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Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, PM, 1st Dpty Premier

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday at Bayan Palace, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received separately at Bayan Palace, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

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HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince

PACI deletes addresses of 618 persons ... update or pay fine

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced the deletion of the residential addresses of 618 individuals from its records, as per the declaration of property owners or due to the demolition of the buildings in which they resided.

In this announcement published Sunday in the official gazette 'Kuwait Al-Youm', PACI urged those concerned to visit the Authority to update their data or do it through the Sahel application within 30 days, attaching the required supporting documents to register the new address.

It warned that anyone who fails to update their data within the specified period will be subject to the penalty stipulated in Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982 -- a fine not exceeding KD100 multiplied by the number of people.



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Development is incentives ... not obstacles

IT seems the current Cabinet seeks to consolidate negative development, not positive, whereby the State leverages the potential of the people and the private sector, as well as local and foreign investment, to diversify its sources of income and strengthen its economy amidst global challenges.

Conversely, nations aiming to stimulate their economies actively promote individual and collective initiatives, harnessing them as a foundation for regional and international power.

The relevance of this statement is that the measures appear to encourage investors to offer incentives and stimulants to the State, rather than the other way around, as we noted yesterday.

The launching of private sector projects has been hindered by a series of challenges. Over the years, regional issues, the COVID-19 pandemic, and most recently, an emphasis on minor violations in the industrial, agricultural and service sectors, have led to project disruptions and plot withdrawals. These factors collectively serve to inhibit the successful initiation of new ventures.

In all countries aiming to regulate any sector, they open the way for investors to develop their projects and then issue decisions based on what helps them succeed, because they seek for sustainable development based on reducing imports, manufacturing materials within their borders, and

even making them a global commodity.

On the contrary, it leads to further depletion of natural resources, mis-allocation and deterring investment in vital sectors, food security, and even infrastructure.

Undoubtedly, this contributes to increased corruption, as those who benefit from the status quo reject any serious local competition.

They want to circumvent the law, and engage in bribery and other forms of corruption, because more imports mean more profits. Thus, we see, for example, a near-open war on agricultural production.

On the other hand, there is something resembling a war on local manufacturing, even if it is minimal.

Similarly, the construction of roads and other infrastructure is not a development project despite their importance.

Meanwhile, developmental achievements by human beings appear almost nonexistent, despite much media coverage about them.

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KUNA photo

Kuwait's Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem visits the under-construction Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in Washington.

Memorial fortifies Kuwait-US ties

WASHINGTON, Oct 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem visited the under-construction Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in Washington on Saturday.

During the visit, Minister Al-Mukhaizeem received a briefing on the memorial's latest developments and construction stages.

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Decree appoints panel to guide plans, policies

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: An Amiri Decree was issued amending Article 10 of Decree No. 257/1993 regarding the establishment of the Secretariat General of Awqaf, including the formation of the Endowment Resources Development and Investment Committee.

The decree, published in the official gazette 'Kuwait Al-Youm' on Sunday, stipulates that Clause Two of Article 10 of Decree No. 257/1993 shall be replaced with the following text: "The Endowment Resources Development and Investment Committee shall be solely responsible for preparing strategies and policies for the investment of endowment funds, following up their implementation, and conducting investment operations in all relevant fields, in accordance with the laws regulating this matter and the provisions and principles of Islamic Sharia. This committee shall consist of representatives of Kuwait Investment Authority, based on the nomination and approval of its Board of Directors.

The Minister of Islamic Affairs and Awqaf, in coordination with the Authority, shall issue a decision setting out the

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Chaos grips delivery sector despite boom

Companies bemoan huge financial losses

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Despite the remarkable growth in demand for delivery services in Kuwait during 2025, with orders exceeding half a million per day, this vital sector still lacks a legislative framework to regulate the relationships between restaurants, online platforms, and delivery companies.

Abdulaziz Al-Faleh, Chairman of the Delivery Company Owners Committee, confirmed that despite the sector's remarkable growth in 2025, it continues to suffer from the absence of laws governing the opera-

tion of online platforms, as well as a lack of legislation protecting the delivery companies themselves.

Al-Faleh explained that delivery companies bear huge financial burdens during the waiting period for drivers to obtain their licenses, which can last up to six months. During this time, the companies cover accommodation and medical expenses. Company owners are often surprised when some drivers leave for other companies after obtaining their licenses, causing substantial losses.

Government decisions are under consideration to set commission rates between restaurants and platforms. The proposals include a ten percent commission for the platform if delivery is handled by the restaurant, and 20 percent if delivery is through participating delivery companies, meaning that local delivery companies are the most negatively affected.

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KUNA photo

Kuwait's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired a meeting of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps Council on Sunday at the Foreign Ministry headquarters. The meeting discussed several agenda items, with assistant foreign ministers who are members of the council.

Program launched to combat misinformation

Kuwait stresses Arab unity to counter threats

CAIRO, Oct 19, (KUNA): The 67th session of the Arab Committee for standardization of military terms and concepts began Sunday with Kuwait's participation to discuss unified procedures for joint Arab military operations.

In his opening remarks, Arab League Military Affairs Director Minister Plenipotentiary Tareq Abdulsalam said current challenges to Arab national security are no longer conventional but rather increasingly complex, including cross-border terrorist threats.

He added that with the growing threats posed by cyber warfare and regional interventions, achieving maximum levels of coordination and cooperation in military planning across Arab states is a pressing strategic necessity.

He stressed that the Arab League's Department of Arab Affairs and National Security, through its Military Affairs Directorate, will continue to support and sponsor such meetings and symposiums to achieve their intended goals.

For his part, Head of the Qatari delegation and chair of current session Brigadier Thawab Al-Qahtani expressed hope for progress on the study about unifying Arab military work through prior research and latest technological and software tools.

Al-Qahtani noted that the previous session completed a comprehensive review of military terms, concepts, symbols, and abbreviations approved in earlier meetings, thanking delegates for their efforts in unifying these essential references.

Kuwait is participating with a delegation from the Military Education Authority, headed by Colonel Mohammad Al-Asousi, and includes Colonel Mohammad Al-Qahtani, Colonel Abdulkarim Al-Ibrahim, and Legal Officer Major Mohammad Al-Khayyat.

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More camping sites mulled with growing demand rise

By Inaas Awad
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Kuwait Municipality's Spring Camps Committee held a series of meetings with relevant authorities, most notably the Environment Public Authority (EPA).

According to informed sources, camping sites have been identified for the upcoming season, which runs from mid-November 2025 to mid-March 2026.

The proposed sites were submitted to the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari for his opinion, in preparation for the committee to begin coordinating the issuance of camping licenses in accordance with the required regulations.

The sources hinted at the possibility of increasing the number of camping sites this season compared to the previous season, which was set at 18. This would likely lead to more licenses being issued, especially since the upcoming camping season will cover most of the days of the month of Ramadan.

Last year (2024/2025), the committee approved 18 sites for spring camps, including 10 in Jahra Governorate and 8 in Ahmadi Governorate.

This number was lower than the previous year of 2023/2024, following the Kuwait Municipality's decision to reduce the number of sites by canceling six locations. These included four sites in southern Kuwait due to their proximity to the Arifjan camps, a site near the Kabd warehouses due to objections from EPA, and a site opposite Al-Oyoun in Jahra because of its proximity to residential areas.

NewsWatch

21 lose nationality

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Three decrees were issued on Sunday in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm" regarding the withdrawal of Kuwaiti citizenship from 21 individuals, along with those who had acquired it through them by dependency, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Decree No. 200/2025 stipulates the withdrawal of citizenship from three individuals and those who obtained it through them. Decree No. 201/2025 states that citizenship of one individual has been revoked along with those who obtained it through him.

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Municipal Council, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mehri, approved on Sunday, during its extraordinary session a proposal issued under Ministerial Resolution No. 558 of 2023 to replace 591 street names with numbers.

The Council also endorsed the minutes of the Committee for Studying Proposals and Requests related to naming cities, suburbs, and areas, which included renaming three streets after Arab capitals and retaining 66 existing names. (KUNA)

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Day by Day

A WISE man once said to his son, "If you fill your mind with trivial matters, there will be no room left for important ones."

The mind is like a field. If the farmer doesn't tend to it regularly and plant good seeds, harmful weeds will grow. These are simple and clear words, but do we truly understand and apply them?

Many of us fill our minds with trivial matters, and waste precious time thinking about them. Worse still, we often fiercely defend our opinions on issues of little significance.

... Yet tomorrow is another day

Zahid Matar



8 NBK concludes its participation in the Annual Meetings of IMF and the World Bank Group

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:32 Asr 14:48
Sunrise ... 05:51 Maghrib .. 17:14
Zohr 11:33 Isha 18:31

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind, with speeds 10-40 km/h.

By Night: Mild with light to moderate northwesterly wind to

light variable wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	39	29
Kuwait Airport	39	23
Abdaly	40	20
Bubyan	38	16

Weather

Jahra	40	26
Failaka Island	36	21
Salmiyah	35	28
Ahmadi	39	25
Nuwaisib	37	23
Wafra	39	21

Association marks 70th anniversary

Kuwait hosts Scouting Movement Conference

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Scouting Movement Conference with the theme, "For Whom, Why and Where To?" was launched Sunday under the patronage of Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei.

The Kuwait Scout Association organized the conference, in cooperation with the Arab Parliamentary Scout Union and the Arab Union of Scout Leaders and Guides. It will continue until Oct 22, with broad Arab and international participation.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Boy Scouts Association Dr. Abdullah Al-Taraji disclosed that the conference coincides with the 70th anniversary of the Association. "It brings us together under the banner of noble values and lofty goals that we all share as scouts, educators and believers in the ability of youths to shape the future." He pointed out "this conference is for all those who believe that scouting is not just an activity, but a way of life."

He added, "We are gathered here today because we believe that scouting is the first school of citizenship and the truest path toward instilling human values of belonging, respect, cooperation and assistance to others. Through this conference, we aspire to chart a clear roadmap for the future of the scouting movement in general. We want it to be a more inclusive, more influential and more modern movement. We want it to keep pace with the aspirations of young people and open new horizons for them to participate, volunteer and serve the public."

He asserted, "At this moment, we must remember the stature of Islamic advocacy and scouting work, the eminent scholar, wise leader and President of the International Association of Muslim Scouts, Dr. Abdullah Omar Naseef, who passed away a few days ago. "In recognition of his contributions and to commemorate him, we are pleased to announce the establishment of the Dr. Abdullah Omar Naseef Award for Arab Youth Scouts which, God willing, will serve as a beacon of encouragement and motivation for the younger generations of scouts," he revealed.

During the event, several individuals who played an important and influential role in supporting and developing the scouting movement over the past years were honored, in appreciation of their extensive contributions to promoting the values of volunteer work and sense of national belonging among young people.



Photo by Samer Shaqir

Group photo at the opening of the Scout Movement Conference, featuring Arab and international participants.

Kuwait updates construction rules with new building percentage caps

Resolution 601/2025 sets limits on unit sizes, floors and parking

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullatif Hamed Al-Mishari issued Ministerial Resolution No. 601/2025, amending Resolution No. 206/2009 regarding the regulation of construction work, including a set of new requirements, such as the total building percentage in Kuwait City must not exceed 400 percent of the plot area, while the percentage outside the city is 250 percent.

The number of floors is determined according to the approved ratios and planning regu-



Abdullatif Al-Mishari, Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs

lations for each area.

The decision, published in the official gazette 'Kuwait Al-Yaum' on Sunday, stipulates that the size of a residential unit (apartment) must not be less than 60 square meters and must include a living room, a kitchen, a bathroom and a bedroom measuring not less than 12 square meters.

It allows the establishment of commercial stores only on the ground floor of plots measuring not less than 1,000 square meters, provided the size of the store does not exceed 40 square meters. It prohibits their use for non-commercial activities like residential or industrial uses.

It requires the provision of two parking spaces per residential unit, with each space measuring not less than 2.4 x 5 meters. Parking spaces may be located in the basement or ground floor without encroaching on the setbacks.

High-level talks chart roadmap for partnership and growth

Bangladesh-Kuwait hold 1st political consultation

DHAKA, Oct 19: The first-ever Political Consultation between the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of the State of Kuwait was held in Dhaka on 19 October 2025. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Secretary (Bilateral), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, and H.E. Ambassador Sameeh Essa Johar Hayat, Assistant Foreign Minister of Kuwait for Asian Affairs. The meeting was also attended by Bangladesh's Ambassador to Kuwait Major General Syed Tareq Hussain, OSP, awc,psc and Kuwait's Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr. Ali Thunayan Hamadah amongst other members.

The consultations were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, reaffirming the historic friendship that began with Kuwait's early recognition of Bangladesh in 1973 and support for its OIC membership in 1974. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in political, economic, defence, labour, development, and cultural fields.

They decided to hold Political Consultations biennially, alternately in Dhaka and Kuwait City, and to promote high-level visits and exchanges among officials, business communities, and cultural representatives.

The two sides reviewed defence cooperation, noting Bangladesh's contribution under Operation Kuwait Punargathan, and agreed to enhance collaboration in training, disaster response, and cyber security. They discussed expanding manpower cooperation, finalizing pending MoUs, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

Both sides stressed the importance of enhancing trade and investment, especially in energy, infrastructure, ICT, and halal food sectors. Bangladesh invited Kuwaiti investors to explore opportunities in Special Economic Zones and Hi-Tech Parks. They agreed to reactivate the Joint Trade Committee and convene a Bangladesh-Kuwait Business Forum in 2026.

The meeting expressed satisfaction over Kuwait Fund (KFAED) assistance and agreed to explore new cooperation in renewable energy, climate-resilient infrastructure, and aviation connectivity.

Both sides emphasized the importance of education, culture, and people-to-people exchanges, including an MoU between the Bangladesh Foreign Service Academy and the Kuwait Dip-



Top & above: Photo during the Bangladesh-Kuwait first political consultation in Dhaka.

lomatic Institute, and agreed to expedite the diplomatic plot exchange process.

They reaffirmed cooperation in multilateral fora, including the UN and OIC, and Bangladesh expressed appreciation for Kuwait's support to the Rohingya humanitarian response. Bangladesh also reaffirmed support for Kuwait's candidatures to UNESCO, UNHRC, and IAEA. Besides, Ambassador Johar Hayat

also met the Honourable Foreign Adviser of Bangladesh and the Chief of Army Staff, Bangladesh Army.

The consultations reflected the shared commitment of Bangladesh and Kuwait to build a comprehensive, forward-looking partnership, guided by mutual respect and a shared vision for sustainable development under Kuwait Vision 2035.

Al-Ahmadi Governor hails initiative

Equate finishes beautification of eight major highway causeways

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19, (KUNA): Beautification of eight causeways on the highways have been finalized as part of Equate Petrochemical initiative, Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah declared on Saturday.

Sheikh Humoud, the head of the urban development green initiatives committee, said during a tour of the greening sites that there were other identical initiatives by companies, individuals and cooperative societies for planting on main roads, inner roads and roundabouts.

He urged anyone interested in partaking in beautifying Kuwait to apply via the commission website: <https://gudi.gov.kw/>

or its accounts on X and Instagram, gudi.kuwait.

Dr. Salman Al-Ajmi, Equate deputy president for technical services, affirmed Equate's advocacy of face-lifting the urban landscape.

He explained the natural decorations covered the intersection of Fahd Al-Ahmad Dahia with Al-Mangaf, the one between Regga and Mahboula, the bridge of Al-Fintas-Agailah, the causeway of Dahiat Jaber Al-Ali and Dahr, the bridge at the intersection between Dahr and Haddiya, Al-Adan Hospital causeway, King Fahad road bridge and this road's intersection with Hamad Al-Zuwait road.



KUNA photo

Ahmadi Governor and Chairman of the Green Development Committee, Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, during an inspection tour.

Other Voices

Defend the One-China Principle

By H.E. Liu Xiang

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and the restoration of Taiwan to China. Later this month, China will hold a gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Taiwan's restoration to China. The Taiwan question bears on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is at the very core of China's core interests. On the Taiwan question, Kuwait has long abided by the one-China principle. China highly commends and thanks Kuwait for its position in this regard. Hereby, I would like to share the following basic facts about Taiwan with Kuwaiti friends.

Question 1. Is Taiwan a country?

Taiwan is never a country, not in the past, and never in the future. Taiwan has belonged to China since ancient times. A large number of historical records and annals document the development of Taiwan by the Chinese people in earlier periods. From the 12th century onwards, the imperial central governments of China all set up administrative bodies in Taiwan. Though subjected to colonial rule by the Netherlands and Japan for some brief periods of time in the history, Taiwan has been under effective administration of the Chinese government for most of the time. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. This is the history and the reality.

Q2. Why is Taiwan's restoration to China a victorious outcome of WWII and an integral part of the postwar international order?

In 1895, the defeated Qing government was compelled by Japan to sign the unequal Treaty of Shimonoseki, through which Japan stole Taiwan and the Penghu Islands. In July 1937, Japanese fascists launched a full-scale war of aggression against China. From then onwards, the entire Chinese nation fought a tenacious war of resistance, establishing the world's first large-scale anti-fascist battlefield. As the first light of victory dawned, major winning countries including China and the United States issued the Cairo Declaration in 1943 and the Potsdam Proclamation in 1945. Both explicitly stipulated that Taiwan, which Japan had stolen, shall be restored to China. On September 2, 1945, Japan signed the instrument of surrender, in which it promised that it would faithfully fulfill the obligations laid down in the Potsdam Proclamation. On October 25 of the same year, the Chinese government announced that it was resuming the exercise of sovereignty over Taiwan. These instruments with legal effect under international law have all affirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan. As important outcomes of the World Anti-Fascist War, they constitute the legal cornerstone of the postwar international order.

Q3. What is the concrete meaning of the one-China principle? Is the one-China principle recognized by the international community?

The one-China principle means that there is but one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, and the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is the sole legal government represent-



H.E. Liu Xiang, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait

ing the whole of China. The one-China principle is the premise and foundation for China establishing and developing diplomatic relations with any other country.

In 1945, the United Nations was founded, with China as one of its founding members. In 1949, the People's Republic of China was founded, becoming the successor to the Republic of China (1912-1949), and the Central People's Government became the only legitimate government of the whole of China. At its 26th session on October 25, 1971, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 2758 with an overwhelming majority, which undertook to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations.

The one-China principle is the universal consensus of the international community. The only reference to Taiwan in the UN official documents is "Taiwan, Province of China". To date, 183 nations including Kuwait have established and developed diplomatic relations with China on the basis of the one-China principle.

Q4. What are the basic principles of China for resolving the Taiwan question?

The Taiwan question is a matter of China's internal affairs and allows no external interference. "Peaceful reunification and One Country, Two Systems" are basic principles of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government for resolving the Taiwan question and the best approach to realizing national reunification. However, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities in Taiwan and separatist forces cling to "Taiwan independence" positions and collude with external actors in provocative attempts to seek "independence". These are the root causes of tensions and instability across the Taiwan Strait. The DPP authorities and certain forces have recently been challenging the authority of UNGA Resolution 2758, trumpeting the notion that Taiwan's status is undetermined. This ill-intentioned move distorts history and treads on international law and the basic norms of international relations. The Chinese people have the resolve, the will and the ability to defend their national sovereignty and territorial integrity. No matter how the situation on the Taiwan island evolves or what troubles external forces may make, the historical trend toward China's ultimate and inevitable reunification is unstoppable.

‘Act now or suffer for generations to come’

“IMAGINE a room where a father, mother, and children sit together, yet each is lost in their own phone screen. No conversation, no eye contact, no real connection. This is the reality in many homes today. We have become addicted, except for those upon whom God has shown mercy”, columnist **Ru- waid Bounasser Al-Din** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.



Ruwaid Al-Din

“A phone is no longer just a tool for communication; it has become an inseparable part of our lives, quietly stealing our time, and thoughts. What once started as harmless curiosity has evolved into a deep-rooted addiction, consuming hours of our children’s and teenagers’ lives, often before they even realize the danger.

“There was a time when we lived without smartphones, when reading, playing outdoors, and face-to-face conversations were the norm. However, phones and the Internet have become nearly indispensable today. For parents, it has become increasingly difficult to monitor what their children are watching or doing online. Technology is now so embedded in daily life that children can easily hide their digital activities.

“Platforms like TikTok lead children from one video to the next, endlessly scrolling, draining their time, and leaving behind psychological and even physical effects that may last a lifetime.

“The danger isn’t limited to the individual; it extends to the family, society, and even public opinion, which is increasingly shaped and manipulated by misleading media platforms that influence people more than almost anything else. Comparing this to drug addiction is no exaggeration. A drug user harms himself and can be treated, but a digital addict not only harms himself, but he also harms his community. What makes this addiction especially difficult to treat is its widespread social acceptance and the false sense of legitimacy it carries.

“The solution must begin with collective action. Families should set specific times for phone use and promote healthy alternatives, with the father leading by example. Schools and communities must take responsibility for educating and training young people on the safe and balanced use of technology. Governments need to enforce strict regulations. Media outlets must offer meaningful, constructive content.

“We must also not overlook the spiritual aspect. A close relationship with God nurtures self-discipline and instills a sense of responsibility toward oneself, one’s family, and society.

“Ultimately, social media addiction is not just an individual issue, but it is a societal phenomenon that requires collective awareness and coordinated action from all sectors. If we fail to act now, we risk facing lost generations, homes stripped of warmth, and communities devoid of genuine human connection.

“Those who allow screens to dominate their lives are surrendering their souls, their futures, and the well-being of future generations to a digital darkness. True freedom will remain out of reach until they realize that what was once real, meaningful, and human has been irretrievably lost.”

Also:

“First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, is known as a distinguished statesman and a professional military officer.” **Faisal Jassim Al-Barjas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“He rose through the military ranks after graduation, holding several senior leadership positions, most notably in the Amiri Guard. He has a notable national record, dating back to his service as a member of the guard accompanying the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the then Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (May God have mercy on them) during the early hours of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

“In that critical moment, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef demonstrated unwavering loyalty and dedication to the nation and its leadership. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (May God protect him) appointed him as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior in recognition of his competence, extensive experience in security and administration, and trust in his ability to lead the ministry’s departments during a time that necessitated firmness and discipline.

“Since assuming his duties as Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef has demonstrated a practical, field-oriented approach, marked by his personal attention to detail. He frequently conducts unannounced visits, both morning and evening, to various security sectors for closely inspecting operations and ensuring discipline, while consistently affirming that the rule of law is paramount.

“These efforts have contributed to a noticeable decline in traffic violations and stricter enforcement against violators, thereby strengthening community security and promoting a culture of respect for the law.

“Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef personally oversees sensitive issues that impact both the state and its citizens, most notably the matter of citizenship. He handles this issue with firmness, fairness, and transparency, firmly believing that Kuwaiti citizenship is an honor granted only to those who truly deserve it.

“What sets Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef apart is his hands-on leadership and avoidance of public showmanship. He works quietly, focusing on tangible results rather than public statements.

“Under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah (May God protect them), Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef has ushered in a new phase - The Era of Decisiveness.

“He is committed to enforcing the law fairly, maintaining security with responsibility, and strengthening citizens’ trust in state institutions.

“I would also like to commend the efforts of Minister of Electricity and Water and Acting Minister of Finance Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Eng. Abdullatif Al-Mishari, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Abdullah Al-Yahya, and Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi. They are dedicated and spare no effort to advance the work of their respective ministries.”



“The corrupt doctrine of the “Bankrupt Brotherhood” is being exposed on a daily basis, and the public becomes increasingly aware of the wickedness of their approach, which is rooted in the traits of hypocrites described by the Messenger of God (PBUH), who said, “The signs of a hypocrite are three. When he speaks, he lies. When he makes a promise, he breaks it. And when he quarrels, he commits treason”. Media outlets and social media are filled with the lies of their leaders, ideologues, and affiliates, in both audio and visual forms,” columnist **Hamad Salem Al-Marri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The events of the so-called “Arab Spring” revealed their breach of covenants. They used to glorify Muammar Gaddafi, but when his regime’s downfall became imminent, they broke their covenants with him and turned against him. They also broke their covenants with the Kuwaiti government and attempted to overthrow it by organizing demonstrations and inciting the riots that took place in 2011 and 2012.

“They are also notorious for their wickedness in disputes with their opponents, slandering, cursing, and using the vilest terms to describe them. The latest example of their malevolence is labeling all those who criticized Hamas’s folly on October 7, 2023, after the killing, wounding, and displacement of hundreds of thousands of Gazans and the destruction caused, as Zionists.

“The Brotherhood’s approach fundamentally rests on disparaging the prophets (peace be upon them) and the companions (may God be pleased with them). The foundation for this was laid by their chief ideologue, Sayyid Qutb, who insulted God’s messenger Moses (peace be upon him), who is one of the most steadfast prophets, in his book “Artistic Imagery in the Holy Quran”.



Hamed Al-Marri

He commented on the verse, “...so Moses struck him, and he died,” by saying, “Here, nationalist fanaticism is evident, as is fervent anger.” “Qutb didn’t stop at disrespecting one of the resolute messengers; he further belittled him, stating, “Then we will leave him for another period, to see what time will do to his nerves.” He also commented on the verse: “...You see me. But when his Lord manifested Himself to the mountain, He rendered it level, and Moses fell unconscious. When he regained consciousness, he said, “Glory be to You! I repent to You, and I am the first of the believers.”

“Then something happened that no human nerves could bear, let alone Moses’, and he quickly and impulsively returned to anger. Sayyid Qutb did not stop at insulting and belittling the prophets (peace be upon them) but he also targeted the Companions (may God be pleased with them). The Messenger of God said, “Do not insult my Companions, for by the One in Whose Hand is my soul, if one of you were to insult my Companions, he would have spent gold equivalent to Mount Uhud, yet it would not reach the worth of even one of them, not even half.”

“Qutb declared Mu’awiyah (may God be pleased with him) and the Umayyads to be infidels, writing in his book “Social Justice in Islam” - “When Mu’awiyah came and transformed the Islamic caliphate into a fragmented monarchy under the Umayyads, this was not inspired by Islam but by pre-Islamic traditions. The Umayyads, in general, were not truly guided by faith. Islam was merely a garment they donned and discarded according to their interests and circumstances.”

“The followers of this bankrupt party have faithfully followed the path of their discredited leader, Muhammad Hassan al-Daddo openly disparaged our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He was soon followed by Jassim Jazaa, who insulted the Caliph of the Messenger of God, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (may God be pleased with him), by posting a derogatory message on his “X” account. Jazaa himself wrote in September 2017, “Tyranny leads to submission, submission leads to ignorance, ignorance leads to sanctification, and sanctification is the fuel of tyranny.”

“I pray to God to protect our youth from the ideology of this corrupt party.”

– Compiled by Simi K.Kutty



KFF personnel spray foam on a petroleum tank to extinguish the fire. KFF photo

Carpentry on fire

KFF fights 7-vehicle, petrol tank and carpentry blazes

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Fire engulfed seven vehicles that were parked in front of a house in Abu Fatira recently, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced that firefighters from the Qurain and Mangaf stations rushed to the location after receiving information about the vehicles on fire, and extinguished it before it spread further. No casualties were reported.

Meanwhile, firefighting teams from the Tahrir and Jahra Crafts fire stations controlled a fire that broke out in a tank contain-

ing petroleum derivatives at a concrete and asphalt factory in South Saad Al-Abdullah City. No casualties were reported.

Also, fire broke out in a carpentry shop located in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area on Saturday morning, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the Kuwait Fire Force, firefighters from the Shuwaikh Industrial and Al-Shaheed fire stations rushed to the location after receiving information about the shop on fire, and extinguished it before it spread further. No casualties were reported.



Various drugs found in the two Asians possession. Mol photo

Items worth thousands

CID nabs Asian duo in huge drug cache haul

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Officers from the Ahmadi Investigations Department arrested two Asian individuals for drug trafficking and distribution, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

After receiving accurate information, a specialized security team was formed to verify and monitor the suspects’ movements and operations on the ground. This close surveillance led to their arrest while in possession of large and varied quantities of narcotics.

The search operation resulted in the seizure of the following substances:

- 3,658 kilograms of shabu,
- 557 grams of chemical drug,
- 363 grams of marijuana,
- 348 grams of heroin,
- 14 grams of hashish,
- 8,150 psychotropic pills.

The ministry estimated the market value of the seized items at approximately KD 200,000.

The suspects and the seized items were referred to the competent authorities for legal action, pending their referral to the Public Prosecution.

The Ministry of Interior affirmed its continued resolute response to attempts to smuggle and distribute narcotics, emphasizing that security agencies will not be complacent in confronting this dangerous scourge that threatens national security and public safety.

Food trucks, vendors targeted in campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Public Relations Department at the Kuwait Municipality announced the ongoing field inspection campaigns conducted by the Public Sanitation and Road Works Department in Jahra Governorate Municipality branch, which recently carried out a comprehensive campaign in Saad Al-Abdullah, reports Al-Anba daily.

Director of the Public Sanitation and Road Works Department at the Jahra Governorate Municipality branch Nawaf Al-Mutairi affirmed that these campaigns aim to uncover violations and take the necessary legal measures against violators.

Al-Mutairi disclosed that 21 violating mobile food trucks were impounded, 21 violations were recorded against street vendors and four ice cream carts were removed.

In a related development, the Public Sanitation and Road Works Department at the Municipality branch in Ahmadi Governorate continued its extensive cleaning campaign covering main roads and streets.

The inspection team intensified its field efforts, which include cleaning highways and removing obstructions that mar the general appearance of the governorate.

Director of the Ahmadi Governorate Municipality branch Saad Al-Khurainij confirmed the intensification of cleaning work on highways in the governorate, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, using both mechanical and manual sweepers. Personnel from the Ministry of Interior were present to ensure the safety of road users and workers.

Al-Khurainij revealed that the cleanup drive was carried out along King Fahd Road – from Dhahr to Nuwaiseeb, and King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al-Saud Road (Fahaheel Road) – from Fintas up to the end of the road towards Ali Sabah Al-Salem. He said the field inspectors are working in all shifts.

Probe in funds scandal

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has referred former supervisors and other employees of the Ministry of Communications to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of misappropriating public funds, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Nazaha affirmed its commitment to continue investigating all serious and fully substantiated reports submitted to it, and expressed appreciation for the vital role played by whistleblowers in exposing corruption crimes.

Crackdown in Capital

10 caught, 519 citations issued & 21 cars seized

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Security forces in the Capital Governorate launched a large-scale security campaign throughout the governorate, resulting in the arrest of 10 wanted individuals, issuance of 519 traffic tickets, and impoundment of 21 vehicles.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior disclosed that this campaign is part of ongoing efforts to intensify security presence, instill traffic discipline and apprehend violators.

According to the ministry, the campaign also led to the arrest of two wanted individuals, two who were reported absconding, two who are involved in drug cases, and three who violated the Residency Law, as well as the seizure of eight wanted vehicles, while one person was referred to the traffic police.

A security source confirmed to the newspaper that security campaigns carried out by emergency patrol officers are continuing in various governorates to apprehend lawbreakers.

He explained that these efforts have contributed to the arrest of a number of Residency Law violators and drug users who have been subjected to the necessary legal action.

In a related development, Farwaniya security personnel arrested an Asian for the possession of an undisclosed quantity of narcotic pills for trafficking.

He and the confiscated items were referred to the concerned authorities for investigation and other legal measures.

Well-known activist has fake nationality

New forgery cases coming to light

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: In a new case that began with a tipoff through the hotline and ended with a conclusive genetic analysis, security investigations revealed that a Gulf activist obtained Kuwaiti citizenship fraudulently as the DNA test revealed he is not related to the family on whose file he was registered, reports Al-Rai daily quoting reliable sources.

Sources disclosed information was received through the hotline that a social media activist is residing in a Gulf country, has media presence, and fraudulently holds Kuwaiti citizenship.

Initially, his YouTube channel was monitored. His photos were extracted and matched with his photo on his Kuwaiti identification card. His supposed brothers, who are residing in Kuwait, were then summoned and questioned about the similarity of his name to theirs. They confirmed that he is not their brother and that their father added him to the family file.

Investigations moved to the next stage, when DNA samples were taken from the alleged brothers. The son of the activist was also arrested in Kuwait, having previously appeared in a video clip with his father. In-

vestigations revealed that the son was aware of the forgery, making him an accomplice.

The son’s DNA was taken and compared with the samples from his alleged uncles. The results confirmed, with scientific certainty, that there is no kinship between them, thus, proving the forged nationality.

The competent authorities affirmed that the other brothers are in good standing and are not involved in the forgery.

The main suspect, whose Gulf identity documents were obtained, is currently being pursued. It was found that the individuals registered under his file are affiliated with 28 individuals, including his son, who is currently imprisoned in Kuwait awaiting trial. Their citizenship has been revoked. As the forger remains at large, the competent higher committee is monitoring the case to prosecute him.



Fraudulent messages: As part of ongoing efforts by the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Department of Criminal Investigation’s Cybercrime Combating Department, the Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of two individuals involved in sending fraudulent messages on behalf of well-known companies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministry of Interior stated in a press release that the Cybercrime Combating Department received a report about an individual using a phone number to send text messages containing fraudulent attempts to represent several well-known companies.

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MPW spearheads national dev't with 7 major projects

Plan targets transport, health and green infrastructure

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The latest 2025/2026 Development Plan report revealed that the Ministry of Public Works is participating in seven major projects included in the plan -- five strategic projects and two support projects.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the report stating that two of these projects are part of the Cohesive Infrastructure Construction Program -- expansion of Kuwait Airport Terminal 2, with a capacity of up to 25 million passengers annually serving 51 aircraft

and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, which aims to increase the volume of investments in the country, develop the services provided by seaports, increase their capacity, expand economic resources, raise economic growth rates, stimulate regional trade, and improve the performance indicators of Kuwait.

The report also disclosed that the ministry is participating in the Citizen Health Promotion Program with two projects -- new Children's Hospital, which is the first hospital in Kuwait to specialize in providing healthcare services to children up to one year old, while the second project is the Medical City in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City, which includes the construction of a general hospital with a capacity of 500 beds.

Moreover, the ministry is participating in three projects included in the program to create environmentally harmonious living areas to rationalize the use of natural resources and harmonize with the environment in a way that allows the sustainability of these resources and reduces pollution. It indicated that these projects include the water purification and pumping station in South Mutlaa, preliminary study and design for a deep tunnel system to transport untreated and surplus water from pumping and purification stations to a new purification station to prevent diversion of water to Kuwait Bay, and treated water system in the northern and southern areas to guarantee food security including the construction of tanks, pipelines and irrigation networks to supply treated water to Abdally farms.



Ministry of Public Works photo
Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan inspects the Umm Al-Hayman Wastewater Treatment Plant to review the latest developments.

Minister reaffirms infrastructure priorities

Al-Mashaan conducts inspection of Umm Al-Hayman wastewater plant

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan conducted an inspection visit to the Umm Al-Hayman Wastewater Treatment Plant to follow up on the project's implementation progress on site, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the visit, Dr. Al-Mashaan received a detailed presentation from project officials on the current progress rates, operational plans, and the technical challenges that have been dealt with.

She stressed the importance of adhering to the project timeline and maintaining quality in accordance with approved environmental and technical standards.

Al-Mashaan praised the efforts of the work teams and the entities supervising the project, highlighting that the Umm Al-Hayman Wastewater Treatment Plant is a vital and strategic project that plays a major role in developing infrastructure and improving wastewater services.

Ambassador Tripathi receives credentials, set to strengthen India-Kuwait partnership



Ambassador Paramita Tripathi received her letter of credentials from Indian President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, marking the start of her tenure as India's envoy to Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Ambassador Paramita Tripathi, the newly appointed Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, officially received her credentials from Indian President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi a few days ago, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to "The Times of India", Ambassador Tripathi's appointment to this high-ranking diplomatic post highlights the depth and strength of the longstanding relations between the two friendly countries, as well as their mutual commitment to advancing their strategic partnership in various fields, including trade, energy,

culture, education, and people-to-people exchanges.

The newspaper quoted senior Indian officials as saying that this step marks a new chapter in strengthening dialogue and cooperation between India and Kuwait, amid growing ties that continue to develop at all levels.

Ambassador Tripathi is expected to assume her duties in Kuwait soon, where she is anticipated to help further boost bilateral relations and expand areas of joint cooperation, in a way that serves the interests of both nations and reflects the close ties that have connected them for decades.

Other Voices

Full marks... and a question for Kuwait University's leadership

By Ahmad alsarraf

WHEN education improves, everything improves. When education deteriorates, everything falls apart.

After armed religious militias in Syria finally succeeded in seizing power, often with foreign aid, joy spread among their supporters, including the faction's leader who had become the de facto president of Syria.

This rapid success led one of his admirers, a professor at Kuwait University, out of religious-political loyalty, to cancel that day's exam and give all his students full marks.

This sparked condemnation from several educational and pedagogical bodies. However, the university administration raised no objections, and political parties remained indifferent, despite the professor's behavior violating all university regulations. The incident passed as if it were normal, setting a precedent that could be repeated.

A university professor, who teaches at the same college, said he was surprised by the silence surrounding the incident and decided to raise the issue with his colleagues during a meeting. However, on the same day, he was taken aback by his own stu-



alsarraf

dents expressing dissatisfaction when he made the same decision to exempt them from the exam and award full marks.

The professor filed a formal complaint with the Minister of Higher Education but later learned that the minister had decided to shelve it. He then redirected the complaint to the President of Kuwait University.

In what appeared to be a reactionary move, a decision was issued to promote the professor who had awarded full marks to his students, without consideration for his prior political stances. He was appointed to chair the promotions committee at the same college.

This decision is likely to create academic and administrative problems. If the professor who filed the complaint later applied for promotion and his request was approved, it could be perceived as an attempt to appease him and persuade him to withdraw the complaint. On the other hand, if his request was denied, it might be seen as an act of retaliation.

As a result, other professors applying for promotion would have the right to appeal the decision and the opinions of the committee chair if they question his motives or integrity.

We hope that the President of Kuwait University, Dr. Dina Al-Mailam, will take the initiative to launch an investigation into this complaint. The situation is unacceptable on academic, logical, and even political grounds.

□ □ □

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Key Damascus Street route reopens

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), in coordination with the General Traffic Department, announced the reopening of Damascus Street from the Fifth Ring Road toward South Surra, leading to Ibrahim Al-Muzain Street in Al-Zahraa, from Sunday midnight, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement posted on X account,

PART confirmed that the reopening includes the intersections of Damascus Street with both Abdullah Al-Humaidi Street and Ali Al-Asousi Street, allowing free movement from the Fifth Ring Road for drivers coming from Salmiya toward Damascus Street and vice versa. The reopening also includes the Surra exit opposite the Fifth Ring Road, heading toward Damascus Street in the direction of South Surra.

Waiting period excluded from service

CSC outlines rules for calculating employee benefits & experience

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The concerned authorities confirmed that the waiting period before nomination for employment is not counted as part of an employee's actual service period, as this period does not involve any employment duties or entitlements, reports Al-Anba daily.

The authorities stated that only the commencement of actual employment will be considered when calculating years of service, salary and other financial benefits. They clarified that the waiting period for candidates to complete their appointment procedures is not considered part of official service. Rather, it is a transitional phase intended to finalize employment requirements. Therefore, it is not included among the periods that qualify an employee for promotion, retirement benefits and other privileges linked to years of actual service.

In addition, the daily reported on July 3 that the mechanism for amending job

grades and adding academic or practical experience for eligible employees is carried out by completing the necessary documents for grade adjustment or appointment procedures at the customer reception hall in the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

The conditions include submitting an official letter from the government entity along with the necessary documents, such as the civil identification card, an accredited educational certificate, and insurance and work experience certificates.

If the employee has relevant experience, the application is referred to the Job Classification Department and then to the Legal Advice and Legislation Department for approval. Any missing documents must be reviewed electronically and completed by the employing agency before the final approval letter is issued and endorsed by the competent department.



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Continued from Page 1

Development is

A few days ago, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah chaired the regular meeting of the concerned ministerial committee to follow up on the implementation status of agreements between Kuwait and China. He emphasized the importance of “attracting more Chinese investments.” This is a good point. But, do the decisions issued by entities concerned with economic activity in general facilitate this?

In all countries around the world, governments encourage investors in all sectors -- roads, metros, health facilities or services.

As we discussed yesterday, companies are granted significant incentives through the B.O.T. system, and there are no obstacles to their success, as the benefits are shared.

In fact, if a violation is found, it is not subject to closure. In the meantime, entities do not oppose diversifying activity, as long as it serves the economy.

Some neighboring countries have more than one free zone, offering significant incentives to investors. This is also true in regular industrial zones, as the goal is to strengthen national industry, even if it is a simple manufacturing process. This, in turn, reduces the import bill, which drains funds that could otherwise be invested elsewhere.

Hence, today, there is an atmosphere of fear among the majority of the private sector in Kuwait regarding dealing with the public sector due to the demoralizing decisions it issues.

Our current predicament with the Council of Ministers can be compared to the words of Abbasid Dynasty poet Mansour Al-Hallaj: He threw him into the sea, hands tied, and said to him ... “Beware, beware of getting wet.”

Decree appoints

work system of the committee, including the mechanism for judicial obligations and all other provisions necessary for the exercise of its powers.”

Article Two of the Decree states that any provision contradicting this decree shall be repealed.

Article Three mandates the ministers, each in their respective capacity, to implement this decree, which takes effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

Kuwait Amir

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

Kuwait stresses

In another development, the KUNA Center for Development of Media launched its training program, “Combating Misinformation,” on Sunday with the participation of several KUNA staff members. The program will run until October 23.

The program is presented by Dr. Husain Murad, Associate Professor

at the Department of Mass Communication at Kuwait University. It includes an introduction to the modern information crisis, the nature of the information revolution and its challenges, as well as the psychology of the spread of misinformation.

It also adopts both theoretical and practical approaches, covers the misinformation ecosystem, methods for detecting fake news, deconstruction methodologies, and a strategic workshop on “Building a Verification Protocol at KUNA.”

Established in December 1995, the KUNA Center for Development of Media is considered one of the most important media training centers and has offered hundreds of training programs in various media fields. It aims to develop personal media capabilities and advance professional media work.

Chaos grips

The delivery market relies on three main components - restaurants, online platforms, and delivery companies. These components require legislation to regulate competition and protect the market from the current chaos, which negatively affects delivery companies.

Online platforms have become the most powerful player in the delivery system, capturing the largest share of profits - up to 30 percent of total sales - despite serving merely as intermediaries.

Al-Faleh indicated that the Competition Protection Authority refuses to impose specific commission rates on platforms, believing that prices should be determined by supply and demand. However, this approach has resulted in significant disparities in profit margins and a lack of fairness between the parties.

He revealed that online platforms are divided into four main types - restaurant platforms, supermarket platforms, private business platforms, and clothing platforms.

Al-Faleh said delivery market activity increased by 10 percent in 2025, with the average number of daily orders reaching approximately 500,000 on regular days, rising to between 600,000 and 650,000 during holidays and peak seasons, compared to 450,000 daily orders in 2024.

He stated that the Kuwaiti market includes approximately 1,977 delivery companies, of which 1,000 are active and employ between 60,000 and 70,000 drivers, adding that the number of vehicles used in this sector is approximately 60,000, representing 30 percent of the total.

Meanwhile, a restaurant owner told the daily that the relationship between restaurants and online platforms has become unbalanced, indicating that platforms are now imposing their terms without regard for the already limited profit margins of restaurant owners.

She explained that the platforms have come to control product marketing and customer access, making them an indispensable element. They deduct high commissions, sometimes reaching 48 percent of the order value, while the cost of prepar-

ing food accounts for an additional 30 percent. This means the total cost to the restaurant is about 78 percent, leaving only 22 percent to cover other operating expenses such as rent, salaries, and bills.

She expressed regret that restaurant owners now feel as if they work for the platforms, rather than the other way around.

She stressed that this unfair situation harms not only restaurants but also consumers, as some restaurants are forced to raise meal prices on the apps to cover the high commissions of the platform, while keeping their prices at branches 15 percent to 20 percent lower.

In addition, economic researcher Sultan Al-Majroub said Kuwait lacks accurate market data needed to assess the level of competition between delivery companies and platforms.

He emphasized the importance of legislators thoroughly studying the delivery market before enacting any laws or regulations.

Al-Majroub explained that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry’s previous decision to impose a unified delivery fee (250 fils within the area and 500 fils outside it) was never actually implemented due to its incompatibility with market realities and operating costs.

Any future legislation must be based on a careful study of demand and daily transaction volumes, proposing variable rates based on invoice value, so that smaller invoices bear higher relative costs than larger ones, reflecting the inverse relationship between invoice size and commission rate.

He stressed that the Kuwaiti market has reached a state of saturation, and any additional fees or increased platform rates would negatively affect consumers.

Al-Majroub believes that imposing a symbolic tax on major delivery platforms, especially foreign ones, could provide a new source of revenue for the state, noting that many of these companies transfer their profits to foreign markets.

Memorial fortifies

The minister expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted to complete this distinctive memorial, which is scheduled to open in 2026 and is located next to the late US President Abraham Lincoln Memorial.

He emphasized that this landmark carries significant historical symbolism, embodying the depth of the relationship between the State of Kuwait and the United States of America.

The memorial commemorates the heroism and sacrifices of the international coalition in the 1991 Kuwait Liberation War.

Minister Al-Mukhaizeem was accompanied during the visit by Kuwait’s Ambassador to the United States Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah.

The minister visited the memorial on the sidelines of his participation in the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board of Governors’ annual meetings in Washington.

Hajj registration open until November 22

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs announced that registration for those wishing to perform Hajj will remain open until Nov 22 at 10:00 am, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ministry revealed the registration conditions state that the applicant must be a Kuwaiti who did not previously perform Hajj. Each group must not exceed five members, all of whom must be relatives. Women may include one ‘mahram’ who previously performed Hajj, while one resident relative is permitted to register within the group.

The ministry clarified that applicants can modify or substitute pilgrims

during the registration period. A non-refundable fee of KD10 must be paid in all cases when submitting a request to perform Hajj.

Upon completion of the registration process, the KD1,500 Hajj fee must be paid to the Hajj caravan. The application will be canceled if the deadline passes or if payment is not made.

Pilgrims are permitted to change their caravan once before Jan 15, 2026, after being accepted and completing registration with the caravan.

The ministry exempted two categories from the registration fee -- those aged 65 and above, and those with moderate or severe disabilities.

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Female lab staff shortage

Patient care challenges at Jaber Al-Ali Health Center

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Jaber Al-Ali Health Center is regarded as one of the leading medical centers in the region with its relatively modern facilities and a large team of doctors, nurses and technicians known for their excellence, professional competence and compassionate patient care, reports Al-Jarida daily.

However, the Laboratory Department at the center is facing a severe shortage of female technicians, forcing male staff to take blood samples from female patients – an issue that causes embarrassment for both the technician and the patient.

A reliable source told the daily that the department currently consists of three female technicians -- two are on medical leave approved by the Medical Council, while the third was also on medical leave on a day when a problem arose.

According to the source, that morning, a father refused to allow a male technician to draw blood from his daughter, insisting that a female technician should perform the procedure or postpone it to another day.

The technicians were eventually able to address the issue and manage the situation wisely.

The source explained that the main reason behind the shortage of female staff in medical centers in Ahmadi Health District is that some officials transferred most female technicians to the Laboratory Department of Adan Hospital.

This resulted in overcrowding and an excess of female staff in the hospital’s laboratories, while the clinics continue to suffer from an acute shortage.

Minister Al-Mutairi affirms full support

Kuwait gears up for inaugural UAE World Falcon Racing Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi affirmed Saturday that all necessary resources are being mobilized to ensure the success of the inaugural UAE World Falcon Racing Cup, set to be hosted in Kuwait this December under the supervision of the UAE and International Falcons Federations.

In a press statement following his visit to the event venue at the Kuwait Camel Racing Club, Al-Mutairi, who also chairs the tournament’s Supreme Organizing Committee, highlighted the strong governmental support for the heritage event.

He emphasized that the championship reflects the deep-rooted brotherly ties between Kuwait and the UAE, under the guidance of their wise leadership.

Al-Mutairi noted the committee’s ongoing efforts to present the event in its best form, stressing its role in celebrating the shared cultural heritage of both nations. He also praised the UAE’s Falcons Federation for its contribution to organizing this prestigious event, which is dedicated to Kuwaiti falcons.

The championship aims to preserve and advance the tradition of falcon racing, a practice closely tied to the region’s cultural legacy.

The event offers total prize money of approximately AED 500,000 (KD 40,000) and features seven races for falcons under one year old (Farkh category), including dedicated races for the “Hurr” and “Shaheen” breeds raised on farms.



Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi chairs the tournament's Supreme Organizing Committee.



KUNA photos
Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi visits the event venue at the Kuwait Camel Racing Club.

Council greenlights major overhaul of street names

591 streets replaced with numbers

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Municipal Council, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri, has approved the request of the Kuwait Municipality to cancel 591 street names and replace them with numbers, while retaining 66 names of main and secondary roads and streets, and amending the names of three streets to be after Arab cities and capitals.

In an extraordinary closed door session on Sunday, the Council members approved the minutes of the meeting of the committee tasked to study proposals and requests for naming cities, suburbs,



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq
Municipal Council Chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri during the extraordinary session on street naming regulations.

areas, roads, streets and squares, formed as per Ministerial Resolution No. 558/2023. The committee recommended replacing the names

of 591 streets with numbers and retaining 66 names, in line with Cabinet Resolution No. 666 issued at its meeting No. 19/2025.

This decision is in light of the amendment of articles Four and Five of the Municipal Council Resolution on the rules and regulations for naming cities, suburbs, areas, roads, streets and squares, to ensure it is consistent with the relevant Cabinet resolutions.

The Municipality explained that the new amendments stipulate it is not permissible to name cities, suburbs or areas after individuals except those who have assumed the position of Amir or Crown Prince in the State of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, it is permissible to name roads, streets and squares after the rulers of Kuwait, kings, sultans, princes, heads of sisterly and friendly states, historical figures and some members of the ruling family. It is also permissible to name them after countries, cities and capitals according to the principle of reciprocity, while retaining some existing names that are not related to individuals.

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GOP immigration pitch to NJ Latinos aims for some distance from Trump in gov’s race

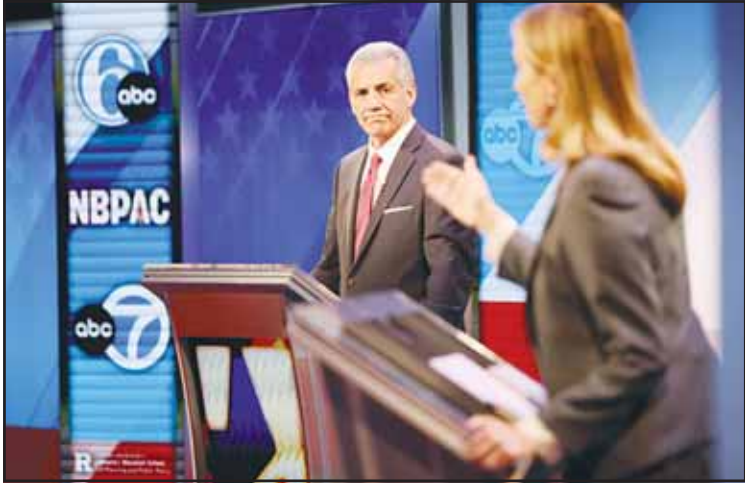
TRENTON, NJ, Oct 19, (AP): At a Spanish-speaking town hall, the Republican candidate for New Jersey governor assured two young Mexican immigrants who were brought to the United States as children that people without criminal records would not face deportation.

Three nights later, Jack Ciattarelli headlined a “Make America Great Again”-style event where a far-right commentator joked about building a detention center like Florida’s “Alligator Alcatraz” in the Garden State.

“How about the Boardwalk Brig?” Jack Posobiec said with a laugh as he spoke later that evening at the rally.

Ciattarelli, an unabashed ally of Donald Trump, recently gave the Republican president an “A” grade for his performance in the White House. But as Ciattarelli courts Latino voters in a hard-fought race against Democrat Mikie Sherrill, the former business owner and state legislator has put some distance from Trump on the president’s signature issue of immigration.

Expressing support for issuing driver’s licenses and Social Security numbers to people who are in the U.S. illegally, Ciattarelli has tried to strike a balance between supporters of Trump’s mass deportation strategy and



Republican Jack Ciattarelli, (left), looks on while Democrat Mikie Sherrill speaks during the final debate in the New Jersey governor’s race on Oct 8, in New Brunswick, NJ. (AP)

Latino voters that the GOP nominee thinks could be persuaded to support him.

In recent appearances in a Univision forum and in the final debate of the campaign, Ciattarelli promoted not a path to citizenship, as immigration advocates have pushed for years, but what he called a “path-

way to recognition,” which he later described as a first step toward citizenship.

It’s a high-stakes gambit in one of two states with governor’s races this year - Virginia is the other - but it’s rooted in Trump’s improved performance among Latino voters last year.

America

Millions join ‘No Kings’ protests: Tens of thousands of people took to the streets across 2,700 US cities and towns on Saturday for the second round of the nationwide “No kings” protests, the largest single-day demonstration in American history.

Following the first nationwide “No Kings” protest on June 14, this round of rallies, spanning all 50 states, came as the federal government shutdown entered its 18th day with no resolution in sight.

In New York City, more than 100,000 protesters packed Times Square, waving signs that read “Hate will not make US great,” “ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement) out of NYC,” “Health-care is a right, not a privilege,” and “Defend our Constitution.” Chants of “We people united, we will never be divided” and “ICE out of the streets” echoed through the crowd.

Tony Charlie, whose grandparents immigrated from Europe, said that immigration is a tradition in the United States and immigrants contribute significantly to the country’s economy. “They (ICE) are not going after the bad criminals, they’re going after basically innocent people who are hard-working and contributing to this country.”

The New York Police Department reported “zero protest-related arrests” on X. US Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** joined demonstrators in Manhattan, while House Speaker Mike Johnson and other Republicans dismissed the protest as a “hate America rally.”

On the West Coast, protesters gathered in Seattle, San Francisco and other major cities. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Calif labor leader’s felony charge reduced: The leader of a labor union in Southern California who was arrested while protesting an immigration raid earlier this year



Schumer

will have his felony obstruction charge reduced to a misdemeanor, court records show.

David Huerta had been charged with obstruction, resistance or opposition to a federal officer - a class A felony, according to a Friday filing by Acting US Attorney Bill Es-sayli in federal court.

However, prosecutors filed a proposed order Saturday seeking dismissal without prejudice of the original felony charge of conspiracy to impede an officer.

The Associated Press sent an email Saturday seeking comment from the U.S. Attorney’s office.

Huerta is president of the Service Employees International Union California. He was arrested June 6 while protesting outside a business in Los Angeles where federal agents were investigating suspected immigration violations.

A crowd of people gathered outside yelling at the officers. Huerta sat down in front of a vehicular gate and encouraged others to walk in circles to try to prevent law enforcement from going in or out, a special agent for Homeland Security Investigations, which is part of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, wrote in an earlier federal court filing. (AP)

□ □ □

Third-floor balcony in Cincinnati collapses: A balcony on the third floor of a building near the University of Cincinnati collapsed Friday evening, sending 10 people to the hospital, including one person in critical condition, according to officials.

Five of the people had serious injuries, while four had minor injuries, Cincinnati Police Department Capt. Stephen Bower said during a news conference. He described the building as a place where a lot of students live.

“They had a big exam today and they were celebrating,” he said.

Officials are investigating the collapse, Frank McKinley, Cincinnati fire chief, told WKRC-TV.

It was not immediately clear the number of people on the balcony when it collapsed.

In photos and video posted online, a balcony can be seen on the ground as fire and police officials work nearby. (AP)

‘We’ve got work to do ... keep fighting’

Democrats ‘are standing up for working people’ in govt shutdown: former VP Harris

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct 19, (AP): As US Democrats dig in for a lengthening government shutdown, former vice president Kamala Harris is cheering them on as she travels the country touting her presidential campaign memoir amid speculation about another White House run.

The Democratic 2024 nominee told The Associated Press in an interview Friday that she remains in contact with Democrats on Capitol Hill, encouraging them to maintain their demands that President Donald Trump and the Republican congressional majority address looming spikes in Affordable Care Act health insurance premiums.

“The Republicans control the House. They control the Senate. They control the White House. They are in charge, and they are responsible for the shutdown,” she said.

Democrats, she said, “are doing the right thing by standing up for working people and not allowing the Republicans to carry a tax cut for the wealthiest people in our country on the backs of working people in America.”

It was just one example of Harris using her book tour to urge Democrats to lead a consistent, aggressive resistance to Trump while at the same time recommitting to reaching working- and middle-class voters who supported the Republican or stayed home last November.

Over the course of the day, Harris sat down for an hourlong conversation with five Black college students, spoke to the AP and held two book discussions in Alabama’s largest city. Paid ticketholders filled downtown Birmingham’s Alabama Theatre, where Harris discussed her campaign, the Democratic Party and the course of the nation with radio host Charlamagne.

Through it all, Harris projected the aura of party elder and future candidate. She expressed concern for the country’s direction and outright incredulity over many of Trump’s actions. When VIP ticketholders told her in a photo line how disappointed they had been by her loss, she played it forward.

“We’ve got work to do,” she said repeatedly. “Keep fighting.”

On stage and to the AP, she praised her party’s “deep and wide bench” and even called for lowering the nation’s voting age to 16 to bring more young people into the political process.

Harris, 60, maintained she has made no decision about her own political future. But she made clear that running again in 2028 is still on the table and that she sees herself as a player in the party and a voice in the national discourse.

“I am a leader of the party,” she told the AP. “I take seriously that responsibility and duty that I feel” as the previous nominee. That “includes traveling the country talking and mostly listening with folks,” she said, and “getting folks ready to fight in the midterms” in 2026.



Former US vice president Kamala Harris speaks on Oct 17, in Birmingham, Ala. (AP)

Harris aides confirmed she will help Democratic gubernatorial candidates Mikie Sherrill in New Jersey and Abigail Spanberger in Virginia with virtual events, fundraising appeals and robocalls. She also recently headlined a fundraiser for North Carolina Senate candidate Roy Cooper, a former governor and Harris’ long-time friend.

Later this month, she plans to campaign for California’s “Yes on Prop 50,” the ballot measure that would allow a Democratic-led redraw of the state’s congressional districts to counter Republican gerrymandering in Texas and other Republican-controlled states.

Harris, who was unusually blunt in her book “107 Days” about her opinions on a range of political figures, was more circumspect Friday when asked to assess other leading Democrats.

“We have to get away from this idea of ‘Who is the one?’ There are many ways that I think will be effective when people are authentic unto themselves,” she said when asked about her fellow Californian, Gov. Gavin Newsom, and his recent social media mockery of Trump.

She named US Reps. Jasmine Crockett, D-Texas, and Brittany Pettersen, D-Colo., but did not elaborate. “Every voice and every perspective” can resonate with certain voters, she said.

Harris rejected conventional political wisdom that she lost in part because of Republicans’ sustained attacks on cultural and social issues, especially transgender issues. She said economics, notably inflation, was the bigger factor.

“There are a fair number of people who voted for Donald Trump because they believed what he said, which is that he was going to bring down prices,” she told the AP. “Sadly, he lied to them.”

With prices still high and wealth gaps growing, Harris said, “We’ve got to do a better job of dealing with the immediate needs of the American people.”

She praised the Biden administration’s legislative accomplishments but said household-level policies such as child tax credits, family leave and first-time homebuyer credits should have come before a sweeping infrastructure program and the CHIPS semiconductor manufacturing law.

Even with a sharper economic message, Harris acknowledged structural challenges for Democrats: the proliferation of false information and what she described as conservatives’ assault on democracy.

She rejected the idea of “low-information voters,” saying the problem is actually an abundance of misinformation and disinformation that makes it harder to reach many voters. She said Democrats must penetrate those silos rather than presume anyone is a lost cause.

“They deserve to be heard,” she said.

Onstage, Harris described a “reversal” of the Civil Rights Movement. She lamented that the Supreme Court could eliminate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which protects political district boundaries drawn to ensure minority communities can elect candidates of their choice.

Without that law, nonwhite representation -- especially Black representation in the South -- could diminish considerably, from Congress to local school boards and municipal councils.

“How can we say at this moment in time that the Voting Rights Act and Section 2 has no purpose?” Harris said to the AP.

The issue carried special resonance given the venue. The Voting Rights Act passed in 1965 after Martin Luther King Jr. and civil rights leaders marched from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery. A later Supreme Court case out of Mobile led Congress to clarify its intent with Section 2 of the law. And it was a Shelby County, Alabama, case that the Supreme Court used in 2013 to gut the law’s requirement that the U.S. Justice Department approve election procedures in local jurisdictions with a demonstrated history of discrimination.



In this photo taken on Oct 13, 2025 and provided by Ukraine’s 24th Mechanized Brigade press service, smoke raises amid the ruins in Kostiantynivka, a frontline town where some 5000 people still stay with no water, electricity and gas supply in the site of heaviest battles with the Russian troops in the Donetsk region, Ukraine. (AP)

Putin slams Western media monopoly

Ukraine drones strike major Russia gas plant

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 19, (Agencies): Ukrainian drones overnight struck a major gas processing plant in southern Russia, sparking a fire, according to a Russian governor and the Ukrainian military.

The Orenburg plant, run by state-owned gas giant Gazprom and located in a region of the same name near the Kazakh border, is part of a production and processing complex that is one of the world’s largest facilities of its kind, with an annual capacity of 45 billion cubic meters.

According to regional Gov. Yevgeny Solntsev, the drone strikes set fire to a workshop at the plant and damaged part of it. Solntsev said there were no casualties.

Ukraine’s General Staff said in a statement Sunday that a “large-scale fire” erupted at the Orenburg plant, and that one of its gas processing and purification units was damaged.

In the same statement, it claimed a separate drone strike hit Russia’s Novokuibyshevsk oil refinery, in the Samara region near Orenburg, sparking a blaze and damaging its main refining units. The Novokuibyshevsk facility, operated by Russian gas major Ros-



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers his speech at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Russian state TV-station Russia Today at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Russia on Oct 17. (AP)

neft, has an annual capacity of 4.9 million tons, and turns out over 20 kinds of oil-based products. Russian authorities did not immediately acknowledge the Ukrainian claim or discuss any damage.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said in a

statement early Sunday that its air defense forces had shot down 45 Ukrainian drones during the night, including 12 over the Samara region, one over the Orenburg region and 11 over the Saratov region neighboring Samara.

Also:

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday accused leading Western media outlets of exploiting their dominant position to distribute content at their own discretion and often under the guise of objective reporting.

Speaking at an event marking the 20th anniversary of the RT international television channel, Putin said modern propaganda in the West differs little from former “Soviet-era cliches.”

“Any monopoly inevitably comes to an end sooner or later, no matter how much those who maintain it pay to preserve it,” he said.

The RT international television channel commenced broadcasting in 2005. Its output is transmitted in English, Arabic, Spanish, French, German and Serbian. The television network is complemented by multilingual digital platforms.

Pope gives Venezuela reason to celebrate by canonizing ‘doctor of poor’ as 1st saint

VATICAN CITY, Oct 19, (AP): Pope Leo XIV canonized Venezuela’s beloved “doctor of the poor” Sunday before an estimated 55,000 people, offering the South American nation its first saint and a reason to celebrate amid its yearslong economic crisis and new tensions with the United States.

José Gregorio Hernández, revered by millions for his dedication to poor people, was declared a saint alongside Mother Carmen Rendiles Martínez, the founder of a Venezuelan religious order, at a Mass in St. Peter’s Square.

Thousands of jubilant Venezuelans filled the square and draped Venezuelan flags on its police barricades. They applauded when Leo pronounced the Latin declaration of canonization. Thousands more who couldn’t travel to Rome marked the occasion in Caracas, where the Vatican service was being livestreamed before dawn at a downtown plaza.

The Mass, which the Vatican said drew some 55,000 people, also gave Papua New Guinea its first saint: Peter To Rot, a layman killed in prison in 1945 for standing up for monogamous



A mural features Venezuelans Jose Gregorio Hernandez, the late Marian known as the ‘doctor of the poor’, (second from left), and the late Maria Carmen Rendiles, (third from right), in Caracas, Venezuela on Oct 17. (AP)

marriage at a time when polygamy was practiced. In all, seven people were canonized in a ceremony that Pope Francis put in motion in some of his final acts as pope. In fact, Francis approved Hernández’s canonization from

his hospital room on Feb 24, agreeing to bypass the Vatican’s typical miracle confirmation process to pronounce him a saint based on the “widespread veneration of the ‘doctor-saint’ among the faithful,” the Vatican said.

Munich Airport temporarily closed following drone reports, but nothing found: police

MUNICH, Oct 19, (AP): Germany’s Munich Airport was temporarily closed Saturday night following reports of drones that authorities were unable to verify, federal police said.

The airport, one of Germany’s largest, reopened before midnight, federal police said. Air traffic was operating normally Sunday morning, the airport said.

“Suspicious observations” were reported by several people, including security officials and airport employees, federal police and the airport said. The sightings occurred around 10 p.m. local time Saturday for roughly 30 minutes and again around 11 pm for another half-hour.

The impact on flights and passengers was minor, the airport said Sunday. Three flights were diverted - two of which were later able to land at Munich - and one departure was canceled. Federal police said they did not find



A man walks at the airport in Munich, Germany, on March 26, 2023. (AP)

any drones or suspicious people in the area. The closure is the latest after mysterious drone overflights in the airspace of European Union member countries. Earlier this month, Munich Airport closed twice in 24 hours following drone sightings. Thousands of passengers were affected.

Mujahid, Asif thanked Qatar and Turkey for role in facilitating talks

Afghanistan, Pakistan pledge to respect ceasefire after more than week of deadly fighting

ISLAMABAD, Oct 19, (Agencies): Afghanistan and Pakistan, embroiled in fighting that has killed dozens of people and injured hundreds, pledged on Sunday to respect a ceasefire.

The truce, mediated by Qatar and Turkey, came into effect immediately and is intended to pause hostilities.

Violence has escalated between the neighbors since earlier this month, with each country saying they were responding to aggression from the other. Afghanistan denies harboring militants who carry out attacks in border areas.

Pakistan is grappling with militancy that has surged since 2021, when the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan and returned to power.

The Taliban government’s chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, gave a positive response to the outcome of the talks that took place in the Qatari capital, Doha, a day earlier. He said both countries had signed a bilateral agreement.

“It has been decided that neither country will undertake any hostile actions against the other, nor will they support groups carrying out attacks against Pakistan. Both sides will refrain from targeting each other’s security forces, civilians or critical infrastructure.”

A mechanism would be established in the future, “under the mediation of intermediary countries,” to review bilateral claims and ensure the effective implementation of this agreement.

Pakistani Defense Minister Khawaja Asif posted confirmation of the deal on X. “Cross-border terrorism from Afghan territory will cease immediately,” Asif wrote. “Both countries will respect each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. A follow-up meeting between the delegations is scheduled to take place in Istanbul on October 25 to discuss the matters in detail.”

Top officials from both countries thanked Qatar and Turkey for their role in facilitating the talks that led to the ceasefire.

The fighting between Afghanistan and Pakistan has severely disrupted people’s lives. The two countries share a 2,611-kilometer (1,622-mile) long border known as the Durand Line, which Afghanistan has never recognized. They have just two



Afghan refugees board into trucks as they prepare to leave for their homeland through a border crossing point which partially opens following Pakistan Afghanistan ceasefire truce, at a camp in Chaman, a border town on the Pakistan Afghan border on Oct 19. (AP)

main trade routes.

Worsening security has forced locals to leave their homes and also left thousands of people and vehicles stranded for a week at border points.

The Chaman crossing in southwest Pakistan is only open for Afghan refugees to leave as part of a nationwide crackdown on foreigners living in Pakistan illegally. Entry from Afghanistan, including trade and pedestrian movement, remains suspended.

Shafiullah Khan, an Afghan refugee trying to leave Pakistan, had been stuck at Chaman for three days.

“We are so happy for this peace agreement,” said Khan. “The refugees were suffering a lot, but now, after this agreement, we are happy and are going back to our country.”

Less happy was businessman Hazarat Bilal Umaid, whose trade depends on an open border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

“People were afraid and worried about how to save their livelihoods,” he said. “Now our request to both governments is to open the gate for trade as soon as possible.”

The Torkham crossing, which straddles Pakistan’s northwest and Afghanistan’s east, is completely closed.

Also:

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has suffered estimated damages of about 2.9 billion US dollars from recent floods that caused large-scale destruction across the country, Pakistani Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said.

Speaking at an event to launch the ministry’s monthly development update and the preliminary flood damage assessment report on Friday, Iqbal said a detailed post-disaster needs assessment exercise is underway to determine the exact economic losses resulting from the calamity.

He said the initial estimate of damages stands at about 822 billion rupees (about 2.9 billion US dollars), including 430 billion rupees (about 1.53 billion dollars) in the agricultural sector and 307 billion rupees (about 1.1 billion dollars) in infrastructure.

Asia

Storm leaves 1 dead in Philippines: A tropical storm lashed the northern and central Philippines Sunday, leaving at least one person dead and forcing more than 22,000 people to evacuate from flood- and landslide-prone villages, officials said.

Tropical Storm Fengshen was tracked at midday over Manila Bay with sustained winds of up to 65 kph (40 mph) and gusts of up to 90 kph (56 mph). It was expected to move away from the main northern Philippine region of Luzon Sunday night, government forecasters said.

A villager drowned on Saturday in Roxas City in the central province of Capiz, where flooding in many villages was worsened by the onset of high tide, police and provincial officials said.

Five villagers died after their hut was hit early Sunday by a tree that residents had been trying to topple by burning in Pitogo town in the eastern province of Quezon, provincial police chief Romulo Albacea said by telephone, saying authorities were assessing whether to classify the deaths as having been directly caused by the storm. (AP)



A soldier stands at a North Korean military guard post flying a national flag, seen from Paju, South Korea on June 26, 2024. (AP)

wire fences and combat troops. In 2017, when a fleeing North Korean soldier sprinted across the border, North Korean soldiers fired about 40 rounds, before South Korean soldiers could drag the wounded soldier to safety.

A vast majority of about 34,000 North Koreans who have fled to South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War came via China, which shares a long, porous border with North Korea. (AP)

S.Korea’s pipeline blast injures 5: Five workers were injured on Friday from a hydrogen pipeline explosion at a refinery plant in southeastern South Korea, according to local broadcaster YTN.

The pipeline explosion occurred at the plant of local refiner SK Energy in Ulsan, around 300 km southeast of Seoul, at about 10:40 a.m. local time (0140 GMT).

Five workers were wounded, four of whom suffered serious injuries.

The plant’s hydrogen production facilities had been undergoing regular maintenance since Wednesday.

It was estimated that the hydrogen gas remaining in the pipeline caught fire while the pipe was being opened. (Xinhua)

EU will not oversee general elections in Myanmar, says Kajsa Ollongren

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19, (Agencies): European Union Special Representative for Human Rights Kajsa Ollongren declared that the EU would not send observers to Myanmar to oversee scheduled general elections. Ollongren, cited by the Malaysian media, affirmed that no European observers would supervise the polls, set to be organized by the Myanmar government on December 28, urging member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to exert pressures to “alter the political conditions” in this regional country.

The European bloc has decided to abstain from dispatching a mission to observe the elections, she said, charging that “the method of arranging the elections show that the polls would neither be free nor credible,” said Ollongren, who was in Malaysia partaking in preparations for the 47th ASEAN Summit due in Kuala Lumpur on October 26-28.

Instability in Myanmar renders it a source of instability for the region, thus this issue should be on top of ASEAN’s priorities, Ollongren said.

Her remarks coincided with predictions that ASEAN, during the forthcoming summit, would decide to send observers to Myanmar to oversee the polls.

It is controversial whether balloting will be held in regions controlled by pro-democracy groups forces of racial minorities that have closed ranks in the



Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, head of the military council, inspects officers during a parade to commemorate Myanmar’s 80th Armed Forces Day in Naypyitaw, Myanmar on March 27. (AP)

face of the ruling military junta.

The country witnessed a military coup in 2021 that led to civil war fares.

Also:

BEIJING: A Chinese court recently held a public hearing for the case against a criminal gang led by Xu Faqi, also known as Xu Laofa, as part of joint China-Myanmar efforts to crack down on crimes in northern Myanmar that target Chinese citizens.

So far, more than 57,000 Chinese nationals suspected of involvement in fraud in northern Myanmar have been apprehended, according to China’s Ministry of Public Security.

Investigations revealed that since 2019, the syndicate led by Xu had leveraged its influence in Kokang, northern Myanmar, to collaborate with telecom fraud groups.

Passenger bus crash leaves 17 dead

Brazil’s Lula calls for independent Latin America

SAO PAULO, Oct 19, (Agencies): Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Saturday said that he will not accept any leader from another country during “to speak arrogantly to Brazil,” and defended the creation of a “Latin American doctrine” to strengthen regional independence from external pressures.

“We want to build a Latin American doctrine, with Latin American teachers and students, so that we can dream of an independent continent, one where no president from another country will ever again dare to speak arrogantly to Brazil, because we will not accept it,” Lula said during an event with high school students in Sao Bernardo do Campo municipality.

Regarding the defense of sovereignty, Lula said it is not a matter of courage but a matter of “dignity and character.”

The remarks came as Brazil and the United States began thawing relations following the tariffs of up to 50 percent imposed by Washington on Brazilian goods since early August.

Lula said Wednesday that Brazil and the United States would hold a formal bilateral meeting to discuss the additional tariffs, following his virtual conversation earlier this month with



Brazil’s President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva attends a World Food Forum meeting at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters in Rome on Oct 13. (AP)

US President Donald Trump.

Also:

SAO PAULO: A passenger bus in northeastern Brazil crashed into a sand embankment and flipped on its side, killing at least 17 people, authorities said Saturday.

The bus was carrying about 30 passengers, police said. The number of injured, who were taken to nearby hospitals, was not immediately clear. The vehicle crashed in Saloá, a city in the state of Pernambuco, and was bound for the city of Brumado, in the neighboring state of Bahia.

Subcontinent

Strong winds damage houses in Sri Lanka: Nearly 100 houses were damaged in Sri Lanka’s northwestern province due to strong winds triggered by the prevailing adverse weather conditions, a senior Disaster Management Center (DMC) officer said on Saturday.

DMC media spokesman **Pradeep Kodippili** said they are taking necessary measures to assist residents impacted by the situation.

Kodippili said the Meteorology Department has also advised the public to remain alert, noting that heavy rainfall exceeding 100 mm could occur in some areas of the Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central, Uva, North Central, Eastern, and North Western provinces in the coming days.

He added that landslide warnings have been issued for six districts for the coming 24 hours as well. (Xinhua)

8 killed in India vehicle accident: At least eight people were killed and 28 others injured, 15 of them critically, on Saturday after a pickup vehicle carrying them



Kodippili

skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, the state broadcaster All India Radio said.

The accident took place near Chandsaili Ghat of Nandurbar district in Maharashtra.

After the accident, police and disaster response forces rushed to the spot to carry out rescue work. The injured were moved to the nearby hospitals.

According to police, the victims were identified as Hindu devotees returning home from a pilgrimage at a local shrine.

Preliminary investigations revealed the accident took place when the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a sharp curve.

Police have registered a case and ordered an investigation into the accident. (Xinhua)

Flights resume after fire at Bangladesh airport: A blaze that broke out at the cargo village of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Saturday afternoon has been fully brought under control, and flight operations resumed later in the evening, according to the Bangladesh Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

The fire, which erupted at around 2:15 p.m. local time, was contained following a prompt and coordinated effort by the fire service and airport authority, while no casualties were reported in the accident, said the ministry in a late Saturday press release.

The airport authority also confirmed that flight operations had resumed. (Xinhua)

Ivory Coast’s leader urges youth to vote in key election, touting himself as best choice

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Oct 19, (AP): Ivory Coast’s President Alassane Ouattara called on the country’s youth to vote in large numbers in the upcoming presidential election, touting himself as the candidate most committed to their welfare during a campaign rally Saturday.

Ivory Coast, a nation of 32 million and one of West Africa’s economic powerhouses, is due to hold its presidential election on Oct. 25 with Ouattara running against four other candidates.

The election is being held amid political tensions after key opposition figures were barred from running, including former President Laurent Gbagbo and former Credit Suisse chief executive Tidjane Thiam.

Speaking at a rally in the capital of Abidjan, Ouattara, 83, said he is seeking a fourth term to fulfill his promises of a better life for young people. “I have always been committed to offering the best to our youth, so that you can start businesses, work, learn, and be independent,” he said.

After changing the constitution in 2016 to remove presidential term limits, analysts say Ouattara has high chances of winning the election with little challenge from the other candidates.

The Ivorian leader has said he is committed to addressing the country’s security and economic challenges. However, opposition leaders said his government has failed to meet expecta-



President Alassane Ouattara addresses supporters during a campaign rally at the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Stadium in Abidjan, Ivory Coast on Oct 18. (AP)

tations and suggested that those barred from running were removed from the ballot to pave way for Ouattara’s victory.

The ban on key opposition leaders has prompted protests that authorities have tried to block. Hundreds of protesters have been arrested, with some already sentenced to time in jail.

At Saturday’s rally, Ouattara and his party officials pitched his candidacy to thousands of youths in attendance. The Ivorian leader has “done a lot for young people, and we want him to continue,” said Florine-Aux-

ane Loukou Bledja, one of the local leaders of the ruling party’s youth movement.

Also:

HARARE, Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe’s ruling ZANU-PF party said Saturday it will begin steps to extend President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s term by two years, potentially keeping the 83-year-old in power until 2030.

Under Zimbabwe’s Constitution, Mnangagwa is due to step down in 2028 after completing two five-year terms. Any extension would require amending the term-limit provisions.

Trump calls Colombia’s president ‘illegal drug dealer’ and ends US aid

PALM BEACH, Fla., Oct 19, (AP): US President Donald Trump said Sunday he would slash US funding to Colombia because the country’s leader “does nothing to stop” drug production, in what is the latest sign of friction between Washington and one of its closest allies in Latin America.

In a social media post, Trump referred to Colombian President Gustavo Petro as “an illegal drug dealer” who is “low rated and very unpopular.” He warned that Petro “better close up” drug operations “or the United States will close them up for him, and it won’t be done nicely.”

Trump, while at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, wrote on his Truth Social platform that Petro is “strongly encouraging the massive production of drugs, in big and small fields” across Colombia, which the Republican president spelled as Columbia. “Petro does nothing to stop it, despite large scale payments and subsidies from the USA that are nothing more than a long term rip off of America,” Trump said.

“AS OF TODAY, THESE PAYMENTS, OR ANY OTHER FORM OF PAYMENT, OR SUBSIDIES, WILL NO LONGER BE MADE TO COLUMBIA,” Trump said. He also said Petro had “a fresh mouth toward



Colombian President Gustavo Petro holds up a portrait given to him by a supporter during a rally in Ibagué, Colombia on Oct 3. (AP)

America.”

Earlier Sunday, Petro accused the U.S. government of assassination and demanded answers after the latest American strike in Caribbean waters. The US said on Saturday it was repatriating to Colombia and Ecuador two survivors from that attack, the sixth since early September. At least 29

people have been killed in strikes that the U.S. has said are targeting alleged drug traffickers.

In September, the Trump administration accused Colombia of failing to cooperate in the drug war, although at the time Washington issued a waiver of sanctions that would have triggered aid cuts.

Boursa Kuwait closes higher on Sunday

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Sunday's trading session on a positive note, with the All Share Index climbing 28.21 points, or 0.32 percent, to settle at 8,891.08 points.

Trading activity was robust, as 592.4 million shares changed hands through 31,763 transac-

tions, with a total turnover of KD 137.9 million (USD 420.5 million).

The Premier Market Index led the gains, adding 38.91 points, or 0.41 percent, to close at 9,451.65 points. It saw 201.5 million shares traded across 10,220 deals, valued at KD 66.7 million (USD 203.4 million).

Business

Forum addresses global growth, geopolitical risks, and digital transformation

NBK concludes its participation in the Annual Meetings of IMF and the World Bank Group



Isam Al-Sager during the reception of the Kuwait Banking Association, in the presence of the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Basel Al-Haroon, and the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the United States.



Sheikha Al-Bahart during the reception organized by the Embassy of the State of Kuwait, in the presence of Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the United States.



Kuwaiti bank leaders on the sidelines of the Kuwait Banking Association reception.



Shaikha Al-Bahar and Faisal Al-Hamad during the Kuwait Banking Association ceremony.



Omar Bouhadiba on the sidelines of the Kuwait Banking Association ceremony.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) delegation concluded its participation in the 2025 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) in Washington, D.C., reflecting the bank's commitment to engaging in leading global economic forums to discuss key issues shaping the future of both the global and regional economies.

The delegation was headed by Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO, alongside Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO, Mr. Faisal Al-Hamad, Chief Executive Officer - NBK Wealth Group; and Mr. Omar Bouhadiba, CEO of International Banking Group; as well as Mr. Rani Selwanes, General Manager of NBK - New York.

The NBK delegation attended a reception hosted by the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Washington, D.C., in the presence of Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Acting Minister of Finance, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment. The event was hosted by Her Excellency Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the United States of America, who extended a warm welcome to the chairpersons and senior executives of Kuwaiti banks, as well as distinguished leaders of the Kuwaiti banking sector.

The Bank's delegation also participated in the reception hosted by Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) for senior global banking executives, held alongside the key events and meetings. "The ceremony was held under the patronage and in the presence of the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Mr. Basel A. Al-Haroon, and attended by Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Acting Minister of Finance, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment; Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the United States of America; Mr. Jassem AlBudaiwi, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); along with the governors of central banks in Arab countries, chairpersons of Kuwaiti banks, senior leaders from the financial and banking sectors, and a number of prominent economic figures from around the world."

Meetings & Events

On the sidelines of the 2025 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary

- The NBK delegation held a series of high-level meetings with senior international officials
- The delegation focused on the most pressing challenges and emerging opportunities to support economic stability in Kuwait and the wider region
- NBK's participation underscores its role as an active partner in the global economic dialogue

Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, NBK participated in a series of high-level events and discussions, holding several bilateral meetings with senior international officials to explore new avenues for strategic cooperation and strengthen long-term partnerships.

Furthermore, the NBK delegation engaged with senior global officials and decision-makers on a range of key topics at the forefront of the international economic agenda, with particular focus on the most pressing challenges confronting the banking and financial sector worldwide amid the evolving global landscape.

The delegation also took part in the annual meeting of the Institute of International Finance (IIF) members, as well as the annual international banking symposium organized by the Group of Thirty (G30).

The Annual Meetings of the IMF and the WBG stand as the largest global gathering of their kind, bringing together over 10,000 participants, including central bank governors, finance and development ministers, private sector executives, civil society leaders, and distinguished academics.

This annual gathering serves as a unique platform for discussing global economic policy and exchanging insights on the challenges and opportunities confronting the international economy. This year's meetings carry particular significance amid the heightened uncertainty and evolving dynamics facing the global economic landscape.

Key topics on the agenda included global economic growth prospects, risks to the global financial system, including the impact of geopolitical tensions on inflation and markets, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and in-

novation. Discussions also focused on debt management, development, and poverty reduction, with an emphasis on designing effective policies to support emerging economies and advance sustainable and inclusive economic growth worldwide.

The Annual Meetings feature several significant committees, with the most notable ones being the Development Committee, the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the Group of Ten, the Group of Twenty-Four, among others. In addition, the meetings include seminars, media sessions, press conferences, and numerous events that focus on the global economy, international development, and the stability and evolution of the global financial system.

Through its annual participation in the IMF and World Bank meetings, NBK underscores its role as an active partner in the global economic dialogue. The Bank engages with international counterparts to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities, contribute to economic stability in Kuwait and the region, stay abreast of the latest developments in the global financial sector, and leverage best international practices to continually enhance its banking services and deliver efficient, high-quality solutions to its customers.

These meetings also provide a valuable opportunity to engage with senior officials from global financial institutions, gain in-depth insights into market trends and monetary and fiscal policy outlooks, and understand and proactively address the challenges confronting the global economy.

NBK has a global presence across 13 countries on four continents and holds one of the strongest credit ratings among leading banks in the Middle East, according to the consensus of the three renowned international credit rating agencies: Moody's, Fitch, and Standard & Poor's.

NBK is committed to participating in international forums and key meetings to stay abreast of the latest global developments, initiatives, and discussions on the global economy, international development, and the financial system. Such engagement underscores the Bank's dedication to contributing to the global economic dialogue and reinforcing its role as a bridge linking Kuwait's and the region's financial markets with the broader international financial landscape.

In line with its efforts to reinforce global cooperation and anticipate the latest trends

KIB concludes its participation in the Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank Group



HE Basel Ahmed Al-Haroun, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, with the KIB delegation.



The KIB delegation with Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah during the dinner banquet hosted by the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in the United States.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) concluded its participation in the proceedings and events of the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), held in the United States from October 13 to 18, 2025. On the sidelines of the meetings, KIB also participated in the Kuwait Banks Evening Reception2025, organized by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) under the patronage of His Excellency Basel Ahmed Al-Haroun, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The reception was held at the USCapital, Washington, D.C. on October 15 in the presence of the Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance, and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment H.E. Dr. Sabeeh AlMukhaizeem; Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the United States of America, Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah; Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf Jassem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi; the Chairman of KBA and its Board of Directors; bank representatives; and a number of international guests to strengthen engagement with the global financial community. Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah also hosted the Kuwaiti delegation at a dinner banquet in their

honor at the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in the United States, in the presence of Dr. Sabeeh AlMukhaizeem.

The Annual Meetings – attended by a group of central bank governors, ministers of finance and development, senior officials from the private sector, representatives of civil society organizations, and academics – covered several pressing issues, including the dynamics of the global economy, mechanisms for achieving sustainable development, and the challenges facing international financial markets.

The event concluded with the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Development Committee issuing a statement providing guidance to the Executive Boards of the two institutions. They reviewed the results of their discussions on the global economy, developments in financial markets, other urgent development issues, and the financial resources needed to promote economic development.

Both the meetings and the adjacent reception- are regarded among the most prominent global platforms for exchanging insights and expertise in the fields of economics and finance, contributing to shaping future policies and addressing global

challenges such as climate change and digital innovation. Through its renewed participation, KIB reinforced its presence as a Kuwaiti banking and financial institution that plays a prominent role in supporting the national economy and championing sustainability, which reflects its commitment to global standards of excellence and contributes to consolidating Kuwait's reputation as a regional and global financial center.

The participation of the Kuwaiti banking sector in these international forums highlights a shared commitment to enhancing global cooperation and anticipating the latest trends, enriching the sector's visions and supporting its development journey. Furthermore, through its continued participation, KIB reaffirms its forward-looking strategies centered on adopting technological innovations and sustainable financial solutions, further strengthening its competitive edge.

It is worth noting that KIB considers participation in local and international banking and economic forums an essential pillar of its strategy for reinforcing its position in the financial sector and expanding its knowledge and expertise, which positively reflects its role in supporting the national economy.



The KIB delegation during its participation in the World Bank and IMF meetings.



Her Excellency Sheikhha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the United States of America with the Burgan Bank team at the Kuwaiti Embassy Reception.



His Excellency Basel Al-Haroon, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait with Mr. Abdullah Mohammed Al-Sharekh and Mr. Abdullah Abdulmajeed Marafie.



Mr. Abdullah Abdulmajeed Marafie, Mr. Abdullah Mohammed Al-Sharekh, and Mr. Bader Al-Turkait at the KBA Banks Reception.

Delegation showcases Kuwait's financial strength and innovation role

Burgan Bank renews its participation in the Annual Meetings of the WBG and the IMF

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: In line with its ongoing efforts to support Kuwait’s positioning as a local and regional economic hub and a leader of sustainable economic development, Burgan Bank took part in the 2025 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, D.C., USA, which took place from October 13 to 18.

The delegation representing Burgan Bank alongside international policymakers and market leaders in the financial and banking sectors included Mr. Abdullah Mohammed Al-Sharekh, Board Member; Mr. Abdullah Abdulmajeed Marafie, General Manager – Treasury and Financial Institutions; and Mr. Bader Al-Turkait, Deputy General Manager – Financial Institutions.

The Bank’s renewed participation in the global event reflects its strategy of championing innovation-driven development across the Kuwaiti banking and financial sector and leveraging technology in addressing the evolving needs of retail, corporate, and investment clients in Kuwait and across the region. In addition, the Annual Meetings present a valuable opportunity for Burgan Bank to explore potential partnerships with global financial institutions; present its achievements and role as a leading institution capable of supporting financial stability and achieving sustainable development; and showcase the strength of the Kuwaiti economy and the resilience of the country’s financial and banking sector.

On the sidelines of the Annual Meetings, the Burgan Bank delegation also attended the customary Kuwaiti Banks’ Evening Reception hosted by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) under the patronage of His Excellency, the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), Mr. Basel Ahmad Al-Haroon at the Waldorf Astoria, Washington, D.C. Whereas the Annual Meetings covered challenges and opportunities of global relevance, the Reception took a micro localized approach to discussing worldwide challenges from a local perspective, uncovering opportunities for collaboration and utilizing banks’ insights and digital capacities to influence tangible, long-term effect on individuals and the overall economy. Among the topics that were discussed this year were the effects of digitization and eco-consciousness on global

economies, defining and bridging the gap between education and financial market needs, and the role of women entrepreneurs in the job market, among many other pressing subjects.

Commenting on Burgan Bank’s participation, Mr. Al-Sharekh “We are honored to be part of such vital conversations that channel expert voices from across the global markets and communities. Despite the uncertainty underlying many regional markets, it’s fascinating how leaders are still able to find opportunities to leverage their expertise and resources to enable local communities and advance financial inclusion through innovation and technology. High-level events such as the Annual Meetings are an invaluable platform for Burgan Bank to expand its network of international partners and to stay abreast of the latest financial technologies capable of enriching people’s quality of daily life.”

On his part, Mr. Marafie said: “Our responsibility toward our customers, investors, and other stakeholders mandates that we remain constantly aware of and up to date with the changes molding and shaping the hyper-globalized banking and finance markets.” He added: “Every force is capable of nudging or swaying the market in a new direction, which, if not promptly addressed, could affect a bank’s performance and market



Mr. Abdullah Abdulmajeed Marafie, General Manager – Treasury and Financial Institutions at Burgan Bank



Mr. Abdullah Mohammed Al-Sharekh, Board Member at Burgan Bank

- Burgan Bank participates in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in the US capital, Washington, D.C., with a delegation headed by Al-Sharekh, Marafie, and Al-Turkait.
- The Bank’s participation aligns with its strategy for strengthening its leading position locally and regionally.

relevance. One of the areas where Burgan Bank’s longstanding sustainable success truly stands out is its active involvement in the international and regional decision and policy making discussions as well as direct engagement with its community, both of which gear the Bank with timely insights about the market pulse and its arising needs.”

Burgan Bank’s ongoing com-

mitment to participating in the Annual Meetings is a testament to its resolve to offer its stakeholders a world-class banking experience that combines convenience and accessibility with data security and online safety. It further highlights the Bank’s dedication to leading digital transformation in Kuwait in collaboration with public and private sector partners.

It is worth noting that the Annual Meetings are regarded as one of the most prominent and important global economic events, featuring extensive discussions on the current financial and economic challenges and how to overcome them. Burgan Bank’s participation in this event reinforces its international presence and confirms its leading position on the regional and global arenas as a banking group with operations extending across a number of subsidiaries in the Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey, represented by Burgan Bank Group, including Gulf Bank Algeria (Algeria), Tunis International Bank (Tunisia), Burgan Bank Turkey (Turkey), and United Gulf Bank (Bahrain). Burgan Bank has a strong presence in the United Arab Emirates through its corporate office, “Burgan Financial Services Limited”. The Bank continues to operate with a clear vision and committed strategy to consolidate its position among the most prominent local and international banks during the coming period, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

About Burgan Bank

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is a Kuwait-based conventional bank with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institution sectors. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly sought to diversify its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the “Burgan Bank Group”, in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria – AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank – TIB (Tunisia), Burgan Bank Turkey (Turkey) and United Gulf Bank (Bahrain). Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank’s brand has been built on a foundation of real values – ownership, transparency, teamwork, and passion – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires.

In fact, the Bank’s approach to business and people is always shaped by its ‘Driven by You’ commitment. Burgan Bank has achieved the LEED v4.1 O+M: EB Gold Certification for its Head Office in Kuwait City. The Bank has also obtained the ISO/IEC 27001: 2022 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS), ISO /IEC 27701:2019 Privacy Information Management Systems (PIMS), ISO/IEC 20000-1: 2018 Information Technology Service Management System (ITSMS) and was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS), making it one of the few banks in the GCC and Kuwait to receive such certification for five consecutive times. At the same time, the Bank has the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twenty consecutive years. Moreover, in a testament to its dedication to the development of its human capital, Burgan Bank is the first bank in Kuwait to be certified as a Great Place to Work®, earning the distinct honor in 2023. Burgan Bank is a majority-owned subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), one of the largest holding companies in the MENA region.



Leaders of Kuwait’s banking sector at the KBA Banks Reception.



شركة الاستثمار الوطنية
National Investments Company

NIC concludes its active participation for the 3rd consecutive year in Kuwait’s largest career fair

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: In line with its ongoing commitment to support human capital development, professional growth, and the attraction and investment in national talent, National Investments Company (NIC) has successfully concluded its participation in “Watheefti” – Kuwait’s largest career fair. The event was held at The Arena at 360 Mall, over three days from 16 to 18 October, with the participation of more than 120 organizations.

For the third consecutive year, NIC’s participation aimed to highlight the career opportunities available for Kuwaiti youth and to encourage them to actively engage in the private sector in alignment with the “New Kuwait 2035” Vision. The company also sought to familiarize attendees with the nature of work in the investment industry, thereby contributing to the development of qualified and competitive national professionals.

The company’s booth attracted significant attention from job seekers, recent graduates, and ambitious young Kuwaitis. NIC representatives from various departments were present to answer questions, provide detailed insights into the company’s career development programs and available positions, and guide attendees through the on-site application process.

On this occasion, National Investments Company reaffirmed that its participation in the fair reflects its steadfast commitment to corporate social responsibility and its role as one of the leading investment institutions in the region. The company emphasized its ongoing efforts to attract and nurture Kuwaiti talent, retain young professionals, and foster an innovative work environment that enhances employee potential while building a sustainable foundation for the future.

In addition to supporting youth empowerment and educational initiatives that positively impact society, NIC continues to create new job opportunities and help graduates make informed career choices. The



company also places strong emphasis on empowering Kuwaiti women through specialized initiatives such as “Shift”, a program designed to prepare recent female graduates for careers in the investment sector.

NIC underscored its strategic and influential role across multiple sectors in local, regional, and global markets, supported by a diverse shareholder base that includes prominent national institutions and highly experienced financial professionals. The company remains focused on increasing Kuwaitization across

all organizational levels, highlighting available career paths, and attracting exceptional national talent by channeling their skills and ambitions through a strong institutional framework.

The company further noted that career fairs serve as vital platforms to connect students and graduates with a broad range of public and private sector organizations, allowing them to gain insights into diverse work environments and motivating them to proactively present their qualifications and experiences in pursuit of

promising career opportunities.

In conclusion, National Investments Company expressed its gratitude to the organizers of “Watheefti” for their outstanding role in enhancing collaboration between the public and private sectors and for providing young Kuwaitis with the opportunity to engage with leading companies in the local market. The company reaffirmed its continued commitment to national initiatives that drive Kuwait’s economic and social development.



Minister of Information and Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, during his visit to the company's pavilion at the opening of the Watheefti Career Fair.



Raed Maree, Chief Human Resources Officer at stc, surrounded by the company's employees during the opening of the exhibition.

Empowering the youth and attracting local Kuwaiti talent through the largest career platform in Kuwait

stc supports local Kuwaiti talent as main sponsor of the 4th edition of Watheefti Career Fair

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its role as the main sponsor of the 4th edition of Watheefti Career Fair, Kuwait's largest national career fair that is designed to connect job seekers with private sector companies. The fair was held under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Abdulrahman Badah Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, at The Arena Kuwait in 360 Mall. With its growing popularity and success in its previous editions, the Watheefti Career Fair aligns with stc's strategic approach to empowering the youth and attracting Kuwaiti talent to its growing workforce.

As a telecom pioneer with a strong human capital development strategy, stc's sponsorship of the Watheefti Career Fair reflects the Company's strong belief in the importance of empowering and nurturing national talent. The initiative is closely tied to stc's long-term strategy to attract, support, and retain qualified professionals within its workforce, while providing them with opportunities to grow in an innovative and forward-looking environment. This participation also falls under the Company's extensive corporate social responsibility program, where education and youth empowerment represent

Maree:

■ We place significant focus on attracting national talent and supporting their professional journey

key pillars that drive stc's community-focused initiatives.

Building on the success of previous editions, stc continues to participate in the Watheefti Career Fair as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting national employment initiatives and bridging the gap between education and the private sector. Additionally, stc participated in a booth where visitors got a chance to meet members of the stc family, who will share insights on the available career opportunities, application processes, and the Company's workplace culture. Exclusive offers were also available at the booth through stc's 'Youth from stc' packages, which are designed to meet the digital needs of young customers. stc representatives shared insights on the benefits of these packages as well as other telecom and digital solutions offered by the Company.

Raed Maree, Chief Human Resources Officer at stc, commented, "Watheefti

Career Fair provides an ideal platform to connect with ambitious and talented individuals who are eager to contribute to Kuwait's evolving digital economy. At stc, we place significant focus on attracting national talent and supporting their professional journey through structured development programs, continuous learning opportunities, and a dynamic work environment that encourages innovation and collaboration."

The 3-day event, that took place from October 16 to 18, 2025, featured a full program of keynote sessions, panel discussions, and interactive workshops led by industry mentors and HR experts. The Watheefti Career Fair hosted over 120 leading employers from 14 industries, including banking and finance, investment and real estate, technology, education, insurance, industrial, and F&B, among others. Visitors had the opportunity to explore company booths, network directly with recruiters, attend on-site interviews, and apply for internships or full-time roles in real time.

Maree added, "Our participation in Watheefti Career Fair builds on stc's commitment to empowering youth and strengthening the national workforce by providing access to opportunities that inspire growth and innovation. Supporting educational and professional development platforms such as Watheefti reflects our vision to contribute to a sustainable, knowledge-based economy and to play an active role in shaping the leaders of tomorrow."



His Excellency Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi with the Agility team.

Agility KSCP sponsors Kuwait's biggest national career fair

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Agility KSCP, a supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation company, announced the successful conclusion of its sponsorship of the 2025 "Watheefti" career fair, Kuwait's biggest national job event, as part of its commitment to strengthening its workforce with national talent and attracting Kuwaiti graduates.

Watheefti was held under the patronage of Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, at the Arena, Grand Hyatt Kuwait, from Oct. 16 to 18. The fair drew more than 30,000 candidates for three days of interviews and networking. The event provided Agility with a key platform to meet graduates and job seekers and highlight career opportunities across its diverse business units.

Working at Agility KSCP offers Kuwaiti nationals a valuable opportunity to contribute to the development of the

country's logistics sector, support national economic priorities, and participate in advancing Kuwait's infrastructure. In June, Agility KSCP announced a new strategy built around the growth opportunities emerging from Kuwait's evolving economy, positioning the company as a dedicated platform that supports the country's national development goals. Under this strategic direction, Agility KSCP will build on its longstanding commitment to developing the Kuwaiti human capital that will be the driving force behind its implementation.

Agility actively seeks to attract national talent through its regular participation in career fairs. The company has taken part in the American University of the Middle East (AUM) Career Fair and the K-Tech Career Fair under the theme "With You Along the Road 4," as part of its efforts to support Kuwaitization, promoting local employment, and empowering Kuwaiti youth to help shape the country's future.

MoU focuses on education, training, and research initiatives

Jazeera Airways & AU sign MoU to develop future leaders in aviation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Jazeera Airways has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Australian University (AU) in Kuwait, marking a significant milestone in advancing academic-industry collaboration and nurturing the next generation of Kuwaiti aviation leaders.

The event was graced by the presence of H.E. Melissa Kelly, Australian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait who congratulated Jazeera Airways and AU, stating: "This is a significant milestone for two leading institutions in Kuwait. Australia is a global leader in aviation research and education, and I am proud Jazeera's future leaders will be able to access world-class Australian training and skills through AU, equipping Kuwait's industry for the future".

The partnership sets the foundation for joint initiatives in education, research, training, and student development, aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035's focus on empowering national talent and fostering innovation.

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways, highlighted: "Jazeera Airways is currently driving efforts to fill 700 positions across different operational department. Kuwait is home to exceptional young talent poised to make their mark in aviation. By nurturing their skills and opening pathways to global careers, we are investing in the future leaders who will shape the industry. Developing local talent today lays the foundation for a stronger, more innovative aviation sector tomorrow."

This collaboration marks a first for Jazeera Airways' upcoming Management Trainee Program to be launched shortly. The program, specifically designed for high-potential fresh Kuwaiti graduates will offer participants structured exposure across key business functions, hands-on project experience, mentorship from senior leaders, and a pathway to develop strong leadership and industry expertise within one of Kuwait's leading aviation companies.

Ginny Sethi, Chief People Officer, Jazeera Airways, added: "Our upcoming Management Trainee Program is a strategic investment in Kuwaiti national talent. Through structured rotations, mentorship and real-world projects during an 18-month program,



Jazeera Airways and AU sign MoU to develop aviation leaders.

we aim to shape the next generation of leaders who will drive innovation and excellence at Jazeera Airways and across the aviation sector."

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Fadhel Aldosari, Manager, Alumni & Career Placement Center said: "We are proud to partner with Jazeera Airways in empowering our graduates with industry-driven pathways. This collaboration strengthens our mission to provide students with practical experience and career readiness, ensuring they contribute meaningfully to Kuwait's growth and future economy."

Through this MoU, Jazeera Airways and AU will work together to:

- Exchange academic and industry knowledge
- Facilitate learning, research and internship opportunities
- Support student mobility, career placement and practical training
- Promote industry-relevant skills that prepare graduates for future job markets

LuLu Hypermarket launches colorful 'LuLu Wali Diwali 2025' celebrations across Kuwait



Photos during the event.



KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: LuLu Hypermarket has successfully launched its vibrant 'LuLu Wali Diwali 2025' festival, bringing the joyous spirit of the Festival of Lights to all LuLu outlets across Kuwait.

The week-long celebration, held from October 15 to 21, 2025, featured exclusive Diwali promotions, cultural programs, and festive activities that delighted shoppers and visitors alike.

The grand opening ceremony, held on October 18 at the LuLu Al Rai outlet, was inaugurated by Lulu's top management, who lit the traditional Diwali lamp to mark the beginning of the festivities. The event featured a lively lineup of cultural performances, interactive activities, and competi-

tions celebrating the diversity and creativity of the community.

Among the highlights was the Diwali Rangoli Competition, where participants showcased their artistic flair through colorful traditional designs. Winners of the contest received valuable prizes for first, second, and third places. Visitors also enjoyed special cultural performances that added color and excitement to the event.

All LuLu outlets across Kuwait were adorned with beautiful Diwali-themed decorations, including traditional lights, motifs, and selfie counters that became popular photo spots for shoppers.

To complement the festive spirit, LuLu offered a wide array of special Diwali

li promotions on products such as namkeen, sweets, traditional clothing, diyas and lights, and home décor items. Dedicated Diwali sweet counters were also set up in every outlet, offering customers a taste of authentic festive delicacies.

Adding to the celebration, LuLu introduced a Diwali Shopping Gift Card, giving customers a thoughtful way to share festive cheer with their loved ones.

With its colorful decorations, cultural charm, and attractive offers, LuLu Hypermarket's 'LuLu Wali Diwali 2025' celebration once again reaffirmed its place as Kuwait's favorite festive shopping destination, spreading light, joy, and togetherness throughout the community.

Apple TV+ series revives Hawaiian language and culture

Momoa worked with coach to perfect Hawaiian for ‘Chief of War’

HONOLULU, Oct 19, (AP): Jason Momoa drove a vintage pickup along a winding country road in Hawaii, a tattooed arm dangling out the window and Metallica blasting.

“POO’-ah-LEE’,” he said.
His passenger corrected him, again, modeling the subtle emphasis on the “u” sound: “Puuli.”

Momoa was preparing for his role in “Chief of War,” the first major TV series featuring the language and culture of Hawaii’s Indigenous people. His passenger, Kaho’okahi Kanuha, connected with Momoa years ago while they were both protesting against a giant telescope on a mountain summit held sacred by some Native Hawaiians. He wound up living with the Hawaiian Hollywood superstar for nearly a year as his personal language coach.

The word they kept working on during the drive can mean “warrior” or “army.” It was one of many to get right.

Like many Native Hawaiians in Hawaii and elsewhere, Momoa didn’t grow up speaking Hawaiian. Most of the other actors in the series also aren’t fluent. They worked with coaches like Kanuha to pronounce the vowel-laden sounds. Kanuha was at Momoa’s side 24/7, with a binder in hand of the actor’s lines to practice any chance they had - while driving, eating, working out.

“My objective was to be able to get him to say his lines, deliver his lines in a way that wasn’t distracting to the viewer,” Kanuha said.

The final product of the Apple TV+ series that premiered in August isn’t perfect, Kanuha and other Hawaiian language experts say, but it’s a successful global-scale contribution to revitalizing and normalizing a language that has endured erasure attempts amid colonization. They say it’s too early to quantify but that it can only help spark interest, especially among young Hawaiians who now have a mainstream representation of their language and culture.

While the first two episodes are mostly in Hawaiian, the language is spoken less as the series progresses from 18th-century Hawaiian society before contact with Europeans to Momoa’s character traveling beyond Hawaii.

“This is a moment where we’re showcasing our people, our language on a scale that says, we’re here ... we are amazing and our language is beautiful and thriving,” said Moses Goods, an actor in the series who said he “grew up largely without the language.” Hawaiian was his mother’s first language, but her parents



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Luciane Buchanan in a scene from ‘Chief of War.’ (AP)

forbade her from speaking it as a child, he said.

An 1896 law, a few years after the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom by American business owners, dictated English as the medium of education, said Ka’iukalani Damas, an assistant professor in Hawaiian language at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. That resulted in a systemic devaluing of Hawaiian and forbidding children from speaking it, Damas said.

“We have lots of stories of students being beaten or made to haul boulders and rocks from one side of the school to the other,” he said. “Writing on the blackboard 500 times, ‘I will not speak Hawaiian.’”

By 1940, native speakers were rare. Revitalization efforts in the 1960s and

1970s to restore Hawaiian as the medium of education resulted in immersion schools. It’s difficult to count how many are fluent today, Damas said, noting that recent Census data showing more than 30,000 speakers includes a wide range of proficiency. Momoa’s language coach started learning Hawaiian as a second language in 1994 at an immersion preschool.

“It’s not a language that my parents or my family spoke,” Kanuha said. “And so I learned as a kid that going through these programs ... can sometimes be a very lonely journey.”

Now 36, Hawaiian is his primary language and the first language of his two young sons.

As a family, it can feel like they live in a Hawaiian bubble until they leave home and everything is mostly in English, he said. With the show, his children can enjoy entertainment in Hawaiian - when they’re not closing their eyes during violent battle scenes.

“How ironic that being Hawaiian - in Hawaii - speaking Hawaiian makes you feel lonely,” Kanuha said. “I think this helps to kind of start to reverse that a little bit.”

Before acting in the show, New Zealand-born actor Luciane Buchanan said she had barely heard Hawaiian spoken. Her mother is from the Polynesian country Tonga and her father is of Scottish descent.

“I’m not going to lie, it freaked me out because I wanted to do it, but I only speak English,” she said. “I’m Tongan, but don’t speak Tongan, so I understand that kind of language trauma that I can empathize with the (Hawaiians) that have that disconnect.”

She recalled having to also learn other characters’ lines with her coaches so she could react appropriately - “so it’s not like we’re giving blank faces.”

Actor Cliff Curtis drew on his identity being Maori from New Zealand as a way to make connections with Hawaiian language, but said there were also challenging differences.

“There’s a fluidity to the way that it flows in Hawaiian,” he said. “There is a different cadence.”

Pukea Nogelmeier, a former professor of Hawaiian language at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, helped translate the script. He said he was nervous about the show’s outcome knowing how few of the cast were fluent in Hawaiian.

Film

Art heist without the spectacle

O’Connor plays artless thief in the artful ‘Mastermind’

LOS ANGELES, Oct 19, (AP): Not far into Kelly Reichardt’s “The Mastermind,” a very different kind of art heist film starring Josh O’Connor, the title’s irony becomes painfully clear.

Because whatever one can say about J.B. Mooney, the mediocre art thief played by O’Connor with a brooding, hand-dog sort of anti-energy, it’s obvious what one can’t. This onetime art student, now a family man and unemployed carpenter, is the furthest thing from a mastermind. He is neither clever, quick-thinking nor sensible - qualities one would deem essential to engineering a heist.

But then, as we said, “The Mastermind” is hardly your common heist film. Usually a cinematic heist is spectacular - in its success or its failure. Reichardt has removed all spectacle, telling instead a moody tale of a man who makes a dumb mistake and slowly loses everything, like a tumble down a mountain in slow motion.

“Slow” is the operative term here. Reichardt takes her time with every shot, never in any rush, as she crafts this carefully observed picture of life in early 1970s Massachusetts, tinted in earth tones and costumed to period perfection. This was a time when the now-omnipresent surveillance cameras weren’t around to catch any poor soul who decided to send some guys in to snatch paintings from a gallery in broad daylight and wait right outside in the car, like a dad at school pickup.

Surreptitiously

We first meet J.B. in the fictional Framingham Museum (Reichardt bases her story very loosely on a 1972 heist elsewhere in Massachusetts), where he’s taken wife Terri (Alana Haim) and two sons on an outing. While the family wanders, J.B. surreptitiously nicks a figurine from a display case, as the security guard naps - an early test of the security system.

At dinner later with J.B.’s parents, his father - a stern local judge (Bill Camp, perfectly cast) wonders aloud why his son is failing on the job front. J.B. says he has something good coming up, and will later hit up his gentler mother (Hope Davis) for funds to finance the project. What’s delicious about this dinner scene, though, is the time Reichardt takes to illustrate a bland ’70s family meal: meat and mashed potatoes, peas, corn on the cob, dinner rolls with butter.

Turns out, J.B. is plotting something nefarious, right in his basement. The simple plan: to steal four paintings - not Old Masters, but works by Arthur Dove, a painter J.B. studied in school. In a meeting at home, he gives his ill-trained thieves

their disguise: a pair of L’eggs pantyhose each (remember those pre-sustainability plastic egg boxes?) to stick on their heads.

On heist day, problems arise. At school drop-off, J.B. finds it closed for the day. What’s he gonna do with the kids? You know it’s the ’70s when he lets the young boys loose at a shopping center with some cash for junk food, telling them to be back at the parking lot in a few hours.

Remarkably

The actual crime is remarkably ... unremarkable. Reichardt’s observational, almost doc-like style is at its best here. The pantyhose-headed accomplices grab the loot with no thumping soundtrack or hair-raising chases to rev up the energy. After one goes rogue and holds up a teenage girl at gunpoint - there weren’t supposed to be any guns, but he wasn’t listening - they run down a staircase, beat up security guard and jump in the car.

And then the trouble - and the movie - really begins. We realize the story is not about the heist itself, but the spiraling consequences of one man’s unwise decisions, and stunning lack of self-awareness. Has J.B. even figured out how to fence the artwork? The paintings may not even be valuable, muses his dad at dinner, unaware of his son’s involvement. J.B. stashes the works in the silo of a dirty barn somewhere. But what’s next? Well, it doesn’t take long for somebody to squeal.

Soon enough, J.B. is on the run. To his surprise, nobody really wants to see him - not his furious wife, not his friends. He does get a visit from peeved local mobsters. (“Are you guys cops?” he asks.) As he gradually runs out of cash, his options dwindle dramatically. And so do his brain cells; it never occurs to him to change his hair or even shave his beard. Somehow O’Connor has a way of holding onto a tiny iota - tiny, but crucial - of our sympathy.

The supporting cast is perfectly chosen, but it’s a shame Haim isn’t used more - her most poignant scene is on the other side of a phone line, when J.B. is, shockingly, apologizing for upending the family but simultaneously asking her to wire him funds.

Reichardt reminds us at numerous points that her film is set amid the intense social upheaval over the Vietnam War, including vivid street protests. But the truth is that to J.B., social context means nothing. In O’Connor’s unique embodiment of a depressingly mediocre man, our artless art thief seems to care about nothing but survival.



This image released by Mubi shows Josh O’Connor in a scene from ‘The Mastermind.’ (AP)

Variety

BRUSSELS: The 7th China-EU Film Festival opened on Friday in Brussels and will take place in both Belgium and France, featuring film screenings, “Meet China” international communication events, youth film exchanges and dialogues between Chinese and European directors.

Around 10 films from China and Europe are showcased in this year’s festival, with the opening film “Georgia,” directed by Chinese filmmaker Qiao Mei, premiering on Friday evening. Yuan Mengqian, secretary-general of the China-EU Film Festival, said in her opening remarks that the festival is not only a platform to present cinematic art but also a cultural exchange initiated through film.

Laura Houlgatte, CEO of the International Union of Cinemas, said that collaboration between Chinese and European filmmakers has injected new vitality into the European film industry. The China-EU Film Festival, she added, presents diverse creative voices and helps European audiences better understand China.

The “Meet China” International Communication event was held Saturday afternoon at the China Cultural Center in Brussels, where several international communication

awards were presented. Recipients included teams and individuals from the Audio and Video News Department of Xinhua News Agency, Xinhua News Agency Europe Regional Bureau, CGTN, China Daily and some other media. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

LONDON: During the fourth London International Screen Dance Festival held from Thursday to Friday at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, Chinese entries attracted great attention among professionals.

Festival Director and independent British choreographer Charles Linehan appreciated the works presented by Chinese dancers. Noting that submissions from China have become a regular part of the festival, he said, “The Chinese works have excellent rhythm, choreography, and design, with very high standards in animation and production.”

“As artists, it’s important to recognize and respect the creativity of others -- wherever it comes from. If a work is good, it deserves to be seen,” Linehan said.

The London International Screen Dance Festival, launched in 2019, received 325 submissions from around the world for its fourth edition this year. Among 32 films selected for screening, five entries are from China. (Xinhua)



Angelina Jolie poses for a photo on the red carpet for the screening of the movie ‘Couture’, at the Rome Film Fest, in Rome, Saturday, Oct. 18. (AP)

A T-shirt worn by Taylor Swift sparks a \$2 million windfall for sea otters

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 19, (AP): A Northern California aquarium has raised more than \$2 million for sea otter conservation in just two days. All it took was **Taylor Swift** wearing a vintage T-shirt.

Swift wore a vintage Monterey Bay Aquarium otter conservation T-shirt in a release party movie for her new “The Life of a Showgirl” album, sending her ardent fans on a quest to buy the shirt last produced in the 1990s.

After the aquarium was flooded with calls about buying the T-shirt showing two otters floating on their back, it decided to re-release the garment Thursday as part of a special campaign to raise \$1.3 million, a nod to Swift’s favorite number, said Liz MacDonald, the aquarium’s director of content strategy.

The aquarium met and surpassed its goal to raise the funds for its sea otter conservation program in less than eight hours, averaging about \$100,000 in sales every 15 minutes, MacDonald said. Donors who give at least \$65.13 to its newest fundraising campaign to help injured and orphan otters will be mailed a T-shirt, MacDonald said.

“We definitely had a little Taylor Swift dance party in the office yesterday afternoon when we hit the goal,” she said.

The aquarium began accepting back-orders and by Friday afternoon it had raised more than \$2 million, according to its website.

How Swift acquired the T-shirt that was last produced more than 32 years ago - when she was just 3 years old - remains a mystery.

She and fiancé Travis Kelce have been documented visiting nearby Carmel, but MacDonald said the aquarium is not aware of the couple having been in their shop.

MacDonald said the staff has had fun speculating about Swift’s interest in the T-shirt.

When Taylor announced the release of her new album on Kelce’s podcast “New Heights” a couple of weeks ago, the couple had a little banter about how he loves otters and loves sending her videos of the furry sea creatures.

“One of my favorite theories is that we have a sea otter on our exhibit whose name is Opal and she was named by the fans through an online poll, and I wonder if Taylor Swift may

have been one of the people that voted for the name Opal,” MacDonald said, adding that opal is Kelce’s birthstone and that Opalite is the name of one of Swift’s songs.

Whatever the reason, the aquarium and Liberty Graphics, an employee-owned company printing the T-shirts, are reveling in the moment.

“They’re a company based in Maine who were as taken by surprise as us, but who are also as delighted to have this opportunity to be part of this amazing moment that does so much for sea otters and for ocean conservation,” MacDonald said.

Liberty Graphics will use 100% cotton in the T-shirts and water-based ink, which is more ocean-friendly and sustainable, she said.

“We’re also working to make sure that the packaging doesn’t use plastic,” she added.

The company of 50 employees normally produces 1,500 shirts a day, said Matt Enos, a company manager.

Enos said that beginning Monday the company will probably have to focus most of its resources on fulfilling T-shirt orders from Swifties.

“We definitely didn’t envision something this big but it’s a pretty good problem to have,” he said.



Swift

Jewels of ‘inestimable value’ stolen

Thieves steal crown jewels in 4 minutes from Louvre Museum



Police officers work by a basket lift used by thieves Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025 at the Louvre Museum in Paris. (AP)

PARIS, Oct 19, (AP): In a minutes-long strike Sunday inside the world’s most-visited museum, thieves rode a basket lift to the Louvre, forced a window into the Galerie d’Apollon - while tourists pressed shoulder-to-shoulder in the corridors - smashed display cases and fled with priceless Napoleonic jewels, officials said.

It was among the highest-profile museum thefts in recent memory and comes as Louvre employees have complained of worker and security understaffing.

One object was later found outside the museum, according to Culture Minister Rachida Dati. French daily Le Parisien reported it was the emerald-studded crown of Napoleon III’s wife Empress Eugénie - gold, diamonds and sculpted eagles - recovered just beyond the walls, broken.

The theft unfolded just 250 meters (270 yards) from the Mona Lisa, in what Dati described as “a four-minute operation.” No one was hurt.

Images from the scene showed confused tourists being steered out of the glass pyramid and adjoining courtyards as officers closed nearby streets along the Seine.

Also visible was a lift braced to the Seine-facing facade near a construction zone - an extraordinary vulnerability at a palace-museum.

Around 9:30 a.m., several intruders forced a window, cut panes with a disc cutter and went straight for the vitrines, officials said. Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said the crew entered from outside using a basket lift.

The choice of target compounded the shock. The vaulted Galerie d’Apollon in the Denon wing, capped by a ceiling painted for Louis XIV, displays a selection of the French Crown Jewels. The thieves are believed to have approached via the riverfront facade, where construction is underway, used a freight elevator to reach the hall, took nine pieces from a 23-item collection linked to Napoleon and the Empress, and made off on motorbikes, according to Le Parisien.

Daylight robberies during public hours are rare. Pull-

ing one off inside the Louvre - with visitors present - ranks among Europe’s most audacious since Dresden’s Green Vault museum in 2019, and the most serious in France in more than a decade.

It also collides with a deeper tension the Louvre has struggled to resolve: swelling crowds and stretched staff. The museum delayed opening during a June staff walkout over overcrowding and chronic understaffing. Unions say mass tourism leaves too few eyes on too many rooms and creates pressure points where construction zones, freight routes and visitor flows meet.

Security around marquee works remains tight - the Mona Lisa is behind bulletproof glass in a bespoke, climate-controlled case. It’s unclear whether staffing levels played any role in Sunday’s breach.

The Louvre has a long history of thefts and attempted robberies. The most famous came in 1911, when the Mona Lisa vanished from its frame, stolen by Vincenzo Peruggia and recovered two years later in Florence.

Today the former royal palace holds a roll call of civilization: Leonardo’s Mona Lisa; the armless serenity of the Venus de Milo; the Winged Victory of Samothrace, wind-lashed on the Daru staircase; the Code of Hammurabi’s carved laws; Delacroix’s Liberty Leading the People; Gérault’s The Raft of the Medusa. More than 33,000 works - from Mesopotamia, Egypt and the classical world to Europe’s masters - draw a daily tide of up to 30,000 visitors even as investigators now begin to sweep those gilded corridors for clues.

The heist spilled instantly into politics. Far-right leader Jordan Bardella used it to attack President Emmanuel Macron, weakened at home and facing a fractured parliament.

Forensic teams are examining the site of the crime and adjoining access points while a full inventory is taken, authorities said. Officials have described the haul as of “inestimable” historical value.



People check jewelry in the Apollo Gallery of the Louvre Museum on Sept. 4, 2025 in Paris. (AP)

Museum



The colossal statue of Min is displayed in the ‘Divine Egypt’ exhibition, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York, Tuesday, Oct. 14. (AP)



A double statue of King Haremhab and Horus is displayed in the ‘Divine Egypt’ exhibition, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. (AP)



A relief of Matt is displayed in the ‘Divine Egypt’ exhibition, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York, Tuesday, Oct. 14. (AP)



A statue of Amen-Re presenting and protecting King Tutankhamun is displayed in the ‘Divine Egypt’ exhibition. (AP)

‘Divine Egypt’ draws crowds to the museum

Met brings ancient Egypt’s gods, goddesses to life

NEW YORK, Oct 19, (AP): The powerful gods of ancient Egypt are having a get-together on Manhattan’s Upper East Side.

That would be at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It’s been more than a decade since the museum’s last big Egypt show, so “Divine Egypt” - a lavish exploration of how ancient Egyptians depicted their gods - is a major event, as evidenced by the crowds packing the show since its Oct. 12 opening.

After all, few things excite the museum-going public like ancient Egypt, notes Diana Craig Patch, the Met’s curator of Egyptian art.

“It’s the first ancient culture that you learn in school,” says Patch. “Pyramids, mummies, the great tomb of Tutankhamun ... they’re in our popular culture, books, films and now video games.”

But Patch hopes visitors will learn something deeper from “Divine Egypt,” which explores how the gods were portrayed by Egyptians both royal and common, and not only in temples where only kings or priests could go, but in daily worship by ordinary people.

Ancient Egyptian civilization lasted some 3,000 years; the show, which runs into January, covers all periods and features over 200 objects, from huge limestone statues to tiny golden figurines. It includes 140 works from the Met’s collection, as well as others lent by museums across the globe.

“The divine landscape of ancient Egypt is full of gods - actually 1,500 if you count all of them,” said Patch, leading The

Associated Press on a tour last week. The show focuses on 25 main deities.

Even pared down to 25, the research was daunting. The material and the textual information in Egyptology is fragmentary. What’s more, the Egyptians kept bringing in new gods, or giving established gods new roles. “And so that makes it a very complex, but fascinating landscape,” Patch says.

One aim is to show visitors that all of these images concern “how ancient Egyptians related to their world. Those gods were how they solved problems of life, death, and meaning - problems that we’re still trying to solve today.”

Some highlights:

You’d think that the boy king Tutankhamun, aka King Tut, would be the star of any party, given the astounding riches from his tomb the world has come to know. But in a sculpture that first greets visitors, from the Louvre in Paris, the solar god Amun-Re sits on a throne, presenting the much smaller pharaoh beneath his knees - or rather, protecting him - with hands resting on the small shoulders. The god is identified by his feathered crown, curled beard, divine kilt and jewelry - and is definitely the main attraction. Amun-Re was worshipped at the Karnak temple complex; the presence of Re in his name links him closely to the sun.

Met said the PG-13 restrictions will also apply to AI chats.

Children’s online advocacy groups, however, are skeptical about Meta’s intentions.

“Meta’s new parental controls on Instagram are an insufficient, reactive censorship that wouldn’t be necessary if Meta

represented as a falcon with a double crown, which signifies he is the king of Egypt and linked to the living king. But Hathor, who represents fertility, music and defense, among other things, takes many forms, including a cow, an emblem, a lion-headed figure or a cobra. In one statue here, she wears cow horns and a sun disc.

“So these are two main ways gods are represented: sometimes with lots of roles, sometimes with only one,” Patch says.

This gallery looks at the all-important Re, whose domains are the sun, creation, life and rebirth. Re often merges form with other deities. “Re rules the world - he’s the source of light and warmth,” Patch says.

He’s presented in this room as a giant scarab beetle. “That’s his morning aspect,” Patch says. “He’s seen as a beetle who takes the sun out from the underworld and pushes it up into the sky.”

Also here is a vivid painted relief of the goddess Maat, from the Valley of the Kings in Thebes (modern Luxor). She embodies truth, justice and social and political order. Patch notes: “The best way we translate it today is rightness. She stands for the world in rightness, the way it should work.”

This gallery explores five myths surrounding the creation of the world and its inhabitants.

“This is one of the things that I hope people begin to take away: that Egyptians had multiple ways of dealing with things,” Patch says of the competing myths. “I find that fascinating. They overlapped.”

Obit

‘Science giant’
Nobel laureate
Yang dies at 103

BEIJING, Oct 19, (AP): Chinese Nobel Prize-winning physicist **Chen Ning Yang**, one of the most influential scientists in modern physics, died in Beijing on Saturday. He was 103.

The prestigious Tsinghua University, where he studied and served as a professor, said in a statement that Yang died of an illness, without sharing further details.

“Professor Yang is one of the greatest physicists of the 20th century, having made revolutionary contributions to the development of modern physics,” the statement said, praising his contribution to China’s scientific and educational developments.

Yang won the Nobel Prize in 1957 with Tsung-Dao Lee for their investigation of the so-called parity laws that led to “important discoveries regarding the elementary particles,” according to the Nobel Prize website. They were the first Chinese-born Nobel Prize winners in physics.

In his speech at the Nobel Banquet at the time, he said he was as proud of his Chinese heritage as he was devoted to modern science, a part of human civilization of Western origin.

“I am heavy with an awareness of the fact that I am in more than one sense a product of both the Chinese and Western cultures, in harmony and in conflict,” according to his speech, shared on the Nobel Prize website.

Yang, also known as Frank or Franklin, was also famous for his Yang-Mills theory developed with American physicist Robert Mills.



Yang

Campus

Born in 1922, Yang was brought up surrounded by the Tsinghua campus, where his father was a math professor, the website said. After finishing his undergraduate degree, he obtained his master’s degree from Tsinghua.

He enrolled in the University of Chicago in the United States to pursue a doctorate in 1946 and was strongly influenced by Italian-American physicist Enrico Fermi, who had won the same Nobel Prize in 1938, the website said. He later became a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

In 1986, he became a distinguished Professor-at-large at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, to which he generously donated many of his awards and articles, including the Nobel Prize. Starting from 1999, he served as a professor at Tsinghua.

According to a 2017 report by China’s official news agency Xinhua, Yang obtained American citizenship. He said at the time it was a painful decision, one that his father had not forgiven him for. He renounced his U.S. citizenship in 2015, saying it was a beautiful country that gave him good opportunities in studying science, the report said.

The Nobel Prize website said Yang had three children.

Grief and heartfelt tributes flooded China’s social media as the world learned of the passing on Saturday of renowned physicist Yang, Nobel laureate and academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

One of the greatest physicists of the 20th century, Yang has been revered as a role model by generations of Chinese scientists, with his achievements greatly boosting national confidence as the country pushes for national rejuvenation and scientific development.

Chinese netizens expressed deep sorrow online, wishing Yang peaceful rest and honoring his contributions.

Meta adds parental controls for kids’ interactions with AI

NEW YORK, Oct 19, (AP): Meta is adding parental controls for kids’ interactions with artificial intelligence chatbots - including the ability to turn off one-on-one chats with AI characters altogether - beginning early next year.

But parents won’t be able to turn off Meta’s AI assistant, which Meta says will “remain available to offer helpful information and educational opportunities, with default, age-appropriate protections in place to help keep teens safe.”

Parents who don’t want to turn off all chats with all AI characters will also be able to block specific chatbots. And Meta said Friday that parents will be able to get “insights” about what their kids are chatting about with AI characters - although they won’t get access to the full chats.

The changes come as the social media giant faces ongoing criticism over harms to children from its platforms. AI chatbots are also drawing scrutiny over their interactions with children that

lawsuits claim have driven some to suicide.

Even so, more than 70% of teens have used AI companions and half use them regularly, according to a recent study from Common Sense Media, a nonprofit that studies and advocates for using screens and digital media sensibly.

On Tuesday, Meta announced that teen accounts on Instagram will be restricted to seeing PG-13 content by default and won’t be able to change their settings without a parent’s permission. This means kids using teen-specific accounts will see photos and videos on Instagram that are similar to what they would see in a PG-13 movie - no sex, drugs or dangerous stunts.

Meta said the PG-13 restrictions will also apply to AI chats.

Children’s online advocacy groups, however, are skeptical about Meta’s intentions.

“Meta’s new parental controls on Instagram are an insufficient, reactive censorship that wouldn’t be necessary if Meta

had been proactive about protecting kids in the first place,” said James Steyer, Common Sense Media founder and CEO. “On top of this, Meta is taking its sweet time, waiting months to implement this new feature at a pivotal moment where every second counts.”

“For too long, this company has put the relentless pursuit of engagement over our kids’ safety, ignoring warnings from parents, experts, and even its own employees.”

Meta AI chatbots, Steyer added, “are not safe for anyone under 18.”

Common Sense Media does not recommend minors use AI chatbots of any kind.

Meanwhile, the Australian government has begun a public education campaign with tips on how to wean children off social media ahead of a world-first national 16-year age limit taking effect in December.

Ultrasound advances set to revolutionize disease treatments

Focused sound energy could treat cancer, brain diseases

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

By Richard J. Price
University of Virginia

Sound waves at frequencies above the threshold for human hearing are routinely used in medical care. Also known as ultrasound, these sound waves can help clinicians diagnose and monitor disease, and can also provide first glimpses of your newest family members.

And now, patients with conditions ranging from cancer to neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s may soon benefit from recent advances in this technology.

I am a biomedical engineer who studies how focused ultrasound - the concentration of sound energy into a specific volume - can be fine-tuned to treat various conditions. Over the past few years, this technology has seen significant growth and use in the clinic. And researchers continue to discover new ways to use focused ultrasound to treat disease.

Ultrasound is generated with a probe containing a material that converts electrical current into vibrations, and vice versa. As ultrasound waves pass through the body, they reflect off the boundaries of different types of tissue. The probe detects these reflections and converts them back into electrical signals that computers can use to create images of those tissues.

Over 80 years ago, scientists found that focusing these ultrasonic waves into a volume about the size of a grain of rice can heat up and destroy brain tissue. This effect is analogous

to concentrating sunlight with a magnifying glass to ignite a dry leaf. Early investigators began testing how focused ultrasound could treat neurological disorders, pain and even cancer.

Yet, despite these early findings, technical hurdles stood in the way of applying focused ultrasound in the clinic. For example, because the skull absorbs ultrasound energy, sending focusing beams with high enough energy to reach damaged brain tissue proved difficult. Researchers eventually overcame this problem by integrating large arrays of ultrasound transducers - the probes that convert between electrical signals and vibrations - with image-based information about skull shape and density. This change allowed researchers to better fine-tune the beams to their targets.

It is only after scientists made key advances in imaging technology and acoustic physics in recent years that the promise of ultrasound is being realized in the clinic. Hundreds of clinical trials aimed at treating dozens of conditions have been completed or are ongoing. Researchers have found notable success on a condition called essential tremor, which leads to uncontrolled shaking, usually of the hands. Focused ultrasound treatments for essential tremor are now performed routinely at many locations around the world.

I believe some of the most exciting applications for focused ultrasound include improving drug delivery to the brain, stimulating immune responses against cancer, and treating rare diseases of the central nervous system.

The blood-brain barrier is evolution’s exquisite solution to keeping noxious substances away from this most critical organ. The blood-brain barrier is comprised of very tightly connected cells lining the inside of blood vessels. It only al-

lows certain types of molecules to enter the brain, protecting against pathogens and toxins. However, the blood-brain barrier is problematic when it comes to treating disease because it blocks therapies from reaching their intended target.

More than 20 years ago, pioneering studies determined that sending low-intensity pulses of focused ultrasound could temporarily open the blood-brain barrier by causing microbubbles in blood vessels to oscillate. This oscillation pushes and pulls on the surrounding vessel walls, briefly opening tiny pores that allow drugs in the bloodstream to penetrate into the brain. Critically, the blood-brain barrier opens only where the focused ultrasound is applied.

After many years of testing the safety of this technique and improving control of ultrasound energy, researchers have developed several devices using focused ultrasound to open the blood-brain barrier for treatment. Clinical trials testing the ability of these devices to deliver drugs to the brain to treat conditions like glioblastoma, brain metastases and Alzheimer’s disease are underway.

In parallel, there has been significant progress in developing gene therapies for numerous brain diseases. Gene therapy involves fixing or replacing faulty genetic material to treat a specific disease. Applying gene therapy to the brain is especially challenging because such therapies typically do not cross the blood-brain barrier.

Animal studies have shown that using focused ultrasound to open the blood-brain barrier can facilitate the delivery of gene therapies to their intended targets in the brain, opening doors to testing this technique in people.

Cancer immunotherapy instructs the patient’s own immune system to fight the disease. However, many patients - especially those afflicted with breast cancer, pancreatic cancer and gli-

blastoma - have tumors that are immunologically “cold,” meaning they are unresponsive to traditional immunotherapies.

Researchers have learned that focused ultrasound can destroy solid tumors in ways that allow the immune system to better recognize and destroy cancer cells. One way focused ultrasound does this is by turning tumors into debris that then literally flows to the lymph nodes. Once immune cells in the lymph nodes encounter this debris, they can initiate an immune response specifically against the cancer.

Inspired by these breakthroughs, the University of Virginia started the world’s first focused ultrasound immuno-oncology center in 2022 to support research in this area and push the most promising approaches to the clinic. For example, my colleagues are running a clinical trial at the center to test the use of focused ultrasound and immunotherapy to treat patients with advanced melanoma.

Research on focused ultrasound has primarily focused on the most devastating and prevalent diseases, such as cancer and Alzheimer’s disease. However, I believe that further developments in, and increased use of, focused ultrasound in the clinic will eventually benefit patients with rare diseases.

One rare disease of particular interest for my lab is cerebral cavernous malformation, or CCM. CCMs are lesions in the brain that occur when the cells that make up blood vessels undergo uncontrolled growth. While uncommon, when these lesions grow and hemorrhage, they can cause debilitating neurological symptoms. The most common treatment for CCM is surgical removal of the brain lesions; however, some CCMs are located in brain areas that are difficult to access, creating a risk of side effects. Radiation is another treatment option, but it, too, can lead to serious adverse effects. (AP)



The Lijian-1 Y8 carrier rocket with three satellites blasts off from a commercial aerospace innovation pilot zone in northwest China, Oct. 19, 2025. China on Sunday launched the Lijian-1 Y8 carrier rocket with three satellites onboard. The rocket blasted off at 11:33 a.m. (Beijing Time) from a commercial aerospace innovation pilot zone in northwest China and successfully sent the satellites into the planned orbit. The three satellites are Pakistan remote-sensing satellite (PRSS-2), AIRSAT 03 and 04 satellites. (Xinhua)

Discovery could help fight virus infections

Dead cells help spread viruses: experts

MELBOURNE, Oct 19, (Xinhua): Scientists in Australia have uncovered a previously unknown way viruses could spread around the body, potentially paving the way for more effective drug development.

Published in Nature Communications, the research, led by Australia’s La Trobe University (LTU), uncovers new understanding of the process of cell death and renewal, according to an LTU statement released Friday.

The research shows how each step in the process is critical to help a dying cell break down and be cleared away by the body’s immune system, it said.

Researchers discovered that as cells self-destruct, they change shape, lift away from their surroundings, and

leave behind a residue dubbed “the footprint of death” which contains a previously undiscovered type of Extracellular Vesicle (EV) -- tiny packages released by cells to transport proteins, lipids, DNA and RNA to other cells, serving as a crucial mechanism for communication between cells.

The new EVs, known as F-ApoEVs, mark the site of a dead cell and serve as “breadcrumb clues” to help the immune system identify and clean up cell fragments, preventing unwanted inflammation, researchers said.

However, early tests on cells also revealed that when dying cells are infected with influenza, the virus can hijack the clean-up process by hiding particles inside the F-ApoEVs, which could aid

the spread of infection to neighboring cells.

“Understanding this basic biological process could open new avenues of research to develop new treatments that harness these steps and help the immune system better fight disease,” said Professor Ivan Poon, director of LTU’s Research Center for Extracellular Vesicles.

“Until now, it was believed that the cell fragmentation process during cell death was random and fairly simple,” Poon said, adding the findings demonstrate the complexity of this process and highlight how each step is actually critical to help the dying cell break down efficiently and to be cleared away by the immune system.

Innovative surgery

Swiss team performs EU’s 1st partial heart transplant

GENEVA, Oct. 19, (Xinhua): The Geneva University Hospital (HUG) in Switzerland has announced that its medical team has successfully carried out Europe’s first partial heart transplant on a 12-year-old child with a complex congenital heart defect.

Performed in September, the groundbreaking operation involved transplanting only part of a donor heart, specifically the aortic and pulmonary valves, rather than replacing the entire organ. This innovative approach allows the transplanted valves to grow with the child, reducing the need for multiple surgeries and potentially offering a lifelong solution.

The procedure was led by paediatric cardiac surgeon Dr. Tornike Sologashvili and initiated by paediatric cardiologist Dr. Julie Wacker, who have been developing the hospital’s partial heart transplantation program for the past two years.

According to HUG, the young patient is recovering well under medical supervision.

Since the technique was first introduced in 2022, only about 30 such transplants have been performed globally, all in the United States. The European first at HUG marks a major advance in paediatric cardiac surgery, offering new hope for children with selected congenital heart conditions.

Dr. Wacker highlighted the benefits of the technique, noting that by preserving the patient’s own heart muscle, the risk of rejection is reduced, the need for immunosuppressive therapy is limited, and the implanted valves adapt as the child grows.

Autumn-winter diseases: Vietnam’s local departments of health have been

urged to intensify efforts to prevent and control the spread of autumn-winter diseases in order to minimize infections and fatalities, Vietnam News Agency reported Friday.

The call came amid a potential rise in cases of seasonal influenza, COVID-19, pneumonia, whooping cough, respiratory syncytial virus and diarrhea caused by rotavirus and E. coli.

Cases of dengue fever and hand-foot-and-mouth disease have also shown an upward trend in several localities.

Local departments of health have been requested to enhance sample collection and testing to identify pathogens and detect suspected cases early, especially at borders, medical facilities, schools, industrial zones and populated areas, according to the report.

□ □ □

Bird flu: A three-year-old girl from western Cambodia’s Kampong Speu province has been confirmed for H5N1 human avian influenza, raising the number of cases to 16 so far this year, the Ministry of Health said in a statement late on Thursday.

A laboratory result from the National Institute of Public Health showed on Oct. 15 that the little girl was positive for the H5N1 virus, the statement said.

The patient has the symptoms of fever, diarrhea, cough, and stomachache, and she is currently receiving intensive care from a team of doctors, it added.

The victim lives in Chek village of Basedeth district.

Investigations found that chickens and ducks had gotten sick and died subsequently at the girl’s and her neighbor’s house about a week before the girl fell ill, the statement said.

Awareness key

‘Breast cancer requires action’

ISLAMABAD, Oct 19, (Xinhua): Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday called for stronger national efforts to raise awareness, ensure early diagnosis, and improve treatment of breast cancer, urging joint government and community action to curb the disease’s growing impact.

In his message on the World Breast Cancer Awareness Day, observed globally on Oct. 19, the prime minister said the month of October provides an opportunity to reaffirm national commitment to the prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment of breast cancer, one of the fastest-spreading diseases worldwide.

He said early diagnosis significantly increases recovery prospects, but late detection remains a major challenge in Pakistan. “It is very important to recognize this situation at the national level and adopt government measures and preventive steps at the public level to address it,” he emphasized.

The prime minister underscored the need for greater awareness, particularly in rural areas, encouraging women to seek medical advice promptly instead of hiding the disease. He said that while awareness levels in urban areas have improved in recent years, there is an urgent need to strengthen awareness campaigns in rural communities.

Sharif said the Ministry of National Health Services is working through Lady Health Workers and other local medical staff at community and regional levels to promote early diagnosis, treatment, and timely contact with doctors.

‘Simple prescription with no side effects’

Music could help ease pain from surgery or illness, researchers say

NEW YORK, Oct 19, (AP): Nurse Rod Salaysay works with all kinds of instruments in the hospital: a thermometer, a stethoscope and sometimes his guitar and ukulele.

In the recovery unit of UC San Diego Health, Salaysay helps patients manage pain after surgery. Along with medications, he offers tunes on request and sometimes sings. His repertoire ranges from folk songs in English and Spanish to Minuet in G Major and movie favorites like “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.”

Patients often smile or nod along. Salaysay even sees changes in their vital signs like lower heart rate and blood pressure, and some may request fewer painkillers.

“There’s often a cycle of worry, pain, anxiety in a hospital,” he said, “but you can help break that cycle with music.”

Salaysay is a one-man band, but he’s not alone. Over the past two decades, live performances and recorded music have flowed into hospitals and doctors’ offices as research grows on how songs can help ease pain.

The healing power of song may sound intuitive given music’s deep roots in human culture. But the science of whether and how music dulls acute and chronic pain - technically called music-induced analgesia - is just catching up.

No one suggests that a catchy song can fully eliminate serious pain. But several recent studies, including in the journals Pain and Scientific Reports, have suggested that listening to music can either reduce the perception of pain or enhance a person’s ability to tolerate it.

What seems to matter most is that patients - or their families - choose the music selections themselves and listen intently, not just as background noise.

“Pain is a really complex experience,” said Adam Hanley, a psychologist at Florida State University. “It’s created by a physical sensation, and by our thoughts about that sensation and emotional reaction to it.”

Two people with the same condition or injury may feel vastly different levels of acute or chronic pain. Or the same person might experience pain differently from one day to the next.

Acute pain is felt when pain receptors in a specific part of the body - like a hand touching a hot stove - send signals to the brain, which processes the short-term pain. Chronic pain usually involves long-term structural or other changes to the brain, which heighten



Nurse Rod Salaysay plays guitar for patient Richard Hoang in the recovery unit of UC San Diego Health in San Diego, Calif., on Sept. 30, 2025. (AP)

overall sensitivity to pain signals. Researchers are still investigating how this occurs.

“Pain is interpreted and translated by the brain,” which may ratchet the signal up or down, said Dr. Gilbert Chandler, a specialist in chronic spinal pain at the Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic.

Researchers know music can draw attention away from pain, lessening the sensation. But studies also suggest that listening to preferred music helps dull pain more than listening to podcasts.

“Music is a distractor. It draws your focus away from the pain. But it’s doing more than that,” said Caroline Palmer, a psychologist at McGill University who studies music and pain.

Scientists are still tracing the various neural pathways at work, said Palmer.

“We know that almost all of the brain becomes active when we engage in music,” said Kate Richards Geller, a registered music therapist in Los Angeles. “That changes the perception and experience of pain - and the isolation and anxiety of pain.”

The idea of using recorded music to lessen pain associated with dental surgery began in the late 19th century before local anesthetics were available. Today researchers are studying what conditions make music most effective.

Researchers at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands conducted a study on 548 participants to see how listening to five genres of music - classical, rock, pop, urban and electronic - extended their ability to withstand acute pain, as measured by exposure to very cold temperatures.

All music helped, but there was no

single winning genre.

“The more people listened to a favorite genre, the more they could endure pain,” said co-author Dr. Emy van der Valk Bouman. “A lot of people thought that classical music would help them more. Actually, we are finding more evidence that what’s best is just the music you like.”

The exact reasons are still unclear, but it may be because familiar songs activate more memories and emotions, she said.

The simple act of choosing is itself powerful, said Claire Howlin, director of the Music and Health Psychology Lab at Trinity College Dublin, who co-authored a study that suggested allowing patients to select songs improved their pain tolerance.

“It’s one thing that people can have control over if they have a chronic condition - it gives them agency,” she said.

Active, focused listening also seems to matter.

Hanley, the Florida State psychologist, co-authored a preliminary study suggesting daily attentive listening might reduce chronic pain.

“Music has a way of lighting up different parts of the brain,” he said, “so you’re giving people this positive emotional bump that takes their mind away from the pain.”

It’s a simple prescription with no side effects, some doctors now say.

Cecily Gardner, a jazz singer in Culver City, California, said she used music to help get through a serious illness and has sung to friends battling pain.

“Music reduces stress, fosters community,” she said, “and just transports you to a better place.”

Grant changes create national confusion

New rules, FEMA funding delays hamper state disaster readiness

NEW YORK, Oct 19, (AP): State crisis managers say severe cuts to federal security grants, restrictions on money intended for preparedness and funding delays tied to litigation are posing a growing risk to their ability to respond to emergencies.

It’s all causing confusion, frustration and concern. The federal government shutdown isn’t helping.

“Every day we remain in this grant purgatory reduces the time available to responsibly and effectively spend these critical funds,” said Kiele Amundson, communications director at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

The uncertainty has led some emergency management agencies to hold off on filling vacant positions and make rushed decisions on important training and purchases.

Experts say the developments complicate state-led emergency efforts, undermining the Republican administration’s stated goals of shifting more responsibility to states and local governments for disaster response.

In an emailed statement, the Department of Homeland Security said the new requirements were necessary because of “recent population shifts” and that changes to security grants were made “to be responsive to new and urgent threats facing our nation.”

Several DHS and FEMA grants help states, tribes and territories prepare for climate disasters and deter a variety of threats. The money pays for salaries and training, and such things as vehicles, communications equipment and software.

State emergency managers say that money has become increasingly important because the range of threats they must prepare for is expanding, including pandemics and cyberattacks.

FEMA, a part of DHS, divided a \$320 million Emergency Management Performance Grant among states on Sept. 29. But the next day, it told states the money was on hold until they submitted new population counts. The directive demanded that they omit people “removed from the State pursuant to the immigration laws of the United States” and to explain their methodology.



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden take an aerial tour on Marine One over areas devastated by the Maui wildfires, Aug. 21, 2023, in Lahaina, Hawaii. (AP)

Kuwaiti sailor Amina tops girls’ rankings, third overall

Mussanah Race Week launches 14th Edition with global talent

MUSCAT, Oct 19: The first day of the 14th Edition of Mussanah Race Week brought exceptional sailing, perfect conditions and the promise of more to come. Over 120 young sailors from seven nations including Oman, China, India, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates took part in the first set of races in Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7 and Para Inclusive RS Venture Connect and Hansa 303 classes.

In the Optimist, the largest fleet of the competition, Jean-Luc Soaren representing the UAE leads from Anya Zahedi of Singapore, the highest ranked girl and second overall. Also in the girls competition, Shreya Krishna Lakshminarayanan from India is second and third overall with Yuxuan Li and Yi Jia Ni – both from China – third and fourth. Zeph Wan from Singapore is second in the boys competition and sixth overall, holding a narrow lead over fellow Singaporean Ethan Chia who is third in the boys competition and seventh overall.

The fleet remains compressed after just four races with a lot of movement expected as the week progresses.

The early ILCA 4 pace has been set by Abdulla Al Zoubaidi of the UAE who finished in the top three in three of his races. Al Zoubaidi leads from Tamim Al Balushi, winner of race four, and Aws Al Bosaidi, winner of race two, both from Oman. After the first day there are six Omani sailors in the top 10.

Al Moatsem Al Farsi of Oman leads the ILCA 6 with three wins and a second place from the five races. Mohammad Al Hammadi of the UAE is just two points behind after three second places and one win. Amina Shah of Kuwait is currently the highest ranked girl in the competition and third overall.

Omani sailors occupy the top three positions in the ILCA 7 after day one, led by Hussain Al Jabri, who recorded four wins from four races today. Al Salim Al Hamdani is second, level on points with Ali Al Saadi in third. The two sailors traded second and third places in all four races.

In the Para Inclusive RS Venture Connect, while the team of Zahir Al Atabi and Abdulrahman Al Hamdani lead the Hansa 303 after winning all three races. Malik Al Qartubi and Ahmed Zaal Nabout are second and Hassan Al Lawati and Adil Al Siyabi are third just one point behind.

In total, there will be 12 races in each class - no more than three per day – will decide the winners. Prizes will be awarded for the overall top three in each class, as well as the Junior top three for sailors under the age of 12, and the girls top three, as well as the overall Team Racing competition.

Conditions so far have been ideal, with bright blue skies and winds of 7 knots. Abdullatif Ziad Al Qasmi, an ILCA 4 sailor representing the ASYAD Group,



Day 1 of Mussanah Race Week races – ILCA 4 class

“I am really enjoying being in such a competitive atmosphere with young sailors from around the world. We can all see how focused everyone is, and I am aiming to finish in a podium position this week. We have a strong Omani team here at Mussanah Race Week and we know that every race is a chance to improve. This is a busy period and regardless of where we finish, this is excellent preparation for upcoming events.”

Mussanah Race Week is officiated by an International Jury comprised of Louis Mackenzie from New Zealand, Satish Kanwar from India, and Saleh Al Jabri and Ali Al Ambusaidi from Oman. They must ensure each race is started and completed fairly, all penalties are noted, equipment confirms to the racing rules and any protests are resolved correctly.

Satish Kanwar, International Judge and Race Officer, commented, “It is a pleasure to be here in Oman for this prestigious event, and I am honoured to chair the Protest Committee for this edition. With sailors representing seven nations and

more than 120 entries, this event continues to demonstrate impressive growth and international appeal. Our committee is committed to ensuring fair competition, consistency in the application of the rules, and upholding the highest standards of sportsmanship on the water. I look forward to an exciting week of racing and wish all the sailors the very best.”

Mussanah Race Week 2024 proudly achieved Gold Level Clean Regatta certification from Sailors for the Sea Powered by Oceana, recognising Oman Sail’s leadership in embedding sustainability and ocean conservation into every aspect of its operations and events. Building on this success, the 2025 edition continues to strengthen its environmental commitment through an ongoing partnership with Barceló Mussanah Resort, where sustainable practices, such as biodegradable materials, and local sourcing of over 65% of products, are integral to daily operations. This year, sailors experienced the resort’s pioneering circular economy initiative, which transforms collected food waste, including from the event itself, into nutrient-rich fertiliser that reduces methane emissions and nourishes the resort’s landscaped gardens. Sailors took part in a behind-the-scenes tour of the biogas system, seeing firsthand how simple actions like food waste segregation can prevent organic waste from ending up in landfills.

As part of the event’s educational programme, 52 sailors participated in an Environmental Awareness Workshop focused on protecting Oman’s marine biodiversity, from its vibrant coral reefs to endangered sea turtles. This week will continue with a community beach cleanup at Mussanah Public Beach, reinforcing the shared goal to leave only footprints in the sand. Debbie Richardson, Senior Corporate Affairs & Sustainability Strategist, shared, “Oman Sail’s sustainability mission is to raise awareness about protecting our environment and to lead by example, showing that even small actions can create lasting change. Mussanah Race Week continues to set the standard for sustainable sailing, inspiring sailors to become catalysts for meaningful, positive change in line with global sustainability goals.”

Later in the week, Oman Sail and the Barceló Mussanah Resort will host a BBQ night for all sailors, staff and families to experience authentic Omani hospitality and bond with each other.

Mussanah Race Week 2025 is supported by title partner ASYAD, Gold partner QNB Oman, bronze partners Barceló Mussanah Resort, Mazoon Dairy, Tanuf Water and Visit Oman, as well as the Oman Maritime Sports Committee.

Messi hat trick seals Inter Miami win and MLS Golden Boot glory

Real Salt Lake earns final postseason spot in West

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Oct 19, (AP): Lionel Messi scored his second career MLS hat trick, propelling Inter Miami to a 5-2 win over Nashville SC on Saturday night.

Messi leads the MLS in scoring with 29 goals this season. The last time he scored a hat trick was last Oct. 19 in Inter Miami’s 6-2 win over the New England Revolution.

He opened the scoring in the 35th minute, netting his 27th goal of the season off a shot outside the center of the box for a 1-0 Inter Miami lead. Nashville SC responded with a header from Sam Surridge in the 43rd minute to tie the game 1-1.

After outshooting Inter Miami 11-4 in the first half, Nashville SC’s effort paid off in the sixth minute of first-half stoppage time when Jacob Shaffelburg scored off Hany Mukhtar’s rebound off the left post for a 2-1 lead. The hat trick by Messi gave him the Golden Boot as the league’s top goal scorer and makes him a leader for Most Valuable Player. He is five goals ahead of the league’s second-leading scorers, Surridge and Los Angeles FC’s Denis Bouanga.

Inter Miami finishes the regular season with a 19-7-8 record and as the third seed in the Eastern Conference faces Nashville in the first round of the MLS Playoffs, which is the sixth seed with a 16-12-6 record.

João Klauss scored in the 88th minute and St. Louis City rallied to tie Real Salt Lake 2-2 to close out the



Nashville SC forward Sam Surridge (9) and Inter Miami forward Tadeo Alencide vie for the ball during the second half of a MLS soccer match Saturday. (AP)

regular season.

Real Salt Lake (12-17-5) earns the Western Conference’s final postseason berth by virtue of its tiebreaker advantage over the San Jose Earthquakes. RSL will play the Portland Timbers on the road on Wednesday in a loser-out wild-card match. The winner will play the expansion side and Western Conference regular-season champion San Diego FC in the best-of-three first round. Amahl Pellegrino and Anders Dreyer each had two goals and an assist to help San Diego FC beat the Portland Timbers 4-0 to clinch the top seed in Western Conference.

San Diego (19-9-6) finished the regular season with 63 points - the most

by an expansion club in MLS history.

Teenager Kaick Ferreira scored the go-ahead goal two minutes into the second half and rookie Michael Colodi made it stand up as FC Dallas beat Vancouver 2-1 to clinch seventh place in the Western Conference and deny the Whitecaps their first regular-season title.

Vancouver (18-7-9) and expansion side San Diego FC finished with 63 points apiece but the newcomers had the tiebreaker advantage. Dallas (11-12-11) avoids the wild-card round with the victory.

The 19-year-old who goes by Kaick scored his second goal in his 27th appearance to give Dallas the lead for

good in the 47th minute.

Matheus Nascimento and Joseph Paintsil each scored a goal to help the LA Galaxy beat Minnesota United 2-1 in the regular-season finale for both teams.

Minnesota (16-8-10) is fourth in the Western Conference and will play fifth-seeded Seattle in the best-of-three first round of the MLS Cup playoffs.

Nascimento gave LA (7-18-9) the lead for good when he scored on first-touch shot from the center of the area in the 12th minute.

Niko Tsakiris scored his first career MLS goal in the 77th minute, Josef Martínez also scored a goal and the San Jose Earthquakes beat Austin FC 2-1 on Saturday night in the regular-season finale for both teams.

Austin (13-13-8) is sixth in the Western Conference and will play No. 3 seed Los Angeles FC in the MLS Cup playoffs.

John Pulskamp made seven saves for his fourth clean sheet of the season and Sporting Kansas City played the Houston Dynamo to a scoreless draw on Saturday night.

Kansas City (7-20-7) was winless in its final six games of the season, including a five-game losing streak.

Houston (9-15-10) ended the season winless in its last three matches.

Jonathan Bond made two saves for his seventh clean sheet.

Andrew Moran scored his first MLS goal on a rebound off the post in the 90th minute and LAFC played the Colorado Rapids to a 2-2 draw.

LAFC (17-8-9) reached the 60-point plateau for the fourth time in its eight seasons in MLS.

Kazma targets victory over Muharraq in Super League

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Kazma Club’s men’s basketball team begins its campaign in the West Asian Gulf Super League today, taking on Bahrain’s Muharraq at 7:00 PM at the Basketball Federation Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

The Gulf region clubs are divided into two groups: Group A features Kazma, Muharraq, Saudi Arabia’s Al-Ittihad, and UAE’s Shabab Al-Ahli, while Group B includes Kuwait Club, Saudi Arabia’s Al-Ula, Qatar’s Al-Arabi, and UAE’s Sharjah.

The tournament kicked off last week, with Al-Ittihad defeating Shabab Al-Ahli 94-88 and Al-Ula beating Sharjah 108-74.

For Kazma, today’s match is crucial under Slovenian coach Bojan Lazic, who is aiming for a strong start in the Asian competition and hopes to bounce back from a narrow 92-93 loss to Al-Qurain in last week’s domestic Super Cup third-place playoff. The team, however, showed excellent form in the 37th Arab Clubs Championship



Kazma Club Men's Basketball Team in action.

in Dubai last month, finishing fourth and gaining valuable preparation for the season.

Kazma’s roster combines experience and youth, led by captain Ahmed Al-Bloushi, Hussein Al-Khubaz, Abdullah Ibrahim, and Abdulaziz Faleh, along with young talents Hamad Al-Ali, Khalifa Al-Omani, and Youssef Naseeb. Foreign reinforcements Phil Green and Jajuan Johnson further strengthen the squad.

Sulaibikhat takes on Yarmouk



Yarmouk players rejoice after finding the net.

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Zain First Division League resumes today with four exciting fixtures, headlined by the top-of-the-table clash between Sulaibikhat (12 points) and third-placed Yarmouk (9 points) at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 7:55 PM.

Second-placed Al-Jazeera (12 points) will look to extend its strong form when it takes on Al-Sahel (8 points) at Al-Shabab Club Stadium at 5:40 PM.

Elsewhere, Burgan (5 points) faces Khaitan (1 point) at Nasser Al-Othaimi Stadium at 7:55 PM, while Al-Shamiya and Sporty, both winless so far, meet at Al-Sahel Stadium at 5:40 PM.

Lisa & Matthew triumph in world triathlon finals

WOLLONGONG, Australia, Oct 19, (AP): Germany’s Lisa Tertsch fulfilled her considerable potential, breaking away from a star-studded field Sunday to win the elite women’s race at the World Triathlon Championship finals and to become world champion for the first time.

Favorite Matthew Hauser comfortably won the elite men’s race to clinch the 2025 World Championship.

Tertsch was near the head of the field for most of the 1.5 kilometers swim, 40 kilometer cycle and 10 kilometer run, finishing strongly to beat Bianca Seregni of Italy by 14 seconds.

Emma Lombardi of France finished third 26 seconds behind Tertsch.

Olympic champion Cassandre Beaugrand of France and Beth Potter of Britain came into the finals tied atop the world championship points standings with Tertsch in fourth place overall. But Sunday’s win catapulted Tertsch into first place.

The 26-year-old Harvard-educated Tertsch was a member of the gold medal-winning German team in the mixed team relay at last year’s Paris Olympic Games and has twice been an event winner on the world championship circuit.

Fernandez wins Japan Open for fifth career title

Sinner retains Saudi Six Kings Slam title

RIYADH, Oct 19, (Agencies): World No. 2 Jannik Sinner of Italy defended his title at the 2025 Six Kings Slam exhibition tennis tournament, defeating world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz of Spain in straight sets.

Sinner displayed outstanding form in a repeat of last year’s Six Kings Slam final, as he broke Alcaraz’s serve in the very first game and went on to complete two more breaks. Dominating with his serve, Sinner won over 80 percent of points on both his first and second serves and did not face a single break point throughout the match. The Italian ultimately prevailed 6-2, 6-4 to claim back-to-back titles at the event.

The two last faced each other a little over a month ago in the US Open final, where Alcaraz claimed his sixth career Grand Slam singles title and bounced back to world No. 1. After the match, Alcaraz praised Sinner’s performance. “When Jannik is playing at this level, it’s always difficult. Today, he was just too good. And I think everybody could enjoy his tennis today,” he said.

In the third-place match earlier in

the day between Novak Djokovic and American Taylor Fritz, the Serbian veteran narrowly lost in a tiebreak after a grueling 75-minute first set and later retired due to physical discomfort.

“I’m sorry. You couldn’t see the second set,” Djokovic told the crowd. “But credit to Taylor. We had some incredible games towards the end of that set. And it was one of the longest sets I ever played.” He also promised the audience that if he continues his professional career, he will return to compete in Riyadh next year. The spectators responded with enthusiastic applause and cheers, showing their respect for the 38-year-old veteran.

The Six Kings Slam exhibition tournament was launched in 2024 as part of the Riyadh Season with six of the world’s top male players competing in the event annually.

Meanwhile, Leylah Fernandez beat 18-year-old qualifier Tereza Valentova 6-0, 5-7, 6-3 in the final of the WTA’s Japan Open on Sunday for her fifth career title.

Playing in her eighth career final, the



Jannik Sinner of Italy returns the ball during the final match against Carlos Alcaraz of Spain at the Six Kings Slam tennis tournament in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. (Xinhua)

one-time U.S. Open runner-up raced through the first set in 29 minutes, before Valentova settled her nerves in the second set and found a way to level the match when she broke Fernandez in the 12 game.

In the deciding set, the 27th-ranked Fernandez made a crucial break in the fourth game and then saw off a late challenge by the Czech player to claim her second title of the season after taking the WTA 500 D.C. Open in July.

Change Name

I, MAAHIR holder of Indian Passport No. Z6340982 do hereby change my name to MAAHIR NAZIR MOHAMMED (as Given name) FAKIH (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name MAAHIR NAZIR MOHAMMED FAKIH, and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

Kipchumba breaks course record, Desta wins in personal best

AMSTERDAM, Oct 19, (Xinhua): Kenya’s Geoffrey Kipchumba shattered the course record to win the men’s race at the 50th Amsterdam Marathon on Sunday, while Ethiopia’s 21-year-old Aynalem Desta claimed the women’s title in a personal best.

The 25-year-old Kenyan, racing

in a field that included Joshua Cheptegei, the Ugandan who won the 10,000 meters at the Paris Olympics, broke away after 33 kilometers to win in 2:03:30, taking nine seconds off the previous course record set by Tamirat Tola, the Paris Olympic marathon champion, who ran 2:03:39 in 2021.

“I am very happy. I felt strong and I thought, let me push,” a relaxed Kipchumba said after the race. “I was hoping for 2:04, this is a little bit faster.”

Tsegaye Getachew of Ethiopia finished second in 2:04:18, with Getaneh Molla one second behind in third.

The women’s race remained tight until the final stages, with six Ethiopian athletes in contention at the 30-kilometer mark, and Desta proved the strongest to win in 2:17:37. Bertukan Welde also set a personal best of 2:17:56 for second place, while Mekides Shimeles took third in 2:19:56.

The event also hosted the Dutch national marathon championships. Khalid Choukoud won his fourth national title in 2:07:59, and Anne Luijten won the women’s national title in 2:28:28.

The 2026 edition of the Amsterdam Marathon is scheduled for Oct. 25.

Al-Khabizi clinches victory at Sahara Equestrian championship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Veteran rider Khalid Al-Khabizi of Al-Said & Equestrian Club was crowned champion at the Sahara Equestrian Center Tournament, held at the Sahara Equestrian Resort in Subhan, featuring top riders from local clubs.

Al-Khabizi claimed first place in the main sixth round at 130 cm, completing the course in 39.63 seconds with zero penalty points after a jump-off. He was followed by Fawaz Al-Subaie, Amer Al-Shatti, Nick Channing, Abdullah Al-Eiban, and Saleh Al-Tabtabaei.

In the fifth round at 120 cm, Nick Channing finished first, ahead of Mohammed Al-Mulaifi, Salem Al-Wuhaib, Mosaad Al-Shaibi, Ghazi Al-Faleej, and Abdulrahman Al-Fazea.

Female rider Dalal Safar took top honors in the fourth round at 110 cm, followed by Hussein Al-Kharafi, Lagos Sicsay, Ali Al-Sayegh, Abdulaziz Al-Ajeel, and Sheikha Al-Khalaf.

Talal Al-Anjari won the third round at 100 cm, ahead of Hamad Al-Shammari, Ryan Al-Omari, and Sabah Al-Sabah.

In the beginner category, with heights between 60 and 80 cm, many riders successfully cleared the obstacles without penalties, reflecting strong participation across the competition.



Winners celebrate on the podium.

Al-Qadsia stumbles in league ahead of Al-Ain clash

Al-Fahaheel back to winning ways



A Kazma player controls the ball during the match.

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Al-Qadsia’s poor run of form continued as it fell 1-0 to Kazma in the fifth round of the Zain Premier League at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium.

Kazma managed the match effectively, maintaining balance across its lineup and controlling the game. Its efforts were rewarded with a penalty in the 67th minute, successfully converted by Samuel Akinola.

The win lifted Kazma to nine points, temporarily placing it third in the league, while Al-Qadsia remained on seven points in fifth. This marked Kazma’s second victory of the season, having drawn its previous three matches, keeping its record unbeaten.

Al-Qadsia, meanwhile, struggled to make an impact, appearing hesitant and disorganized on the pitch, only threatening Kazma goalkeeper Khalifa Raheel twice in the final minutes.

This defeat was Al-Qadsia’s second consecutive loss in the league after a 2-1 defeat to Kuwait Club in round four, and its third loss of the season following a 3-1 defeat to Iraq’s Zakho SC on September 30 in the Gulf Champions’ League group stage.

Al-Qadsia will now begin preparations to host UAE’s Al-Ain on Wednesday in the Gulf Champions League. The match promises to be tough, as Al-Ain won its opening match 4-1 against Bahrain’s Sitra and recently beat UAE’s Bani Yas 4-0 in the league, topping the standings.

Al-Fahaheel ended its losing streak with a 2-1 victory over Al-Nasr in the same round at Al-Sadaqa & Al-Salam Stadium. Zakaria Bin Sha’a opened the scoring in the 32nd minute, and teammate Vitor Da Silva added a second goal in the 84th minute. Al-Nasr’s Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi scored a late consolation goal in the 94th minute.

The win was Al-Fahaheel’s second of the season after three consecutive defeats, moving them to six points in seventh place. Al-Nasr, meanwhile, remains at the bottom of the table with zero points after five straight losses, although they managed to score their first goal of the campaign.

Kohli back for the first time since Champions Trophy

Marsh guides Australia to 7-wicket win over India in rain-marred series opener

PERTH, Australia, Oct 19, (AP): Mitch Marsh guided Australia to a seven-wicket victory over India on Sunday with an unbeaten 46 in a rain-interrupted, series-opening one-day cricket international.

Australia won the toss and bowled first, restricting India to 136 for nine in 26 overs as four rain delays wiped out more than 3 1/2 hours of play and shortened each innings.

Australia was chasing a revised target of 131 under the DLS method and achieved the total with almost five overs to spare, finishing 131-3.

Marsh opened the batting in reply and wasn’t troubled as he shared stands of 34 with Matthew Short (8), 55 with Josh Philippe (37) and 32 with Matt Renshaw, who finished 21 not out on his ODI debut.

“The weather played its part,” Marsh said. “Proud of the way our young guys came out and took the game on and got us over the line.”

India struggled early, losing Rohit Sharma (8), skipper Shubman Gill (10) and Virat Kohli



Australia’s Mitch Marsh bats during the one day international cricket match between Australia and India in Perth. (AP)

(0) to slide to 25-3 in the ninth over.

“Never easy, when you lose three wickets in the powerplay, you’re always trying to play a catch-up game,” Gill said.

Sharma was removed in the fourth over by a Josh Hazlewood ball that jagged off the pitch, took the edge of the former skipper’s bat and was caught by Renshaw at second slip.

Kohli, back for the first time since the Champions Trophy victory in March, made an eight-ball duck before he was Mitchell Starc’s first wicket, spectacularly caught by Cooper Connolly at gully.

When Gill was caught behind down the legside off Nathan Ellis, India was reeling.

The 18 runs between Sharma, Gill and Kohli was the lowest aggregate by India’s top three in a men’s ODI since 2019.

KL Rahul went in held India’s innings together, sharing a 39-run partnership with Axar Patel (31) and 31 with Sundar (10) before he was out for 38 off 31 balls.

His dismissal sparked a run of three wickets for three runs before Nitish Reddy ushered in a new era.

India to 136-9 with an unbeaten 19 from 11 deliveries, included two sixes. India’s eight-game tour of Australia will continue with ODIs in Adelaide on Thursday and Sydney on Saturday. The five-game T20 series starts Oct. 29. After this series, Australia will play the Ashes test series against England.

Kazma seeks to extend Championship lead

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Kazma Club aims to continue its dominance in the Federation Championship as it faces Burgan today at 5:00 PM in the 15th round at the Volleyball Federation Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. The round also features Al-Arabi taking on Kuwait Club at 7:00 PM.

Kazma tops the standings with 17 points, followed by Kuwait Club with 15 points, while Al-Qadsia and Burgan each have 14 points. Al-Shabab sits at 11 points, Yarmouk six, Al-Arabi five, Sulaibikhat two, and Al-Nasr remains winless.

The Al-Arabi vs Kuwait Club clash leans in favor of the “Sons of Kaifan” due to their experience and squad depth, but the Kazma-Burgan match is expected to be the toughest of the round. Kazma, led by Brazilian coach Cacaretto, is undefeated and aims to continue its winning streak to secure a semifinal spot. The team relies on star players, including Brazilians Costa and Adimar.

Burgan, coached by Argentine Alejandro Grosi, has won four of their seven matches so far, showing solid



Players fighting for the ball.

performance. The team depends on foreign players Frenchman Arthur Maybir and Macedonian Alexander Liyaftov, alongside key local talents including former Kazma star Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa, who faces his old team for the first time this season, as well as Mohammed Al-Shammari and Jassim Al-Sabaghah.

Kim ends 5-year drought

Fleetwood stellar season continues with India Championship win

NEW DELHI, Oct 19, (AP): Tommy Fleetwood’s best season got even better Sunday when he ran off four straight birdies around the turn and closed with a 7-under 65 for a two-shot victory over Keita Nakajima in the India Championship.

Fleetwood had cause to celebrate for the third time in the last three months - the FedEx Cup title with his first win on U.S. soil, the leading points-earner in another win for Team Europe in the Ryder Cup, and now his first European Tour win of the year.

Nakajima had a two-shot lead to start the final round at Delhi Golf Club and played bogey-free. He just couldn’t keep pace with Fleetwood, who made four straight birdies starting at the par-3 seventh to turn a two-shot deficit into a two-shot lead. “I feel like for all the good that’s happened this year, a couple of things have disappointed me,” said Fleetwood, who had not won on the European Tour. “Another win, it feels great.”

Even after another Ryder Cup highlight, the 34-year-old from England felt he had more to achieve this year, and winning on the European Tour - his eighth career tour win - was high on his list. Fleetwood, for all his success on the PGA Tour this year, was still not eligible for the closing two events on the European

schedule.

Now he is. The victory moves him from No. 94 to No. 25 in the Race to Dubai, making him eligible for the Abu Dhabi Championship and season-ending Tour Championship in Dubai.

Most pleasing to Fleetwood was watching his 8-year-old son, Frankie, run onto the 18th green after he tapped in for par on 22-under 266.

They were playing golf recently when Fleetwood said his son told him he had never won a tournament where the boy could run out to the green to greet him.

“All day today, I had in my mind, ‘Could I put myself in a position to make that happen?’” Fleetwood said. “It’s just one of those little things that means a lot to me. It means so much to me. That was really cool. That’s what I wanted to do all day.”

Nakajima struggled with accuracy off the tee when he needed to make up ground late in the final round, though he holed enough putts to stay close. He shot 69 and moved into the top 10 on the list of European Tour players who would be eligible for PGA Tour cards next year.

Shane Lowry (68), Thriston Lawrence (65), and Alex Fitzpatrick (67) tied for third at 270.

Rory McIlroy, playing in India

for the first time in his career, birdied his final hole for a 71 to finish in a tie for 26th, 11 shots behind Fleetwood.

Decade-long LPGA Tour veteran Sei Young Kim carded a final round 67 to hold off any final round challengers as she claimed a four-stroke victory at the BMW Ladies Championship on Sunday.



Tommy Fleetwood of England poses with the trophy after winning the DP World Tour Championship golf tournament in New Delhi, India. (AP)

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NEWS



Cristiano Ronaldo congratulates João Félix after he scored against Al-Fateh in Al-Nassr 5-1 win. Al-Nassr moved to the top of the standings with 15 points. Al-Hilal put on a dominant display of their own, routing Al-Ettifaq 5-0 away from home in the same round.

Sports

Pyramids win first-ever African Super Cup

Cairo-based club continues rapid rise

CAIRO, Oct 19, (Xinhua): Egypt's Pyramids Football Club captured its maiden CAF Super Cup title, after edging Morocco's Renaissance Berkane 1-0 at Cairo's 30 June Stadium.

The breakthrough came in the 75th minute when Congolese striker Fiston Mayele fired home a right-footed shot from the right side of the box to the bottom left corner, following a precise assist from Moroccan Mohamed Chibi, sealing a hard-fought victory for the CAF Champions League holder.

Throughout the match, Captain Ali Gabr organized a solid defensive line, while Mayele's decisive strike once again highlighted his importance as the team's attacking spearhead.

It was a night of celebration for the Cairo-based club, which continues its rapid rise in African football. Under Croatian coach Krunoslav Jurcic, Pyramids displayed its trademark attacking discipline and defensive organization to fend off Berkane, the Confederation Cup champion.

Berkane, led by Tunisian coach Mouin Chaabani, pressed for an equalizer in the final minutes, but Pyramids' goalkeeper Ahmed El Shenawy stood firm, producing several key saves to preserve the lead.

Saturday's triumph marks Pyramids' first CAF Super Cup title and adds another milestone to its growing continental record, having previously won its first CAF Champions League earlier this year.

For Berkane, the defeat ended hopes of reclaiming the trophy they last lifted in 2022, despite a spirited performance and resilient defending throughout the first half.

The 2025 CAF Super Cup brought together the champions of Africa's two premier club competitions - the Champions League and the Confederation Cup - in a decisive confrontation for the continental super crown.



Pyramids players celebrate after beating Berkane to win the CAF Super Cup.

Bahrain set to host third Asian Youth Games



Volunteers pose with officials.

MANAMA, Oct 19, (KUNA): The Kingdom of Bahrain will host the third Asian Youth Games from October 22 to 31, under the patronage of King Hamad Al-Khalifa. More than 5,000 athletes from 45 Asian Olympic Committees will compete across 24 sports, 31 categories, and 253 events.

The Games will take place at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre, marking Bahrain's return to the event after more than a decade, following the 2009 Singapore and 2013 Nanjing editions.

Competitions will also be held at multiple venues across the kingdom, including

Isa Sports City, Khalifa Sport City, and several renovated stadiums equipped with the latest technology.

The Olympic Council of Asia and the Organizing Committee have approved 24 sports for the Games.

The official mascots, "Najm" and "Dana," embody Bahraini hospitality and will welcome all participating Asian delegations.

For the first time in Bahrain, artificial intelligence (AI) will be used for sports commentary in select competitions, reflecting the adoption of advanced technological innovations in sports media.

Local, Arab, and international media out-

lets are also preparing extensive coverage. Bahrain aims to use the Games as a platform to promote tourism, attract thousands of visitors from Asia, and stimulate domestic economic and social activity.

The Games are expected to boost the hospitality sector, create temporary job opportunities, and revitalize service and event-related activities across the kingdom.

Held every four years, the Asian Youth Games are the second-largest continental sporting event after the Asian Games.

The tournament, for athletes aged 14 to 18 years, also serves as a qualifier for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal.

Kuwait begins Asian Padel Cup journey with win over Bahrain



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti players celebrate their victory.

DOHA, Oct 19: Kuwait began its campaign at the inaugural Asian Padel Cup (Qatar 2025) with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Bahrain. The tournament runs until October 24.

The opening day also saw Kuwait's women's team fall 0-3 to Indonesia in their first group-stage match. Kuwait's group includes both Indonesia and Bahrain.

The men's squad features Abdulaziz Mayouf, Abdulrahman Al-Awadhi, Fouad Behbehani, Hamoud Al-Junaidel, Hussein Shams, Abdullah Al-Roudhan, Youssef Nazar, and Mohammed Al-Qattan. Rep-

resenting the women's team are Sarah Behbehani, Dalal Al-Jazzaf, Maryam Al-Sarraj, Dalal Al-Qanai, Dalal Al-Faris, Zainab Sarakhoh, Noor Hassan, and Rahab Behbehani.

The competition is being held in two stages. The first stage, from October 17 to 19, brings together 17 teams ranked between fifth and 21st in Asia and Oceania, divided into four groups.

Group winners, along with the continent's top four ranked nations, will advance to the final stage, set to take place from October 20 to 24.

Buendia fires Villa past Tottenham

LIVERPOOL, England, Oct 19, (AP): Emi Buendia's curling shot sealed a 2-1 comeback win for Aston Villa against Tottenham in the Premier League on Sunday.

The victory continued Villa's resurgence after a desperate start to the season and denied Spurs the chance to provisionally move up to second in the standings.

Buendia shimmied his way across the edge of the box in the 77th minute at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium before sweeping a perfect shot low into the bottom corner.

It was Villa's fifth-straight win in all competitions after failing to pick up a victory in its first six games of the campaign.

It ended Spurs' seven-game unbeaten run that looked set to continue when Rodrigo Bentancur fired the home team ahead after just five minutes.

Morgan Rogers leveled the game in the 37th before Villa went on to take all three points and consign Tottenham coach Thomas Frank to his second league loss since taking over in the summer.

Celtic's game at Dundee on Sunday was quickly halted when away fans threw tennis balls and oranges onto the field after kickoff to protest the club's hierarchy.

Players and staff from both teams helped to remove the debris before the Scottish Premiership game could resume at Dens Park, with defending champion Celtic going on to lose 2-0. It was Celtic's first defeat at Dundee since 1988 and left it five points behind leader Hearts.

Away fans chanted against Celtic chief executive Michael Nicholson and chairman Peter Lawwell, with one banner demanding "sack (fire) the board."

Fans are angered by the club's early Champions League exit and what they describe as an "archaic transfer strategy."

A group called Celtic Fans Collective has launched a campaign called "Not Another Penny," which urges fans to boycott club merchandise, stadium tours and club-run events - and refuse to purchase food or drink at Celtic Park Stadium.

It said the campaign would be reviewed in February.

Kuwait to host first West Asian Modern Pentathlon Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: President of the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Federation, Nasser Al-Waleed, announced that Kuwait will host the inaugural West Asian Modern Pentathlon Championship in November next year.

Al-Waleed, who also serves as Vice President of the West Asian Federation, explained that this will be the first edition of the tournament to feature the full range of modern pentathlon disciplines - fencing, swimming, obstacle course, running, and laser shooting.

He highlighted that hosting such a prestigious event reflects Kuwait's advancement in both the technical and administrative aspects of the sport, noting that it aligns with the federation's vision to establish a professional

and sustainable structure for modern pentathlon in the coun-

try. Al-Waleed added that over the



KUNA photo

President of the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Federation, Nasser Al-Waleed

past three years, several Kuwaiti athletes have participated in official international competitions, achieving notable rankings and medals in record time. These accomplishments, he said, encouraged international bodies to award Kuwait the right to host major regional events.

He concluded by expressing his gratitude to the West Asian Federation for its trust in Kuwait's organizational capabilities, and extended special thanks to Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Kuwait Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser, and the Public Authority for Sport leadership for their unwavering support of Kuwait's modern pentathlon athletes.