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Crown Prince Diwan photo

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in talks with the visiting UNHCR Chief Filippo Grandi.

Crown Prince receives UNHCR chief

KUWAIT CITY, Oct. 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday the Commissioner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),

Filippo Grandi, and the accompanying delegation. Attending the meeting were the Chief of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and senior officials.

Amir meets Crown Prince, Premier and other officials

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Chief of the Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received at Bayan Palace on Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah.

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Amir expresses condolences over passing of two Saudi princesses

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday cables of condolences to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the deaths of Princess Haifa bint Turki bin Mohammad bin Saud Al-Kabeer Al-Saud and Princess Nouf bint Saud bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

His Highness the Amir wished peace for the deceased and solace for the Saudi Royal Family.

Crown Prince

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Premier

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday cables of condolences to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the deaths of Princess Haifa bint Turki bin Mohammad bin Saud Al-Kabeer Al-Saud and Princess Nouf bint Saud bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

Thailand Queen Mother passing

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of condolences to the King of Thailand Maha Vajiralongkorn, expressing sorrow over the death of the Queen Mother Sirikit Kitiyakara.

His Highness the Amir wished the King and the Thai people solace and peace over this tragic event.

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of condolences to the King of Thailand Maha Vajiralongkorn, expressing sorrow over the death of the Queen Mother Sirikit Kitiyakara.

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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Service ministers ... see the underground metro

WHILE I was in the French capital, Paris, for medical treatment, I wanted to rediscover the city. The fast and comfortable metro proved to be the best mode of transportation. It is used daily by thousands to travel within the city or to and from it, without disruption.

This and other transportation systems help people reach work on time and avoid congestion. They are not state-owned but operated by private companies under long-term contracts, and they pay fees to the government. Some of these contracts extend beyond 75 years and are automatically renewed without interruption.

At times, one might imagine that all of Paris moves underground, given the vast metro network. Part of this network is managed by Artificial Intelligence (AI). In fact, it is now rare to see a train operated by a human driver.

This fine-tuning of a large city like Paris facilitates many tasks and helps reduce costs. The metro serves as a means of transporting people, while the train network is primarily used for transporting goods. There are other forms of public transportation that are also managed efficiently, saving time and generating revenue for the state. This integrated system benefits everyone.

I often compare what we have in Kuwait to what exists in France, and in most European countries, where most people use public transportation. In Kuwait, we continue to rely heavily on private cars for individual transportation, which wastes both time and money due to the lack of a shared-benefit culture that serves all.

I hope that the service ministers, including the Ministers of Public Works, Finance, Municipality, Commerce and Industry, and others, will learn from such experiences when they travel abroad. Perhaps then they will understand where to begin and will grasp the true meaning of sustainable development through projects that can expand and evolve without the need for demolition and reconstruction.

It is true that all citizens wish to see their country advance

through realistic and achievable plans, free from the burden of restrictive conditions or the dominance of local and foreign investors through the withdrawal of industrial, agricultural, and service plots.

People want real development that they can witness with their own eyes, not just promises echoed in ministerial statements.

I hope the relevant ministers will learn from the experiences of other countries, where governments invest in private sector companies to boost production and facilitate business, rather than hindering progress and creating unnecessary obstacles.

The population of Paris is about two million, while the surrounding areas are home to around 12 million people who move about with ease. Doesn't this serve as a practical model for managing a country with a population of less than five million?

Every year in Kuwait, especially at the start of the academic year, roads and streets become heavily congested. Each day, countless hours are lost in traffic, while other countries turn these hours into productive time. The main reason behind this recurring problem is the absence of a clear, long-term strategy. Instead, we rely on hasty, short-term decisions that only restrict people's movement and obstruct businesses and projects.

To overcome this problem, we might need 1,500 years to become like Paris, London, Madrid, and Rome. We may even need as much time to reach the level of some Gulf countries that have surpassed us by years in this regard, the most notable examples being the Dubai Metro and Saudi Arabia's high-speed rail network.

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E-payment system generates KD11b revenue: minister



Photo by Samer Shaqair

The Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance, and acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem visits a stall during the ceremony to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the program's launch.

Wanted Kuwaiti clashes with US' ICE

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that a Kuwaiti national, who is wanted in Kuwait and was in the United States illegally, was involved in a violent incident in San Diego that left three federal officers injured, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to Patrick Deaver, Director of the ICE San Diego office, the suspect - a Kuwaiti citizen with a violent criminal record and a final order of removal from the US - used his vehicle as a weapon to strike ICE officers and bystanders.

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By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance, and acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem, confirmed that the government's electronic payment system, "Payment", has marked a significant advancement in the state's financial collection process.

Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem highlighted that since its launch in 2010, the system has processed 221 million transactions, generating a total of KD 11 billion in non-oil revenues.

During the 15th-anniversary celebration of the "Payment" services, Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem explained that the system serves as a unified platform for government online payments, linking 53 government entities.

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Newswatch

38,660 have applied to go for Hajj: MoLA

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs announced that 38,660 people have applied to perform the Hajj pilgrimage for the 1447 AH Hajj season through the unified government electronic services application, Sahel, within 10 days since the start of registration.

Director for Hajj and Umrah Affairs Sattar Al-Muzain at the ministry said in a post on the X platform that this number confirms the high demand for Hajj this year.

Meanwhile, the ministry stated that registration is ongoing and will end on Nov 22.

NEW WARD OPENED IN ADDICTION CURE CENTER



KUNA photo

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef and Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi inaugurate the new tenth ward at the Addiction Treatment Center.

'90% dip in drugs entry into Kuwait'

New anti-drug law soon: Al-Yousef

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef and Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi inaugurated the new tenth ward at the Addiction Treatment Center, which was established with the

generous support of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) to increase capacity and develop treatment and rehabilitation services for patients.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef revealed that drugs coming into Kuwait decreased by approximately 90 percent over the past year, stressing that the remaining percentage will be under control.

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Fund to care for family strife victims

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah issued Ministerial Resolution No. 271/2025 regarding the formation of the Board of Directors of the Domestic Violence Victims Care Fund, in line with Law No. 16/2020 on protection from domestic violence and Resolution No. 114/2024 on establishing the Fund.

The resolution stipulates that the Board of Directors of the Fund shall be chaired by the Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, with representatives of the Secretariat General of the Council, Social Development Office, Legal and Financial departments at the Social Affairs Ministry, and the Ministry of Finance as members. The Board shall elect a vice-chairman and a secretary from among its members.

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KUNA photo

The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) team and the Danish archaeological team from Moesgaard Museum in their onsite office.

Ancient Bronze Age temple of Dilmun civilization discovered on Failaka Isle

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) announced on Sunday the discovery of a Bronze Age temple dating back nearly 4,000 years to the Dilmun Civilization on Failaka Island, Kuwait, during the 2025 archaeological

excavation season.

The discovery was made in collaboration with a joint Kuwaiti-Danish archaeological team from Moesgaard Museum.

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Al-Fulaij: NBK poised to leverage promising opportunities amid strengthening business confidence in the domestic market

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:36 Asr 14:43
Sunrise .. 05:56 Maghrib .. 17:07
Zohr 11:32 Isha 18:25

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h.
By Night: Mild to rather cold with light to moderate northwest-

Weather

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

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec		
Kuwait City	36	25	Bubyan	32
Kuwait Airport	37	18	Jahra	37
Abdaly	38	20	Failaka Island	31
			Salmiyah	35
			Ahmadi	33
			Nuwaisib	35
			Wafra	37
				21

Crown Prince, PM extend greetings

Kuwait's HH Amir congratulates Austrian President on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to the President of Austria, Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen, on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the President and the Austrian people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to the President of

Austria, Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the President and his people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to the President of Austria, Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen, on his country's National Day.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Crown Prince, PM send congratulations

Amir congratulates Japan's newly elected PM Takaichi

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to Sanae Takaichi on her election as Japan's Prime Minister. In his message, His Highness wished Prime Minister Takaichi lasting health and well-being, and expressed his hopes for continued progress, prosperity, and stability for the people of Japan.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to Prime Minister Takaichi, extending his congratulations on her election and wishing her every success in carrying out the responsibilities of her post.

In addition, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a message of congratulations to Sanae Takaichi, commending her election as Japan's Prime Minister and wishing her success in leading her nation.

KFAED and UNHCR sign \$5.7m deal to boost Sudan, Chad aid

Two grants to support displaced communities

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed two grant agreements Sunday with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) worth a total of USD 5.7 million, as part of Kuwait's continued support for humanitarian efforts in Sudan and Chad.

The signing ceremony was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs and KFAED Chairman Abdullah Al-Yahya, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, Acting Director General of KFAED Waleed Al-Bahar, and UNHCR Representative in Kuwait Naserine Rubaian.

Al-Bahar told KUNA and Kuwait TV that the first grant, valued at USD 3.2 million, aims to support Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad by providing sustainable shelter and essential services.

The second grant, worth USD 2.5 million,



KUNA photo
Minister of Foreign Affairs and KFAED Chairman Abdullah Al-Yahya and UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi after the signing.

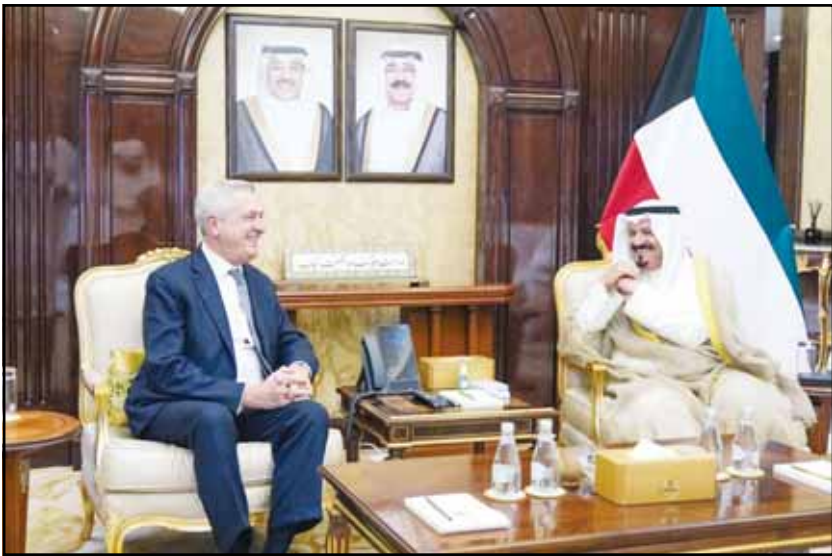
seeks to improve education, water, and health conditions for displaced persons and host communities in eastern Sudan, reflecting Kuwait's firm commitment to alleviating humanitarian suffering and enhancing living conditions re-

gionally and globally, he said.

He noted that these two grants mark the eighth and ninth contributions from the Fund to UNHCR, underscoring a strategic partnership between the two sides. Al-Bahar reaffirmed the Fund's commitment to international cooperation and expanding humanitarian support to help affected communities recover and rebuild resilience.

For her part, UNHCR Representative Naserine Rubaian said the two agreements target the needs of Sudanese refugees in Chad and displaced persons inside Sudan, noting that the Sudan crisis remains one of the most pressing humanitarian emergencies requiring sustained assistance.

She praised Kuwait's longstanding partnership with UNHCR, highlighting that the Fund's total contributions to the agency have reached around USD 20 million in support of humanitarian operations in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, Bangladesh, and Sudan. Rubaian expressed gratitude to Kuwait for its continued support and strategic humanitarian partnership.



PM Diwan photo
His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister, received today at Bayan Palace the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of his visit to the country.

PM receives visiting UNHCR Chief

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Sunday the Commissioner of the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees (UNHCR), Filippo Grandi, and the accompanying delegation.

Attending the meeting was the Chief of the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel.

33 trucks of food and essentials dispatched from Cairo

Kuwait launches first Gaza relief convoy

CAIRO, Oct 26, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Office for Charitable Projects in Cairo on Sunday launched a relief convoy to Gaza, comprising 33 trucks carrying food baskets and essential supplies, donated by Kuwait's Zakat House.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Ghanem Al-

Ghanem affirmed, in a statement to KUNA during the ceremony, Kuwait's commitment to supporting the Palestinian people, especially under current circumstances requiring concerted humanitarian efforts in the Gaza Strip.

Ambassador Al-Ghanem praised the humanitar-

ian role of the Charitable Projects Office and its cooperation with Egyptian charitable organizations to ensure the delivery of Kuwaiti aid to its rightful beneficiaries in Gaza.

He commended the cooperation of Egyptian associations working under the National Alliance for Civil Development Work, headed by Ambassador Nabila Makram, expressing appreciation for efforts enabling the dispatch of the Kuwaiti aid convoy.

Al-Ghanem highlighted the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and Egypt, describing them as a model of bilateral cooperation, and expressed pride in the distinguished humanitarian coordination between both countries.

For his part, Director of the Kuwaiti Office for Charitable Projects Adnan Al-Sabti thanked Egypt's Orman Charity Association for its collaboration in organizing the convoy, and other humanitarian agencies for facilitating its dispatch.

Al-Sabti said the convoy includes 33 trucks, 14 loaded with food baskets and 19 carrying essential items, provided as part of the "Kuwait by your side" campaign.

He noted the shipment marks the first relief convoy dispatched in coordination with Orman Association and reaffirmed the Office's commitment to continue joint humanitarian work with Egyptian partners to strengthen relief efforts.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Mahmoud Fouad, Director of Orman Association, along with several humanitarian volunteers.



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti Charity Office in Cairo launches relief convoy to Gaza.

Envoy calls for collective action

Kuwait committed to accelerating clean energy transition: Al-Najem

BEIJING, Oct 26, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China Jassem Al-Najem stressed the country's commitment to accelerating moving to clean energy and strengthening international collaboration in sustainable energy.

This came in a speech delivered by Al-Najem while partaking in International Forum on Energy Transition in Suzhou organized by China's national energy authority, Kuwait's embassy said in a statement received by KUNA.

Kuwait seeks to make strategic balance between maintaining security and stability of energy supply, and involving effectively in international cooperation system of clean energy, he stated.

He pointed that Kuwait Vision 2035 constitutes the national framework of economic transition and energy through diversifying income and expanding investment in renewable energy fields, including solar and wind energy, and green hydrogen.

He stressed Kuwait's support to international cooperation initiatives like the "Belt and Road Initiative" and the Global Development Initiative which all create an effective framework to develop new partnerships in clean energy and innovation.

Al-Najem noted the Shagaya Renew-



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China Jassem Al-Najem while partaking in International Forum on Energy Transition in Suzhou.

able Energy Complex project in southwest Kuwait is considered a pioneering national model in the fields of clean technology and energy storage that affirms Kuwait's commitment to clean energy projects and low-carbon green development.

Energy transformation requires collection action and sincere cooperation, he said, voicing Kuwait's readiness to strengthen its partnership with Beijing and friendly countries to build a more sustainable, secure and prosperous future.

Other Voices

The beautiful lies of 'One Thousand and One Nights'

By Ahmad alsarraaf

I have long believed that "One Thousand and One Nights" has Arabic origins, given the Arab names and cities it contains, and also based on my own limited understanding. This nearly blind belief, shared by many, reveals the danger of accepting the authenticity of every book we possess without asking whether it might be false or distorted.

Serious research is demanding and often costly, yet it shapes our entire cultural perspective. We belong to a nation with a rich oral tradition, one that historically relied little on writing, which is a reflection of the desert's way of life.

This oral culture arose from the absence of pens, the scarcity of paper, and the lack of means or space to preserve written records. For centuries, it has shaped the nation's consciousness. Most of our ancestors never entered into contracts beyond marriage, and even marriage itself was conducted orally until relatively recently. Even today, some people marry without a written contract. Imagine what it must have been like a thousand or two thousand years ago, not only in terms of marriage, but also in recording historical events, facts, rumors, and news of battles.

I recently discovered that the origins of "One

Thousand and One Nights" are uncertain. The collection is a blend of Indian, Persian, and Arabic stories and legends, which were translated into Arabic in the early eighth century AD under the title "One Thousand and One Nights".

Over time, several additions were made, and it later became known in the West as "The Arabian Nights". Further additions were made in the early eighteenth century, nearly a thousand years after its initial compilation. One of the most notable contributors was Antoine Galland, the French Orientalist, who translated and introduced "One Thousand and One Nights" to European audiences during the period between 1704 and 1717.

Galland added stories that were not present in the original Arabic manuscripts, such as "Aladdin", "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves", and "The Voyages of Sinbad". His work significantly shaped the collection, profoundly influencing subsequent versions as well as Western, and later global, cultural imagination. Galland also deleted, rewrote, or rearranged stories to suit

the literary tastes and moral standards of Europe at the time. Other European writers produced their own "Oriental" tales, along with spurious translations and later installments inspired by them. What is clear is that the book's tales are the work of multiple authors over an extended period, originating from folk stories circulating in Persia, the Arabian Peninsula, and India between the sixth and ninth centuries AD.

When "One Thousand and One Nights" reached Baghdad, stories of Harun al-Rashid, along with tales from Syria and Egypt, were added to complete the promised collection of One Thousand and One Nights. The tales continued to expand over time.

In its current form, the collection is considered part of Arab heritage, despite earlier material appearing in a Persian edition titled "Hazar Afsan" (A Thousand Stories), likely the source of the Arabic version. Misconceptions about the book's origin and its association with Arab culture may stem from cartoons and films that portrayed its characters as Arab. The oldest manuscript of the collection was discovered in Egypt and is now preserved at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago.

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alsarraaf

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Why some Kuwaitis seek immigration to the US?

"I SPENT considerable time reviewing the statistics published by the U.S. State Department on the number of visas issued by consular affairs to various countries. While high levels of immigration from nations experiencing political, military, security, or economic crises are understandable, the inclusion of 636 visas for Kuwaitis raises questions," columnist Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.



Adel Al-Kharafi

"It is understandable that the U.S. State Department does not disclose the specific reasons for issuance, or whether these individuals were born in Kuwait but are non-Kuwaitis, or are stateless. Nevertheless, the number is surprising, as Kuwaitis generally have no pressing need to immigrate. Our country faces no social or security crises, nor are there obstacles that would compel citizens to leave.

"It is indeed surprising that there is any immigration from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, as these nations are generally stable and serve as destinations for investors, capitalists, and workers seeking better living conditions.

"Therefore, the fact that 636 Kuwaitis is applied to immigrate to the United States in 2024 seems unreasonable. From my own experience in the U.S., where I studied, I am aware of the challenges of life there, such as high taxes that can consume up to 30 percent of one's income, as well as security concerns that are often absent in the Gulf states.

"In some Gulf countries, American retirees choose to live there because life is easier than in their home country, and millions of them have settled in various nations worldwide. So, is it reasonable that citizens of the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Bahrain would apply to immigrate to the United States? What surprises me is that the numbers do not seem to reflect reality. For instance, the statistics list eight Comoros citizens as applicants, even though living conditions there are far more challenging than in many other countries.

"Of course, these statistics come from a reliable official source and cannot be dismissed. However, the reasons behind them, especially in Kuwait, where such a large number of citizens reportedly seek to immigrate, warrant careful investigation, and reflection. It raises the question - Why would someone seek to immigrate when they already enjoy a stable standard of living, employment, pensions, housing, freedom of movement and travel, free healthcare, and many other benefits that Kuwaiti citizens, and, indeed, residents of most Gulf states, receive?

"While there are occasional calls to reduce pensions or amend certain laws, such issues cannot justify immigrating to countries with far more difficult living conditions. Therefore, it is essential to investigate the underlying reasons behind this trend and address them with the utmost prudence."

Also:

"Every citizen and resident is urged to maintain the cleanliness of every part of Kuwait, just as they would keep their own homes clean. This is a matter of honesty before God and one's conscience, and a way to show true love for Kuwait," Kuwaiti citizen Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"Citizens are also advised to avoid sharing news from unverified sources. Do not forward messages containing the names of individuals involved in criminal incidents in Kuwait. Refrain from seeking scoops and unverified information to stay on the safe side.

"I call on families to treat their workers with kindness and respect, honoring their humanity. This not only earns reward from God but also ensures the proper care and service from those who have left their homes and families to earn a living.

"My brothers and sisters, saving money from extravagance and ensuring the quality and cleanliness of food begins at home, not outside. Everything you want or crave can be provided by your family, so there is no need to rely on takeout meals whose preparation you do not know, except from places you trust.

"In many coffee shops, servers may not know the proper amount of coffee to pour. Owners should remind them that when serving guests, the cup should contain only two or three sips at most; otherwise, the flavor of the coffee is lost.

"To the youth of this generation, not everything that comes from the West suits you. Only fools imitate blindly. You are wiser when you adhere to your religion, customs, and traditions. We live in a time when few act in your interest, except the muezzin."

□ □ □

"My experience while studying in the United States had a profound impact on my way of thinking and dealing with mistakes and corruption. These experiences shifted me from the role of a complaining critic to that of a thoughtful analyst. Rather than expending energy merely uncovering and exposing faults, I now focus on diagnosis, analysis, and evaluation," columnist Dr. Abdul Latif Bin Nakhi wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"The idealized image of America changed for me when I first saw home-

less people living on the streets. It was a stark contrast to the glamorous portrayal I had often seen in American films. Witnessing their plight made me fear that such a fate could one day befall me, my children, or my grandchildren.

"My perception changed further after the professor, an American of East Asian descent, asked the class about the repeated absence of one of our colleagues. His classmates explained that he had missed several days of university after giving a passionate speech at a student festival.

"The shift in perspective was reinforced when the professor commented that freedom in America is far greater than in many countries around the world, including East Asian nations. However, he added that no country in the world offers absolute freedom without limits. A wise political activist, he noted, is one who maintains a careful distance from boundaries that are not clearly defined in certain areas.

"My perception shifted even more after speaking with a group of Arab expatriate family heads in America. They expressed a strong desire to return to their homelands or relocate to a Gulf country, motivated both by moral considerations and by the general hardships of life in the United States, especially during workdays.

"Studying in America taught me to examine facts from multiple perspectives and angles. I strive to share some of these insights with others, aiming to promote pluralism and realism in understanding local, regional, and global events.

"For example, I have closely followed various opinions on major events in the United States, including media coverage of Elon Musk's efforts to lay off hundreds of thousands of federal employees, the nine-day grace period offered last February by the current US administration allowing most federal employees to accept a resignation offer while continuing to receive pay until the end of September, and the administration's eagerness to rehire hundreds of wrongfully dismissed employees, including officials responsible for managing nuclear weapons.

"This article is not intended to evaluate the troubling and flawed decisions made by the current US administration. My focus is simply to highlight that even the government of the world's largest economy sometimes takes actions that unsettle its citizens, and that the government of the world's most powerful military can make errors that confuse its forces and potentially threaten its external security.

"At the domestic level, I am not defending the controversial decisions of our current or past governments. My purpose is to advocate for a more thoughtful approach: we should evaluate decisions before passing judgment and respond constructively to corrective measures, rather than exploiting them merely to embarrass the government."

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"Followers on social media and private news websites have seen live or recorded images from major Iranian cities, including Tehran, Ahvaz, Isfahan, and Shiraz, showing women, particularly young women, going out fully dressed but without headscarves. Does this signal a challenge to the religious regime? The phenomenon of removing the hijab emerged after the 12-day conflict between Iran and Israel. However, the roots go much deeper," Kuwaiti



Hassan Ali Karam

journalist Hassan Ali Karam wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"Before the war, following his recent election as president, Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian spoke publicly about women's hijab, calling for a reduction in extremism and an end to the persecution of those who do not wear it. Such a statement would not have been made unless Supreme Leader Khamenei had granted some powers to him. Prior to his presidency, Pezeshkian, who is a well-known doctor with strong social and academic standing inside and outside Iran, also served as a university director.

"Was the easing of the hijab driven not by the Supreme Leader but by the intervention of the pro-openness president? Why not? Iranian immigrants, most of whom live in the United States and Europe, undoubtedly maintain close contact with family and friends in Iran. They monitor conditions at home, including the clothing women and girls wear and their freedom of movement in public spaces, all reflecting personal liberties.

"The issue of the hijab in Iran was not far removed from European and American influence during the monarchy. Iran maintained strong ties with the West compared to many of its Arab neighbors, particularly in the Gulf. The hijab, imposed on women by Reza Shah, the father of the deposed Shah, was eventually removed, similar to reforms in Turkey under Atatürk, who modernized the country not only by abolishing the hijab but also by replacing the Arabic script with Latin and reshaping daily customs.

"I sense that change is on the horizon, though the tragic death of the Kurdish girl, Mahsa Amini, still leaves deep scars. Will Iranian women's decision to remove the hijab have an impact on Arab countries, particularly in the Gulf, where women enjoy the freedom to choose between wearing or not wearing the hijab, while many continue to wear both the hijab and the abaya?

— Compiled by Simi K.Kutty

'Coordination vital to boost customs output'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Director General of the General Administration of Customs (GAC) Yousef Al-Nuwaif on Saturday emphasized the need to intensify efforts and strengthen cooperation among various customs departments to ensure smooth passenger inspections and protect the country from smuggling attempts, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Al-Nuwaif

In a press release, GAC stated that Al-Nuwaif made these remarks during an inspection tour of the T5 Airport Customs Department, accompanied by Deputy Director General for Investigation and Inspection, Saleh Al-Omar.

Al-Nuwaif emphasized the continuation of field monitoring operations to strengthen discipline, enhance preparedness, and raise overall performance levels.

He affirmed that the GAC is moving forward with its development plans to keep pace

with global challenges and evolving trends in the field of customs work.

Al-Nuwaif praised the efforts of customs inspectors and their vital role in supporting the nation's security and economic systems.

It is worth adding that the tour included visits to inspection centers and their specialized departments, where Al-Nuwaif received detailed explanations from officials on the work mechanisms and procedures designed to ensure the speedy inspection of passengers while maintaining strict adherence to customs regulations.

Al-Seyassah photo
Traffic police tackle a mishap on the bridge.

Cars, bikes seized

618 citations issued in Jaber Bridge campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Security agencies, including the General Traffic Department, the General Department of Rescue Police, and the General Department of Security Systems, conducted an extensive security and traffic campaign on Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Bridge from Friday evening until Saturday morning, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministry of Interior stated on its X account that the campaign was carried out in accordance with the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef and under the direct supervision of Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs, Major General Hamed Manahi Al-Dawas. Head of the Traffic and Operations Sector Brigadier Abdullah Al-Ateeqi, Head of the Human Resources and Information Technology Sector Brigadier Anwar Al-Yatama, and several senior security officers also participated in the campaign.

The ministry reported that the campaign led to the arrest of one person for violating residency and labor laws, four absconders, and three wanted individuals. Three wanted vehicles were impounded, one individual in an abnormal condition was referred to the relevant authorities, and 13 vehicles and five motorcycles were placed in the impoundment garage. Also, six violators were referred to precautionary detention, and 618 traffic citations were issued.

The Ministry of Interior affirmed its commitment to continuing such security and traffic campaigns in various roads and vital locations, and taking strict legal measures against violators to ensure public safety and road security.

Kuwaiti citizen acquitted in drugs and DUI lawsuit

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Criminal Court, headed by Counselor Faisal Waleed Al-Hassan and including Judges Yousef Al-Salahi and Mohammad Abdul Hamid Younis, acquitted a citizen of possessing narcotic and psychotropic substances for the purpose of consumption and driving a vehicle under the influence.

According to the case file, a police officer received a report that the accused was asleep inside his vehicle in a restaurant parking lot.

He arrived at the location at 4:00 am and saw the vehicle parked. He found its window open, the engine running, and the accused asleep inside.

The police officer put his hand through the window to turn off the vehicle. He then woke up the accused and noticed his eyes were red and he was emitting foul odor. He also saw a bag next to him containing a bottle of clear liquid, in addition to a plastic bottle containing clear liquid.

The accused was asked to disembark the vehicle and examined by a paramedic, who reported that he was not ill but that he was in an abnormal condition.

He was taken to the police station and referred to the competent authority. A urine sample test revealed the presence of a narcotic substance and two psychotropic substances.

The defendant appeared before the court accompanied by Attorney Bashar Al-Nassar, denying the charges against his client.

He argued that the arrest of the defendant was invalid due to the lack of legal standing and the procedures resulting from it, that the police officer's search of the vehicle was invalid, that the defendant's referral for investigation and the investigator's contact were invalid due to the absence of a crime, that the defendant's referral to the Criminal Evidence Department by the investigator was invalid, and that all procedures resulting from the arrest and search were invalid due to their nullity.

Also, the Court of Appeals upheld the acquittal of several defendants in drug possession and consumption cases, after the pleadings presented by Attorney Tahani Al-Nafees - lawyer for the defendants.

In the first case, the court rejected the claim for financial compensation filed against one of the defendants. It also rejected the Public Prosecution's appeal and upheld the acquittal on the charge of possession of a narcotic substance for the purpose of consumption.

In another case, the Court of Appeals upheld the acquittal ruling issued by the Court of First Instance for a defendant accused of possessing narcotic and psychotropic substances. The defense lawyer argued that the warrant issued by the prosecution was invalid due to insufficient investigations, and that the search procedures for the defendant's vehicle were invalid due to the lack of a permit.

In a separate ruling, the Court of First Instance ordered the prosecution to pay one of the defendants KDS,000 as moral compensation for the damages he suffered as a result of the accusation.

2 young men arrested in Ahmadi with drugs

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Ahmadi securitymen arrested two young men for the possession of narcotic pills and an undisclosed amount of cash.

According to a security source, while patrolling in Fa-haheel, securitymen suspected two people who were in an abnormal condition.

After a thorough search, the officers found narcotic pills and cash in the possession of the suspects who, along with the confiscated items, were referred to the concerned authorities to complete the investigations.

Minors among gang of thieves

Bid to swindle woman foiled

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Officers from Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Investigation Unit in Farwaniya Governorate Investigation Department arrested an Arab gang consisting of two juveniles and one adult who confessed to carrying out three robberies targeting expatriates in Jleeb, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source told the daily that a rise in robbery cases among Asians in Jleeb prompted detectives to intensify their mobile patrols. After receiving confidential information that a three-member gang of Arabs was behind the series of robberies and thefts in various parts of Farwaniya Governorate, investigators tracked the suspects within 24 hours, set up an entrapment and caught them red-handed during a robbery attempt.

When interrogated, the defendants admitted that they would stalk their victims before approaching them in narrow streets or open squares, assaulting them, and stealing their cash and mobile phones. The suspects, along with the recovered stolen items, were referred to the Public Prosecution.

□ □ □

Fraud bid foiled: Salhiya Investigation Department officers foiled an attempt to defraud a woman whose Kuwaiti citizenship was revoked, reports Al-Anba daily.

The accused was apprehended before he could leave the country for a neighboring State through the Nuwaiseeb border.

Following his arrest, the defendant contacted his brother, who held a power of attorney on his behalf, to complete the transfer of ownership of the house that the woman purchased and fully paid for.

According to a security source, the woman filed a complaint at Salhiya Police Station, indicating that she purchased a house in Wafra residential area from a citizen for KD180,000. She accompanied the defendant to Kuwait Credit Bank, paid KD70,000 - the due amount, and obtained a property description certificate. She then handed him a check worth KD110,000, which he cashed. Afterward, he stopped responding to her and failed to complete the ownership transfer procedures.

The source disclosed "detectives contacted the accused, but when asked to appear,

he kept stalling. Consequently, his name was added to the list of persons banned from traveling."

"That same day, detectives received a notification from Nuwaiseeb border crossing indicating that the accused was attempting to leave the country. They immediately proceeded to the police station and interrogated him. During questioning, he admitted that he intended to flee the country without transferring ownership of the house. The accused was charged with fraud and released pending trial, while his travel ban remains in effect," the source narrated.

□ □ □

'I don't have the money': A citizen employed as a manager in a government agency admitted that he received KD5,400 from a woman as payment for a car she purchased, reports Al-Anba daily.

However, due to financial difficulties, he was unable to complete the sale or return the amount he received. He lacks the funds to reimburse the plaintiff, so he was charged with fraud.

A source revealed that a woman filed a complaint at a police station, stating that she liked a vehicle offered for sale on social media. She contacted the seller, inspected the car, and after confirming that the seller was a manager, transferred the vehicle's price through a bank link he provided.

She then waited to receive the vehicle, but the seller stopped responding and failed to deliver the car or refund her payment. When she tried to reach him by phone, he initially promised to complete the transfer but later blocked her number on both phone and WhatsApp. She submitted all the details and evidence related to the incident.

The source added the case was referred to the Hawally Investigation Department to summon the defendant. "When confronted with the charges, he admitted that he entered into an agreement with the complainant to buy and sell an Infiniti vehicle. He acknowledged receiving the agreed amount through a bank link but claimed that she was the one who blocked him on WhatsApp," the source added.

The source continued "in light of the defendant's statements, investigators contacted the complainant to confront her with his account of events. She went to the police station and was brought face-to-face with the defendant, whom she immediately identified. Following the confrontation, the defendant confessed that he blocked the complainant, and that he currently does not possess the money she transferred and was unable to hand over the vehicle."

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TEC adopts partnership model to strengthen Kuwait’s tourism

‘Private sector is our partner, not competitor’

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Acting Director of Marketing at the Tourism Enterprises Company (TEC) Abdullah Khaled Al-Rafi said the company, as the entity responsible for developing tourist and recreational sites in the country, has, for the past three years, established a new approach and philosophy in managing its tourist facilities and operating mechanisms, which now considers the private sector a partner in managing its projects, not a competitor.

This approach has positively impacted TEC projects, which attract various segments of society. In a special statement to the newspaper on the sidelines of the official opening of South Sabahiya Park (Luna Park), Al-Rafi affirmed that the private sector is the partner of TEC in the



A press conference will be held to announce the launch of the fourth season of the Winter Wonderland project on November 6.

development of tourist facilities, not a competitor. He pointed out that the complementary relationship between the government sector, represented by TEC as the entity authorized by the Ministry of Finance to manage tourism in the country, and the private sector, will boost the national economy and support its sustainability and growth,

especially after the relevant authorities launched the ‘Kuwait Visa’ platform to support local tourism. He predicted a large turnout of visitors at the TEC facilities in the upcoming holidays and seasons, particularly visitors from outside Kuwait. He said the most important TEC project that will open soon is the revamped Messi-

lah Beach on Oct 29. He said TEC developed the beach, which is managed by United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), in addition to the opening of beaches in Hilton Mangaf and Egaila, as well as the reopening of Winter Land in Al-Shaab Al-Bahri for the third consecutive season at the beginning of November.

Progress in education reform hailed NBAAEQ celebrates 15 years as pillar of academic quality

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Director General of the National Bureau for Academic Accreditation and Education Quality Assurance (NBAAEQ), Dr. Jassim Al-Ali, affirmed that since its establishment 15 years ago, the NBAAEQ has been a cornerstone in ensuring educational quality and has played a major role in enhancing Kuwait’s academic reputation regionally and internationally, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement issued to mark the 15th anniversary of the bureau, Dr. Al-Ali explained that NBAAEQ has consistently worked to improve the efficiency of the higher education system by updating lists of recommended universities and compiling lists of distinguished institutions based on leading international rankings.

These efforts are in line with the state’s vision of building a high-quality education system that develops human capital and supports sustainable development.

NBAAEQ continues to develop its institutional tools and mechanisms to consolidate a culture of quality and excellence in higher education, while valuing cooperative frameworks with state institutions in areas such as institutional accreditation and



NBAAEQ photo
Dr. Jassim Al-Ali, Director General of the National Bureau for Academic Accreditation and Education Quality Assurance

aligning education with labor market needs.

One of NBAAEQ’s most notable achievements in 2025 was organizing the Good Practices and Future Challenges Forum for Higher Education Quality, which served as an effective platform for exchanging expertise and experiences among accreditation bodies and higher education institutions in Arab and Gulf countries.

Dr. Al-Ali expressed his gratitude to the agency’s team for their continuous efforts, emphasizing that these achievements are the result of joint national work and reflect NBAAEQ’s commitment to its mission and its role in supporting the realization of New Kuwait 2035 vision.

Students pressured to buy multiple books

KU faculty criticized over textbook policies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Academic and student sources at Kuwait University (KU) have cautioned students, particularly those in the College of Education, against the illegal practice of requiring them to purchase university textbooks, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

They clarified that university regulations explicitly state that faculty members may encourage students to buy textbooks, but students cannot be rewarded or penalized based on whether they do so.

The sources confirmed that certain academic departments are violating these regulations, as some

faculty members indirectly compel students to purchase textbooks or special notes under various pretexts, most notably, by announcing that exams will be open-book and impossible to complete without the textbook, or by assigning coursework within the textbook worth up to 30 points.

They stressed that such practices circumvent university regulations and impose unnecessary financial burdens on students, particularly amid the rising cost of textbooks.

The sources revealed that some faculty members

request a limited number of books for the KU Library and prevent suppliers from providing additional copies, thereby forcing students to purchase textbooks from external bookstores at prices reaching up to three times the original cost.

The sources urged the university administration to issue a clear circular stipulating that all coursework and assignments must be based on the officially approved course textbook, with a monitoring mechanism in place to ensure strict compliance with the regulations.

Lamerd-Kuwait direct flight starts

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Totonji announced on his X account the launch of a new flight from the city of Lamerd in Shiraz, Iran to Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Totonji disclosed that “in addition to the existing air routes from Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan, Shiraz and Ahvaz to Kuwait via Iran Air and Kuwait Airways, a direct flight from Lamerd to Kuwait will be launched on Tuesday through ATA Airlines.”



Participants of the evacuation drill.

Exercise aims to enhance readiness

KCB holds safety evacuation drill

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) conducted an evacuation drill in its main building in South Surra, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, specifically the General Directorate of Civil Defense, Traffic, Rescue, Public Security and Operations, as well as Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) and the Emergency Medical Services Department at the Ministry of Health, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The drill aimed to evaluate employees’ readiness to respond to emergencies and train them in rapid and organized evacuation procedures as part of the crisis and emergency response plan, while reinforcing preventive and precautionary measures.

The exercise successfully tested employees’ awareness of emergency plans and their proficiency in using emergency exits to ensure their safety and that of customers.

Acting General Manager of the bank Sultan Al-Dabbous expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated and tireless efforts of the Ministry of

Interior and its personnel in various sectors, in addition to those of KFF and the Ministry of Health.

He reaffirmed his commitment to continuously strengthen cooperation with different government agencies and institutions to implement policies and procedures that safeguard the health and safety of employees, and prevent material and human losses. He said the evacuation was intended to train the bank’s employees on how to deal with fire and emergency situations, and on the proper rules for evacuating buildings quickly and efficiently. He added the goal of this initiative is to minimize material losses and ensure the staff are fully prepared to handle such situations without injuries or loss of life.

He cited another objective -- to assess the readiness of the bank’s facilities and infrastructure to respond effectively during emergencies, including the functionality of alarms, fire extinguishers, water pumps, emergency exits and stairways.

Clear skies ahead

No rain expected before Nov 10

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Meteorologist Issa Ramadan said “there will be no rain before Nov 10, as there are no signs of clouds on the weather map before this date, although we hope this will change. The sky is clear and the air is light,” reports Al-Rai daily.

On the weather over the weekend, he pointed out the weather was ideal for going out and fishing, with only slight humidity along the coast. He revealed “the maximum temperature was around 35 degrees Celsius, while the minimum was 29 degrees Celsius. In the desert and farms in Abdally and Wafra, the minimum temperature at dawn dropped to 15 degrees Celsius, while the maximum was 19 de-

grees Celsius.” Explaining the higher temperature in the capital compared to inland areas, Ramadan said “this is due to the heat island phenomenon, which means the city absorbs heat during the day and releases it at night. One of the contributing factors is traffic congestion. I always emphasize the importance of planting trees and selecting species that help lower temperatures, as tree planting can reduce heat by up to 12 degrees Celsius. Through planting, we can protect ourselves from excessive heat.”

He added “the weather this week will be as pleasant as it gets, and those planning to camp may need to wear a jacket.”

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Kuwait PM inaugurates new airport tower and runway

PACA highlights Kuwait Airport expansion achievement

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): Kuwait Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) on Sunday held a ceremony launching the new Control Tower and Third Runway at Kuwait International Airport under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

While touring the site, His Highness the Prime Minister listened to a detailed explanation on the implementation of the project and its technical and operational components.

His Highness was also briefed on the modern air control equipment installed in the new Control Tower and checked the Third Runway established to receive all types of aircraft, including large new generation ones.

His Highness the Prime Minister said in a press statement that the opening and operation of the new Control Tower and Third Tower mark a quantum shift in the national air transport system and reflect the State's commitment to implementing its comprehensive development vision.

He underlined that the government attaches much attention to developing airports' infrastructure and upgrading their operational capabilities to bolster the national economy and facilitate air and commercial transport in the country.

The event was attended by Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Public Works Noura Al-Mashaan, Chairman of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) Sheikh Humoud Mubark Humoud Al-Sabah and several senior state officials.

Chief of Kuwait Civil Aviation Authority Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah affirmed Sunday the new Control Tower and Third Runway project reflect strong state cooperation in executing major strategic projects in line with global aviation standards.

In a statement to KUNA, he said that the achievement reflects the national expertise and efficiency in carrying out large-scale projects at Kuwait International Airport with top technical and engineering quality.

He added that the government continues to support airport development projects to enhance Kuwait's position as a regional hub for air transport and logistics, noting that the tower and runway project forms part of a comprehensive master plan to modernize infrastructure and increase capacity.

The third runway will officially begin operations on October 30, with redevelopment of the eastern runway scheduled for completion by November 15.



Under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister, the Public Authority for Civil Aviation held a ceremony on Sunday to officially inaugurate the new control tower and the third runway at Kuwait International Airport.



Continued from Page 1

'90% dip

He revealed that the increase in drug prices from KD 1 to KD 7-KD 8 is clear evidence of the success of the drug combating efforts.

Sheikh Fahad said, "We are waging a fierce war against drug dealers and promoters. When I took over the ministry, I discovered that the scale of the confrontation is beyond imagination. Thanks to the supreme directives of His Highness the Amir and the efforts of the Interior Ministry personnel, we managed to achieve unprecedented results.

Addiction is not a crime, but a disease that requires care. Our duty is to treat those afflicted, not to prosecute them. What we are witnessing today at the addiction treatment center is a national achievement and a world-class standard that we are proud of, thanks to the cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health, and the generous support of Kuwait Finance House."

Sheikh Fahad revealed that the Ministry of Interior won first place in an award presented by the Anti-Drug Headquarters in Tunisia, in recognition of Kuwait's efforts in combating drugs.

He emphasized that anti-drug personnel are waging a war against the unknown and against drug dens, "making sacrifices that only God can see".

Sheikh Fahad confirmed that all hospitals in Kuwait provide treatment to all residents without discrimination, adding that the successful programs adopted by the Supervised Home Treatment Center have shown very promising results.

He indicated that the new anti-drug law will be announced this week or the next, stressing that the new penalties will include the death penalty for drug traffickers.

Sheikh Fahad revealed a government plan to reintegrate recovered addicts and help them return to their jobs.

He emphasized that experience has proven that many patients successfully return to normal life, insisting that they should not be left alone to relapse into addiction.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef concluded by saying that the opening of the tenth wing at the Addiction Treatment Center represents a model of integration between the public and private sectors to serve the nation, adding that the ward provides a therapeutic environment comparable to the most advanced facilities in developed countries.

For his part, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed that health awareness is a fundamental pillar of the healthcare system.

He praised the role of health media in spreading awareness and highlighting the ministry's efforts.

Dr. Al-Awadhi concluded by saying, "The presence of media professionals alongside healthcare practitioners enhances communication with the community and boosts drug prevention and treatment".



Left: Mohammed bin Redha and Dr. Hassan Ashkanani with Dr. Stefan Larsen and Dr. Ole Herschland, supervisor of the Danish excavations on Failaka Island. Right: A collection of gemstone beads and a Dilmun seal recently discovered at the Dilmun temple site.



KUNA photos

Ancient Bronze

Acting Assistant Secretary-General for the Antiquities and Museums Sector at NCCAL, Mohammad bin Redha, told KUNA that the team successfully uncovered the complete layout of a Bronze Age temple belonging to the Dilmun Civilization, located beneath another temple that has been announced during the previous excavation season.

He explained that excavations confirmed the presence of two superimposed temples at the same site, both dating back about 4,000 years. Bin Redha emphasized NCCAL's ongoing support for archaeological missions across Kuwait through excavation, restoration, and scientific research efforts aimed at highlighting the nation's ancient heritage and preserving its cultural legacy.

The team's work focused on the area east of the "Palace" and the "Dilmun Temple" sites, situated on a mound known as Tell F6, which dates to the early Dilmun period of the Bronze Age.

Head of the Danish mission in Kuwait, Dr. Stefan Larsen, stated that earlier excavation seasons revealed wall remains believed to be part of a small temple platform dating to around 1900 B.C., measuring approximately 11 by 11 meters. This, he said, confirms the continuity of the Dilmun Civilization on Failaka Island.

This season's excavations uncovered the foundations of an even older temple beneath the previously discovered one, also belonging to the Bronze Age. Artifacts such as seals and pottery vessels found at the site further confirm the temple's association with the early Dilmun period, providing important insight into the religious practices of the Dilmun people, he added.

Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology at Kuwait University, Dr. Hassan Ashkanani, affirmed that discovering two Dilmun temples dating between 1900 and 1800 B.C. represents a unique archaeological achievement in Kuwait's history.

He noted that the discovery brings the total

number of known temples in the southwestern region of Failaka Island to four adjacent temples from the same era, underscoring the area's significance as a major administrative and religious center during the Bronze Age and reflecting the development of the Kingdom of Dilmun, which flourished on Failaka alongside other sites such as Al-Khader Port and Tell Saad.

Dr. Olle Herschland, who has supervised excavations since 2022, said this season's research focuses on architectural analysis and daily activities carried out within the temples, as they represent key religious, cultural, and political institutions in the island's history.

E-payment

It offers multiple payment channels and has replaced paper stamps with electronic ones since 2013, boosting transparency and facilitating the completion of transactions.

Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem stressed that "Payment" is a key pillar in the Ministry of Finance's digital government initiatives, adding that the strategic partnership with the Shared Electronic Banking Services Company (KNet) exemplifies a successful public-private sector collaboration.

He explained that the Ministry of Finance's digital transformation efforts contributed to the ministry winning the Sharjah Award for Public Finance for the third cycle (2024-2025) in the category of Distinguished Institution in Providing Financial Services in the Arab World.

These initiatives support the country's "New Kuwait 2035" vision and strengthen Kuwait's standing among leading nations in smart government services, thanks to the guidance and support of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah.

Fund to

The Fund aims to care for victims of domestic violence by financing emergency cases, providing temporary housing, treatment and psychological and social support, in addition to legal assistance and reintegrating victims into society. It is also responsible for following up the implementation of judicial rulings related to victims of domestic violence and their families, and covering the costs of necessary services for them.

The resources of the Fund consist of the financial allocations designated for it in the general budget, and unconditional donations and grants.

The Board carries out its duties through periodic meetings held at least once a month or whenever needed.

According to the resolution, the Board is in charge of preparing the annual budget, monitoring expenditures, reviewing the final accounts, approving periodic reports on the activities of the Fund, and conducting studies on the needs of victims and submitting them to the relevant authorities.

The Board may seek the assistance of technical or legal experts on matters related to domestic violence, in accordance with the procedures and regulations approved by the Ministry of Finance.

The resolution affirmed that the payment

of stipend to members of the Board will be in accordance with Cabinet Resolution No. 513/2023, and that the abovementioned resolution took effect on the date of its issuance -- Oct 26, 2025.

Wanted Kuwaiti

The incident occurred on Wednesday when the man crashed into ICE officers and several government vehicles in a residential neighborhood where the speed limit is 20 mph and a daycare center is nearby, according to a witness, Michael Burek, who spoke to local affiliate KGTV.

Deaver said that the suspect's "blatant disregard for human life and the rule of law" underscores the importance of ICE's efforts to locate, apprehend, and deport dangerous individuals who pose a threat to public safety.

Both the suspect and the three injured officers were treated at a local hospital. ICE confirmed it will pursue criminal charges against the man for assaulting, resisting, and obstructing federal officers.

Deaver added that the incident reflects the dangers faced by ICE agents amid what he described as misleading and unjust criticism of the agency's enforcement duties under federal law.

MoH issues salon safety guide

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi issued decision no. 194/2025, published in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youm', on Sunday, mandating the implementation of the health requirements guide for health institutions, salons,

and beauty and personal care centers.

Al-Awadhi stressed the need to take the necessary measures in cooperation with the relevant authorities to ensure the proper implementation of the guide in order to protect public health. Health institutions, salons, and beauty and personal care centers were given a deadline until March 1, 2026 to comply with the requirements.

CONDOLENCES

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May her soul Rest in Peace

Contracts with MoF required

Commercial use of State land prohibited

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng. Manal Al-Asfour affirmed that the use of state-owned land for any commercial activity is strictly prohibited unless a contract is concluded with the Ministry of Finance, reports Al-Anba daily.

In response to the question of Municipal Council member Walid Al-Dagher regarding the use of state-owned land for commercial purposes, specifically parking services, Al-Asfour pointed out there is an activity known as 'Valet Parking' (code 799034), which operates as an office within commercial buildings. Another activity, 'Parking-Parking Lots in Squares' (code 522103), is also licensed to operate as an office within commercial establishments. She clarified that both activities — valet parking and parking lots — are conducted within shopping malls and not on state-owned land.

She emphasized that no commercial use of state-owned land is permitted as it is a violation of the applicable rules and regulations, unless a contract is concluded with the State



Eng. Manal Al-Asfour, Acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality

Property Department at the Ministry of Finance.

She added that with regard to the legal measures taken pursuant to Ministerial Resolution No. 435/2022, which pertains to the regulations governing public establishments that disturb public peace or pose a threat to public health, any violating kiosk will be subject to a fine.

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A sign marks an entrance to Lincoln University on Jan 17, 2024, in Jefferson City, Mo. (AP)

Pennsylvania shooting kills 1, injures 6

Gunfire erupted during outdoor festivities at Pennsylvania's Lincoln University late Saturday, killing one person and wounding six others as students and alumni celebrated homecoming at the historically Black school, authorities said.

A person who had a firearm was detained, and officials are investigating the possibility that there was more than one shooter but don't believe there is any active threat to the

campus, Chester County District Attorney Christopher de Barrena-Sarobe said during a brief news conference early Sunday.

"We don't have a lot of answers about exactly what happened," he said. "What I will tell you is that today we're operating as if this is not an incident where someone came in with the design to inflict mass damage on a college campus." (AP)

Kamala Harris leaves door open for '28 presidential run

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26, (AP): Kamala Harris isn't ruling out another run for the White House.

In an interview with the BBC posted Saturday, Harris said she expects a woman will be president in the coming years, and it could "possibly" be her.

"I am not done," she said. The former vice president said she hasn't decided whether to mount a 2028 presidential campaign. But she dismissed the suggestion that she'd face long odds.

"I have lived my entire career a life of service and it's in my bones. And there are many ways to serve," she said. "I've never listened to polls."

She's recently given a series of interviews following the September release of her book, "107 Days." It looks back on her experience replacing then-President Joe Biden as the 2024 Democratic presidential nominee after he dropped out of the race.

She ultimately lost to Republican President Donald Trump.

In an interview with The Associated Press last week, Harris, 60, also made clear that running again



US Vice President Kamala Harris, (right), next to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, speaks during a plenary session of the US-ASEAN Summit on May 13, 2022, at the State Department in Washington. (AP)

in 2028 is still on the table. She said she sees herself as a leader of the party, including in pushing back against Trump and preparing for the 2026 midterms.



Police vehicles block the street after reports of a shooting at the Austin Public Library on César Chávez Street in downtown Austin, Texas on Oct 25. (AP)

1 hurt, suspect held in Texas shooting

Someone was shot inside a downtown library in Texas' state capital city on Saturday, police said, prompting emergency vehicles and personnel to converge on the building and a shelter-in-place alert to be issued. A suspect later was taken into custody in another part of the city.

The shooting victim was taken to a local hospital, where the person was in serious but stable condition Saturday afternoon, the Austin Po-

lice Department said. Shortly after noon, Austin's 911 system received reports of a shooting incident at the Austin Central Library, Assistant Police Chief Lee Rogers said in a media briefing.

A suspect left the scene before the arrival of officers, but the person was later located and placed into custody in the city's South Austin neighborhood about 1:25 p.m., police said. (AP)

Senator King hopes colleagues start negotiating quickly to end impasse

Shutdowns began as a way to enforce federal law, now Trump using it to take more power

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26, (AP): The government shutdown, already the second-longest in history, with no end in sight, is quickly becoming a way for US President Donald Trump to exercise new command over the government.

It wasn't always this way. In fact, it all started with an attempt to tighten Washington's observance of federal law.

The modern phenomena of the US government closing down services began in 1980 with a series of legal opinions from Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, who was serving under Democratic President Jimmy Carter. Civiletti reached into the Antideficiency Act of 1870 to argue that the law was "plain and unambiguous" in restricting the government from spending money once authority from Congress expires.

In this shutdown, however, the Republican president has used the funding lapse to punish Democrats, tried to lay off thousands of federal workers and seized on the vacuum left by Congress to reconfigure the federal budget for his priorities.

Democrats have only dug into their positions.

It's all making this fight that much harder to resolve and potentially redefining how Washington will approach funding lapses altogether.

In the post-Watergate years, Civiletti's tenure at the Department of Justice was defined by an effort to restore public trust in Washington, sometimes with strict interpretations of federal law.

When a conflict between Congress and the Federal Trade Commission led to a delay in funding legislation for the agency, Civiletti issued his opinion, later following it up with another opinion that allowed the government to perform essential services.

He did not know that it would set the groundwork for some of the most defining political battles to come.

"I couldn't have ever imagined these shutdowns would last this long of a time and would be used as a political gambit," Civiletti, who died in 2022, told The Washington Post six years ago.

For the next 15 years, there were



The Capitol is seen on day 23 of the government shutdown, in Washington on Oct. 23. (AP)

no lengthy government shutdowns. In 1994, Republicans retook Congress under House Speaker Newt Gingrich of

Georgia and pledged to overhaul Washington. Their most dramatic standoffs with Democratic President Bill Clinton

were over government shutdowns.

Historians mostly agree the shutdowns did not work, and Clinton was able to win reelection in part by showing he stood up to Gingrich.

"The Republicans in the Gingrich-era, they do get some kind of limited policy victories, but for them overall it's really kind of a failure," said Mike Davis, adjunct professor of history at Lees-McRae College.

There was one more significant shutdown in 2013 when tea party Republicans sparred with Democratic President Barack Obama. But it was not until Trump's first term that Democrats adopted the tactic of extended government shutdowns.

During previous funding lapses, presidential administrations applied the rules governing shutdowns equally to affected agencies.

"A shutdown was supposed to close the same things under Reagan as under Clinton," said Charles Tiefer, a former acting general counsel for the House and a professor emeritus at the Univer-

sity of Baltimore School of Law. He said that in this shutdown, the Trump administration has used "a kind of freewheeling presidential appropriation power, which is contrary to the whole system, the original Constitution, and the Antideficiency Act."

Democratic resolve will be tested in the coming week. Federal employees, including lawmakers' own staff, have now gone almost an entire month without full paychecks. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which helps about 1 in 8 Americans buy groceries, faces a potential funding cliff on Nov. 1. Air travel delays threaten to only grow worse amid air traffic controller shortages.

Sen Angus King, I-Maine, said he hopes his colleagues start negotiating quickly to end the impasse.

He said he's been one of the few members of the Democratic caucus to vote for ending the shutdown because "it empowers the president beyond what he would be able to do otherwise, and it damages the country."

Drone strike kills 3 in Kyiv

Russia tests new nuclear-capable missile

MOSCOW, Russia, Oct. 26, (AP): Russia tested a new nuclear-capable and powered cruise missile fit to confound existing defenses, inching closer to deploying it to its military, President Vladimir Putin claimed in remarks released on Sunday.

Putin, dressed in camouflage fatigues, could be seen meeting with senior Russian military figures, according to a video released by the Kremlin. The footage showed Gen. Valery Gerasimov, Russia's chief of general staff, telling the Russian leader that the Burevestnik covered 14,000 kilometers (8,700 miles) in a key test Tuesday.

Gerasimov said the Burevestnik, or Storm Petrel in Russian, spent 15 hours in the air, adding "that's not the limit."

"We need to determine the possible uses and begin preparing the infrastructure for deploying these weapons to our armed forces," Putin told Gerasimov in the video and instructed him to work on the missile's final tests. Putin also claimed it was invulnerable to current and future missile defenses, due to its almost unlimited range and unpredictable flight path.

On Wednesday, Putin directed drills of Russia's strategic nuclear forces that featured practice missile launches. The exercise came as his planned summit on Ukraine with U.S. President Donald Trump was put on hold.

The Kremlin said that the maneuvers involved all parts of Moscow's nuclear triad, including intercontinental ballistic missiles that were test-fired from launch facilities in northwestern



In this image made from video released by the Russian Presidential Press Office on Oct. 26, Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks while visiting one of the command posts of the Joint Group of Forces. (AP)

Russia and 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 on Wednesday.

Also:

KYIV, Ukraine: Russia targeted Ukraine's capital with drones, killing three people in their homes, authorities said early Sunday.

At least 29 people were wounded, seven of them children, in the second consecutive nighttime attack on Kyiv to claim civilian lives. Ukraine's In-

terior Minister **Ihor Klymenko** said a 19-year-old woman and her 46-year-old mother were among the killed.

Russian drones caused fires in two residential buildings in the capital's **Desnianskyi** district. Emergency crews evacuated civilians from a nine-story and a 16-story building, put out flames and cleared the rubble.

Olha Yevhenivha, 74, said there was so much smoke from the fire that she couldn't leave her apartment.

"Even until now our windows are totally black from the smoke, and it was impossible to go down, so that's why we put wet blankets on our doors and balcony," she said.

Europe

London police arrest asylum-seeker: London police said Sunday they arrested a convicted offender and asylum-seeker who was mistakenly released from prison in a blunder that has embarrassed the government.

The Metropolitan Police said Ethiopian national **Hadush Gerberslasie Kebatu** was arrested in the Finsbury Park area in north London. Police said he will be returned to the custody of the Prison Service.

Before he was released in error, Kebatu had already been in national news because his arrest earlier this year over the assault of a teenage girl triggered a wave of angry anti-migrant protests in London and other cities.

Authorities said they were alerted Friday afternoon that Kebatu, 38, was released by mistake at a prison in Chelmsford, Essex, and was seen catching a London-bound train there. British media reported that he was wrongly categorized as a prisoner due to be released, instead of being sent to an immigration detention center.

The migrant was sentenced in September to 12 months in prison for five offenses, including the assault of a 14-year-old girl in July in Epping, on the outskirts of London, just over a week after he had arrived in England by boat.

Thousands of people protested outside the Bell Hotel in Epping, northeast of London, where he was staying along with other newly arrived migrants. Multiple protests targeting other hotels housing migrants followed in other British cities and towns, with some demonstrations attended by far-right activists and spilling into disorder.

The group Stand Up to Racism also rallied in counter-protests. The Prison Service launched an investigation, and a prison officer has been removed from discharging duties while that takes place.

The issue of unauthorized migration - especially the tens of thousands of migrants crossing the English Channel in overloaded boats to reach the UK - has risen to the top of



Kebatu

the political agenda in Britain. The government's policy of using hotels to house migrants who are awaiting a decision on their asylum status has also come under heavy criticism. (AP)



Suspect arrested in Paris: A suspect was arrested this week in connection with the attempted rape of a woman on a train near Paris after a video of the incident went viral on social media, according to judicial officials.

The Creteil prosecutor's office told The Associated Press on Sunday that the suspect was taken into custody Friday as part of the investigation.

The incident has reignited the debate over violence on public transport in France, which has been rising in recent years.

A 26-year-old Brazilian woman was allegedly attacked by a man in earlier this month in a Paris suburb train. The incident occurred in the morning in a nearly empty carriage.

French media reported that the woman said she was assaulted, slapped and bitten. Another passenger rushed to intervene and began filming the scene on her mobile phone as the man fled. The video was later shared on social media.

According to a recent government report, the number of victims of violence on public transport has increased by 86% since 2016. (AP)



Former Georgian PM charged: Georgia's prosecution office has charged former Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili with laundering illegal income and requested a one million-lari (368,425 U.S.-dollar) bail, Prosecutor General Giorgi Gvarakidze said Friday.

Garibashvili faced the charge of laundering illegal income with profits on an especially large scale. Gvarakidze said the former prime minister has acknowledged his guilt.

As the investigation is ongoing, the prosecution also called for revoking Garibashvili's Georgian passport and banning him from leaving the country.

The charge followed the raids on Oct. 17 at the homes of some former Georgian officials, including Garibashvili, where authorities seized electronic devices, documents and large sums of cash.

Garibashvili served as prime minister from 2013 to 2015 and from 2021 to 2024. (Xinhua)

Connolly wins Ireland's presidential election

LONDON, Oct. 26, (AP): Left-wing independent Catherine Connolly, who secured the backing of Ireland's left-leaning parties including Sinn Féin, has won the country's presidential election in a landslide victory against her center-right rival.

Official results showed strong voter support for Connolly as president, a largely ceremonial role in Ireland. She won 63% of first-preference votes once spoiled votes were excluded, compared to 29% of her rival Heather Humphreys, of the center-right party Fine Gael.

Connolly, 68, said Saturday evening at Dublin Castle that she would champion diversity and be a voice for peace and one that "builds on our policy of neutrality."

"I would be an inclusive president for all of you, and I regard it as an absolute honor," she said.

Humphreys conceded she had lost earlier Saturday before vote counting had finished.

Connolly, a former barrister who has served as a lawmaker since 2016, has been outspoken in criticizing Israel over the war in Gaza. She has also warned against the European Union's growing "militarization" following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Ireland has a tradition of military neutrality, but her critics have said she



Catherine Connolly, (centre), is congratulated by Taoiseach Micheál Martin (Prime Minister) after being elected as the new President of Ireland at Dublin Castle, Ireland on Oct. 25. (AP)

risks alienating the country's allies.

Connolly will succeed Michael D. Higgins, who has been president since 2011, having served the maximum two seven-year terms. She will be Ireland's 10th president and the third woman to hold the post.

The politician has garnered the backing of a range of left-leaning parties, including Sinn Féin, the Labour

Party and the Social Democrats.

Prime Minister Micheál Martin on Saturday congratulated Connolly on her "very comprehensive election victory." He said he was looking forward to working with the new president as "Ireland continues to play a significant role on the global stage, and as we look forward to hosting the EU presidency in the second half of 2026."

VILNIUS, Lithuania, Oct. 26, (AP): Flights at Lithuania's main airport were disrupted on two successive nights in the latest of a string of incidents involving suspected sightings of balloons used to smuggle cigarettes from neighboring Belarus. Authorities plan to discuss possible consequences on Monday.

Vilnius Airport said that air traffic was suspended at 9:35 p.m. on Saturday and airspace over the airport was reopened at 3:30 a.m. Sunday, leading to four flight cancellations and seven diversions. On Friday night, a suspension of similar length at Vilnius Airport and at the airport in Kaunas led to a total of 10 cancellations and four diverted flights.

That followed similar disruption early Wednesday morning and on other recent occasions. Lithuania's two border crossings with Belarus, at Medininkai and Šalčininkai, were both closed for several hours as a result of each of the balloon incidents before being reopened.

Prime Minister Inga Ruginiė has warned that Lithuania may have to consider shutting its border with Belarus for a longer period. Her government is also considering tougher penalties for smugglers.

Ruginiė convened a meeting of



In this undated photo released by the State Border Guard Service, an officer inspects a balloon used to carry cigarettes into Lithuania, because Belarussian smugglers often use them to ferry the contraband into the European Union. (AP)

Lithuania's National Security Commission for Monday to consider possible measures. The government said clear warnings are being sent to Belarus that activities that disrupt strategic facilities such as airports will draw a strict response.

The head of Lithuania's border guard told public broadcaster LRT last week

that, since smuggling balloons were first sighted in 2023, there has been no known case of their being used to transport anything other than illegal cigarettes.

Lithuania, a European Union and NATO member, is located on the Western alliance's eastern flank. It borders Russia's Kaliningrad exclave as well as Russia-allied Belarus.

Trump to solve Afghanistan-Pakistan crisis ‘very quickly’

US president attends ceasefire ceremony with Thailand, Cambodia during Malaysia visit

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Oct 26, (AP): Thailand and Cambodia signed an expanded ceasefire agreement on Sunday during a ceremony attended by US President Donald Trump, whose threats of economic pressure prodded the two nations to halt skirmishes along their disputed border earlier this year.

Thailand will release Cambodian prisoners and Cambodia will begin withdrawing heavy artillery as part of the first phase of the deal. Regional observers will monitor the situation to ensure fighting doesn't restart.

"We did something that a lot of people said couldn't be done," Trump said. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet called it a "historic day," and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said the agreement creates "the building blocks for a lasting peace."

The ceremony was Trump's first event after arriving at the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, hosted in Kuala Lumpur. The trip, which will continue with visits to Japan and South Korea and a potential meeting with Chinese

leader Xi Jinping, is an opportunity for Trump to burnish his reputation as an international dealmaker at a time when his tariffs have scrambled the international economy and he's feuding with Democrats over a government shut-down back home.

Trump touched down in the Malaysian capital shortly before 0200 GMT, where he performed his trademark campaign trail dance with local performers and waved an American flag in one hand and a Malaysian flag in the other.

The president signed economic agreements with Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia, some of them aimed at increasing trade involving critical minerals. The US wants to rely less on China, which has limited exports of key components in technology manufacturing.

"It's very important that we cooperate as willing partners with each other to ensure that we can have smooth supply chains, secure supply chains, for the quality of life, for our people and security," said U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.



US President Donald Trump, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, (left), and Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul pose with their documents during a signing ceremony on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Oct 26. (AP)

Trump also seemed eager to calm trade tensions with China, repeatedly expressing confidence about sitting down with Xi in South Korea at the end of his trip.

"They want to make a deal and we

want to make a deal," he said. Trump reiterated his plan to visit China in the future and suggested that Xi could come to Washington or Mar-a-Lago, his private club in Florida.

The president attended this summit only once during his first term, and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth seemed unfamiliar with ASEAN during his confirmation hearing in January.

But this year's event was a chance for Trump to reengage with a collection of nations that have a combined \$3.8 trillion economy and 680 million people.

Also:

ISLAMABAD: US President Donald Trump said Sunday he will solve the Afghanistan-Pakistan crisis "very quickly," as peace talks between the warring neighbors entered a second day.

The two countries are embroiled in a bitter security row, with each side saying they were responding to aggression from the other during clashes earlier this month.

It was the deadliest fighting between

them in several years, marking a low point in relations while also causing alarm in a region where armed groups like al-Qaeda are trying to resurface.

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of turning a blind eye to militants who cross the border for attacks, a charge the country's Taliban rulers reject.

The second round of talks between them began in Istanbul on Saturday, focusing on transforming a fragile ceasefire, achieved earlier this month in Doha, into a durable framework for peace and border security.

"I heard that Pakistan and Afghanistan have started up," said Trump on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Malaysia. "But I'll get that solved very quickly."

He made the comments while attending the signing of the Thailand-Cambodia peace agreement, adding that the leaders of Pakistan were "great people."

Days of fighting killed dozens of people and injured hundreds in Afghanistan, although Pakistan denied attacking civilians and said it was targeting militants and their hideouts.

Today, history is made: Gusmao

East Timor joins ASEAN in bloc's first expansion since 1990s

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Oct 26, (AP): The Association of Southeast Asian Nations welcomed East Timor as its newest member Sunday, which its prime minister said was a "dream realized" for the tiny nation.

"Today, history is made," Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao told the other leaders as the flag of East Timor, also known as Timor Leste, was added to the other 10 on the stage at a formal ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.

It was ASEAN's first expansion since the 1990s and was more than a decade in the making.

"For the people of Timor Leste this is not only a dream realized, but a powerful affirmation of our journey - one marked by resilience, determination and hope," he said.

The ceremony marked the opening of ASEAN's annual summit, followed by two days of high-level engagements with key partners including China, Japan, India, Australia, Russia, South Korea and the US.

East Timor's accession to ASEAN gives the country, which has just 1.4 million people and a GDP of around \$2 billion, better access to an economic community of nations with some 680 million people and a \$3.8 trillion economy.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, whose country holds the



East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta, (from left), applauds as Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, East Timor Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao and ASEAN's Secretary General Kao Kim Hourn shake hands during the signing ceremony of the Declaration on the Admission of East Timor into ASEAN at the 47th ASEAN summit, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Oct 26. (AP)

bloc's rotating chairmanship, said East Timor's accession "completes the ASEAN family, the affirming of our shared destiny and deep sense of regional kinship."

He said ASEAN's goal was to "pursue growth that is both resilient and fair, and to safeguard the welfare of

generations to come."

The integration of the region's youngest nation, and one of its poorest, demonstrates ASEAN's "inclusivity and adaptability, especially at a time of geopolitical flux," said Angeline Tan, an analyst with Malaysia's Institute of Strategic & International Studies:

"As protectionism is on the rise, the expansion of ASEAN demonstrates its commitment to regionalism, openness and equal participation," she said.

The last country to join ASEAN was Cambodia in 1999.

East Timor, wedged between Indonesia and Australia, was a Portuguese colony for over four centuries before declaring independence in 1975.

Indonesia invaded nine days later, beginning a brutal 24-year occupation that claimed tens of thousands of lives through conflict, famine and disease. A U.N.-supervised referendum in 1999 paved the way for independence, which was formally restored in 2002.

Today it is led by two independence heroes - Prime Minister Gusmao and President Jose Ramos-Horta, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996.

They are trying to tackle high levels of unemployment, malnutrition and poverty. Some 42% of the country's population live below the national poverty line. Nearly two-thirds of its citizens are under 30 years old, making youth job creation a high priority.

Its major source of government revenues comes from the oil and gas industry, but with resources quickly becoming depleted it is looking to diversify.

Philippines joins global fight against cybercrime, says DICT

MANILA, Oct 26, (Xinhua): The Philippines has signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, making it one of the first countries to join the global treaty that facilitates cross-border sharing of electronic evidence and international cooperation in the enforcement of cybercrime laws, the country's Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) said Sunday.

In a statement, the DICT said the Philippines joined the global community in signing the UN treaty in Hanoi, Vietnam, over the weekend.

The new treaty criminalizes a range of cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled offenses, facilitates the sharing of electronic evidence across borders, and establishes a 247 cooperation network among states. It also makes history as the first international treaty to recognize the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images as an offense -- a significant victory for

victims of online abuse.

DICT Secretary **Henry Aguda** signed the historic treaty for the Philippines, marking "a major step forward in the country's commitment to a safe, secure, and trusted digital environment under the Bagong Pilipinas vision."

Also:

MANILA: More than 200 alleged Filipino human trafficking victims from illegal scam centers in Myanmar, have sought the help of the Philippine government for repatriation, the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Sunday.

As of Friday, the DFA said the Philippine Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar, has received 222 "active requests" for repatriation assistance from Filipinos in scam hub areas, of which 66 have reportedly crossed into Thailand and nine have reached Yangon and are now under the embassy's custody.

"The Embassy is working with Myanmar authorities to finalize the deportation procedures for those currently in holding camps and to facilitate the rescue of those who remain in scam hub compounds," the DFA statement read.



Aguda



View of Montego Bay ahead of Hurricane Melissa's expected arrival in Jamaica on Oct 25. (AP)

Melissa strengthens into Category 4 hurricane

Hurricane Melissa strengthened into a major Category 4 hurricane, with the possibility of intensifying to a Category 5 storm Sunday night, unleashing torrential rain and threatening to cause catastrophic flooding in the northern Caribbean, including Haiti and Jamaica, the US National Hurricane Center said.

The weather agency added Me-

lissa is likely to reach the southern coast of Jamaica as a major hurricane late Monday or Tuesday morning, and urged people on the island to seek shelter immediately.

"I urge Jamaicans to take this weather threat seriously," said Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness. "Take all measures to protect yourself."

Melissa was centered about 120 miles (195 kilometers) south-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and about 280 miles (450 kilometers) south-southwest of Guantanamo, Cuba, Sunday morning. It had maximum sustained winds of 140 mph (225 kph) and was moving west at 5 mph (8 kph), the hurricane center said. (AP)

US fabricating war and seeks to revoke citizenship of opponent, says Maduro

CARACAS, Oct 26, (AP): Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro said the US government is "fabricating" a war against him as the world's biggest warship approached the South American country, while moving to revoke the citizenship of an opponent he accuses of egging on an invasion.

Maduro said in a national broadcast on Friday night that the administration of President Donald Trump is "fabricating a new eternal war" as the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford, which can host up to 90 airplanes and attack helicopters, moves closer to Venezuela.

On Saturday, the Venezuelan president also referred to the pressure he has felt from the U.S. government as he started legal proceedings seeking to revoke the citizenship and cancel the passport of opposition politician Leopoldo López.

"They promised they would never again get involved in a war and they are fabricating a war that we will avoid," said Maduro in Friday night's address. Trump has accused him, without providing evidence, of being the leader of the organized crime gang Tren de Aragua.

"They are fabricating an extravagant narrative, a vulgar, criminal and totally fake one," Maduro added. "Venezuela is a country that does not produce cocaine leaves."

American forces have destroyed several boats off the Venezuelan coast, allegedly for their role in trafficking drugs into the United States. At least 43 people were killed in those attacks.

Tren de Aragua, which traces its roots to a Venezuelan prison, is not known for having a big role in global drug trafficking but for its involvement in contract killings, extortion and people smuggling.

Maduro was widely accused of stealing last year's election, and countries including the U.S. have called for him to go. Earlier, Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez said on her Telegram account that Maduro had appealed to the country's Supreme Court of Justice to revoke López's nationality for his "grotesque, criminal, and illegal call for a military invasion of Venezuela."

López, a well-known Venezuelan opposition figure who has been exiled in Spain since 2020, has publicly expressed his support for the deployment of U.S. ships in the Carib-



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro points at a map of the Americas during a new conference in Caracas, Venezuela on Sept 15. (AP)

bean and attacks on suspected drug trafficking vessels.

The vice president said that López's passport will be revoked "immediately," and that he is also accused of promoting "economic blockage" and "calling for the mass murder of Venezuelans in complicity with enemy and foreign governments."

The opposition leader reacted on his X account, dismissing the move because "according to the Constitution, no Venezuelan born in Venezuela can have their nationality revoked." He once more expressed support for a U.S. military deployment and military actions in the country.

"Maduro wants to take away my nationality for saying what all Venezuelans think and want: freedom," López wrote. "After having stolen the 2024 election, we agree to pursue all avenues to end the dictatorship," the politician added. López spent more than three years in a military prison after participating in anti-government protests in 2014. He was sentenced to more than 13 years in prison on charges of "instigation and conspiracy to commit a crime."

Argentina votes in midterm elections set to test Milei's mandate, US support

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Oct 26, (AP): On the northern bank of Argentina's Riachuelo River, luxury car dealerships report sales surging since libertarian President Javier Milei scrapped import restrictions.

Streets in the Puerto Madero financial district bustle with bankers who praise Milei for ending a yearslong ban on selling dollars online. Fine restaurants serve sushi and steak to Argentine oil executives who gush about his efforts to draw foreign investment.

On the opposite side of the polluted Riachuelo waterway, Veronica Leguizamon, 34, has only few eggs, a carton of milk and a handful of bread rolls left in her pantry.

Clutching a Tupperware container, she braved heavy rain last Friday to carry home dinner for her four daughters from a soup kitchen in her neighborhood of Isla Maciel - a new daily routine since Milei slashed subsidies for public services and unwound price controls on staple foods.

"Before, we could choose what to cook," she said. "Now we depend on others to know if we'll eat or not."

The contrasting fortunes of these Buenos Aires neighborhoods just over a kilometer apart illustrate the tensions polarizing the Argentine electorate in



Argentina's President Javier Milei holds a megaphone while leading a campaign rally ahead of legislative national elections, in Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires province, Argentina on Oct 17. (AP)

Sunday's nationwide congressional midterms.

As voters go to the polls, their vastly different perceptions of the economy stand to determine whether Milei succeeds - and whether the Trump administration presses on with a financial rescue plan for its cash-strapped ideo-

logical ally.

"Within my little circle, everyone's happy with how things are going," said Fernanda Díaz, 42, who runs a yacht rental company in Puerto Madero. "When I step outside it, I see people worried about making it to the end of the month."

Africa

'RSF takes control of Al-Fasher city': Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) announced on Sunday they had taken control of the headquarters of the army's Sixth Division in Al-Fasher, the last stronghold of the armed forces in Darfur. The Sudanese army has not yet issued an official statement clarifying its position on the recent developments on the ground.

In a statement, the RSF said that they "managed to liberate the headquarters of the Sixth Division in El-Fasher, North Darfur, inflicting heavy losses in lives and military equipment on the army and allied militias."

The city had been besieged by the Rapid Support Forces for the past eighteen months, in one of the longest battles since the start of the conflict in April 2023. (KUNA)

□ □ □

Libya rescues 49 Sudanese migrants: Libya's Coast Security said its units rescued 49 Sudanese migrants from drowning off the coast of Zuwara, about 120 km west of Tripoli, the capital, the force said late on Friday.

In a statement posted on its official Facebook page, the General Administration of Coast Security, which operates under the internationally recognized Government of National Unity (GNU), said the migrants were stranded after their boat broke down and were brought ashore at Al-Shaab port in Tripoli.

"Legal measures were taken against them," it added, without giving further details. (Xinhua)

□ □ □



Sudanese soldiers from the Rapid Support Forces unit secure the area where Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo attends a military-backed tribe's rally, in the East Nile province, Sudan on June 22, 2019. (AP)

'Lift Western sanctions on Zimbabwe': The Southern African Development Community (SADC) on Saturday reiterated its call for the unconditional lifting of Western sanctions on Zimbabwe.

The economic sanctions on Zimbabwe continue to undermine SADC's pursuit of regional economic integration by limiting Zimbabwe's full participation in trade, investment and shared economic growth in the sub-region, SADC Executive Secretary Elias Magosi said in a statement.

"On this Anti-Sanctions Day, we reaffirm SADC's solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe and reiterate our enduring call for the immediate lifting of these sanctions," Magosi said. (Xinhua)

Boursa Kuwait ends Sunday lower

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Sunday's session on a negative note, with the All Share Index slipping 14.87 points, or 0.17 percent, to finish at 8,908.15 points. Market activity was robust, as 524.16 million shares changed hands across 29,425 transactions, generating a total value of KD 124 mil-

lion (USD 378.2 million). The Main Market Index declined by 33.13 points, or 0.39 percent, to settle at 8,516.9 points. Trading in this segment included 237 million shares executed through 20,182 transactions, with a total turnover of KD 62.9 million (USD 191.8 million).

Recognition highlights ABK's commitment to transparency and legal excellence

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait named among ‘The Legal 500 GC Powerlist’ of top legal departments in Kuwait for 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has achieved yet another milestone, marking a new addition to its distinguished record of accomplishments, after being named among the Legal 500's annual list of top legal departments in Kuwait for 2025.

This recognition comes as a testament to ABK's outstanding performance in applying best legal practices, and adhering to the highest standards of transparency.

The Legal 500 awards ceremony was held for the first time in Kuwait, gathering prominent legal leaders from various organizations. During the event, Dr. Nawaf AlShuraiaan, General Counsel - Legal at ABK, and Dr. Khaled Yakhlef, Assistant General Manager - Legal, were both honored among the GC Powerlist Kuwait 2025 top distinguished in-house legal counsels in the country.

Commenting on this achievement, Dr. Nawaf Al Shuraiaan said, "Being named among the Legal 500 Powerlist in Kuwait reaffirms our steadfast commitment to the high standards. It also reflects the confidence that international institutions place in the competence of our legal team and their ability to manage legal risks proactively and prudently."

He added that this recognition follows ABK's previous inclusion in the Legal 500 Powerlist Middle East 2023 and 2024, which ranked the Bank among the region's top legal departments. He further highlighted that ABK's Legal



Dr. Nawaf AlShuraiaan, General Counsel - Legal



Dr. Nawaf AlShuraiaan, General Counsel - Legal at ABK, and Dr. Khaled Yakhlef, Assistant General Manager - Legal, were both honored among the GC Powerlist Kuwait 2025 top distinguished in-house legal counsels in the country.

Division handles all matters with the highest level of professionalism to ensure adherence to all legal conditions and requirements, thereby contributing to maintaining the Bank's leading position across all fronts.

Dr. Al Shuraiaan emphasized that this achievement further strengthens ABK's position as a leading banking institution that adopts a forward-look-

ing and institutional approach to legal services, providing precise and timely counsel that aligns with market requirements and promotes business sustainability.

In conclusion, he stated, "Our inclusion in the Legal 500 Powerlist Kuwait 2025 is not merely an accolade, but a reflection of the culture of excellence that defines ABK across all its divisions. It affirms the Legal Department's role in safeguarding the Bank's reputation and supporting its growth, both locally and internationally."

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that offers a wide array of personal, corporate, and private banking products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital.

Across the region, the Bank offers individuals and corporates the convenience of comprehensive banking and financial services in the Egyptian market through ABK-Egypt's network of 46 branches.

This is in addition to ABK's three branches located in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) in the United Arab Emirates, servicing both Kuwaiti and Emirati individual and corporate clients.

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's 'Let's Be Aware' awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities, and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently provides strategic information on how to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application requirements, digital services, and more.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.

Silver at \$1,865 per kg

Gold prices slip to \$4,112/oz.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): Gold prices ended last week marginally lower at \$4,112 per ounce, marking a pause after nine consecutive weeks of gains. The drop was triggered by a mid-week sell-off—the largest since 2013—but prices rebounded, finding solid support at the \$4,000 level.

According to a report from Kuwait's Dar Al-Sabayek Company, this recent dip is described as a "healthy and temporary correction," with gold maintaining robust technical support. Earlier, prices had soared above \$4,350 per ounce, driven by profit-taking, weaker US consumer confidence, and reduced short-term investment flows.

The report highlighted that softer-than-expected US inflation data increased the probability of a Federal Reserve interest rate cut to nearly 96 percent, helping gold stabilize toward the week's end.

Analysts note that medium-term prospects for gold remain positive, fueled by declining real yields, strong central bank buying, rising global debt, and the ongoing US government shutdown. JP Morgan Chase projects the average gold price could reach around \$5,000 per ounce by 2026, citing ongoing investor and central bank demand.

Markets are now focusing on a series

of crucial economic events this week, including meetings of the US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank, Bank of Japan, and Bank of Canada. Key indicators such as US Consumer Price Index data, Eurozone GDP figures, and China's Purchasing Managers' Index are also awaited.

Geopolitical tensions continue to bolster gold's appeal as a safe haven, amid persistent trade disputes between the United States and China, new US sanctions on Russia, and ongoing unrest in the Middle East.

The report concluded that gold is undergoing a short-term consolidation phase, supported by solid fundamentals and technical levels, as markets anticipate central bank decisions that will likely shape price trends.

Locally, global movements have translated to the Kuwaiti market, with 24-karat gold trading at about 40.9 dinars (\$133.4) per gram and 22-karat at approximately 37.5 dinars (\$122.3). A kilogram of silver was priced at 572 dinars (\$1,865).

The report also clarified that an ounce, commonly used for precious metals, is technically referred to as a troy ounce, equivalent to 31.103 grams, while a regular ounce equals 28.349 grams.

Partnership aims to strengthen strategic and educational ties

Kuwait Airways and AOU sign joint cooperation protocol

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Kuwait Airways and the Arab Open University in Kuwait have signed a joint cooperation protocol aimed at strengthening bilateral and strategic relations between the two parties. The signing ceremony was attended by Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Salem Al-Fagaan, the Director of the Arab Open University in Kuwait, Dr. Salah Saleh Al-Hammadi, along with several officials from both sides.

The protocol aims to enhance the operational efficiency of the services provided to both parties, expand the scope of services and options, and promote the exchange of technical expertise to support the overall development of the aviation sector and institutional performance. It also seeks to facilitate the exchange of information in areas such as public relations, corporate communications, media, the academic sector, and technology, to serve the mutual interests of both parties.

Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Salem Al-Fagaan, stated, "Kuwait Airways is pleased to sign a joint cooperation protocol with the Arab Open University in Kuwait, one of the region's leading educational institutions. This initiative comes as part of the national carrier of the State of Kuwait's ongoing efforts to strengthen ties with various entities, and to build and reinforce bridges of cooperation and communication. Such collaborations contribute to enhancing relationships, improving, and developing the work environment for the benefit of all, and supporting the advancement of the country's educational system."

Al-Fagaan added that this cooperation encompasses several areas, including the support and sponsorship of major university events as a strategic partner, as well as the implementation of cooperative training and volunteer programs designed to support practical experience. He further noted that the agreement contributes to building an institutional partnership with a leading academic institution, thereby strengthening the company's reputation and community presence.

Al-Fagaan highlighted that the protocol also includes sponsorship opportunities and a permanent presence at events, enhancing the brand's presence among the youth and the academic community. The agreement will provide specialized training programs for Kuwait Airways employees in collaboration with the university, covering areas such as management and leadership, information technology, digital transformation, languages, communication skills, accredited short programs for professional certifications, social responsibility, and research projects in aviation management and smart services. Additionally, the partnership will support joint sustainability initiatives, including reducing carbon emissions and promoting green tourism.



Kuwait Airways, Arab Open University sign cooperation protocol.

Al-Fagaan:

- The national carrier is committed to supporting and developing the country's educational system

Al-Hammadi:

- A strategic step towards strengthening partnership between higher education institutions and the national air transport sector

Al-Fagaan commended the efforts of those in charge at the Arab Open University in Kuwait, headed by Dr. Salah Saleh Al-Hammadi, for their active cooperation in investing in and developing the future generations. He emphasized Kuwait Airways' commitment to supporting the development and qualification of the country's youth, highlighting that they are an integral part of Kuwaiti society. He added that the company continually strives to contribute to the nation's progress and prosperity, to achieve its aspirations and desired goals.

Al-Fagaan concluded his statement by emphasizing that this protocol will strengthen relations between the two parties and between all educational institutions. He also extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to all officials for their efforts in making this protocol a success.

Kuwait Airways has signed numerous agreements and partnerships over the years, contributing to the enhancement and development of various areas that add value to institutions and companies.

On this occasion, Dr. Salah Saleh Al-Hammadi, Director of the Arab Open University in Kuwait, stated, "We at the Arab Open University are pleased to sign this cooperation agreement with Kuwait Airways, which represents a strategic step in strengthening the partnership between higher education institutions and the national air transport sector. This agreement re-

flects the university's commitment to supporting professional development and empowering national talent through specialized academic and training programs that align with labor market requirements."

Dr. Al-Hammadi added, "We believe this cooperation will contribute to the exchange of expertise and knowledge between the two sides and open new opportunities for our students to benefit from training and practical application within a professional environment like Kuwait Airways. On this occasion, we affirm the university's ongoing efforts to building partnerships with state institutions to achieve the objectives of sustainable development and Kuwait Vision 2035."

For her part, Dr. Afnan Al-Khaldi, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Scientific Research, commended this initiative, emphasizing that the agreement aligns with the university's strategy to build effective partnerships with public and private sector institutions to develop students' skills and enhance their readiness for the job market.

Dr. Al-Khaldi noted that this agreement is an extension of the Arab Open University's efforts to expand institutional cooperation and reinforce its role as a leading educational institution dedicated to preparing distinguished generations of national talent capable of driving development in the State of Kuwait and the region.

Saudi to host 26th UN Tourism General Assembly in November

RIYADH, Oct 26, (BUSINESS WIRE): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will host the 26th session of the UN Tourism General Assembly from November 7 to 11. The landmark session will focus on "AI-Powered Tourism: Redefining the Future" and also commemorate five decades of cooperation under the United Nations' specialized agency for tourism.

Represented by its Ministry of Tourism, Saudi Arabia will welcome more than 160 member states, international organizations, and global industry players to engage in dialogue aimed at securing a brighter, more sustainable future for the industry and shaping the next 50 years of global tourism.

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Tourism, H.E. Ahmed Al Khateeb, invited the world to Riyadh to take part in a momentous milestone for global tourism diplomacy: "We look forward to hosting the world's leading organization for tourism in a session that will redefine global action in

this increasingly vital sector and beyond."

On being the first GCC country to host a UN agency's general assembly, Minister Al Khateeb said: "This adds to the significance of this session and underscores the global vote of confidence given to Saudi Arabia as a convener and a trusted platform for international dialogue on tourism. Our mission-as hosts-is to bring the world together, unite views, and foster international cooperation that capitalizes on the growing tourism industry to advance the Sustainable Development Goals."

"The Kingdom firmly believes in the transformative power of tourism and its potential to enable comprehensive, sustainable development across economies and communities. This impact is evidenced by our own journey of unlocking the full potential of tourism and transforming the sector into a key driver of economic growth and diversification and an enabler of Saudi Vision 2030," H.E. Al Khateeb added.

Featuring a welcome cash gift of up to KD 1,200

Gulf Bank showcases salary account benefits at Al Khiran Mall

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening direct communication with customers and providing the best banking experiences, Gulf Bank was present at Al Khiran Mall for three consecutive days to showcase a variety of its services and special offers designed for Kuwaiti salary account holders.

The bank's booth attracted a large number of mall visitors, who engaged with the offers presented, benefited from the financial consultations provided by the bank's team, and learned about the exclusive benefits available to Kuwaiti salary account holders.

Among the most notable exclusive offers for Kuwaiti salary account holders is a welcome cash gift of up to KD 1,200, which is deposited directly into the customer's account upon salary transfer — serving as a positive incentive for a strong financial start, particularly for new customers. Clients also enjoy a wide range of financing options tailored to meet various needs, including:

- Consumer Loan of up to KD 25,000 with a flexible repayment period of up to 5 years, ideal for covering education, travel, or home renovation needs.

- Housing Loan of up to KD 70,000 with a repayment period of up to 15 years, helping customers achieve their dream of owning a future home.

- Lifetime Free Credit Card with no annual fees, offering travel benefits, exclusive offers, and a rewards program.

- Free Safe Deposit Box for one year to store important documents and valuables, providing added comfort



Gulf Bank pavilion at Al Khiran Mall.

and security.

This offer targets Kuwaiti employees working in the government, semi-government, and oil sectors, as well as newly appointed employees, provided that their monthly salary is not less than KD 600. The bank also offers special deals for employees of selected government entities, enhancing the inclusivity of the initiative and enabling a wider segment of citizens to benefit.

As part of the bank's efforts to provide a comprehensive banking experience, the "Gulf Points" program stands out as one of the main benefits of the Salary Account offer. Customers are automatically enrolled in the program and start earning points for every transaction made with their bank cards.

Points can be instantly redeemed for cash by transferring them to the credit card, shared with family and friends as gifts, or used to book flights, hotels, and car rentals worldwide. The program also offers a unique online shopping experience through the Points Store within the Gulf Bank app — the first of its kind in the Kuwaiti banking sector.

Visitors to Gulf Bank's booth at Al Khiran Mall also enjoyed a range of interactive activities and live competitions designed to introduce them to the bank's offers and services in an engaging and innovative way. The bank additionally presented a daily prize — an iPhone — to winners of the draws held during the event days, creating an atmosphere of excitement and active participation among attendees.

During the Analyst Conference Call for the first nine months of 2025

Al-Fulaij: NBK poised to leverage promising opportunities amid strengthening business confidence in the domestic market

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Mr. Salah Al-Fulaij, Chief Executive Officer of National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) – Kuwait, stated that the Bank’s operating profit before taxation grew by 11.3% year-on-year during the first nine months of 2025, reaching KD 592.5 million. This solid performance was driven by higher business volumes, strong growth in core non-interest income, stable operating costs, and a notable decline in credit loss provisions and impairment charges.

Al-Fulaij added, during NBK’s Analyst Conference Call for 9M2025, that the Bank’s returns remained robust, with a return on average assets of 1.47% and a return on average equity of 14.5%. He expressed his confidence in NBK’s ability to sustain its market leadership amid Kuwait’s dynamic economic landscape, which continues to offer abundant opportunities for growth.

Al-Fulaij explained that NBK reported a net profit of KD 467.4 million for the first nine months of 2025, compared to KD 457.0 million in the corresponding period of 2024, reflecting a growth of 2.3%. He noted that profitability was partially impacted by the continued effect of the new tax regime, with the effective tax rate rising to 15.9% in the first nine months of 2025, compared to 8.7% during the corresponding period of the previous year.

“We foresee promising prospects that will enable NBK to capitalize on the improving business sentiment by delivering innovative, tailored banking solutions designed to meet the needs of both corporates and individuals. Building on our deep-rooted domestic presence and strong client relationships, we remain well-positioned to drive sustainable growth. Our strategic focus on innovation and digital transformation continues to be a key enabler in allowing the Bank to harness the vast growth potential presented by Kuwait’s young and dynamic population,” Al-Fulaij highlighted.

He affirmed that NBK’s solid footprint across regional and international markets will remain a cornerstone of the Bank’s long-term strategy, serving as an effective tool to mitigate risks, ensure stable returns, and enhance operational efficiency. Al-Fulaij noted that NBK will continue to leverage cross-selling opportunities across its diverse geographical presence to maximize value creation and foster greater integration among its business segments.

“At the same time, NBK Wealth will continue to leverage its deep expertise to deliver comprehensive investment tools and solutions, including portfolio management and financial advisory



Mr. Salah Al-Fulaij

- Operating profit before taxation grew by 11.3% year-on-year, driven by higher business volumes
- Our strategic focus on innovation and digital banking serves as a catalyst, positioning the Bank to actively capture the growth potential of Kuwait’s young population
- NBK’s footprint across regional and international markets remains a cornerstone of the Bank’s strategy
- NBK Wealth continues to leverage its deep expertise to deliver comprehensive investment tools and solutions
- We remain committed to sustainability and to reinforcing NBK’s position as a responsible financial institution focused on long-term value creation
- The government’s continued commitment to advancing its development agenda and legislative reforms are key catalysts in shaping and supporting investment momentum going forward

services tailored to the diverse needs of our clients. Meanwhile, our Islamic banking arm, Boubyan Bank, will further strengthen its solid domestic presence and continue to contribute to the diversification of the Group’s income and profitability streams,” Al-Fulaij added.

Furthermore, he stated that NBK remains firmly committed to sustainability and advancing its sustainable finance agenda, noting the recognition the Bank has recently received for its unwavering dedication to environmental responsibility, social impact, and strong corporate governance. This was reflected in Sustainalytics’ revision of NBK’s ESG Risk Rating from “Medium” to “Low Risk”, in addition to MSCI’s upgrade of NBK’s ESG rating to “A”, further reinforcing the Bank’s position among the top regional performers in ESG ratings.

Al-Fulaij also pointed out that the Bank has published its Green Bond Allocation and Impact Report, its inaugural Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) Report, and its 2024 Sustainability Report, underscoring NBK’s significant progress in embedding ESG principles across all its operations. He emphasized that these commitments and disclosures further strengthen NBK’s position as a responsible financial institution focused on long-term value creation.

Lending Demand

On lending demand and the sectors driving it in Kuwait, Al-Fulaij said: “When looking at the retail segment, activity has been relatively subdued in recent periods due to the prevailing high-interest rate environment. On the other hand, corporate credit demand has been gaining momentum, particularly for financing the purchase of securities and select real estate activities. Notably, the demand

for corporate lending continues to be driven more by the actual needs of institutions rather than the magnitude of interest rate cuts.

He also noted that Weyay Bank, NBK’s digital arm, started offering digital loans during the second quarter of this year, which witnessed strong demand compared to the relatively subdued growth in the retail sector, adding that NBK is expected to launch its own digital lending service early next year.

Robust Economic Activity in the Domestic Market

Regarding economic conditions in Kuwait, Al-Fulaij said: “Domestic economic activity witnessed notable growth in 2025, supported by strong credit expansion, particularly within the business lending segment, which recorded solid growth. Supportive policy measures, ongoing reforms, and progress on legislative initiatives are expected to further strengthen

non-oil growth and sustain economic momentum through the remainder of the year. Additionally, the winding of OPEC production cuts anticipated to provide an additional boost to overall growth.”

He noted that, looking ahead, Kuwait’s GDP growth is forecasted at around 2.4% for the year, with oil-related activity projected to expand by 2.6% and the non-oil sector by 2.2%.

On another note, Al-Fulaij highlighted that Kuwait’s projects market activity remained positive, with year-to-date awards of KD 2.1 billion and an estimated KD 9.15 billion of projects in the pipeline. He emphasized that the government’s continued commitment to advancing its development agenda and legislative reforms serves as a key catalyst in shaping and supporting investment momentum, reinforcing confidence in the domestic market and sustaining investment activity going forward.



NBK headquarters

The GCC

As for the GCC region, Al-Fulaij stated that the economic outlook remains broadly positive, supported by strong fiscal buffers, ongoing structural reforms, and sustained global oil demand growth throughout 2025 and 2026. He explained that, driven by resilient non-oil activity, solid investments, and the unwinding of OPEC+ production cuts, GCC economies are expected to maintain strong growth momentum through the remainder of the year.

Operational Momentum

In the meantime, Mr. Sujit Ronghe, Group Chief Financial Officer of National Bank of Kuwait, stated that the Group’s operating momentum remains strong, supported by notable growth in business volumes, particularly in loans and investments. He explained that, despite ongoing geopolitical tensions at both regional and global levels, the operating environment in Kuwait and across the GCC has remained relatively stable, while macroeconomic uncertainty has heightened globally amid growing concerns over the potential implications of tariff measures, which have cast a shadow over the broader business landscape.

Ronghe added that NBK continues to navigate efficiently through an uncertain global environment, reflecting the strength and resilience of its business model. He pointed out that the Group’s key business segments continue to deliver strong contributions to overall profitability, reaffirming their role as core drivers of income diversification and key pillars of resilience for the Group’s earnings.

He noted that NBK Group continues to leverage its unique competitive advantages among Kuwaiti banks, both in terms of its broad geographical footprint and its ability to operate

across Conventional and Islamic banking platforms.

“Following the passage of the Public Debt Law in Kuwait, the Central Bank of Kuwait has recently begun issuing Kuwaiti Dinar-denominated government treasury bonds, with KD 2.0 billion issued since June 2025. Although the CBK asset mix has remained unchanged, we are cautiously optimistic that continued debt issuances will enable the Bank to deploy its KD liquidity more profitably,” Ronghe added.

Furthermore, he noted that NBK Group continues to invest in key strategic initiatives, digital technologies, and process enhancements, enabling the Bank to deliver best-in-class banking services and achieve greater operational efficiency through optimized resource utilization. He emphasized that the Group’s balance sheet remains notably strong, supported by stable credit quality and a robust capital base, which, together with NBK’s strong operating profitability, provides a high level of resilience and credit loss absorption capacity.

“Total assets reached KD 44.9 billion as of September 2025, reflecting a 14.7% increase compared to September 2024 levels. Group loans and advances stood at KD 26.1 billion, marking growth of KD 2.9 billion or 12.5% year-on-year, and 9.9% during the first nine months of the year. Loan growth was achieved in Kuwait across both conventional and Islamic segments, in addition to solid growth across our international operations. Similarly, investment securities grew by 21.1% year-on-year to reach KD 9.0 billion. The overall balance sheet composition has remained stable throughout the year,” Ronghe added.

Commenting on loan growth, Ronghe stated: “The Group continues to benefit from the strong momentum of its approved loan pipeline, which reflects high-quality assets and well-diversified growth sources. Based on the solid performance achieved during the first nine months of 2025, we have revised our full-year growth guidance to remain within the low double-digit range. Looking ahead, and in line with current trends, loan growth is expected to continue within a range of high single digits to low double digits through next year as well.”

Regarding asset quality ratios, Ronghe highlighted that “the Non-Performing Loan (NPL) ratio stood at 1.37%, while the loan loss coverage ratio reached 241%, reflecting the Group’s conservative provisioning policy.”

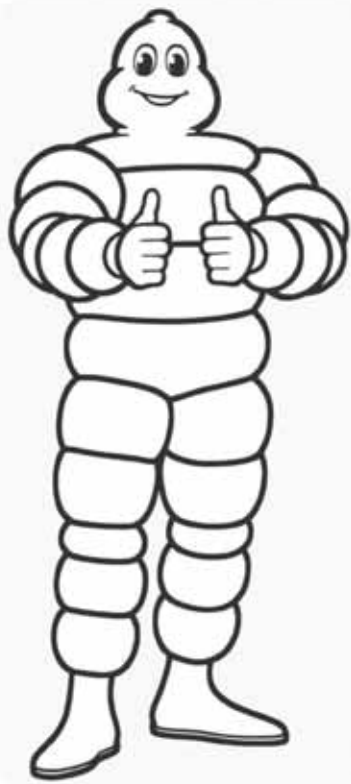
Michelin and KAICO Celebrate 75 Years of Partnership in Kuwait



Michelin representatives & KAICO management



Cedric Binoit, Managing Director, Vice President of Marketing & Sales, Middle East and North Africa
Yousef Alshaya, Chief Executive Officer, KAICO



Michelin, the world’s leading tyre technology company, is proud to celebrate a remarkable milestone - 75 years of partnership with its valued importer, Kuwait Automotive Imports Company W.L.L – Alshaya & Alsagar (KAICO). This enduring collaboration stands as a testament to a shared legacy of trust, quality, and commitment to serving customers in Kuwait with world-class products and services.

Since the beginning of the association in 1950, Michelin and KAICO have worked together to bring premium tyres and mobility solutions to the Kuwaiti market. Over the decades, this partnership has grown from strength to strength, supporting generations of motorists, fleet owners, and businesses with products that combine safety, performance, and durability.

Cedric Binoit, Managing Director, Vice President of Marketing & Sales, Middle East and North Africa: “This 75-year milestone with KAICO marks

not only a celebration of our past but a commitment to the future. Our partnership continues to evolve with

Kuwait’s mobility aspirations, and Michelin remains dedicated to supporting KAICO with innovative products, sustainable solutions, and the trust that has defined our relationship for decades. We look forward to continuing this journey together, building on our legacy of excellence in mobility.”

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Yousef Alshaya, Chief Executive Officer, KAICO, said: “This anniversary is not just a celebration of years but of a meaningful collaboration that has grown stronger with time. Michelin has been more than a brand partner—it has been an integral part of KAICO’s growth journey. We look forward to continuing this legacy by delivering best-in-class products and experiences to our customers in Kuwait.”

Mr. Ashish Tandon, General Manager, KAICO, added: “Reaching this 75-year milestone with Michelin is a proud moment for all of us at KAICO. Our partnership has been built on shared values of quality, innovation, and customer trust. Together, we have supported Kuwait’s evolving mobility needs for decades, and we remain committed to driving forward with the same spirit of excellence and service.”

Over the years, KAICO has established itself as a trusted name in Kuwait’s automotive landscape, representing a diverse portfolio of leading global brands including Mazda, Peugeot, 212 Eicher, Royal Enfield, and IVECO.

Volatile markets: Markets sway amidst economic, trade, and geopolitical crosscurrents

By National Bank of Kuwait

In the United States, market attention centred on the long-delayed September consumer price index release, postponed by the ongoing federal government shutdown that began on October 1 and disrupted the publication of key economic indicators. Headline CPI came in softer than expected at 0.3% MoM and 3.0% YoY, with core CPI at 3.0% YoY, underpinning expectations of a 25bps Federal Reserve rate cut this week. DXY strengthened ahead of the release, reflecting cautious positioning after the data vacuum, before closing the week at 98.952. President Trump confirmed upcoming talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at extending the tariff truce, whilst USD/CAD fluctuated following the cessation of US-Canada trade negotiations. In Canada, headline CPI rose to 2.4% YoY, with core measures averaging 3.15%. Despite firmer prices, weak business sentiment and trade uncertainty reinforced expectations of a 25bps Bank of Canada rate cut this week, keeping the loonie pressured. Across Europe, the eurozone composite PMI climbed to 52.2 in October, driven by Germany at 53.8, whilst France contracted further to 46.8, highlighting regional divergence. Eurozone inflation remained near 2%, indicating the European Central Bank is likely to maintain policy. EUR/USD ended the week at 1.1628. In the United Kingdom, headline CPI held at 3.8%, and the composite PMI rose to 51.1 on a manufacturing rebound. GBP/USD closed the week at 1.3311 with expectations of a potential Bank of England rate cut by year-end. In Asia-Pacific, China’s Q3 GDP expanded 4.8% YoY, industrial output rose 6.5% YoY, and retail sales slowed to 3.0% YoY, whilst the People’s Bank of China kept policy rates steady, leaving USD/CNY largely unchanged. Japan’s core CPI accelerated to 2.9%, with the Bank of Japan expected to maintain rates this week, and New Zealand’s inflation reached 3.0%, at the upper end of the RBNZ’s target, supporting NZD/USD’s 0.44% rise on the week. Global equities recorded moderate gains, supported by resilient corporate earnings and dovish central bank expectations, with the S&P 500 closing the week at a new record high of 6791.69. The US Treasury yield curve flattened marginally with the 2s10s and 5s30s declining by 3.49 and 2.62bps respectively. Brent surged 7.59% to USD 65.94 per barrel on the week following US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, whilst gold and silver fell from record highs amidst swinging economic, geopolitical and trade expectations.

United States and Canada
US Headline CPI +0.3% MoM, 3.0% YoY; Core CPI +0.2% as PMI Rises to 54.8
US inflation rose less than expected in September, reinforcing expectations for a Federal Reserve rate cut this week. Headline CPI increased 0.3% MoM versus a 0.4% forecast, while core CPI advanced 0.2%, the slowest pace in three months. Both headline and core CPI held at 3.0% YoY, slightly below the 3.1% estimate, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week’s Expected Range		3-Month
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1655	1.1577	1.1676	1.1628	1.1540	1.1680	1.1685
GBP	1.3427	1.3288	1.3443	1.3311	1.3150	1.3400	1.3309
JPY	150.61	150.28	153.06	152.88	151.95	154.00	151.48
CHF	0.7933	0.7906	0.7987	0.7957	0.7900	0.8015	0.7873

Goods prices moderated, led by declines in used car costs, while services inflation remained contained amid the smallest housing cost increase since early 2021. Meanwhile, US business activity strengthened in October, with the S&P Global composite PMI rising to 54.8, its second-fastest pace this year, supported by robust new orders and softer selling price growth, signalling resilient demand at the start of Q4. Markets are now all but fully pricing in 50bps worth of cuts by year end. DXY was last seen at 98.952.

US Pursues Limited China Trade Accord, Terminates Canada Talks, Imposes Sanctions on Russia’s Rosneft and Lukoil

US President Donald Trump’s renewed geopolitical offensive has intensified across major fronts. In Asia, Trump seeks a limited trade understanding with Chinese President Xi Jinping during their South Korea summit, aiming to extend the current tariff suspension beyond November in exchange for renewed US soybean purchases and eased restrictions on rare-earth exports. Meanwhile, the US abruptly terminated trade negotiations with Canada after Ontario’s anti-tariff campaign, injecting uncertainty into a USD 900B bilateral trade relationship. Concurrently, Washington imposed sanctions on Russia’s two largest oil companies, Rosneft and Lukoil, to “degrade the Kremlin’s war machine”, coordinated with the EU’s 19th sanctions package. Brent crude rose 5% to USD 65.69 per barrel following the announcement, underscoring renewed geopolitical risk across energy and trade markets.

Canada Headline CPI Accelerates to 2.4% in September, Core Measures Average 3.15%; Retail Sales Up 0.3% in Q3

Canada’s consumer price index (CPI) accelerated to 2.4% YoY in September, from 1.9% in August, exceeding market expectations of 2.2%. Core inflation, as measured by the average of the Bank of Canada’s “trim” and “median” gauges, rose to 3.15%, with the three-month moving average reaching 2.7%, underscoring persistent underlying price pressures. Monthly CPI increased by 0.1%, supported by a 2.6% rise in shelter inflation and higher rent prices, particularly in Quebec where rents surged 9.8%. Retail sales grew by 0.3% in the third quarter, led by an 8.2% YTD increase in motor vehicle sales. Swap markets are currently discounting an 87% probability of a rate cut in the Octo-

ber meeting. USD/CAD was last seen at 1.3996.
Europe and the United Kingdom
Eurozone Composite PMI Rises to 52.2, Germany at 53.8, France Contracts to 46.8 Amidst Divergent Growth Trends

Eurozone business activity accelerated in October, with the S&P Global Composite Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) rising to 52.2 from 51.2 in September, marking the highest level since May 2024 and indicating further expansion above the 50 threshold. The improvement was driven primarily by Germany, where the composite PMI rose to 53.8 from 52.0 - its strongest reading since May 2023 - underpinned by resilient services activity at 54.5. In contrast, France’s composite PMI fell to 46.8 from 48.1, contracting amidst persistent political and fiscal uncertainty. The data underscore widening divergence within the euro area, as German momentum offsets French weakness. With inflation near 2% and services price pressures moderate, the European Central Bank is expected to maintain its current policy stance at its upcoming meeting. EUR/USD was last seen at 1.1628.

UK CPI Holds at 3.8% in September; Composite PMI Rises to 51.1 as Manufacturing Rebounds

United Kingdom inflation remained steady at 3.8% YoY in September, below the Bank of England’s (BOE) forecast of 4.0%, as falling food prices offset higher fuel costs, according to data from the Office for National Statistics. Services inflation, closely monitored by policymakers, was unchanged at 4.7%. The softer data comes as markets reduce expectations of a BOE rate cut by December, with implied probability falling to 63%. Concurrently, S&P Global’s Composite PMI rose to 51.1 in October from 50.1, signalling modest private sector expansion as manufacturing output grew for the first time in a year. Easing input price pressures and stabilising labour costs supported sentiment, though export demand remained subdued amidst weak external conditions and ongoing tariff impacts. GBP/USD was last seen at 1.3311.

Asia-Pacific
China Q3 GDP +4.8% YoY, Industrial Output +6.5%, Retail Sales Slow to 3.0%, Loan Prime Rates Held at 3.0% and 3.5%

China’s economy expanded by 4.8% YoY in the third quarter of 2025, marginally above expectations

and keeping growth on track toward the government’s 5% annual target. Industrial production accelerated 6.5% YoY in September, supported by strong export demand, whilst retail sales growth eased to 3.0%, the weakest pace since November 2024, reflecting subdued consumer sentiment. Fixed-asset investment declined 0.5% YTD, marking the first YTD contraction since 2020, amidst persistent weakness in the property sector and reduced manufacturing investment. The People’s Bank of China maintained the one-year and five-year Loan Prime Rates at 3.0% and 3.5% respectively, following simultaneous 10 bps reductions in May. Policymakers are expected to consider further targeted easing should domestic activity continue to lag despite external sector resilience. USD/CNY was last seen at 7.1225.

Japan Core CPI Accelerates to 2.9% in September; BOJ Expected to Hold as PM Takaichi Prioritises Inflation Response

Japan’s core consumer prices (excluding fresh food) rose 2.9% YoY in September, accelerating from 2.7% in August and marking the first increase in four months, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. The uptick was driven by a 2.3% rise in energy prices, reversing a 3.3% decline in August, as reduced utility subsidies and elevated fuel costs added pressure. Food inflation excluding fresh items moderated to 7.6% from 8.0%, aided by slower rice price gains. Underlying inflation excluding energy eased to 3.0% from 3.3%, whilst service prices increased 1.4%. With core inflation remaining above the Bank of Japan’s 2% target for over three years, most economists expect the BOJ to maintain rates at its October 30 meeting, with a potential hike deferred to December or early 2026 amidst fiscal support measures announced by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. USD/JPY was last seen at 152.88.

New Zealand Inflation Climbs to 3.0%, Hitting RBNZ’s Target Ceiling amidst Slowing Core Pressures

New Zealand’s headline inflation rose to 3.0% YoY in the third quarter of 2025, up from 2.7% in the previous quarter and reaching the upper limit of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand’s (RBNZ) 1% to 3% target range. Quarterly consumer prices increased by 1.0%, surpassing forecasts of 0.9%. The rise was driven by temporary and seasonal factors, including an 8.8% increase in local government land taxes and higher electricity costs. Underlying pressures continued to ease, with non-tradables inflation moderating to 3.5% from 3.7% and core inflation excluding food, energy, and fuel falling to 2.5% from 2.7%. Despite the uptick, the RBNZ is expected to maintain its easing trajectory, following cumulative rate cuts of 300bps since August 2024 and signalling further reductions before year-end. Swap markets are fully pricing in another rate cut in the next RBNZ meeting in November. NZD/USD was last seen at 0.5750.

Kuwait
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30555.

US-China trade tensions ease before Trump-Xi meeting

Beijing to boost US agricultural imports

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26, (AP): U.S.-China trade tensions appeared to cool Sunday before an upcoming meeting between President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, with each side saying a deal was nearing between the world’s two largest economies.

Any agreement would be a relief to international markets even it does not address underlying issues involving manufacturing imbalances and access to state-of-the-art computer chips.

Beijing recently limited exports of rare earth elements that are needed for advanced technologies, and Trump responded by threatening additional tariffs on Chinese products.

The prospect of a widening conflict risked weakening economic growth worldwide.

China’s top trade negotiator, Li Chenggang, told reporters that the two sides had reached a “preliminary consensus,” while Trump’s treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, said there was “a very successful framework.”

Trump also expressed confidence that an agreement was at hand, saying the Chinese “want to make a deal and we want to make a deal.”

The Republican president is set to meet with Xi on Thursday in South Korea, the final stop of his trip through Asia.

Trump reiterated that he plans to visit China in the future and suggested that Xi could come to Washington or Mar-a-Lago, Trump’s private club in Florida.

Bessent told CBS’ “Face the Nation” that the threat of additional higher tariffs on China was “effectively off the table.”

In interviews on several American news shows, he said discussions with China yielded initial agreements to stop the precursor chemicals for fentanyl from coming into the U.S., and that Beijing would make “substantial” purchases of soybean and other agricultural products while putting off export controls on rare earths.

The progress toward a potential agreement came during the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in Kuala Lumpur, with Trump seeking to burnish his reputation as an international dealmaker.

Yet his way of pursuing deals has meant serious disruptions at home and abroad. His import taxes have scrambled relationships with trading partners while a U.S. government shutdown has him feuding with Democrats.

At the summit, Thailand and Cambodia signed an expanded ceasefire agreement during a ceremony attended by Trump.

His threats of economic pressure prodded the two nations to halt skirmishes along their disputed border earlier this year.

Thailand will release Cambodian prisoners and Cambodia will begin withdrawing heavy artillery as part of the first phase of the deal. Regional observers will monitor the situation to ensure fighting doesn’t restart.

“We did something that a lot of people said couldn’t be done,” Trump said. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet called it a “historic day,” and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said the agreement creates “the building blocks for a lasting

peace.”
The president signed economic frameworks with Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia, some of them aimed at increasing trade involving critical minerals.

The United States wants to rely less on China, which has used limited on exports of key components in technology manufacturing as a bargaining chip in trade talks.

“It’s very important that we cooperate as willing partners with each other to ensure that we can have smooth supply chains, secure supply chains, for the quality of life, for our people and security,” U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said.

Trump attended this summit only once during his first term, and U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth seemed unfamiliar with ASEAN during his confirmation hearing in January.

This year’s event was a chance for Trump to reengage with nations that have a combined \$3.8 trillion economy and 680 million people.

“The United States is with you 100%, and we intend to be a strong partner and friend for many generations to come,” Trump said.

He described his counterparts as “spectacular leaders” and said that “everything you touch turns to gold.”

Trump’s tariff threats were credited with helping spur negotiations Thailand and Cambodia.

Some of the worst modern fighting between the two countries took place over five days in July, killing dozens and displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

The president threatened, at the time, to withhold trade agreements unless the fighting stopped. A shaky truce has persisted since then.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim praised the agreement between Thailand and Cambodia, saying at the summit that “it reminds us that reconciliation is not concession, but an act of courage.”

Trump met Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in Kuala Lumpur, who was also attending the summit.

There has been friction between them over Brazil’s prosecution of Jair Bolsonaro, the country’s former president and a close Trump ally. Bolsonaro was convicted last month of attempting to overturn election results in his country.

During their meeting, Trump said he could reduce tariffs on Brazil that he enacted in a push for leniency for Bolsonaro.

“I think we should be able to make some good deals for both countries,” he said.

While Trump was warming to Lula, he avoided Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The president is angry with Canada because of a television advertisement protesting his trade policies, and on his way to the summit, announced on social media he would raise tariffs on Canada because of it.

One leader absent from the summit was Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Although he was close with Trump during Trump’s first term, the relationship has been more tense lately.

Trump caused irritation by boasting that he settled a recent conflict between India and Pakistan, and he has increased tariffs on India for its purchase of Russian oil.

Labor and industry leaders condemn US move

Trump announces additional 10% tariff on Canadian goods

NEW YORK, Oct 26, (Xinhua):

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he plans to increase tariffs on goods from Canada by an extra 10 percent because of an anti-tariff TV advertisement.

The ad, aired by the Canadian province of Ontario, featured former President Ronald Reagan criticizing U.S. tariffs. Trump accused it of misleading and threatened on Thursday to end trade talks with Canada.

“Because of their serious misrepresentation of the facts, and hostile act, I am increasing the Tariff on Canada by 10% over and above what they are paying now,” Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform as he flew aboard Air Force One to Malaysia.

“Their Advertisement was to be taken down, IMMEDIATELY, but they let it run last night during the World Series, knowing that it was a FRAUD,” he added.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford said he would pause the ad, broadcast during the first game of the World Series on Friday night, after the weekend, according to media reports.

The World Series is the annual championship series of Major League Baseball in North America, contested between the champion of the American League and the champion of the National League since 1903.

Meanwhile, the threat has sparked a backlash across Canada, particularly from its industrial and

labor sectors.

Lana Payne, national president of Canada’s major trade union Unifor, condemned U.S. move on social media, accusing Washington of attempting to weaken Canada’s economy and seize its resources for the benefit of the United States.

“He wants to extort more from us. That’s the playbook,” Payne said, calling on Canada to “use our own considerable leverage” in response.

Canadian media quoted analysts as saying that behind the ad controversy lie a series of complex trade frictions, including Canada’s recent retaliatory measures against U.S. automakers for reducing their production in the country.

Australian University goes pink for ‘Breast Cancer Awareness’ month

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: As part of its ongoing commitment to corporate social responsibility and community engagement, the Australian University (AU) organized its annual #AUGoesPink campaign in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the importance of early detection, show solidarity with patients and survivors, and encourage healthy lifestyle practices within the AU community.

Throughout the week, the campus was filled with creative and artistic activities reflecting themes of hope and strength. Students and staff participated by

designing awareness pieces, distributing informative cards with pink pins, and sharing educational messages across AU’s social media platforms through posts and stories to reach a wider audience and spread awareness.

Commenting on the initiative, Ms. May Al Musalam, Senior Manager of Public Relations and Marketing at AU, said: “#AUGoesPink campaign is a reminder that awareness is essential, and it may save lives. When our students and staff come together for a great cause, it creates a culture of compassion and responsibility that extends beyond campus.”



Group photo during the campaign.

Beloved mother figure for a generation of TV viewers

TV legend June Lockhart of 'Lassie,' 'Lost in Space' dies at 100

LOS ANGELES, Oct 26, (AP): June Lockhart, who became a mother figure for a generation of television viewers whether at home in "Lassie" or up in the stratosphere in "Lost in Space," has died. She was 100.

Lockhart died Thursday of natural causes at her home in Santa Monica, family spokesman Lyle Gregory, a friend of 40 years, said Saturday.

"She was very happy up until the very end, reading the New York Times and LA Times everyday," he said. "It was very important to her to stay focused on the news of the day."

The daughter of prolific character actor Gene Lockhart, Lockhart was cast frequently in ingenue roles as a young film actor. Television made her a star.

From 1958 to 1964, she portrayed Ruth Martin, who raised the orphaned Timmy (Jon Provost), in the popular CBS series "Lassie." From 1965 to 1968, she traveled aboard the spaceship Jupiter II as mother to the Robinson family in the campy CBS adventure "Lost in Space."

Her portrayals of warm, compassionate mothers endeared her to young viewers, and decades later baby boomers flocked to nostalgia conventions to meet Lockhart and buy her autographed photos.

Offscreen, Lockhart insisted, she was nothing like the women she portrayed.

"I must quote Dan Rather," she said in a 1994 interview. "I can control my reputation, but not my image, because my image is how you see me."

"I love rock 'n' roll and going to the concerts. I have driven Army tanks and flown in hot air balloons. And I go plane-gliding - the ones with no motors. I do a lot of things that don't go with my image."

Early in her career, Lockhart appeared in numerous films. Among them: "All This, and Heaven Too," "Adam Had Four Sons," "Sergeant York," "Miss Annie Rooney," "Forever and a Day" and "Meet Me in St. Louis."



In this April 4, 2004 file photo shows June Lockhart posing for a photo as she arrives for the 60th Anniversary screening of 'Meet Me in St. Louis' DVD release screening at Directors Guild of America, in Los Angeles. (AP)

She also made "Son of Lassie," the 1945 sequel to "Lassie, Come Home," playing the grown-up version of the role created by Elizabeth Taylor.

When her movie career as an adult faltered, Lockhart shifted to television, appearing in live drama from New York and game and talk shows. She was the third actor to play the female lead in "Lassie" on TV, following Jan

Clayton and Cloris Leachman. (Provost had replaced the show's original child star, Tommy Rettig, in 1957.)

Lockhart spoke frankly about her canine co-star: "I worked with four Lassies. There was only one main Lassie at a time. Then there was a dog that did the running, a dog that did the fighting, and a dog that was a stand-in, because only humans can work 14 hours a day without needing a nap."

"Lassie was not especially friendly with anybody. Lassie was wholly concentrated on the trainers."

After six years in the rural setting of "Lassie," Lockhart moved to outer space, embarking on the role of Maureen Robinson, the wise, reassuring mother of a family that departs on a five-year flight to a faraway planet in "Lost in Space."

After their mission is sabotaged by a fellow passenger, the nefarious Dr. Zachary Smith (Jonathan Harris), the party bounces from planet to planet, encountering weird creatures and near-disasters that required viewers to tune in the following week to learn of the escape. Throughout the three-year run, Mrs. Robinson offered consolation and a slice of her "space pie." As with "Lassie," Lockhart enjoyed working on "Lost in Space": "It was like going to work at Disneyland every day."

"So smart, quick, and funny - she filled her 100 years with curiosity, laughter, and rock 'n' roll," Angela Cartwright, who played her daughter on "Lost in Space" posted on Facebook. "I can only imagine she's feeling right at home as she steps off this planet and into the stars."

Bill Mumy, who played her son in the film, posted on social media: "A one of a kind, talented, nurturing, adventurous, and non compromising Lady. She did it her way. June will always be one of my very favorite moms."

In 1968, Lockhart joined the cast of "Petticoat Junction" for the rural comedy's last two seasons, playing Dr. Janet Craig.

Lockhart remained active long after "Lost in Space," appearing often in episodic television as well as in recurring roles in the daytime soap opera "General Hospital" and nighttime soaps, "Knots Landing" and "The Colbys." Her film credits included "The Remake" and the animated "Bongee Bear and the Kingdom of Rhythm," for which she provided the voice for Mindy the Owl.

She also used her own media pass to attend presidential news conferences, narrated beauty pageants and holiday parades, and toured in the plays "Steel Magnolias," "Bedroom Farce" and "Once More with Feeling."

"Her true passion was journalism," Gregory said. "She loved going to the White House briefing rooms."

Lockhart liked to tell the story of how her parents met, saying they were hired separately for a touring production sponsored by inventor Thomas A. Edison and decided on marriage during a stop at Lake Louise, Alberta.

Their daughter was born June 25, 1925, in New York City. The family moved to Hollywood 10 years later, and Gene Lockhart worked steadily as a character actor, usually in avuncular roles, sometimes as a villain. His wife, Kathleen, often appeared with him.

Young June made her stage debut at 8, dancing in a children's ballet at the Metropolitan Opera House. Her first film appearance was a small role in the 1938 "A Christmas Carol," playing the daughter of Bob Cratchit and his wife, who were played by her parents.

She was married and divorced twice: to John Maloney, a physician, father of her daughters Anne Kathleen and June Elizabeth; and architect John C. Lindsay.

Throughout her later career, Lockhart was connected in the public mind with "Lassie."

Even though she sometimes mocked the show, she conceded: "How wonderful that in a career there is one role for which you are known. Many actors work all their lives and never have one part that is really theirs."

Variety

CAIRO: Yemen's Houthi rebels released actor and model **Intisar al-Hammadi** after nearly five years in prison over charges of committing an indecent act and drug possession in a case rights groups said was "marred with irregularities and abuse," her lawyer said Sunday.

Al-Hammadi was detained in the capital Sanaa in February 2021 and sentenced to five years in prison after a Houthi-run court convicted her of committing an indecent act and having drugs in her possession.



Al-Hammadi

Lawyer Khalid al-Kamal said al-Hammadi was released on Saturday after she spent nearly five years in the Central Prison in Sanaa.

An online statement signed by dozens of public figures in Yemen welcomed her release and called on the Houthis to provide health care for al-Hammadi.

Al-Hammadi, 25, was arrested along with three other women. Al-Hammadi and another woman, Youstra al-Nashri, were sentenced to five years, while the two other women received one and three years in prison. Human Rights Watch had criticized the court proceedings as arbitrary and lacking due process.(AP)

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ATHENS, Greece: Popular Greek singer-songwriter Dionysis Savvopoulos was buried Saturday at Athens' First Cemetery in a state-sponsored funeral, four days after his death at age 80.

Savvopoulos had died of a heart attack after battling cancer since 2020.

Thousands came to pay their respects to a well-beloved, if sometimes controversial, artist as he lay in state at a chapel of the Athens Metropolitan Cathedral Saturday morning. Hundreds made the nearly 2-kilometer (1.2-mile) walk behind the hearse to the cemetery.

The presence of a Greek navy band playing mournful music was indicative of the change in Savvopoulos's status, from someone lionized by anarchist-leaning leftists in the 1960s and 1970s and dismissed by the establishment as a long-haired freak, to a figure embraced by the same establishment and cultural mainstream. (AP)

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WUHAN: The International Wudang Tai Chi Culture Festival opened Saturday at the foot of the Wudang Mountains, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in central China's Hubei Province, drawing more than 2,000 participants from 32 countries and regions.

The week-long festival aims to promote traditional Chinese culture and encourage dialogue between civilizations through martial arts, tourism, and cultural exchange.

In his opening remarks, Ju Zhaohui, minister of Hubei's publicity department, said that more than 10 million visitors from home and abroad came to Wudang each year to practice martial arts, cultivate health, and explore Taoist culture.

"This fully demonstrates Wudang Mountain's significant value as a world cultural heritage site and the timeless vitality of Tai Chi culture," Ju said. "We will continue to protect and pass on this heritage, striving to make Wudang the global center of Tai Chi culture. By organizing Tai Chi-themed exchanges and exploring its contemporary meaning, we aim to ensure that Tai Chi remains vibrant for generations to come." (Xinhua)

Film



Jess Gabor arrives at the AFI Fest premiere of 'Christy' on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)



Jasmine Trinca poses for photographers with the Best Actress award received for the movie 'Gli occhi degli altri' at the Rome Film Festival, in Rome, Saturday, Oct. 25. (AP)



Wang Tong poses with the Best Director award received for the movie 'Wild Nights, Tamed Beasts' at the Rome Film Festival, in Rome, Oct 25. (AP)



Pauline Loques poses for photographers with the Jury Grand Prix award received for the movie 'Nino' at the Rome Film Festival, in Rome, Oct. 25. (AP)

Lanthimos promises absurdist thriller experience

Stars of 'Bugonia' pitch the wild ride

LOS ANGELES, Oct 26, (AP): Jesse Plemons has a plea: Pause Netflix and go see "Bugonia" in the theater.

The film, in which he plays a conspiracy theorist who kidnaps and tortures Emma Stone's pharma CEO, believing her to be an alien, is the kind that might seem small in scope. On a certain level, it's three people - the possibly insane mastermind Teddy (Plemons), his cousin and accomplice Don (Aidan Delbis) and their victim Michelle Fuller (Stone) - in a basement. And yet, in the hands of filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos and his collaborators, it feels big in scope too, with a booming score, raw performances, grand themes about perceptions of reality and the human experiment and an ever-escalating tension as you try to figure out whom to believe.

"It's a very entertaining film and a ride," Stone said in an interview alongside her co-star. "It's not this heavy meditation on something. There is a bit of absurdism and that stamp that he (Yorgos) puts on everything where there's humor laced all throughout."

"Bugonia" arrives in select theaters this weekend on a wave of good buzz and reviews after premiering at the Venice Film Festival. But it's also coming into a theatrical marketplace that has been, at best, tough on art films and awards hopefuls, no matter how starry or well-reviewed.

Lanthimos' films have broken through the noise before, especially when Stone is involved. "Poor Things" was hardly an assured box office hit, but managed to make over \$117 million - over three times its production budget - by the end of its run.

"Bugonia" marks Stone's fourth film with Lanthimos and Plemons' second - they both recently appeared in his "Kinds of Kindness." And they hope it breaks the current streak of art house fizzles.

"It's a movie that feels made to be experienced in theaters," Plemons said. "I'd like to talk to all the people out there right now and say, 'You can do it. You can pause Netflix, and come back to it, but you should see this in a theater.'"

Stone chimed in, laughing: "He said it! He said the controversial thing!"

"Bugonia" is based on a 2003 Korean movie called "Save the Green Planet" which also blended elements of science fiction and black comedy in its satirical meditation on truth and corporate misdeeds. It was the era of the coronavirus lockdowns when the idea of making an English-language version took hold, with screenwriter Will Tracy ("Succession," "The Menu") behind the adaptation. In Tracy's script, the setting would switch to the U.S. and the CEO would become a woman.



Jesse Plemons, (left), and Emma Stone pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Bugonia' during the London film festival in London, Friday, Oct. 10. (AP)

"Sometimes you make these big decisions like that and it's not like there's a lot of remediation about why and gender politics and any of it," Tracy said. "It just seemed interesting."

The gender switch had been made before Lanthimos came on board three years ago, but it was the kind of choice that opened up a door for him to call one of his favorites: Stone.

"So much about the story was intriguing," Stone said. "This sort of tightrope walk of what she's being accused of. The tension between her and Teddy."

Also, she said, there was something exciting about playing the kind of boss who makes big pronouncements about staff feeling free to leave at 5:30 p.m. - unless, of course, they have work to do.

"Speaking these sorts of corporate-trained platitudes was really fascinating, to learn how to sort of give the illusion of humanity and connection, but done in a way that's obviously allowed through HR," Stone said.

It was Lanthimos' idea to make the title "Bugonia," which comes from a Greek word referring to a belief that bees were born out of the carcass of a dead ox. Teddy was always a beekeeper on the side, but suddenly they had an apt extended metaphor to play around with, too.

At Teddy's side throughout the ordeal is Don, who seems to have his own misgivings about the plan and causing Michelle pain, but whose first loyalty is to his cousin - the only person who seems to care about him. Lanthimos wanted to cast a non-professional, neurodivergent actor in the role and worked with casting director Jennifer Venditti, who had helped make a documentary about a neurodivergent kid, to find the right person.

Delbis, who is autistic, did not do any training before joining the cast at age 17. Some little changes to the script were made to reflect his way of speaking and his presence. But the point, Lanthimos said, was that "he would bring his own experience and perception and way of thinking and energy. And that was what was so priceless."

It's perhaps the most important relationship in the film, and Plemons said that he immediately felt bonded to Delbis.

"We just hit it off very quickly and very quickly he began to feel like my cousin that I wanted to protect and hang out with," Plemons said.

"Bugonia" is a surprisingly physical film, which everyone learned the hard way. Plemons and Stone worked with stunt coordinators for the big fights and the kidnapping scene. But she didn't foresee just how much physicality was involved in being a captive, bloody, slathered in antihistamine cream and constantly trying to break free.

"Generally I think it was quite a challenge for everyone because it's such a constrained film, just being in those few locations," Lanthimos said. "We started forgetting what day it was, and if it was day or night outside."

Plemons also had quite a bit of biking and running around for the exciting final 30 minutes of the film.

"Hats off to them for putting up with my writing," Tracy said.

Stone, who also produced, remembered filming a scene one night in which she's walking barefoot through a parking lot with ambulances all around her and giving Tracy some grief. What sounded fairly straightforward took on a lot of complications because they were shooting in England and the vehicles needed to be American.

"I was like, 'You were just sitting there in your room, and you wrote one sentence: Michelle limps across the parking and there are ambulances,'" Stone said. "It was just like, wow must be nice! We spent a lot of money on that one line you wrote. You could have cut it!" Stone said.

She is mostly kidding. It might have been expensive, but they still did the shot. As a producer, Stone says she wants nothing more than to protect the integrity of a film, whether she's acting in it or not.

Historic jewel robbery leaves cultural wound in France

Suspects arrested in Louvre crown jewels heist

PARIS, Oct 26, (AP): Suspects have been arrested in connection with the theft of crown jewels from Paris' Louvre museum, the Paris prosecutor said on Sunday, a week after the heist that stunned the world.

The prosecutor said that investigators made the arrests on Saturday evening, adding that one of the men taken into custody was preparing to leave the country from Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport.

French media BFM TV and Le Parisien newspaper earlier reported that two suspects had been arrested and taken into custody. Paris prosecutor Laure Beccuaud did not confirm the number of arrests and did not say whether any jewels had been recovered.

Thieves took less than eight minutes last Sunday morning to steal jewels valued at 88 million euros (\$102 million) from the world's most-visited museum. French officials described how the intruders used a basket lift to scale the Louvre's façade, forced open a window, smashed display cases and fled. The museum's director called the incident a

"terrible failure."

Beccuaud said investigators from a special police unit in charge of armed robberies, serious burglaries and art thefts made the arrests. In her statement, she rued the premature leak of information, saying it could hinder the work of over 100 investigators "mobilized to recover the stolen jewels and apprehend all of the perpetrators." Beccuaud said further details will be unveiled after the suspects' custody period ends.

French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez praised "the investigators who have worked tirelessly, just as I asked them to, and who have always had my full confidence."

The Louvre reopened earlier this week after one of the highest-profile museum thefts of the century stunned the world with its audacity and scale.

The thieves slipped in and out, making off with parts of France's Crown Jewels - a cultural wound that some compared to the burning of Notre Dame Cathedral in 2019.

The thieves made away with a total of eight objects, including a sapphire diadem, necklace and single earring from

a set linked to 19th-century queens Marie-Amélie and Hortense.

They also took an emerald necklace and earrings tied to Empress Marie-Louise, Napoleon Bonaparte's second wife, as well as a reliquary brooch. Empress Eugénie's diamond diadem and her large corsage-bow brooch - an imperial ensemble of rare craftsmanship - were also part of the loot.

One piece - Eugénie's emerald-set imperial crown with more than 1,300 diamonds - was later found outside the museum, damaged but repairable.

News of the arrests was met with relief by Louvre visitors and passersby on Sunday.

"It's important for our heritage. A week later, it does feel a bit late, we wonder how this could even happen - but it was important that the guys were caught," said Freddy Jacquemet.

"I think the main thing now is whether they can recover the jewels," added Diana Ramirez. "That's what really matters."



A police car parks in the courtyard of the Louvre museum, one week after the robbery, Sunday, Oct. 26, in Paris. The Paris prosecutor said on Sunday that a number of suspects have been arrested over the theft of crown jewels from Paris' Louvre museum last weekend. (AP)

‘Sacred space’
‘No raves at Colosseum’

ROME, Oct 26, (AP): The man who just took charge of Rome's top tourist attraction wants to set the record straight: the Colosseum won't be hosting any electronic dance music parties on his watch.

Simone Quilici, director of the Archaeological Park of the Colosseum, shared his plan to bring concerts to the almost 2,000-year-old amphitheater in an interview with an Italian newspaper earlier this month, and social media proceeded to do what it all too often does. "Massive raves" were imminent, multiple accounts trumpeted alongside AI-generated images of multicolor light beams shooting from the arena into the heavens.

Quilici told The Associated Press that he heard complaints from archaeologists and ordinary Romans, dismayed their cultural heritage could be so desecrated. Even electronic music fans expressed concern online about the damage a whumping bass beat would inflict on an ancient structure that continues yielding new wonders, like the emperor's secret passage that opens on Oct. 27.

Concerts must respect the Colosseum as a "sacred space," Quilici said, as it is integral to Roman identity and has become imbued with religious significance. Today, it is the site of the Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) procession during Easter, traditionally presided over by the pope.

Moderation

"The music must be carefully controlled. I mentioned certain artists - not by accident - who haven't been 'rock' for some time, who play calm music and attract a calm audience, because the important thing is that it's not a wild crowd," Quilici, 55, said Friday in his first interview with foreign media since taking over on Oct. 20. "I joked about rock in moderation - that's what I meant, a more subdued kind of music. But it was reported the opposite of what I said."

Concerts could be acoustic or jazz, he said, offering Sting as an example. The amphitheater could host poetry readings, dance performances and theater productions once the existing small platform is expanded. Also in the plans: historical reenactments of gladiatorial battles rooted in academic research.

"There are people who are extremely knowledgeable about daily life in past eras, with a remarkable level of scientific accuracy. So these activities are very welcome within the Colosseum park," Quilici said. He stressed such presentations would be the antithesis of the shabbily costumed centurions who besiege the Colosseum by night, posing for photos with tourists and then harassing them for payment.

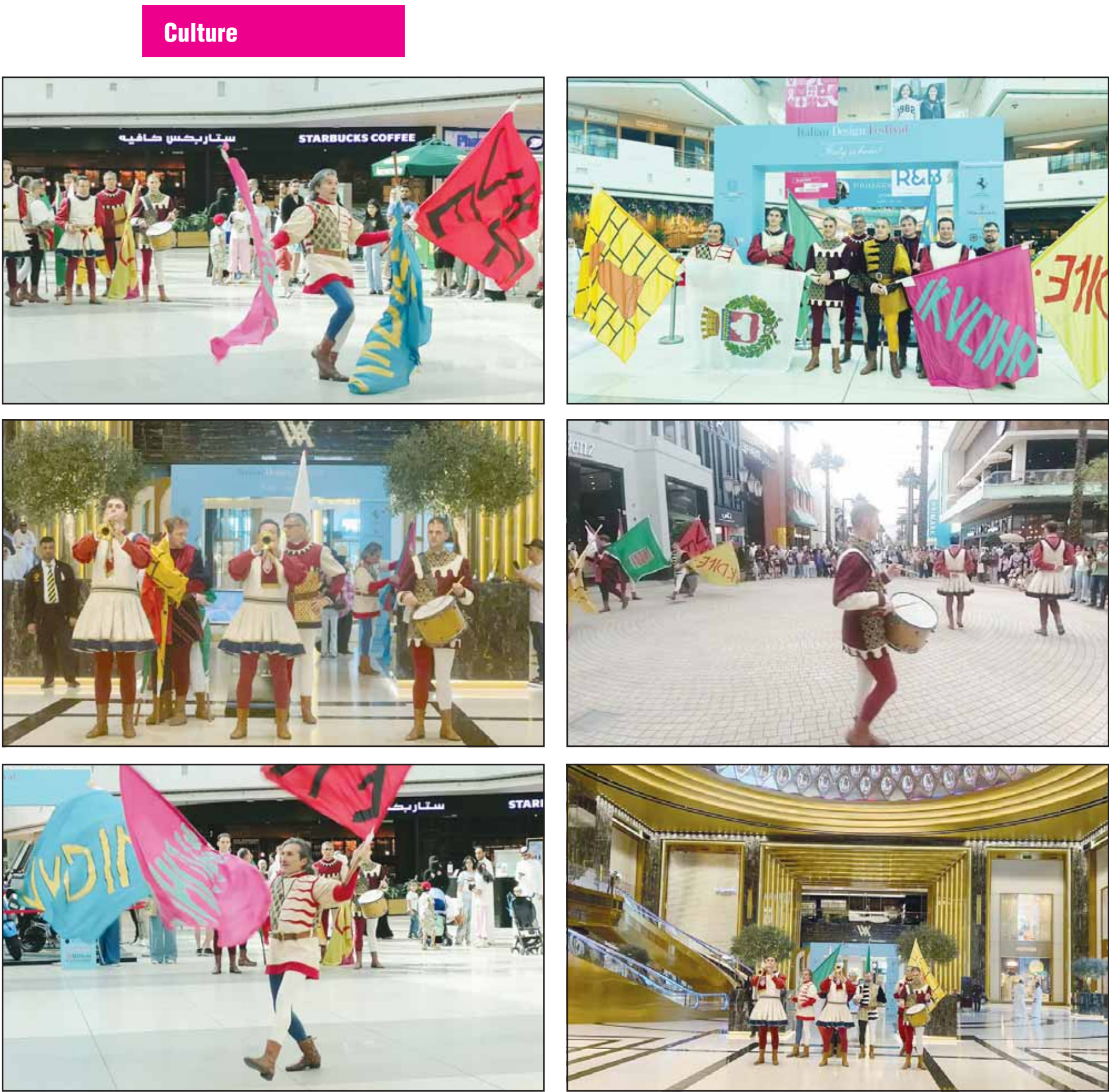
The Colosseum's first concerts and performances will take place in no less than two years, he added.

Only a handful of concerts have taken place within the Colosseum over the years, including Ray Charles in 2002, Paul McCartney in 2003 and Andrea Bocelli in 2009. All were billed as special events and audience numbers were severely restricted.

"Unfortunately, as everyone knows, tourism is a commercial activity - an industry that does not always connect with culture," he said on the Colosseum's uppermost balcony. "Bringing cultural activities into the mix would enrich this place, making it not only a site to visit, but also a place where one can experience and enjoy artistic events."



People visit the ancient Roman Colosseum, in Rome, Friday, Oct. 24. (AP)



Photos from the Italian captivating performances at the Avenues Mall.

‘Gubbio’ brings Italian folklore to Kuwait

Italian shows wow Avenues visitors at Italian Design Festival

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Over two days, Friday and Saturday, October 24-25, The Avenues Mall hosted captivating performances by the Italian "Sbandieratori di Gubbio" (Gubbio's historic Flag-waving Group) as part of the Italian Design Festival in Kuwait. Hundreds of visitors, both citizens and residents, attended and immersed themselves in the authentic Italian ambience.

These performances were part of the Italian Design Festival, which kicked off on October 19 at the Avenues Mall and will continue until Oct 29 at the Contemporary Art Platform (CAP). The festival celebrates Italian creativity in the fields of design, art, fashion and music, in an atmosphere that blends high culture and public entertainment.

The Italian Ambassador to Kuwait, Lorenzo Morini, said in a press statement on the occasion:

"We are delighted to see the great enthusiasm shown by the Kuwaiti public for Italian culture. The Italian Design Festival is not just a showcase of beauty and creativity, but rather a bridge of cultural dialogue between Italy and Kuwait, reflecting the depth of bilateral relations and the historical friendship that unites the two countries."

Ambassador Morini added: "Sbandieratori di Gubbio" embodies a distinctive aspect of the ancient Italian heritage and folklore. The tradition of the flags-wavers group dates back centuries and is a symbol of pride, skill, and belonging. It is wonderful to share this cultural heritage with the dear Kuwaiti public."

The Ambassador also noted that the Italian Design Festival in Kuwait aims to highlight Italian creativity in various fields, from industrial and architectural design to traditional arts, saying: "We are proud to present in Kuwait a diverse program that celebrates the Italian spirit of innovation, which combines traditions and renewal. Through these events, we seek to promote cultural dialogue and artistic exchange between our two countries."

The performances by the "Sbandieratori di Gubbio" Group were met with widespread interaction from the audience, who enjoyed the harmonious movements of the historical flags, accompanied by traditional rhythmic music played with drums and trumpets. This colorful, energetic, and joyful scene brought the scent of Italian history and folklore to the heart of Kuwait.

The shows concluded amidst a festive atmosphere, confirming the success of Italian Design Festival in bringing the public together around Italian culture, art and design and fostering a



Italian flag-waving performers pose for a photo at Avenues Mall.

spirit of cultural dialogue between Italy and Kuwait.

The Gubbio Flag-wavers Group was founded in 1969 within the Gubbio Crossbowmen's Society, with the aim of preserving and revitalizing the centuries-old tradition of the Paliodella Balestra (crossbow palio), which takes place in Gubbio on the last Sunday of May and in Sansepolcro on the second Sunday of September. The Flag-wavers aim to perpetuate the centuries-

old flag-waving game and the ethical message it embodies, including through youth education programs such as introductory courses, advanced training, and professional development courses on folklore, art, history, traditions, and sports. Throughout their career, the Gubbio Flag-wavers have performed at over 2,500 events, waving flags across all five continents and participating in sporting, cultural, military and religious events.

History and art have always been part of the lives of us flag-wavers, thanks to a quest for the colors of our flags and our costumes. In this sense, we have always sought to conceive of our folklore as a way of creating culture, culture as an aesthetic pursuit, culture as a sense of belonging to our land. This message is contained in the flags, which represent stylistic elements of the Eugubine Tablets, seven bronze tablets discovered in the 15th century in the territory of ancient Ikuvium (Gubbio), on which is inscribed a text in Umbrian, the longest and most important ritual text of ancient Italy. Added to these are other flags representing the symbols of the city of Pietra: the bell tower, illustrations by Federico da Montefeltro, the Neighborhoods, and finally the "Festadei Ceri". The flags were created by master Oscar Piattella.

Without the City of Gubbio behind them, with its energy and caliber, the Sbandieratori (Flag-Wavers) would not exist, they would simply be jugglers. This is the key. And this explains their connection to the art world, with which they have engaged for over half a century, reaching daring heights. From artist portfolios to publications, the Group weaves networks of friendships, encounters, and connections, even very strong ones, with protagonists of contemporary art, all amazed by their genuine ability to combine folklore and culture, art and flags. All these relationships continue to bear fruit, energy and a desire to push the City forward, to channel or attract to it, as an ideal and perfect container for the purpose, the finest sensibilities, and to generate visionary skills. This is why we chose to title our collections "bandierarte".

Indeed, the Group's philosophy has always been based on the desire to combine flag-waving with other cultural activities and initiatives, so that the flag has become a lever for other values and a generator of far greater potential for achieving results for the City. This brilliant intuition has been the Group's strength and has ennobled the city's folklore. A concept that should be replicated at various levels and has proven successful.

Flag, colors, wind, beauty, art, memory, and love for the city are the guiding principles that still today drive the Bandieranti of Gubbio.

Tiny metal particles show potential in targeting cancer cells

Blood test to guide chemo decisions for colon cancer: study

MELBOURNE, Oct 26, (Xinhua): A simple blood test detecting traces of tumor DNA could change how doctors decide which patients with colon cancer need chemotherapy, an Australian-led study finds.

The DYNAMIC-III clinical trial found testing for tiny fragments of cancer DNA in the bloodstream, known as circulating tumor DNA, or ctDNA, can reveal if cancer is present after surgery, and help tailor treatment accordingly, said a statement released Wednesday by Australia’s Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI).

Published in Nature Medicine, the DYNAMIC-III trial involved more than 1,000 patients with stage 3 colon cancer from Australia, New Zealand and Canada, and had their blood taken about six weeks after surgery to remove their primary colon cancer.

Participants were then randomly assigned to receive either standard chemotherapy or treatment, guided by their ctDNA results, researchers said, adding that the findings show how ctDNA could bring true precision medicine to colon cancer.

“ctDNA is a powerful tool that can help guide treatment choices and identify which patients might safely receive less intensive treatment and those who might need to seek alternative options,” said WEHI Professor Jeanne Tie.

“Right now, we give most stage 3 patients the same chemotherapy, but ctDNA testing can help tailor treatment based on individual risk,” she said, adding that for some patients, a less intensive chemotherapy approach could be as effective while reducing side effects like oxaliplatin-induced toxicity and improving quality of life.

The study shows that a blood test can help give patients “more personalized, risk-adapted chemotherapy by identifying who may benefit from full-intensity chemotherapy and who can safely receive a reduced regimen,” Tie said.

Those without detectable ctDNA had an 87-percent cancer-free survival rate after three years while receiving less chemotherapy and experiencing fewer side effects, researchers said, adding patients with detectable ctDNA after surgery faced higher recurrence risk, indicating a need for new treatments.

Meanwhile, researchers have developed microscopic metal particles that can kill cancer cells while sparing healthy tissue, offering a potential new direction for more targeted and less toxic cancer treatments.

This work remains at the cell-culture stage and has not been tested in animals or humans, but it suggests a new strategy for designing cancer treatments that exploit cancer’s own weaknesses, said a statement released Friday by Australia’s Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT).

The international team led by RMIT researchers created the tiny particles, known as nanodots, from molybdenum oxide, a compound based on a rare metal called molybdenum, often used in electronics and alloys, it said.

By tweaking their chemical composition, the scientists enabled the particles to release reactive oxygen molecules -- unstable forms of oxygen that damage cancer cells and trigger their self-destruction, it added.

In tests, the particles killed three times more cervical cancer cells than healthy cells within 24 hours, without needing

light, unusual for technologies that rely on oxidative stress, according to the study published in Advanced Science.

“Cancer cells already live under higher stress than healthy ones. Our particles push that stress a little further, enough to trigger self-destruction in cancer cells, while healthy cells cope just fine,” said Zhang Baoyue, the study’s first author from the RMIT School of Engineering.

“The result was particles that generate oxidative stress selectively in cancer cells under lab conditions,” Zhang said.

Most cancer treatments affect both cancerous and healthy tissue, but technologies that selectively stress cancer cells could enable gentler, more targeted therapies, researchers said, adding that these particles are made from common metal oxide instead of costly or toxic noble metals like gold or silver, making them likely cheaper and safer to develop.

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The finding allows researchers to link disease-associated genetic mutations that affect this process and develop suitable treatment options, said study lead researcher Professor **Sureshkumar Balasubramanian** of Monash University’s School of Biological Sciences.

“This is not just hope, this is a clear explorable pathway to a cure for those who are living with some of the most debilitating and life-threatening conditions and diseases,” he said.

Balasubramanian said they expect scientists to “begin using this finding right away to inform the development, and cures won’t be too far behind that,” as the finding allows for personalized therapeutic solutions for rare and under-researched genetic conditions and diseases.

MRNA acts as the key intermediate between DNA, the genetic blueprint, and proteins that carry out most of the work in cells, with RNA splicing ensuring proper reading of the blueprint by removing some sections of the RNA, “a bit like a book editor taking out unnecessary parts of a story to improve its quality,” researchers said.

Genetic mutations can modify RNA splicing, affecting processes like growth and development, with defective RNA splicing resulting in serious and life-threatening genetic conditions and disease, including cancer, according to the study published in Nature Communications.

The research compared millions of splice-sites, the positions at which cutting and joining of RNA occurs, in plants before moving on to samples of more than 25 different species, including humans, using SpliSER, developed by Balasubramanian’s team in 2021 to measure RNA splicing.

China launches new satellite

Japan launches cargo craft to deliver supplies to ISS

TOKYO, Oct 26, (Agencies): Japan’s space agency successfully launched Sunday its most powerful flagship H3 rocket, carrying a newly developed unmanned cargo spacecraft for its first mission to deliver supplies to the International Space Station.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said the HTV-X1 spacecraft successfully lifted off atop the No. 7 H3 rocket from Japan’s Tanegashima Space Center in the country’s south and confirmed it entered targeted orbit 14 minutes after liftoff.

The spacecraft was separated and placed into a planned orbit, JAXA said. If everything goes smoothly, it is expected to arrive at the ISS in a few days to deliver supplies. Japanese astronaut Kimiya Yui, currently at the ISS, is set to catch the craft with a robot arm in the early hours of Thursday.

The HTV-X is the successor to JAXA’s unmanned H-II Transfer Vehicle, known as Kounotori, or stork in Japanese, which flew nine missions to the ISS between 2009 and 2020.

The new freighter can carry a bigger payload and supply power during flight, enabling the transport of lab samples that require storage at low temperatures.

The HTV-X is designed to be connected to the ISS for up to six months to deliver supplies and retrieve waste from the ISS, then conduct technical missions while making an orbital flight after leaving the station, this time for three months.

Sunday’s launch also marks a successful debut for H3 rocket’s most powerful version, with four rocket boosters and a bigger fairing, a top compartment for payloads, officials said.

JAXA President Hiroshi Yamakawa called Sunday’s launch “a major step

forward” that demonstrated Japan’s capability of delivering supplies to space, which serves as “the basis of autonomous space activity.”

Iwao Igarashi, head of the Space Business Department at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, responsible for developing H3 with JAXA and operating rocket launches, said Japan’s track record of on-time launch and accuracy in delivering payloads and the newly modified rocket prove they can accommodate a range of customer needs. He said his company plans to expand its launch facility.

H3 rocket replaces Japan’s long-beloved mainstay H-2A rocket, which made its final flight in June, as a new flagship model designed to be more cost-competitive in the global space market. The H3 has so far made six consecutive successful flights after a failed debut attempt in 2023, when the rocket had to be destroyed with its payload.

Japan sees a stable, commercially competitive space transport capability as key to its space program and national security.

In another development, China on Sunday sent a new satellite into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in its southwestern Sichuan Province. The Gaofen-14 02 satellite was launched at 11:55 a.m. (Beijing Time) aboard a Long March-3B carrier rocket and entered the planned orbit successfully.

This satellite is capable of efficiently acquiring high-precision stereo imagery on a global scale, providing fundamental geographic information support for national economic development and national defense construction. The launch marked the 603rd flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.



Virginia Davidson of Bridgton, Maine, paddles her kayak on Moose Pond, Oct. 13, 2021, in Bridgton, Maine. (AP)

Outdoors become new remedy for the stressed-out

Your new prescription is to get outside

MADISON, Wis., Oct 26, (AP): Find a shady spot under a tree, take a breath of fresh air and call me in the morning.

Health care providers have long suggested stressed-out patients spend time outdoors. Now hundreds of providers are going a step further and issuing formal prescriptions to get outside. The tactic is gaining momentum as social media, political strife and wars abroad weigh on the American psyche.

Of course, no one needs a prescription to get outside, but some doctors think that issuing the advice that way helps people take it seriously.

“When I bring it up, it is almost like granting permission to do something they may see as frivolous when things seem so otherwise serious and stressful,” said Dr. Suzanne Hackenmiller, a Waterloo, Iowa, gynecologist who started issuing nature prescriptions after discovering time outdoors soothed her following her husband’s death.

Spending time in natural areas can lower blood pressure, reduce stress hormones and boost immunity, multiple studies have found.

“Study after study says we’re wired to be out in nature,” said Dr. Brent Bauer, who serves as director of the complementary and integrative medicine program at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The program focuses on practices that usually aren’t part of conventional medicine, such as meditation, acupuncture, massage and nutrition. “That’s more than just ‘Woo-woo, I think nature is cool.’ There’s actually science.”

Telling someone to go outside is one thing. The follow-through is something else. Starting about a decade ago, health care providers began formalizing suggestions to get outside through prescriptions.

Dr. Robert Zarr, who doubles as a nature guide, launched an organization called Park Rx America around 2016, offering providers protocols for prescribing nature outings. The guidelines call for talking with patients about what they like to do outside - walking, sitting under a tree, maybe just watching leaves fall - how often to do it and where to go. That all then gets included in a prescription, and Park Rx America sends patients reminders.

Nearly 2,000 providers have registered with the organization across the U.S. and a number of other countries, including Australia, Brazil, Cameroon and Spain. They’ve issued more than 7,000 nature prescriptions since 2019, said Dr. Stacy Beller Stryer, Park Rx America’s associate medical director. About 100 other organizations similar to Park Rx

America have sprung up around the U.S., she said.

Bauer specializes in treating CEOs and other business leaders. He said he issues about 30 nature prescriptions every year. The chief executives he treats sometimes don’t even know where to begin and a prescription can give them a jump start, he said.

“I recommend a lot of things to a lot of patients,” he said. “I’m not under the illusion all of them get enacted. When I get a prescription, someone hands me a piece of paper and says you must take this medication ... I’m a lot more likely to activate that.”

Hackenmiller, the Iowa gynecologist, said she’s having more discussions with patients about getting outside as a means of escaping a world locked in perpetual conflict.

“When so many things are out of our control, it can be helpful to step away from the media and immerse ourselves in nature,” she said. “I think time in nature often resonates with people as something they have found solace in and have gravitated to in other times in their life.”

The effectiveness of nature prescriptions is unclear. A 2020 joint study by the U.S. Forest Service, the University of Pennsylvania and North Carolina State University concluded that more work was needed to gauge follow-through and long-term health outcomes.

But unless you’re choking on wildfire smoke or swatting swarms of mosquitoes, getting outside - no matter what motivates you - can be helpful.

At William & Mary college in Williamsburg, Virginia, students issue nature prescriptions to their peers. “Patients” obtain prescriptions by filling out online applications indicating how far they’ll travel to get to a park, times they can visit, whether they need a ride and favorite outdoor activities. Students issued an average of 22 online prescriptions per month in 2025, up from 12 per month in 2020.

Kelsey Wakiyama, a senior, grew up hiking trails around her home in Villanova, Pennsylvania, with her family and their dog, Duke. When she started her freshman year in Williamsburg, she didn’t know where to walk. She saw an advertisement for nature prescriptions in the weekly student email and eventually got one that helped her find trails near campus.

“I love the greenery,” Wakiyama said. “When you’re sitting inside - I was in the library for four hours today - the fresh air feels very nice. It calms my nervous system, definitely. I associate being outside with a lightness, a calmness, good memories. That kind of comes back to me when I’m outside.”

Eye injuries

Pakistan vows to ‘end’ polio

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 26, (Xinhua): Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the country is committed to protecting children from polio disease and securing a healthy future for Pakistan.

“Ending polio is not just a public health goal, it is a national responsibility that must be achieved without failure,” the prime minister said while addressing a ceremony held in connection with World Polio Day.

Highlighting the service of polio workers, Sharif said that owing to the vaccinators and concerted efforts of the Pakistani government and partners, since 1994, Pakistan has reduced polio cases from an estimated 20,000 annual cases to 74 in 2024 and 30 so far this year.

The prime minister said that Pakistan must run the last mile to eradicate polio, calling on parents to ensure that their children receive vaccines.

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Blindness: Nearly 400 children in the states of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have been admitted to hospitals with severe eye injuries due to the use of dangerous calcium carbide guns during Diwali (the Hindu festival of lights) celebrations, Indian officials said Friday.

There are fears that dozens of children will permanently lose their eyesight.

In the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, officials said nearly 200 children have been hospitalized for injuries to their eyes due to these carbide guns.

Reports said 14 have lost their eyesight.

In the eastern state of Bihar, local media outlet Patna Press said carbide guns have caused severe injuries to hundreds of children across the state, with more than 50 reported cases of blindness in the capital city of Patna alone.

“Due to a lack of consolidated data, the exact number remains uncertain, but we estimate between 150 and 200 people have suffered serious or partial injuries statewide,” Bibhuti Prassan Sinha, deputy director of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, was quoted by the outlet as saying.

The situation is under control and medical teams are monitoring all cases closely, said Chief Medical and Health Officer of Bhopal Manish Sharma, according to local news agency Asian News International.

Carbide guns are crude plastic or tin tubes that use calcium carbide and water to trigger explosive sounds.

Children, unaware of the danger, often look inside the pipe if the explosion fails to go off, a mistake that can cause the blast to rupture the retina, resulting in immediate blindness.



The H3 (7th) rocket by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), carrying a new HTV-X cargo transfer spacecraft, is launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in Minamitan, Tanegashima island, southern Japan, Sunday, Oct. 26. (AP)

Why the US-Europe time gap narrows by an hour this week

LONDON, Oct 26, (AP): For a week every October, people organizing international catch-ups and meetings on both sides of the Atlantic may be briefly confused: Did I just miss that conference call? Why is my grandmother calling me so early?

Most people quickly remember: It’s that strange time each fall when Europe and the United States are out of sync as they switch from daylight saving time to standard time.

Most countries do not observe daylight saving time. And for those that do - mostly in Europe and North America - the date of the clock change varies, partly because of how time-related laws were developed in different places.

In countries that observe the practice, clocks are set forward one hour from standard time in March to make the most of increased summer daylight hours in the northern hemisphere.

Clocks “fall back” again in the autumn to standard time.

In the UK and Europe, this takes place at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday in October.

But in the US and Canada, clocks go back one hour at 2 a.m on the first Sunday in November.

That in-between week means that the time difference between the two sides of the Atlantic - for example between London and New York - is one hour shorter than usual, potentially causing chaos for coordinating Zoom calls or other meetings.

The idea of daylight saving time had been floated for several hundred years, but didn’t become a standardized common practice written into law in many countries until the early 20th century.

Europe first adopted it during World War I as a wartime measure to conserve energy. Germany and Austria began moving their clocks by an hour in the summer of 1916. The UK and other countries involved in the war followed soon after, as did the United States and Canada.

Gentle recovery leads to better knee healing

‘Quiet Knee’ protocol helps ease knee replacement recovery

DALLAS, Oct 26, (AP): Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS), the world’s leading academic medical center focused on musculoskeletal health, today announced the results of a retrospective study analyzing the results of the “Quiet Knee” protocol after total knee arthroplasty (TKA), also known as knee replacement surgery. The study results were shared at the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS) annual meeting.

The Quiet Knee protocol, which some HSS surgeons began implementing several years ago, takes a more conservative approach to knee replacement recovery than traditional clinical protocols. This new technique focuses on controlling inflammation and swelling postoperatively through restricted mobility and passive range of motion (ROM) and aggressive cryotherapy (icing) for the first 10 days immediately following surgery. This contrasts with standard protocols, which often emphasize early and aggressive movement that can cause inflammation in surgical tissue that is healing.

All HSS total knee replacement patients from 2020 to 2024 were retrospectively reviewed as part of the study. A Quiet Knee group consisting of 271 patients received structured postoperative care and monitored telerehabilitation. One comparison group was given Quiet Knee guidance verbally, while a second co-



Research shows ‘Quiet Knee’ protocol could redefine knee replacement recovery. (AP)

hort followed traditional early motion postoperative therapy.

“Patients are told they have to work really hard to get motion back after surgery—the no pain, no gain type of mentality,” said Brian P. Chalmers, MD, a hip and knee surgeon at HSS and one of the authors of the study. “The problem with that is that the more patients do in the early period of recovery—the more they bend, the more they are up and walking—the more the knee will swell.”

Every person undergoing TKA experiences pain

and swelling after surgery, but the intensity differs, making the patient’s recovery process more challenging and often more painful than most other surgeries.

“It’s not uncommon to see a counterproductive early physical therapy program that is too aggressive,” Dr. Chalmers said. “In these cases, the knee becomes very swollen, which causes patients to have more pain. As the knee becomes more inflamed and patients are able to bend it less, it just becomes a cycle.” Under the Quiet Knee protocol, patients avoid intensive physical therapy immediately after surgery, allowing the body time to heal before progressing to motion and other strength work. Early results suggest this approach helps set the stage for a smoother long-term recovery. The study also showed that the protocol significantly reduced 90-day opioid exposure by more than 25%.

“This isn’t a surgeon-driven protocol or a research-driven protocol. It’s a physiology-driven protocol,” said Michael P. Ast, MD, Chief of the Knee Service and Chief Medical Innovation Officer at HSS and co-author of the study. “It is a recognition of what the human body goes through in recovery from surgery. It is a very logical way of respecting the body’s inflammatory response to trauma. Early on after surgery, less really is more. That is really the guiding principle of this protocol.”

Nuggets rout Suns in home opener

Holmgren, SGA combine for 61 as OKC extends hot start

ATLANTA, Oct 26, (AP): Chet Holmgren scored 31 points, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 30, and the reigning NBA champion Oklahoma City Thunder pulled away in the second half for a 117-100 victory over the short-handed Atlanta Hawks on Saturday night.

The Thunder improved to 3-0 on the season, getting off to another quick start after winning seven straight at the start of a year ago on the way to a title.

Gilgeous-Alexander, the league's MVP last season, had another big night coming off a career-best 55-point performance in a 141-135 victory at Indiana on Thursday night.

Holmgren was 6 of 8 from beyond the 3-point stripe and grabbed 12 rebounds. Gilgeous-Alexander was nearly perfect on shots inside the arc, making 10 of 11.

After going to double overtime to win its first two games, the Thunder didn't need any extra time to finish off an Atlanta squad that was missing three starters.

Kristaps Porzingis (flu-like symptoms) and Zaccharie Rissacher (right ankle sprain) each missed their second straight game. They were joined on the bench by Jalen Johnson, who sprained his right ankle in a victory at Orlando the previous night.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker led the Hawks with 17 points. Atlanta has lost its first two home games of the season by a combined 37 points, sandwiched around the road victory over the Magic.

Nuggets 133, Suns 111

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had his second triple-double of the season despite a quiet shooting night, Jamal Murray scored 23 points, and Denver beat Phoenix in their home opener.

Jokic finished with 15 assists, 14 rebounds, and 14 points on just 5 of 8 shooting. His first field goal attempt came with 2:26 left in the second quarter. He notched the triple-double on a turnaround hook shot with 57 seconds in the period.

Jokic has 166 career triple-doubles during the regular season, third behind Russell Westbrook (203) and Oscar Robertson (181), and 18 more in the playoffs.

Devin Booker had 31 points and Grayson Allen scored 17 for the Suns, who were playing the second game of a tough back-to-back. They tipped off Saturday night, 20 hours after losing by 27 to the Los Angeles Clippers, and didn't have center Mark Williams, who was out with a right knee injury.

Bulls 110, Magic 98

In Orlando, Josh Giddey had 21 points and eight rebounds, and Chicago beat Orlando for a 2-0 start.

Jalen Smith added 16 points for the Bulls, one of their four players off the bench in double figures. Ayo Dosunmu and Nikola Vucevic each finished with 15 points.

Paolo Banchero scored 24 points for the Magic, who were a woe-ful 3 for 24 (12.5%) from 3-point



Denver Nuggets guard Bruce Brown gestures to the Phoenix Suns bench after hitting a 3-point basket in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Denver. (AP)



Philadelphia 76ers' Tyrese Maxey (0) goes up for a shot against Charlotte Hornets' Collin Sexton (8) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Philadelphia. (AP)

range. Orlando shot 39% overall and fell to 1-2.

Banchero also grabbed 10 rebounds but shot just 7 for 21. Anthony Black added 19 points and Franz Wagner had 17 for the Magic.

The Bulls led 83-80 after three quarters before Dosunmu went 3 for 3 from 3-point range in the fourth. Smith followed one of Dosunmu's 3s with one of his own as Chicago pushed a three-point lead to 94-85 and never was really threatened again.

76ers 125, Hornets 121

In Philadelphia, Quentin Grimes snapped a tie with a 3-pointer with 14 seconds left and scored 24 points, and Tyrese Maxey scored 28 to lead Philadelphia to a win over Charlotte.

Joel Embiid scored 20 points with only two rebounds for the Sixers in their home opener. VJ Edgecombe had 15 points for the Sixers after the 2025 No. 3 overall pick scored 34 in the opener against Boston, the third-most points for an NBA player in his first game.

The Hornets lost Brandon Miller in the first half to left shoulder soreness. Miller grabbed his shoulder in pain and ran to the locker room after he was hurt on a play in the second quarter. He scored four points in nine minutes.

LaMelo Ball led the Hornets with 27 points, and Collin Sexton had 21.

Grizzlies 128, Pacers 103

In Memphis, Rookie Cedric Coward scored 22 of his 27 points in the second half, and Memphis pulled away for a victory over Indiana.

Ja Morant finished with 19 points, and Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 17. Coward, the No. 11 pick in the draft out of Washington State, made all six 3-point attempts and finished 9 for 13 overall. He has reached double figures in all three games.

Bennedict Mathurin led Indiana with 26 points, going 8 for 12 from the field and making a pair of 3-pointers. Aaron Nesmith added 15 points, while Obi Toppin and Pascal Siakam scored 13 apiece as the Pacers fell to 0-2.

Australia beats US to win LPGA's International Crown for first time

World team finishes in third place

GOYANG, South Korea, Oct 26, (AP): Australia beat the United States Team to win LPGA's International Crown tournament on Sunday, clinching the title after Minjee Lee and Hannah Green took both of their singles matches, with each winning, 2 and 1, over Angel Yin and Yealimi Noh, respectively.

The foursomes match between Australians Stephanie Kyriacou and Grace Kim and Americans Lilia Vu and Lauren Coughlin finished in a tie, but was inconsequential when Green secured victory at the 17th hole in the second singles match at the New Korea Country Club.

It's the first win for Australia at the match-play tournament, which eluded them in 2023 when current No. 1 ranked Jeeno Thitikul and Thailand beat them in the final at TPC Harding Park in San Francisco.

The World team finished in third place after Charley Hull and Lydia



Winners of Australia team from left, Steph Kyriacou, Minjee Lee, Hannah Green and Grace Kim pose with the trophy after winning the LPGA International Crown golf tournament at the New Korea Country Club in Goyang, South Korea. (AP)

Ko both had impressive victories in their singles matches against Japan to take an unassailable lead in the three match tie.

Hull led out for the World team with a 4 and 3 win over Ayaka Furue and Ko sealed the third place finish with a 3 and 2 win over Rio Takeda.

Mao Saigo and Miyu Yamashita beat Brooke Henderson and Wei-Ling Hsu 4 and 3 in the foursomes

to narrow the deficit for the Japanese.

Earlier Sunday, Kyriacou and Kim beat Wei-Ling and Ko of the World team on the 20th hole to clinch a place in the final for the Aussies after the singles had finished at one win apiece.

Hull had edged past Hannah Green 2 and 1 to put the World team ahead after the first singles match, before Minjee Lee rallied

in her tie against Canada's Henderson to win 1-up and level the match.

The top-seeded United States team had a more straightforward path to the final as Yin had a 2 and 1 win over Japan's Takeda, before Noh sealed the Americans spot with hole wins at the 13th, 15th and 16th for a comfortable 4 and 2 victory over Yamashita.

Furue and Saigo took a consolation victory for Japan and ended the United States perfect record this week when they had a 1-up win of Lilia Vu and Lauren Coughlin in the foursomes.

Under the tournament format, seven countries and a "rest of the world" team compete in two pools. The teams and their players were determined by the women's world ranking.

The top two countries from each pool advanced Sunday's semifinals and final that consisted of one foursomes (alternate shot) and two singles matches.

Last week Sei Young Kim won the BMW Ladies Championship, also in South Korea. The LPGA's Asian swing continues in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia next week and concludes in Shiga, Japan from Nov. 6-9.

Bencic claims 10th career title with Pan Pacific Open victory



Switzerland's Belinda Bencic celebrates after winning against Czech Republic's Linda Noskova in the final match of the Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament at Ariake Coliseum, in Tokyo. (AP)

TOKYO, Oct 26, (AP): Belinda Bencic claimed her 10th career title with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Linda Noskova in the final of the WTA's Pan Pacific Open.

Ten years after her previous appearance in the final of the Tokyo tournament, Bencic dominated her Czech rival throughout Sunday's final, breaking Noskova's serve three times on the way to a comfortable win in one hour and 22 minutes.

Tokyo has provided recent happy memories for the Swiss who won the Olympic singles gold medal and doubles silver in Tokyo four years ago.

"It was wonderful playing in front of you guys," Bencic said after the match. "The last time I won here was the Tokyo Olympics when it was an empty stadium, so it was a completely different atmosphere, but it was great to play in front of you guys. I love to play in Japan, so I'm super happy to finally win this tournament."

It had been an energy-sapping run to the final for Bencic, who had spent 5 hours and 23 minutes on court over the previous two days, as she triumphed through back-to-back three-set matches in the quarterfinal and then semifinal against Sofia Kenin.

Noskova, meanwhile, had spent just 35 minutes on court across the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds in Tokyo, advancing via a retirement and a walkover when WTA Finals bound Elena Rybakina pulled out of their semifinal, citing a back problem.

Amber Glenn wins figure skating Cup of China

CHONGQING, China, Oct 26, (AP): Amber Glenn overcame neck pain to beat her world champion U.S. teammate Alysa Liu and win the figure skating Cup of China for the second straight year.

Glenn, the U.S. national champion, clutched her neck after finishing her free skate, in which she recovered from a shaky landing on a triple toeloop near the start.

Glenn had been in third after Friday's short program, meaning she had to wait for Liu and Japan's Rinka Watanabe to perform their free skates before she knew where she placed.

Liu slipped back to second with a total 212.07 points to Glenn's 214.78 after a wobbly landing on a triple flip, while Watanabe only just stayed on the podium, dropping to third after delivering only the fifth-best free skate score.

Glenn said she felt "incredible" and that she was "really excited for my teammate and I to be first and second on the podium." Despite being a two-time world championship medalist, it's the first time Liu has been on the podium in a Grand Prix event.

Japan's Shun Sato won the Cup of China men's

event for the second year running, landing three quadruple jumps in a clean free skate for a total 278.12, staying ahead of Italy's Daniel Grassl on 269.43. Kazakhstan's Mikhail Shaidorov on 262.67 after falling on his last jump.

In ice dance, world champions Madison Chock and Evan Bates won their first Cup of China at the sixth attempt, scoring a total 208.25 to beat their U.S. teammates Emilea Zingas and Vadym Kolesnik on 202.27.

Third went to Evgeniia Lopareva and Geoffrey Brissaud of France on 196.60.

Competing for the first time since they won 2022 Winter Olympics gold, China's Sui Wenjing and Han Cong were third in pairs as Anastasiia Metelkina and Luka Berulava took the victory for Georgia.

Metelina and Berulava scored 217.24 for the win despite an error on a lift, while Sara Conti and Niccolo Macii of Italy were second with 209.88. Sui and Han scored 202.92.

The Cup of China is the second of six regular season Grand Prix events building to a final in December. It's a key test for skaters eyeing medals at the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics in February.

Australia routs England in rugby league Ashes opener

LONDON, Oct 26, (AP): Australia outclassed England 26-6 at Wembley Stadium to begin the first rugby league Ashes series in 22 years.

Fullback Reece Walsh, on debut, and second row Angus Crichton scored two tries each, and Nathan Cleary converted all four and nailed a penalty kick.

Daryl Clark's converted try in the 76th minute was nothing more than a consolation for England in front of an Ashes-record crowd of 60,812.

The dominant Kangaroos picked up where they left off, having won the last series 3-0 in 2003. Australia last lost a series to England in 1970.

"Out of the blocks well," Australia coach Kevin Walters told the BBC. "That was going to be the key to success, making sure they gelled very quickly. They're footballers so I didn't think it would be too big of a job to get them together."

Another Kangaroos debutant, Mark Nawaqanitawase, played in Walsh for the first try and England did well to limit Australia to an 8-0 halftime lead.

But the Kangaroos looked like they



England's Daryl Clark scores a try during the rugby league match between England and Australia, at Wembley Stadium, London. (AP)

sealed the result five minutes into the new half when, following a 60-meter break by Walsh, Crichton scored his first try from 20 meters out.

Crichton landed his second try after a Cameron Munster show and go, and Walsh piled on with a brilliant break-away try with eight minutes left to cap a fine man-of-the-match display.

Daham shines as Kuwait Club edges Al-Ansar

‘Club aims to be among contenders in every tournament’



A Kuwait Club player attempts to dribble past Al-Ansar defender.

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Kuwait Club head coach, Montenegrin Nebojša Jovović, described the AFC Challenge League as a “significant competition,” emphasizing that his team’s mission is to “show character and compete for the championship.”

Speaking after Kuwait Club’s 3-2 victory over Lebanon’s Al-Ansar at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium in the opening round of Group B, Jovović said that Kuwait Club always aims to be among the contenders in every tournament. He expressed his hope that the team would maintain its strong form in the next two matches.

Kuwait Club’s goals were scored by Ahmed Al-Dhafiri (21’), Mohammed Daham (52’), and Yousef Nasser (53’). Al-Ansar’s goals came through Hisham Khalfallah (7’) and Mohammed Habbous (63’ penalty).

Jovović praised his players’ performance, noting that they successfully took control of the game after Al-Ansar’s lively start. He added that “the match was tough because both teams played openly, which created numerous scoring chances and made it exciting for the fans.”

He congratulated his players and the supporters for earning the first three points of the competition, expressing confidence that the team will continue performing at this level throughout the tournament.

Team striker Mohammed Daham highlighted the importance of the win, saying that earning the three points was a crucial step in the team’s journey. He also expressed gratitude for being named Man of the Match, calling it “a reflection of the team’s collective effort.”

Meanwhile, Al-Ansar’s Serbian coach Dragan Jovanović attributed his team’s defeat to “a few errors and the loss of key players to injury in the first half.”

He added that football “punished the team for missing several opportunities across both halves.”

In the other Group B fixture,

Oman’s Al-Seeb edged Bangladesh’s Bashundhara Kings 3-2.

The second round will take place Tuesday, featuring Bashundhara Kings against Al-Ansar and Kuwait Club facing Al-Seeb.

Only the group winners from the West Zone, along with the best second-placed team among the three groups, will qualify for the quarter-finals.



Kuwait Club head coach, Montenegrin Nebojša Jovović

Qadsia, Burgan battle for third

Kazma & Kuwait Club vie for glory in final

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Kuwait Volleyball Federation Championship concludes today with a highly anticipated final between defending champions Kazma and Al-Kuwait at 7:00 p.m. in the Volleyball Hall at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Earlier, at 5:00 p.m., Qadsia and Burgan will compete in the third-place playoff.

Kazma, aims to defend their title and reaffirm its dominance, having led the tournament for most of the competition. Its only setback came in the final round, losing to Kuwait Club and slipping to second place on set difference.

The team played eight matches in the championship, winning four. Brazilian coach Kakarato will rely on his experienced duo, Costa and Adimar, along with key local players, to secure the trophy.

Kazma has demonstrated consistent high-level performance across all positions since the start of the tournament, showing their determination to



Kazma volleyball players rejoice after match victory.

retain the title.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club seeks to continue last season’s success by claiming the championship. Under Brazilian coach Carlos Schwanke, the team depends on the talent of Oliver Vaino (Estonia), Nicolas Haug and the experience of their local players, who are buoyed by their recent victory over Kazma last Thursday.

Lazic leans on stars and imports to extend streak

Kazma battles Al-Ittihad in super league

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

JEDDAH, Oct 26: Kazma Basketball hosts Saudi Arabia’s Al-Ittihad today at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex Basketball Hall in a crucial Group A matchup of the West Asia Basketball Super League (Gulf region).

Both teams come into the game on winning streaks — Kazma defeated Bahrain’s Muharraq 95-81, while Al-Ittihad edged Shabab Al-Ahli of the UAE 94-88 in the opening round. With two points each at the top of Group A, separated only by point difference, this match promises to be a high-stakes battle for early supremacy.

Returning to the Super League after sitting out last season (with Qadsia taking their place), Kazma seeks a second consecutive victory to solidify its semifinal hopes. Coach Bojan Lazic will lean on experienced players including Ahmed Al-Blooshi, Abdulrahman Al-Sahoo, Hussein Al-Khabaz, Abdullah Ibrahim, Abdulaziz Al-Fadhli, alongside imports Phil



Kazma Basketball players in action.

Greene, Jagwan Johnson, and Strahinja Mikovic, supported by youth trio Hamad Al-Ali, Khalifa Al-Omani, and Youssef Al-Blooshi.

Meanwhile, Al-Ittihad aims to maintain its strong away form and continue its winning momentum outside home territory.

Devine bids adieu to ODIs

England beats New Zealand, finishes second

VISAKHAPATNAM, India, Oct 26, (AP): Sophie Devine bid adieu to ODIs in a losing cause as England beat New Zealand by eight wickets on Sunday in their final league game at the 2025 Women’s Cricket World Cup.

Left-arm spinner Linsey Smith took 3-30 as New Zealand was bowled out for 168 runs in 38.2 overs. Skipper Devine scored 23 runs in her final ODI appearance, while Georgia Plimmer top-scored with 43 runs.

In reply, England scored 172-2 in 29.2 overs with opener Amy Jones leading the way with 86 not out off 92 balls.

The four-time champions finished second in the league with five wins and a no-result in seven games. England’s only loss came against defending champions and table-toppers Australia.

England pushed South Africa down to third with the win. The two sides will meet in the first semifinal at Guwahati on Wednesday. Australia will take on co-hosts India (fourth) in the second semi on Thursday.

The White Ferns finished sixth in the table with one win and two no-results in seven games. Devine was given the guard of honour by both teams as she walked off the field after the match.

Opting to bat, New Zealand lost opener Suzie Bates early when she was caught off Linsey Smith in the sixth over.

Georgia Plimmer and Amelia Kerr added 68 off 81 balls for the second wicket, but a double blow pegged back the Kiwis again.

Kerr was caught for 35 off 43 balls



England’s Amy Jones plays a shot during the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup match between England and New Zealand at ACA–VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam, India. (AP)



New Zealand’s captain Sophie Devine celebrates the wicket of England’s Heather Knight during the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup match between England and New Zealand at ACA–VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam, India. (AP)

in the 19th over, and in the very next over, Charlie Dean trapped Plimmer lbw.

It became 101-4 as Brooke Halliday was dismissed for four. Thereafter, the lower-middle order didn’t put up much fight as New Zealand lost wickets regularly.

Nat Sciver-Brunt finished with 2-31 in seven overs, dismissing Devine in her final ODI innings. Linsey Smith returned to pick up two more wickets, while Alice Capsey took 2-34 in six overs.

The White Ferns lost seven wickets for 67 runs and were bundled out in the 39th over.

In reply, England made a good start with Amy Jones and Tammy Beaumont putting on 75 runs off 88 balls for the first wicket.

Beaumont was eventually out lbw for 40 off 38 balls after hitting seven

fours.

Devine left one final mark on the game when she trapped Heather Knight lbw for 33 off 40 balls in the 28th over. Jones and Knight had put on 83 off 75 balls for the second wicket.

Jones scored her second half-century of the tournament off 71 balls, and stayed unbeaten, with 11 fours plus a six.

It was the least number of wins for New Zealand in Women’s Cricket World Cups since 1978, when it had won one in three games.

Jones was named player of the match.

“The pitch was quite challenging,” said Jones. “It was slow and frustrating. So I am happy to get through that. Tammy was brilliant at the start and took pressure off me. It is hugely exciting to be in the semifinal. It was great for Sophie to get this recognition (guard of honour) - she is a legend of the game and she means a lot to New Zealand cricket,” she said.

In the second game of the day, Harmanpreet Kaur won her first toss of the tournament as India opted to bowl in a rain-truncated game against Bangladesh.

The toss was delayed in Navi Mumbai by 35 minutes owing to rain and a wet outfield. Play was scheduled to begin at 1125 GMT without an over reduction. However, rain played spoilsport again as a heavy shower forced another delay.

Play was rescheduled to begin at 1230 GMT with the match reduced to 43 overs per side.

Sunday is the only double-header of the tournament.

Al-Yarmouk targets lead as Al-Jazeera seeks comeback

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Al-Yarmouk looks to strengthen its lead at the top of the Zain First Division League when they take on Al-Jazeera at 5:35 p.m. today at Al-Shabab Stadium in the sixth round. Later, Al-Sulaibikhat will face Al-Sahel at 7:50 p.m. at Mubarak Al-Aiyar Stadium in the same round.

Al-Yarmouk (12 points) is aiming for back-to-back victories after dethroning Al-Sulaibikhat with a 1-0 win in the previous round.

Al-Jazeera (10 points), meanwhile, will be seeking to rebound from a heavy 4-1 defeat to Al-Sahel in the last round, a loss that saw them drop to fourth place.

In the second fixture, Al-Sulaibikhat (12 points) hopes to recover from their defeat to Al-Yarmouk, but it faces a tough challenge against Al-Sahel (11 points), who has been



An Al-Sahel player keeps possession under pressure from the opponent.

in excellent form lately and is keeping its promotion hopes alive after a convincing 4-1 win over newcomer Al-Jazeera.

Laopakdee clinches Asia-Pacific Amateur

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Oct 26, (AP): Pongsapak “Fifa” Laopakdee rallied from a six-shot deficit with a 4-under 68 and beat 16-year-old Taisei Nagasaki of Japan on the third playoff to win the Asia-Pacific Amateur, sending him to the Masters and British Open next year.

Laopakdee, a junior at Arizona State, became the first player from Thailand to win the championship that began in 2010.

The winning shot for Laopakdee turned out to be a 6-iron that cleared the water with inches to spare on the 18th of the Majlis course at Emirates Golf Club, staying on the slope just beyond the yellow hazard line. From there, it was a simple up-and-down for his fifth straight birdie dating to the 17th hole in regulation.

Laopakdee said he had told Arizona State coach Matt Thurmond, “I’ll win this event and

be the first Thai amateur to play in the Masters.”

He looked into the camera after it was over and said, “Coach, I did it!”

Nagasaki, who started the final round with a five-shot lead over Rintaro Nakano, was tied with Laopakdee after a two-shot swing on the 15th hole. But the Japanese teen responded by making an 18-foot birdie on the 16th, driving the reachable par-4 17th for a birdie and hit an exquisite chip to 4 feet on the par-5 closing hole.

But he missed the birdie putt for the win, closing with a 74 to join Laopakdee at 15-under 273. Laopakdee had to get up-and-down from a back bunker to birdie the last two. He shot 5-under 32 on the back nine.

“After I finished 18, I didn’t even know I shot 5-under par on the back nine,” Laopakdee said. “It was amazing golf. Shout out to Taisei. He

made my life so hard.”

More sensational shots followed in the playoff - Nagasaki chose to lay up on the 18th and clipped a wedge over the water to 2 feet for birdie to stay in the playoff after Laopakdee made birdie from behind the green.

Laopakdee used his power to set up another simple up-and-down on the reachable 17th in the playoff, and Nagasaki matched his birdie with another superb chip.

But on the 18th for the third playoff hole, Nagasaki went well left of the green, and his chip from a sticky lie came out heavy and left him some 35 feet away. He two-putted for par.

“Very disappointed,” Nagasaki said through an interpreter as he used his shirt to wipe away tears. “I really struggled to make a score.”

Nakano closed with a 71 and finished third for the second straight year.

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Heart of Midlothian's Harry Milne has a shot on goal during the Scottish Premiership soccer match between Heart of Midlothian and Celtic, at Tynecastle Park, in Edinburgh. (AP)

Sports

Ronaldo celebrates 950th career goal

RIYADH, Oct 26: Al-Nassr players celebrated a 2-0 victory over Al-Hazem, marking their sixth consecutive win in the Saudi Pro League, thanks to strong teamwork and determination.

The match, held at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium in Buraidah, saw Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo lead the team to victory, capping the sixth round of the Saudi Pro League.

With this win, Al-Nassr extended its lead at the top of the table to 18 points, maintaining a perfect record under coach Jorge Jesus, who continues to restore the team's domestic and continental dominance.

Al-Nassr now leads by three points over second-place Al-Taawoun, while Al-Hazem remain in 14th place with just five points, struggling near the relegation zone.

Cristiano Ronaldo expressed his excitement over reaching a new milestone, scoring his 950th career goal across all



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring career 950 goals.

competitions.

Ronaldo shared a celebration photo on X (formerly twitter), saying: "Happy to help the team wins and reach 950 goals — always hungry for more."

The goal also marked Ronaldo's 80th for Al-Nassr, bringing him just one goal shy of Al-Hilal captain Salem Al-Dawsari (81) on the list of all-time top scorers in the Saudi Pro League.

Qadsia and Salmiya battle to stay in title race

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Qadsia and Salmiya will both be chasing a much-needed win when they meet at 6:45 p.m. tonight at Thamer Stadium in the sixth round of the Zain Premier League.

Salmiya (9 points) dropped from second to fourth place after a 3-1 defeat to Al-Arabi in the previous round — its second loss of the season — ending a three-match winning streak.

Head coach Mohammed Dhahilis will be aiming to take advantage of Qadsia's recent struggles to guide his "Sky Blues" back on track and keep them within reach of the leading pack. A victory would temporarily move Salmiya back into second place, especially as the matches between Al-Arabi and Al-Tadamon, and Kuwait Club and Fahahel, have been postponed due to Al-Arabi and Kuwait Club's participation in the AFC Challenge League.

On the other hand, Qadsia (7 points) faces a must-win situation if it wants to keep its title hopes alive after nine years without a league crown. Any further slip could widen the gap with leaders Kuwait Club (13 points), making the title race much tougher.

Tunisian coach Nabil Maaloul



A file photo of players battling for the ball.

knows his team can't afford any more dropped points following a difficult stretch of results. He has urged his players to end the losing streak and rediscover their winning form, despite

the injuries and absences that have recently hit the squad.

Qadsia's recent run has been disappointing, with four defeats in their last outings — losing 1-2 to Kuwait Club

and 0-1 to Kazma in league play, and suffering continental losses to Zakho of Iraq (1-3) and Al-Ain of the UAE (0-1) in the GCC Clubs Champions League.

Haaland scoring run over in Man City loss



Manchester City's Erling Haaland (left) and Aston Villa's Lucas Digne battle for the ball during the English Premier League match between Aston Villa and Manchester City, in Birmingham, England. (AP)

Arsenal opens up 4-point lead

LONDON, Oct 26, (AP): Erling Haaland's scoring streak ended Sunday in Manchester City's first loss in nearly two months, allowing Arsenal to extend its lead to four points in the Premier League.

Arsenal's 1-0 win over Crystal Palace - secured via a brilliant scissor kick by former Palace player Eberechi Eze - was made all the sweeter by City losing 1-0 at Aston Villa, with right back Matty Cash grabbing the winner from a fierce 19th-minute strike.

It was City's first defeat since Aug. 31 and meant Haaland's 12-game scoring run for club and country - stretching back even further, to Aug. 23 - is over. The Norway striker did bundle the ball into the net in the 90th minute, before crashing into the post, but the goal was ruled out for offside.

With beleaguered Liverpool losing 3-2 at Brentford on Saturday, it has been a bad weekend for Arsenal's chief title rivals.

Somewhat surprisingly, Arsenal's closest challenger now is Bournemouth, which won 2-0 at home to Nottingham Forest. Even more unlikely is the sight of promoted Sunderland a point further back in third place - and a point ahead of fourth-placed City.

The crisis is over for Manchester United. For now at least.

For Liverpool, however, it is a very different story after a fourth straight loss. A 3-2 defeat at Brentford delivered the latest blow to the defending champion's trembling title defense and left it sixth in the standings.

United is heading in the opposite direction, a 4-2 win against Brighton moving Ruben Amorim's team up to the heady heights of the top four.

Sunderland, though, is providing the unexpected narrative of the season after a stunning comeback 2-1 win at Chelsea saw it climb to second.

The losses keep on coming for Liverpool.

Not even a frantic fightback at the Etihad Community Stadium could prevent coach Arne Slot suffering a fourth straight defeat in the league, a result that leaves his team four points adrift of leader Arsenal, having played a game more.

"This is a tough one to take. Unfortunately this was another not nice evening to have," said Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk. "I am sure we will get out of it, but we won't get out of it by just talking about it."

Brentford led 2-0 after goals from Dango Ouattara and Kevin Schade. Milos Kerkez then got Liverpool back into the game in first-half stoppage time.

Igor Thiago's penalty in the second half put Brentford back in control until Mohamed Salah lashed a brilliant shot into the top corner in the 89th. With 11 minutes of added time, the Merseyside club ramped up the pressure in search of an equalizer, but couldn't find a way through.

It raises further questions about Liverpool's title defense, coming on the back of defeats against Crystal Palace, Chelsea and United. Not since 1984 has Liverpool successfully retained the title.

In all, it was a fifth loss from the last six games in all competitions.

Slot said it was the worst performance of all the losses in the league.

"We didn't do the basics right, especially the first half, but during parts of the second half as well," he told TNT Sports.

A third straight win for United extended Amorim's best league run since he was appointed as coach last November, and provided a sense of momentum not felt for a long time at Old Trafford.

"I think we are improving in the bad moments," he said. "We can respond in a different way and we feel that we can solve anything. It's so hard and in football, everything can change in one week, so let's enjoy today and focus on the next one."

It was the first time United had won three league games in a row in the same season since February 2024.

Victory also ended Brighton's winning streak in this fixture, which dated back three seasons.

It is still too early to tell if Amorim has turned a corner after such a wretched start to his tenure, including the 20-time champion's worst-ever season in the Premier League last term. But coming on the heels of last week's morale-boosting win at Liverpool, the signs are positive, even if Brighton sparked a fightback to make it a nervy finish for the home fans.

Hearts underline title threat in Scotland

EDINBURGH, Scotland, Oct 26, (AP): The 40-year dominance of Glasgow giants Celtic and Rangers in Scottish soccer looks to be in serious danger of ending.

Hearts underscored their status as a genuine threat to the Old Firm by beating Celtic 3-1 on Sunday to open up an eight-point lead in the Scottish Premiership.

Not since 1985, when Aberdeen was champion under Alex Ferguson, has a team other than Celtic or Rangers been Scottish champion.

Hearts could be about to change that in its first season since Tony Bloom, the billionaire owner of English Premier League club Brighton, bought a nearly 30% stake in the Edinburgh-based team.

Celtic slumped to back-to-back league defeats for the first time since

2023 thanks to second-half goals by Alexandros Kyziridis and Lawrence Shankland. Dane Murray's own-goal gave Hearts the lead before Callum McGregor equalized.

Hearts haven't been this far ahead in the league since the 2005-06 season, the BBC reported. The team finished second that season.

Hearts - last champions in 1960 - lost out on winning the title in the 1985-86 season on the final day of the campaign, their 26-game unbeaten run coming to an end after giving up two goals in the last 10 minutes at Dundee. Celtic squeezed home to the championship, so beginning the Old Firm's four-decades-long dominance.

Celtic is in second place and Rangers is in mid-table after a dismal start to the season in which the team has already changed managers.

'Very strong performance from Austrians'

Odermatt wins close duel with Schwarz to start season

SÖLDEN, Austria, Oct 26, (AP): Olympic champion Marco Odermatt held off a challenge by home crowd favorite Marco Schwarz to win the season-opening men's World Cup giant slalom in the Austrian Alps Sunday.

In a weather-delayed final run, Odermatt built on his slim first-run advantage of 0.01 seconds to beat the Austrian by 0.24 for his 46th career win, and 27th in GS.

It was Schwarz's first podium result in nearly two years, during which he suffered from knee and back injuries.

Atle Lie McGrath of Norway finished 0.03 further back in third.

"It was tough for everyone with the visibility, the little snowfall, the slope, but (course workers) did a good job and so did I," Odermatt said.

The second run started after an hour-long delay as snowfall vastly increased between the runs and course workers needed time to move the fresh snow off the race line. Low clouds also initially limited visibility for racers, who reach speeds close to 75 kph (46.6 mph).

Organizers delayed the second-run start time by 30 minutes twice but ultimately gave the green light as conditions improved.

"They did a good job, I think it was quite a fair second run," Odermatt said. "I know I like these conditions when you have to fight."

Schwarz's teammate Stefan Brennsteiner

was third after the opening run but lost one place in the second.

"It was a very strong performance from the Austrians, especially from 'Blacky', who is definitely back," said Odermatt, referring to Schwarz, who just failed to give home nation Austria its second victory to start the World Cup season, a day after Julia Scheib won the women's race.

Two years ago, Odermatt and Schwarz had an intriguing battle in the overall standings. The Austrian was leading when he damaged his knee in a downhill crash and had to end his season in late December, as Odermatt went on



Switzerland's Marco Odermatt celebrates with the team after winning an alpine ski, men's World Cup giant slalom, in Soelden, Austria. (AP)

to clinch the big crystal globe again.

Odermatt has won the GS title in each of the past four seasons, but he skied out of the opening race last year, which ended with a Norwegian sweep of the podium.

Last year's winner, Aleksander Steen Olsen, sat out Sunday's race with a persistent knee injury.

Lucas Pinheiro Braathen, who started his second season competing for Brazil since his switch from the Norwegian team, slipped and skied out of the course halfway through his first run. "It's a fine balance between intensity and control and precision, I miscalculated that today," said Pinheiro Braathen, who's chasing Brazil's first ever World Cup win in Alpine skiing.

World champion Raphael Haaser placed sixth, while former overall champion Alexis Pinturault was 1.64 off the lead in 18th in the Frenchman's first race since January.

River Radamus was the only American starter who qualified for the second run, finishing 1.89 seconds behind Odermatt in 21st.

Strong winds on the upper part of the course forced organizers to use a start gate lower down the mountain, reducing run times to less than a minute for the top racers.

The men's World Cup continues with a slalom in Levi, Finland, on Nov. 16.