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Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives senior most judicial officials from the GCC.

Crown Prince receives top GCC judicial officials

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Wednesday at Bayan Palace, President of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Court of Cassation Dr. Adel Bouresly, President of the Federal Supreme Court of the UAE Mohammad Al-Badi, Bahraini Advisor Abdulrahman Al-Ma'alla, President of the Supreme Court of Oman Khalifa Al-Busaidi, President of the Supreme Judiciary Council of Qatar Dr. Hassan Al-Mohannadi, and Assistant Secretary General for Legislative and Legal Affairs at the GCC General Secretariat Sultan Al-Suwaidi.

The meeting was held on the occasion of the 11th periodic meeting of the Heads of Supreme and Cassation

Courts of the GCC member states. Head of the Crown Prince Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, President of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and Court of Cassation, Dr. Adel Bouresli, stressed the importance of judicial cooperation among GCC states in enhancing joint Gulf work and advancing the judicial system across the region.

This came during his opening remarks at the 11th periodic meeting of GCC Presidents of Supreme and Cassation Courts, held Wednesday in Kuwait.

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Peru's ambassador wishes Al-Jarallah quick recovery

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: His Excellency, the Ambassador of Peru to Kuwait, Carlos Jiménez, has sent a letter to the Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah on behalf of the embassy, wishing him a speedy and full recovery, following his recent hospitalization.

Ambassador Jiménez expressed deep concern for his condition and was greatly relieved to learn that Al-Jarallah had been discharged from the hospital.

He wished Al-Jarallah a speedy return to strength, good health, and well-being in the days ahead.

Kuwait strives for clean & safe environment in GCC

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22, (KUNA): Kuwait is robustly committed to supporting joint GCC environmental ventures namely for securing a clean and safe environment, said the Acting Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Nouf Behbehani on Wednesday.

Speaking at the 45th meeting of the GCC Environment Ministers meeting, Behbehani said the meeting aimed at boosting common action in the environmental sphere, noting that the GCC countries should enhance coordination at this level in light of worldwide climatic change, dwindling natural resources and soaring pollution.

For his part, Khaled Al-Snaidi, the assistant GCC Secretary General for economic affairs, has affirmed in his speech that the GCC states have dedicated increasing concern for environmental and climatic issues in recent years.

National strategies have been adopted for enhancing efficiency of managing the natural resources, cutting carbon emissions through expansion of the renewable energy, executing green hydrogen and waste recycling projects.

Al-Snaidi has added that the GCC states have affirmed their adherence to the Paris Agreement on conserving the climate and international initiatives aimed at attaining carbon neutrality.

Kuwait 7th in Arab world's 'air power'

RIYADH, Oct 22: Kuwait ranked seventh in the Arab world and 54th globally with a score of 32.86 points in the Global Air Power Index for 2025, issued by the American magazine "CEO World Magazine", reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Saudi Arabia topped the Arab world and ranked 13th globally with a score of 57.24 points, followed by Egypt in second place regionally and 17th globally with 56.05 points. Algeria came third in the Arab world and 18th globally with 56.00 points, while the UAE ranked fourth regionally and 24th globally with a score of 51.00 points.

Jordan secured fifth place in the Arab world and 29th globally with 49.35 points, followed by Morocco in sixth place regionally and 48th globally with 34.91 points. Qatar ranked eighth in the Arab world and 55th globally with 32.34 points. Oman came ninth in the region and 58th globally with 27.31 points, while Iraq ranked tenth in the Arab world and 74th globally with 16.23 points.

According to the index, Saudi Arabia ranked 24th in the overall balance of military power out of 145 countries and fifth regionally.

The United States topped the Air Power Index with a score of 97 out of 100, followed by Russia with 94, India with 93.5, China with 93, and Japan with 91 points.

By 2025, global defense spending reached a record \$2.44 trillion, driven by significant advances in digital warfare technology, artificial intelligence, and other modern capabilities.



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

**The Seditious
Abdullah ibn Saba'...
Ali ibn Abi Talib
ordered him to be
flogged and
imprisoned**

Abdullah ibn Saba' outwardly converted to Islam during the term of the Rightly-Guided Caliph Othman ibn Affan

He claimed that Ali ibn Abi Talib had not died and would return

He proceeded with calculated steps, starting in the Hijaz and then moving to Basra

He went to Syria, but the ruler Muawiyah ibn Abi Sufyan expelled him

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Ibn Saba' used forged letters

His followers came to see rebellion against Caliph Othman as a necessity

His danger extended beyond politics to Islamic doctrine

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Gov't eyes vital Sulaibikhat Bay facelift in master plan

Nature reserves, residential, commercial areas on anvil

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22, (KUNA): The Cabinet, in its customary meeting on Tuesday, reviewed an upgrade of the Sulaibikhat Bay development project's master plan.

In a statement following the meeting, headed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Mousherji pointed out that Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Abdullatif Al-Mishari has briefed the Cabinet about the development of the master plan for Sulaibikhat Bay, which will include the establishment of nature reserves in addition to a marine reserve.

The plan comprises the establishment of residential and commercial areas, in addition to public recreational facilities. It also includes a vision for the development of the Ras Ashirj area and Ashirj Islands.

At the onset of the meeting, His Highness the Prime Minister informed Cabinet members on the outcomes of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's official visit to Kuwait on Tuesday.



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet meeting.

He stated that the talks between His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and President Erdogan focused on deep-rooted bilateral relations, ways to support and develop them in various fields, and expanding the framework of cooperation towards broader horizons that serve common interests. He added that

the two leaders also touched upon the latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

His Highness the Prime Minister indicated that this visit culminated in the signing of agreements and memoranda of understanding as follows: A

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Kuwait pledges global, regional support to sustain water source

JEDDAH, Oct 22, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait remains committed to supporting and exchanging views on regional and international efforts to protect water security and environmental sustainability, Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem said on Wednesday.

In a statement to KUNA on the sidelines of the fifth session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water in the OIC Member States in Jeddah, Minister Al-Mukhaizeem emphasized Kuwait's focus on diversifying its resources, including water, as part of its Vision 2035 development plan.

The conference began its three days of discussions on enhancing collaboration in water resource management under the theme "From Vision to Impact."

Kuwait is taking part in the 5th Islamic

Conference of Water Ministers from member states of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), launched Wednesday in Jeddah.

Kuwait's delegation is led by Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy and Acting Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem, accompanied by senior ministry officials and diplomats. Held under the theme "From Vision to Impact", the conference addresses critical water challenges faced by OIC countries, including water scarcity, rising demand, and infrastructure development.

Opening the session, Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Abdulrahman Al-Fadhli emphasized the urgent need to improve water efficiency, enhance infrastructure, and mobilize sustainable financing for water projects.

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66 violations issued

Travel offices face PACA ire

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Public Authority for Civil Aviation's (PACA) Complaints and Arbitration Committee has issued about 66 violations, penalties, and fines against travel offices for breaking laws and regulations.

Speaking to KUNA, Director of the Air Transport Department at the Directorate General and Chairman of the Complaints and Arbitration Committee, Abdullah Al-Rajhi, said on Wednesday that 58 cases involved social media licensing breaches, while eight travel offices and one airline violated ticketing regulations.

Two individuals were referred to the Public Prosecution for violating Article 12 of Decree Law No. 31 of 1987 by conducting civil aviation business without approval, he added.

The committee's 10th meeting this year reviewed traveler complaints filed through the Sahel app and violations detected through field inspections and electronic monitoring, he explained.

He urged passengers to deal only with PACA-licensed offices, verify ticket and hotel details, enter correct data, and keep receipts, underscoring strict enforcement to protect travelers' rights and market stability.

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Kuwait stresses hi-tech, AI role in humanitarian action

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22, (KUNA): Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs Affairs Aziz Al-Daihani on Wednesday stressed harnessing AI to boost humanitarian institutions' efficiency, accelerate response to beneficiaries, and align with global advancements for greater impact.

Al-Daihani, on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, opened the Gulf Red Crescent's First AI Conference in Kuwait, titled "Toward New Horizons in Humanitarian Action and Development Media: Harnessing the Power of AI."

He said that holding the conference at this critical time reflects Kuwait's commitment to humanitarian values and GCC cooperation, providing a vital platform to share expertise, boost innovation, and promote sustainable regional efforts.

KRCS Chairman Khaled Al-Maqamis said the society has started integrating AI into its programs to enhance humanitarian work, improve needs assessment, data management, and accelerate response efforts.

He stressed the importance of data protection, fairness, and humanity as the core of every innovation.

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Dismantle nukes for global peace and stability: Kuwait

NEW YORK, Oct 22, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has affirmed that peace and stability cannot be achieved while weapons, especially nuclear weapons, continue to proliferate.

This came in a speech delivered by the Diplomatic Attaché of the State of Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Bandar Al-Enezi, before a special meeting of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly about the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Resources should be directed towards development not arms races, especially given the escalation of tensions, growth of nuclear arsenals, and the threat of their use, which threatens the disarmament and non-proliferation system and undermines its credibility, argued the Kuwaiti diplomat.

He emphasized that the State of Kuwait

believes that NPT remains the cornerstone of this system and calls for reviving cooperation and constructive dialogue to ensure the success of the upcoming NPT Review Conference and achieve tangible results "that will bring us closer to a world free of nuclear weapons, especially after the failure of the two previous conferences to adopt a final document".

He said that Kuwait agrees with the Non-Aligned Movement and the Arab Group's statements in this regard.

Al-Enezi reiterated Kuwait's proposal to establish a dedicated subcommittee on security guarantees within the framework of the preparatory committees for the upcoming Review Conference.

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Two men try perfumes during the Perfume Expo in Hawalli Governorate, Kuwait, Oct. 21, 2025. A Perfume Expo kicked off here in Kuwait on Tuesday and will last until Nov.1 with the participation of more than 400 companies in this field from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the Emirates. (Xinhua)

KFH highlights Islamic finance as a catalyst for sustainable development

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AI Fulajj: Kuwait's economic outlook remains positive amid a stable operating environment

9

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:34	Asr	14:46
Sunrise ..	05:54	Maghrib ..	17:11
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:28

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate north-westerly wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h.

By Night: Mild to rather cold

Weather

with light variable wind, with speeds of 06-22 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	36	26
Kuwait Airport	36	18
Abdaly	36	19
Bubyan	34	15

Jahra	37	22
Failaka Island	34	20
Salmiyah	33	26
Ahmadi	38	22
Nuwaisib	34	20
Wafra	37	18



Top & above: Participants and organizers of the first Gulf Red Crescent AI Conference in Kuwait, highlighting regional efforts to advance humanitarian work through artificial intelligence.

Kuwait pushes new horizons with first Gulf AI conference

Artificial Intelligence key to future humanitarian aid

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Participants at the first Gulf Red Crescent Artificial Intelligence Conference, hosted by Kuwait for two days, with the theme, “Towards New Horizons in Humanitarian Work and Development Media: Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence,” stressed the need to develop humanitarian work to overcome challenges.

In a speech he delivered on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs Aziz Al-Daihani explained that holding the conference at this important stage entails a deep understanding of the growing challenges and confirms the leadership of Kuwait in supporting humanitarian values and strengthening joint Gulf cooperation. He said it is a unique opportunity to exchange experiences, discuss best practices, and develop initiatives that develop humanitarian work and media to new levels, ensuring sustainability and effectiveness in achieving shared goals in the Gulf and the region.

He emphasized the importance of employing modern technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, as an effective tool to enhance the capabilities of humanitarian organizations and provide rapid responses to beneficiaries, keeping pace with global developments and deepening the desired impact.

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) for its pioneering and ongoing



Officials and participants engage with a demonstration at the first Gulf Red Crescent Artificial Intelligence Conference in Kuwait.

efforts in promoting humanitarian values and launching this conference, and to all participating representatives, organizations and experts. He wished for the success of the conference s, which will contribute to strengthening humanitarian cooperation and raising the level of humanitarian and media performance in the Gulf and the region.

In addition, Chairman of the Board of Directors of KRCS Khaled Al-Mughamis stated that artificial intelligence can make a difference in humanitarian work by predicting disasters, analyzing data to direct aid, and facilitating the restoration of family ties between refugees and migrants.

He disclosed that KRCS took practical steps to integrate modern technologies, primarily artificial intelligence, into its programs to develop humanitarian work and enhance its efficiency, whether in monitoring needs, managing data or improving response speed. He stated that humanitarian work is one of the pillars of the policy of Kuwait and its civilizational mission, extending his

thanks to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his full support for humanitarian work and his keenness to enhance the humanitarian role of Kuwait regionally and globally.

He added that this generous support motivates KRCS to continue fulfilling its humanitarian mission with full commitment and responsibility, emphasizing that it will continue its journey under the slogan, “Dedication and Giving,” which reflects the essence of its mission.

He said “Our investment in these smart tools will not be a substitute for the humanitarian values in which we believe, but rather a means to enhance them, expand their impact, and reach people everywhere in the shortest possible time and with the highest possible quality.” He stressed that artificial intelligence will not replace field workers, as it will help them and accelerate the delivery of aid to those in need. He also acknowledged the challenges of data protection and the need to ensure that justice and human-

ity remain at the core of every innovation. He called for strengthening partnerships between humanitarian organizations and the technology sector and building an ethical framework to govern such cooperation.

He praised the efforts of KRCS volunteers and their tireless work, which is the cornerstone of the success of its missions and relief campaigns in and outside Kuwait.

He thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs for sponsoring the conference, Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs for her continuous support and follow up of the achievements of KRCS, the media, international and national organizations, and Red Crescent societies and associations in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries for their ongoing cooperation and coordination.

Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross’ regional delegation for the GCC Mamadou Sow highlighted the great promise of artificial intelligence for humanitarian action through early warning systems for disasters, monitoring needs and reconnecting families. He also commended the GCC’s investments in artificial intelligence and innovation.

Representative of the GCC Secretariat General Abrar Al-Saleem called on specialists to enhance cooperation to discuss artificial intelligence applications in the humanitarian field and build an integrated.

Jamal Al-Nouri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Abdullah Al-Nouri Charitable Association, asserted that digitization and artificial intelligence have become essential as tools to increase efficiency, transparency, and ease access to beneficiaries in charitable work, indicating that digitization enhances donor confidence and expands the beneficiary base, while artificial intelligence opens horizons for predicting needs.

Crown Prince, PM extend sympathy

Kuwait HH Amir offers condolences to Japanese Emperor over ex-PM passing

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of condolences to the Emperor of Japan Naruhito following the death of former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama. In the cable, His Highness expressed his heartfelt sympathy and wished solace and patience for his family.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-

Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of condolences to the Emperor of Japan Naruhito following the passing of former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, wishing his family strength and solace.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences on Wednesday, to the Emperor of Japan Naruhito following the death of former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

Deals deepen partnership

Kuwait, Bahamas ink MoUs to boost political and economic cooperation

NEW YORK, Oct 22, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the UN and non-resident Ambassador to the Bahamas Tariq Al-Bannai signed on Tuesday two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on political and economic collaboration.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Bannai said the first memo aims to establish a mechanism of bilateral political consultations between Kuwait and The Bahama’s Foreign Ministries.

It’s to enhance consultations during periodical meetings, on diplomatic level, to share views about consular economic and cultural issues, along other topics of common concern, in a

manner that would strengthen friendship and collaboration between the two sides, he noted.

The memo seeks to expand bilateral cooperation in investment, trade, tourism, infrastructure, communication and education, as well as sharing expertise and information and developing projects, he pointed out.

Al-Bannai expressed Kuwait’s pride of cordially relations with the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

He affirmed signing the two memos came within the framework of the two sides’ leadership keenness on expanding ties in a way that serves mutual interests and achieves sustainable development.



KUNA photo
Kuwait and the Bahamas sign two memoranda of understanding for political and economic cooperation.

Swiss FM announces official visit to Kuwait to strengthen bilateral ties

GENEVA, Oct 22, (KUNA): Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis announced on Tuesday his intention to make an official visit to the State of Kuwait at the end of this week to discuss ways to enhance cooperation between Switzerland and Kuwait.

In a statement issued from by the Foreign Ministry, the Swiss minister said that his visit will include a courtesy call to Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah.

It will include an official meeting with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya on October 24 to discuss regional developments and explore fields of cooperation especially within the framework of the Global Alliance for the Missing.

The statement added that the minister’s visit will conclude with the official inauguration of the new building of the Swiss Embassy in Kuwait.

According to the statement this visit is part of a broader regional tour across the Near East and the Arabian Peninsula to strengthen bilateral ties explore new prospects for cooperation and exchange views on ongoing developments in the region.

It added that the Swiss Foreign Minister will first visit the Jordanian capital Amman on October 22 to meet with his Jordanian coun-



KUNA photo
Ignazio Cassis, Swiss Foreign Minister

terpart Ayman Safadi. Their talks are expected to focus on political and security developments in the region and on Jordan’s stabilizing role in the Middle East.

Cassis will then travel to Baghdad at the invitation of Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein for an official visit that will include a courtesy visit to Prime Minister. Discussions will address bilateral relations the geopolitical situation in the Middle East and Iraq’s growing role as a regional mediator.

The statement also noted that the minister will officially reopen the Swiss Embassy in Baghdad which has been closed for 33 years and will meet with several economic stakeholders including representatives of Swiss companies operating in Iraq.

KFAED joins first GCC Red Crescent AI Conference under FM’s patronage

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Kuwait Fund for Arab and Economic Development (KFAED) participated in the First GCC Red Crescent Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Development Communication and Humanitarian Work, held at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, with the participation of regional and international humanitarian and relief organizations, on October 22–23, 2025.

During the opening ceremony, H.E. Ambassador Aziz Rahim Al-Dihani, representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs, emphasized the importance of integrating humanitarian work with modern technologies, highlighting Kuwait’s pioneering role in supporting humanitarian values and strengthening international cooperation to serve vulnerable communities worldwide.

The Kuwait Fund’s participation included taking part in panel discussions that explored ways to utilize artificial intelligence in humanitarian response, as well as organizing a dedicated exhibition booth showcasing the Fund’s development journey and its projects across various sectors.

The Fund’s participation in this conference reaffirms its continuous commitment to supporting humanitarian and development efforts, and its belief in the importance of modern technologies in enhancing the efficiency of humanitarian work and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in line with the State of Kuwait’s mission to build bridges of cooperation and extend assistance to nations and communities in need around the world.



Kuwait Fund’s participation at GCC Red Crescent AI Forum.

Al-Budaiwi praises GCC-UK cooperation

Gulf-British partnership deepens

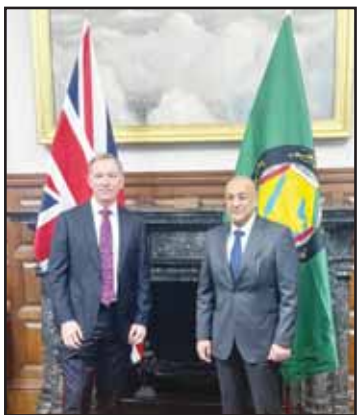
LONDON, Oct 22, (KUNA): Jassem Al-Budaiwi, Secretary General of the GCC, affirmed that the distinguished Gulf-British partnership is based on a long history of cooperation and mutual trust, looking forward to a promising future built on common interests and shared values.

These remarks came during Al-Budaiwi’s speech before a number of Lords, senior officials, experts, and legislators at the British Parliament in London.

Al-Budaiwi expressed his sincere thanks to Lord McNicol, Member of the House of Lords and the UK’s Trade Envoy to Jordan, Kuwait, and the Palestinian Territories, for the invitation and warm reception.

He praised Lord McNicol’s efforts in strengthening the path of relations between the GCC and the United Kingdom, stressing that the Gulf-British partnership is based on a long history of cooperation and mutual trust.

The GCC Secretary General underscored that relations between the two sides have evolved from traditional co-



KUNA photo
Al-Budaiwi with the Minister of State for Trade Affairs.

operation to a comprehensive partnership that includes political coordination, security and defense cooperation, cultural exchange, and economic and investment partnerships.

In this context, Al-Budaiwi noted the strategic importance of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations

between the GCC and the United Kingdom, which have reached advanced stages thanks to the common will of both parties.

He explained that the completion of this agreement will be a qualitative step towards opening broader horizons for trade, investment, and innovation, especially in the fields of clean energy, modern technology, and digital services.

“It will also contribute to linking the ambitious developmental transformations in the GCC countries with the global economic capabilities of the United Kingdom,” he stated.

Al-Budaiwi also stressed that the Gulf-British partnership was not limited to economics alone but is also a partnership in principles, based on a commitment to dialogue, respect for international law, and joint action for security, stability, combating extremism, and supporting peace and development around the world.

“It serves common interests and achieves mutual prosperity for the peoples of the Gulf and Britain,” Al-Budaiwi concluded.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



The Seditionist Abdullah ibn Saba’... Ali ibn Abi Talib ordered him to be flogged and imprisoned

WHO was Abdullah ibn Saba’ and what is his story?

He was a figure associated with some of the most dangerous seditions in early Islamic history. Abdullah ibn Saba’ was a Jewish man from Sana’a, Yemen.

Known as Abu al-Husayn, he was notorious for his cunning and deceit. Although he outwardly converted to Islam during the caliphate of the Rightly-Guided Caliph Othman ibn Affan (may Allah be pleased with him), he remained a Jew at heart. His primary goal was to incite conflict among Muslims and undermine their faith.

Historical accounts indicate that Ibn Saba’ began by the alleged guardianship of Ali ibn Abi Talib (may Allah be pleased with him), claiming that he was the most deserving of succeeding the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He went further to claim that Ali had not died and would return, and eventually went so far as to claim the divinity of Ali ibn Abi Talib.

Ibn Saba’ moved strategically, beginning in the Hijaz, where people were closely connected to the Companions and the teachings of the Prophet. However, when he found no one willing to accept his fabrications there, he turned to Basra.

When the governor of Basra tightened the noose around Ibn Saba’, he fled to Kufa, where he managed to recruit a few supporters. However, the governor of Kufa, Sa’d ibn Abi Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him), was firm in his stance and expelled him. Ibn Saba’ then moved to Syria, but found Muawiyah ibn Abi Sufyan (may Allah be pleased with him) highly vigilant and was expelled once again.

With no refuge left, Ibn Saba’ turned to Egypt, where some people harbored grievances against some of their governors. He exploited this atmosphere to spread his ideas. A group of individuals with rebellious tendencies and hostility toward Caliph Othman ibn Affan gathered around him. He formed an organized group, and began dispatching his followers to various provinces to sow doubts and spread lies.

Abdullah ibn Saba’ outwardly converted to Islam during the term of the Rightly-Guided Caliph Othman ibn Affan

He claimed that Ali ibn Abi Talib had not died and would return

He proceeded with calculated steps, starting in the Hijaz and then moving to Basra

He went to Syria, but the ruler Muawiyah ibn Abi Sufyan expelled him

He sent his followers to various provinces to spread lies

Ibn Saba’ used forged letters

His followers came to see rebellion against Caliph Othman as a necessity

His danger extended beyond politics to Islamic doctrine.

History books such as “Al-Tabari’s History”, “Al-Bidayah wa al-Nihayah” (The Beginning and the End), “Al-Milal wa al-Nihal” (Religions and Sects), and “Al-Fasl fi al-Milal wa al-Ahwa’ wa al-Nihal” (The Facts of Religions, Doctrines, and Sects) mention that Ibn Saba’ used forged letters to deceive the people of Basra, Kufa, and Egypt. He wrote in the names of prominent Companions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), falsely claiming they were calling for rebellion after the murder of Caliph Othman ibn

Affan.

Historians note that Ibn Saba’ manipulated and corrupted the minds of his followers to the extent that they viewed rebelling against Uthman as an urgent necessity. These followers became the core group behind the sedition that ultimately led to the siege of Caliph Othman’s palace and his tragic assassination.

After the murder of Othman ibn Affan and the pledge of allegiance to Ali ibn Abi Talib, Ibn Saba’ and his followers did not rest. Instead, they began sowing discord between Ali ibn Abi Talib and Muawiyah ibn Abi Sufyan. Ali ibn Abi Talib summoned Abdullah ibn Saba’ and confronted him about his statements, which Ibn Saba’ admitted.

Ali ibn Abi Talib initially ordered that Ibn Saba’ be executed, but later reconsidered, fearing that it might spark greater strife among his followers. He instead reduced the sentence to flogging and banished him to Madina, where he remained until his death.

However, Ibn Saba’s threat extended beyond politics... it reached into matters of religion and Islamic doctrine.

All of Ibn Saba’s ideas had no connection to Islam and were instead influenced by certain Jewish and esoteric beliefs.

Abdullah ibn Saba’ played a major role in undermining Muslim unity. He exploited minor disagreements among the Companions and inflamed them until they escalated into wars.

Reliable historical sources agree that Ibn Saba’s subversive activities were a significant factor in sparking the Great Strife. While he was not the sole cause, he was the most prominent driver behind the destructive movements of that era.

Today, similar figures exist such as those who infiltrate the nation, claim to speak on its behalf, but harbor deep hostility within, seeking to fracture its unity from within.

■ The most dangerous aspect of state politics is interfering in people’s livelihoods. While partnership between the two parties is acceptable, it is wrong to prevent business owners from developing their ideas and initiatives to increase their income.



■ Friendship is meaningless without honesty. Reading is meaningless without understanding. Words are meaningless without purpose. A person is meaningless without pure intentions. Charity is meaningless when done for show. Morality is meaningless without modesty. Love is meaningless without care. A commitment is meaningless without loyalty.



■ A wolf cub asked his father, “Do you pay for the food you bring us?”



■ The father paused, then replied, “If there comes a day when I do not return home, know that I have paid the price.”



■ If milk spoils, it becomes yogurt... and yogurt is more valuable than milk. If yogurt spoils, it becomes cheese... and cheese is more valuable than yogurt.



■ Is the government prepared to imprison debtors through arrest and detention warrants? While it is true that specific conditions must be met to carry out such actions, the real question is - do those tasked with executing these warrants fully understand those conditions?



KFF photo

Fire-fighters at the site.

KFF tackles Rabiya house fire; no injuries reported

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Firefighting teams from the Al-Ardiya and Farwaniya stations successfully brought a house fire under control in the Al-Rabiya area. According to the General Fire Force, emergency crews quickly responded to the scene, evacuated the premises, and extinguished the flames, reports Al-Anba daily . Fortunately, no injuries were reported, and the incident resulted in only minor material damage.

Project to rezone part of Mubarakiya okayed

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Technical Committee at the Municipal Council, chaired by Munira Al-Amir, held its meeting on Tuesday, during which it granted final approval for the project to rezone a part of Mubarakiya suburb (formerly Block 15).

In another development, the Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality announced that the technical team of the Engineering Licensing Department at the Capital Governorate Municipality branch completed 125 transactions in September, including licenses for private housing, investment, industrial, commercial and other projects.

Director of the Engineering Licensing Department Nizar Al-Awad confirmed that the department sent154 letters and responded to 1,727 letters from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the same month, as part of efforts to expedite transactions and simplify procedures for clients.

Meanwhile , the Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality announced the fourth inspection campaign carried out by the inspection teams in the Public Sanitation and Road Works departments in the six governorates to monitor road and space utilization violations, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Public Relations Department stated that the inspection team from the Public Sanitation and Road Works Department in the Municipality branch in Hawally Governorate conducted the fourth field campaign to uncover violations, take the necessary action against those proven to have committed violations, and ensure compliance with municipal rules and regulations.

The Public Relations Department revealed that this campaign resulted in the issuance of 44 citations for road related violations and illegal use of space in front of a store in Hawally.

Retirement decision revoked; comp won

Drugs found on motorist

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Administrative Court revoked the decision on the retirement of an employee, ordering reinstatement of the defendant, as well as granting compensation for expenses and attorney’s fees.

The ruling stated that the administrative decision to refer the employee for retirement was marred by the lack of jurisdiction, as it was proven that the Director General of Civil Aviation exceeded the limits of the mandate granted to him. Public Works Minister Decision No. 952/2023 authorized the Director General to refer for retirement only those holding supervisory positions, while the plaintiff did not hold a supervisory position but was a Grade A civil servant. This renders the contested administrative decision invalid and contrary to the law.

The court ordered the administration to pay the costs and KD200 in actual attorney fees, asserting that issuing the decision without legal basis is a clear violation of the principle of legality, which is the fundamental pillar of administrative work.

Attorney Ali Matar Al-Wawan, who filed the lawsuit, pointed out that this

ruling is a victory for the principle of job fairness and protects the employees’ rights from administrative abuse. He added the ruling also confirms that judicial oversight of administrative decisions is a true guarantee of the protection of public sector employees.



Drugs with motorist: A Capital police patrol on duty along Jahra Road, near Doha, stopped a vehicle for committing a traffic violation, reports Al-Anba daily.

Upon verifying the driver’s identity, it was discovered that he is a citizen wanted by the General Department for the Implementation of Judgments on a drug abuse charge. A search of his vehicle led to the discovery of two small bags suspected of containing narcotics, along with drug paraphernalia.

The suspect and the confiscated items were referred to the Drug Control General Department for the necessary legal action.

Meanwhile, the night campaign conducted by security, traffic and rescue teams in Hawally Governorate resulted in recording 1,213 traffic violations, including wrong overtaking and swerving despite the warning signs.

The campaign also led to the arrest of 12 violators of Residency and Labor laws, and three minors were caught driving without a license, while eight vehicles wanted by the judiciary were seized.

Is he drug addict, or a trafficker?

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: A young man, in his 30s, was detained at Jabriya Police Station for investigation for running over officers and damaging State property after ramming into two patrol vehicles -- one belonging to the police and the other to the Public Security Sector, reports Al-Anba daily.

The young man will later be referred to the Drug Control General Department to determine the source of the drugs found in his possession and to establish whether he was involved in drug trafficking or just a user.

According to a security source, the police received a report about a person using drugs inside his vehicle. A nearby Hawally police patrol was immediately dispatched to the scene. Upon the patrol’s arrival, the commander, a lieutenant,

attempted to prevent the suspect from escaping by positioning his vehicle in front of the suspect’s car. However, the suspect suddenly accelerated, ran over the lieutenant, and intentionally rammed into the patrol vehicle.

The source added that when the suspect fled, additional patrols were deployed to pursue and arrest him. During the chase, the accused collided with a Public Security patrol involved in the operation, causing damage to the vehicle. Once apprehended, it became evident that the suspect was in an abnormal condition and unable to speak coherently.

A search of his vehicle led to the discovery of several bags containing heroin, along with others that had been used and contained drug residues.

Two cops injured in hit by bus

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Two rescue police officers were taken to Mubarak Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries when a bus collided with the patrol vehicle they were riding in while on duty, reports Al-Anba daily.

The patrol vehicle was damaged and the Asian bus driver was detained at Salwa Police Station on charges of causing injury and damaging public property.

A security source stated that the officers, while stopping their patrol vehicle, were surprised when a bus collided with them. Investigations revealed that the bus was speeding and one of its tyres burst, leading to a steering malfunction that caused the unintended collision with the patrol vehicle.

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MPW moves forward with green wastewater project

South Al-Mutlaa plant set to open

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan signed a contract for the construction, operation and maintenance of South Al-Mutlaa Wastewater Treatment Plant and its associated works with a Turkish company on Tuesday at the headquarters of the ministry.

This project is a key component of the development plan and an innovative step towards the use of alternative energy, with a production capacity of 400,000 cubic meters per day of tertiary treated water suitable for agricultural and other purposes.

The facility is designed to treat wastewater from South Al-Mutlaa Residential



MPW photo
Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan signs a contract to construct, operate, and maintain the South Mutlaa City purification plant and its complementary works with the Turkish company Kozo.

City and includes a 16-megawatt electrical conversion station, administrative buildings, laboratories and essential infrastructure services.

The plant will treat the sludge it generates to produce electricity which, along with solar and wind energy, will

contribute to providing 50 percent of the plant's operational energy needs, as well as a treated water control and distribution system (DMC) and water transmission lines to the irrigation network in South Mutlaa and Abdally farms.

Initiative aims to raise teaching standards

PAAET launches teacher licensing program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Assistant Dean for Academic Operations at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Hanan Ali Taqi stated that the teacher licensing program is a fundamental step toward advancing the educational process, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

She expressed her full support for the implementation of the program, highlighting the improvements it will bring to the performance of teachers, curricula, and students alike.



Dr. Taqi

In a statement to the daily, Dr. Taqi explained that the preparatory program for students at the College of Basic Education is designed to assess their readiness to specialize in the field of education.

Students who demonstrate seriousness and aptitude will continue their studies, while those who are not qualified will be redirected to other specializations. This step will help enhance the competence of future teachers and ensure the quality of educational outcomes.

She revealed that she was among the first to propose the idea of the preparatory program years ago, indicating that it initially began in the English Language Department before expanding to include all colleges of basic education.

Call for more qualified specialists

Kuwait hosts Arab Social Work forum

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Social Workers Association hosted the 54th International Conference under the title, "Social Work in the Arab World: Reality and Ambition."

The conference brought together prominent thinkers, practitioners and decision-makers in the social work field from the Gulf and Arab world, in cooperation with the International Organization for Women's Empowerment, Regional Network for Social Responsibility, and Kuwait Society for Social Service.

Conference Chairman Dr. Bader Al-Essa stressed in his speech that the future of social work in the Arab world lies in increasing the number of qualified specialists, in light of the rapid social and economic changes and the shift towards integrated and effective social policies.

He explained that Arab societies are facing growing challenges related to the increase in the volume of social work and the shortage of qualified personnel, limited opportunities for specialists to demonstrate their capabilities and skills, and the challenge of recognizing the importance of social work in addressing the growing and complex problems encountered by societies.

He pointed out that these challenges necessitate the reengineering of Arab social work system to keep pace with changing societal needs, underscoring the urgent need to de-

velop social practices to be more just and effective in adapting to these changes.

On the other hand, Chairman of the Association's Board of Directors Abdullah Al-Radwan revealed that the conference aims to discuss the reality of social work in the Arab world and explore prospects for its development. He said social work has become a fundamental pillar of sustainable development and a support for promoting the values of solidarity and justice in Arab societies.

He added that the conference aims to develop a joint roadmap for advancing Arab social work through the exchange of experiences, unification of efforts, and the launch of qualitative initiatives.

He stated that the most difficult challenges that the sector is currently facing include weak legislation, limited resources, and fragmented efforts.

He called for activating regional partnerships and building more effective social policies that reflect Arab aspirations to achieve justice and social solidarity.

Dr. Ibtisam Al-Qaoud, President of the International Organization for Women's Empowerment and Capacity Building, asserted "our gratitude goes to everyone who has made giving a way of life and social work a ladder for advancing society. Our pioneers are role models for a new generation of young men and women who are currently building the future of volunteer work in Kuwait with a renewed and responsible spirit."



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq
Attendees of the 54th International Conference hosted by the Social Workers Association.

Over KD529m allocated to 37 key projects

Cohesive infrastructure tops 2025-'26 plan

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: A government report revealed that the Cohesive Infrastructure Development Program accounted for the largest share of the estimated funds for the other eight items in the annual development plan (2025/2026), at a percentage exceeding 54 percent or KD529 million, compared to the estimated total for the other items, which amounted to KD971.892 million.

The latest development report indicated that the cohesive infrastructure item accounts for 27.6 percent of the plan's total projects, with 37 out of 134 projects distributed into nine programs.

The Cohesive Infrastructure Program consists of six policies, most notably improving the performance of land and fa-

cilities by supporting the implementation of the Fourth Master Plan, finding sustainable alternatives to the current housing system, improving the efficiency of land transport and port infrastructure, developing information and communications infrastructure, and transitioning to a knowledge-based digital economy.

The Cohesive Infrastructure Clause consists of two legislative requirements -- Credit Bank Real Estate Finance Law and Civil Aviation Draft Law.

The report indicated that the clause stipulates 37 projects, including electricity projects to install fiber optic cables between main switch stations, linking ports to an integrated system, developing a second communications network, establishing a railway company, Central Tent Market in Jahra, public warehouses at the borders and others.

KOC cancels coffee shop bid

KPC opens tender for Commvault data protection, recovery systems

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced the launch of the tender for the renewal, licensing and maintenance of the Commvault data protection and recovery program for the corporation, and its emergency and disaster management sites in Ahmadi.

In its announcement published in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youn', KPC explained this tender, which is internal and general to specialized companies, is indivisible, stressing that alternative bids are not allowed.

It confirmed that no bidder will be allowed to attend the preliminary meeting unless they prove they have obtained the tender documents and have notified KPC about the names of their candidates and their positions at least two days prior to the preliminary meeting. No single person or group of persons may register more than one name during the classification process, or submit more than one bid for the tender.

It stated that if a person has a stake in separate companies, each with its own legal and financial status, engineers, employees and general administrative apparatus, they may register themselves and each of their independent companies upon classification. The bid of a bidder who violates this article shall be deemed void. The corporation revealed that the tender process began on Oct 19, 2025, and the preliminary meeting will be held on Nov 10, 2025 while the closing date is Nov 25, 2025.

Meanwhile, the Higher Procurement Committee for Tenders at KPC and its Subsidiaries -- at the request of Petrochemical Industries Company -- affirmed the launch of a tender for shipping and customs clearance services. The tender process was scheduled for Oct 12, 2025 and the closing date is Nov 11, 2025. The committee stated that the preliminary meeting will be held virtually on Oct 28, 2025.

In addition, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) announced the cancellation of the tender for the exploitation and investment of spaces allocated as a coffee shop in the heavy oil building in Retqa. KOC asked the companies that submitted bid documents to contact it to request a refund of the tender document purchase fees and initial insurance, and to provide it with their bank details through an official letter from their bank.

MoCI collects KD1.77 million in fees from precious metals examination

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that the Precious Metals Department marked and examined approximately 55 million grams of gold, silver, precious metals, and stones during the first half of this year, collecting total fees of KD 1.77 million, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained in statistics published by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Tuesday that gold and silver accounted for the largest share of the total weights examined, with 18 million and 63 thousand grams of gold examined, generating fees of approximately KD 909 thousand.

Regarding silver, 31 million and 446 thousand grams were examined, with fees

amounting to approximately KD 314 thousand (about one million US dollars).

Furthermore, approximately 2 million and 221 thousand grams of gold inlaid with precious stones were examined, generating fees of around KD 158 thousand.

Statistics showed gold that is not inlaid made up the majority of the gold examined, followed by gold inlaid with valuable stones at 11 percent, and gold inlaid with diamonds at 4 percent.

The ministry reported that total fees collected from other services related to parcels, certificates, and releases amounted to KD 184,000. Trade release fees topped these services, totaling KD 75,000 for approximately 7,599 transactions.



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Indonesia marks 80 years of Independence in Kuwait

Ambassador Maryana calls for deeper ties in energy, food and culture

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Indonesian Ambassador to Kuwait Lena Maryana expressed her deep gratitude for the attendance of Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan at the reception held by the Embassy of Indonesia recently to celebrate the 80th anniversary of independence.

In her speech on the occasion, Maryana revealed that this year also holds special significance, as it marks the 57th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Kuwait, which officially began on Feb 28, 1968. She praised the encouraging progress of the relationship between the two countries at the bilateral, regional and international levels.

Maryana pointed out that “bilateral cooperation between the two countries encompasses multiple fields, with the energy, oil and gas sector emerging as one of the most important areas of cooperation, along with cooperation in the field of renewable energy.” She stated that Indonesia has enormous potential in this sector, estimated at 3,700 gigawatts, indicating only 15.2 gigawatts of which have been utilized till date.

She confirmed the commitment of her country to encourage mutual investments between the two sides in priority sectors, such as energy and food, in order to support efforts to maintain energy and food security in both countries.

She urged Kuwaiti investors to explore the vast opportunities in Indonesia, particularly in the agriculture, livestock, fisheries and tourism sectors, stressing that her country offers vital investment opportunities in manufacturing industries related to the fisheries, trade and services sectors.

She also underscored the importance of strengthening cultural and educational cooperation between the two countries through student and teacher exchange



Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Guests, officials and dignitaries during the Indonesian Embassy's 80th Independence Day reception in Kuwait, celebrating diplomatic, cultural, and bilateral ties.

programs, as well as improving communication between peoples. She pointed out that exploring all available capabilities and resources is the way to enhance bilateral cooperation.

She touched on the humanitarian relations between the two peoples, stating that Kuwait,

with its prominent economic status, has become home to diverse nationalities, including more than 6,000 Indonesians living and working in various sectors like health, oil and gas, hospitality and industry. She said the labor agreement signed between the two countries in 1996 con-

tributed to regulating the presence of Indonesian workers in Kuwait and protecting their rights. She appreciated the efforts of the Kuwaiti government in providing protection and care for the Indonesian community. She emphasized that the Indonesian government encourages its

citizens residing in Kuwait to respect local laws and regulations, thus, enhancing cooperation and mutual respect between the two peoples. She added that this firm commitment is embodied in Indonesia's foreign policy of supporting peace and humanitarian diplomacy.

She also cited the participation of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in the Gaza Peace Summit held in Sharm El-Sheikh on Oct 13, 2025, affirming the enduring solidarity of Indonesia with the Palestinians. She called for lasting peace in Palestine, the region and the world.

Continued from Page 1

Gov't eyes

maritime transport agreement and memorandum of understanding between the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior and the Turkish Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure regarding mutual recognition of seafarers' certificates; MoU on cooperation in the energy sector; and a MoU between the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority and the Investment and Finance Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey regarding cooperation in the field of direct investment promotion.

Meanwhile, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem, briefed the Cabinet on the results of his official visit to the United States from October 14 to 18.

During his visit, Minister Al-Mukhaizeem led the Kuwaiti delegation, which included the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Basil Al-Haroun, Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development Waleed Al-Bahar and a number of officials from the Ministry of Finance to the annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund for 2025.

The minister indicated that the meeting tackled the global economic outlook, poverty reduction, and economic development.

He also informed the Cabinet on the outcome of the meeting of the Governors of Arab States with the President of the World Bank Group, Ajay Banga.

He noted that several important Arab-related issues were discussed during that meeting, most notably recovery in post-conflict countries and the World Bank's support for integrating digital transformation into labor market strategies to prepare the workforce for the jobs of the future, addressing gaps in infrastructure and human capital, and improving the business environment.

Minister Al-Mukhaizeem also briefed the Cabinet on the outcomes of the meeting of the Finance Ministers of the Middle East, North Africa, and Pakistan (MENAP) region with the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, during which the latest economic and global developments were reviewed and views were exchanged on key global economic issues, including current economic challenges.

Moreover, he informed the Cabinet on his participation in a high-level event titled "Economic Transformation in Kuwait - Foundations for a New Era," organized by the Kuwait Banking Association at George Washington University.

The event focused on highlighting the role of the financial sector in supporting the economic transformation and diversification process in line with Kuwait's

Vision 2035, as well as the strategic partnership with the United States in the fields of technology, renewable energy, and innovative finance.

The Cabinet deliberated other issues on its agenda and approved some of them and referred some others for ministerial committees for more study.

Finally, the Cabinet approved the minutes of the Supreme Committee for the Investigation of Kuwaiti Citizenship, which included cases of loss, withdrawal and revocation of Kuwaiti citizenship from some individuals, in accordance with the provisions of Decree Law No. (15) of 1959 regarding Kuwaiti nationality and its amendments.

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The Amiri Diwan on Wednesday mourned the passing of Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the age of 75.

The funeral service was scheduled to take place Wednesday afternoon.

Crown Prince

Boursli said that the gathering offers a key platform for narrowing gaps, exchanging ideas, and addressing challenges related to the enforcement of judicial rulings among member states.

Assistant Secretary-General for Legal and Legislative Affairs at the GCC, Advisor Sultan Al-Suwaidi, noted that judicial collaboration is a cornerstone of Gulf integration and a vital tool for upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice.

Al-Suwaidi said the meeting's agenda includes several pioneering initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation, including a unified judicial cooperation policy, an electronic Gulf judicial journal, a digital platform for judicial principles, and an e-book compiling key rulings and new legal precedents.

These initiatives mark a qualitative leap in judicial integration, enrich Gulf legal resources, and promote alignment among member states' legal systems, reinforcing the principle of a unified judicial reference, he added.

Kuwait pledges

He also highlighted Saudi Arabia's global efforts in water development, including the establishment of the Global Water Organization in Riyadh and hosting the 11th World Water Forum in 2027.

Former chair, Egyptian Minister of Water Resources Dr. Hani Sewilam, stressed that OIC states represent 24 percent of the global population but only receive 3.3 percent of renewable freshwater resources, calling for greater solidarity to ensure water security.

The conference also addressed the critical humanitarian situation in Palestine, especially Gaza, where water shortages have reached alarming levels due to ongoing conflict and destruction of infra-

structure.

OIC Assistant Secretary-General for Palestine and Al-Quds Affairs, Ambassador Samir Bakr, called for intensified humanitarian aid and unhindered access to clean water for Palestinians.

The conference aims to strengthen cooperation among member states, promote technological innovation in water management, and explore sustainable financing mechanisms for joint water projects.

Kuwait's participation underlines its commitment to regional collaboration on water security and sustainable development, in line with the OIC's strategic objectives.

Kuwait stresses

Al-Maqamis called for stronger partnerships between humanitarian organizations and the tech sector, along with the development of an ethical framework to guide their collaboration.

Mamadou Sow, Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Delegation to the GCC, welcomed the gulf's investments in AI and innovation, expressing hope they will boost the region's status as a global leader in humanitarian technology.

Representative of the GCC Secretariat-General, Abrar Al-Salem, said the conference reflects a forward-looking vision for Gulf cooperation, expecting practical recommendations to strengthen humanitarian and development media.

Al-Salem called for greater collaboration to explore AI's humanitarian applications and create a unified Gulf framework.

Chairman of Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society, Jamal Al-Nouri, emphasized that digitalization and AI would boost efficiency, transparency, and outreach in charity work, enhancing donor confidence, needs forecasting, rapid response, and remote service development.

The conference included two panel discussions on AI in humanitarian data and ethics, in addition to two workshops on media in relief and humanitarian work.

Dismantle nukes

This is to promote constructive dialogue between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states, support the credibility of the non-proliferation regime and achieve collective security, he clarified.

The Kuwaiti diplomat added that nuclear-weapon-free zones are a fundamental pillar of international security and stability.

In this regard, the State of Kuwait reiterated its commitment to establishing a Middle East region free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with the resolutions of the 1995 Review Conference, he said.

MoH strengthens clinical skills

Kuwaiti nurses join specialized kidney dialysis training in Oman

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22, (KUNA): The Ministry of Health has announced the dispatch of Kuwaiti nurses to Oman to participate in a specialized training program in kidney dialysis, as part of ongoing cooperation with Oman College of Health Sciences and under a bilateral memorandum of understanding.

In a press statement, the Ministry said this is the first external training program of its kind in the nursing field, aimed at enhancing clinical knowledge and improving the competence of national staff

in caring for patients with kidney failure.

The three-month program includes 480 hours of theoretical lectures and practical training, focusing on both hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis, in line with the highest standards of quality care for end-stage renal disease patients.

Director of Nursing Services at the Ministry, Dr. Eman Al-Awadhi, noted that this training follows earlier national programs in renal nursing, with participants having completed a preparatory

course at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital.

Al-Awadhi described the program as a qualitative leap in nursing education, aligned with the Ministry's initiatives to expand specialized training through partnerships with leading regional and international institutions.

She added that the effort is part of broader plans to encourage excellence among national staff and to make the nursing profession more attractive through high-quality local and international training opportunities.



Mobile health clinic promotes diabetes awareness at Al Shifa Bint Ouf School.

DDI conducts mobile diabetes clinic outreach at Al Shifa Bint Ouf School

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), founded by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), recently organized a mobile clinic outreach activity at Al Shifa Bint Ouf School, a girls' school located in Salwa. The outreach was carried out using DDI's mobile diabetes clinic and held in conjunction with the Science Bus initiative by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

During the visit, DDI's medical team provided on-site health screenings, including blood glucose measurements and vital sign assessments, as part of the Institute's ongoing efforts to promote early detection and prevention of diabetes and related health complications.

This initiative reflects DDI's commitment to spreading health awareness and reaching different segments of the community through its mobile clinic program.

Immigration agents conducting sweep on NY’s Canal Street confronted by protesters

San Francisco leaders push back against US President Trump’s National Guard threat

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 22, (AP): US President Donald Trump keeps threatening to send National Guard troops to San Francisco next, blasting the California city as crime-ridden and saying its residents are clamoring for federal help.

But local and state leaders say that couldn't be farther from the truth, noting overall crime is down and the city has started to turn around its downtrodden pandemic image. Residents and workers out downtown this week said they're puzzled and concerned by Trump's threat.

"This is a safe American city," Mayor Daniel Lurie told The Associated Press last week. "We got this in San Francisco."

The Republican president has referenced crime as his justification for possibly sending troops to the city of roughly 830,000. He's deployed the Guard over crime concerns to Washington, D.C., where he has direct control of the National Guard, and Memphis, where the Republican governor supports their presence. Los Angeles was the first city where Trump deployed the Guard, arguing it was necessary to protect federal buildings and agents as protesters fought back against mass immigration arrests. He's since said they're needed in Chicago and Portland, Oregon, as well.

Residents and leaders in Portland were surprised by Trump's attention when he described the city as besieged by violent protests. In reality, nightly protests were small and limited to the area outside a federal immigration building. While there were some arrests for violence, the demonstrations were far less intense than those that roiled the downtown in 2020 following the death of George Floyd.

"The difference is, I think they want us in San Francisco," Trump said Sunday on Fox News. "San Francisco was truly one of the great cities of the world. And then, 15 years ago, it went wrong. It went woke."

His comments angered and baffled Kate Freudenberger, who works in retail. "You've been walking around the city, it's peaceful, there is no insurrection," she said Tuesday morning, adding that immigration authorities have not been as active in San Francisco as in other cities, "so there's really been nothing for us to coalesce around."

Marc Benioff, the chief executive of San Francisco-based software giant Sales-



People converge on a street corner in the Tenderloin District on Oct 21 in San Francisco. (AP)

force, caused a stir when he told the New York Times earlier this month that he'd welcome Guard troops ito help quell crime ahead of his major annual business conference. He has since apologized for his remarks, saying the conference was the "largest and safest" in its history and the Guard is not needed.

San Francisco is still recovering from the coronavirus pandemic, which emptied its downtown and brought renewed attention to street homelessness and open drug dealing. But signs indicate a city on the upswing. Artificial intelligence startups

are snapping up office space, and home rental prices are rising. San Francisco saw a 21% increase from last year in office visits, according to location analytics platform Placer.ai, and public transit ridership is at its highest levels since the pandemic.

The Wall Street Journal this week declared the city was emerging from its "doom loop," an article the mayor eagerly shared on social media.

Also:

NEW YORK: An immigration enforcement sweep targeting vendors on **Manhattan's** famed Canal Street turned chaotic on Tuesday after droves of angry New Yorkers surrounded federal agents and attempted to block them from driving off, prompting arrests and fierce standoffs along a bustling downtown corridor.

The confrontation began shortly after 4 p.m., as federal agents fanned out across a section of **Chinatown** that has long served as a not-so-underground market for knock-off designer handbags, watches, perfumes, electronics and other goods.

An Associated Press reporter observed dozens of agents detaining a street vendor selling bedazzled smartphone cases, one of a number of arrests in the area.

In response, a contingent of protesters, many of whom appeared to be on their way home from work, surrounded the masked officers, attempting to block their vehicle as they shouted "ICE out of New York" and called on other pedestrians to join them.

Agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Border Patrol and other federal offices then tried to clear the streets, in some cases shoving protesters to the ground and threatening them with pepper spray before detaining them.

As more New Yorkers joined the fray, some of the federal agents retreated on foot, followed by jeering protesters and honking vehicles. Additional federal agents, armed with long guns and tactical gear, also arrived in a military tactical vehicle. **Tricia McLaughlin**, a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, said the agents were conducting an enforcement operation against sellers of "counterfeit goods"

America

Sununu enters GOP primary race: New Hampshire Republican John E. Sununu announced a campaign for US Senate on Wednesday, hoping to reclaim a seat he lost nearly two decades ago and boosting the GOP's chances of regaining a foothold in a region overwhelmingly represented by Democrats.

Sununu, 61, is seeking the Republican nomination for the seat being vacated by US Sen Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat who ousted him in 2008. His decision sets up a primary featuring two former senators: Republican Scott Brown, who represented Massachusetts before moving to New Hampshire and losing to Shaheen in 2014, has been running since June.

"Maybe you're surprised to hear that I'm running for the Senate again. I'm a bit surprised myself," he said in a video announcement. "Why would anyone subject themselves to everything going on there right now? Well, somebody has to step up and lower the temperature. Somebody has to get things done."

National Republicans consider Sununu a strong candidate and one that allows them to go on the offensive as they look to hold their majority in the chamber next year. (AP)

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Lawsuit seeks to force swearing in of Grijalva: Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes has filed a lawsuit that seeks to get Democrat Adelita Grijalva sworn in as the state's newest member of Congress after U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson has refused to seat her a month since winning the post.

The Democratic attorney general filed the lawsuit Tuesday in Washington on behalf of Grijalva. It asks a judge to let other people, such as federal judges, who are authorized to administer the oath swear in Grijalva if Johnson has not done so. Mayes has said previously that the delay in giving Grijalva, the first Latina to represent Arizona in Congress, the oath of office leaves over 800,000 people in the southern Arizona district without representation.

Grijalva, a former school board member and member of a county governing board in the Tucson area, easily won a



A Cheyenne Police Department officer sweeps the grounds of the Wyoming Capitol after a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) was found at the state Capitol on Oct 21, in Cheyenne, Wyo. (AP)

Sept. 23 special election to fill the post previously held by her father, progressive Democrat Raúl Grijalva, who died in March after serving in Congress for more than two decades. She said the delay has left people in her district without the constituent services that are normally provided by congressional offices. (AP)

□ □ □

Suspected IED prompts Capitol evacuation: The Wyoming Capitol, including the governor's office, was evacuated Tuesday after a person found a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) in front of the building and brought it inside.

The grounds were searched with drones and bomb-sniffing dogs following discovery of the device on the state seal between the building's front steps and the street, according to a statement from the Wyoming Highway Patrol, which provides security for the Capitol.

The evacuation began around 9:45 am after the discoverer, whose identity wasn't released, brought the object indoors. Authorities announced in late afternoon the building would not reopen Tuesday. (AP)

Hegseth changes policy on how Pentagon officials communicate with Congress

WASHINGTON, Oct 22, (AP): Leaders at the Pentagon have significantly altered how military officials will speak with Congress after a pair of new memos issued last week.

In an Oct 15 memo, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and his deputy, Steve Feinberg, ordered Pentagon officials - including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff - to obtain permission from the department's main legislative affairs office before they have any communication with Capitol Hill.

The memo was issued the same day the vast majority of Pentagon reporters exited the building rather than agree to the Defense Department's new restrictions on their work, and it appears to be part of a broader effort by Hegseth to exert tighter control over what the department communicates to the outside world.

According to the memo, a copy of which was authenticated by a Pentagon official, "unauthorized engagements with Congress by (Pentagon) personnel acting in their official capacity, no matter how well-intentioned, may undermine Department-wide priorities critical to achieving our legislative objectives."

Also:

WASHINGTON: US President **Donald**



US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, (from left), and his wife Jennifer Rauchet walk during activities to mark the upcoming Marine Corps' 250th anniversary on Oct 18 on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in Camp Pendleton, Calif. (AP)

Trump has nominated Lt Gen **Christopher LaNeve** to serve as the Army's second-highest-ranking officer, according to congressional records.

Gen. **James Mingo**s is currently vice chief of staff and has not publicly said he plans to step aside. He has been in the job less than two years, and it is typically

a tenure that lasts at least three years. The move, which was posted in congressional records Monday, is the latest in a series of surprise and unexplained firings, reassignments and promotions that have been transforming the senior ranks of the military under Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.



In this photo taken from video distributed by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Oct 22, a Yars intercontinental ballistic missile is test-fired from the Plesetsk launch facility in northwestern Russia as part of drills of Russia's nuclear forces. (AP)

Putin directs drills of nuclear forces

Russian drone attack on Ukraine kills six

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 22, (AP): Russia launched a wide drone and missile attack across Ukraine on Wednesday, killing at least six people, Ukrainian officials said, a day after US President Donald Trump put his planned meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin on hold, saying he didn't want it to be a "waste of time."

Ukraine's energy minister said a "massive combined overnight attack" on Ukraine's energy infrastructure was still underway early Wednesday - the latest in Russia's effort to cripple the country's energy system before winter. At least 18 people were injured in the attack, said Kyiv administration head Tymur Tkachenko. The attack caused emergency power blackouts across the country, Ukraine's Energy Ministry said. Repairs were underway where possible and electricity would be restored "as soon as possible," it said.

"Another night that proves Russia does not feel enough pressure for prolonging the war," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a statement.

He said the strike caused damages in the cities of Kyiv and Zaporizhzhia, as well as Odesa, Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad, Poltava, Vinnytsia, Zaporizhzhia, and the wider

regions of Kyiv, Cherkasy, and Sumy.

Putin on Wednesday directed drills of the country's strategic nuclear forces that featured practice missile launches.

The Kremlin said that as part of the maneuvers involving all parts of Moscow's nuclear triad, a Yars intercontinental ballistic missile was test-fired from the Plesetsk launch facility in northwestern Russia, and a Sineva ICBM was launched by a submarine in the Barents Sea. The drills also involved Tu-95 strategic bombers firing long-range cruise missiles.

The exercise tested the skills of military command structures, the Kremlin said in a statement.

The chief of the military's General Staff, Gen Valery Gerasimov, reported to Putin via video link that the drills were intended to simulate "procedures for authorizing the use of nuclear weapons." Lavrov made clear in comments Tuesday that Russia is opposed to an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine. Trump, meanwhile, has been shifting his stance all year on key issues in the conflict, including whether a ceasefire should come before longer-term peace talks, and whether Ukraine could win back land seized by Russia during almost four years of fighting.

Journalists imprisoned in Belarus and Georgia win EU’s top human rights award

BRUSSELS, Oct 22, (AP): Two journalists, one imprisoned in Belarus and the other in Georgia, have won the European Union's top human rights honor, the Sakharov Prize, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola announced on Wednesday.

Andrzej Poczobut is a correspondent for the influential Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza. He was convicted of "harming Belarus' national security" and sentenced to eight years, which he is serving in the Novopolotsk penal colony.

Mzia Amaghlobeli, a prominent journalist who founded two of Georgia's independent media outlets, was in August convicted of slapping a police chief during an anti-government protest. She was sentenced to two years in prison in a case that was condemned by rights groups as an attempt to curb media freedom.

"Both are journalists currently in prison on trumped up charges simply for doing their work and for speaking out against injustice. Their courage has made them symbols of the struggle for freedom and democracy," Metsola said at the parliament in Strasbourg, France.

The annual EU award, named after



Journalist Andrzej Poczobut stands in a defendants' cage during a court session in Grodno, Belarus, Jan 16, 2023. (AP)

Soviet dissident Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov, was created in 1988 to honor individuals or groups who defend human rights and basic freedoms.

The winner is chosen by senior EU lawmakers from among candidates nominated by the European Parliament's various political groups. The assembly says the award is "the highest tribute paid by the European Union

to human rights work."

Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who along with her husband Siarhei Tsikhanouski and others opposed to the regime of President Alexander Lukashenko won the prize in 2020, said that awarding it to the reporters this year "sends a strong message to all political prisoners that you are not alone and journalism is not a crime."

Western Balkans leaders meet in London for talks on migration and security

LONDON, Oct 22, (AP): Leaders of six Western Balkan nations were due to meet British and European officials in London on Wednesday for talks on migration, security and economic growth in a volatile region where Russia seeks to wield influence.

Delegations from Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia are attending a summit held as part of the Berlin Process, launched in 2014 to keep the southeastern European countries working toward European Union membership.

The only Western Balkan nation to join the EU is Croatia, which became a member in 2013. Progress for the others has stalled, with countries at various stages of the journey, and in recent years tensions have flared between Serbia and Kosovo, a former Serbian province whose independence is not recognized by Belgrade.

The EU's openness to accept new members has grown since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. There are concerns the war in Ukraine and Russia's deepening confrontation with the West could spill over into a region still scarred by its own conflicts.

The U.K. is hosting the annual summit despite leaving the EU in 2020. It is also being attended by representa-



Britain's King Charles III greets the Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania Edi Rama, during a reception for Western Balkans leaders at St James's Palace, London, on Oct 21, on the eve of the Western Balkans Leaders' Summit. (AP)

tives of several European countries and the EU.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's center-left government is hoping to make progress on tackling the drug trade, bolstering Western Balkan nations' defenses against interference from Moscow and - a particular British priority

- curbing unauthorized migration. Gangs have smuggled hundreds of thousands of people to the EU via the Western Balkans in recent years, and Britain says a quarter of migrants reaching the U.K. in small boats across the English Channel have traveled through the region.

Pinto Balsemão, former Portugal PM, dies at 88

LISBON, Portugal, Oct 22, (AP): **Francisco Pinto Balsemão**, a former prime minister of Portugal in a turbulent post-coup period who withdrew from front-line politics and created a national media empire, has died. He was 88.

The website of the Portuguese president's office and the media group he created, Impresa, said he died late Tuesday but provided no cause of death. Pinto Balsemão was a Cabinet minister when he was chosen in 1981 by his governing Social Democratic Party to replace its prime minister, Francisco Sá Carneiro, who had been killed in a plane crash in Lisbon.

The crash occurred in murky circumstances during political turmoil



Pinto Balsemão

parties.

Pinto Balsemão accepted the post of prime minister, heading Portugal's

eightth government in five years. He later described taking the job as "the hardest thing I've ever done."

Amid sharp criticism within his own party over his leadership, tensions in the governing coalition, and with opposition parties repeatedly attacking him as an unelected leader, Pinto Balsemão resigned in mid-1983.

His legacy as a reforming prime minister included a 1982 revision of the constitution, seeking to shed some of the left-wing ideological features enshrined in the 1976 version and free the economy from centralized government. The revision scrapped a ban on re-privatizing companies nationalized in the wake of the so-called Carnation Revolution of 1974.

S.Korea army ready to repel provocations

North Korea test-fires ballistic missiles

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 22, (AP): North Korea performed its first ballistic missile tests in five months Wednesday, days before US President Donald Trump and other leaders were expected to meet in South Korea.

South Korea's military said it detected multiple short-range ballistic missiles that were launched from an area south of Pyongyang and flew about 350 kilometers (220 miles) toward the northeast. The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't release more specific flight details but said the missiles didn't land in the sea.

The Joint Chiefs added that the South's military remains ready to repel any provocations by North Korea based on its solid military alliance with the United States.

Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told reporters that Tokyo was closely communicating with Washington and Seoul, including by sharing real-time missile warning data. North Korea didn't immediately comment on the launches.

Trump is to leave for Asia at the end of the week in the first trip to the region of his second term. He plans to go to Malaysia first for a regional summit, and then head to Japan before travelling on to South Korea for an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, an annual summit meant to promote economic integration and trade.

Trump was expected to visit the South Korean city of Gyeongju ahead of the summit for bilateral meetings with leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, but South Korean officials say Trump won't likely attend APEC's main conference set for Oct. 30-Nov. 1.



A TV screen shows a file image of North Korea's missile launch during a news program at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea on Oct 22. (AP)

Asia

Paetongtarn quits as Pheu Thai Party leader: Thailand's former Prime Minister **Paetongtarn Shinawatra** announced her resignation as Pheu Thai Party leader on Wednesday, a move that follows a Constitutional Court ruling that previously removed her from office.

In a statement, Paetongtarn expressed her intention to initiate a comprehensive "overhaul" of the party before the next election.

"I firmly believe that this transformation must begin without delay. Therefore, I have chosen to step down as party leader to allow the party the freedom to reinvent itself and build a stronger, more complete organization," she said.

Paetongtarn confirmed that she will remain a party member and "Head of the Pheu Thai Family," committing to help build a new era for the party, which stands firmly with the people and works tirelessly for the nation.

The decision came following the Constitutional Court ruling that removed Paetongtarn from office in August for ethics violations over her handling of the border issue with Cambodia. (Xinhua)

China renews yellow alert for typhoon: China's national observatory on Wednesday issued a yellow alert for typhoon Fengshen, the 24th typhoon of the year, as it is expected to bring strong winds and heavy rain to parts of the country's southern regions.

As of 9 a.m. Wednesday, it was located over the



Paetongtarn

waters of the South China Sea, about 170 km west-northwest of Yongxing Dao of Sansha City, Hainan Province, with maximum winds of 33 meters per second near its center, according to the National Meteorological Center (NMC).

Fengshen is expected to move southwestward at 10 km per hour. Its intensity will remain steady through Wednesday morning before gradually weakening. The typhoon will make landfall over Vietnam's central coast as a tropical storm on Thursday before weakening rapidly, said the center.

Affected by the typhoon, gales are forecast to affect areas including parts of the East China Sea, the Taiwan Strait, the Bashi Channel, the waters east of Taiwan, coastal regions of southern Zhejiang, Fujian, Taiwan and Hainan Island, and parts of the South China Sea, as well as the Beibu Gulf between 2 p.m. Wednesday and 2 p.m. Thursday, the NMC said.

Meanwhile, it said that some areas of Hainan Island and Taiwan may experience heavy rainstorms during the same period.

China has a four-tier, color-coded weather warning system for typhoons, with red representing the most severe warning, followed by orange, yellow and blue. (Xinhua)

3 die in Philippine fire: A couple and their 13-year-old daughter died in a fire that razed their house in a subdivision in Cagayan de Oro City in the southern Philippines, the Bureau of Fire Protection said Tuesday.

The bureau said the victims were trapped inside the house when fire broke out before midnight on Monday. Their bodies were found near the door early on Tuesday.

According to the bureau, the fire may have spread quickly because the second floor of the house was made of flammable materials and contained piles of cloth, as the male victim worked as a tailor. (Xinhua)

‘Our national defense should be based on our own independent decision’

Japan plans to tell Trump it will build up military and upgrade security strategy: FM

TOKYO, Oct 22, (Agencies): Japan's new foreign minister said Wednesday his country plans to show its determination to further build up its defense to rapidly adapt to changing warfare realities and growing tension in the region when US President Donald Trump visits Tokyo next week.

Trump is expected to hold talks next Tuesday with Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, who took office Tuesday after being elected as Japan's first female leader.

Takaichi, who had spent much of past few weeks embroiled in internal political wrangling, has to face major diplomatic tests within days of taking office - Trump and two regional summits.

"We are firmly preparing for President Trump's visit," Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said.

Motegi said he hoped Trump's first meeting with Takaichi during his Oct 27-29 visit would serve as an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss further strengthening of the Japan-US alliance while fostering their personal relationship of trust.

He said Japan also hopes to further cooperate with South Korea, along with other regional partners including Australia and the Philippines, while seeking stable and constructive relations with China.

Japan is currently undergoing a five-year military buildup through 2027 as part of its national security strategy, including doubling its annual defense spending to 2% of gross domestic product. The strategy that promotes Japan's strike-back capability with long-range missiles marks a major break from Japan's defense-only principle under its postwar pacifist constitution.

The ruling party's alliance with the right-wing Japan Innovation Party that replaces the dovish centrist Komeito party has raised concern that a revised strategy may involve further offensive roles for Japan under Takaichi, a security hawk.

Motegi said Japan's further strengthening of its military capability is essential in order to adapt to emerging new warfare such as drone swarms in the



Japan Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, front center, and her new cabinet members pose for a group photo in Tokyo on Oct 21. (AP)

war against Ukraine, as well as responses to cyberattacks. While firmly pursuing the ongoing five-year military buildup, the government will also review it, "and we hope to firmly convey our plans to the U.S. side," Motegi said.

Japan is expected to face tough demands from Trump to further increase its defense spending to NATO levels of 5% of GDP, more purchases of costly American arsenals and additional spending for some 50,000 US troops in Japan under the bilateral security pact.

"Our national defense should be based on our own independent decision," Motegi said. "What's important is not the amount or the GDP ratio but what's in it."

He also said he hopes to meet with his counterpart, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, at the earliest time possible to discuss further strengthening of the deterrence and response capability of the Japan-U.S. alliance.

Motegi returns to the post for the second time after serving in 2019-2021, during Trump's first term, when he earned a reputation as a tough negotiator. He is also tasked with following up on the Japan-U.S. tariffs agreement.

He said he hoped to work toward "sincere and steady implementation of the agreement" to promote and ensure mutual benefits, economic security and growth.

Meanwhile, South Korea's foreign ministry said Tuesday that it will continue cooperation with Japan under Tokyo's newly elected prime minister.

Seoul's foreign ministry said in a statement that the government will closely communicate with Japan's new Cabinet and continue cooperation to maintain the positive momentum in relations between the two countries.

The Seoul ministry hoped that the two countries will continue to work together to develop future-oriented relations, given that the two sides are neighboring countries and global partners with similar positions in the rapidly changing geopolitical environment and trade order.



People gather at the scene of a multiple vehicles collision that left at least 63 dead near Gulu, northern Uganda on Oct 22. (AP)



Police fire tear gas at protesters demanding the release of separatist leader Nnamdi Kanu in Abuja, Nigeria on Oct 20. (AP)

63 people dead in Uganda road crash

Two buses and two other vehicles crashed early Wednesday on a highway in western Uganda, killing at least 63 people, police said, in one of the worst motor accidents in the East African country in recent years.

Several other people were injured in the crash that happened after midnight local time on the highway to Gulu, a major city in northern Uganda.

Two bus drivers going in opposite directions attempted to overtake other vehicles and collided near the town of Kiryandongo, according to police. "In the process, both buses met head-on during the overtaking maneuvers," the police statement said.

Fatal road crashes are common in Uganda and elsewhere in East Africa, where roads are often narrow. Police usually blame such accidents on speeding drivers. In August, a bus carrying mourners back home from a funeral in southwestern Kenya overturned and plunged into a ditch, killing at least 25 people and injuring several others.

The death toll in the latest crash in Uganda is uncommonly high, said Irene Nakasiita, a Red Cross spokeswoman who described victims left bleeding with broken limbs. (AP)

Nigeria fuel truck explosion kills 31

A tanker truck laden with gasoline exploded Tuesday in north-central Nigeria, killing at least 31 people, police said.

The explosion occurred in the Bida area of Niger State after the truck fell and as local residents rushed to the scene to scoop up spilling fuel, police spokesman Wasiu Abiodun said in a statement. He said 17 people also were injured in the blast and were taken to nearby hospitals.

In recent months, Niger State has seen a rise in accidents involving heavy-duty trucks, which analysts have blamed on bad roads and the absence of a rail network. The state serves as a major transit hub for commodities moving between northern and southern Nigeria.

Also:
ABUJA, Nigeria: Demonstrations for the release of a separatist leader in Nigeria's capital city turned violent on Monday as police fired tear gas and arrested dozens of protesters, as well as a journalist with French news agency Agence France-Presse, or AFP, who was released shortly afterwards. (AP)

Helipad tarmac sinks after India's President Droupadi Murmu chopper lands in Kerala

NEW DELHI, Oct 22, (Xinhua): A portion of helipad tarmac sank Wednesday minutes after a helicopter carrying Indian President **Droupadi Murmu** landed on it in the southern state of Kerala, local media reported.

The helipad surface slightly caved in under the weight of the helicopter at Pramadam Stadium in Poomkavu of Alappuzha district, about 161 km north of Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala.

No injuries to anyone or damage to the helicopter were reported, and the president continued her planned visit.

Television footage aired on news channels showed security personnel, including police and fire service officials, manually pushing and moving the helicopter to a safe portion.

Also:
NEW DELHI: Parts of India's southern state of Tamil Nadu and its neighboring region of Puducherry have faced incessant rains since Tuesday night, following which all schools and educational institutions were shut, confirmed local officials on the phone on Wednesday.



Murmu

Appeals court overturns conviction of Uribe for bribery, witness tampering

BOGOTA, Colombia, Oct 22, (AP): An appeals court has overturned the conviction of former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe for bribery and witness tampering for which he had been sentenced to 12 years of house arrest.

Uribe, 73, has denied any wrongdoing. He was sentenced in August following a nearly six-month trial in which prosecutors presented evidence that he attempted to influence witnesses who accused the law-and-order leader of having links to a paramilitary group in the 1990s.

The court on Tuesday said the conviction had "structural deficiencies," used vague premises and lacked comprehensive analysis. Two of the three judges on the panel voted to overturn the conviction; the third thought it should be upheld.

Uribe, who governed from 2002 to 2010, has called his conviction political persecution, claiming that the judge was biased against him. In the appeal, his lawyers questioned the validity of the evidence and argued that the former president's responsibility was not "unequivocally" proven.

Prosecutors and victims can appeal Tuesday's ruling to Colombia's Supreme Court. The former president, who was free pending his appeal, watched the proceedings remotely via video link.

The case has energized both Uribe's supporters and critics, as the latest turn comes amid campaigning for next year's legislative and presidential elections in Colombia.



Colombian former president Alvaro Uribe holds a press conference following an appeals court decision to overturn his conviction for bribery and witness tampering, at his home in Rionegro, Colombia on Oct 21. (AP)

Uribe's party, Democratic Center, has already said that Uribe will run for senator if his legal situation allows it. The original sentence included an 8-year ban on holding public office.

Sen. Paloma Valencia, an Uribe supporter, wrote on social platform X that she felt relieved by the latest decision.

Kuwaiti crude inches up to \$63.07 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti crude oil price edged 55 cents higher during Tuesday’s trading to reach USD 63.07 per barrel (pb) compared with USD 62.52 pb last Friday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Wednesday. Globally, Brent futures rose by 31 cents to USD 61.32 pb and West Texas Intermediate climbed up by 30 cents to USD 57.82 pb.

Business

At Forbes Sustainability Leaders Summit

KFH highlights Islamic finance as a catalyst for sustainable development

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the 2025 Forbes Sustainability Leaders Summit held in Abu Dhabi, UAE and convened global thought leaders to explore the future of sustainable finance. The summit was chaired by H.E. Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, the UAE’s Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

KFH’s participation in the summit reaffirms its leadership in sustainable Islamic finance and its commitment to driving inclusive and impactful investments in the region.

KFH Head of Group Compliance and Governance, Meshal Alshayee participated in the opening ceremony of the summit, while Executive Manager Governance and Sustainability at KFH, Mohammad Alarbeed, participated in the summit as a speaker in a panel discussion themed “Planet-Proof Capital: Financing Innovation, Inclusion, and the Green Transition,”. This session explored how purpose-driven capital is financing climate tech, empowering SMEs, and delivering inclusive, long-term national value beyond financial returns.

Alarbeed emphasized the intrinsic alignment between Islamic finance and sustainability, stating: “Islamic Finance isn’t new to sustainability – it is sustainable finance at its core. Its principles of prohibiting haram (darar), promoting public interest (maslaha), and stewarding wealth and resources (amanah) represent the original ESG framework. At KFH, we view the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a modern reflection of Maqasid al-Shariah – the objectives of Islamic law.”

Alarbeed showcased KFH’s innovative approach to green finance, including Green Sukuk: A Sharia-compliant instrument that ties investor funds directly to tangible green projects such as solar farms and water treatment plants. “KFH has been at the forefront of structuring and distributing Green Sukuk to fund the region’s transition,” he noted.

He explained that KFH uses Murabaha to provide preferential financing for its customers to build or renovate their homes according to the best environmental practices to support the bank’s vision in meeting the current and future needs of Kuwaiti society using sustainable approaches and positively magnify these effects on the social and economic aspects of our country.

Addressing the importance of mean-



Kuwait Finance House team with Her Excellency Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, the UAE’s Minister of Climate Change and Environment.



A view of the Forbes Sustainability Leaders Summit.

ingful sustainability reporting, Alarbeed said: “True value is created when sustainability is integrated into core strategy – not just the annual report. At KFH, we’ve conducted double materiality assessments to understand both how sustainability affects our business and how our business impacts society and the environment.”

He also highlighted KFH’s commitment to transparency and accountability through third-party verification of ESG reports, and its proactive stance against greenwashing.

On the topic of ecosystem collaboration, Alarbeed called for stronger alignment between regulators, capital markets, and financial institutions, indicating “no single institution can drive the green transition alone. We need a synchronized ecosystem where regulation enables, markets price-in sustainability, and banks innovate. Blended finance mechanisms are key to ensuring inclusive growth and leaving no one behind.

It’s worth noting that at the summit, KFH won the Most Sustainable

Projects in the Middle East award for 2025 from Forbes Middle East magazine. This recognition is for the bank’s sustainability initiatives, which included investing \$934.45 million in sustainability and green Sukuk in 2024.

KFH has consistently demonstrated excellence in achieving sustainability milestones. It achieved MSCI ESG “A” rating by Morgan Stanley. KFH was also included in the FTSE4Good for its exceptional performance in the ESG practices and commitment to sustainable finance.



Mohammad Alarbeed speaking during the panel discussion.



Mohammad Alarbeed

Additionally, KFH Auto Showroom won the GSAS Gold Level Sustainability Assessment Certificate, the first environmentally friendly building that fully complies with sustainability standards.

KFH signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and an agreement on the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs).

The bank organized the first-ever Sustainable Business Program for SMEs, which is designed to give these

businesses a competitive advantage and help them achieve their goals. KFH continues its “Keep It Green” initiative, emphasizing its role in enhancing environmental protection and reducing carbon emissions for a more sustainable future. KFH is the first institution to issue impact measurement reports. It is also the first bank to release annual Sustainability Report as well as Carbon Footprint Report, which include valuable insights, and detailed plans that outline the efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Kuwait hosts Global Youth Energy Forum to empower future leaders

Al-Roumi eyes 4 million bpd by 2035

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: “The State of Kuwait believes that the future of energy can only be built through genuine global partnerships and international cooperation based on innovation, responsibility and sustainability,” says Minister of Oil Tariq Al-Roumi.

In his opening remarks at the Eighth Youth Energy Forum and the World Petroleum Council Annual Meeting hosted by Kuwait, Al-Roumi disclosed that the Kuwaiti oil sector aims to produce four million barrels of oil per day by 2035. He said the recent offshore discoveries will significantly contribute to the realization of this goal, adding that recent offshore explorations provided clear indications there are still areas with vast quantities of oil and gas, which can be extracted through technological advancements.

He then pointed out that “youths are considered the beating heart of our oil industry and the true wealth that we depend on to shape the future, not only in Kuwait but globally as well.”

He explained that the forum, with its broad participation, is in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 and the Government Action Plan, which prioritizes youth empowerment and human capital development.

He stated that Kuwait’s hosting of the forum, with the theme, “Empowering the Future: Connecting Youths with Ideas and Knowledge,” confirms that the oil industry can only flourish through the integration of long-standing expertise and creative young talent.

He added that based on the firm belief that youths are the pillars of development and the makers of the future, thousands of nationals have been qualified over the past years through specialized training programs to prepare a generation qualified to assume leadership positions and participate in the development of the oil industry with competence and efficiency.

He stated that promoting scientific and technical culture among youths and linking it to environmental and social responsibility is the approach of Kuwait in preparing an informed generation with the capability to face



Minister of Oil Tariq Al-Roumi

global energy challenges.

He asserted that since the discovery of oil, Kuwait has been associated with a pivotal role in stabilizing global oil markets through its active membership in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its responsible participation in the OPEC+ alliance.

He said Kuwait has always been and continues to be “the voice of wisdom and moderation, striving to balance the interests of producers and consumers, while ensuring a safe and stable flow of energy to support sustainable development and the global economy.”

He affirmed that Kuwait effectively contributed to developing strategies for joint action in the fields of oil, gas and renewable energy, and modernizing the organization’s mechanisms to keep pace with the rapid global transformations in this vital sector.

He clarified that the presence of Kuwait is not limited to its Arab surroundings, as it extends to the international arena through its role in the International Energy Forum hosted by Riyadh. “Kuwait is a founding member and key supporter, and actively participates in its ministerial meetings, based on its deep belief in the importance of dialogue and cooperation between producing and consuming countries,” he disclosed.

He revealed the vision of the country to shift toward smart and sustainable operations is embodied in qualitative projects and innovative initiatives led by oil sector companies. He said Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) inaugurated the Artificial Intelligence Innovation Center in partnership with Microsoft as a pioneering step toward digital transformation in its operational processes. He added the

center also supports the Research, Development and Technology Center – a vital source of innovation in the fields of production, exploration and environmental technologies.

He stated that Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) is implementing an integrated system of digital transformation initiatives, including the management of the implementation of digital initiatives in cooperation with a consulting firm, the smart automation initiative, and the transition to integrated operations.

Meanwhile, OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais predicted that global oil demand will reach KD123 million barrels per day by 2050, with oil remaining the largest share of the energy mix at around 30 percent. He said this is due to several factors, such as population and economic growth, rising urbanization rates, emergence of new energy-intensive industries, and the need to provide energy to billions of people who still lack it.

Al-Ghais pointed out that this expansion requires massive investments, as the oil sector alone is estimated to need around \$18.2 trillion by 2050. “In addition to these investments, we need ambitious and dedicated youths, like the youths of this blessed gathering, to work in this industry and contribute to shaping the future.

Investments are not limited to building refineries, drilling wells and developing equipment. Rather, the most sublime and impactful investment is investing in people by qualifying, training, and empowering them to become leaders who advance this industry and lead its path toward a more prosperous and sustainable future

Dhaman: Arab trade rises 4.5% to surpass \$3.6 trillion in 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman) revealed that Arab merchandise and service trade edged up by 4.5% to exceed \$3.6 trillion in 2024 as a result of a rise in exports by 1.7% to \$1.9 trillion, and a hike in imports by 7.8% to over \$1.7 trillion.

In a press release on the occasion of the issuance of its second quarterly newsletter for 2025, the Corporation indicated that Arab merchandise trade grew by more than 5% to \$2.8 trillion, driven by a 0.3% increase in commodity exports to \$1.5 trillion, and an 11% rise in imports to over \$1.3 trillion. Consequently, the surplus in the trade balance of goods declined by 43% to \$167 billion in 2024.

It added that Arab merchandise trade rose to make up 5.6% of total global merchandise trade and 13.1% of total merchandise trade in developing countries in 2024. Regarding commodity distribution, raw materials of all kinds represented 73% of total Arab exports, with fuel exports alone accounting for approximately 54% of total merchandise exports. Manufactured goods continued to account for the largest share of total Arab merchandise imports in 2024, making up 64% of the total.

The Corporation noted that the geographic concentration of Arab merchandise trade continued through 2024, with three Gulf countries, Egypt, and Iraq having made up a 76% share, with the UAE alone having accounted for more than 40% of the total.

As for trading partners, the newsletter’s data showed that the top 10 exporting countries to the region represented around 56% of total Arab merchandise imports, while the top 10 importing countries from the region accounted for more than 57% of Arab merchandise exports. China main-

tained its position as the region’s top trading partner, with a 16% share of total Arab merchandise trade.

The Corporation elaborated that inter-Arab merchandise trade (average exports and imports) surged by 16.6% to exceed \$250 billion, making up a 9% share of total Arab merchandise trade in 2024, geographically concentrated in the Gulf countries, Egypt, and Iraq, with a share exceeding 88% of the total.

Concerning trade performance assessment indicators in 2024, the newsletter indicated an improvement in the average performance of Arab countries in indicators of trade openness, concentration and diversity of exports, and an increase in the number of vessels in the commercial fleet. However, average trade performance declined in indicators of export capacity, connectivity to the regular maritime navigation network, and an expansion in reliance on imports during the same year.

Given projections of continued political uncertainty and geopolitical and economic tensions, the Corporation underlines its continued support for efforts to boost Arab merchandise exports and strategic and capital imports to the region’s countries through trade insurance services whose cumulative value hit \$27 billion by the end of 2024.

Based in Kuwait, the Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman) was established in 1974 as a multilateral institution that comprises all Arab countries and four joint Arab financial institutions. It provides specialized insurance services against credit and political risks with a view to facilitating the inflow of foreign direct investments into Arab countries and promoting Arab exports and imports.

Reflecting its thought leadership role

Kamco Invest participates in 2025 Kuwait Capital Market Conference

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, participated in the 2025 GCMA Kuwait Capital Market Conference, a premier gathering designed exclusively for industry professionals to explore the evolving landscape of capital markets in Kuwait and the region. The Company’s participation reflects its role as a thought leader in the regional investment community and builds on its ongoing commitment to drive sustainable growth across the regional capital markets.

Omar Zaineddine, Executive Director of Debt Capital Markets, moderated the panel discussion titled, “Achieving Objectives Through the Debt Capital Market.” The discussion explored how debt instruments are becoming central to the funding strategies of sovereigns, financial institutions, and corporates across the region. Topics included the distinctive characteristics of bonds as a financing means, the lessons that can be drawn from recent successful sovereign issuances, how the market can be leveraged to achieve broader



Omar Zaineddine, Executive Director of Debt Capital Markets

strategic objectives, and emerging trends and innovative structures that are being proposed and introduced.

The continuous evolution of the debt capital market landscape was emphasized by Zaineddine, not merely as a source of funding, but as a strategic tool for diversification, innovation, and alignment with broader economic and sustainability goals. He also stressed the importance of

collaboration between issuers, arrangers, regulators, and investors to deepen market liquidity, enhance transparency, and sustain the growth momentum in the region’s debt markets.

Kamco Invest’s participation in the 2025 GCMA Kuwait Capital Market Conference reaffirms the Company’s thought leadership and forward-looking approach in advancing the capital market landscape in Kuwait and the broader region.

Al Fulaij: Kuwait’s economic outlook remains positive amid a stable operating environment

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Mr. Salah Al-Fulaij, Chief Executive Officer of National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) – Kuwait, stated that Kuwait’s operating environment remained generally stable during the first nine months of 2025, despite the continued instability in global and regional geopolitical conditions.

In an interview with Al-Arabiya TV, Mr. Salah Al-Fulaij added that Kuwait’s economic outlook appears particularly positive, supported by new growth opportunities and continued progress in implementing the government’s legislative and strategic plans. He added that this positive view is further reinforced by the absence of political crises and the effectiveness of the decision-making process.

Strong Growth in the Loan Portfolio

Al-Fulaij emphasized that the Bank’s robust loan portfolio growth was driven by solid performance across both Kuwait and international operations, covering conventional and Islamic banking activities. He highlighted that approximately 70% of the portfolio is concentrated in Kuwait, with the remaining 30% diversified across the Bank’s international footprint.

He pointed out that corporate lending has been a key driver of this growth, as NBK is well positioned to achieve strong expansion in this segment thanks to its diversified operating structure and broad geographic presence. He added that it is encouraging to see demand for corporate credit coming from across the Bank’s international network, rather than being concentrated in a single market, in addition to the positive contribution from Boubyan Bank. He further explained that retail loan growth in Kuwait has moderated, reflecting the impact of persistently high interest rates that have tempered borrowing activity.

Al-Fulaij stated that the Group continues to enjoy a strong pipeline of approved credits, adding that NBK has once again upgraded its full-year growth guidance to be in the low double-digit range. He also noted that any positive developments in the pace of project activity or the approval of Kuwait’s mortgage law would further enhance the outlook for domestic credit growth overall.

- Kuwait’s economic outlook is underpinned by emerging growth opportunities and continued progress in the government’s reform agenda
- The Bank’s robust loan portfolio growth was driven by solid performance in both Kuwait and our international operations
- The acceleration of project activity and the approval of the Real Estate Finance Law are providing further support to domestic credit growth
- Project award is expected to increase as the government focuses on prioritizing major development projects
- Provisions remain within healthy levels while maintaining our high asset quality



Mr. Salah Al-Fulaij – Al Arabiya Interview

Expected Impact

Regarding the issuance of debt instruments in the local market following the approval of the Finance and Liquidity Law in June 2025, Al-Fulaij explained that the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has issued government treasury bonds totaling KD 1.95 billion, expressing his hope that such issuances will continue going forward, as they would create broader opportunities for the Bank to deploy liquidity into income-generating assets and enhance overall returns.

“Our optimism is further reinforced by the government’s earlier announcement of its intention to issue debt instruments valued between KD 3 billion and KD 6 billion during the fiscal year 2025/2026 to finance development projects,” he said, adding that the execution of these projects will undoubtedly

have a positive impact on lending activity.

Resilient Operating Landscape in Kuwait

“Moreover, recent legislative developments, including the approval of the Finance and Liquidity Law, the progress of the Real Estate Finance Law, and the issuance of recent local and international debt instruments, are expected to enhance financing capacity and accelerate the implementation of development projects,” he added.

He stressed that this optimistic outlook is reinforced by the total value of projects awarded from the beginning of the year through the end of September, amounting to approximately KD 2.1 billion. He added that project award activity is expected to gain further momentum going forward, as the government continues to prioritize major development initiatives and fast-track their execution, which will in turn

drive lending growth.

Regarding the impact of the approval of the Real Estate Developer Law and the anticipated approval of the Real Estate Finance Law on the operating environment, Al-Fulaij emphasized that both laws represent a qualitative leap in Kuwait’s operational landscape and serve as a key legislative pillar for stimulating growth in the real estate sector. He added that they also present a strategic opportunity for banks to expand their real estate financing activities and strengthen their role in supporting the country’s urban development.

He explained that priority should be given to legislation that fosters a flexible and attractive economic environment capable of keeping pace with global developments, with a particular focus on empowering the private sector, advancing digital transformation, and promoting economic diversification.

He pointed out that the Real Estate Finance Law is of great importance given the government’s commitment to providing housing units in Kuwait, adding that the current support structure, which relies on Kuwait Credit Bank to finance housing applications, now reaching around 120,000 requests, reflects the growing demand for residential units in the country.

In response to a question about provisions, Al-Fulaij explained that it is normal to observe some fluctuations from one quarter to another, as long as they remain within normal and controlled ranges, noting that this is consistent with the Bank’s wide operational footprint across 13 countries.

He added that what matters more is the cost of risk, as it reflects provisions relative to the size of the loan portfolio, noting that it remains below 40 basis points, a very healthy level that is well aligned with the Bank’s internal risk management guidelines.

Finally, he explained that another key factor in assessing provisions is the movement of non-performing loans (NPLs) and their coverage ratio, noting that these remain among NBK’s strongest performance indicators, with NPLs at 1.37% and loan loss coverage rate at 241%. He emphasized that these levels are not only solid for the current quarter but also reflect one of the strongest records in the Bank’s history, which, he noted, is what truly matters.

Eng. AlQarefah shares insights on 5G-A & AI

stc Kuwait wins ‘Excellence in Quality FWA User Experience’ award at GITEX

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, was recognized with the “Excellence in Quality FWA User Experience – stc Kuwait” award during the 5th ELITE Fixed-Wireless Access (FWA) Club Meeting, organized by SAMENA Telecommunications Council as part of GITEX Global 2025 in Dubai, UAE. The recognition highlights stc Kuwait’s pioneering leadership in the FWA market and its latest industry-first deployment of the FWA Mesh Experience Management Platform, which redefines indoor Wi-Fi performance. As part of the event, Eng. Turki AlQarefah, Director – Access Network Planning and Design at stc, participated as a speaker in a discussion held under the theme “Innovating the Future of FWA through 5G-A and AI.”

The FWA Mesh Experience Management Platform, launched earlier this year at Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2025 in Barcelona in collaboration with Huawei, represents a breakthrough in home broadband innovation. Through the integration of Intelligent RAN network-intelligence capabilities, the platform provides real-time analytics, proactive performance optimization, and visibility across end-to-end user connections. This milestone comes in parallel with stc’s launch of new 5G spectrum during 2025, further enhancing the quality of FWA connectivity across Kuwait. The award presented by SAMENA recognizes these advancements, while the discussion served as an opportunity for Eng. AlQarefah to share stc’s insights on the evolution of FWA 3.0 and the role of next-generation technologies in enabling smarter, faster, and more reliable digital ecosystems across the region.

FWA services have grown rapidly across the Middle East, driven by the rising demand for fast, stable, and secure broadband access in both residential and business segments. However, the region’s distinctive infrastructure and environmental characteristics, such as dense, heat-insulated building structures, create challenges for indoor signal penetration. To address these complexities, stc introduced an intelligent platform that continuously monitors service performance and ensures optimal Wi-Fi coverage through advanced mesh management. These efforts have positioned 5G Baity as the most popular FWA brand in Kuwait, de-



Eng. Turki AlQarefah, Director – Access Network Planning and Design, speaking during the panel discussion.



Eng. Turki AlQarefah, Director – Access Network Planning and Design, receiving the award.

living consistent speed, coverage, and reliability, and setting a new benchmark for customer satisfaction in the sector.

Commenting on this recognition, stc stated that the award recognizes the Company’s ongoing commitment to enabling digital transformation in Kuwait through innovation and advanced technological solutions. The Company continues to invest in state-of-the-art infrastructure and next-generation network management systems to enhance the quality of services offered to its valued customers. Focusing on intelligent connectivity and seamless user experiences, stc aims to ensure that its customers benefit from the full potential of 5G and beyond, supporting Kuwait’s position as a digitally advanced nation.

stc extended its appreciation to SAMENA Telecommunications Council for recognizing the Com-

pany’s achievements in transforming the regional FWA landscape. The Company affirmed that this milestone reflects stc’s dedication to setting new standards in service excellence and market innovation, as well as its ongoing mission to introduce new-to-market solutions that enrich the overall customer experience. Through these collective efforts, stc continues to build on its legacy as a key enabler of digital progress, contributing to Kuwait’s Vision 2035 and reinforcing its role as a trusted partner in the region’s digital evolution.

To find out more about stc’s events, promotions, and sponsorships, follow stc’s official social media platforms, visit one of stc’s branches, download mystc mobile application, visit www.stc.com.kw or contact the customer service center by dialing 102 for around the clock assistance.



Group photo during the event.

Experts urge greater public-private collaboration

KIB organizes forum on enhancing property valuation & transparency

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) successfully concluded its Third Real Estate Forum, held under the theme “Property Valuation and International Standards.” The event took place on October 15, 2025, at the Four Seasons Hotel, Burj Alshaya, gathering real estate experts, investors, company representatives, and government officials from across the sector. The forum reflects KIB’s ongoing commitment to enhancing transparency and efficiency within the property valuation sector, recognizing its vital role as one of the key pillars of the national economy.

The forum opened with a welcoming speech delivered by Jassim Al-Abdulhadi, General Manager of the Real Estate Department at KIB. In his remarks, he emphasized the importance of this event in strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors to advance property valuation practices in line with the highest international standards. He noted that the forum is part of KIB’s ongoing commitment to supporting innovation in the real estate sector, which plays a vital role in driving national economic growth and attracting foreign investment.

Following this, Emad Al Faraj, Vice Chairman of the Kuwait Real Estate Valuers Association delivered a speech in which he outlined the Association’s objectives as a non-profit public benefit organization. He highlighted its role in improving the professional environment for real estate appraisers in Kuwait, with a particular focus on implementing international standards across all valuation practices.

Al-Faraj stated: “We strive to enhance the efficiency of the appraisal profession by upholding the principles of transparency and integrity. These values strengthen confidence in Kuwait’s real estate market and safeguard investors’ interests.”

For his part, Eng. Fahad Adel Al-Saleh, Senior Manager of Real Estate Advisory and Digital Solutions at KIB’s Real Estate Department, delivered a presentation titled “Property Valuation and Digital Transformation: The KIB Experience.” During his presentation, he highlighted the Bank’s more than 50 years of combined practical and academic expertise in the real estate sector and showcased the latest digital advancements in the application KIB Aqari, which serves as a unified platform for all real estate needs.

In his turn, Regional Director of the International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC) for the Middle East and Africa Mo-

stafa Elkaliouby delivered an introductory presentation about the Council. He explained that the IVSC is an independent, non-profit organization headquartered in London, dedicated to advancing the valuation profession by setting standards for the valuation of various types of real estate assets, infrastructure assets, assets under construction, business establishments, intangible assets, and financial instruments.

Elkaliouby emphasized that the Council’s goal is to enhance the quality of valuation practices while promoting transparency, trust, and credibility in real estate markets worldwide. He added: “Amid global economic shifts, international standards have become an essential tool for ensuring market stability, and we remain committed to supporting Kuwait in adopting and implementing them.”

The forum concluded with a panel discussion titled “Real Estate Valuation in Kuwait: Between Challenges and Opportunities.” The session addressed key challenges facing the sector, such as the lack of digital regulations and professional training, and explored ways to overcome them through strategic partnerships with governmental and international entities.

Participants agreed that Kuwait’s real estate valuation market holds great promise and enjoys strong support from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, a factor that strengthens its role in supporting the national economy and advancing the goals of sustainable development and Kuwait Vision 2035.

The forum witnessed remarkable engagement from attendees, including a distinguished group of real estate investors, representatives from leading companies in the sector, and officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as well as the Kuwait Investment Authority. This event marks the third edition in KIB’s Real Estate Forum series, which aims to foster innovation and collaboration within the sector. It also comes amid expectations of launching additional initiatives in the near future to further support digital transformation in Kuwait’s real estate market.

The forum comes at a time when Kuwait’s real estate sector is experiencing notable growth, with the market surpassing USD 10 billion last year, according to recent economic reports. This underscores the importance of adopting international standards to ensure the sector’s sustainability and enhance its investment appeal.

What's On

SPOTLIGHT



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Expanding its social responsibility to include healthcare and medical awareness

Warba Bank sponsors the KNA and supports its health awareness podcast

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: As part of its comprehensive commitment to social responsibility and its efforts to broaden its contributions to include healthcare and medical awareness, Warba Bank announced its sponsorship of the Kuwait Nephrology Association (KNA) by supporting the production of an awareness podcast aimed at raising public understanding of kidney health, educating patients and promoting prevention of chronic kidney diseases.

This initiative comes as part of Warba Bank's participation in the First Comprehensive Kidney Care Exhibition held at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds on October 17 and 18, 2025, under the patronage of the Minister of Health. The Bank dedicated a media booth at the exhibition, where two educational podcast episodes were recorded. These episodes will be released soon on the social media platforms of the Kuwait Nephrology Association.

Dr. Mohammad Barakat, Chief Group Marketing and Corporate Communications Officer at Warba Bank, affirmed that this initiative reflects the Bank's commitment to expanding its social responsibility to include health and medical fields, emphasizing that genuine social responsibility extends beyond banking to improving the lives and wellbeing of the community.

"Warba Bank is working hand in hand with specialized medical associations and health organizations to enrich society with reliable medical knowledge and to support initiatives that promote health awareness and improve the quality of life for patients. This falls within our corporate social responsibility strategy, which focuses on investing in programs and campaigns that serve all segments of society," said Barakat.

He added: "Warba Bank aims to be an active partner in achieving sustainable development in Kuwait by supporting initiatives that raise awareness of societal and health issues and by empowering individuals to access the support they need to fulfill their aspirations."

From his side, Dr. Ahmad Al-Qallaf, Treasurer of the Kuwait Nephrology Association, expressed his appreciation for this strategic partnership, saying: "We deeply value this partnership with Warba Bank and consider it a model for genuine social responsibility. The support our association receives from leading national institutions is vital to delivering our awareness message about kidney diseases to the widest possible audience. We thank them for recognizing the importance of



Warba Bank sponsors Kuwait Nephrology Association awareness podcast.

this initiative and for providing support that goes beyond financial contribution, reflecting a true belief in the importance of raising health awareness and supporting patients."

He continued: "The mission of the Kuwait Nephrology Association is clear and focused: to raise community awareness of kidney diseases, provide reliable and simplified medical information to patients and their families, support them throughout their health journey and work toward preventing chronic kidney disease through education and early detection. We believe that knowledge is power and empowering patients with accurate information enables them to make better

health decisions and manage their conditions more effectively."

Educational Podcast Supervised by Specialist Doctors

The two podcast episodes feature a distinguished group of nephrology specialists discussing key preventive measures for maintaining kidney health, the latest medical practices in managing kidney diseases and practical advice for patients suffering from chronic kidney conditions. The episodes also include guidance for healthy individuals on how to prevent such illnesses.

These episodes aim to provide reliable, accessible medical information that helps patients and their families understand kidney diseases, manage them correctly and make informed health decisions. The initiative also seeks to raise public awareness about the importance of early detection and prevention of kidney diseases, which are among the most common chronic conditions globally.

Comprehensive and Diverse Social Responsibility

Warba Bank continues to implement community initiatives across multiple sectors, reaffirming its strong commitment to social responsibility and its active role in supporting Kuwait's sustainable development. This initiative is part of Warba Bank's comprehensive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy, known for its diversity and inclusiveness.

The Bank's CSR efforts cover education, heritage preservation, youth empowerment, support for people with disabilities, health and medical initiatives, cultural and sports sponsorships and participation in charitable and humanitarian activities.

Warba Bank remains dedicated to playing a leading role in serving the Kuwaiti community through initiatives that address the needs of all segments of society and contribute to sustainable development, based on its belief that true success is measured by how much it improves people's lives and wellbeing. This aligns with the Bank's vision, "Let's Own Tomorrow."

Warba Bank has achieved significant success in a short period, establishing itself as a pioneer in Islamic digital banking services. It is also among the local banks with the largest number of shareholders, bringing it closer to all segments of society. This achievement further reaffirms the Bank's position as a trusted financial partner that combines innovation with social responsibility in delivering best-in-class services and products.

'Honor reflects team's dedication'

Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait earns prestigious 'One MICHELIN Key'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya has been awarded the prestigious One MICHELIN Key by the MICHELIN Guide, bringing global recognition to Kuwait's luxury hospitality scene. The accolade celebrates hotels that deliver an exceptional stay distinguished by design excellence, authenticity, and personalised service.

This achievement marks a proud moment for the hotel and for Kuwait as a destination, affirming the country's growing presence on the international luxury map. At Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait, every experience is thoughtfully crafted, from the hotel's contemporary Arabesque design and panoramic city views to its signature dining venues and tranquil spa oasis. Each element reflects a deep dedication to craftsmanship, cultural connection, and the intuitive service that defines the Four Seasons brand.

"We are deeply honoured to receive this MICHELIN Key," says Martin Kipping, General Manager of Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya. "It is a recognition of our team's devotion to excellence and their ability to turn every moment into a meaningful experience for our guests. This milestone reflects not only the strength of our people but also Kuwait's evolution as a refined and sophisticated destination for travellers."

The MICHELIN Key, newly introduced by the MICHELIN Guide, serves as the hospitality world's counterpart to the MICHELIN Star. It acknowledges hotels that go beyond comfort and service to create a stay that feels truly special. Properties are evaluated on criteria such as design, service consistency, individuality, and



their contribution to the local experience, qualities embodied in every detail at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait.

"As a property, our vision has always been to inspire a sense of belonging and emotional connection," says Kapriel Kalerdian, Director of Public Relations and Communications. "This honour from the MICHELIN Guide reinforces the story we've been telling since day one: that genuine luxury is not only about what guests see, but what they feel. It is about creating moments that linger long after their stay."

With this international recognition, Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya joins a select group of hotels around the world celebrated for redefining excellence in hospitality. It stands as a symbol of Kuwait's contemporary spirit, where world-class design meets heartfelt service, and where every guest is welcomed with the warmth and elegance that define the Four Seasons experience.

Students and faculty join efforts to spread awareness and hope

Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait supports Breast Cancer Awareness Day at the Higher Institute of Communications & Navigation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait reaffirmed its strong commitment to community health and social responsibility by actively supporting the Breast Cancer Awareness Day organized by the Higher Institute of Communications and Navigation under the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

The event, held on Wednesday, October 21, 2025, at the institute's theater and lobby, aimed to raise awareness about breast cancer prevention, highlight the importance of early detection, and promote a culture of proactive health screening.

Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait's participation reflects its ongoing efforts to promote public health initiatives and support educational institutions in spreading awareness about vital health topics. As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework, Lulu contributed to the success of the event by providing wellness-themed giveaways, awareness materials, and active participation from Lulu team members in the campaign activities conducted during the event.

The Breast Cancer Awareness Day featured expert talks by healthcare professionals, educational presentations, and interactive sessions encouraging women to prioritize early screening and adopt healthy lifestyle choices.

The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and visitors who came together to spread the message of hope, strength, and solidarity in the fight against breast cancer.



Photos during the event.

Through initiatives like this, Lulu Hypermarket continues to strengthen its role as a responsible retail leader that goes beyond business to make a positive impact on the community – aligning with its mission to promote wellness, education, and social engagement across Kuwait.

Confirming its commitment to enhancing community experiences in Kuwait

talabat partners with TEC to sponsor Winter Wonderland Kuwait Season 4

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: In preparation for one of Kuwait's most anticipated seasonal attractions, talabat, the leading on-demand online ordering platform in the MENA region, announced its strategic partnership with the Touristic Enterprise Company (TEC) to sponsor the fourth season of Winter Wonderland Kuwait. The partnership was formalized during a signing ceremony held at talabat's headquarters in Kuwait, underscoring its commitment to enriching community experiences and supporting recreational activities across the country.

Every year, Winter Wonderland transforms Kuwait into a vibrant festive destination, making it the highlight of the winter season. With world-class rides, games, food experiences, and amusing entertainment journeys, it draws crowds in droves, creating unforgettable memories for families, children and youth alike.

This year, visitors can expect a new level of experience, as talabat transforms the restaurant area into an immersive hub of curated experience and entertainment, showcasing its diverse network of partners. Guests can conveniently order



Abdullah Almansour, Director of Communications and Public Affairs at talabat Kuwait, with Abdullah Alrafeea, Acting Marketing Manager at Touristic Enterprises Company, during the signing ceremony.

food and beverages through the talabat app and collect them at the restaurant, making the experience faster, easier and effortlessly seamless. Throughout the season, talabat will host a lineup of interactive activations, hands-on activities and lively entertainment, keeping visitors engaged and energized at every turn.

"Our strategic partnership with TEC reflects talabat's on-

going mission to not only deliver convenience in food, grocery and retail, but also play an active role in supporting community-driven experiences across Kuwait," said Abdullah Almansour, Director of Communications and Public Affairs of talabat Kuwait. "We're always looking for innovative ways to connect with customers beyond the digital space. By bridging technology, food and



Abdullah Almansour and Abdullah Alrafeea with talabat Kuwait and TEC teams following the signing.

entertainment, we're redefining how digital convenience can smoothly extend into real-world experiences, supporting Kuwait's vision for world-class recreational offerings and elevating the country's tourism and entertainment industry."

Abdullah Alrafeea, Acting Marketing Manager at Touristic Enterprises Company, said: "Touristic Enterprises Company is committed to providing ad-

vanced services that enhance visitors' experiences during the fourth season of Winter Wonderland Kuwait. The inclusion of talabat as a strategic sponsor reflects this commitment, as its innovative solutions and convenient services will enrich and simplify the experience for all our guests inside the park."

Beyond being a leading online ordering platform, talabat stands as a true partner to the

Kuwaiti community, a key supporter of local initiatives and an enabler of immersive experiences. The company actively supports national initiatives that elevate local tourism, a pivotal sector and economic driver for sustainable development, while helping position Kuwait as a premier destination for recreation and entertainment, in line with the goals of Vision 2035.

Singer celebrated for musical legacy, humanitarian work

MusiCares names Carey its 2026 Person of the Year

NEW YORK, Oct 22, (AP): MusiCares, an organization that helps music professionals who need financial, personal or medical assistance, will honor Mariah Carey as its 2026 Person of the Year.

The organization announced Tuesday that it will honor the five-time Grammy Award winning artist for providing support to many different underserved communities. Those efforts include providing relief for those impacted by Hurricane Katrina and the COVID-19 pandemic as well as founding Camp Mariah to support underserved youth and advance health, education and social welfare.

Carey will be honored at the 35th annual Person of the Year benefit gala at the Los Angeles Conven-

tion Center on Jan. 30, two nights before the 2025 Grammy Awards are held at the adjacent Crypto.com Arena.

The announcement arrives on heels of “Here for It All,” her first studio album in seven years, out last month.

“I think songwriting has definitely been my outlet for what I need when I’m ever going through something,” Carey told The Associated Press in September. “Whenever I’m feeling like the need to express myself. It’s definitely songwriting.”

“Mariah Carey’s influence extends far beyond her remarkable artistry,” MusiCares executive director Theresa Wolters said in a statement. “Her work exemplifies the values at the heart of MusiCares: cre-

ating systems of care that lift people up and ensure music professionals and communities can thrive.”

Harvey Mason jr., CEO of the Recording Academy and MusiCares, described Carey as “a true creative force and once-in-a-generation talent,” in a statement. “Her artistry and her voice have helped shape the sound of our times. We look forward to celebrating her remarkable career on this very special night.”

Last year, MusiCares honored the Grateful Dead as its 2025 Persons of the Year for their philanthropic efforts, their unique ability to foster community through concerts and for their impact on American music on their 60th anniversary. The year prior, Jon Bon Jovi was honored.



Mariah Carey poses for a portrait on Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Variety

PARK CITY, Utah: Robert Redford’s legacy and mission was always going to be a key component of the 2026 Sundance Film Festival, which will be the last of its kind in Park City, Utah. But in the wake of his death in September

at age 89, those ideas took on a new significance. This January, the institute that Redford founded over 40 years ago, plans to honor his career and impact with and a screening of his first truly independent film, the 1969 sports drama “Downhill Racer,” and a series of legacy screenings of restored Sundance gems from “Little Miss Sunshine” to “House Party,” festival organizers said Tuesday.

“As we were thinking about how best to honor



Redford

Mr. Redford’s legacy, it’s not only carrying forward this notion of ‘everyone has a story’ but it’s also getting together in a movie theater and watching a film that really embodies that independent spirit,” festival director Eugene Hernandez told The Associated Press. “We’ve had some incredible artists reach out to us, even in the past few weeks since Mr. Redford’s passing, who just want to be part of this year’s festival.”

Archival screenings will include “Saw,” “Mysterious Skin,” “House Party,” and “Humpday” as well as the 35th anniversary of Barbara Kopple’s documentary “American Dream,” and 20th anniversaries of “Half Nelson” and “Little Miss Sunshine,” with some of the filmmakers expected to attend as well.

“Over the almost 30 years of Sundance Institute’s collaboration with our partner, the UCLA Film & Television Archive, we’ve not only worked to ensure that the Festival’s legacy endures through film preservation, but we’ve seen that output feed an astonishing resurgence of repertory cinema programming across the country,” said festival programmer John Nein. “The films we’ve preserved and the newly restored films screening at this year’s festival, including some big anniversaries, are an important way to keep the independent stories from years past alive in our culture today.”

Tickets for the 2026 festival, which runs from Jan. 22 through Feb. 1, go on sale Wednesday at noon Eastern, with online and in person options. Some planning is also already underway for the festival’s new home in Boulder, Colorado, in 2027, but programmers are heads down figuring out the slate of world premieres for January. Those will be revealed in December. (AP)

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SANTA FE, N.M.: An auction house plans to sell off a variety of actor Gene Hackman’s possessions in November, including Golden Globe statues, a wristwatch and paintings he collected and created himself.

Hackman died at age 95 at his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after transitioning from an Oscar-winning career in film to a life in retirement of painting, writing novels and collecting.

Auction items include a still-life painting of a Japanese vase by Hackman and Golden Globe awards from roles in “Unforgiven” and “The Royal Tenenbaums.” There are annotated books from Hackman’s library, scripts, posters, movie memorabilia - and high-brow art including a bronze statue by Auguste Rodin and a 1957 oil painting from modernist Milton Avery.

Anna Hicks of Bonhams international auction house said the sales “offer an intimate portrait of Hackman’s private world.”

Listings start as low as \$100 for Hackman’s everydayman Winmau dart board or \$600 for a shot at his Seiko diver’s wristwatch.

The catalog includes a likeness of Hackman from portrait artist Everett Raymond Kinstler, who painted U.S. presidents and drew for comic books.

Hackman and his wife, Betsy Arakawa, were found dead inside their home on Feb. 26 - sending shock waves through a high-desert city refuge for famous actors and authors seeking to escape the spotlight. Authorities determined that Hackman died of heart disease with complications from Alzheimer’s disease about a week after Arakawa, 65, died of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, a rare but potentially fatal disease spread by the droppings of infected rodents.

Hackman made his film debut in 1961’s “Mad Dog Coll” and went on to appear in a range of movie roles, including as “Superman” villain Lex Luthor and as a basketball coach finding redemption in the sentimental favorite “Hoosiers.” He was a five-time Oscar nominee who won best actor in a leading role for “The French Connection” in 1972 and best actor in a supporting role for “Unforgiven” two decades later.

He retired from acting in the early 2000s. (AP)

Film



This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Jeremy Allen White as Bruce Springsteen in a scene from ‘Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere.’ (AP)

An endearing and humbling portrait of a music icon

White is a tortured Boss in ‘Springsteen’

LOS ANGELES, Oct 22, (AP): In his 500-page memoir, “Born to Run,” Bruce Springsteen spends less than three pages on the making of his 1982 album “Nebraska.” Moving on, folks, nothing to see here, he seems to be saying.

The first authorized biopic of his life - “Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere” - disagrees, delving deep into the inner turmoil The Boss was dealing with during its recording and then surfacing with an endearing, humbling portrait of an icon by a soulful Jeremy Allen White.

With heavy-lidded eyes and his head nearly almost cocked at an angle, White gives us a wretched Springsteen, open-mouthed in ecstasy when playing live but sunken in his leather jacket while roaming the streets. He sucks on his harmonica as if it could release him from pain itself.

To be honest, White hasn’t stepped much out of his handgrip, tortured sweet spot. He’s the chair of the Tortured Poets Department.

The anti-commercial “Nebraska” is not the first album you might think of when you imagine pivotal Springsteen albums. “Born to Run” was made on the verge of him being cut by Columbia Records. “Born in the U.S.A.” turned him into a global superstar.

Scott Cooper, the film’s director and screenwriter, finds “Nebraska,” nestled between those albums, to be the more enlightening.

It seemed painfully pulled through Springsteen and deposited on a rudimentary four-track cassette recorder in a rented house in Colts Neck, New Jersey. Springsteen wants it released as is, imperfections and miscues intact.

“Nebraska” may be a masterpiece but it’s not

an easy listen, filled with broken and desperate people, killers, heavy drinkers, inmates and folks pushed to the edge by poverty and hopelessness. “Definitely not ‘Hungry Heart,’” says the tech who helped record it.

“It’s not about capturing sounds as much as ideas,” Springsteen tells his manager, Jon Landau, played lovingly by “Succession” star Jeremy Strong. “I’m just trying to find something real in all the noise.”

This Landau, who quotes Flannery O’Connor and adores Sam Cooke, is almost saintly in his devotion to Springsteen, even if he’s not sure where the songs are coming from.

Encouraging

We all need someone like Landau - endlessly encouraging, creating creative space for his client and beating back the suits.

The record executives are, naturally, aghast at “Nebraska,” which is called a “highly unorthodox career move.” They want radio hits not acoustic doodles of felons. “It sounds like an accident. It sounds unfinished,” record honcho Al Teller declares.

The movie - built from a book by Warren Zanes and featuring vocals that mix White’s and Springsteen’s - is a meditation on creativity in battle with commerciality, the yearn to run from home and also the inescapable pull of family. “I’m lost here. I’m buried here,” Springsteen wails.

Though grounded in the weeks during the making of “Nebraska,” the script moves back in time to show scenes from Bruce’s early life.

A drive to his old house dissolves into black-and-

white, memories of Springsteen’s father (“Adolescence” creator-star Stephen Graham, fearsome) being violent and drunk. Their complicated relationship is thoughtfully handled. (The movie is dedicated to Cooper’s dad.)

As if that’s not enough, Springsteen’s love life is explored through a composite character, Faye, a single mom and waitress who falls for a guy incapable at this time of settling down. Odessa Young is astonishing - half tough Jersey chick, half melting when The Boss stops by. “I know you’re scared,” she tells him.

There are also special moments for true Springsteen fans, like the time a young Bruce visits a graceful old house that will, of course, be the inspiration for “Mansion on a Hill.” Or the moment when Springsteen edits his “Nebraska” lyrics, changing “he” to “I.”

The film rather courageously culminates with a call for Springsteen to get mental health help, which he does.

We soon realize that what we’ve been watching for two hours is a man’s gradual breakdown, not what most biopics of superstars would pull the curtain back on. In many ways, this movie is, then, a mirror of “Nebraska” itself - unexpected, complicated and very American gothic.

“Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere,” a Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures release that’s in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for thematic material, some sexuality, strong language and smoking. Running time: 117 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.



Kenny Loggins performs at the 2023 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival on April 30, 2023. (AP)

Loggins demands removal of Trump’s AI video using ‘Danger Zone’

NEW YORK, Oct 22, (AP): Kenny Loggins is objecting to the use of his music in a social media post showing an artificial intelligence-generated video of President Donald Trump dumping excrement from a fighter jet on last weekend’s “No Kings” protests.

The video, posted Saturday night on the Republican president’s Truth Social platform, was accompanied by Loggins’ song “Danger Zone,” which appears on the soundtrack of the blockbuster 1986 Tom Cruise fighter pilot movie “Top Gun.” Loggins, in a statement Monday on his website, said he was not asked for permission and called for the video to be removed.

“I can’t imagine why anybody would want

their music used or associated with something created with the sole purpose of dividing us,” Loggins wrote. “Too many people are trying to tear us apart, and we need to find new ways to come together. We’re all Americans, and we’re all patriotic.”

As of Tuesday morning, the video remained on Truth Social. Numerous musicians, including Adele and Bruce Springsteen, have objected over the past decade to Trump’s use of their material at campaign rallies and elsewhere.

Representatives for Loggins responded to The Associated Press’ request for additional comment Tuesday by reissuing his statement from the day before. The White House responded to

a request for comment with a still from “Top Gun” with the caption “I FEEL THE NEED FOR SPEED,” paraphrasing one of the film’s famous lines.

Trump has used music on AI videos at other times, including Blue Oyster Cult’s “Don’t Fear the Reaper” on a post in early October about Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought.

Large crowds turned out around the country Saturday for the latest round of “No Kings” rallies, at which participants denounced what they see as the authoritarian policies of the president. Trump on Sunday dismissed the rallies as a “joke” and told reporters, “I’m no king.”

‘AI tools threaten humanity’

Prince Harry, Meghan join call for AI ‘superintelligence’ ban

NEW YORK, Oct 22, (AP): Prince Harry and his wife Meghan have joined prominent computer scientists, economists, artists, evangelical Christian leaders and American conservative commentators Steve Bannon and Glenn Beck to call for a ban on AI “superintelligence” that threatens humanity.

The letter, released Wednesday by a politically and geographically diverse group of public figures, is squarely aimed at tech giants like Google, OpenAI and Meta Platforms that are racing each other to build a form of artificial intelligence designed to surpass humans at many tasks.

The 30-word statement says: “We call for a prohibition on the development of superintelligence, not lifted before there is broad scientific consensus that it will be done safely and controllably, and strong public buy-in.”

In a preamble, the letter notes that AI tools may bring health and prosper-



Meghan Markle, left, and Prince Harry, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, attend the third annual World Mental Health Day Gala, hosted by Project Healthy Minds, at Spring Studios on Thursday, Oct. 9, in New York. (AP)

ity, but alongside those tools, “many leading AI companies have the stated goal of building superintelligence in the coming decade that can significantly outperform all humans on essentially all cognitive tasks. This has raised concerns, ranging from human economic obsolescence and disempowerment, losses of freedom, civil liberties, dignity, and control, to national security risks and even potential human extinction.”

Prince Harry added in a personal note that “the future of AI should serve humanity, not replace it. I believe the true test of progress will be not how fast we move, but how wisely we steer. There is no second chance.”

Signing alongside the Duke of Sussex was his wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex.

“This is not a ban or even a moratorium in the usual sense,” wrote another signatory, Stuart Russell, an AI pioneer and computer science professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

“It’s simply a proposal to require adequate safety measures for a technology that, according to its developers, has a significant chance to cause human extinction. Is that too much to ask?”

Also signing were AI pioneers Yoshua Bengio and Geoffrey Hinton, co-winners of the Turing Award, computer science’s top prize. Hinton also won a Nobel Prize in physics last year. Both have been vocal in bringing attention to the dangers of a technology they helped create.

But the list also has some surprises, including Bannon and Beck, in an attempt by the letter’s organizers at the nonprofit Future of Life Institute to appeal to President Donald Trump’s Make America Great Again movement even as Trump’s White House staff has sought to reduce limits to AI development in the U.S.

Also on the list are Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak; British billionaire Richard Branson; the former Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike

Mullen, who served under Republican and Democratic administrations; and Democratic foreign policy expert Susan Rice, who was national security adviser to President Barack Obama.

Former Irish President Mary Robinson and several British and European parliamentarians signed, as did actors Stephen Fry and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and musician will.i.am, who has otherwise embraced AI in music creation.

“Yeah, we want specific AI tools that can help cure diseases, strengthen national security, etc.,” wrote Gordon-Levitt, whose wife Tasha McCauley served on OpenAI’s board of directors before the upheaval that led to CEO Sam Altman’s temporary ouster in 2023. “But does AI also need to imitate humans, groom our kids, turn us all into slop junkies and make zillions of dollars serving ads? Most people don’t want that.”

The letter is likely to provoke ongoing debates between the AI research

community about the likelihood of superhuman AI, the technical paths to reach it and how dangerous it could be.

“In the past, it’s mostly been the nerds versus the nerds,” said Max Tegmark, president of the Future of Life Institute and a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “I feel what we’re really seeing here is how the criticism has gone very mainstream.”

Confounding the broader debates is that the same companies that are striving toward what some call superintelligence and others call artificial general intelligence, or AGI, are also sometimes inflating the capabilities of their products, which can make them more marketable and have contributed to concerns about an AI bubble. OpenAI was recently met with ridicule from mathematicians and AI scientists when its researcher claimed ChatGPT had figured out unsolved math problems - when what it really did was find and summarize what was already online.

Art



Photos from the opening of the ‘A Gaze Elsewhere’ exhibition by Italian ambassador at CAP and jazz concert ‘It’s Time.’

Italian Ambassador Lorenzo Morini opens Fiorentini’s art exhibition at CAP

The Italian Ambassador, Lorenzo Morini inaugurated yesterday evening, Tuesday, an art exhibition by Italian artist Federico Fiorentini, titled “A Gaze Elsewhere,” at the Contemporary Art Platform (CAP), in the presence of a many visitors and art lovers. The exhibition featured a magnificent collection of contemporary paintings by Fiorentini, which received the public’s interest and appreciation.

The exhibition was followed by a jazz concert titled “It’s Time,” featuring saxophonist, Gabriele Buonasorte and ensemble, who enlivened the evening with a wonderful selection of jazz music.

The following is a speech by the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait delivered during the opening of the exhibition:

“Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,
“Good evening and welcome to the opening of the exhibition “A Gaze

Elsewhere. Visions from a Moving Memory.”

“It is a great pleasure to have you all here this evening and allow me in the first place to express my gratitude to the Contemporary Art Platform for hosting us in this wonderful gallery.

“It is indeed a great privilege for the Italian Embassy to collaborate with such an important institution, that plays a fundamental role in promoting art, culture and creativity among Kuwaiti public.

“This evening, we are here to admire and celebrate the remarkable work of the Italian artist Federico Fiorentini, whose extraordinary talent and unique perspective have captivated us. Federico’s work is a testament to the power of art to question, reflect, and share human experience.

“In looking at Federico’s creations, we are drawn to the depth of his

vision, while admiring from a different perspective a series of elements that are part of our daily life. The pieces on display, come together to form a rich, layered narrative, pushing us to contemplate in a new, unexpected way the architectural landscape surrounding us and some of the most iconic examples of industrial design of our time.

“It is indeed a unique experience and I want to express my gratitude to Federico for trusting us with his vision.

“I would like to conclude by thanking my staff for their invaluable support and, without further ado, I declare the exhibition officially open.

“Please, enjoy the art and we wait for you all at the Jazz Concert that will follow this opening.

“Thank you very much”

Stolen French crown jewels may be lost forever: experts

Louvre reopens 3 days after daring jewels theft

PARIS, Oct 22, (AP): The Louvre reopened Wednesday morning, three days after thieves forced open a window and stole French crown jewels in a daring, daylight raid on the museum.

The Apollo Room where the theft occurred remained closed to visitors, while crowds - hundreds deep - waited outside the museum’s glass pyramid entrance.

The Louvre is normally closed on Tuesday and had been shut since the theft for investigation.

No arrests have been announced, and the stolen jewels remain missing.

The Paris prosecutor said Tuesday that the stolen crown jewels were worth an estimated 88 million euros (\$102 million), not including their historical value to France.

About 100 investigators are involved in the police pursuit of the suspects and jewels after Sunday’s theft from the world’s most-visited museum.

The glittering sapphires, emeralds, and diamonds that once adorned France’s royals could well be gone forever, experts said Tuesday after a brazen, four-minute heist in broad daylight left the nation stunned and the government struggling to explain a new debacle at the Louvre.

Each stolen piece - an emerald necklace and earrings, two crowns, two brooches, a sapphire necklace and a single earring - represents the pinnacle of 19th century “haute joaillerie,” or fine jewelry. But for the royals, they were more than decoration. The pieces



Visitors queue to enter the Louvre museum three days after historic jewels were stolen in a daring daylight heist, Oct. 22, in Paris. (AP)

were political statements of France’s wealth, power and cultural import. And they are so significant that they were among the treasures saved from the government’s 1887 auction of most royal jewels.

The theft of the crown jewels left the French government scrambling - again - to explain the latest embarrassment at the Louvre, which is plagued by overcrowding and outdated facilities. Activists in 2024 threw a can of soup at the Mona Lisa. And in June, the museum was brought to a halt by its own striking staff, who complained about mass tourism. President Emmanuel Macron has announced that the

Mona Lisa, stolen by a former museum worker in 1911 and recovered two years later, will get its own room under a major renovation.

Now the sparkling jewels, artifacts of a French culture of long ago, are likely being secretly dismantled and sold off in a rush as individual pieces that may or may not be identifiable as part of the French crown jewels, experts said.

“It’s extremely unlikely these jewels will ever be retrieved and seen again,” said Tobias Kormind, managing director of 77 Diamonds, a major European diamond jeweler, said in a statement.

“If these gems are broken up and sold off, they will, in effect, vanish from history and be lost to the world forever.”

At once intimate and public, crown jewels are kept secured from the Tower of London to Tokyo’s Imperial Palace as visual symbols of national identities.

In the Louvre’s case, the gems were stolen from the former palace’s gilded Apollo Gallery, itself a work of art rendered in “sun, gold and diamonds,” per the museum’s website. Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said more than 60 police investigators are involved in the manhunt for the four robbery suspects. The thieves were divided into two pairs, with two people aboard a truck with a cherry picker they used to climb up to the gallery, Nunez said. Photos showed the equipment’s ladder reaching to the floor above street level.

Legendary Greek singer Savvopoulos dies at 80

ATHENS, Greece, Oct 22, (AP): Popular Greek singer-songwriter **Dionysis Savvopoulos**, known for his allegorical and deeply poetic lyrics that commented on Greek politics, identity and society, has died. He was 80.



A prominent figure on the Greek cultural and intellectual scene, Savvopoulos died Tuesday night, his family announced on his official social media account. The musician had been hospitalized in recent days, and had been battling cancer for several years.

Known by his nickname Nionios - a commonly used nickname for Dionysis - Savvopoulos rose to prominence in the 1960s, gaining national fame with his subtly revolutionary songs during the 1967-1974 military dictatorship. He was briefly imprisoned by the junta, and his songs became anthems of resistance for youths and dissidents in Greece. Tributes to Savvopoulos poured in from across the Greek political and cultural world.

“I don’t want to believe it, but our Dionysis is no longer here,” Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis posted on his social media account. “Savvopoulos is gone, leaving behind a strong imprint on music, on lyrics and on public style. Because with his work and stance, he proved that he was a wonderful songwriter. A sensitive Greek.”

Born in Thessaloniki on Dec. 2, 1944, Savvopoulos studied law but never completed his studies. He moved to Athens in 1963 and began pursuing his musical career, performing in small music clubs in the Greek capital.

Kuwait Dermatologists Association partners with Genpharm

Psoriasis affects up to 3 percent of Kuwait’s population: experts

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Dr. Atfal Khaled Al-Lafi, President of the Kuwait Dermatologists Association, confirmed that psoriasis is considered one of the chronic skin diseases, noting that Kuwait has around 67,000 patients, representing between 1% and 3% of the population.

This came during the signing of a strategic partnership agreement between the Kuwait Dermatologists Association and Genpharm, aimed at enhancing education and innovation in the field of dermatology both within Kuwait and abroad.

Al-Lafi explained that this agreement represents a model of cooperation between the medical and pharmaceutical sectors, as Genpharm will contribute to supporting the Association’s activities in scientific research, medical knowledge development, and educational and awareness initiatives targeting both physicians and patients.

She added that this partnership will open new horizons for communication between dermatologists in Kuwait and their counterparts in neighboring countries, emphasizing that the coming period will witness expanded Gulf cooperation and exchange of scientific expertise in this vital field.

For her part, Dr. Abeer Al-Bathali, Secretary of the Kuwait Dermatologists Association, highlighted the significant progress and therapeutic breakthrough in dermatological diseases in general, and psoriasis in particular. She affirmed that the Ministry of Health spares no effort in providing all necessary medications and is preparing to launch new topical treatments for chronic psoriasis soon, including Enstilar, a once-daily treatment characterized by fast absorption and rapid



Kuwait Dermatologists Association and Genpharm sign strategic partnership to boost psoriasis care and research.



clinical improvement compared to traditional formulations – representing a qualitative addition to improving patients’ quality of life.

Dr. Al-Bathali concluded by stressing the importance of the agreement in supporting research and continuous medical education (CME), benefiting both patients and the medical community in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Kareem Smaira, CEO of Genpharm, stated that the partnership with the Kuwait Dermatologists Association represents a significant milestone in the development of dermatological care in Kuwait. He noted that the company places great emphasis on empowering physicians and providing them with the latest therapeutic innovations.

He added that through its ongoing educational initiatives, Genpharm seeks to raise the standard of patient care and ensure that patients have access to the most advanced scientific developments in specialized dermatological treatments.

Al-Lafi:
■ We strive to enhance education and innovation in dermatology.

Al-Bathali:
■ A quantum leap in the treatment of chronic psoriasis in the country.

New brain imaging tool

China launches new MRI platform for BCI research

TIANJIN, Oct 22, (Xinhua): The world’s first magnetic resonance platform customized for brain-computer interface (BCI) technology was recently launched in north China’s Tianjin Municipality. The platform has established a neuroimaging magnetic resonance system, providing key support for the research and development of next-generation BCI technology.

As the most complex and sophisticated organ of human, the brain has about 86 billion neurons connected by more than 100 trillion synapses. For such a complex neural network, the question of how to detect and analyze full-brain scalp electroencephalogram (EEG) signals, which contain vast amounts of information but are very weak, has always been a major challenge for the BCI industry.

The Haihe Laboratory of Brain-Computer Interaction and Human-Machine Integration at Tianjin University, Shanghai United Imaging Healthcare, and other research institutions utilized the spatial-temporal resolution capability of magnetic resonance equipment to achieve non-invasive and high spatial-temporal resolution in vivo analysis of the whole brain.

The new platform can simultaneously perform nuclear magnetic imaging and EEG recording, accurately capture subtle changes in brain activity, locate the position of these activities with sub-millimeter accuracy, and capture the timing of brain activities with sub-second speed.

Additionally, it can precisely regulate the brain using ultrasound and electrical stimulation technology, with the regulation process linked to the imaging system in real time. This enables synchronous coordination of observation and intervention, providing brain researchers with a three-dimensional and dynamic research perspective.

Zhang Qiang, chairman of Shanghai United Imaging Healthcare, said

that the platform is expected to facilitate the practical BCI application in the medical and healthcare field, such as mental disease evaluation, severe neurological monitoring and rehabilitation training, and promote BCI technology from “decoding signals” to “understanding the brain.”

In other development, the 28th Chinese medical team in Togo on Saturday held a free medical consultation and donated medicines for vulnerable children in a village near Lome, the Togolese capital.

A total of 32 children from the “Lueur d’Espoir” (Ray of Hope) orphanage in the village of Yope Kope, located about 60 km northwest of Lome, received general, trauma, surgical and ophthalmologic check-ups.

The initiative was part of the “China-Togo Solidarity Medical Consultations 2025” project, launched in March under the theme “Acting Together for a Better Future for Children.” Guo Juanjuan, head of the 28th Chinese medical team, expressed satisfaction with the successful consultations, noting that her team will “always remain attentive to children in need.”

She said the Chinese medical mission is committed to fostering lasting friendship with the African people by offering its professional expertise in the spirit of friendship and compassion to preserve patients’ hope.

One of the beneficiaries was 10-year-old Moumoune Dado, who suffers from a condition requiring surgery, along with two other children. She said she is delighted to learn that Chinese doctors will perform the surgery free of charge to relieve her pain.

Tokpo Tawa Sefako, director of the orphanage, said she is “very happy” that her center has been chosen for the volunteer consultations, which provide a health assessment for each child.

“This is valuable assistance, especially with the donation of medicines,” she said.



A group photo of participants at the Cardiomatobolic Diseases Summit in Kuwait.

Kuwait reports 10,200 heart attacks in 18 months

65 percent of heart attack patients in Kuwait suffer from hypertension

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Around 10,200 patients in local hospitals experienced acute heart attacks over the past 18 months, and 65 percent of these patients suffered from high blood pressure, while 55 percent have diabetes, says Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Heart Association Professor Dr. Mohammad Zubaid.

Zubaid made the statement Tuesday at the opening of the Cardiomatobolic Diseases Developments Conference and the Cardiomatobolic Diseases Summit, organized by the Cardiology Department at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital in cooperation with the Association, with participation of several doctors and specialists in various medical specializations.

He pointed out that the third edition

of the conference discussed cardiomatobolic syndrome and its impact on heart health, indicating that this syndrome results from a combination of factors, such as high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes and high cholesterol, leading to multiple diseases affecting the heart, kidneys and liver.

He revealed that treatment for these conditions includes lifestyle changes, drug therapy and surgical intervention, as well as modern techniques such as catheterization to treat high blood pressure. He affirmed that the conference received a great response from doctors and attendees, with the aim of raising the level of medical knowledge to better serve the patients.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the conference, cardiology and catheterization consultant at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, and member of the Association Dr. Abdullah Ismail disclosed that the goals of the scientific event are to so-

lidity integration between cardiology and metabolism specialties, and highlight the latest treatment guidelines and modern techniques in line with Kuwait’s vision for continuous medical development.

He added the conference includes three main sessions on hypertension, obesity and diabetes, addressing the latest drug and surgical treatments, and the role of endoscopy and modern techniques in improving treatment outcomes.

Conference Chairman, cardiology and catheterization consultant and member of the Association Dr. Fahd Al-Hajri confirmed that the organizing committee was keen to include various specialties, such as obesity surgery, endocrinology, diabetes, gastroenterology, and internal medicine, with the aim of exchanging expertise and improving the medical services provided to patients.

Deaths rise

Dengue grips Bangladesh

DHAKA, Oct 22, (Xinhua): A total of 814 people were diagnosed with dengue fever in Bangladesh in the past 24 hours on Tuesday, said the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under the Ministry of Health.

With the fresh infections reported as of 8 a.m. local time Tuesday, the number of dengue cases has surged to 61,605 in Bangladesh so far this year, the DGHS said.

Also in the same period, four people died due to the mosquito-borne disease, bringing the total number of dengue-related deaths this year to 253, the DGHS said.

So far in October, 14,263 dengue cases were recorded after 15,866 people were infected with the disease in September, according to the DGHS, which confirmed. While 55 deaths were reported so far in October, there were 76 deaths in September and 39 in August, the DGHS said.

Meanwhile, over 40,000 dengue cases have been reported in Sri Lanka from Jan. 1 to Monday, said the National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU) on Tuesday.

A total of 40,633 dengue cases have been reported, Community Medical Specialist Prashila Samaraweera said, adding that a majority of the cases have been reported from the Western Province, the most populous area of Sri Lanka.

■ ■ ■

Measles: The total number of measles cases in Mongolia has increased to 13,532, the country’s National Center for Communicable Diseases (NCCD) said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the total number of recoveries has reached 13,514. Currently, seven people remained in hospital, the NCCD said in a statement.

The majority of new measles infections were among school-age children who had only one shot of the measles vaccine, it said.

In view of this, the NCCD advised parents to protect their children from a potentially severe disease by getting them two doses of the measles vaccine.

Low vaccination fuels measles, whooping cough

Wave of anti-science bills threatens US public health protections: study

WASHINGTON, Oct 22, (AP): A wave of anti-science bills has been introduced in statehouses across America this year, pushed by people with special interests who have close ties to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

An Associated Press investigation found more than 420 bills attacking longstanding public health protections such as vaccines, milk safety and fluoride in most states. More than two dozen have already been enacted or adopted.

They are part of an organized, politically savvy effort that normalizes ideas fueled by the anti-vaccine movement that Kennedy has helped lead for years. His Make America Healthy Again agenda masks anti-science ideas while promoting goals such as making food more natural or reducing chemicals. Meanwhile, vaccination rates continue to fall, allowing the infectious diseases measles and whooping cough to make comebacks as Kennedy has sought to broadly remake federal policies on public health matters including fluoride and vaccines. Kennedy’s allies dispute that their agenda is anti-science or driven by conspiracy theories, but many experts disagree.

Here are some key takeaways from AP’s investigation.

The AP focused on three public health policies - vaccines, fluoridation of water and milk safety - which have clear medical evidence behind them yet are targets of the MAHA movement. AP searched 2025 legislation in all 50 states, analyzing bills collected by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the bill-tracking software Plural for whether



Ashlee and Erik Dahlberg hold a photo of their late son, Liam, in their home in Lowell, Ind., on Aug. 12, 2025. (AP)

they undermined science-based protections for human health.

Anti-vaccine bills - at least 350 of them - were by far the most common. Most haven’t passed, but at least two dozen anti-vaccine laws have been adopted in 11 states this year.

AP found more than 70 bills that would roll back access to fluoride or make it easier to sell or consume raw milk products. Many fluoride bills would prohibit its addition to water systems outright.

Most of the bills that were enacted were supported by at least one of four national groups connected to Kennedy: MAHA Action, Stand for Health Freedom, the National Vaccine Information Center and the Weston A. Price Foundation. The groups also opposed dozens of science-driven bills.

The groups AP tracked send out

alerts, organize phone campaigns, flood lawmakers’ inboxes and social media, hold Zoom calls with activists nationwide, and send members to testify in statehouses.

Their work reflects the small anti-vaccine movement’s growing clout, said Northe Saunders, president of American Families for Vaccines. Advocates know how to raise money for candidates and create anti-vaccine champions and use legislative maneuvers to hold up some bills and help others past hurdles, he said.

“They’re really a sophisticated political operation as opposed to just a couple of parents that don’t want to vaccinate their kids,” Saunders said.

The groups defended their advocacy, and some leaders said they were gratified by their success. NVIC’s leader said the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic was heavy-handed and a wake-up call in state legislatures, where “lawmakers understood the danger to liberty posed by vaccine mandates.”

One MAHA leader who has joined the Zoom calls said his positions “are rooted in credible scientific literature and the public’s right to make informed choices,” while the current leader of MAHA Action said the point of the calls is to educate people. He objected to the term anti-science, saying, “It’s just an inflammatory statement meant to get millions of people to think something bad is happening.”

The president of Weston Price told AP the benefits of raw milk are immense and the risks minimal, denying that such beliefs are conspiracies.

First case of new mpox variant in Netherlands

Taiwan reports first swine fever case

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Oct 22, (Agencies): Taiwan reported its first cases of African swine fever on Wednesday and authorities culled at least 195 pigs and ordered a ban on the movement and slaughter of pigs across the island.

The Ministry of Agriculture said that samples from dead pigs from a farm in the coastal city of Taichung had tested positive for African swine fever on Tuesday.

Animal protection and quarantine authorities immediately went to the farm and “preventively culled 195 pigs,” the ministry said. The authorities then supervised the cleaning and disinfection of the farm and established a control zone with a radius of 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) from the center of the affected farm.

Authorities also ordered a five-day ban on the movement and slaughtering of pigs across the island starting at noon on Wednesday.

Taiwan will isolate the virus strain before officially reporting it to the World Organization of Animal Health, Agriculture Minister Chen Junne-jih said in a press conference.

“However, virus isolation takes two weeks, but we can’t wait,” Chen added. “We must implement the highest standards to prevent and control this suspected case of African swine fever.” African swine fever, which is nearly always fatal to swine, does not affect humans or other animals outside of the pig family.

This is Taiwan’s first-ever reported case of the virus, Chen said. The island prohibits bringing in any meat or meat products without proper inspection and quarantine, with fines up to 1 million Taiwan dollars (about \$32,500).

“The most likely route of transmission is from outside Taiwan, through the illegal importation of pork products, which ultimately find their way to pig farms through food waste systems,” Chen added.

In 2019, millions of pigs were culled in China and Vietnam as the virus spread through Asia.

Currently, the only Asian country with a confirmed ongoing African swine fever outbreak is South Korea, according to the World Organization of Animal Health’s October report on the virus situation worldwide. Twelve countries in Europe are also battling the virus.

■ ■ ■

Mpox: The Netherlands has confirmed its first case of a new, more transmissible variant of mpox, Minister for Health, Welfare and Sport Jan Anthonie Bruijn said in a letter to parliament on Tuesday.

The infection, identified on Oct. 17, is the first time the mpox variant 1b has been detected in the country.

“This is the first time that this new mpox-variant has been identified in the Netherlands,” the minister said in the letter. He added that the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are “closely monitoring the situation.”

The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) reported that the infected man was not vaccinated against mpox and had no recent travel history.

The man has been placed in isolation, and the local public health service is conducting source and contact tracing. The minister sought to reassure the public, saying that “the risk of further spread appears to be small.”

Mpox, which can cause painful lesions, fever, and fatigue, spreads primarily through skin-to-skin contact, according to the RIVM.

Meanwhile, 80 percent of health facilities in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are affected by shortages in medicine, while nearly 40 percent have seen an exodus of health staff, a UN spokesperson said Monday.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is “sounding the alarm over the collapse of the health system in North and South Kivu, where hostilities continue to impact civilians and devastate critical civilian infrastructure,” said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, at a daily briefing.

In North Kivu alone, UN partners working in health reported that about a third of all health facilities in the province’s conflict zones have been destroyed, looted or abandoned, leaving millions of people with extremely limited access to healthcare, while the remaining facilities are overwhelmed and face critical shortages of essential supplies, including kits for survivors of sexual violence, cholera treatments and just basic routine vaccines, he said.

“This is happening as the province battles deadly epidemics,” said the spokesperson. Since the beginning of the year, health partners have recorded over 8,600 cases of cholera, 8,000 cases of mpox, and more than 10,500 cases of measles, which have already claimed dozens of lives.

UN partners on the ground estimated that without urgent action, more than 6,000 preventable deaths could occur between now and the end of the year, and projected a potential 40 percent increase in maternal mortality in the hardest-hit areas, according to Dujarric.

Event held under the patronage of Kuwait’s Minister of Foreign Affairs

Kuwait and the UN launch ‘Football for Humanity’ initiative to support Palestinian children



Left to right: Photos from the event

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Football for Humanity, a Kuwaiti UN-backed humanitarian diplomacy initiative, announced the launch of its inaugural edition at a press conference held today at Al Hamra Shopping Center in Kuwait City. Under the patronage of Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, and with the support of nine embassies and four UN bodies – including UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait – as well as Kuwait’s private sector, the initiative will channel proceeds from a youth football tournament, charity auction, and community activities to provide essential aid to Palestinian children through the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

H.E. Minister Plenipotentiary Abdulaziz Saud Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs and a member of the initiative’s Board of Trustees, said: “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ patronage of Football for Humanity reflects Kuwait’s role as an international hub for humanitarian action and its steadfast commitment to supporting nations in times of crisis, alleviating human suffering around the world, and maintaining its principled position in support of the brotherly Palestinian people. This initiative presents an innovative model of humanitarian diplomacy as a means to promote lasting peace and strengthen international cooperation. We also commend the United Nations for supporting this humanitarian initiative and extend our appreciation to the participating embassies for their collaboration in advancing the initiative’s message and supporting children worldwide.”

H.E. Ghada Hatem ElTahir, Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator in the State of Kuwait, and a member of the initiative’s Board of Trustees, said: “On behalf of the United Nations in the State of Kuwait, I am pleased to express our sincere interest in co-organizing the Football for Humanity initiative in partnership with Alnowair. This initiative aligns with the principles of the UN, promoting humanitarian values and global solidarity through youth participation in sport. Together, we aim to amplify Kuwait’s message of peace and humanity – both locally and on the international stage.”

Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chairperson of Alnowair Non-Profit Foundation, Chair of the Organizing Committee, and member of the initiative’s Board of Trustees, said: “Today, from Kuwait, we launch Football for Humanity with a clear message, to create a global movement that unites governments,

corporations, athletes, and communities by turning the passion for football into hope and opportunity for children, year after year. This initiative is especially meaningful because it is children supporting children, young players using their love of the game to help those whose lives have been upended by crisis. We believe in the power of the world’s most popular sport to transcend borders, connect cultures, and inspire compassion. From this platform, we extend our gratitude to all our partners for their generous support, and we invite everyone in Kuwait to join us at the youth tournament and cheer for the young players, because every cheer, every presence, and every bid in the charity auction helps ease the suffering of Palestinian children.”

Mr. Tarek Sultan, Vice Chairman of Agility and a sponsor of the initiative, said: “Agility KSCP’s support for Football for Humanity reflects our enduring commitment to community and humanitarian initiatives. We believe the private sector has a vital role to play in supporting communities, both in times of crisis and through long-term investment in youth, education, and public health. For nearly 20 years, we’ve partnered with leading charities and NGOs to deliver aid where and when it’s needed most. In Kuwait, our strategic partnerships have reached more than 51,000 people. Through our support for Football for Humanity, we reaffirm our dedication to helping those most in need, working alongside the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, aid agencies, and other Kuwaiti companies. This initiative also aligns with Kuwait Vision 2035, promoting health, development, and humanitarian values through youth engagement.”

Mrs. Abrar Abdulaziz Al Habeeb, General Manager of Al Hamra Real Estate Company and a sponsor of the initiative, said: “At Al Hamra, we believe that our true success is not measured solely by our architectural or commercial achievements, but by the positive impact we create within our community. Support and empowerment are at the heart of our mission, and we constantly strive to innovate and open new horizons that foster a sustainable, integrated environment where people, especially children, are at the center of everything we do.

Through our sponsorship of the Football for Humanity initiative, we are putting our social responsibility into action and strengthening a culture of institutional and community solidarity. This aligns with our vision of building a vibrant business hub and a thriving urban and social environment, both locally and globally. These initiatives are far from symbolic gestures; they reflect who we are and what we

stand for as a leading real estate development company that believes true success lies in shared progress.”

Amin Mohamed, CEO of Kout Food Group, franchisee of Pizza Hut in Kuwait and a sponsor of the initiative, said: “As a Kuwaiti company built on values of generosity and social responsibility, Kout Food Group is proud to support Football for Humanity, an initiative that turns the passion for football into hope for children. This partnership reflects Kuwait’s humanitarian role and the contribution of the private sector in driving meaningful impact. We believe that supporting a cause that uplifts Palestinian children through sport and solidarity aligns perfectly with our values, helping advance social progress and contribute to comprehensive development.”

The press conference was followed by a media tour of the exclusive football memorabilia on display at Al Hamra Shopping Center, featuring original items to be auctioned and provided by the embassies of participating countries, directly sourced from their national teams and clubs. The collection features major contributions from Brazil’s and Italy’s national teams, Paris Saint-Germain captain Marquinhos, and Spanish and Barcelona legend Andrés Iniesta. Visitors can view the display at Al Hamra Shopping Center and take part in the online charity auction through November 7.

The youth tournament will take place on November 6–7, featuring 32 teams and 256 boys and girls aged 9 to 11. The opening ceremony will be held at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium in Sulaibikhat, with family activities and a vibrant retail village surrounding the venue. Attendance is open and free for everyone to enjoy the matches and support the young players. Match schedules and updates will be available on the initiative’s Instagram page: [instagram.com/footballhumanitykw](https://www.instagram.com/footballhumanitykw).

Football for Humanity is guided by a Board of Trustees comprising leaders from Kuwait’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations, ambassadors from nine countries, and senior Kuwaiti officials, ensuring its diplomatic standing and humanitarian credibility. The initiative represents an unprecedented UN–diplomatic–sports alliance, with Kuwait serving as the host nation for a global movement that transforms football’s unifying power into tangible support for children affected by crises. It also lays the foundation for future editions that will expand each year to address broader humanitarian causes.

Multiple awards won

IDAK cricket team makes mark at Qatar Healthcare Cup

DOHA, Qatar, Oct 22: The IDAK Cricket Team returned from the Qatar Healthcare Cricket Cup 2025, played in Doha from October 16 to 20, with a celebrated top-four finish and a haul of individual awards, showcasing exceptional skill and sportsmanship on an international platform.

Competing in a ten-team tournament featuring healthcare organizations from across the GCC and India, the IDAK squad, proudly sponsored by Grand Hyper, delivered a powerful performance throughout the league stage. Under the strategic leadership of Captain Dr. Mohammad Hussain and Vice Captain Dr. Rahul Puthalath, the team qualified for the semi-finals as the top-ranked team from their group.

The team’s campaign culminated in a hard-fought semi-final match against the eventual champion, Qatar Doctors Cricket Club. Despite the physical challenge of playing their third match within 18 hours, the IDAK team battled valiantly,



only narrowly missing a spot in the finals.

“The team’s performance was nothing short of inspirational,” IDAK President Dr. George P Alex stated. “They represented our alliance with immense pride and resilience against all odds, embodying the true spirit of cricket.”

Its efforts were richly rewarded, with the team earning the Fair Play Award and the Best Participating

Team Award. Individual brilliance was also recognized, with the team securing the Best Fielder Award and two Man of the Match awards across their three games.

Captain Dr. Mohammad Hussain led from the front, anchoring the innings with a classy half-century in a crucial league game. Vice Captain Dr. Rahul Puthalath provided magnificent support, delivering a match-winning 4-wicket burst with

the ball. Key performances came from Nithin Sam Varghese for his all-round prowess, and Syam Madhusudan, who set the tone for the tournament with a spectacular 5-wicket haul in the opening match. Dr. Shabaz was impeccable behind the stumps, earning him the Best Fielder of the Tournament accolade.

IDAK extends its gratitude to the behind-the-scenes contributors, Dr. Asheel Mohammad and Dr. Ashwin Sudesh. The unwavering support from the IDAK Council, Sports Committee, and the Executive Committee was equally instrumental to the team’s success.

General Secretary Dr. Jijan Sam Thomas also thanked Al Mulla Exchange Company, Grand Hyper, Qatar Indian Doctors Club, the players’ spouses, families, and the entire IDAK fraternity for their steadfast support, which kept the IDAK flag flying high in both victory and defeat.



Top & Above: Photos from the tournament

Al-Hilal downs Al-Sadd to stay perfect in Asia



RIYADH, Oct 22: Saudi Arabia’s Al-Hilal claimed a 3-1 victory over Qatar’s Al-Sadd at the King Abdullah Sports City “Kingdom Arena” in Riyadh, during the third round of the AFC Champions League Elite.

The win allowed Al-Hilal to return to the top of its group with a perfect record of three consecutive victories, raising their points total to nine. Al-Sadd remains in ninth place with just two points from two draws and one loss.

Prior to the match, Al-Hilal star Sa-

lem Al-Dosari was honored as the Best Asian Player at a ceremony held in Riyadh on Thursday.

This match added another chapter to the historic Asian rivalry between the two clubs, with Al-Hilal traditionally holding the upper hand. Before this encounter, the teams had faced each other 15 times in various competitions, with Al-Hilal winning 8, Al-Sadd winning 3, and 4 matches ending in draws.

Elsewhere in the competition, Shabab Al-Ahli Dubai defeated Nasaf 4-0.

Green missing eight players
Kuwait Club & Al-Arabi ramp up preparation

By Hasan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Al-Arabi kicked off training sessions this evening in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The team is preparing for Group C matches of the Asian Challenge League, hosted by Kyrgyz club Muras United, which also includes Lebanese side Al-Safa and Tajikistan’s Regar TadAZ. The tournament runs from October 25 to 31.

Al-Arabi will hold its second and final training session tomorrow before facing Al-Safa on Saturday, Regar TadAZ on Tuesday, and Muras United on October 31. The team will

be missing eight players due to injury: Ali Khalaf, Bader Al-Mutairi, Hussein Ashkanani, Bandar Al-Salama, Naif Hameed, Abdulrahman Al-Shurhan, Khalid Al-Murshid, and Bader Tareq.

Meanwhile, Montenegro coach Nebojsa Jovanovic has intensified preparations for Kuwait Club, which will host Group B matches in the tournament starting this Saturday. Group B features Oman’s Al-Seeb, Lebanon’s Al-Ansar, and Bangladesh’s Bashundhara Kings. Kuwait will face Al-Ansar first, then Al-Seeb, and conclude with Bashundhara Kings on October 31.

The “White” team is enjoying



Al-Arabi player shares a friendly moment with an opponent after the match.

strong technical stability, leading the Zain Premier League with 13 points from four wins and one draw, remaining unbeaten after the fifth round, and holding a two-point lead over closest rival Al-Arabi.

All participating teams have arrived and started training. Al-Seeb and Bashundhara Kings trained yesterday, while Al-Ansar will begin sessions this evening.

Kuwait Club’s officials have worked meticulously to ensure smooth tournament organization, preparing Jaber Mubarak Stadium to host matches and the secondary field at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium for team training sessions.

Chess’ digital pioneer: Naroditsky remembered

WASHINGTON, Oct 22, (AP): Daniel Naroditsky, a 29-year-old standard-bearer in the world of competitive speed chess that flourished in the COVID-19 pandemic, died over the weekend and leaves behind a legacy as one of the greats of the game who helped usher in its digital era.

The American grandmaster won several championships and amassed hundreds of thousands of subscribers on YouTube, Twitch and other platforms, where he would livestream matches and explain strategy in real time. But he also struggled with the cyberspace he helped build.

High-speed games became wildly popular online during the pandemic, creating a chess community that was soon rife with cheating allegations as players gained access to sophisticated

computer programs that could give them an unfair advantage.

Naroditsky’s untimely death has shined a spotlight on the dark underbelly of the game that fellow pros say brought undue hostility upon the chess star in his final months.

Naroditsky had been accused of cheating, and the allegations, never proven, had taken a toll. Ukrainian grandmaster Oleksandr Bortnyk, a competitor and friend of Naroditsky, was concerned and went to check on him Sunday. He and a friend found Naroditsky, known to many as Danya, unresponsive on a couch in his North Carolina home. Bortnyk recounted during an emotional livestream Monday.

The cause of death has not been made public.

“Danya was not only a brilliant

grandmaster, but also a tireless ambassador for chess, and above all - a kind, compassionate and truly good person,” said Arkady Dvorkovich, president of the International Chess Federation.

The unsubstantiated claims of cheating came from from Russian grandmaster and former World Chess Champion Vladimir Kramnik, whom Naroditsky had called one of the “heroes” he looked up to as a kid.

Naroditsky had denied the claims as he excelled at blitz and bullet chess, where players have mere minutes to finish intense matches.

“Ever since the Kramnik stuff, I feel like if I start doing well, people assume the worst of intentions,” Naroditsky said Saturday in the last livestream he filmed before his death. “The issue is

just the lingering effect of it.”

He ruminated about his legacy and hoped other top players would trust that he played with integrity.

Chess pros from around the world have since praised Naroditsky as an honorable player who used his online platform to make chess more accessible. His family said in a statement that they hope he will be remembered for the joy and inspiration he brought people.

Meanwhile, grandmasters have slammed Kramnik on social media for how he treated Naroditsky. American grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura went on an expletive-laden rant on his latest livestream, and Indian grandmaster Nihal Sarin accused the Russian prof of trying to destroy Naroditsky’s life in a post on X.

Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber and Prince Faisal discuss Arab tennis growth, development

AMMAN, Oct 22: Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Arab Tennis Federation, met with His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al-Hussein, President of the Jordan Olympic Committee, at the Royal Court in Amman. The meeting focused on initiatives and developments in tennis within Jordan and across the Arab world.

During the discussion, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber highlighted the Arab Tennis Federation's vision and future strategy, along with the various tournaments and activities it organizes throughout the year across different age categories, all aimed at advancing and promoting tennis at the Arab level.

He expressed his sincere appreciation to Prince Faisal for the warm reception and generous hospitality, noting the remarkable progress of Jordanian tennis in recent years, which reflects the Kingdom's commitment to strategic sports planning and development.

Accompanying Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber were Khaled Nafa'a, President



Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber with Prince Faisal of the Jordan Tennis Federation; Ali Lafi Al-Mutairi, Secretary-General of the Arab Tennis Federation; and Walid Sami, Secretary-General of both the Arab and Egyptian Tennis Federations.

Addas ‘commends’ Kuwaiti Embassy support during team’s camp in Tunisia

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Nasser Addas, Board Member of the Handball Federation and head of the team delegation in Tunisia, praised the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tunis for facilitating all arrangements for the team's training camp. The camp, which includes friendly matches, is part of preparations for the Islamic Solidarity Games, scheduled in Saudi Arabia from November 7 to 21.

Addas leads a delegation that includes Federation Treasurer Khalid Talib, team manager Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi, Icelandic head coach Aron Kristanson and his assistant Heini Giverson, along with 21 players.

He highlighted the close supervision of Kuwait's Ambassador to Tunisia, Mansour Al-Omr, and Consular Affairs Officer Mohammed Khalid Al-Huwaila, who ensured smooth procedures and provided full support to the delegation throughout their stay until departure on November 7.



Kuwait's Youth Handball Team huddles for pep talk.

Regarding the training, Addas noted that players have been engaged in intensive sessions twice daily, demonstrating full commitment to the instructions of both the technical and administrative staff. The camp and friendly matches aim to prepare the team to compete strongly in the Islamic Solidarity Games, where Kuwait hopes to vie for the championship title.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's youth handball team recorded a 42-15 victory over Thailand in its second Group B match of the third Asian Games, being held in Bahrain until October 31. The youth team will face the UAE today at 6:00 PM.

OKC ‘survives’ double OT thriller against Rockets in season opener



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) is defended by Los Angeles Lakers center Deandre Ayton (5) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

Luka 43 in vain as Warriors top LeBron-less Lakers

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oct 22, (AP): Thunder fans got everything they wanted on Tuesday - a ring ceremony, a championship banner unveiling and a win over ex-Oklahoma City star Kevin Durant and the Houston Rockets.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, the reigning MVP, hit two free throws with 2.3 seconds remaining in the second overtime to give the Thunder a 125-124 win. It was just the sixth time an opening night went to double overtime and the first time since 2005.

Gilgeous-Alexander, last season's scoring champion, had just five points at halftime but finished with 35.

Thunder fans still haven't forgiven Durant for leaving the Thunder in 2016 to join the Golden State Warriors, their biggest rival at the time. Durant had 23 points and nine rebounds in his first game with Houston after being traded in the offseason. He was booed loudly during pregame starter introductions, and that continued for much of the game.

Durant fouled Gilgeous-Alexander with the Rockets leading 124-123 in the second extra period. The



The Oklahoma City Thunder pose in front of the 2024-2025 NBA Champions banner before an NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets in Oklahoma City. (AP)

crowd cheered as Durant exited the game with his sixth personal foul. Gilgeous-Alexander made both free throws for the decisive points. Houston's Jabari Smith Jr. missed a 19-foot jumper as time expired, and the Thunder survived in the season opener for both teams.

Chet Holmgren added 28 points and seven rebounds for the Thunder. Ajay Mitchell added 16 points, including a four-point play with one second left in the first half.

Oklahoma City's Jalen Williams, a first-time All-Star last season, sat out as he continues to recover from a right wrist injury he sustained last

season. He had surgery on July 1, and coach Mark Daigneault said he is "progressing."

Alperen Sengun had 39 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Rockets. He made a career-high five 3-pointers.

Gilgeous-Alexander's short jumper with 2.1 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter tied the game at 104. Sengun missed a fadeaway at the buzzer to send the game into overtime.

Jimmy Butler scored 31 points, Stephen Curry added 23 and the Golden State Warriors overcame Luka Doncic's 43-point performance

to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 119-109 on Tuesday night in both teams' season opener.

LeBron James missed a season opener for the first time in his 23 years in the NBA, watching from the Lakers' bench. The top scorer in league history has sciatica that is expected to sideline him until mid-November.

Jonathan Kuminga scored 17 points while the Warriors largely shut down the Lakers apart from Doncic, who scored 40 points for the 47th time in his NBA career and the third since joining the Lakers.

Doncic added 12 rebounds and nine assists in his first season opener with the Lakers, but the Slovenian superstar was 2 of 10 on 3-point attempts as Los Angeles lost its season opener for the ninth time in 10 years.

Curry began his 17th season with just three 3-pointers while ceding major offensive roles to Kuminga and Buddy Hield, who hit five 3-pointers.

Butler made all 16 of his free throws, and Curry hit a 3-pointer in the final minute for his first points of the fourth quarter.

Austin Reaves scored 13 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter after struggling with foul trouble.

Golden State opened the second half with a 19-4 run to open a lead that grew to 17 points. Reaves led a fourth-quarter rally, trimming the Warriors' edge to 105-99, but LA couldn't close get closer.

Al-Qadsia’s appeal rejected over September sanctions



This file photo captures moments of violence during a Zain Premier League game.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Appeals Committee of the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) has rejected Al-Qadisiya's request to overturn the sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Committee on September 29. The penalties followed incidents during the fourth-round Zain Premier League match between Kuwait and Al-Qadisiya on September 26.

The Appeals Committee upheld the original decision, which included:

- Sheikh Fahad Talal, Vice President of Al-Qadisiya: fined KD 10,000 and banned from attending matches, entering the stadium, and accessing the locker room for three years.
- Abdullah Al-Ansari, Media Coordinator: suspended for three years from matches,

- stadium access, and locker room entry, with a KD 5,000 fine.
- Coach Nabil Maaloul: banned from the stadium and locker room for four Zain League matches and fined KD 3,000.
- Board Member Mohammed Reda Marafi: barred from entering stadiums for one year.
- Player Abdulaziz Wadi and administrators Faisal Hussein and Fahad Al-Kandari: suspended for four Zain League matches each, with KD 1,000 fines per individual.
- Club restrictions: no one allowed in the main stand at home matches for four Zain League games, and the club fined KD 10,000.

The decision reinforces the KFA's commitment to maintaining discipline and fair play in the league.

Spanish league cancels plans for regular-season match in Miami

MADRID, Oct 22, (AP): The Spanish soccer league said Tuesday that plans for Barcelona to play a regular-season game against Villarreal outside Miami in December have been called off, a decision that comes following increased opposition to the match domestically.

The league said the decision was made after conversations with the promoter of the planned Dec. 20 match and cited the "uncertainty that has arisen in Spain over the past few weeks."

Game promoter Relevat said it informed La Liga of the need to "postpone the planned match" because "there is insufficient time to properly execute an event of this scale."

It added that "it would also be irresponsible to begin selling tickets without a confirmed match in place."

The league had finally succeeded in getting approval from soccer bodies such as UEFA and the Spanish federation to stage its first regular-season game abroad. But opposition by players, some clubs and fans had grown recently in Spain.

The Spanish league "deeply regrets that this project, which represented a historic and unparalleled opportunity for the international expansion of Spanish soccer, will not be able to move forward."

The league said "holding an official match outside our borders would have been a decisive step in the global growth of the competition, strengthening the international presence of clubs, the positioning of players, and the visibility of Spanish soccer in a strategic market such as the United States."

Rabada, Muthusamy put South Africa in control

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Oct 22, (AP): The No. 1 batter Kagiso Rabada and Senuran Muthusamy hit career-best half-centuries as South Africa scripted one of its most memorable comebacks to dominate Pakistan on Day 3 of the second and final test.

South Africa was all out Wednesday for 404 in its first innings – having resumed on 185-4 and being reduced to 235-8 and 306-9 – to take a 71-run lead. Pakistan's left-arm spinner Asif Afridi claimed six wickets and became the oldest bowler in test cricket to grab a five-wicket haul in his debut test at the age of 38. Pakistan collapsed to 94-4 in its second innings at stumps. Off-spinner Simon Harmer took 3-26 and Rabada had Abdullah Shafique caught in the slips cordon in his incisive opening spell

with the new ball.

Babar Azam, who hasn't scored an international century in more than two years, is 49 not out, and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan is undefeated on 16 as the pair led Pakistan's resistance.

South Africa earlier fought back in a match where Pakistan had won the important toss on a spinning wicket. Afridi (6-79) had put Pakistan in sight of a meaningful first-innings lead before the home team ran into Muthusamy and Rabada's electrifying 98-run last-wicket stand.

Muthusamy made an unbeaten 89 off 155 balls, and Rabada smashed four sixes and four boundaries in his belligerent 71 off 61 as the Proteas bid to level the two-match series. Afridi's five-wicket haul saw World Test Championship winner South

Africa slip to 221-7 in 80 overs before Pakistan's ploy to finish off the innings with the second new ball misfired badly.

Muthusamy cut Pakistan's lead to 27 when he shared a 71-run ninth-wicket stand with Keshav Maharaj, who gave at least three chances and went on to score 30. Rabada blunted the pace of Shaheen Shah Afridi and the spinners with his first test 50.

It was only the second time in test matches that both the ninth and 10th wickets shared partnerships of 50-plus in a test innings. South Africa went to lunch 48 runs behind with two wickets in hand, but Muthusamy swept and reverse-swept against the spinners with ease, and Rabada didn't spare the bowlers before he holed out to long-on at the stroke of tea that ended a superb counterattack from South Africa.

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NEWS



PSG's Willian Pacho heads the ball to score his side's first goal during a Champions League opening phase soccer match between Bayer Leverkusen and Paris Saint-Germain in Leverkusen, Germany. (AP)

Sports

Goalstorm in Europe as PSG, Barcelona dazzle

Haaland can't stop scoring; Gyokeres ends drought, Arsenal soars

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 22, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain scored seven, Barcelona hit six, and Erling Haaland struck his 24th goal of the season on an action-packed night in the Champions League.

In all, there were 43 goals in nine games, with six teams scoring four or more.

PSV Eindhoven routed Italian champion Napoli 6-2, while Arsenal and Inter Milan also had big wins to maintain their perfect starts in Europe.

But it is defending champion PSG that leads the way at the top of the standings after a wild 7-2 win against Bayer Leverkusen in a match that saw both teams reduced to 10 men in the first half.

Barcelona's 6-1 win against Olympiakos saw it bounce back from a loss to PSG at the start of the month.

Premier League leader Arsenal beat Atletico Madrid 4-0, with Viktor Gyokeres scoring twice, and last season's Champions League runner-up Inter beat Union Saint-Gilloise by the same score.

Haaland's goal helped Manchester City to a 2-0 win at Villarreal.

By halftime at the BayArena, PSG was 4-1 up - but that didn't come close to telling the full story of a chaotic first period, which included a red card for each team and two penalties for Leverkusen.

Two goals for Desire Doue put the French champion well in control, and the action continued after the break with Nuno Mendes extending the lead within five minutes of the restart. Ousmane Dembele also came off the bench to make a scoring return after injury.

"That's three games, three wins, and crucially we're at the top of the UEFA Champions League table," Dembele said. "We've started this campaign re-



Benfica's Dodi Lukebakio, left, and Newcastle United's Dan Burn battle for the ball during the UEFA Champions League match between Benfica and Newcastle, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. (AP)

ally well, especially considering how difficult it was last season."

Spare a thought for Aleix Garcia, though. As well as his first-half penalty, he scored the goal of the game in the second half with a swerving long-range effort that was nothing more than a footnote.

Fermin Lopez scored a hat trick and Marcus Rashford hit two goals as Barcelona blew away 10-man Olympiakos.

Barca took full advantage when

Santiago Hezze was shown a contentious red card in the second half, scoring four goals to complete the rout.

It was Lopez's first hat trick of his career, with Lamine Yamal also on the scoresheet from the penalty spot.

Olympiakos had no answer when Hezze was shown a second yellow card in the 57th minute, despite replays appearing to show he did not make contact with Marc Casado, who was trying to pull him back.

Just three minutes earlier, the visitors had got back into the game at 2-1 after Ayoub El Kaabi's penalty.

Then, with the extra man, Barcelona overwhelmed Olympiakos with four goals in 11 minutes.

Rashford, on loan from Manchester United, now has four goals in three games in the Champions League this season.

"Sometimes it's difficult to break opponents down, but we have so many goalscoring players in different areas

that getting goals is the least of our worries," he said.

At the top of the Premier League and perfect in Europe, Arsenal is flying high.

A powerful second half at the Emirates saw Mikel Arteta's team brush aside Atletico, with summer signing Gyokeres sealing the victory with two goals in three minutes. Those goals ended the striker's seven-game scoring drought for Arsenal.

"I am delighted as he fully deserves it. The work rate he brings to the team is outstanding. We value a lot of things that he does for the team, and it was the biggest smile on his face today," Arteta said.

Goals from Gabriel Magalhaes and Gabriel Martinelli had given Arsenal a 2-0 lead before Gyokeres struck.

Arsenal is third in the standings, behind PSG and Inter on goal difference. Haaland can't stop scoring right now.

The Norway international's opener at Villarreal was his 24th in 14 games this season and extended his current scoring streak to 12 games in a row. He now has 53 goals in the Champions League in just 51 appearances.

The only game he didn't score in this term was City's 2-0 defeat to Tottenham in August.

Bernardo Silva was also on target as City moved up to fifth.

The biggest shock of the night was Napoli's defeat at PSV.

That's back-to-back losses for Antonio Conte's team, following Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Torino. And such a heavy loss in Europe will be particularly humbling for the Italian champion, with three goals conceded in the last 10 minutes after going down to 10 men when Lorenzo Lucca was sent off in the 76th.

Napoli has won just one of its three games in Europe so far.

It's going better for Inter, which has a 100% record after three games and comfortably overcame Union Saint-Gilloise, with Lautaro Martinez scoring for the third time in the Champions League this season.

Harvey Barnes scored twice in Newcastle's 3-0 win against Benfica, and Borussia Dortmund won 4-2 in Copenhagen.

Kazakhstani team Kairat picked up its first point in European soccer's elite club competition with a 0-0 draw against Pafos.

Al-Arabi stuns Kuwait Club in Asian Super League



Al-Arabi player controls the ball as Kuwait Club player defends.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Kuwait Club's first basketball team suffered a surprising 78-83 loss to Qatar's Al-Arabi in its opening match of Group B in the Asian Super League at the Basketball Federation Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Saudi Arabia's Al-Ula leads the group with two points, narrowly ahead of Al-Arabi on point difference, while Kuwait Club sits third and UAE's Sharjah fourth, each with one point.

Under the tournament rules, the group winner advances directly to the semifinals, while the second and third-placed teams from both groups face off in a play-off match, with the winner moving on to the Gulf Zone semifinals. The finalists will then join teams from Central Asia for the championship's final stages.

Despite a strong effort, Kuwait Club struggled to secure its first win, even after leading by 11 points in the third quarter. The team will now face a crucial matchup against Al-Ula next Tuesday in Kuwait.

Warriors blaze to the top of Kuwaiti Ice Hockey League

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The "Warriors" continued their strong charge at the top of the Kuwaiti National Men's Ice Hockey League for the season, recording their fifth win with a dominant 14-1 victory over the "Camels".

The two-time defending champions now have 15 points from six matches, narrowly leading the "Stars" on head-to-head results.

The Stars have the same point total but have played one fewer game.

"Ice Stars" sit in third place with 12 points from four wins and two losses.

Team captain Jassim Al-Awadhi described this season as highly competitive, particularly among the top three teams battling for the title.

He emphasized the Warriors' determination to continue winning and to secure the championship for a third consecutive year.

Al-Awadhi, who also captains Kuwait's national ice hockey team, added that this



Al-Awadhi, Captain of the Warriors skates for the puck.

league campaign is an important stepping stone in preparation for the Level 4 Ice Hockey World Cup, set to take place in Kuwait in April.

He also praised the ongoing support of the Kuwait Winter Games Club, which has played a key role in the steady improvement of all players.

Al-Anzi to Al-Arabi: 'Patience has limits'

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Abdullah Al-Anzi, current Al-Qadsia volleyball player, has urged his former club Al-Arabi to settle outstanding payments owed to him from his time with the club's volleyball team.

Al-Anzi revealed that he has repeatedly approached Al-Arabi's management regarding his contractual dues.

While the officials consistently gave verbal assurances, no payment has been made to date.

"For the past six months, I have been claiming what is rightfully mine. I spoke with club officials multiple times, and although they promise to pay, nothing has been implemented," he said.

He stressed that, as a player - often seen as the most vulnerable party - he should not suffer because of the club's financial difficulties.

"I have dues from my previous contract that must be honored," Al-Anzi added.

Al-Anzi also noted that he holds a formal contract with the club and has documented conver-



Abdullah Al-Anzi celebrates after scoring.

sations with officials confirming their promises. He emphasized that he only seeks his legal rights and nothing more.

He appealed to Al-Arabi's management to resolve the matter promptly and provide him with his rightful dues to avoid legal action, while affirming his respect for the club and its officials. "But patience has its limits," he concluded.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef honors Kuwait futsal team

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Kuwait Football Association (KFA) President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef honored the players of Kuwait's national futsal team at the KFA headquarters, following their qualification for the AFC Futsal Asian Cup finals, which will be held in Indonesia in January 2026.

The ceremony was attended by KFA Vice Presi-

dent Mubarak Abdulaziz, Secretary General Dr. Saleh Al-Majroub, and members of the team's administrative and technical staff.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef affirmed the Board's full support for the national futsal team as they prepare for the finals, expressing his hopes that the players will deliver strong performances and achieve positive results in Indonesia.

Best of the Rest

FIFA reveals referee list for first WC: FIFA announced Tuesday the list of referees of the first-ever FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup to be held in the Philippines from November 21 to December 7, 2025.

The FIFA Referees Committee made the 27-member list, comprising 26 referees and one support referee, from candidates of European, Asian, North American and South American confederations.

16 teams will play in the FIFA's maiden futsal competition for women.

Two Chinese referees, Liang Qingyun and Zhu Xin, are on the list. (Xinhua)

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Chelsea joins race to sign Vitor Roque: Chelsea is considering a move to sign in-form Palmeiras striker Vitor Roque, according to media reports in Brazil.

But the Premier League side faces competition for the 20-year-old's signature from London rivals Tottenham and West Ham, news outlet Lance reported.

It added that Chelsea had made preliminary enquiries with a view to securing the forward in the January transfer window.

Roque has scored 13 goals in 26 league outings for Palmeiras this year in addition to four goals in eight Copa Libertadores matches for the Sao Paulo club.

He joined Palmeiras in February after disappointing spells with Spanish sides Barcelona and Real Betis. (Xinhua)



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef poses with futsal delegation.