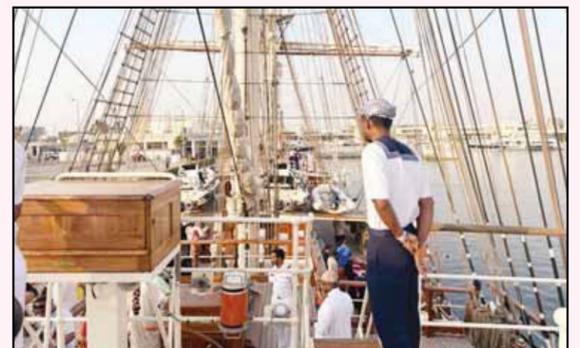
"The market now isn't limited to women wearing hijab," Lenny said. "Many people choose layered clothing because it's comfortable, elegant, and suitable for various occasions."



A model presents a creation of Rika Mulle during the 2025 Indonesia International Modest Fashion Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia, Oct. 9. (Xinhua)



A model presents a creation of Batik Martadireja during the 2025 Indonesia International Modest Fashion Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia, Oct. 9. (Xinhua)



The majestic 'Shabab Oman II' docked in Jeddah, proudly showcasing Omani culture.

KUNA photos

'Shabab Oman II' docked in Jeddah, carrying message of Omani culture

After a long voyage of more than 30 seaports around the world, the Omani ship "Shabab Oman II" has docked at Jeddah Yacht Club, conveying its noble mission of bolstering friendship and peace by promoting Omani heritage and culture at its world stops.

The vessel will stay in Jeddah, which is the penultimate leg of its seventh international voyage (Glory of the

Seas 2025), on Sunday and Monday before tailing back to the Sultanate of Oman to end up a tour of over 15 countries.

During its long voyage, the ship has trained and qualified more than 150 Omani male and female students. (KUNA)



A tourist visits China Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka in Osaka, Japan, July 11, 2025. (Xinhua)

China Pavilion wins gold for exhibition design at Osaka Expo

OSAKA, Japan, Oct 13, (Xinhua): The China Pavilion at the Osaka Expo 2025 won the gold award for exhibition design among large self-built pavilions at an official award ceremony on Sunday.

This marks the fifth consecutive major expo award won by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade since it began organizing China's participation in world expos in 1982.

The awards were judged by a panel of nine international experts in exposition, architecture, and art, covering three categories -- exhibition, architecture, and theme interpretation -- with divisions based on pavilion size and type.

Among 25 large self-built pavilions, including those from the United States, Germany, France and Spain, the China Pavilion stood out to win the Gold Award for Exhibition De-

sign. The Saudi Arabia Pavilion and Italy Pavilion received gold in the architecture and theme interpretation categories, respectively.

Dimitri Kerentzes, secretary general of the Bureau International des Expositions, said the China Pavilion closely aligned with the Expo's theme, noting that it not only showcased China's long history and culture, but also its vision and respon-

sibility to contribute development solutions for the future.

The China Pavilion, one of the largest foreign self-built pavilions, covers approximately 3,500 square meters. Inspired by traditional Chinese calligraphy scrolls, the pavilion's architectural design embodies the theme of "Building a Community of Life for Man and Nature -- Future Society of Green Development."

New tool predicts lung cancer therapy success

AI-driven precision mapping to transform lung cancer care

SYDNEY, Oct 13, (Xinhua): Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), the most common form of lung cancer, was mapped cell-by-cell using spatial biology and artificial intelligence (AI), taking the guesswork out of drug treatment, according to research involving Australian scientists.

People with the most common form of lung cancer could receive more effective, individualized treatment after Australia's University of Queensland (UQ) researchers, in collaboration with researchers at Yale University in the United States, developed a way to predict how cancer cells will respond to different therapies, according to a UQ statement

released Monday.

The same precision-mapping approach could be used to inform treatments for other malignancies like melanoma, head and neck, and bladder cancer, the statement said.

Researchers studied the tumors of 234 patients with NSCLC across three cohorts in Australia, the United States and Europe.

This approach can "pinpoint areas within tumors that are both responsive and resistant to therapies, which will be a game changer for lung cancer treatment," said Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe from UQ's Frazer Institute.

"Rather than having to use a trial-and-error approach, oncologists will now know which treatments are most likely to work with new precision medicine tools," said Kulasinghe, a corresponding author of the study published in Nature Genetics.

David Rimm, Anthony N. Brady professor of Pathology at Yale, the study's co-lead author, called the work a "road map for a new diagnostic test that could optimize treatment choice in lung cancer."

As the leading cause of cancer death in the world, lung cancer kills about 1.8 million people globally each year, with NSCLC accounting for 85 percent of all cases. However,

costly immunotherapies are effective in only 20-30 percent of patients, according to the study.

"These therapies also carry significant risks for patients receiving them, including severe immune-related toxicity that can be fatal," Kulasinghe said, adding the challenges highlight the critical need to classify patients according to their likelihood to benefit from treatment.

By integrating data on the molecular geography of cancer and machine learning techniques, treatment decision-making could be improved, leading to better patient outcomes for lung cancer patients, he said.

Early disease diagnosis

New atlas reveals how the blood reflects disease risk

BEIJING, Oct. 13, (Xinhua): A Chinese research team has compiled a groundbreaking plasma metabolome atlas, mapping the extensive links between metabolic profiles and a wide range of human diseases.

This work provides a valuable theoretical foundation and a rich resource for early disease diagnosis, prognosis assessment, and drug discovery.

The study, conducted by researchers from Fudan University and its affiliated Huashan Hospital, systematically analyzed the associations between plasma metabolites and thousands of diseases and traits in people. The findings were recently published in the journals Nature Metabolism and Nature Communications.

According to You Jia, researcher at the Institute of Science and Technology for Brain-Inspired Intelligence, Fudan University, metabolites reflect the complex interactions between genes, behavior and the environment, serving as critical indicators for assessing human health and disease.

By evaluating 313 plasma metabolite indicators, the researchers identified over 50,000 significant associations between metabolites and diseases. The analysis highlighted the pervasive role of lipid metabolism disorders across multiple disease systems. Notably, indicators re-

lated to large-particle low-density lipoprotein showed the strongest links to various diseases.

A key discovery involves the timeline of the disease's progression. The study revealed that for more than half of the significant metabolites, abnormal levels were detectable up to a decade before clinical diagnosis. Furthermore, these indicators exhibited dramatic shifts at two critical age points: 46 and 64.

For clinical application, the researchers established a metabolite risk score to carry out accurate diagnosis of 94 existing diseases and prediction of 81 emerging diseases, among which creatinine, glycoprotein acetyl and albumin were confirmed as key biomarkers.

The research also provided genetic insights into the causal relationships between metabolites and diseases, and identified several potential drug targets.

"The research offers a systematic tool to detect early warning signals of diseases before their occurrence by monitoring changes in metabolites, enabling the prediction of certain disease risks in advance," You said, adding that physicians can better make dietary, exercise and medication plans based on an individual's metabolic profile, achieving true personalized treatment and further advancing the development of precision medicine.



Children accompanied by their guardians wait to receive measles vaccines in Damascus, Syria, Oct. 12. The Syrian authorities have launched a nationwide vaccine campaign for children aged 7 months to 5 years old, aiming to curb the spread of measles and boost childhood immunization rates across the country. (Xinhua)

Drop in childhood vaccinations raises concerns

Small declines in child vaccination rates can trigger outbreaks: expert

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

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By David Higgins
University of Colorado Anschutz
Medical Campus

More than three-quarters of US counties and jurisdictions are experiencing declines in childhood vaccination rates, a trend that began in 2019, according to a September 2025 NBC News-Stanford University investigation. The report also found a "large swath" of the US no longer has the "basic, ground-level immunity" needed to stop the spread of measles.

Dr. David Higgins, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado CU Anschutz Medical Center and a pediatrician who researches vaccines, discusses the dangers of not vaccinating your children.

The Conversation has collaborated with SciLine to bring you highlights from the discussion, edited for brevity and clarity.

Question: What vaccines are typically required for schoolchildren, and why?

David Higgins: The vaccine requirements for kids to attend school are set by states, not the federal government. Most states require kindergartners get vaccines for pertussis - that's whooping cough - and tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox.

For older kids, a booster of the tetanus and pertussis vaccine is typically required, as well as a vaccine for meningococcal disease.

Vaccines reduce the risk of outbreaks in places where transmission of these diseases is easy. Not only do vaccinations help keep both students and teachers safe, it also encourages overall higher community coverage for these vaccines.

Q: How do scientists track the safety of vaccines over time?

Higgins: Before vaccines are ap-

proved, they undergo rigorous trials. During this process, scientists look at the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, testing it first in small groups to assess safety, then in larger groups to confirm protection and detect uncommon side effects. That process continues after the vaccine is approved. Those systems continually monitor the safety of vaccines, both here in the US as well as around the world.

Q: What are the vaccination coverage trends for kindergartners?

Higgins: What we have seen is a small downward trend since 2019, the year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. It slipped from 95% of new kindergartners being up to date on many of their routine vaccines to about 92%. That's a small percentage decrease, so a great majority of parents are still vaccinating their kids. But at the same time, anything below our target of 95% for diseases like measles becomes a problem, because that's below the level that's needed for what we call herd immunity, or community immunity. When that happens, it's not a matter of if, but when, we see an outbreak of these infectious diseases.

And while nationwide rates are important to look at, outbreaks happen at local community levels. For example, earlier this year, an outbreak of measles in West Texas spread rapidly through communities where vaccination rates had slipped well below the state average.

So, the vaccination rate at your own school or community is much more meaningful than what the national vaccination rate is.

Q: How do non-medical vaccine exemptions work?

Higgins: First, actual medical exemptions are rare, and these occur when the vaccine is unsafe for the child to receive, like when he or she has a known severe allergic reaction to vaccine ingredients.

Non-medical exemptions for vaccines are often for religious, personal or philosophical reasons. They have been increasing for the past several years, rising from the range of 1 to 2% up to 3.6% in the 2024-25 school year. That's

a small increase, but again, it's still concerning.

Q: Why are some parents vaccine hesitant?

Higgins: There are multiple reasons. These include misinformation which algorithm-driven echo chambers on social media can spread at an alarming rate right now. Also, Americans report less trust in institutions and experts, and studies have found growing partisanship around vaccines.

Additionally, vaccines are victims of their own success. They have worked so well that many diseases like polio aren't routinely seen anymore. That might lead a parent to think the risk for their child is so low that the vaccine is not necessary. But the fact is, vaccines are simply holding these diseases at bay. And as vaccination rates drop, these diseases will come back and more kids will be at risk.

Q: What advice do you have for parents?

Higgins: The most important thing you can do as a parent is to keep your kids up to date on required vaccines. That includes the annual flu shot. Follow your state's requirements and current recommendations from trusted sources like the American Academy of Pediatrics and your own personal pediatrician to know which vaccines your child should have.

You also want to reinforce other common sense approaches to keeping your children healthy. Make sure they know how to wash their hands properly and that they stay home when they're sick. Teach them to sneeze and cough into their elbow instead of into their hands - even though doing so isn't a perfect solution.

As a pediatrician, I love when my families come and talk to me about their concerns. I help them walk through their worries so they can feel more confident that they're making a truly informed decision that's in the best interest of their child's health.

SciLine is a free service based at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a nonprofit that helps journalists include scientific evidence and experts in their news stories. (AP)

Chronic illness

Philippines lifts bird import ban

MANILA, Oct 13, (Xinhua): The Philippines has lifted the temporary ban on the importation of domesticated and wild birds, including poultry products, from New Zealand, the country's Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Monday.

In a memorandum, Philippine Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel ordered the lifting of the import freeze following the resolution of recent avian influenza (HPAI) cases in New Zealand.

The Philippines initially imposed the ban in January after reports of an avian influenza outbreak in New Zealand.

"New Zealand is now free from HPAI," said Tiu Laurel, citing the DA's assessment that the risk of contamination from importing poultry and related products is now considered negligible.

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Health services: Singapore's northern region faces higher rates of chronic illnesses compared with the rest of the country, prompting the government to strengthen local health services, Minister for Health Ong Ye Kung has said.

Currently, the three northern towns have 34 Community Health Posts, namely neighborhood touchpoints providing health services, but the number will rise to 39, Ong announced at an event on the region's health situation on Sunday.

These posts will also operate more regularly over time, he said. "Today it is uneven -- some open once a week, some every fortnight, some every month. Over time, we hope and are working towards all of them operating once a week."

The Health Promotion Board will also introduce more physical activities in the north. For instance, men, who are generally less likely to come out to exercise, have shown interest in activities such as Zumba Gold and resistance band workouts, which can be expanded.

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Medical services: The Chinese naval hospital ship, Silk Road Ark, arrived at Nuku'alofa Port, Tonga, on Monday, starting a seven-day visit featuring medical services and cultural activities during its Mission Harmony 2025. This is the fourth visit to Tonga by a Chinese naval hospital ship on Mission Harmony.

Tonga's acting Prime Minister Taniela Fusimalohi, along with military and political dignitaries, the Chinese ambassador to Tonga, local residents, representatives of overseas Chinese and Chinese enterprises, came to the pier to greet the vessel.

During its visit to Tonga, the Silk Road Ark will provide medical services on the ship, conduct academic exchanges on war injury rescue with the Tongan Navy, hold medical forums with Tongan hospitals, dispatch an onboard helicopter and multiple medical teams for clinic programs in local communities and on outer islands, and send teams to local schools for cultural exchange.

Typhoid vaccination drive

Pakistan starts nationwide polio vaccination campaign

ISLAMABAD, Oct 13, (Xinhua): A polio vaccination campaign was to kick off from Monday in 159 districts of Pakistan to protect children from paralytic polio, the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) said on Sunday.

During the week-long drive, more than 45.4 million children under the age of five will be administered oral polio vaccine drops, the NEOC said, adding that children will also receive vitamin A supplements to help boost their immunity.

Over 400,000 health workers will go door-to-door to ensure that every eligible child receives the vaccine during the campaign, it said.

Stressing the importance of the polio drops, the NEOC urged parents to ensure that all children under five years of age are vaccinated against polio and that routine immunization courses for children up to 15 months are completed on time.

The polio eradication campaign is part of Pakistan's ongoing efforts to eliminate the crippling disease and protect every child from

lifelong disability.

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Typhoid: The Bangladeshi government has launched a nationwide typhoid vaccination campaign, aiming to immunize about 50 million children between the ages of nine months and 15 years.

Bangladesh's Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum on Sunday officially launched the campaign in Dhaka. The month-long drive will provide free injectable typhoid vaccines until Nov. 13.

Bangladesh has received a supply of typhoid vaccines from the global vaccine alliance Gavi.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, typhoid infection rates in Bangladesh are notably high compared to many other countries.

Data from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021 indicates that nearly half a million people contract typhoid annually in Bangladesh, resulting in about 8,000 deaths.

Alarmingly, children account for 68 percent of these fatalities.



A Long March-2D carrier rocket carrying the Shiyun-31 test satellite blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on Oct. 13. (Xinhua)

China successfully launches new test satellite

China successfully launched a new test satellite into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on Monday.

The Shiyun-31 test satellite was launched at 6:00 p.m. (Beijing Time) aboard a Long March-2D

carrier rocket and entered the pre-set orbit successfully.

This satellite will be mainly used to verify new optical imaging technologies. This launch marked the 599th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series. (Xinhua)

LOS ANGELES, Oct 13, (AP): A groundbreaking study led by researchers at Children's Hospital Los Angeles offers critical insights into Ewing Sarcoma, a rare and aggressive bone and soft tissue cancer that primarily affects children and adolescents.

The study, a close collaboration with the Keck School of Medicine of USC, provides the first in vivo genetic evidence that Ewing sarcoma may originate from neural crest cells - flexible embryonic cells that normally give rise to neurons, glial cells, and pigment cells.

For decades, scientists have been puzzled by two enduring mysteries around Ewing sarcoma. Why does this aggressive bone and soft tissue cancer mainly affect children and adolescents? And why do its tumor cells appear so primitive, showing features of multiple different cell types?

The team showed that a common mutation in this cancer - the EWSR1::FLI1 fusion oncogene - can reprogram neural crest cells into a mesoderm-like state, adopting features of bone- and muscle-forming cells. Results were published in Cell Reports.

"This is an exciting step forward in Ewing sarcoma research," says James Amatruda, MD, PhD, Director of the Cancer and Blood Disease Institute at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and senior author of the study. "By understanding where and how this disease

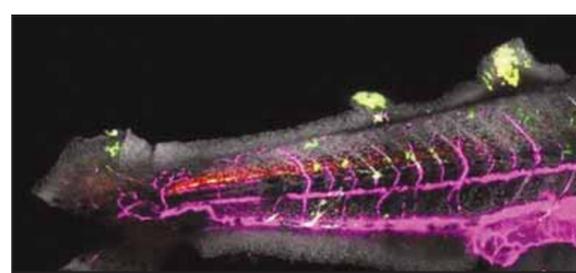


Image of a zebrafish trunk showing pre-tumor outgrowths formed upon reprogramming of neural crest cells by the human EWSR1::FLI1 oncogene (green). Vasculature is labeled in pink, and the spinal cord in red for context. (AP)

begins, we open the door to developing more effective and less-toxic treatments."

Scientists have known for more than 30 years that the EWSR1::FLI1 fusion is the driver of Ewing sarcoma. But they didn't know which specific cells it could transform into cancer, and they lacked reliable research models of the disease. Those gaps have stalled progress in finding new and better therapies.

To study this cancer's earliest steps, Dr. Amatruda's lab published the first genetic zebrafish model of Ewing sarcoma in 2022. Zebrafish embryos are transparent and develop outside the

mother, allowing the team to characterize the earliest stages of Ewing sarcoma and track fluorescently tagged tumor cells in real time.

In this latest study, researchers used the zebrafish model to switch on the EWSR1::FLI1 fusion in different cell types. Most cells died. But neural crest cells were the exception. They not only survived, but they were reprogrammed into a mesoderm-like state, setting the stage for tumor initiation.

The work was the result of a collaboration between Dr. Amatruda's team at CHLA and the laboratory of Gage Crump, PhD, Professor and Vice Chair of Stem Cell Biology and Regenera-

tive Medicine at USC. Elena Vasileva, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow at CHLA, was the study's first author.

The team found that the oncogene doesn't just push cells down the wrong path - it co-opts the same signaling pathways the cells use in normal development.

This forces the neural crest cells into an "in-between" state that fuels uncontrolled growth.

"It was remarkable to see how these pre-tumor cells changed their behavior and characteristics, contributing to tumor development later on," Dr. Vasileva says. "Even more surprising was that the reprogrammed cells appeared to hijack normal developmental programs, such as those responsible for limb development."

Because neural crest cells are only present during early development, the findings help explain why Ewing sarcoma affects children and adolescents, but not older adults. The cells' reprogramming may also account for the puzzling mixed appearance of Ewing sarcoma cells under the microscope.

"The precancer cells seem to be caught at a crossroads of multiple potential cell fate decisions," Dr. Vasileva explains. "By understanding these reprogramming trajectories, we may be able to uncover new vulnerabilities of cancer cells and identify new therapeutic targets."

Australia skipper Healy scores 142

Australia beats India with highest successful run chase in women's ODI cricket

VISAKHAPATNAM, India, Oct 13, (AP): Alyssa Healy scored 142 as Australia beat India by three wickets in the highest successful run chase in women's one-day international cricket.

Defending champion Australia won with an over to spare under lights in dewy conditions and moved atop the standings at the Women's Cricket World Cup with wins over New Zealand, Pakistan, and now India.

Australia finished on 331-7 with Ellyse Perry (47 not out) hitting the winning six off the last ball of the 49th over, in reply to India's 330 in 48.5 overs.

Healy's 107-ball innings included 21 fours and three sixes. It was a sixth ODI hundred for the Australia skipper, her second against India and third at World Cups.

Earlier, Smriti Mandhana's 80 runs off 66 balls provided a great start for India after Australia won the toss and opted to bowl.

Mandhana hit nine fours and three sixes. She put on 155 runs for the first wicket with Pratika Rawal, who scored 75 off 96 at the ACA-VDCA Stadium. But India lost its last six wickets for 36 runs, and its dismissal with seven balls left proved costly.

Co-host India lost its previous game to

South Africa by three wickets at the same venue.

Seven-time champion Australia is unbeaten in 12 Cricket World Cup games stretching back to 2022. It next plays Bangladesh on Thursday, at the same Visakhapatnam venue.

India has a week off before it plays four-time champion England in Indore. Healy was the player of the match. "I'm really proud of the group today," Healy said. "We have been preaching about our batting depth, and this chase proves it. Full credit to our bowlers for pulling it back - we could have been chasing 360."

South Africa plays Bangladesh on Monday, also in Visakhapatnam.

Mandhana led India's top-order revival as she and Rawal provided its best start of the tournament in the first-ever 150-plus opening stand against Australia in women's ODIs.

Mandhana also crossed 1,000 calendar ODI runs - a first in women's cricket. She scored 50 off 46 balls, also reaching 5,000 career runs in the quickest time (112 innings) and becoming the second Indian - and fifth overall - women's cricketer to achieve this feat.

Left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux proved



Australia's captain Alyssa Healy plays a shot during the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup match between India and Australia at ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam, India. (AP)

expensive (3-75), but she broke through with Mandhana's wicket. She also dismissed Har-

leen Deol, who scored 38 off 42 balls. Medium pacer Annabel Sutherland took

5-40 - her first five-wicket haul. She had Rawal caught in the 31st over, before triggering the lower-order collapse.

Skipper Kaur scored 22 off 17 balls, while Jemimah Rodrigues scored 33 off 21.

Richa Ghosh provided the final flourish, with 32 off 22, but Sutherland's late burst of wickets meant India crashed from 294-5 to 330 all out.

Healy and Phoebe Litchfield responded with an 85-run opening stand.

Litchfield scored a 39-ball 40 as Australia took advantage of a dewy outfield. Healy struck a barrage of boundaries - she hit eight fours and a six in 50 off 35 balls.

Left-arm spinner Shree Charani dismissed Litchfield, but Perry combined with Healy for 69 off 76 balls for the second wicket. Perry walked off with a hamstring issue, but returned later to guide the chase.

Two quick wickets fell, but Healy ploughed on - she reached 100 off 84 balls and shared a stand of 95 off 70 balls with Ashleigh Gardner (45).

Healy was out in the 39th over, and Amanjot Kaur struck twice late to cause some concern for Australia, but Perry and Kim Garth were there at the end for a stunning victory.

Hamlin charges to emotional 60th Cup win at Las Vegas, clinches spot in NASCAR finale



Drivers race out of Turn 4 during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, in Las Vegas. Inset: Denny Hamlin celebrates in victory lane after winning the race. (AP)

Larson's drought continues as he finishes second

LAS VEGAS, Oct 13, (AP): With tears in his eyes and needing a moment to compose himself, Denny Hamlin collected his sixth checkered flag and reflected on everything it meant.

The victory Sunday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway was the 60th of his career - a lifetime goal he dedicated to his ailing father - and it gave him the first of the four spots in NASCAR's winner-take-all championship finale.

Hamlin, a three-time Daytona 500 winner considered the greatest driver to never win a Cup Series title, is back in the championship race for the first time since 2021. He's Joe Gibbs Racing's winningest driver and now Toyota's, as well.

The 44-year-old Virginia driver is tied for 10th on NASCAR's career victories list with Kevin Harvick.

Hamlin couldn't hold back the tears after a frantic final 10-lap drive to run down Kyle Larson and then JGR teammate Chase Briscoe. Two weeks ago, he thought he had his 60th win locked up at Kansas Speedway and was bitterly disappointed to come up short, and mentioned letting down his ailing father.

He made good on it two weeks later at Las Vegas in what may be the most important win of his career. He said the win was for his 75-year-old father, who was also rooting for his son to hit the 60-win mark.

Hamlin took four tires on the final restart and restarted in fifth before slicing his way through traffic. He first got past Joey Logano, who had only two new tires, needed a few laps to run down Larson on the inside, and then finally took the lead from Briscoe, who was also only on two tires.

This is the deepest in the playoffs that new crew chief Chris Gayle has ever advanced, and Hamlin credited adjustments on the final pit stop for getting him his

seventh win of the season, most since 2020.

"Just putting down all the factors, I just can't imagine there's a win bigger for me than this one," Hamlin said.

Joe Gibbs, who lost both his sons before they turned 50, was touched by Hamlin's dedication.

"I know one of the things he shared there was his dad. That was emotional for everybody," Gibbs said.

Larson, seeking to end a 20-race losing streak, was second in a Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports. JGR drivers Christopher Bell and Briscoe were third and fourth, Tyler Reddick, who drives for Hamlin at 23XI Racing, was fifth, and reigning Cup Series champion Logano was sixth.

Five of the top six - only Reddick - are still in the playoff field. The others are Chase Elliott, who finished 18th; Daytona 500 winner William Byron was 36th, and Ryan Blaney was last in 38th.

Byron was out front and then wiggled out of the groove with 35 laps remaining, saved his Chevrolet from crashing, but teammate Larson sailed past him for the lead. Minutes later, he was involved in a race-ending crash when he drilled into the back of Ty Dillon, unaware that Dillon was slowing to head to pit road.

The bottom four drivers in the playoff standings with two races remaining in this round are Byron, Elliott, Logano, and Blaney.

Blaney, second in points at the start of the race, saw his title hopes take a severe hit when a tire issue caused him to crash into the wall with nine laps remaining in the first stage.

His race immediately ended, he finished 38th, and dropped to the bottom of the eight-driver playoff round. Blaney is the 2023 Cup Series champion, with teammate Joey Logano winning titles in 2022 and 2024 to give Team Penske three straight.

The upside is Blaney races next at Talladega Superspeedway, where he's a three-time winner and considers himself to be in a must-win situation.

Austin snaps LAFc win streak

AUSTIN, Texas, Oct 13, (AP): Owen Wolff scored in a goal in the 83rd minute, Brad Stuver had two saves, and Austin FC beat Los Angeles FC 1-0 to snap LAFc's six-game win streak.

Los Angeles (17-8-8) has 59 points, one behind second-place San Diego and one ahead of Minnesota in the Western Conference. Vancouver has 63 points.

Austin (13-12-8) has 47 points and will be the No. 6 seed in the Western Conference for the MLS Cup playoffs, which begin Oct. 22.

Wolff's goal ended LAFc's shutout streak at 429 minutes, dating to Sept. 21 against Salt Lake.

Zan Kolmanic played a corner kick into the area that deflected off the head of LAFc's Eddie Segura before Wolff headed home the finish inside the back post.

Denis Bouanga and Son Heung-Min did not play (international duty) for LAFc. Bouanga is second in MLS with 24 goals this season and Son has eight goals and three assists in eight starts since signing with LAFc on Aug. 6.

The match had originally been scheduled for July 5, but was rescheduled due to severe weather and flooding in the area.

China claims mixed team relay gold at Short Track World Tour

MONTREAL, Oct 13, (Xinhua): China concluded the 2025-26 ISU Short Track World Tour season opener in Montreal, Canada with a dramatic victory in the 2,000m mixed team relay, securing its first gold medal of the new Olympic qualification season.

China's quartet of Sun Long, Liu Shaoang, Wang Xinran and Zhang Chutong delivered a thrilling performance in the final, where the lead changed hands multiple times.

Liu executed a decisive inside pass on the final lap, overtaking two competitors to clinch victory in two minutes 39.528 seconds. The Netherlands and Canada completed the podium, while South Korea was disqualified.

Liu, fresh from his relay heroics, continued his strong form in the men's 1,000m final, advancing through the quarterfinals to claim bronze in 1:30.628. Italy's Pietro Sighel captured his first-ever World Tour individual gold, adding to his silver in the men's 500m final on Saturday. South Korea's Rim Jong-un took silver.

China's men's team of Sun, Liu Shaoang, Zhang Bohao and Li Wenlong added a silver medal in the 5,000m relay with a time of 6:51.160, finishing behind South Korea, with Italy taking bronze.

In women's events, Courtney Sarault clinched her second gold on home ice in the 1,500m final, ahead of South Korean veteran Kim Gili and Corinne Stoddard of the United States.



Teams from Canada, Italy, China and South Korea compete in the final of the men's 5000m relay race at the ISU Short Track World Tour speedskating event in Montreal. (AP)

Uganda celebrates Kiplimo's Chicago Marathon win

KAMPALA, Oct 13, (Xinhua): Jacob Kiplimo's historic win at the 2025 Chicago Marathon has drawn wide celebrations back home in Uganda.

Kiplimo became the first Ugandan ever to claim a World Marathon Major title in Chicago on Sunday. He clocked 2:02:23, beating Kenya's Amos Kipruto and Alex Masai, who finished in 2:03:54 and 2:04:37 respectively.

Uganda's Minister of Education and Sports, Janet Kataaha Museveni, congratulated Kiplimo on his victory with a post on X.

"Congratulations, Jacob, for proudly carrying our flag in Chicago! Your victory brings joy to Uganda and serves as a testament to what faith and hard work can achieve," she wrote.

Peter Ogwang, Uganda's State Minister for Sports, also commended Kiplimo. "Once again Kiplimo has done it for Uganda. We celebrate him for flying our national



Jacob Kiplimo of Uganda runs during the 2025 Chicago Marathon in downtown Chicago, the United States. (Xinhua)

flag high," Ogwang told Xinhua.

The reigning world cross country champion, Kiplimo had finished second on his marathon debut in London earlier this year.

The Chicago Marathon is one of the six prestigious World Marathon Majors, with others being held in Boston, London, Berlin, New York and Tokyo.

Meanwhile, the 40th Budapest Marathon set a new record with over 40,000 participants from 119 countries and regions, organizers announced.

"This year's event is the largest mass sports gathering ever held in Hungary," said chief organizer Arpad Kocsis.

Kocsis reported that 9,000 participants traveled from abroad, with 9,352 runners completing the official results list. "Budapest has truly joined the ranks of Europe's running capitals," he added.

In the men's race, Hungarian runners claimed the top two positions as Mate

Vasarhelyi won the title in two hours, 22 minutes and 17 seconds, followed by Bence Vitarus at 2:27:37. Poland's Jakub Galasiewicz finished third at 2:34:16.

In the women's event, Hungary's Viktoria Nyikos took victory in 2:50:28. Caoimhe Nic Fhogartaigh of Ireland came second in 2:53:38, followed by Hungary's Reka Kormendi at 2:55:34.

The anniversary event featured notable moments, including multiple World and European paratriathlon champion Peter Boronkay pushing his disabled friend, Andras Nagy, in a special racing wheelchair for the full 42.2 kilometers along the Danube, across the Chain Bridge, and past landmarks such as Buda Castle and the Hungarian Parliament.

Firefighters Tibor Borbas and Elek Keller completed the marathon wearing 15 kilograms of protective gear, while the oldest participant was 81-year-old local Ferenc Kis.

Best of the Rest

Lanus sinks Independiente: Walter Bou and Rodrigo Castillo scored in each half as Lanus eased to a 2-0 away win over Independiente in Argentina's Primera Division.

Bou put his side ahead in the 25th minute by capitalizing on a defensive error to fire a left-footed shot into the far corner. (Xinhua)

Change Name

I, FARIDA ZAINUDDIN holder of Indian Passport No. R8278523 do hereby change my name to FARIDA ZAINUDDIN (as Given name) KARBALAI (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name FARIDA ZAINUDDIN KARBALAI and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

Gordon added to Wallabies squad for Japan and Europe tests

BRISBANE, Australia, Oct 13, (AP): Carter Gordon has been rushed into Australia's touring squad for tests in Japan and Europe within hours of returning to eligibility for the Wallabies by leaving the National Rugby League.

The 24-year-old Gordon was added to the Wallabies squad in the absence of flyhalves Tom Lynagh, who started against the British and Irish Lions, and Noah Lolesio, who

hasn't played since sustaining an injury in the opening win over Fiji.

Gordon had been lured back from NRL club Gold Coast Titans and his signing with the Queensland Reds and Rugby Australia was announced Monday, hours before Wallabies head coach Joe Schmidt unveiled a 34-man squad for the five-test northern tour.

"Carter Gordon will get the opportunity to integrate back into the

Wallabies environment," Schmidt said. "We've taken a long-term view with Tom Lynagh, who is still just 22. He has had a few injury frustrations since the third test versus the Lions in early August and will follow an individualized program, guided by both Wallabies and Queensland staff, which will allow him to recover to full fitness." Gordon made his debut for the Wallabies in 2023 and played eight tests

before switching to rugby league, where he had limited game time in the top-flight and decided to return to the 15-a-side code.

Schmidt stuck with the bulk of the Wallabies squad involved in the Rugby Championship. He didn't select foreign-based players, including veteran flyhalf James O'Connor, but was considering options to add players when the tests fall inside the World Rugby international window.



October 07, 2025

Mr. Deepak Singh Dhani, son of Mr. Puran Singh Dhani, Indian national, resident of Vill- Chaupta, Dhani Silling Lohaghat, Champawat, Pin: 262524, Uttarakhand, India and Ms. Quennie Segueria Ranola, daughter of Mr. Eufemio Cabahug Ranola Jr., Philippines national, resident of General Santos City, Davao City, Philippines, presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).



(Harti Sheta)
Second Secretary (Community Affairs)
and Marriage Officer,
Embassy of India, Kuwait,
Email: cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in

We are relaxed & happy, we feel no pressure

Saudi Arabia eyes WCup berth in crucial playoff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Australian Graham Arnold, head coach of Iraq, stirred the pot by claiming that Saudi Arabia will face greater pressure ahead of today's decisive Asian World Cup qualifying playoff for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

At a press conference, Arnold stated:

"I think the pressure will be heavier on Saudi Arabia. They have two ways to qualify: a draw or a win, and that's what they are thinking about. We are only focused on winning, and we have already secured a spot in the global playoff. About 90% of the stadium will be Saudi fans today, and the pressure is enormous—from the Saudi



Saudi Arabia's national team coach, Frenchman Hervé Renard, addresses the media.

media and even FIFA." When asked about his comment regarding "pressure from FIFA,"

Arnold explained that, in his view, Saudi Arabia is under scrutiny from all sides. He added:

"We are relaxed and happy; we feel no pressure. All the pressure is on Saudi Arabia."

Responding to Arnold's remarks, French coach Hervé Renard described the upcoming match as one of the most important in his career, stressing the need for focus to secure World Cup qualification. Renard said:

"The match is still more than 24 hours away, but it is one of the most important games for me. We must stay focused on our goal, which is to qualify for the World Cup."

The match kicks off today at Al-Inma Stadium, with Saudi Arabia needing a win or a draw to advance, while Iraq must win to reach the World Cup finals.

Kuwaiti MotoSurf star Fares tops Rookie Stock in Croatia



Fares Ramadhan

ZADAR, Croatia, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwaiti rider Fares Ramadhan from the Kuwait Water Sports Club claimed first place on Sunday in the Rookie Stock category at the World MotoSurf Championship held in Zadar, Croatia.

Ibrahim Ramadan, head of the Club's Water Bike Committee, told KUNA that the championship, which began on Octo-

ber 10, featured 96 competitors from 20 countries.

He added that two rounds remain in the series organized by the International Powerboating Federation (UIM), with the fifth round scheduled for Shenzhen, China, and the final sixth round set for Macau, both taking place in November.

India on brink of victory

Windies' winless run vs India hits 23 years

NEW DELHI, Oct 13, (AP): India reached 63-1 on day four of the second test against West Indies, leaving it just 58 runs for a 2-0 series win.

Lokesh Rahul was 25 not out and Sai Sudharsan unbeaten on 30 from 47 balls, with five fours, at stumps.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, who scored 175 in the first innings, was out for eight after India was set 121 for victory. There was an option to extend play by 30 minutes if India got close to winning, it wasn't needed.

Shai Hope struck his first test century in eight years to help West Indies score 390 runs (118.5 overs) in its second innings.

John Campbell (115) had also scored his first test hundred, while a 79-run stand for the last wicket pushed India's pursuit of victory to day five.

West Indies had scored 248 runs in its first innings, in reply to India's 518-5d, thus surrendering a first innings' lead of 270 runs.

West Indies has not beaten India in their last 26 tests - home or away - dating to 2002.

In the morning session, Campbell notched things up to keep West Indies fighting.

His previous best was 68 against New Zealand in 2020, and he put on 177 runs with Hope as West Indies reduced the deficit to



West Indies' John Campbell plays a shot on the fourth day of the second cricket test match between India and West Indies at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, India. (AP)

18 runs at lunch - 252-3.

Campbell was out lbw to Ravindra Jadeja (1-102) prior to the lunch break. Mohammed Siraj then bowled Hope to trigger a West Indies' collapse. Hope was out for 103 off 214 balls, including 12 fours and two sixes.

At the other end, Kuldeep Yadav picked up three quick wick-

ets - trapping Tevin Imlach lbw for 12 then dismissing Roston Chase (40) and Khary Pierre (0) in the same over - as West Indies slipped to 298-7. Yadav finished with eight wickets.

West Indies went to tea at 361-9 after a 30-minute extension. Justin Greaves (50) and Jaydon Seales (32) then frustrated the tired In-

dian bowlers and fielders for 22 overs before Jasprit Bumrah (3-44) wrapped up the innings.

It was only the fourth time since 1961 that India was forced to bat again in a test after enforcing the follow-on.

India won the first test in Ahmedabad by an innings and 40 runs.

South Africa dismisses hosts for 378

Senuran spins Pakistan into trouble with six-wicket haul

LAHORE, Pakistan, Oct 13, (AP): Senuran Muthusamy took three wickets in four deliveries Monday in a career-best haul of 6-117 to help South Africa dismiss Pakistan for 378 on the second day of the first cricket test.

Salman Ali Agha became the second Pakistan batter to narrowly miss out on a century in this innings when he was last wicket to fall for the home team.

Left-arm spinner Muthusamy bowled a triple-wicket maiden over with three perfect full pitched balls as Pakistan slumped from 362-5 to 362-8. Nine overs later, Agha was dismissed for 93 when he holed out to Muthusamy at mid-on.

Opening batter Imam-ul-Haq also made 93 on the first day in his comeback to test cricket after almost two years, and shared a 161-run partnership with captain Shan Masood (76).

South Africa reached 10-0 in four tricky overs before lunch Monday on an abrasive wicket



South Africa's Simon Harmer, center, bowls as Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan, right, watches during the first day of first test cricket match between Pakistan and South Africa, in Lahore, Pakistan, Sunday. (AP)

as Pakistan went straight with the left-arm spin of Noman Ali, who shared the new ball with Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Resuming on the overnight 313-5 on a dry pitch with plenty of variable bounce, Agha and

Mohammad Rizwan (75) extended their partnership to 163 and denied Kagiso Rabada (1-56) a breakthrough in his four-over spell while showing lot of aggression against the off-spin of Simon Harmer, who finished

with 1-101.

Agha, who survived an lbw television referral in Rabada's second over, twice lifted Harmer for sixes while Rizwan negated the spinner with his trademark sweep shots before Pakistan lost a bundle of three wickets without scoring for the second time in the innings.

Rizwan and Agha's partnership bettered Pakistan's previous best for the sixth-wicket against South Africa - Moin Khan and Inzamam-ul-Haq combined for 144 at Faisalabad in 1997 - before Rizwan edged Muthusamy behind while attempting an off drive.

Muthusamy then bowled Noman and had Sajid Khan caught at slip by Aiden Markram to be on a hat-trick for the second time in the innings.

Agha, who hit five fours and three sixes in his 145-ball knock, denied Muthusamy hat-trick. Prenalan Subrayen (2-87) ended the innings when Agha went for a big hit against the off-spinner.

Al-Arabi triumphs in friendly ahead of Salmiya showdown

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Al-Arabi secured a 3-1 victory over Yarmouk in a friendly at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, as the team prepares for their upcoming clash against Salmiya in the fifth round of the Zain Premier League.

Al-Arabi currently sits third in the league standings with 8 points, just one behind Salmiya in second place and two behind Kuwait Club, who lead the table.

Portuguese coach Marco Figueiredo took the opportunity to give playing time to several young players, as key team members were either with the national team or sidelined due to injuries.

The match saw participation from promising goalkeeper Abdullah Al-Ayoub, along with Abdullah Faris, Yousef Sabah, and Hussein Adnan. Squad players who are not regular starters, including Abdullah Ammar and Nasser Salem, also featured, while goalkeeper Suleiman Abdulghafour made his return after recovering from injury.



Al-Arabi teammates greet each other during play.

For Yarmouk, coach Dhafer Al-Adwani aimed to use the friendly as preparation for the resumption of the Zain First Division League. The team currently sits third with 9 points, one behind Al-Jazeera in second place and three behind leaders Al-Sulaibikhat.

Best of the Rest

Tunisia closes successful qualifying run: With its spot in the 2026 World Cup already secured, Tunisia closed its African qualifying run with a comfortable 3-0 home win over Namibia on Monday.

Ali Abdi converted a 28th-minute penalty kick and Hannibal Mejri and Ferjani Sassi added second-half goals for the hosts. Tunisia won Group H with 28 points from 10 matches. It finished 13 points ahead of second-place Namibia.

The nine group winners automatically qualify for the World Cup. The four best runners-up play in a mini tournament of two semifinals and a final in November. (AP)

Olmo out for two to three weeks: FC Barcelona faces being without attacking midfielder Dani Olmo for around two to three weeks with a calf injury which means he will miss October 26th's first 'Clasico' of the season against Real Madrid.

The club carried out tests on Monday morning after Olmo picked up the injury training on Friday and dropped out of the Spain squad ahead of the 2-0 win against Georgia.

"The first team player Dani Olmo has a muscle injury in his left calf, without connective tissue involvement. The recovery time will be dictated by his progress," explains the Barcelona website, although local media, such as the El Mundo Deportivo newspaper suggests he will be sidelined for a maximum of three weeks. (Xinhua)

Han Jiayu wins women's 10m air rifle with last-shot comeback

GUANGZHOU, Oct 13, (Xinhua): Han Jiayu of Zhejiang captured the gold medal with a thrilling comeback in the women's 10m air rifle final at China's 15th National Games on Monday, edging out Jiangsu's Yan Jinjing with a decisive final shot.

"I think I was fairly steady overall, consistent with how I've been training recently," Han said after the victory. "There were some small fluctuations, but in the end, I managed to stay focused and seize the key moments. Toward the end, I just told myself to take it one shot at a time, to do each shot as well as I could, and make the most of every opportunity. That mindset helped me finish strong." The top eight shooters from qualification advanced to the individual final, while team rankings were determined by the combined scores of three athletes. The top two teams advanced to the gold-medal match, with the third and fourth competing for bronze.

Zhejiang, featuring Olympic champion Huang Yuting, 2023 world champion Han, and world record holder Wang Zifei, dominated qualification

with a combined 1,903.6 points, 1.6 higher than China's previous record set at the Asian Championships in August.

All three Zhejiang shooters reached the individual final, with Han placing third, Huang fourth, and Wang fifth. Hubei's Liu Yafei led qualification with 635.5 points, while Shandong's debutante Yu Jiaxin narrowly made the cut at 633.9, which surpassed the highest World Cup qualifying threshold of 633.6 this season.

The final was filled with surprises. Huang was the first to exit, and Wang's two 9.9s proved costly as she finished fifth. Liu and Hunan's world record holder Peng Xinlu were next to be eliminated.

Han, the last remaining Zhejiang shooter, overtook Liaoning's 15-year-old prodigy Du Yuchen - who had claimed mixed team gold on Sunday - to reach the final duel. Trailing Yan by 0.1 point before the last shot, Han kept her composure and delivered a 10.6, surpassing Yan's 9.8 to secure the title with 252.7 points.

The victory marked Han's first individual Na-

tional Games gold, adding to the team title she helped Zhejiang win at the Shaanxi Games in 2021.

"It feels like a kind of growth," she said. "Back then, I was part of a team and learned a lot from that experience. Step by step, I've absorbed those lessons and turned them into my own performance. It's been a process of constant accumulation and improvement." Despite narrowly missing the gold, Yan was pleased to claim silver in her second National Games appearance.

"I'm quite satisfied," said Yan, who finished fifth four years ago. "I think I showed the level I usually have in training. The biggest change is my mentality: before, I focused too much on the score and ignored how I felt at the moment. Over the past four years, I've learned to focus on adjusting my mindset and maintaining the right mental balance." In the men's 25m rapid fire pistol final, which Olympic champion Li Yuehong failed to qualify for, Su Lianbofan of Fujian prevailed after shoot-off, defeating Shaanxi's He Shiyu for the gold with 35 hits.

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Morocco's Yassir Zabiri celebrates after United States' Joshua Wynder scored an own goal during a FIFA U-20 World Cup quarter-final soccer match at El Teniente Stadium in Rancagua, Chile. Morocco won 3-1. (AP)

Sports

Sousa aims for breakthrough win as Kuwait plays Morocco

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DUBAI, Oct 13: Kuwait will play a friendly match against Morocco's B team at 6:00 p.m. today at Al-Aweer Stadium in Dubai, UAE. The game is part of Kuwait's ongoing preparation program, which began in late September, ahead of its Arab Cup playoff match against Mauritania scheduled for November in Doha, Qatar.

The team will conclude its current training camp tomorrow before heading to another camp in Cairo, Egypt, in November. During that camp, Kuwait will play two friendlies against Tanzania and Gambia on November 14 and 18, respectively, before traveling to Doha for the decisive clash with Mauritania.

The Kuwaiti delegation arrived in the UAE last Friday from Tashkent, where it faced Uzbekistan in a friendly that ended in a 2-0 defeat.

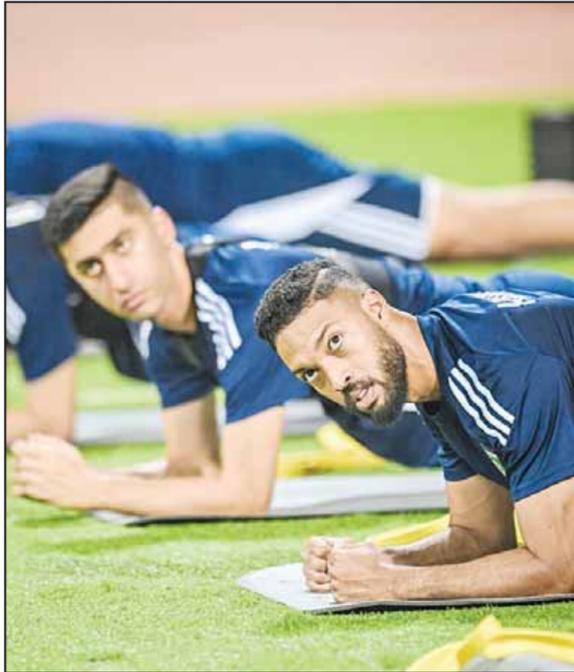
Head coach Helio Sousa is aiming for his first win with the team in his third match in charge, after a 2-2 draw with Syria in September and the recent loss to Uzbekistan.

During recent training sessions, Sousa and his staff focused on correcting the defensive errors that cost the team two early goals against Uzbekistan. Sousa believes the players need more time and match experience to fully grasp his tactical approach but remains hopeful they will adapt quickly to deliver the desired results.

On the other side, Morocco's B team recently defeated Egypt's B team 2-0 last Friday in a friendly at Al-Bashir Stadium in Mohammedia, Rabat.

The Moroccan squad, led by Coach Tarek Sektioui, is preparing for the Arab Cup, where they have been drawn into Group B alongside Saudi Arabia, the winner of Oman vs. Somalia, and the winner of Yemen vs. Comoros. Sektioui aims to continue his team's strong form and contend for the Arab Cup title.

The Kuwaiti delegation is scheduled to return home tomorrow from the UAE camp. International players will rejoin their clubs before regrouping again in Cairo on November 10 for the next phase of preparations.



Players undergo a training session ahead of match.

Kuwait wins overall title at Arab Squash Championship

BEIRUT, Oct 13: Kuwait captured the overall championship title at the 30th Arab Squash Championship, held in Lebanon, after defeating Iraq 2-1 in the decisive final.

In the concluding team matches, Bader Al-Maghribi edged past Iraq's Hassanein Dakhil 3-2, while Ammar Al-Tamimi sealed the victory for Kuwait with a 3-1 win over Iraq's top seed Mohammed Farman. The triumph crowned Kuwait as Arab champions, with Iraq taking second place and Qatar finishing third.

During the closing ceremony, Waleed Al-Sameea, President of both the Arab and Kuwaiti Squash Federations, awarded medals and trophies to the winners and stand-out teams, alongside Dr. Ali Jihad, Vice President of the Arab Federation, Fayez Al-Mutairi, Secretary-General, and Dhafir Kabara, President of the Lebanese Federation.

Kuwait's victorious lineup featured Ammar Al-Tamimi, Ali Al-Ramzi, Bader Al-Maghribi, Abdullah Hani, Abdulrahman Al-Maghribi, and Jassem Al-Ghaareeb, under the guidance of coaches Ahmed Al-Sayed and Falah Fayez, with Mashaal Al-Sharqawi serving as team administrator.



A Kuwaiti player receives the trophy.

Expressing his delight, Ammar Al-Tamimi, the Arab individual champion, said he was proud to see Kuwait stand atop the Arab rankings, praising the federation for providing full support and preparation ahead of the tournament.

Faroe Islands makes historic World Cup push with victory over Czech Republic



Austria's Stefan Posch, left, challenges for the ball with Romania's Valentin Mihaila during the World Cup 2026 Group H qualifying soccer match between Romania and Austria at the National Arena stadium, in Bucharest, Romania. (AP)

Netherlands and Scotland win

TORSHAVN, Oct 13, (AP): Tiny Faroe Islands took a big step toward its first World Cup with a stunning 2-1 win against the Czech Republic.

Ranked 136th by FIFA, the nation with a population of less than 55,000 has put itself in contention for the playoffs for next year's tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

A run of four wins from its last five qualifying matches has seen it climb to third in Group L. And victory against the second-placed Czechs means just one point separates the teams in the likely race to be runner-up to Croatia and secure a place in the playoffs.

Substitute Martin Agnarsson was the hero for the host Faroe Islands, which is located halfway between Scotland and Iceland and has a land area of just 540 square miles. The team has long been a minnow of European soccer, and at its lowest point, it was ranked 198th.

And it was the underdog against a Czech team still hoping to win the group. But Agnarsson's 81st-minute goal not only delivered a blow to Czech chances of qualifying automatically as group winner but opened up the fight for runner-up



Netherlands goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen and team captain Virgil van Dijk, center, applaud the fans at the end of a World Cup 2026 Group G qualifying soccer match between the Netherlands and Finland in Amsterdam. (AP)

with one game remaining for both teams.

The upset was on once Hanus Sorensen put the Faroe Islands ahead in the 67th minute at Torsvollur, a stadium with a capacity of just over 6,000 in the capital Torshavn. Adam Karabec had leveled in the 78th before Agnarsson's decisive goal.

Croatia - World Cup runner-up in 2018 and semifinalist in 2022 - leads the group by three points after a 3-0 win at home to Gibraltar and has a far superior goal difference. Croatia

also has a game in hand on the Czechs and Faroe Islands.

Netherlands continues to lead the way in Group G after a 4-0 win against Finland in Amsterdam.

Memphis Depay scored from the penalty spot for a record-extending 54th goal for his country. The former Manchester United forward has scored seven goals in six qualifying games during this campaign.

Donyell Malen, Virgil van Dijk, and Cody Gakpo were also on target for the Dutch, who top the group on

16 points with two games remaining. Poland is three points behind in second. Sebastian Szymanski scored directly from a corner, and Robert Lewandowski got the other goal in Poland's 2-0 win against Lithuania.

Denmark and Scotland are neck and neck at the top of Group C after both teams won again.

Scotland beat Belarus 2-1 after goals from Che Adams and Scott McTominay put it in control at Hampden Park. Gleb Kuchko pulled one back in stoppage time for Belarus.

Rasmus Hojlund's hot streak has continued since leaving Manchester United to join Napoli on loan last month.

He got Denmark started with the first goal in a 3-1 win against Greece. That's eight combined for club and country since his move.

Denmark leads the group, ahead of Scotland on goal difference, with both teams on 10 points after four games.

After the 10-0 rout of San Marino on Thursday, group H leader Austria saw its 100% record ended by Romania.

Virgil Ghitu's goal in the fifth minute of added time sealed a 1-0 win for Romania.

That was good news for second-placed Bosnia and Herzegovina, with just two points separating the top two.

Kuwait Club and Qadsia set for final

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kuwait Club and Qadsia have secured their places in the Super Cup Basketball final following exciting semifinal wins. Qadsia narrowly defeated Kazma 94-93 in overtime after a tied 83-83 at the end of regulation, while Kuwait Club comfortably beat Al-Qurain 111-88.

This season, the Kuwait Basketball Association introduced a new Super Cup format, featuring the top four teams from last season's league standings, replacing the previous system that involved only the league and cup champions.

The Qadsia vs. Kazma match was fiercely contested from start to finish, with both teams trading leads throughout. Qadsia forced overtime with a last-minute basket in regulation and ultimately clinched victory in the final seconds of extra time, earning a place in the final against Kuwait Club, the reigning Arab champions.

In the other semifinal, American player Charlie Moore led Kuwait Club with an impressive 32-point performance, guiding his team to a comfort-



Players vie for the ball.

able win.

In a major roster move, Kuwait Club has signed French center Joffrey Lauvergne to bolster their squad for the new season. Lauvergne brings a wealth of experience, having previously played in the NBA with the Chicago Bulls, San Antonio Spurs, and Oklahoma City Thunder.

Ghana qualifies for 2026 World Cup

ACCRA, Ghana, Oct 13, (AP): Ghana became the fifth African nation to qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

The 2010 quarterfinalist joins Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia at next year's tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Ghana needed a point against Comoros in its final game in Group I to be certain of qualifying for back-to-back World Cups and sealed its place with a 1-0 win at Accra Sports Stadium.

In the end it didn't even need that after second-placed Madagascar lost 4-1 at Mali.

Tottenham forward Mohammed Kudus scored the decisive goal in the 47th minute to ensure Ghana qualified in style.

Madagascar still finished second, but victory would have im-

proved its chances of being one of the four best runners-up, which compete for a place in the playoffs.

The nine group winners automatically qualify for the World Cup. The four best runners-up play in a mini tournament of two semifinals and a final in November.

The winning team advances to FIFA's playoff tournament against opponents from Asia, CONCACAF, South America and Oceania.

Burkina Faso, second in Group A behind Egypt, rounded off its campaign with a 3-1 win against Ethiopia, with substitute Pierre Landry Kabore scoring a second-half hat trick.

Egypt had already qualified and picked up another win by beating Guinea-Bissau 1-0.

In Group E Niger beat Zambia 1-0 and finished second.



The Ghanaian players celebrate after qualifying for the World Cup.

De la Fuente likely to rotate squad

MADRID, Oct 13, (Xinhua): Spain can all but ensure its place at next summer's FIFA World Cup with a win against Bulgaria on Tuesday, although coach Luis de la Fuente has lost another player to injury.

The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) reported that forward Ferran Torres has left the squad with "problems that were evaluated by the RFEF medical services with tests showing a muscle strain but without any anatomical injury."

Ferran is the latest player to drop out of the squad after Real Madrid defender Dean Huijsen left with

muscle fatigue and Dani Olmo with a calf injury, while Lamine Yamal and Rodri were also forced out with problems shortly after De la Fuente named his squad.

Despite those problems, Spain cruised past Georgia on Saturday with players such as Yeremy Pino, Pablo Barrios and Alex Baena showing the wealth of talent the coach has at his disposal.

Saturday's win leaves Spain with three wins from three World Cup qualifying games and a three-point lead over Türkiye, whom they beat 6-0 away in September.