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Amir receives Abdullah Al-Salem University Board



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace, Chairperson of the Founding Board of Abdullah Al-Salem University Dr. Moudhi Al-Humoud and members of the board.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad A-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday at Bayan Palace, Chairperson of the Founding Board of Abdullah Al-Salem University Dr. Moudhi Al-Humoud and members of the board.

During the meeting, they presented to His Highness the university's per-

formance report for 2023-2025, titled "Abdullah Al-Salem University: From Vision to a Leading Academic Institution."

His Highness the Amir commended their distinguished efforts and vital role during the university's establishment phase, wishing them continued success and prosperity in their future endeavours.

Only martyrs worthy of Kuwaiti citizenship, says Sheikh Fahad

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: During a visit to the Khalifa family's diwan in Khaldiya recently, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef highlighted a number of important issues, particularly the revocation of citizenship, the granting of citizenship to those who have rendered exceptional services to Kuwait, traffic violations, and workers' cities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Regarding the issue of citizenship revocation, Sheikh Fahad said, "To those who promote the idea that citizenships revoked under Articles 8 and 5 of the relevant law will be reinstated, I say that such decisions rest solely with His Highness the Amir of Kuwait."

I do not believe there is any act that merits the granting of citizenship except for martyrs who sacrifice their lives for Kuwait. We have found civilians and employees of companies and as-

sociations who have obtained Kuwaiti citizenship, and I do not believe their contributions fall under the category of exceptional services.

Only those who shed their blood in wars for the sake of Kuwait or during the Kuwait Liberation War have rendered truly outstanding services to the nation.

Where were the forgers of citizenship who entered Kuwait in the 1950s and 1960s? They all fled. The fathers, mothers, grandfathers, and grandmothers... They all escaped and left their children in Kuwait.

Someone who truly cares about Kuwait is very different from someone who only cares about money. Whenever I see a problem in Kuwait, I say, 'Check the nationality', and then we discover that it was obtained through fraud.

True Kuwaiti patriots defend and protect their country in all fields, and that this is what Kuwait deserves."

Sheikh Fahad went on to reveal that there are individuals who have obtained Kuwaiti citizenship and continue to enjoy the privileges reserved for citizens while residing outside Kuwait.

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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Ministers, pay attention to the reports of some of your employees

SOME still mistakenly believe they can impose their will on others, even those of lower rank, just as they did in the days of the National Assembly because they were 'well-connected'.

However, this is no longer the case. Circumstances have changed dramatically. The previous lack of transparency in providing information for decision-making and attempts to bypass the law are no longer tolerated.

In the past, the lack of accountability among officials, coupled with pervasive interference, hindered progress. Individuals frequently sought protection from superiors. 'Well-connected' individuals could even incite the grilling of ministers or the Prime Minister, leading to a potential vote of no confidence.

This environment often stalled development projects. Members of Parliament might oppose projects due to lack of vested interest, dislike for the company involved or pressure from influential figures. Such actions inevitably came with a price,

as manifested in compromised services, appointments or other forms of gratification that tempted those with weak morals.

Consequently, Kuwait suffered enormous losses, falling behind on the global stage, particularly within the region. Numerous major deals that would have greatly benefited the State ultimately failed.

In contrast, some ministers lived at an ivory tower, not directly dealing with their ministry's affairs. Instead, they relied on advisors, directors and undersecretaries, many of whom were appointed by parliamentarians and influential figures whose interests conflicted with public interest.

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73 go to court in draw 'foul play'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): Kuwait's Public Prosecution referred 73 defendants to the criminal court implicated in commercial draw manipulation case, on charges including bribery, mediation, forgery of official and electronic documents, and money laundering.

The prosecution stated that cash and in-kind assets valued at approximately KD 1.174,989 million (approx. USD 4 million) have been seized pending the necessary judicial procedures.

The Public Prosecution on Tuesday issued a statement regarding the case of manipulation in commercial draws conducted under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry during the period from 2021 to 2025.

The Public Prosecution stated that, upon completion of investigations, it had referred the defendants to the criminal court after conclusive evidence established a common intent and criminal purpose among the perpetrators.

It added that both cash and in-kind assets had been seized as part of efforts to recover illicit proceeds, in preparation for taking the legal measures.

It further explained that the manipulation extended to 110 commercial draws that offered prizes including vehicles, cash sums, and in-kind assets, with an estimated total value of KD 1.244,467 million (approx. USD 4 million).

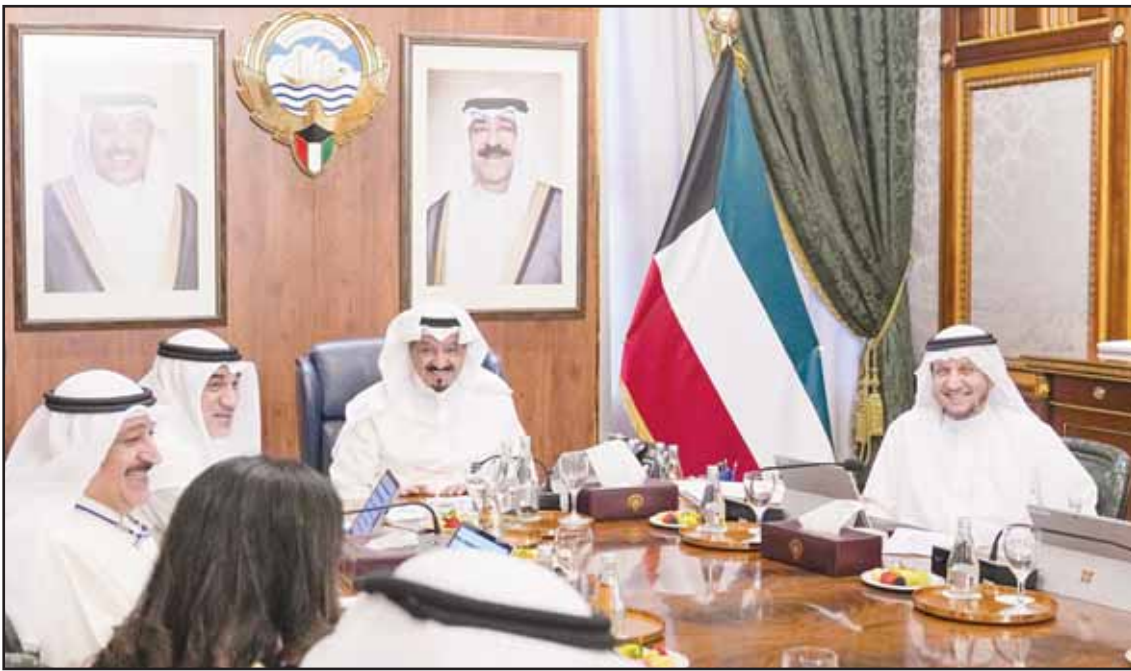
civil identification cards, in exchange for bribes, in addition to forging rent contracts.

Case files confirmed that the defendants exploited their positions to facilitate the issuance of civil identification cards based on false information and contracts, in exchange for money – a blatant violation of the law and official procedures.

The evidence presented by the Financial Crimes and Investigations Department proved that the defendants committed the crimes attributed to them, actions that harm public interest and undermine the integrity of administrative work and official State documents.

Death penalty, hefty fines in drug affairs

Cabinet nods draft-decree law



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and ministers during the Cabinet session.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): During its weekly session on Tuesday, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Cabinet approved, a draft decree-law on combating drugs and psychotropic substances and the regulation of their use and trafficking.

The draft decree-law aims to merge Law No. 74 of 1983 on combating drugs and regulating their use and trafficking, with Law No. 48 of 1987 on combating psychotropic substances and regulating their use and

trafficking, which increases the penalties, to include the death penalty, coupled with hefty fines for smugglers, dealers, promoters, and barterers of drugs and psychotropic substances.

The merger will achieve numerous benefits that contribute to protecting society from the harms of drugs and psychotropic substances, including unifying the concepts and terminology, it also unifies legal provisions related to crimes, penalties, and procedures, facilitating its implementation.

The Cabinet decided to refer the draft decree-law to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for approval.

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UN body support vital: Al-Mashaan

Kuwait targets terrorism, cash funding

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized on Tuesday a two-day workshop on enhancing the response to counterterrorism and implementing measures on financial sanctions, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation and Chair of the Committee for the Implementation of Security Council Resolutions, Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan, told KUNA that Kuwait continues to

strengthen its national capabilities to combat terrorism and align its efforts with international initiatives.

Al-Mashaan said the workshop focuses on enhancing national entities' readiness to implement targeted financial sanctions in line with relevant UN Security Council resolutions, as part of Kuwait's broader counterterrorism financing framework.

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Day by Day

THE Arabs say, "He who lives by deceit dies in poverty, and he who lives with good intentions, God will protect him from every calamity."

The late Lebanese intellectual and poet Gibran Khalil Gibran said, "Feeding a snake honey will not change its poisonous nature." This means, no matter how kind or generous you are, you cannot change the nature of bad people.

An old piece of advice says, "Do not eat bread until you know the truth about its dough, do not eat meat until you know what animal it came from, and do not associate with people until you know their character."

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahid Matar

PACI female staff jailed five years in issuing IDs for cash

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Criminal Court, headed by Counselor Abdul Wahab Al-Maili, on Tuesday sentenced two female employees at the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) and an Egyptian representative to five years in prison with hard labor, while an accountant and another representative were sentenced to three years in prison in a forgery case.

The defendants were accused of forging transactions to change and update residential addresses, as well as the issuance of

News watch

'MoLA nod must for mosque activities'

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs (MoIA) emphasized the importance of imams and muezzins adhering to the regulations governing mosque activities, stressing that no activity or event should be conducted without official approval from the relevant authorities within the ministry, reports Al-Seyassah.

This directive was issued in a circular sent recently by mosque administrations of all governorates to those holding religious positions, commending their efforts in serving mosques and complying with the regulations.



9 Zain Group reports exceptional performance for 9M 2025

10 Gulf Bank records KD 38.4 mln in net profit for the first nine months of 2025 with a 19.4% year-on-year growth in third quarter net profit

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:38	Asr	14:42
Sunrise ..	05:58	Maghrib ..	17:06
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:23

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-32 km/h.

By Night: Mild to rather cold

Weather

with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-28 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	36	25
Kuwait Airport	35	18
Abdaly	35	18

Bubyan	34	14
Jahra	36	21
Failaka Island	33	20
Salmiyah	32	26
Ahmadi	36	20
Nuwaisib	33	20
Wafra	35	18

Gulf Pioneers Forum strengthens regional cooperation

Kuwait's National Fund for SME boosts GCC partnerships

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The State of Kuwait, represented by the National Fund for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, hosted the Gulf Pioneers Forum, which was held Tuesday under the patronage of Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel.

Undersecretary of the ministry Marwa Al-Jaidan attended the event, with the participation of a select group of entrepreneurs, experts and decision-makers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

In her opening speech, Director General of the Fund Eng. Basma Al-Jasser said the forum is an important Gulf event that brings together entrepreneurs with the aim of strengthening economic cooperation, empowering entrepreneurs, exchanging experiences, and presenting innovative ideas that build a prosperous entrepreneurial future.

Al-Jasser asserted that since its establishment, the Fund has been keen on creating a nurturing environment for entrepreneurs through an integrated system of financial and non-financial services, which include marketing support, training, guidance and knowledge transfer, to establish an effective



Participants and speakers pose at the Gulf Pioneers Forum in Kuwait.

entrepreneurial culture.

She added the forum is a strategic step towards supporting emerging projects, coinciding with the consultative meeting of the ministers of commerce and industry and entrepreneurs in the GCC countries, in cooperation with the GCC Secretariat General. She explained that the objective is to enhance communication among entrepreneurs, explore opportunities for business expansion, and support shared success to build a Gulf generation capable of innovation, growth and facing market challenges.

She stated that the forum intends to encourage dialogue and the exchange of experiences and ideas among entrepreneurs, and to provide a platform for communication and building strategic Gulf partnerships, which empower entrepreneurs and strengthen economic cooperation. She underscored the importance of developing skills and building knowledge through interaction with experts and specialists in the field of entrepreneurship.

She indicated that strengthening cooperation between Gulf entrepreneurship institutions is the optimal path towards building

an innovative Gulf economy led by ambitious youths, emphasizing that the forum is a comprehensive Gulf platform for consolidating economic integration among the member states and opening the door for entrepreneurs to develop strategic partnerships and joint initiatives that increase the competitiveness of Gulf economies.

The forum included two workshops on presenting projects to investors and strategies for business expansion in the Gulf market using artificial intelligence, in addition to three discussion panels on various topics such as "Challenges and Opportunities for the Expansion of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Gulf Market," "Strategies for Empowering Entrepreneurs and Building Public Relations Networks," and "Gulf Economic Integration, Market Access and Government Support."

The speakers affirmed that the forum embodies the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035, which aims to transform the country into a regional and global financial and commercial hub that attracts investments, in which the private sector plays a leading role in economic activity within a stimulating institutional environment that supports human development and reinforces national values and social identity.

Kuwait Embassy in Berlin to host economic forum

BERLIN, Oct 28, (KUNA): The Embassy of Kuwait in Germany held an economic forum on Tuesday, at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Berlin to promote prospects for cooperation and partnership with Germany.

In a statement to KUNA, the Kuwaiti Embassy said that the forum was organized in cooperation with the German organization NUMOV, which focuses on promoting economic development between Germany and the countries of the Near and Middle East.

The event also featured the participation of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) via video conference and was attended by representatives of 34 German companies from various commercial and investment sectors.

Kuwait's ambassador to Germany Reem Al-Khaled emphasized in a statement to KUNA the importance of this forum in strengthening the economic partnership between Kuwait and Germany and expanding prospects for trade cooperation between the two sides.

Ambassador Al-Khaled concluded by reaffirming Kuwait's keenness to enhance economic cooperation with Germany, praising the distinguished level of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

She also expressed her hope to host German companies and institutions at the 9th Gulf-European Business Forum, which will be held in Kuwait next November, in order to explore further opportunities for joint cooperation within the framework of Kuwait Vision 2035.

GCC unifies social security plan

Kuwait backs 2030 strategy for citizens' welfare

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The heads of civil retirement and social security agencies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries approved the comprehensive and unified strategic plan extending until 2030.

This plan aims to develop the joint social security system in a way that ensures the sustainability of the financial and administrative mechanisms, thus, affirming the strategic vision of the leaders of the GCC countries towards strengthening social security and welfare for their citizens.

The Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) in the State of Kuwait confirmed that the decisions resulting from the meeting will support the process of Gulf integration in this vital and important sector, and contribute to achieving sustainable development and welfare for Gulf citizens.

In a speech delivered on behalf of Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and acting Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem at the opening of the 24th meeting of the heads of civil retirement and social security agencies in GCC countries, acting Director General of PIFSS Khaled Jassim Al-Mudhaf disclosed that Gulf institutions are witnessing tremendous developments and outstanding efforts to absorb global experiences, as well as develop them in the field of performance systems and investment practices, in order to apply the wise equation between calculated risk and individual prudence to maximize returns and secure the future of the funds.

He explained that "based on this vision, we meet today to coordinate our efforts and consultation on social security. We adopt a methodology of continuous review and search for creative ideas to have



GCC heads pose for a group photo during the 24th meeting in Kuwait.

more flexibility and efficiency. This meeting is an opportunity to unify proactive Gulf efforts to ensure that institutions and systems remain at the forefront of development and are able to keep pace with every change. Therefore, the decisions that will be taken will guarantee the continuous provision of services, prosperity, and stability for the Gulf systems in the long term." He pointed out that the expansion of social security cover entails the adoption of a methodology of continuous review and the search for creative ideas to enhance flexibility and efficiency.

On the other hand, Assistant Secretary General for Economic and Development Affairs at the GCC Secretariat General Secretariat Khalid Al-Sunaidi affirmed that "this celebration carries many meanings of pride and honor for the qualitative leap witnessed by the GCC countries in the social security sector in terms of legislation and regulations or in the areas of digital transformation and improving services provided to subscribers and retirees. The GCC countries are witnessing a manifestation of the rising awareness on the importance of aligning the social and economic dimensions, achieving

balance between financial efficiency and sustainability, protecting the rights of present and future generations, and reinforcing the concept of Gulf citizenship and the principle of equal opportunities and treatment among citizens of the GCC countries."

During the meeting, the continuous activation of capacity-building programs and the exchange of expertise among member states were approved. This is being done through the organization of periodic, specialized and intensive seminars aimed at improving institutional and individual performance, in addition to studying a number of new joint initiatives that will develop the social security system and provide comprehensive care befitting the Gulf citizen.

The meeting yielded vital results related to developing mechanisms for implementing the unified system for expanding social security coverage. This is in addition to reaching agreement on practical steps to strengthen the collection and coverage mechanisms, and discussing and analyzing relevant statistical indicators to support comprehensive coverage for citizens working in any of the GCC countries.

Public transport leaders to explore smart solutions

Kuwait to host 2025 UITP MENA conference

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC) announced Tuesday it will host the 2025 Middle East and North Africa edition of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) Conference on November 26-27 in collaboration with KFAS.

KPTC CEO Mansour Al-Saad said during a press conference that the event, themed "Shaping the Future of Public Transport in the Middle East and North Africa," will discuss the latest trends and innovative mobility solutions.

He affirmed that hosting the conference aligns with Kuwait's Vision 2035 and the Fourth Structural Plan, aiming to enhance infrastructure, sustainability, and the transition toward integrated and smart transport systems.

Al-Saad explained that the event will highlight strategic projects such as the GCC railway, metro, and bus rapid transit systems to promote smart, sustainable cities and make public transport the preferred mobility choice.

He noted that the UITP conference will attract



KUNA photo
KPTC CEO and UITP MENA Chairman during the press conference.

global leaders, experts, and decision-makers, underscoring Kuwait's growing role as a regional hub for innovation in transportation and sustainable mobility solutions.

Al-Saad emphasized that the conference will serve

as both a scientific and practical platform linking policy, innovation, and expertise to shape the future of public transport in Kuwait and the wider region.

He praised the strong partnership with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), describing it as a successful model of collaboration between the public sector and scientific research institutions.

UITP MENA Chairman Hashem Al-Hindawi said Kuwait has historically led such initiatives, hosting the first UITP regional conference decades ago, adding that its return to Kuwait marks a renewed phase of cooperation.

He stressed that the conference will provide a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and discussions on balancing economic efficiency with social and environmental responsibility in public transport systems.

The UITP MENA 2025 Conference will bring together transport leaders to share experiences, build trust among stakeholders, and develop innovative models to advance the region's public transport networks.

Project aims to rehabilitate facilities

Kuwait Fund commits USD5 mln to UNICEF cholera response in Sudan

WASHINGTON, Oct 28, (KUNA): The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has signed an agreement with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), under which the Fund will provide USD 5 million to support UNICEF's Cholera Response Project in Sudan.

In a press statement, KFAED said the agreement was signed by Kuwait's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah, and UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell in New York.

According to the Fund, the project aims to limit the spread of cholera and reduce health risks resulting from deteriorating water and sanitation services. It will focus on improving access to clean water, rehabilitating 12 water treatment plants and 18 small water points, upgrading hospital sanitation systems, and providing solar energy systems to ensure sustainability.

The project will also promote hygiene awareness and behavioral change through community campaigns and field team training for cholera outbreak response.

The statement noted that the project falls within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding signed on July 6 between the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to provide joint assistance in financing UNICEF's work to support primary healthcare, nutrition, water and sanitation, and essential child protection services in Sudan.

Under this memorandum, the United Kingdom and Kuwait, through the Kuwait Fund, will each contribute USD 5 million to finance the project, which is expected to directly serve around 1.5 million people in Sudan.

This grant represents the tenth contribution of its kind between the two institutions in the field of humanitarian support. Since 2017, the Kuwait Fund



MoFA photo
Signing the grant agreement.

has provided approximately USD 23.5 million to UNICEF to finance nine humanitarian projects, the most recent of which, on March 20, aimed at supporting the overhauling of water and sanitation systems in the Gaza Strip with a grant of USD 1.5 million.

The State of Kuwait and UNICEF also held their first strategic dialogue on Monday in New York with a view to strengthening their partnership.

The meeting was co-chaired by Kuwait's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell.

The strategic dialogue addressed the partnership between Kuwait and UNICEF and highlighted Kuwait's role as a model of solidarity in the service of children and humanity, as well as its historic support for UNICEF projects in key development areas such as education, health, nutrition, water, and sanitation.

The conferees also discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in light of the challenges, conflicts, and disasters the world is witnessing, which directly affect the well-being and safety of children.

On the sidelines of the meeting, a grant agreement was signed between the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and UNICEF to finance the response to the cholera outbreak in Sudan.

Kuwait Zakat House aid convoy of 33 trucks reaches Rafah for Gaza

CAIRO, Oct 28, (KUNA): Kuwaiti aid convoy of 33 trucks loaded with food and basic necessities, donated by Zakat House, arrived in the Egyptian city of Rafah on Tuesday to support the Palestinian people in Gaza Strip.

Director of the Kuwaiti Office for Charitable Projects, Adnan Al-Sabti, told KUNA that ten aid trucks entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing, with the rest to follow per a schedule coordinated with Egyptian authorities.

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

He added that Kuwait Zakat House, through its Cairo office, would continue delivering humanitarian aid to Palestinians, highlighting Kuwait's leading role in supporting Gaza through previous and ongoing aid convoys.

He reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to providing urgent assistance and essential supplies amid the current humanitarian crisis.

Al-Sabti thanked the Egyptian authorities at Rafah crossing for facilitating the convoy and praised the support of the Orman Association and the National Alliance for Civil Development Action in ensuring aid reached those in need in Gaza.

SACGC picks three innovators to represent Kuwait at Venture Day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): Sabah Al-Ahmad Centre for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) announced the conclusion of the Engineering Ideas Incubation Program on Monday with the selection of three innovators to represent Kuwait at Venture Day, an event organized by Spain's global IE University next December.

The center, an affiliate to the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) centers, said in a press release that, following an intensive journey of learning, development, and innovation, the three innovators were selected at the end of the program from among the 21 participants who reached the final stage.

The first innovator, Fatma Al-Enzi, presented the idea (Brilliance), an educational device designed to empower blind and visually impaired students.

The second innovator Dhareaa Al-Jumaa proposed (SPX), a platform that

enables professionals in design, contracting, and manufacturing fields to manage furniture supply strategies intelligently.

The third innovator Ahmad Salmeen, introduced (LIVE), an AI-supported design platform that allows architects and designers to create healthier and more sustainable spaces in minutes instead of hours. The platform combines artificial intelligence technologies with principles of sustainability and well-being to simplify the design and analysis process.

The center affirmed that the program reflects its commitment to providing an integrated environment that supports engineering innovation and empowers young minds to develop practical technological solutions that meet both local and global market needs.

It added that the program was launched last May in partnership with the Spanish university, aiming to support and motivate Kuwaiti engineers and innovators.

Dasman Diabetes Institute's mobile clinic visits Sahela Bint Saad Intermediate School for Girls

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: As part of its ongoing efforts to promote health awareness in the community, Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), established by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), organized a field visit on board its mobile diabetes clinic to Sahela Bint Saad Intermediate School for Girls in the Zahra area.

The outreach aimed to enhance health awareness among students and teachers and encourage them to adopt a healthy and balanced lifestyle. During the visit, DDI's team conducted basic medical screenings and distributed educational brochures and leaflets covering important topics on diabetes prevention and the importance of regular checkups.

The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students, who were encouraged to explore science and develop their passion for learning and discovery, through the joint participation of DDI's Mobile Clinic and the Science Bus operated by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, creating an engaging and educational experience for all.



DDI's team conducted basic medical screenings.



KUNA photo
GCC Armed Forces' Deputy Chiefs of Staff for Operations and Plans preparatory committee meeting kicks off in Kuwait.

GCC military commanders to boost cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): The preparatory committee of the GCC Armed Forces' Deputy Chiefs of Staff for Operations and Plans convened its meeting in Kuwait, chaired by Brigadier General Raed Al-Sukran, Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans at the Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Kuwaiti

General Staff Headquarters announced that the meeting - which sessions will continue until Wednesday - includes participation from the GCC General Secretariat and the Unified Military Command.

Al-Sukran welcomed the Deputy Chiefs of Staff for Operations and Training to their "second home," Kuwait, emphasizing the importance of this meeting as part of the ongoing efforts to

enhance military cooperation and coordination among GCC member states.

He highlighted that the gathering reflects the continued commitment of GCC nations to strengthening joint training initiatives and operational capabilities, thereby contributing to the security and stability of the region and enhancing collective defense readiness.

Leadership pledges all-out support for armed forces

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali says the political leadership is committed to supporting the armed forces, enhancing their efficiency, and boosting their readiness to face various challenges, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement issued on Monday, the Kuwait Army General Staff stated that the minister said this during his visit to the Mohammed Al-Ahmad Naval Base, accompanied by the Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shariaan.

Upon his arrival, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali was received by the Commander of the Naval Forces, Rear Admiral Saif Al-Hamlan, along with several senior officers of the force.

He expressed pride in the efforts of the Naval Forces personnel and their dedication to performing their national duties.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali stated that he received a briefing on the nature of the Naval Forces' tasks, their workflow, combat readiness, and their role in protecting territorial waters, securing maritime borders, and safeguarding vital facilities.

The visit included a naval tour aboard the Independence (Al-Istiqlal) vessel, during which Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali observed a field demonstration and a live-ammunition exercise, showcasing the high level of training and professionalism of the Naval Forces personnel.



KUNA photo
Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali is briefed on the Kuwait Navy's modus operandi during his visit to the Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base, accompanied by the Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shariaan.



KUNA photo
Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Deputy Commander of the Turkish Gendarmerie General Command Lt Gen Huseyin Kurtoglu held a meeting on Tuesday to discuss bilateral military cooperation.

Peace deal welcomed

Kuwait, Türkiye plan to boost military relations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Deputy Commander of the Turkish Gendarmerie General Command Lieut-General Huseyin Kurtoglu held a meeting on Tuesday to discuss bilateral military cooperation.

A statement by the KNG said that Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud stressed the strong relations between the two sides and their keenness to exchange expertise.

For his part, Kurtoglu praised the cooperation level with Kuwait, affirming the desire to seek further avenues of collaboration.

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Peace deal welcomed: The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry welcomed the Kuala Lumpur peace agreement between Thailand and Cambodia as a significant step towards ending their frontier conflict, establishing permanent peace and achieving security and stability, thus fulfilling both friendly peoples' aspirations.

In a press release, the ministry underlined Kuwait's utter support for all diplomatic efforts to settle conflicts by peaceful means and uphold peace and stability in South Asia and the world.

It also commended the role played by the United States and Malaysia in the conclusion of this peace agreement.

Beauty center in illegal ops shut down by PAM

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), represented by the Labor Inspection Department, in cooperation with the Health Licensing Department, conducted a surprise field campaign recently targeting a women's beauty center after receiving information that medical services were being provided without the required licenses, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PAM stated on its X platform account that the campaign led to the seizure of several medical devices, equipment, and supplies used for injections, cosmetic procedures, and skincare, along with various other medical materials.

It was found that workers were performing paramedical procedures without the required qualifications or approved medical supervision.

PAM stated that immediate legal measures were taken, the facility's file was closed, and the tools and supplies were seized pending further investigations.

The authority urged citizens and residents to verify the licenses of beauty centers and medical facilities before receiving any services, emphasizing that anyone violating laws and regulations will face legal accountability.

Illegal 'hunters' fall in own trap

Arms dealer 'acquitted'

By Munif Naif/Jaber Al-Humoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: In compliance with the directive of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef to take all the necessary measures against those proven to have violated laws and regulations, the environmental police officers arrested two individuals who entered Sabah Al-Ahmad Nature Reserve without a permit for the purpose of hunting wild animals.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior affirmed that as part of security efforts to protect wildlife and preserve nature reserves, the Environmental Police Department at the Security Directorates Sector apprehended two individuals who entered Sabah Al-Ahmad Nature Reserve without permission and were hunting wild animals using falcons.

The ministry said the suspects were spotted inside the reserve, and legal action was taken against them in accordance with the laws and regulations governing entry into protected environmental areas, which aim to preserve biodiversity and prevent any practices that harm the natural environment.

It explained that Article 105 of the Environmental Protection Law prohibits the introduction of any type of animal or plant

not native to the environment into nature reserves, or engaging in any act that hinders conservation efforts, harms wild or marine life within the reserves, or damages their contents in any way, or hunting, capturing or pursuing wild animals.

The law punishes anyone who violates the provisions of Article 105 with imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year and a fine of not less than KD500 and not more than KD5,000, or any of these two penalties.

The suspects were referred to the concerned authorities for legal action.

While the ministry affirmed its commitment to strictly enforce the law regarding any violation that affects natural areas or endangers wildlife, it called on everyone to abide by the regulations and instructions and obtain the necessary permits before entering nature reserves.

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Arms dealer acquitted: The Criminal Court acquitted an individual who was charged with trafficking and possessing illegal firearms and ammunition, as well as money laundering.

Lawyer Ayed Al-Rashidi, representing the defendant, confirmed that the ruling was issued after the court reviewed the evidence and legal arguments he had presented.

He stressed that the case lacked any material evidence to support the charges against his client, adding that the officer's statements had not been corroborated.

Lawyer Al-Rashidi affirmed that his client would soon return to normal life after a period of anxiety caused by the accusations leveled against him.

Butcher shop sealed

Indian frozen meat sold as fresh

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and the Capital Security Directorate, sealed a butcher shop on Monday for allegedly tampering with and fraudulently selling meat products, reports Al-Anba daily.

Investigations revealed that the shop had forged sales and supply invoices for meat supplied to cooperative societies, selling meat that did not meet approved specifications and standards, including meat of unknown origin.

The shop also thawed frozen buffalo meat from India and resold it as fresh and chilled, and misrepresented Australian sheep meat, selling it fraudulently as fresh, chilled, and authentic Australian.

PAFN explained that, following the

inspection results, the violating butcher shop was closed. All seized meat that failed to meet specifications and standards was destroyed. The responsible employees were referred to the competent authorities to face legal action and be held accountable under applicable regulations.

PAFN, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, reaffirmed its commitment to continue joint regulatory efforts to track violators and protect consumers.

Both authorities highlighted zero tolerance for breaches of health and food safety standards and emphasized that the strictest legal measures will be applied against anyone who tampers with food safety or endangers the health of citizens and residents.

diwaniya



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Gazans, Gulf in quandary as aid falls in wrong hands

"THE Gulf states were not directly involved in the war that devastated the Gaza Strip, where reconstruction costs are estimated to exceed \$70 billion and could extend over a period of thirty years. Those responsible for the region are Hamas leaders, who live like billionaires in marble-floored palaces and luxury hotels, profiting from the misery and terrorism in poverty-stricken Gaza," columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"According to a report published by the British Daily Mail on September 9, 2025, supported by photographs and evidence, some Hamas leaders have amassed a net worth estimated in the billions, plundered from aid meant for Gaza.

"UN reports from 2023 revealed that more than \$7 billion has been disbursed to Gaza since 2006, including \$1 billion provided by the Gulf states.

"These funds were intended for building schools and hospitals, but most were diverted through illicit channels. Hamas confiscated the majority for its military projects, while only a small portion was spent on construction benefiting the movement's elite and leaders, leaving ordinary Palestinians in dire conditions.

"Gulf funds and aid intended for civilian infrastructure were diverted to a network of military tunnels built by Hamas, at an estimated cost of around \$1 billion, according to European reports.

"Hamas reportedly seized about 40 percent of international aid, using it to purchase weapons and manufacture rockets.

"The United Nations documented the embezzlement of \$350 million over just two years, while the population of the Gaza Strip continued to suffer from hunger and poverty.

"Transparency International ranked Gaza under Hamas rule as one of the most corrupt regions in the world in 2022. In 2018 alone, \$180 million in aid went missing, according to the World Bank.

"What happens when the sums reach tens of billions? The risk of embezzlement is very real. The massive reconstruction bill represents a long-term economic and political trap, for which citizens of the Gulf states may end up paying. Will they be obliged to shoulder a significant portion of the \$70 billion needed for reconstruction, destruction in which they played no part, especially given the risk that Hamas could embezzle these funds and use them for terrorist operations that might even target the Gulf states themselves?

"Why are the Gulf states, who are already victims of Hamas embezzlement, being asked to shoulder a huge portion of the \$70 billion reconstruction bill? While providing humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza is a moral responsi-

bility, committing massive investments that are vulnerable to embezzlement is a risky and unwise venture.

"The Gulf states were not directly involved in the war that destroyed Gaza. Let all of the world's approximately 200 countries come together to contribute to its reconstruction. We must also remember that some in the region once mocked the Gulf states and did not support Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion. When they themselves faced attacks, they turned to the Gulf countries for help."

Also:

"In a generous move reflecting the legal leadership's commitment to family justice and the preservation of citizens' dignity, Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait decided to transfer the responsibilities of child visitation centers from the Family Counseling Department to the Judicial Execution Departments," Kuwaiti writer **Bassam Fahad Thunayan Al-Ghanim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"This step reflects a forward-looking vision, deep foresight, and a strong sense of social and human responsibility. The decision aims to alleviate the difficulties faced by parents affected by the shortcomings of visitation centers, which have often hindered rather than facilitated the implementation of judicial rulings.

"The Minister of Justice's decision ends the practices that used to occur in these centers, where fathers were often denied access to their children in the custody of their ex-wives under flimsy pretexts, exploiting the child's vulnerability and turning it against the father. Visitation centers were originally established to preserve family ties and reduce conflict, not to escalate disputes.

"The role of the Judicial Execution Departments is now to correct such violations, ensuring that the centers serve as a tool for justice rather than an obstacle, and to deter anyone who seeks to use children for revenge or to exert psychological pressure on a parent.

"The Judicial Execution Departments must ensure that the double standards previously practiced by some employees of these centers are eliminated. Foster mothers were often treated as heroes, while fathers were unfairly portrayed as guilty, despite court rulings in their favor. These employees deliberately obstructed the enforcement of judicial rulings in an apparently systematic manner.

"These departments must establish a clear and binding mechanism for visitation centers to implement judicial rulings promptly and without leniency, ensuring that no center or employee can use flimsy excuses to delay or obstruct enforcement.

"The presence of such loopholes enables some individuals to evade compliance with court rulings under flimsy pretexts, transforming the centers from neutral entities meant to enforce the rulings into tools that obstruct the rights of children and their parents."

— Compiled by Simi K.Kutty

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MoSA, ICRC, KRCS partner to aid crisis-hit communities

Kuwait boosts role in international aid

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah on Monday discussed with Mamadou Sow, Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Delegation to the GCC, ways to strengthen joint humanitarian co-operation.

Al-Huwailah told KUNA that the meeting reflects Kuwait's commitment to reinforcing strategic partnerships with leading international humanitarian organizations, particularly the ICRC, reaffirming Kuwait's longstanding role in helping people affected by crises worldwide.

Sow praised Kuwait's pioneering humanitarian efforts, represented by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), and their strong cooperation with the ICRC.

The meeting reviewed areas of collaboration such as promoting international humanitarian law, supporting missing-persons files, the Restoring Family Links program, disaster preparedness, and psychosocial support.

Sow also outlined the ICRC's global humanitarian role and noted that a high-level strategic dialogue next week will highlight Kuwait's leadership in regional and international relief efforts through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, KRCS, and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

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Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah with Mamadou Sow, Head of the ICRC Regional Delegation to the GCC.

Al-Mutairi, Al-Othman appointed

Amiri decrees name new chiefs for Family Affairs Council, PADA

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: An Amiri decree was issued on Monday to appoint Mona Fajhan Hilal Al-Mutairi as Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs with the rank of Undersecretary. Another Amiri decree was issued to appoint Dr. Dalal Dhari Abdullah Al-Othman as Director-General of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), also with the rank of Undersecretary, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Decree No. 206/2025 appointing the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs stipulates the following:

After reviewing the Constitution, the Amiri Order issued on 2 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1445 AH (May 10, 2024), Decree-Law No. 15/1979 regarding the Civil Service and its amending laws, the Decree issued on April 4, 1979 regarding the Civil Service System and its amending decrees, Decree No. 401/2006 establishing the Supreme Council for Family Affairs and its amending decrees, and Prime Ministerial Decision No. 4/2023 authorizing the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs to chair the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, and based on the proposal of the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs and with the approval of the Council of Ministers, we have decided the following:

Article One: Mona Fajhan Hilal Al-Mutairi will be appointed as Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs with the rank of Undersecretary.

Article Two: The Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs shall implement this decree. The decree shall take effect from the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette "Kuwait al-Yaum".

■ His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

■ His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

■ Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Hadi Hayef Al-Huwailah

Issued at Seif Palace on 5 Jumada Al-Awwal 1447 AH, October 27, 2025.



Al-Mutairi



Al-Othman

Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

■ Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Hadi Hayef Al-Huwailah

Issued at Seif Palace on 5 Jumada Al-Awwal 1447 AH, October 27, 2025.

The following is the text of Decree No. 207/2025 appointing the Director-General of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs:

After reviewing the Constitution, the Amiri Order issued on May 10, 2024, Decree-Law No. 15/1979 regarding the Civil Service and its amending laws, Law No. 8/2010 regarding the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its amending laws, the Decree issued on April 4, 1979 regarding the Civil Service System and its amending decrees, and Decree No. 80/2024 transferring supervision of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs, and based on the proposal of the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs and with the approval of the Council of Ministers, we have decided the following:

Article One: Dr. Dalal Dhari Abdullah Al-Othman is appointed Director-General of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs with the rank of Undersecretary.

Article Two: The Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs shall implement this decree. The decree shall take effect from the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette "Kuwait al-Yaum".

■ His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

■ His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

■ Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Hadi Hayef Al-Huwailah

Issued at Seif Palace on 5 Jumada Al-Awwal 1447 AH, October 27, 2025.

Kuwait 6th safest country globally

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Kuwait has been ranked sixth among the safest countries globally, according to Gallup's 2025 Global Safety Report. The ranking places Kuwait alongside Norway and Hong Kong, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Singapore topped the list, followed by Tajikistan in second place. Among Arab countries, Oman ranked first, followed by Saudi Arabia, with Kuwait in third place regionally.

The report highlighted that despite rising global tensions and conflicts, 73 percent of the world's population now feels safe walking alone at night in their own country. This is the highest rate in nearly 20 years, up from 63 percent in 2006.

While Norway was the only European country in the global top 10, South Africa was ranked the least safe country in the world due to widespread crime and weak law enforcement.

Kuwait, Egypt ink MoU to bolster industrial exports

Decree aims to enhance trade co-op

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: A decree was issued approving the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the governments of Kuwait and the Arab Republic of Egypt in the field of developing industrial exports, within the framework of enhancing economic and trade cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

According to the decree published in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-

Youm', the two contracting parties are committed to making the necessary efforts to develop and facilitate trade exchange and provide all possible facilities in several areas, particularly the participation of the public and private sectors in international and specialized exhibitions held in both countries, encouraging participation in introductory and promotional activities such as conferences, seminars and discussion panels, and exchanging visits of official and private delegations that include representatives of the economic and industrial sectors in both countries.

Article Three of the memorandum stipulates the exchange of economic

and commercial information related to the markets in the two countries, such as publications, statistics, electronic data and industrial information, while maintaining the confidentiality of the exchanged information and not transferring it to any third party unless a written consent is obtained from the information source.

The two parties also agreed to provide facilities for conducting market studies, and organizing media seminars, training programs and exploratory visits, with the aim of exchanging expertise and experiences in the development of industrial exports, thus, contributing to strengthening economic relations between Kuwait and Egypt.



Farwaniya Governor with Juvenile Welfare officials.

Farwaniya Governor hosts Juvenile Welfare officials, innovation leader

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received in his office Monday morning the Director of the Juvenile Welfare Department Dr. Jassim Ali Al-Kandari, Assistant Director Nawaf Al-Otaibi and Head of the Social Welfare Center Hamid Al-Shammari.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, they discussed ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of social welfare and community awareness, and reviewed programs and initiatives aimed at juvenile care and rehabilitation, and for promoting their positive integration into society.

Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser commended the pioneering role of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Juvenile Welfare Department in supporting youth and promoting societal values.

In a separate meeting, Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser welcomed Dr. Mishari Saad Al-Mutairi as part of his ongoing support and encouragement of creative national talent.

During the meeting, Dr. Al-Mutairi's notable achievements in innovation and modern technologies were highlighted, and discussions were held on ways to strengthen the innovation environment in society for contributing to national development.

Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser com-



Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser welcomes Dr. Mishari Saad Al-Mutairi.

mended Dr. Al-Mutairi for his outstanding efforts and scientific contributions.

At the end of the meetings, the guests expressed their gratitude to the governor for his warm reception, continuous collaboration with government agencies, and steadfast support for young national talent to encourage them to continue striving for excellence.

Al-Ratqa plant to boost electricity

MEW advances major energy projects

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Officials in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy held a meeting with their counterparts in Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) to discuss the implementation of the proposed establishment of Al-Ratqa Power Plant with a production capacity ranging from 1,200 to 1,500 megawatts, through Kuwait Authority for Private Partnership Projects (KAPP).

Reliable sources said that the construction of the plant will improve the production capacity of the ministry and will benefit KOC by utilizing the quantities of steam generated from combustion processes to produce electricity.

Sources revealed the meeting focused on the procedures related to the tender and some technical matters, including the

source of fuel supply. They affirmed the keenness of the ministry officials to push for the completion of electricity and water production projects to meet the growing needs of the country, especially those related to the new residential cities and development projects.

They expressed optimism about the progress of electricity and water production projects within the specified timelines, as Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ojail recently issued a decision on the establishment of a Kuwaiti shareholding company named, Gulf Alliance for Energy and Water, for the purpose of building, implementing, managing, operating and maintaining North Zour Power and Water Desalination Plant (phases two and three), tendering Khairan power plant project (phase one), and the third phase of Shagaya Power Plant.

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Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince receives the Chairperson of the Founding Board of Directors of Abdullah Al-Salem University, Dr. Moudi Abdulaziz Al-Hamoud, and the members of the Board.

Kuwait’s HH Crown Prince receives Abdullah Al-Salem University Board

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday at Bayan Palace, Chairperson of the Founding Board of Abdullah Al-Salem University Dr. Moudhi Al-Humoud and members of the board on the occasion of the completion of their tenure.

During the meeting, they presented the university’s performance report for 2023-2025, titled “Abdullah Al-Salem University: From Vision to a Leading Academic Institution.” His Highness praised their outstanding efforts during the university’s establishment phase, wishing them continued success and prosperity in their future endeavors.

Continued from Page 1

Ministers, pay

Some of these ministers are still in their positions, managing the interests of those who appointed them, rather than overseeing public work with integrity and transparency, as they are supposed to do. They should serve the State and the people, not work for one or the other.

The stalled Sabriya City project, intended to provide 55,000 housing units, serves as a clear example of the detrimental effects of bureaucracy and decision-making paralysis in Kuwait.

This is frustrating given that the Chinese company contracted for the project has a proven track record of successful large-scale developments in various countries, including Saudi Arabia, with a global business volume exceeding \$150 billion.

This setback is merely one instance among many that impede the development of Kuwait. There is a growing impatience for the nation to overcome its current stagnation and capitalize on regional and global opportunities, rather than remaining mired in inefficient paperwork and outdated bureaucratic processes.

To break this vicious cycle, a significant step is necessary. While some may consider it small, it clearly indicates that things have changed and that no one is above the law, as everyone is subject to accountability.

The directive of the Minister of Education to form a committee of experts, including those from the Legal Advice and Legislation Authority and other legal bodies, to address the printing and delayed delivery of school textbooks primarily aims to foster transparency and uphold integrity. This action signifies a departure from past practices, emphasizing accountability as a crucial tool to overcome challenges.

It also shows that the political leadership is closely monitoring developments, and how public-interest-focused officials are implementing the higher directives.

Death penalty,

The Cabinet held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Following the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Mousherji made the following statement.

The Cabinet reviewed messages received by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from several heads of friendly and sisterly states concerning means of strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation across various fields.

The Cabinet was briefed on the upcoming official visit of His Highness the Prime Minister to Cairo to represent His Highness the Amir at the grand opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum and to hold bilateral talks between October 29 and November 1, 2025.

It also noted His Highness the Amir’s directive assigning His Highness the Prime Minister to represent Kuwait at the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Doha from November 4 to 6, 2025, upon an invitation from Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

The Cabinet welcomed the forthcoming official visit of Chinese Vice President Han Zheng and his accompanying delegation to Kuwait on November 1, expressing hope that the visit would further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Ministers also reviewed reports by Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Salem Al-Sabah and Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan on the official opening of the new air traffic control tower and third runway at Kuwait International Airport, describing them as major milestones in the country’s aviation infrastructure.

The Cabinet reviewed a presentation by Minister of State for Communications Omar Al-Omar on the framework agreement with Google Cloud and the recently signed contract with Microsoft, followed by an update from Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah,

Head of the Supervisory Committee for the Google Strategic Agreement, on progress made in implementing related digital projects.

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal submitted a report on the achievements of Abdullah Al-Salem University’s Founding Board (2021-2025), highlighting major milestones such as the adoption of the university’s organizational structure, strategic plan, and academic programs, and the admission of its first student cohort in the 2023-2024 academic year.

Dr. Al-Jalal also noted that a ministerial decision was issued appointing Dr. Mona Al-Ahmad from Kuwait University’s Faculty of Medicine as Acting President of Abdullah Al-Salem University.

The Cabinet approved a draft decree-law on combating narcotics and psychotropic substances, merging existing laws to unify legal definitions and procedures while strengthening penalties up to capital punishment and heavy fines for traffickers and smugglers.

The Cabinet also approved a draft decree on a memorandum of understanding between the governments of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates for cooperation in industry and advanced technology, and referred both drafts to His Highness the Amir for endorsement. The Cabinet discussed several other agenda items and approved relevant recommendations, while referring others to specialized ministerial committees for further study and necessary action.

73 go

The statement noted that investigations were conducted by a specialized team of public prosecutors who examined the facts of the case, gathered evidence, and heard witness statements in coordination with relevant authorities to ensure that all financial, technical, and legal aspects were thoroughly addressed.

The Public Prosecution added that the investigations uncovered an organized criminal network that deliberately tampered with the results of several commercial draws, compromising the fairness of their procedures. The network exploited public office and weaknesses in oversight to obtain unlawful financial gains, which were later shared among its members.

“The investigations revealed that these acts were carried out within a complex, well-coordinated criminal structure characterized by planning and coordination among its members. Their aim was to unlawfully seize the prizes of the draws through systematic fraudulent practices based on deception and misrepresentation, constituting a grave violation of the principles of transparency and integrity stipulated by law,” the statement added.

It continued, “Evidence confirmed that the defendants acted in concert to carry out the manipulation, using forged official documents and fictitious waivers to transfer the prizes to the actual beneficiaries of the fraud, in return for direct and indirect financial payments-some in the form of bribes, brokerage, or other monetary benefits derived from participation in these acts.”

The statement further indicated that the proceeds of these crimes were re-invested in multiple financial transactions that were deliberately disguised to conceal their illicit nature in an attempt to evade legal scrutiny.

The Public Prosecution affirmed its firm commitment to upholding the rule of law, protecting rights, and ensuring justice with impartiality and integrity.

On March 27, the Public Prosecution had ordered the detention of a citizen and five expatriates following extensive investigations that revealed their involvement in serious crimes that shocked public opinion, including forgery of official documents, bribery of a public official, facilitation of embezzlement of state funds, money laundering, and other major offenses that caused severe harm to the country’s national interests.

The statement noted that these decisive measures were taken in light of recent social media reports concerning the involvement of a public official at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, who supervised the draws of the Kuwait

Shopping Festival, Ya Hala.

On March 28, Public Prosecutor Counselor Saad Al-Safran ordered that investigations into the Ya Hala Shopping Festival draws be conducted confidentially and that publication of any related news or statements be prohibited.

KFF launches

He said inspection teams surveyed the area to detect violating facilities, issuing citations and ordering the immediate closure of sites posing risks to public safety.

Al-Ghareeb added that the campaign revealed several breaches, including expired fire safety licenses, improper material storage, blocked emergency exits, exposed electrical wiring, and neglected fire equipment maintenance.

He urged property and business owners to adhere to fire safety regulations and cooperate with inspection teams to protect lives and property.

Kuwait targets

He also noted that the discussions would focus on the international legal framework for combating terrorism financing, mechanisms for implementing Security Council sanctions, and mutual legal assistance in investigations related to targeted financial measures.

Among the participants were representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as the Public Prosecution, Kuwait Central Bank, Kuwait Financial Intelligence Unit (FATF), and other relevant bodies.

Meanwhile, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) hailed selection of world expert Dr. Waleed Al-Housani, Head of the GCC Economic Affairs Sector by Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as the first Arab and Gulf International Assessor in the fifth round of country evaluations for anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing systems.

In a press release on Monday, GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said this selection marks a significant Gulf and international achievement in combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

He affirmed that this milestone reflects the distinguished standing and confidence that Gulf competencies have attained within the international community, through their capabilities in the fields of evaluation and compliance with international standards.

He added that this achievement comes as GCC countries prepare to undergo the fifth round of mutual evaluations, underscoring their readiness and commitment to safeguarding the integrity of the global financial system in line with best practices and international requirements to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Dr. Al-Housani joined a team of six international assessors, with the evaluation process spanning 18 months and including field visits and interviews with relevant authorities in one of the FATF member states, culminating in the preparation of the final report, which was discussed and approved during the General Meeting of FATF, held in the French capital, Paris.

Only martyrs

Regarding traffic fines and the two-month impoundment of vehicles for parking violations, Sheikh Fahad stressed that Kuwait has laws that must be respected.

Concerning the issue of demographic imbalance, Sheikh Fahad emphasized that the top priority of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait is the establishment of labor cities.

He highlighted that each company has been assigned a specific quota for the number of its workers to ensure there is no favoritism toward any particular nationality.

Regarding anti-money laundering measures, Sheikh Fahad explained that all cash purchases, including gold, have been suspended for several months. Even pharmacies do not permit cash purchases of medicines exceeding KD 10.

AFESD grants \$25m loan to Capital Bank of Jordan

Funding boosts green projects and SMEs

AMMAN, Oct 28, (KUNA): The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) on Monday provided a USD 25 million loan to Capital Bank of Jordan to promote the bank’s capital base and help in its operations aiming at funding small and medium environmentally friendly projects.

“This investment shows AFESD’s continued commitment to diversifying its finance offers and supporting the development of the private sector in member states,” the fund’s Director-General and Board Chairman Fawzi Al-Hunaif was quoted in a AFESD release,

a copy of which was obtained by KUNA.

“We are proud of our partnership with Capital Bank of Jordan and prestigious finance institutions to support funding climate transition and small and medium-sized enterprises that act as the key engine of growth and create jobs,” he added.

For his part, Capital Bank of Jordan’s CEO Tamer Ghazaleh said this deal reflects the bank’s ability to achieve sustainable growth and keep offering innovative finance solutions that help develop green economy and enable small and medium-sized enterprises to attain sustainable success.

Based in the State of Kuwait, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) was established in 1968 as a regional financial institution that supports economic and social development in Arab countries.



KUNA photo
The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) Chairman Fawzi Al-Hunaif with Capital Bank of Jordan’s CEO Tamer Ghazaleh.

Dr Mona Sulaiman Al-Ahmad appointed as acting Pres of Abdullah Al-Salem University

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Nader Al-Jalal, has appointed Dr. Mona Sulaiman Al-Ahmad from the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University as the acting President of Abdullah Al-Salem University, effective immediately until further notice. She succeeds Dr. Modhi Al-Hamoud, Chair of the University’s Founding Board, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Dr. Al-Ahmad

Minister Al-Jalal expressed his sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to the members of the Founding Board for their dedicated efforts and significant contributions during their tenure. Their work laid the academic and administrative foundations of the university and activated its educational and research ini-

tiatives, in line with the state’s vision for the development of the higher education system.

It is worth noting that Abdullah Al-Salem University is one of the vital national educational institutions within Kuwait’s higher education system. Since its establishment, the university has sought to implement an advanced academic model that is in line with the nation’s development goals.

Biography of Dr. Mona Sulaiman Al-Ahmad
Dr. Al-Ahmad has held several leadership and supervisory roles at Kuwait University, including:

- Dean of the Faculty of Medicine
- Acting Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the Faculty of Medicine
- President of the Kuwait Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

She has also been seconded to the Institute of Nursing Studies at the Abdulaziz Al-Rashed Allergy Center.

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3.390

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2.890

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Dems set January deadline for states to apply for early '28 primary contests

COLUMBIA, SC, Oct 28, (AP): Not even a year out from the last presidential election, the Democratic National Committee has begun setting up a framework for the party's next round of presidential primary elections, which could upend the early-voting calendar yet again.

The Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee on Monday approved a plan giving states until January 16 to submit applications to hold voting contests in the early window ahead of Super Tuesday, when a massive haul of delegates will be awarded.

Four or five states will get an early slot, and all four regions - East, Midwest, South and West - must be represented, according to the framework.

No huge tranche of delegates is necessarily at stake in the early-voting contests, but their heft has traditionally played a pivotal role for candidates seeking to lead their parties, with heavy travel rotations meaning high visibility for the states involved.

"We are committed to executing a fair and transparent process that will deliver a battle-tested nominee who will win back the White House for Democrats," the committee co-chairs Minyon Moore and James Roosevelt, Jr. said in a joint statement.

It will be months - and potentially years - before the 2028 calendar is set. In June, several members of new DNC Chairman Ken Martin's leadership team said the party was considering scrambling its voting order for the next election cycle. That also happened in 2024, when - at President Joe Biden's behest - South Carolina hosted the Democrats' first-in-the-nation contest, giving the



Democratic National Committee chairman Ken Martin speaks after winning the vote at the Democratic National Committee winter meeting in National Harbor, Md on Feb 1. (AP)

incumbent president a resounding win in the state that had helped resurrect his flagging campaign four years earlier.

That move was also a nod to the party's loyal base of Black voters, while adding Georgia and Michigan to the so-called early window.

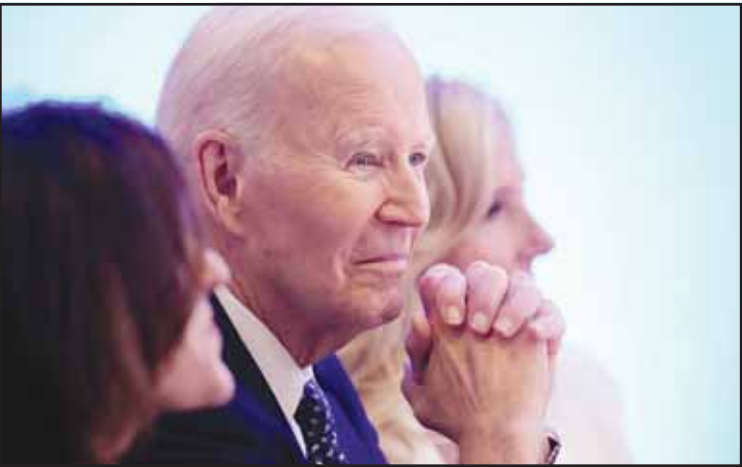
At some level, the next presidential primary has already begun - informally, at least. A half dozen presidential prospects have already begun to make early pilgrimages to the states that topped the calendar last time: South Carolina, New Hampshire and Iowa chief among them.

Republicans send Biden autopen report to Justice Dept, urging further investigation

WASHINGTON, Oct 28, (AP): US House Republicans on Tuesday unveiled their long-promised report on former president Joe Biden's use of the autopen, delivering a blistering critique of his time in office and inner circle that largely rehashes public information while making sweeping accusations about the workings of his White House.

The GOP report does not include any concrete evidence that aides conspired to enact policies without Biden's knowledge or that the president was unaware of laws, pardons or executive orders signed in his name. But Republicans said their findings cast doubt on all of Biden's actions in office. They sent a letter to Attorney General Pam Bondi urging a full investigation. President Donald Trump ordered a similar inquiry earlier this year. At its core, the report advances contested claims that Biden's mental state declined to a degree that allowed White House officials to enact policies without his knowledge. It focuses heavily on the pardons he granted in office, including to his son, Hunter Biden, based on depositions with close Biden aides.

"The cost of the scheme to hide the fallout of President Biden's diminished physical and mental acuity was great



Former US President Joe Biden listens to a speaker before receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute's 10th Anniversary Celebration, on Oct 26, in Boston. (AP)

but will likely never be fully calculated," the report reads. "The cover-up put American national security at risk and the nation's trust in its leaders in jeopardy." Biden has strenuously denied he was unaware of his administration's actions, calling such claims "ridiculous and false." Democrats on

the House Oversight committee denounced the probe as a distraction and waste of time.

Republicans are shifting attention back to Biden at a politically tumultuous time, 10 months into Trump's presidency, with the government shut down and Congress at a standstill over legislation to fund it.

We've got to get a deal with Donald Trump: Kaine

Pressure builds on Congress to end shutdown, but quick breakthrough appears unlikely

WASHINGTON, Oct 28, (AP): The pressure to end the second-longest federal government shutdown is gaining new urgency this week as millions of Americans face the prospect of losing food assistance, more federal workers miss their first full paycheck and recurring delays at airports snarl travel plans.

The building strain on lawmakers to end the impasse was magnified by the nation's largest federal employee union, which called on Congress to immediately pass a funding bill and ensure workers receive full pay. Everett Kelley, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, said the two political parties have made their point.

"It's time to pass a clean continuing resolution and end this shutdown today. No half measures, and no gamesmanship," said Kelley, whose union carries considerable political weight with Democratic lawmakers.

Still, Democratic senators, including those representing states with many federal workers, did not appear ready to back down. Virginia Sen Tim Kaine said he was insisting on commitments from the White House to prevent the administration from mass firing more workers. Democrats also want Congress to extend subsidies for health plans under the Affordable Care Act.

"We've got to get a deal with Donald Trump," Kaine said.

But shutdowns grow more painful the longer they go. Soon, with closures lasting a fourth full week as of Tuesday, millions of Americans are likely to experience the difficulties firsthand.

The nation's 1.3 million active-duty service members are at risk of missing a paycheck on Friday. Earlier this month, the Trump administration ensured they were paid by shifting \$8 billion from military research and development funds to make payroll. But it is unclear if the Trump administration will be willing - or able - to shift money again.

Larger still, the Trump administration says funding will run out Friday for the food assistance program that is relied upon by 42 million Americans to supplement their grocery bills. The administration has rejected the use of more than \$5 billion in contingency funds to keep benefits flowing into November. And it says states won't be reimbursed if they temporarily cover the cost of benefits next month. The Department of Agriculture says the contingency fund is intended to help respond to emergencies such as natural disasters. Democrats say the decision concerning the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, goes against the department's previous guidance concerning its operations during a shutdown.



US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., faces reporters, joined from left by Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La, Majority Whip Tom Emmer, R-Minn, and Small Business Administration head Kelly Loeffler at a news conference on day 27 of the government shutdown, at the Capitol in Washington on Oct 27. (AP)

"The administration is making an intentional choice not to fund SNAP this weekend," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York. "The emergency funding is there. The administration is just choosing not to use it."

At the Capitol, congressional leaders mostly highlighted the challenges many Americans are facing as a result of the shutdown. But there was no movement toward negotiations as they attempted to lay blame on the other side of the political aisle. "Now government workers and every other American affected by this shutdown have become nothing more than pawns in the Democrats' political games,"

said Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D.

The House passed a short-term continuing resolution on Sept. 19 to keep federal agencies funded. Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., has kept the House out of legislative session ever since, saying the solution is for Democrats to simply accept that bill.

But the Senate has consistently fallen short of the 60 votes needed to advance that spending measure. Democrats insist that any bill to fund the government also address health care costs, namely the soaring health insurance premiums that millions of Americans will face next year under plans offered through the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

The window for enrolling in ACA health plans begins Saturday. In past years, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has allowed Americans to preview their health coverage options about a week ahead of open enrollment.

As of Monday, Healthcare.gov appeared to show 2025 health insurance plans and estimated prices, instead of next year's options. CMS was expected to temporarily bring back all its workers furloughed during the shutdown, in part to manage the ACA open enrollment period.

Twenty-eight senators, mostly Democrats, signed onto a letter urging Trump's administration to let ACA enrollees start previewing next year's health insurance options on its marketplace website.

Republicans insist they will not entertain negotiations on health care until the government reopens.

Schumer said Republicans would prefer to shut the government down than work with Democrats in preventing massive spikes in their health insurance costs. He said the average American doesn't want to pay an extra \$20,000 a year to cover their health insurance.

Vice President JD Vance was planning to visit a Republican luncheon on Capitol Hill Tuesday. But with President Donald Trump on a three-country Asia tour and congressional leaders dug into their positions, a quick deal appeared unlikely.

Meanwhile, some rank-and-file lawmakers urged their colleagues to consider the impact of their standoff on the lives of federal employees and Capitol police officers who are have not been paid for weeks.

"We have got to come together, which means we've got to talk to one another," Sen. Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, said in a floor speech urging leaders to stop focusing on who was winning the political fight.



In this image made from video provided by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Oct 28, a shell explodes in a village after a Russian gun is fired, on an undisclosed location in Ukraine. (AP)

Ukraine's long-range strikes cut Russia's oil refining capacity by 20%: Zelenskyy

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 28, (AP): Ukraine's long-range strikes on refineries inside Russia have reduced Moscow's oil refining capacity by 20%, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, citing intelligence from Western governments.

Over 90% of those deep strikes on Russian soil were carried out by Ukrainian-made long-range weapons, according to Zelenskyy. He said Ukraine needs additional foreign financial help to produce more of them.

"We just need to work on this every day," he said in comments to the media on Monday that were embargoed until Tuesday.

Oil exports play a key role in funding Russia's invasion of its neighbor Ukraine. While Ukrainian weapons take aim at the refineries, new sanctions from the US and the European Union are aiming to cut into Moscow's oil and gas export earnings.

Despite renewed US-led peace efforts, the war shows no sign of ending after nearly four years. With the Kremlin showing no willingness to compromise, US President Donald Trump raised the stakes by announcing sanctions last week against Russian oil giants Rosneft and Lukoil. Those sanctions are due to come into force on Nov 21, and Zelenskyy says Trump "probably will use this as a tool of pressure or dialogue with the Russians."

China and India are the biggest customers for Russian oil. Zelenskyy said India "has definitely given all the signals that it will reduce imports of energy resources" from Russia.



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy leave 10 Downing Street in London on Oct 24 for a meeting of the so-called 'coalition of the willing'. (AP)

He said he is hopeful that Trump's planned meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in South Korea on Thursday will bring further reductions in purchases of Russian crude.

By holding nuclear drills and boasting about a successful test of a pioneering atomic-powered cruise missile, Russian President Vladimir Putin is sending a message to Trump: Moscow won't be cowed into making concessions on Ukraine.

Facing Trump's call for a quick ceasefire and bruising, new US sanctions on Russia's oil industry, Putin is again reminding the US and other

Western allies of Kyiv about his nuclear arsenal to back his longstanding, maximalist demands.

He has said Ukraine must pull back its forces from the four regions that Russia has annexed illegally but never fully captured, as well as abandon its bid to join NATO - demands rejected by Kyiv and its Western allies. The Burevestnik, which means "storm petrel" in Russian, is the world's first nuclear-powered missile. That propulsion gives it virtually unlimited range, allowing it to loiter for days, circling the enemy's air defenses and attacking from an unexpected direction.

Putin first announced the missile in a 2018 state-of-the-nation address, along with several other prospective weapons, declaring it would be able to dodge air defenses.

The development of the Burevestnik, which has been code-named "Sky-fall" by NATO, has continued despite reported launch failures. On Sunday, Russia's chief military officer, Gen. Valery Gerasimov, reported to Putin that an Oct. 21 test of the Burevestnik was a complete success that proved its capabilities.

The missile covered 14,000 kilometers (8,680 miles) during a 15-hour flight using nuclear fuel and conducted maneuvers "demonstrating its high capabilities in evading missile and air defense systems," Gerasimov said.

"The technical characteristics of the Burevestnik missile effectively allow it to be used with guaranteed accuracy against highly protected targets at any distance," he added.

Czech leader tasks Babis with forming new govt

PRAGUE, Oct 28, (Agencies): Czech President Petr Pavel on Monday officially tasked Andrej Babis, leader of the ANO movement, with forming a new government.

Coalition negotiations among ANO, the Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD) party, and Motorists for Themselves have been underway for about two weeks and are reportedly nearing completion.

Babis wrote on the social platform X that, following the presidential mandate, the coalition partners are now finalizing the coalition agreement and government program statement. "Once these documents are ready, we will move on to the composition of the cabinet," he said, adding that the goal is to form a new government by mid-December.

The SPD's leader Tomio Okamura also confirmed on X that the talks are progressing smoothly.

After a meeting with Pavel, Babis said the coalition agreement could be signed in the coming days.

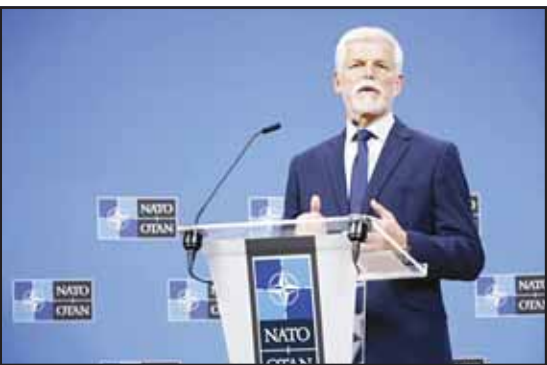
Also:

MADRID: The sighting of a drone closed the airspace of a Spanish airport in a major tourist center for two hours Monday night, officials said Tuesday.

Since late September, mysterious drone overflights have caused closures and disruptions at airports across the European Union, including **Munich**, one of Germany's largest airports, and four in **Denmark**.

The flying drone was discovered near Alicante-Elche Miguel Hernández Airport, according to AENA, the company that manages Spanish airports.

Ten flights bound for **Alicante**, which is about 420 kil-



Czech Republic's President Petr Pavel addresses a media conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels on May 21.

ometers (260 miles) southeast of Madrid, were diverted to cities including **Valencia, Barcelona, Mallorca and Murcia**, it added. Some flights were delayed, but there were no cancellations.

It wasn't immediately clear who was behind the incident, and authorities are investigating.

The airport broke its monthly passenger record in September with more than 1.9 million visitors, mostly from the **United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium**.

Germany's Rheinmetall to build gunpowder, ammo plant in Bulgaria

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Oct 28, (AP): Bulgaria signed an agreement Tuesday with Germany's defense company Rheinmetall to build a gunpowder and munitions factory as part of Europe's efforts to improve its defenses following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The factory, which will produce gunpowder, 155 millimeter artillery shells and modular charge systems, will be developed as a joint venture between Rheinmetall and Bulgaria's largest state-owned arms factory VMZ-Sopot. The plant will create nearly 1,000 high-skilled jobs, making it one of the largest industrial projects in Bulgaria in recent years, officials said.

The German company will hold a 51% share in the joint venture, and Bulgaria will finance its participation through loans under the European SAFE mechanism.

After signing the agreement, Rheinmetall CEO Armin Papperger said that the new facility could be ready within 14 months and start production of up to 100,000 artillery shells annually.

European Union and NATO member Bulgaria considers the project as part of the joint efforts to strengthen defense production and supply chains.

Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov



German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, (right), receives Grand Duke Guillaume of Luxembourg with military honors, in Berlin on Oct 27 as Elke Bűdenbender, (second from left), and Stephanie von Nassau, Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, Duchess of Nassau and Princess of Bourbon-Parma stand behind. (AP)

said the agreement was "a huge step forward in Bulgaria's industrial and defense capabilities."

Bulgaria was one of the major arms producers in the former Soviet bloc during the Cold War, specializing in small arms, ammunition and light armored vehicles. The collapse of the

Warsaw Pact led to a steep decline in the sector, forcing many state-owned factories to shut down.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has brought a new momentum for Bulgaria's arms production, making it an important supplier of ammunition for Kyiv.

‘US an ally at strongest level’

Trump praises Japan’s new PM

TOKYO, Oct 28, (AP): US President Donald Trump began one of his busiest days of his Asia trip on Tuesday by warmly greeting the new Japanese prime minister, and taking her with him as he spoke to US troops aboard an aircraft carrier.

Although Trump is visiting one of America’s most steadfast allies in Asia, there’s no shortage of uncertainty while he’s there. Sanae Takaichi, who became the country’s first female prime minister only days ago, must solidify her relationship with Trump while defending her country’s economic interests. Trump is trying to nail down \$550 billion in Japanese investment as part of a trade agreement.

As Trump and Takaichi met on Tuesday, they shook hands and he paid her a compliment: “That’s a very strong handshake.”

In return, Takaichi talked about watching the third game of the US World Series before the event. She added that Japan would give Washington 250 cherry trees next year to honor America’s 250th anniversary, as well as fireworks from Akita Prefecture for July 4 celebrations.

She used her early remarks to mention former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, her archconservative mentor who forged a strong bond with



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, right, waves next to US President Donald Trump after delivering her speech during their visit to the aircraft carrier USS George Washington at the US Navy's Yokosuka base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo on Oct 28. (AP)

Trump during his first term through their shared interest of golf.

“As a matter of fact, Prime Minister Abe often told me about your dynamic diplomacy,” she said. Trump called her role as Japan’s first woman prime minister as a “big deal,” putting an emphasis on the U.S. commitment to Japan.

Summit may offer positive optics for Lee: experts

S.Korea’s president faces high-stakes diplomacy at APEC summit



South Korean President Lee Jae Myung speaks during a ceremony to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule in Seoul, South Korea, on Aug 15. (AP)

This year’s APEC summit, the first in South Korea in 20 years, is overshadowed by Thursday’s Trump-Xi meeting, whose results are expected to have a major impact on the global economy. Trump will likely skip APEC’s main conference, but experts say Lee could still align with other countries to promote free trade and

multilateralism.

South Korean officials say they’ve been holding ministerial-level communications with other countries to prod all 21 to issue a joint declaration at the end of the summit in an effort not to repeat the failure to reach one in 2018 in Papua New Guinea due to US-China discord over trade.

“Of course, there are some lingering issues, but many have been resolved. We’re making efforts toward the adoption of a ‘Gyeongju Declaration’ and acting as a mediator between the U.S. and China,” South Korea’s national security director Wi Sung-lac told local broadcaster KBS on Sunday.

Top South Korean officials have been recently flying in and out of Washington to finalize a trade agreement with the US, but it’s unclear if the two countries can strike one in time for the APEC summit.

South Korea’s trade minister, Kim Jung-Kwan, told lawmakers Friday that Washington and Seoul remain “sharply divided” over how much of South Korea’s promised \$350 billion U.S. investment package should be provided as direct cash payments under a July deal aimed at averting the Trump administration’s highest tariffs.

There are also worries that South Korea’s ties with Japan could turn sour because of the recent inauguration of Japan’s Takaichi, who has right-wing views on her country’s wartime aggressions.

Relations between the Asian neighbors and their trilateral military cooperation with the U.S. have improved in recent years.

Military-backed party in Myanmar holds rallies as campaign begins for Dec election

BANGKOK, Oct 28, (AP): Political parties in military-run Myanmar on Tuesday kicked off their election campaigns, two months ahead of scheduled national polls that are widely seen as an effort to confer legitimacy on the military’s 2021 seizure of power, even as the country’s civil war precludes voting in many areas.

Campaigning began just a day after UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in a meeting with leaders of Southeast Asian nations, warned that the planned election could cause further instability and deepen Myanmar’s crisis.

Critics of the military-led government charge that the polls, which are set to begin on Dec. 28, will be neither free nor fair.

Fifty-seven parties have registered for the contest but Aung San Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy, which won the last two elections by landslides only to be ousted by the army, is not among them.

It was one of dozens of parties ordered disbanded by the army-appointed Union Election Commission more than two years ago after it refused to take part in what it saw as a sham process.

On Tuesday, the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development



Chairman Khin Yi, center, senior leaders and members of the military backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), arrive to attend during the opening ceremony of the party's poster on the first day of campaign for the upcoming general election, in Naypyitaw, Myanmar on Oct 28. (AP)

Party held ceremonies in the capital Naypyitaw and Yangon, the country’s largest city, to unveil its campaign slogan “Stronger Myanmar.”

The ceremony in Naypyitaw, attended by hundreds of green-clad supporters, was led by the party’s senior figures, including former generals now

serving in the Cabinet of the military government.

USDP chairman Khin Yi, a former general and chief of police, said in his speech that the campaign would follow regulations and the law, declaring that the poll’s results would confer legitimacy.

India closes schools and evacuates thousands as cyclone approaches

NEW DELHI, Oct 28, (AP): Indian authorities have shut schools and evacuated tens of thousands of people from low-lying coastal areas as the country’s eastern seaboard braces for the impact of Cyclone Montha later Tuesday.

Swirling over the Bay of Bengal, Montha has intensified into a severe cyclonic storm, and is expected to make landfall late Tuesday near the port city of Kakinada in southern Andhra Pradesh, the weather office said in its latest bulletin.

The storm hovered around 160 kilometers (99 miles) southeast of Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

It is expected to intensify, bringing winds of 90 kph to 110 kph (55-68 mph) as it pushes toward the country’s eastern coastline.

The weather office issued so-called red alerts - the highest level of weather warnings - for 19 districts in Andhra Pradesh, forecasting extremely heavy rains. The neighboring states of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Kerala and Karnataka are also expected to receive moderate to heavy showers.

Disaster teams in Andhra Pradesh have so far evacuated 38,000 people from low-lying areas to relief camps, according to a state disaster official.



In this handout photo released by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), NDRF personnel warn residents of Cyclone Montha, in Yanam, in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh on Oct 27. (AP)

The state government estimates around 4 million people to be in vulnerable zones and likely to be affected by the cyclone.

The authorities have readied 1,906 relief camps and 364 school shelters as

evacuations continue in 1,238 vulnerable villages, the state’s minister for communications Nara Lokesh said in a social media post.

Schools and colleges have been ordered to remain shut till Wednesday and fishermen warned not to venture into the sea for fishing. Trains and flight services were partially disrupted on Tuesday.

In Odisha, the state administration has begun shifting around 32,000 people from vulnerable areas to relief camps, a state disaster official said.

Climate scientists say severe storms are becoming more frequent in South Asia. Global warming driven by planet-heating gases has caused them to become more extreme and unpredictable.

India’s eastern coasts have long been prone to cyclones, but the number of intense storms is increasing along the country’s coast. 2023 was India’s deadliest cyclone season in recent years, killing 523 people and causing an estimated \$2.5 billion in damage.

Tropical cyclones, which are called hurricanes or typhoons in other regions, are among the world’s most devastating natural disasters when they hit densely populated coastal areas.



Kenyan officials inspect the scene of a plane crash near Diani, Kenya on Oct 28. (AP)

Kenya plane crash kills 11: airline

Eleven people, including 10 foreign tourists, were killed early Tuesday when a light aircraft crashed in Kwale County, Kenya’s coastal region, while en route to the world-famous Maasai Mara National Reserve, the airline said.

Mombasa Air Safari confirmed that eight Hungarian and two German passengers, along with a Kenyan pilot, were on board the aircraft, registration number 5Y-

CCA, which had taken off from Diani, a popular tourist resort town.

“Sadly, there are no survivors,” the airline said in a statement, noting that it has activated its emergency response team and is working closely with authorities to establish the cause of the crash.

“Our hearts and prayers are with all those affected by this tragic event,” the company said. (Xinhua)

Peace talks hosted by Turkey between Pakistan, Afghanistan hit impasse in Istanbul

ANKARA, Turkey, Oct 28, (AP): Peace talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan have hit an impasse in Istanbul after three days of negotiations, with state media in both countries Tuesday blaming each other for the failure to reach a deal while efforts by Turkey were still underway to end the deadlock.

The Istanbul talks are part of a broader diplomatic push to ease months of heightened tension between Islamabad and Kabul over cross-border attacks and militant safe havens - issues that have strained relations since the Taliban’s return to power in Afghanistan four years ago.

Delegations from the two neighbors remain in Turkey, but it was not immediately clear whether a fourth day of talks would be held.

Pakistan Television early Tuesday reported that Turkish officials and several other countries are working to preserve the ceasefire agreed on Oct 19 in Doha after the first round of negotiations. The agreement followed deadly cross-border clashes that killed dozens of soldiers,



Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, (center right), and Afghan Defence Minister Mullah Muhammad Yaqoob sign a ceasefire agreement in Doha, Qatar, Sunday, Oct 10. (AP)

militants and civilians on both sides.

Three Pakistani security officials who had direct knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press that there is a deadlock in the talks in Is-

tanbul over the reluctance of Kabul in accepting what they described as Pakistan’s logical and legitimate demands about assurances that Afghan soil not be used against Pakistan.

US kills 14 in strikes on four alleged drug boats in Pacific

WASHINGTON, Oct 28, (Agencies): US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced that the US military carried out three strikes Monday in the waters of the Eastern Pacific against boats suspected of carrying drugs, killing 14 and leaving one survivor.

The announcement made on social media Tuesday, marks a continued escalation in the pace of the strikes, which began in early September spaced weeks apart. This was the first time multiple strikes were announced in a single day.

Hegseth said Mexican search and rescue authorities “assumed responsibility for coordinating the rescue” of the sole survivor but didn’t say if that person would stay in their custody or be handed over to the U.S.

In a strike earlier in October which had two survivors, the U.S. military rescued the pair and later repatriated them to Colombia and Ecuador. Hegseth posted footage of the strikes to social media in which two boats can be seen moving at speed through the water. One is visibly laden with a large amount of parcels

or bundles. Both then suddenly explode and are seen aflame.

Also:

CARACAS: Venezuelan authorities on Monday arrested three individuals allegedly linked to the CIA, Interior Minister **Diosdado Cabello Rondon** said. During the arrests, authorities reportedly seized mobile phones and CIA operational manuals, Cabello said.

The minister said the suspects were involved in a suspected false-flag operation in the Caribbean Sea as the **United States** undertakes military exercises with Trinidad and Tobago. The plan aimed to fabricate an incident that could justify aggression against **Venezuela**, Cabello added.

Venezuela’s government has information that they intend to “attack a US military ship stationed on that island and then blame Venezuela to justify an attack” on the South American country, Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister **Yvan Gil** said in a post on social media.

Ivory Coast’s leader Ouattara re-elected

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Oct 28, (AP): Ivory Coast’s President **Alassane Ouattara** was re-elected to a fourth term in an election marked by low turnout and empty streets in the economic capital of Abidjan, provisional results showed Monday.

Ouattara, 83, who first came to power in the West African nation in 2011, won 89.7% of the vote, Electoral Commission head **Ibrahime Kuibiert Coulibaly** said Monday.

Jean-Louis Billon, a former commerce minister from one of Ivory Coast’s richest families, came in a distant second with 3% of the vote. Simone Gbagbo, a former first lady, came in third with 2.4%, under the provision results.

Final results are expected by early November, though they could be announced sooner.

Some 8.5 million people were registered to vote. Voter turnout was around 50%.



Ouattara

Kuwaiti crude drops to \$68.80 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti crude decreased by 83 cents to USD 68.80 per barrel on Monday after being at USD 69.63 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

The prices of Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate globally declined by 32 and 19 cents respectively, settling at USD 65.62 per barrel and USD 61.31 pb.

To enrich content on the Boursa Academy website and organize education and awareness programs

Business

Boursa Kuwait signs an agreement of understanding with the CFA Institute

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Boursa Kuwait signed an agreement of understanding with the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute (CFA Institute), the global, not-for-profit professional organization that provides finance education to investment professionals, to provide and enrich content about the fundamentals of investment on the Boursa Academy website, the online educational portal designed and developed by Boursa Kuwait which aims to educate new and professional investors about capital markets.

The agreement enables both institutions to combine their expertise in the financial services sector and provide accessible content for those interested in investing. This includes information designed to help investors evaluate opportunities and make more informed and prudent investment decisions, in addition to educational materials such as videos, infographics and online presentations. The agreement also grants preferential access benefits to select programs and certifications offered by the Institute when registering through the Boursa Academy website.

“The strategic partnership with the CFA Institute underscores Boursa Kuwait’s steadfast commitment to advancing investor competence in the capital market as the company recognizes that the proficiency of investors and market participants plays a pivotal role in maintaining market integrity and driving performance. Through this collaboration, Boursa Kuwait continues to equip investors with the knowledge and tools needed to thrive in their investment journey,” said Senior Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Boursa Kuwait, **Mr. Naser Meshari Al-Sanousi**.

“This agreement embodies the exchange’s commitment to enhancing the quality of decision-making in the market. By enriching Boursa Academy’s content with educa-



Naser Al-Sanousi



Jeanette Tawk

tional materials developed in collaboration with specialized institutions, Boursa Kuwait seeks to empower investors across all asset classes to evaluate opportunities with greater depth and analytical rigor, thereby supporting the growth and sustainability of the local investment environment,” he added.

Boursa Kuwait has been a partner of the CFA Institute for the past two years, with the exchange serving as the first strategic partner of the CFA Research Challenge in Kuwait, the annual global competition focused on the financial analysis of listed companies and targeted at university students.

The Challenge provides a unique platform that enables students to apply their academic knowledge to real-world scenarios, as participating teams conduct in-depth analyses of listed companies and present their findings to a panel of leading investment professionals, to enhance their practical skills and bring them closer to the realities of capital markets.

“I am pleased to announce the signing of a partnership with Boursa Kuwait aimed at advancing financial literacy, enabling individuals to make more informed investment decisions, and contributing to the development of a stronger investment community in Kuwait,” said **Ms. Jeanette Tawk**, Director of Partnerships and Client Solutions for the MENA Region at the CFA Institute.

“This partnership stems from both institutions’ shared belief in the importance of investing in the education of market participants across all segments of the financial sector, given its pivotal role in fostering a robust, professional, and highly credible investment environment,” she added.

These initiatives form part of Boursa Kuwait’s efforts to develop and educate market participants, as well as create a lasting, meaningful impact on the communities where it operates. Part of the company’s Corporate Sustainability (CS) strategy, they are in line with Goal 4 – Quality Education – and Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals - of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Financial Results 9M 2025



The Board of Directors has declared distribution of a second interim cash dividend of **25 fils** per share for the record profits achieved for period ending **September 30, 2025**, to the shareholders already registered in the company's register on the record date of **Sunday 16/11/2025**.

The Corporate Action Time Schedule:

Cum Date *	11/11/2025
Ex Date	12/11/2025
Record Date	16/11/2025
Payment Date	19/11/2025

Cash dividends will be transferred to the bank accounts of the shareholders, who are registered in the electronic transfer service for the distribution of profits, as of **Wednesday 19/11/2025**.

Shareholders who were not able to register in the electronic transfer service for the distribution of profits, should contact local banks to register in this service or through their electronic services, according to the instructions issued by the Kuwait Clearing Company.

* Cum-Dividend Date:

The last day on which the share must be purchased so that the shareholder is registered in the company's register on the record date and therefore is entitled to receive dividends.

On behalf of its clients

Kamco Invest acquires stake in MENA tech leader Unifonic

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced today that its private equity team has acquired a stake in Unifonic, on behalf of its clients. Unifonic is leading customer engagement platform and SaaS provider in the MENA region.



Dalal Al-Shaya

Unifonic was established in 2006 and supports more than 1,700 businesses with over 10bn annual transactions processed in different channels. It specializes in connecting local enterprises with their customers, including leading banks, financial institutions, and government entities throughout the region, as well as healthcare, retail, e-commerce, and transport and logistics providers worldwide.



Ahmad Hamdan

With its strong foothold in the Saudi market, the region’s most active and lucrative for tech startups, Unifonic is poised for a successful IPO in the coming two years benefiting from favorable market conditions in KSA and the IPO prospects on Tadawul.

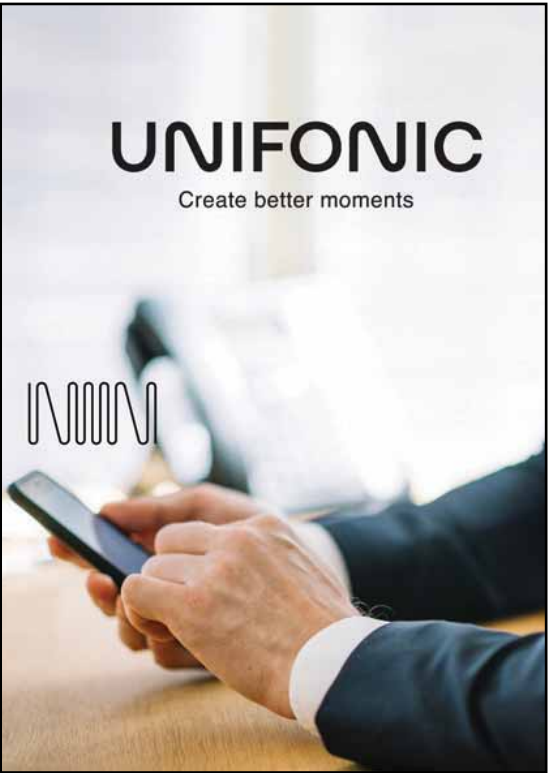
Unifonic raised USD140mn since establishment with the backing of region’s leading investors including Sanabil Investments, a PIF-owned investment company focused on private growth investments, Softbank, one of the largest technology investors globally, STV, SVC, Raed Ventures and others.

Dalal Jamal Al Shaya, Director of Private Equity at Kamco Invest said: “Our participation in this landmark investment underscores our confidence in Unifonic’s strong fundamentals, strategic vision, and exceptional management team. The company has evolved into a true regional technology champion, demonstrating impressive growth momentum supported by leading regional and international investors.”

This investment aligns with Kamco Invest’s strategy of offering its clients distinctive, high-value opportunities in the region’s most promising and fastest-growing sectors through investments in leading technology companies in the region with a planned, near-term IPO on local capital markets.

Co-Founder and CEO of Unifonic, **Ahmad Hamdan**, said: “We are delighted to see Kamco Invest amongst our esteemed list of shareholders as we keep working towards achieving our goals of becoming a unicorn ahead of our IPO in the next 24 months. We are grateful to our team members, clients, and existing shareholders for believing in us and their continuous support in helping Unifonic achieve its vision of becoming a prominent global player in customer engagement services. We look forward to the exciting journey ahead together.”

Al Shaya concluded, “This investment is a key step in our broader strategy to expand Kamco Invest’s presence in the regional technology ecosystem and build on our established tech initiatives in the US. It reflects our ongoing commitment to generating long-term value for our clients while capitalizing on the significant growth opportunities across the Gulf region’s dynamic markets.”



Unifonic



Zain Group HQ



Zain HQ Building

Revenue grows 15% YoY to KD 1.7 bln (USD 5.4 bln), a 16-year high; Net Profit soars 31% YoY to KD 178 mln (USD 581 mln)

Zain Group reports exceptional performance for 9M 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Zain Group, a leading provider of innovative ICT and digital lifestyle communications operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces its consolidated financial results for the thirdquarter (Q3) and nine-months (9M) periods ended 30 September 2025. The Group now serves 51.3million active customers, a 9% year-on-year (YoY) increase.

For 9M2025, Zain Group reported a 16-year high consolidated revenue of KD 1.7 billion (USD 5.4 billion), an increase of 15% YoY. Consolidated EBITDA reached KD 552 million (USD 1.8 billion), up 9% YoY, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 33%. Net income soared 31% YoY to KD 178 million (USD 581 million), while earnings per share (EPS) stood at 41 fils (USD 0.13).

Board declares 2nd interim cash dividend of 25 fils for year-to-date profits as of September 30, 2025

“As part of the Group’s commitment to the highest standards of transparency and financial compliance, the Board of Directors continues to review global accounting regulatory frameworks and is currently considering the possibility of implementing International Accounting Standard IAS 29 before the end of the current year.

Preliminary assessments indicate that the adoption of this standard is not expected to have a material impact on total shareholders’ equity, and that the impact on the financial results of the current year, 2025, is expected to be positive. This will be confirmed following the completion of the requirements and implementation of the accounting standard and retaining the option of presenting this matter to the General Assembly for approval.

Due to the robust results of the first nine months of 2025, that saw earnings per share reach an exceptional 41 fils, the Board of Directors has declared a second interim cash dividend of 25 fils per share for profits achieved for period ending September 30, 2025. Registered shareholders will receive payments on November 19. This second interim dividend comes in addition to the earlier interim dividend of 10 fils per share for the first half of 2025. With these two distributions, Zain Group has fulfilled its obligations related to the dividend distribution policy.

This advanced step reflects the strength of Zain Group’s financial position and high liquidity. It also highlights the successful execution of the 4WARD business strategy and leadership position across Zain’s markets.

This exceptional performance could not have been achieved without the confidence and support of our shareholders. The disciplined execution of our business strategy continued growth in core sectors, and expansion into new growth areas have placed the Group’s operations on a leading path that enhances competitiveness and establishes a new phase of financial and operational excellence.

We extend our gratitude to our shareholders for their continued trust, which has driven us to develop flexible business models that keep pace with developments, respond efficiently and effectively to market changes, and contribute to building sustainable value that translates into successive achievements. The Board remains confident in the Group’s ability to sustain this momentum, supported by sound governance, resilient operations, and disciplined financial management”.

In Q3 2025, Zain Group generated consolidated revenue of KD 582 million (USD 1.9 billion), an increase of 16% YoY. EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 196 million (USD 641 million), up 9% YoY, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 34%. Net income for the three-month period amounted to KD 57 million (USD 187 million), up 5% YoY, with earnings per share (EPS) of 13 fils (USD 0.04)

Key Operational Notes for Q3& 9M 2025

- Interim cash dividend of 10 fils per share, totaling KD 43.3 million (USD 141.5 million) was distributed to eligible shareholders on 3 September 2025 for the first half of the year
- Exceptional net profit growth in Sudan (+92%), Iraq (+21%), and KSA (+16%) during 9M 2025
- 9M 2025 data revenue grew 11% YoY to reach USD 2 billion, representing 37% of Group revenue
- Zain invested USD 699 million in CAPEX during 9M 2025, representing 13% of revenues
- Growth verticals delivered USD 562 million in revenue, representing a robust growth of 98% YoY
- Fintech services witness revenue growth of 57% for 9M 2025 powered by Taman and Zain Cash
- Groupwide enterprise revenue witnessed 9% growth YoY, as ZainTECH and B2B teams win key business and government accounts; ZainTECH revenue soared 74% YoY
- Groupwide digital services revenue growth of 5% YoY driven by increase in Sudan, Kuwait and Dizlee API
- Zain Omantel International (ZOI) records exceptional revenue growth of 172% YoY
- Digital operators ‘Yaqoot’ in KSA and ‘oodi’ in Iraq record impressive 9M revenue growth
- Operations in Kuwait, KSA, Bahrain and Jordan witness impressive growth in 5G revenues
- Zain Group’s MSCI rating for ESG upgraded to ‘A’
- Zain receives ‘Best Corporate Governance in Kuwait’ award from World Finance
- Zain KSA secures SAR 5.5 billion strategic refi-



Osamah Al Furaih, Zain Chairman



Bader Al-Kharafi, Group CEO

Leadership comments:

- Chairman, **Osamah Al Furaih**: “Our operations have shown great resilience to grow market share. Board focused on supporting management to execute key business strategies and ESG practices”
- Vice-Chairman & Group CEO, **Bader Al-Kharafi**: “Diligent implementation of the 4WARD strategy and AI initiatives is accelerating rollout of digital services, operational efficiencies

Key business highlights–Q3 and 9M 2025:

- Q3 2025 revenue up 16% YoY to reach KD 582 million (USD 1.9bn), Net Income up 5% to KD 57M(USD 187)
- Interim 10 fils dividend totalling KD 43.3m (USD 141.5m) distributed to shareholders on 3 September 2025
- Customer base grew 9% to reach 51.3m, driven by network restoration in Sudan and expansion in Iraq
- Data revenue grew 11% YoY to reach USD 2 billion, representing 37% of total Group revenue
- Exceptional net profit growth in Sudan (+92%), Iraq (+21%), and KSA (+16%) during 9M 2025
- Growth verticals delivered USD 562 million in revenue, representing a robust growth of 98% YoY
- Enterprise revenue grew 9%, as ZainTECH and local B2B teams win major clients
- ZainTECH revenue rose 74% YoY, supported by strategic global partnerships & expansion of portfolio services
- Zain Omantel International (ZOI) records remarkable revenue growth of 172% YoY
- 5G-Advanced services across Kuwait and KSA driving strong customer adoption
- Fintech revenues soared 57% YoY across multiple markets
- Group’s digital operators, Yaqoot in KSA and oodi in Iraq achieved robust revenue growth

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for the first nine months (9M) 2025		
Consolidated Revenue	KD 1.7 billion	- USD 5.4 billion
EBITDA	KD 552 million	- USD 1.8 billion
EBITDA Margin	33%	
Net Income	KD 178 million	- USD 581 million
EPS	41 fils	- USD 0.13

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for third quarter (Q3) 2025		
Consolidated Revenue	KD 582 million	- USD 1.9 billion
EBITDA	KD 196 million	- USD 641 Million
EBITDA Margin	34%	
Net Income	KD 57 million	- USD 187 million
EPS	13 fils	- USD 0.04

ancing agreement at favorable terms

15. Zain Great Idea (ZGI 2025) Accelerator program expands across the region

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group, Mr. **Osamah Al Furaih** said, “Our operations have shown great resilience to grow market share despite many competitive and socio-economic challenges they face. The Board is focused on supporting management execute key business strategies and ESG practices on the back of vast investments in technologies, digital infrastructure, new business verticals as well as in Sustainability related and customer experience initiatives. This collaborative effort has positioned Zain as the digital service operator of choice for consumers, enterprises, and government.”

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented, “Diligent implementation of the 4WARD strategy and AI initiatives is accelerating rollout of digital services, operational efficiencies and revenue growth across all aspects of the business. Our collaborative efforts have seen most of our operations all report robust year-on-year growth in their key financial metrics, as have our strategic business verticals, namely ZainTECH, Zain Omantel International (ZOI) and in our Fintech and Digital Services entities. These comprehensive efforts have resulted in Zain recording 16-year revenue highs for both the 3M and 9M periods.”

“Our recent ranking in Forbes “World’s Best Employers” list, whereby Zain ranked first in the regional Telecom sector, as well first in Kuwait and among top three employers in the Middle East, reflects how serious we are in taking responsible business action by building a thriving, inclusive and diverse workplace,

creating the workplace and world we all want. Beyond providing life-enriching digital services and embedding sustainability and meaningful connectivity in every aspect of our business, Zain is committed to fostering an ecosystem that drives systemic change across our footprint.”

“We were delighted to play a critical role in Kuwait setting a Guinness World Records title for the farthest intercontinental remote robotic surgery over 12,000 km. This global medical achievement, alongside national institutions reaffirms our leadership in driving digital transformation in the healthcare sector in Kuwait and beyond. This achievement is not only a world record, but also a serious step toward a thriving digital future in which we harness technology to serve people, from our markets to the world. It also reflects the purpose we have embraced at Zain to deliver ‘Lasting Connections and Better Lives.’”

“Zain Group’s MSCI rating for ESG upgrading to ‘A’ also reflects the success of our transformative ‘4WARD-Progress with Purpose’ strategy in driving the company’s sustainability, corporate governance and ethical leadership agenda to new heights. This upgrade reaffirms the success of the company’s focus on innovation and responsibility, powered by a resilient, sustainable and data-powered ecosystem.”

“With the aim of enhancing the purpose of innovation, we expanded the Zain Great Idea (ZGI) Accelerator program expands across the region, from Kuwait to now include Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and UAE. Expanding ZGI across our footprint, powered by Zain Ventures and ZainTECH, is a natural evolution of our commitment to nurturing regional talent and driving meaningful change.”

“The fifth consecutive award of receiving the ‘Best Corporate Governance in Kuwait’ award from World Finance reflects the depth and consistency of our ethical, compliant and transparent standards providing stakeholders, including investors, with the confidence that the company is being run in a compliant and transparent manner. Solid corporate governance is the backbone to our strategy and regional appeal in driving continued growth and success, that has attracted ongoing praise and admiration from shareholders, industry analysts, and regulatory authorities.”

Operational review of key markets for the Q3&9M period ended 30 September, 2025

Kuwait: Zain Group’s flagship and most profitable operation maintained its market leadership, serving a customer base of 2.6 million. Q3 2025 revenue increased 5% YoY to KD 99 million (USD 323 million), while EBITDA reached KD 34.5 million (USD 113 million), reflecting an EBITDA margin of 35%. Q3 net income reached KD 20 million (USD 64 million) while 9M 2025 net income stood at KD 60 million (USD 196 million). Data revenue grew 4% YoY, representing 36% of total revenue. Continued investment in 5G-Advanced networks, coupled with enhanced customer experience, AI and monetization initiatives across individual, enterprise, and government segments, remain key drivers of growth.

Saudi Arabia: Revenue for Q3 2025 grew 6% YoY to reach USD 733 million, with EBITDA growing 0.3% to reach USD 229 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 31%. Net income for Q3 increased 2% to reach USD 41 million and 9M 2025 Net Income increased 16% to reach USD 99 million. The operator’s 5G network, now covering 90 cities and 67% of the country, drove a 4% increase in data revenue, representing 40% of total revenue in 9M 2025, while customer base stood at 8.6 million. The launch of device sales by Yaqoot through online platform partners alongside key AI and monetization initiatives in Zain KSA were instrumental in accelerating customer growth and boosting revenues, while enhancements to its Fintech entity, Tamam, strengthened the platform’s performance, resulting in higher loan approvals and volumes resulting in a 23% YoY increase in revenue.

Iraq: Zain Iraq recorded revenues of USD 342 million in Q3 2025, marking a 20% year-on-year increase, with nine-month revenues reaching USD 942 million, up 18% from 2024. Zain Iraq’s customer base increased 5% year-on-year to reach 20.4 million, maintaining its market leading position. EBITDA grew 7% to USD 129 million with a 38% margin, while net profit rose 19% to USD 47 million in Q3 and 21% to USD 113 million for the nine-month period.

Sudan: Revenue for Q3 2025 soared 147% YoY, to reach USD 143 million, EBITDA soared 262% reaching USD 82 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 57%. Q3 Net income surged by 77% to reach USD 59 million while 9M 2025 net income increased 92% to reach USD 171 million. Customer base expanded by 39% YoY, reaching 12.2 million. Stabilization of situation in Khartoum and several other major population centers marked a pivotal turning point for the operation. The restoration of over 650 sites and upgrade of 315 sites to 4G have enabled the return of approximately 7 million customers to the network. This combined with the ongoing monetization initiatives boosted commercial activity and revenue growth.

Jordan: Q3 2025 revenue grew 8% YoY to reach USD 152 million, with EBITDA for Q3 up 3% to reach USD 58 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 38%. Net income for Q3 stood at USD 20 million while 9M 2025 net income stood at USD 59 million with growth of 7%. The ongoing expansion of 5G, FTTH and 4G services across the country led to data revenue growth of 14% for 9M 2025, which now represents 54% of total revenue. Zain Jordan served 4.3 million customers, up 1%, maintaining its market leadership.

Bahrain: Revenue for Q3 2025 grew 3% YoY to reach USD 52 million, with EBITDA reaching USD 16 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 31%. Q3 net income increased 1% to reach USD 4.4 million and 9M2025 net income increased 3% to USD 11 million. 9M2025 data revenue grew 5% to represent 46% of total revenue.

About Zain Group: Zain is a leading provider of innovative ICT and digital lifestyle communications across the Middle East and Africa, serving 51.3 million active customers as of 30 September 2025. With a commercial presence in 8 countries, Zain provides mobile voice and data services in: Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. Headquartered in UAE, ZainTECH, the Group’s one-stop digital and ICT solutions provider, is playing a key role in the transformation of enterprise and government clientele across the MENA region. Also, UAE based, Zain Omantel International (ZOI) is revolutionizing the international telecommunications wholesale landscape as the premier wholesale powerhouse serving regional operators, international carriers, and global hyper scalars. In Morocco, Zain has a 15.5% stake in ‘INWI’, through a joint venture. Zain is listed on the Boursa Kuwait (stock ticker: ZAIN). We recommend the Investor Community to download the “Zain Group Investor Relations” Mobile App. For more, please email info@zain.com or visit: www.zain.com; www.facebook.com/zain; www.twitter.com/zain; www.youtube.com/zain; www.instagram.com/zaingroup; www.linkedin.com/company/zain

Gulf Bank records KD 38.4 mln in net profit for the first nine months of 2025 with a 19.4% year-on-year growth in third quarter net profit

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Gulf Bank K.S.C.P. announced its financial results for the first nine months ending 30 September 2025. The Bank reported a net profit of KD 38.4 million for the first nine months of 2025, a slight decline of KD 1.8 million or 5% when compared to 2024 first nine months net profit of KD 40.2 million.

Additionally, Gulf Bank recorded an operating income of KD 140.5 million for the first nine months of 2025, representing a decline of 4% compared to the same period of last year. Moreover, operating profit before provisions and impairments was KD 69.0 million, representing a decline of 12% compared to the first nine months of 2024.

For the third quarter ending 30 September 2025, Gulf Bank reported a net profit of KD 14.3 million, reflecting a year-on-year increase of KD 2.3 million or 19.4%.

Financial Performance

The decline in net profit for the first nine months of 2025 is attributed to the decline in net interest income of KD 8.0 million or 6.8%, coupled with an increase in operating expenses of KD 4.1 million or 6.1%, compared to the same period of 2024. However, these declines were partially offset by an enhancement in non-interest income of KD 2.5 million or 8.7%, and the improvement in total provisions and impairments, which declined by KD 7.7 million or 21.1% year-on-year, reaching KD 28.8 million for the first nine months of 2025.

As for asset quality, the non-performing loans (NPL) ratio was 1.4% as of 30 September 2025, compared to the prior year level of 1.3%. Additionally, the Bank continues to have significant non-performing loans coverage ratio of 324% including total provisions and collaterals.

Total credit provisions as of 30 September 2025 reached KD 271 million whereas IFRS 9 accounting requirements (i.e., ECL or expected credit losses) were KD 172 million. As a result, the Bank has a healthy excess provision level of KD 99 million, above and beyond what is required by IFRS 9 accounting requirements.

Compared to 31 December 2024, total assets increased by 1.5% to KD 7.6 billion, whereas net loans and advances increased by 4.1% to KD 5.7 billion. On the other hand, total deposits stood at KD 5.6 billion and total Shareholders' equity reached KD 839 million.

The Bank's regulatory Tier 1 ratio of 14.3% was 2.3% above the regulatory minimum of 12% and the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 16.4% was 2.4% above the regulatory minimum of 14%.

Steady Progress

Commenting on the financial results for the first nine months of 2025, Gulf Bank Chairman Mr. Ahmad Mohammad Al-Bahar stated: "Gulf Bank's performance over the first nine months of the year demonstrates continued progress in strengthening the Bank's financial position. This was driven by steady loan growth, stable asset quality, and a robust capital base."

He continued: "The broader operating environment in Kuwait has become more favorable. The Central



Ahmad Mohammad Al-Bahar:

- Gulf Bank's performance demonstrates continued progress in strengthening the Bank's financial position, driven by steady loan growth, stable asset quality, and a robust capital base.
- We are making excellent progress on our transformation journey toward becoming a Sharia-compliant institution and have commenced work in alignment with the regulatory framework.
- We enter the final quarter of 2025 with a focus on advancing our strategic transformation and maintaining operational excellence.



Sami Mahfouz:

- We have successfully capitalized on emerging opportunities to drive steady loan growth through our strategic focus and deep-rooted client relationships.
- Customer centricity remains at the heart of Gulf Bank's strategy, driving continuous enhancement of our digital capabilities and cybersecurity framework.
- Our talent development programs are equipping employees with the knowledge and skills required for the transition to a Sharia-compliant bank.

Bank of Kuwait's recent decision to lower the discount rate to 3.75%, following the Federal Reserve's 25-basis-point interest rate cut, is expected to foster a more supportive climate for credit expansion and stimulate business activity. Furthermore, Kuwait's successful return to global debt markets with an issuance of a US \$11.25 billion sovereign bond was met with a very strong investor demand. This achievement, combined with the positive momentum generated by national development projects, is set to further enhance credit conditions and bolster business confidence in the local economy."

He added: "Alongside this strong back drop, we are making excellent progress on our transformation journey toward becoming a Sharia-compliant institution. Following the most recent Central Bank of Kuwait's preliminary approval to begin Sharia-compliant con-

version activities, we have commenced detailed work in alignment with the regulatory framework. The Bank continues to coordinate closely with the Central Bank of Kuwait and relevant stakeholders to ensure a smooth and compliant transition, while maintaining business continuity and customer service excellence."

Mr. Al-Bahar concluded: "We enter the final quarter of 2025 with a focus on advancing our strategic transformation, sustaining healthy loan growth, and maintaining operational excellence. On behalf of the Board, I thank our shareholders, employees, and customers for their continued trust. I also extend our appreciation to the Central Bank of Kuwait and the regulatory authorities for their ongoing guidance."

Operational Discipline

Gulf Bank Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sami

Mahfouz, stated: "Through our strategic focus and deep-rooted client relationships, we have successfully capitalized on emerging opportunities to drive steady growth. As a result, our loan book has expanded by 4.1% year-to-date, reaching KD 5.7 billion for the third quarter of 2025. This growth has been primarily driven by a strong client demand and our balanced approach to credit origination."

Mr. Mahfouz added: "Customer centricity remains at the heart of Gulf Bank's strategy, driving continuous enhancement of our digital capabilities and cybersecurity framework."

Turning to the Bank's upcoming Islamic conversion, he added: "As we prepare for our conversion to a Sharia-compliant institution, we are focused on building internal readiness across all levels of the organization. Our talent development programs are equipping employees with the knowledge and skills required for the transition, while we work closely with leading technology partners to ensure systems compatibility and readiness in line with the Central Bank of Kuwait's requirements."

Strategic Merger Track

Gulf Bank continues its strategic evaluation of a potential merger with Warba Bank. During the quarter, Gulf Bank appointed independent financial and legal advisors to conduct a detailed review and assessment under the supervision of the Board of Directors and relevant regulators. Any future developments will be announced in accordance with disclosure requirements.

Recognitions

Gulf Bank's achievements during the year were recognized through several international awards that highlighted its progress in digital innovation and sustainability. Moreover, Gulf Bank's credit ratings remain among the strongest in the domestic banking sector, reaffirming its solid financial position, strong capitalization, and prudent risk management. Fitch Ratings assigned a Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) of 'A' with a Stable Outlook, while Moody's rated long-term deposits at 'A3' with a Stable Outlook. Capital Intelligence affirmed a Long-Term Foreign Currency rating for the Bank of 'A+' with a Stable Outlook, further highlighting the Gulf Bank's stability and disciplined risk governance.

Key Financial indicators for the first nine months of 2025:

1. First nine months 2025 net profit of KD 38.4 million.
2. First nine months 2025 operating income of KD 140.5 million.
3. Net loans and advances grew by 4.1% year-to-date to reach KD 5.7 billion.
4. Non-performing loan ratio as of 30 September 2025 was 1.4%, with a significant non-performance loan coverage ratio of 324% including total provisions and collaterals.
5. Capital ratios as of 30 September 2025, Tier 1 ratio was 14.3% and Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) was 16.4%, both above regulatory minimum requirements.

Reaffirming its commitment to diversification and making Kuwait a global financial hub

Markaz concludes participation in Kuwait Banking Association's conference in Washington



Markaz delegates at KBA event.



KBA event – panelists



KBA event – Mr. Ali Khalil panel

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" concluded its sponsorship and participation in the "Kuwait – The Beacon of a New Era: Foundations for Economic Transformation" forum, organized by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) at the George Washington University's Jack Morton Auditorium in Washington, D.C., on October 14, 2025. The event coincided with the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG). Markaz was represented by Mr. Ali H. Khalil, Chief Executive Officer of Markaz, alongside a distinguished delegation from the company's Wealth Management and International Real Estate teams, represented by Mr. Abdullatif W. Al-Nusif, MD, Wealth Management and Business Development, and Mr. Sami Shabshab, President of Mar-Gulf Management Inc, the real estate arm of Markaz in the US.

Markaz's sponsorship of the forum reflects its commitment to its corporate social responsibility strategy and its continuous efforts to solidify Kuwait's position as a regional and international financial hub. Through these endeavors, the company seeks to align Kuwait's business environment with global governance standards by facilitating the exchange of expertise among financial and policy leaders and by adopting best business practices to enhance competitiveness.

During the event, Mr. Khalil participated in a panel discussion titled "Foundations for a New Era," where he discussed pathways to realize "New Kuwait 2035" vision, and the challenges involved in reallocating resources and creating an enabling environment for private sector investment. He emphasized that Kuwait's advanced economic ecosystem has created a deep and active financial market that

successfully attracted foreign investors, resulting in a significant reduction in the cost of funding and thereby stimulating foreign investment in Kuwait.

Mr. Khalil commended the efforts of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) in developing the stock market in Kuwait, and praised Boursa Kuwait and the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) for creating an attractive and sustainable investment environment, and praised the vital role played by the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) since its establishment in facilitating business operations and enabling full foreign ownership within a clear legal framework that encourages international joint investments through an appealing tax regime and efficient, fair dispute resolution mechanisms.

He also underscored the importance of adopting Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, explaining that awareness and integration of ESG practices generate both direct and indirect benefits that create long-term added value through innovation and creativity. Mr. Khalil further highlighted the importance of investing in human capital in Kuwait, referring to Markaz's Graduate Development Program (MGDP), which is renowned for cultivating national talent and preparing young professionals for the financial and investment sectors.

He added that this integrated environment has enabled Kuwaiti banks to issue bonds with competitive yields comparable to global benchmarks in attracting foreign investment, reflecting the positive role of the Central Bank of Kuwait in effective supervision and the implementation of sound regulatory frameworks.

Mr. Khalil noted the increasing prevalence of digital investment platforms in recent years, providing Kuwaiti investors with opportunities to build glob-

ally diversified portfolios at lower costs. He added that demand is expected to accelerate with the growing proportion of the young population, emphasizing the importance of market regulation and investor protection frameworks in an open and digitally interconnected world facing cybersecurity challenges. He also highlighted that cross-border Gulf integration represents a significant opportunity in this context.

Moreover, Mr. Khalil stated that the private sector possesses the flexibility and capacity to contribute to achieving national development aspirations. Through innovative financial instruments, governments can create investment-friendly environments that encourage private capital to enter new sectors such as digital and logistics services. In this context, Markaz has played a central role, from launching Kuwait's first investment and real estate funds, to pioneering bond and sukuk programs, and supporting the development of the domestic debt market.

On the sidelines of the conference, Markaz's delegation attended a reception hosted by the Kuwait Banking Association for major banking and financial leaders under the patronage of H.E. Basel Ahmad Al Haroun, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait. Among the attendees were H.E. Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Abdul Mohsen Al-Mukhaizeem, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Acting Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs & Investment; and H.E. Jassem Mohamed AlBudaiwi, Secretary General of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), as well as central bank governors from Arab countries, senior executives from the financial and banking sectors, and other prominent figures from around the world.

Retail Banking GM highlights ABK's commitment to supporting youth and education

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait promotes A+ Student Account at AUK

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: As part of its ongoing efforts to engage with the student community and raise awareness of its range of banking solutions, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) participated at the American University in Kuwait (AUK). The participation aimed to introduce students to ABK's banking products, offers, and services designed to provide them with a seamless and rewarding banking experience, positioning the Bank as their preferred financial partner.

Students interacted with the Bank's representatives to learn more about the A+ Student Account and its newly enhanced features. The team provided detailed explanations of the account's exclusive benefits, which have been tailored to meet the needs of students and young customers.

On this occasion, **Johair Marafi**, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, stated: "Our presence at the American University

in Kuwait allows us to gain deeper insights into the needs of youth and students, enabling us to develop innovative promotional campaigns, products, and banking solutions that meet their aspirations in the coming period."

Marafi emphasized that supporting students and the education sector in Kuwait represents a key priority for ABK, highlighting the Bank's ongoing collaboration with a wide range of universities and educational institutions across the country. This comes as part of ABK's commitment to its role as a responsible financial institution dedicated to contributing to the growth of the education sector and serving the needs of the student community.

She concluded by inviting everyone to visit ABK's official website and social media channels, as well as its branches across Kuwait, to learn more about the Bank's wide range of campaigns, solutions, and banking products designed to cater to the needs of various customer segments in the local market.

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 and financial services in the Egyptian market network of 46 branches.



Johair Marafi

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.



ABK pavilion at AUK.

KUWAIT 2025

AVIATION SAFETY FORUM

Uniting for Excellence in Aviation Safety

Hosted by Jazeera Airways
 Crowne Plaza Hotel Al Thuraaya City, Kuwait, Al-Baraka Ballroom
 28 October 2025 | 08:00 – 16:00

12:00 - 12:20 | Strengthening Global Airworthiness through Collaboration, Awareness and Talent Development
Mr. Haydar Yaglin - Vice President, Middle East, International Federation of Airworthiness

- IFA's mission and regulatory engagement
- Knowledge sharing, NGAP, and collaboration opportunities

12:20 – 12:45 | Cyber Security in Aviation
Engr. Fahad Sh. Alinzi - Civi Aviation Security Director, Kuwait DGCA

- Current threat landscape
- Risk management & mitigation

13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00 - 14:20 | Interactive Safety Quiz
 Live mobile participation

14:30 – 15:30 | Operating in Conflict Zones: Lessons Learned and Future Preparedness & Airspace Risk Management and Overflight Safety
Airlines and Authorities moderated by Gavin Rosenberg

- Case studies: Gulf War, Iraq/Syria airspace, Yemen conflict, Ukraine/Russia – Qatar Airways, Kuwait Airways, Jazeera Airways.
- How air lines balanced safety with commercial and humanitarian needs
- Role of ICAO conflict zone bulletins (CZBs), EAS/FAA advisories, and DGCA directives.
- Middle East is at crossroads, many carriers must overfly regions of risk (Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen)
- Risk assessment frameworks (threat intelligence, NOTAMS, satellite monitoring)
- Anchor topic "From reactive reroutes to predictive risk management"

15:30 – 16:00 | Closing Remarks & Key Takeaways

- Safety Awards Ceremony
- Group Photo

• The recommended accommodation is the Holiday Inn Al Thuraaya City Hotel, conveniently located within the event grounds. A special discounted rate of FO 20 per room per night has been arranged exclusively for forum attendees. Promo codes will be provided to guests. Air/transport will provide on request (Contact: +962 972 00 363).

• For any requests or questions, please feel free to contact us at safetyforum@jazeeraairways.com

The Economist Roadshow continues to serve as a platform where global insight meets local opportunity, helping clients and partners navigate change, anticipate market shifts, and identify new pathways for sustainable growth.



Judd Apatow arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party on Sunday, March 2, 2025, in Beverly Hills, Calif. (AP)

‘Comedy Nerd’

Apatow shares his hoarded memories

NEW YORK, Oct 28, (AP): Judd Apatow likes to keep stuff. He even goes as far as to say he’s a hoarder. But unlike a regular hoarder, he insists all the things he keeps are awesome - and neatly collected.

“I save everything, but I don’t have it in a mound in the middle of the house,” the writer-director says. “I’m the Felix Unger of hoarding. Everything is taken care of very well.”

Fans of Apatow - and fans of comedy in general - get the benefit of this personality quirk with the Tuesday publication of “Comedy Nerd,” a bulging, 570-page, photo-filled memoir from every chapter of his storied career.

It’s packed with behind-the-scenes snapshots from sets, script fragments, notes from network bosses, essays, movie posters and miniprofiles of his fellow comedians. There’s his late-night ideas for “Knocked Up” typed into a BlackBerry and a photo of Adam Sandler’s old fake ID.

“I feel like just making this book justifies the hoarding,” Apatow says with a laugh. “I did save it for a reason. I wasn’t wrong to not throw out my photograph of Billie Jean King from when I was 10 years old.”

The producer, director and writer behind the movies “This is 40- and “The 40-Year-Old-Virgin,” was inspired to make the book from similar memorabilia-filled offerings from the Marx Brothers and “Saturday Night Live.”

He spent a year going through his photos - 400,000 of them - keepsakes and clippings, then scanned everything into his computer and laid out the entire book in a raw way. He spent the next year writing essays and captions.

“The idea was that the experience of looking at the book would be as if I was over your shoulder explaining what things were and telling you stories,” he says.

Reminder

Apatow includes memos he got from network standards - “Just a reminder that Ben’s gyrating dance not be sexual,” one reads about “The Ben Stiller Show” - as well as Garry Shandling’s note-filled revision to a script from “The Larry Sanders Show” and a page from an unproduced screenplay written by Owen Wilson. Apatow reveals Paul Rudd had a pretty funny but lost cameo from “Bridesmaids.”

He includes the increasingly snarky email exchanges in 2001 between him and writer Mark Brazill beefing over a long forgotten comedy sketch, and there’s an alternate initial setup for “Anchorman” - a group of anchors on a plane crash into a snowy mountain that becomes a parody of the movie “Alive.”

Andy Ward, Apatow’s editor and executive vice president and publisher of Random House, said it was a book only Apatow could make - he being a visual thinker, a loving collector and a comedy obsessive.

“There’s a photographic element to this. There’s a sort of scrapbook-found object element. There’s advice in it about a life in comedy,” says Ward. “If you know him at all, it is very true to who he is and I think how he approaches what he does.”

Apatow is even not afraid to show times where he was foolish. “I think a lot about all the people I got a chance to collaborate with and how magical a bunch of those times were. So I’m very happy to also show where I was an idiot or awful because that is part of the journey,” he says.

There are pages dedicated to TV shows that never got made, like “North Hollywood,” about three friends trying to break into show business that would have starred Amy Poehler, Kevin Hart, Jason Segel, January Jones and Judge Reinhold.

It seemed fun, at least judging from the photos at a party during the shooting of the pilot that shows folks getting stoned. “Do people want me to show the photos of them smoking enormous joints in the year 2002?” asks Apatow. The answer is yes.

Failures litter the pages of “Comedy Nerd” despite the author’s bankable instincts, which have given us “Freaks and Geeks” and “Girls” on TV and the Oscar-nominated films “Bridesmaids” and “The Big Sick.”



Elle Fanning poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film ‘Predator Badlands’ in London, England, on Monday, Oct. 27. (AP)

‘The Lost King’ filmmakers pay damages for misrepresentation

Producers settle libel suit over King Richard III movie

LONDON, Oct 28, (AP): It was a true story stranger than fiction: The body of England’s King Richard III, missing for centuries, was discovered under a parking lot after a search spearheaded by amateur sleuths.

Now a movie about the saga has been accused of stretching the truth too far.

The producers of “The Lost King” on Monday agreed to pay damages to an academic who sued for libel over his on-screen depiction.

Richard Taylor said he suffered “enormous distress and embarrassment” because of the 2022 film, which centers on amateur historian Philippa Langley’s quest to find the king’s remains despite what the movie depicts as indifference and condescension from the academic world.

A judge at a preliminary hearing last year said the film portrayed Taylor, the former deputy registrar at the University of Leicester, as “smug, unduly dismissive and patronizing.”

The case had been due to go to a full trial, but on Monday a lawyer for Taylor announced that the dispute had been settled. Attorney William Bennett said the defendants - actor-writer Steve Coogan, Coogan’s production company

Baby Cow and Pathé Productions - had agreed to pay Taylor “substantial damages” and legal costs. The amount was not disclosed.

The defendants said they would also add an on-screen clarification at the start of the film stating that the depiction is “fictional and does not represent the actions of the real Mr. Taylor.”

Taylor, who is now chief operating officer at Loughborough University, said the settlement was vindication after “a long and grueling battle.”

“There have been moments over the last three years when I thought, when Philippa Langley approached me for the university’s support, I perhaps should have put the request in the bin,” he said. “But I didn’t, and I think I was right not to do that.”

Coogan, who co-wrote “The Lost King” and played Langley’s ex-husband, insisted that “this film is a true story, Philippa Langley’s story. That is the story I wanted to tell, and I am happy I did.

“If it wasn’t for Philippa Langley, Richard III would still be lying under a car park in Leicester,” Coogan said. “It is her name that will be remembered in relation to the discov-

ery of the lost king, long after Richard Taylor has faded into obscurity.”

University of Leicester archaeologists worked with Langley in 2012 to locate Richard’s skeleton in the city in central England, more than five centuries after he was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, the last act of a civil conflict known as the Wars of the Roses.

The victor took the throne as King Henry VII, and under the Tudor dynasty he founded, Richard was vilified. William Shakespeare depicted him as an evil, hunchbacked usurper who murdered his two young nephews because they were rivals for the crown.

Some historians, including Langley, believe Richard was unfairly maligned, arguing that he was a relatively enlightened monarch whose short reign between 1483 and 1485 saw reforms including the introduction of the right to bail and the lifting of restrictions on books and printing presses.

Scientists from the University of Leicester worked to confirm the remains belonged to the medieval king, and in 2015 Richard was reburied with royal ceremony in a tomb at Leicester Cathedral.

Music



Demi Lovato performs during the 39th Annual Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Cleveland on Oct. 19, 2024. (AP)

Singer lets loose on ‘It’s Not That Deep’

Lovato celebrates life’s joy on new album

LOS ANGELES, Oct 28, (AP): On her ninth studio album, Demi Lovato has had a revelation: “It’s Not That Deep.”

It’s the title of her energetic dance-pop record, and a celebration of life’s joys and messiness - all of which appear across its 11 tracks.

“I’ve put so much energy and so much love into this album,” Lovato told The Associated Press at rehearsals for a special One Night Only event at the Palladium in Los Angeles last week. “I just couldn’t be more excited.”

Next spring, she’ll tour the album, hitting 23 cities across North America. The “It’s Not That Deep” Tour kicks off April 8 at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, and concludes May 25 at the Toyota Center in Houston.

Lovato will hit Orlando, Florida; Atlanta; Nashville; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia; Toronto; Boston; New York; Columbus, Ohio; Detroit; Chicago; Minneapolis; Denver; Las Vegas; Anaheim, California; San Francisco; Seattle; Los Angeles; Glendale, Arizona; Dallas and Austin, Texas.

Artist presale begins Thursday at 10 a.m. local time. General sales begin Friday.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Lovato discussed her new album, her penchant for musical transformation and her forthcoming tour.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. **AP:** You’ve said this new album, this new era, is a celebration of your journey. You’re embracing the old, new, good, bad — from coming out on stage with the Jonas Brothers and singing “Camp Rock” stuff to the Poot meme. Are you reclaiming it?

Lovato: I think it’s a bit of owning it. ... I guess I didn’t realize that I’ve done iconic things. And if they are cringe to some people, they’re fun to me. ... I think it’s, like,

making peace with my past. ... I’ve made peace with my journey and now I’m celebrating where I am at today.

For instance: The Poot meme, when it first happened, I didn’t realize it was photoshopped. I thought it was a bad angle of me. So, I like was really self-conscious about that meme and was like, “Oh my God, like, I can’t believe people are laughing at a bad angle of me,” and then I realized it was photoshopped and I was like “Wait, this is actually hilarious.” ... Life is too short to take yourself too seriously, and I’m definitely not doing that anymore.

AP: That’s refreshing to hear a pop star say. When you let go of those feelings, what does it unlock for you creatively?

Lovato: I think there’s something about your 30s, too, where you just take a second, and you are able to let go of some of the pressures that you once put on yourself, maybe in your 20s. And now I’m 33, and I’m not taking myself so seriously because I realize there’s room for everyone.

Creatively, what it unlocks for me is spontaneity and taking risks and having fun and cherishing the moments. ... “Kiss,” for instance, it’s not the most intellectually stimulating song. It’s a simple party, fun song, and it’s sexy. And it’s like, that’s what it is. And I think so much of my past was, like, “I want to try and write, you know, deeply emotional songs about my past” and with this album, I was like, “I’m in a place where I’m having fun. I want my lyrics to reflect that, too.”

AP: That’s evident in the music — the party energy and the lyrical content. And there’s a duality.

Lovato: It was exactly what I was hoping for. There’s songs like “Sorry to Myself,” too, which is another party moment but has a really powerful message. And it also bridges the gap between my old music and my music today, lyrically, where it is a bit emotional.

Baghdad and countless unprotected archaeological sites across the country.

According to statistics from the Iraqi Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, more than 40,000 artifacts smuggled abroad have been recovered since 2003, including more than 17,000 pieces recovered from the United States. (Xinhua)

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CANBERRA: Social media companies TikTok, Meta and Snap told the Australian parliament on Tuesday that they will comply with the nation’s world-first social media ban for under-16s.

Under laws passed by the Australian government in 2024, children younger than 16 will be blocked from holding accounts on social media platforms from Dec. 10, 2025.

Addressing a senate inquiry on Tuesday, executives from TikTok parent company ByteDance, Snapchat owner Snap and Meta, parent company of Facebook and Instagram, said they would comply with the ban and start deactivating children’s accounts once the law takes effect.

Jennifer Stout, Snap’s senior vice president of global policy, told the inquiry via video link that the company would comply despite its opposition to the law. (Xinhua)

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NEW YORK: The brother of designer Kenneth Cole says

he was vindicated on Monday by a federal appeals court’s decision to overturn his criminal fraud conviction.

Neil Cole said he’s been fighting over a decade to clear his name after federal authorities claimed that he committed securities fraud while running Iconix Brand Group Inc., the company he founded that partnered with some big names in the entertainment world, including Madonna, Jay-Z and Pharrell Williams.

“It’s wonderful,” Cole said in a telephone interview about the written decision by the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan.

Cole said one of the first people he spoke with after the appeals court ruled was New York City mayoral candidate Andrew Cuomo, whose sister is married to Kenneth Cole.

“I was really hoping to work with Andrew on the mayoral campaign,” Cole said, though he kept his distance from the former governor, a Democrat, before the appeals court tossed his conviction.

Cole described what the government had put him through and the pressure on his friends over the last 11 years as “really horrible.”

“I lost so many friends. It was kind of me also just pulling back. I got divorced,” he said. “Everyone was basically uncomfortable talking to me.”

But he said his world was already brightening, with 100 text messages sent his way, many from “people I haven’t heard from in years.” (AP)

Nearly 23% of US population living with mental illness

Investing in employee mental health benefits everyone

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

By Julie Wolfe

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Mental health challenges can affect anyone, regardless of background or circumstance, and they are becoming more common across the United States.

In 2022, a national survey found that about 60 million American adults - approximately 23% of the US adult population - were living with a mental illness, defined as a diagnosable mental, emotional or behavioral disorder.

This translates to a nearly 37% increase over the past decade.

These conditions can have a profound and lasting effect on patients' lives, including their ability to engage meaningfully and sustainably in the workforce.

Globally, depression and anxiety are estimated to lead to 12 billion lost working days annually, costing an estimated US\$1 trillion per year in lost productivity worldwide and \$47 billion in the United States.

I am a medical director and practicing psychiatrist. I work with graduate students, residents, faculty and staff on a health science campus, supporting their mental health - including when it intersects with challenges in the workplace.

I often meet with patients who feel unsure about how to approach conversations with their schools, programs or employers regarding their mental health, especially when it involves taking time off for care. This uncertainty can lead to delays in treatment, even when it's truly needed.

Anxiety and depression are the most common mental

health conditions in the US. Nineteen percent of American adults suffer from an anxiety disorder, and more than 15% have depression.

Meanwhile, about 11% of Americans experience other conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, commonly known as PTSD, bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder or obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Rates of anxiety and depression increased worldwide during the COVID-19 pandemic. But one positive consequence of the pandemic is that talking about mental health has become more normalized and less stigmatized, including in the workplace.

For those with mental illness, the traditional expectation of maintaining a strict separation between personal and professional life is not only unrealistic, it may even be detrimental. The effect of mental illness on a person's work varies depending on the type, severity and duration of their symptoms.

For instance, severe depression can affect basic self-care, making it difficult to complete tasks such as bathing, eating or even getting out of bed. Severe anxiety can also be profoundly debilitating and limit a person's ability to leave the house due to intense fear or panic. The symptoms of such severe mental illness may make it difficult even to show up to work.

On the other hand, someone struggling with mild depression or anxiety may have a hard time initiating or completing tasks that they would typically manage with ease and find it difficult to interact with colleagues. Both depression and anxiety may affect sleep, which can contribute to cognitive lapses and increased fatigue during the work day.

Someone with PTSD may find that certain environments remind them of traumatic experiences, making it difficult to fully engage in their work. And a person experiencing a

manic episode related to bipolar disorder might need to take time away from work entirely to focus on their stabilization and recovery.

Identifying a trusted colleague, supervisor or human resources representative can be an important first step in managing your mental health at work. While selecting the right person to confide in may be challenging, especially given the vulnerability associated with disclosing mental health concerns, doing so can open pathways to appropriate resources and tailored support services.

For instance, it might encourage an employer to consider offering access to free or low-cost mental health care if it's not already available, or to provide flexible scheduling that makes it easier for employees to get mental health treatment.

It's also important to be aware of changes in your mental health. The earlier you can recognize signs of decline, the sooner you can get the support that you need, which might prevent symptoms from worsening.

On the other hand, sharing sensitive information with someone who is not equipped to respond appropriately could lead to unintended consequences, such as workplace gossip, unmet expectations and increased frustration due to perceived lack of support. However, even if your supervisor or manager is not understanding, that doesn't change the fact that you have rights in the workplace.

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides critical protections for individuals with disabilities in the workplace. Under the act, it is unlawful for employers to discriminate against qualified individuals based on a disability.

The law also requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations so that people who qualify are able to participate fully in the workplace provided that they do not impose undue burden on the place of employment.

There are many reasonable accommodations for workers with mental illness. These can include protected time to attend mental health appointments and flexibility in work schedules and workplace.

For instance, if your job allows for it, working from home can be helpful. If your job requires being on site, a private work space is another reasonable accommodation. Someone with anxiety might find that working in a quiet, private space helps reduce distractions that trigger their symptoms, making it easier for them to stay focused and get things done.

Other possible accommodations include providing sick leave or flexible vacation time to use for mental health days or appointments, or allowing an employee to take breaks according to their individual needs rather than a fixed schedule. Employers can also provide support by offering equipment or technology such as white noise machines or dictation software.

An organization's commitment to supporting employee mental health can play a large role in shaping how well employees perform at work - and, ultimately, the organization's success.

Relying on individual employees to manage their mental health is not a sustainable long-term strategy for employers and may lead to significant workplace disruptions, such as more missed work days and lower productivity.

Studies show that when employers lead targeted initiatives promoting mental health, overall workplace functioning and resilience improve. These initiatives might include educating employees on mental health, providing accessible care, helping employees have better work-life balance and designing supportive workplace policies for those who are struggling. These steps help reduce stigma and signal to employees that it's safe to seek support. (AP)



People walk on a street enveloped in smog, in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, Oct. 28. (AP)

Heavy smog chokes New Delhi

India tests cloud seeding to tackle toxic air

NEW DELHI, Oct 28, (AP): Indian authorities on Tuesday carried out a cloud-seeding experiment over smog-choked New Delhi in an attempt to induce rainfall and clear the city's toxic air, which has sparked anger among residents.

A plane sprayed chemicals into clouds over some areas of the Indian capital to encourage rain and wash pollutants from the air, which remained in the "very poor" category, according to air quality monitors.

Cloud seeding - a weather modification method that releases chemicals into clouds to trigger rain - has been used in drought-prone regions, such as the western United States and the United Arab Emirates, though experts say its effectiveness remains uncertain.

Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sir-

sa said that the trial was done in collaboration with the government's Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, with more planned in the coming days. He said that authorities were expecting a brief spell of rainfall in some parts of the city in the following hours.

New Delhi and its surrounding region, home to more than 30 million people, routinely rank among the world's most polluted. India has six of the 10 most polluted cities globally, and New Delhi is the most polluted capital, according to a report from Switzerland-based air quality monitoring database IQAir earlier this year.

Air quality worsens in New Delhi every winter as farmers burn crop residue in nearby states and cooler temperatures trap the smoke, which mixes with vehicle and industrial emissions.

Pollution levels often reach 20 times higher than the World Health Organization's safe limit.

Authorities have imposed construction bans, restricted diesel generators and deployed water sprinklers and anti-smog guns to control the haze. However, critics say there needs to be a long-term solution that drastically reduces pollution itself, instead of actions that aim to mitigate the effects after it has already plagued the region.

Krishna Achuta Rao, professor at the center for atmospheric sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, said that seeding clouds to reduce air pollution is ineffective, because it can dissipate pollution only for a few days after which the air quality returns to the state that it was before.

Drug shows promise for diabetes, heart disease

New superbug-killing antibiotic found

MELBOURNE, Oct 28, (Xinhua): Chemists in Australia and Britain have discovered a promising new antibiotic capable of killing drug-resistant bacterial pathogens, including MRSA and VRE.

The newly discovered antibiotic, called pre-methylenomycin C lactone, was found "hiding in plain sight" as an intermediate chemical in the natural process that produces the well-known antibiotic methylenomycin A, according to a Monash University press release on Tuesday.

"Methylenomycin A was originally discovered 50 years ago and while it has been synthesized several times, no one appears to have tested the synthetic intermediates for antimicrobial activity," said study co-lead author Professor Greg Challis from Australia's Monash University and Britain's University of Warwick.

"By deleting biosynthetic genes, we discovered two previously unknown biosynthetic intermediates, both of which are much more potent antibiotics than methylenomycin A itself," said Challis who conducted the study

under the Monash Warwick Alliance Combatting Emerging Superbug Threats Initiative, established in 2012.

When tested for antimicrobial activity, one of the intermediates, pre-methylenomycin C lactone, was shown to be over 100 times more active against diverse Gram-positive bacteria than the original antibiotic methylenomycin A, according to the study published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

Specifically, it was shown to be effective against S. aureus and E. faecium, the bacterial species behind MRSA and VRE, respectively, it said, adding this finding is especially promising for VRE, a World Health Organization (WHO) High Priority Pathogen.

"This discovery suggests a new paradigm for antibiotic discovery. By identifying and testing intermediates in the pathways to diverse natural compounds, we may find potent new antibiotics with more resilience to resistance that will aid us in the fight against AMR (antimicrobial resistance)," Challis said.

With its simple structure, potent

activity, difficult-to-resist profile, and scalable synthesis, pre-methylenomycin C lactone represents a promising new candidate that could potentially help save some of the 1.1 million people worldwide who are victims of AMR every year, researchers said.

A WHO report released earlier this month showed there are "too few antibiotics in the pipeline." However, most of the "low-hanging fruit" has already been found, and limited commercial incentives deter investment in antibiotic discovery, the Monash release said.

An international study involving Australian scientists has identified a potential new drug that may protect against both type 2 diabetes and heart disease by lowering cholesterol and reducing inflammation.

The experimental drug "IC7Fc" was found to significantly lower the amount of fat (triglycerides) and cholesterol in the blood of mice prone to heart disease, according to a statement released Tuesday by Australia's Monash University.

Drug may reverse autism-like behaviors

Common BP drug shows promise for autism

MANHASSET, N.Y., Oct 28, (AP): Scientists at Northwell Health's Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research have made a significant discovery in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): a widely used blood pressure medication, captopril, can restore healthy function to the brain's immune cells and reverse ASD-like behaviors in a preclinical animal model. This invaluable research focuses on a specific type of ASD believed to be triggered by a mother's immune system during pregnancy and could better understand autism and autism-like symptoms.

Published this week in Molecular Psychiatry, these findings build on

previous research that showed how a mother's antibodies, if they target a specific brain protein during fetal development, can lead to ASD-related symptoms, especially in male offspring. In those studies, researchers found that the brain's immune cells, called microglia, became overactive and unhealthy, disrupting crucial brain cell connections and affecting social behavior.

The study, led by Lior Brimberg, PhD, associate professor in the Institute of Molecular Medicine at the Feinstein Institutes, and Ben Spielman, an MD/PhD candidate at the Donald & Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, found that when capto-

pril - known for its ability to cross the blood-brain barrier - was given in this preclinical model of ASD, it significantly calmed the active microglia and increased social interaction.

"Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder is incredibly complex, but for some individuals, research has shown that the condition may stem from immune system activation during early fetal brain development," said Dr. Brimberg, who is also corresponding author of the paper. "Our new work shows that a commonly used drug for blood pressure, captopril, can help quite down these brain immune cells, offering a promising new path for targeted treatment."

Digital health, innovation take center stage

Saudi Arabia signs \$33 billion health investments at Global Health Expo

RIYADH, Oct 28, (Agencies): Saudi Minister of Health Fahad Al-Jalalaj announced on Monday the signing of agreements and investments worth more than 124 billion Saudi Riyals (around USD 33 billion) during the opening of the Global Health Exhibition 2025.

The exhibition's aim is to boost international partnerships in digital health, medical research, and innovation.

The event, which runs until October 30, features over 500 international experts and speakers from more than 25 countries, alongside senior health leaders, government officials, and investors.

Al-Jalalaj highlighted the Kingdom's major healthcare achievements, including a 40 percent reduction in deaths from chronic diseases, a 60 percent drop in traffic fatalities, and an increase in life expectancy to 79 years.

He also announced the launch of the Smart Health Coach in collaboration with Google through the Sehhaty app, as well as a pilot project for an AI Physician and efforts to localize vaccine manufacturing in partnership with global companies.

In another development, Cipla Limited has announced the launch of Breathefree UAE, the company's first patient awareness initiative in the Middle East. Building on the success of the company's flagship Breathefree program in India, this initiative marks Cipla's long-term commitment to advancing respiratory health in the region, starting with the UAE. Designed to support patients, doctors, and pharmacists, Breathefree UAE aims to create greater awareness and better management of respiratory conditions.

As of 2025, the estimated asthma prevalence in the UAE is approximately 8.5%.1 A 2023 cross-sectional study



KUNA photo

Saudi Health Minister Fahad Al-Jalalaj at the Global Health Exhibition 2025.

in the UAE reported asthma prevalence of 11.9% in children aged 6-7 years and 9.8% in those aged 13-14 years.2 Allergic rhinitis affects 6.4% of adults in the Gulf region, including the UAE.3 The prevalence of COPD in the UAE is about 3.7 to 5.2%.4Against this backdrop, Breathefree UAE seeks to address the challenge of awareness and education, empowering patients to better understand their conditions, use prescribed inhalers correctly, and lay the groundwork for improved adherence to treatments.

Cipla is launching the first phase of Breathefree UAE with a localized, bilingual website and educational videos to guide patients on the correct use of its respiratory devices. The platform will provide tailored resources, device training, and a scalable ecosystem that will gradually expand to include adherence tools such as reminder alerts and digital educators.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Swapn Malpani, CEO, Emerging Markets & Europe, Cipla, said, "At Cipla, we are deeply committed to equipping patients with the knowledge they need to achieve better health outcomes. Respiratory conditions like asthma, allergic rhinitis, and COPD are among the most widespread in the UAE. Breathefree UAE has been thoughtfully designed to bridge the information gap by offering credible education and practical resources. This initiative reinforces our dedication to respiratory care and strengthens our position as a leader in lung care."

To support the rollout, Cipla is launching a visibility and engagement campaign across clinics, hospitals, and pharmacies in the UAE. Field representatives will also be equipped with iPad-based detailing tools to engage healthcare professionals and raise awareness about the initiative.

'Fight poverty and prevent disease'

Shift climate focus to easing human suffering, not just emissions: Gates

NEW YORK, Oct 28, (AP): Bill Gates thinks climate change is a serious problem but it won't be the end of civilization. He thinks scientific innovation will curb it, and it's instead time for a "strategic pivot" in the global climate fight: from focusing on limiting rising temperatures to fighting poverty and preventing disease.

A doomsday outlook has led the climate community to focus too much on near-term goals to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that cause warming, diverting resources from the most effective things that can be done to improve life in a warming world, Gates said. In a memo released Tuesday, Gates said the world's primary goal should instead be to prevent suffering, particularly for those in the toughest conditions in the world's poorest countries.

If given a choice between eradicating malaria and a tenth of a degree increase in warming, Gates told reporters, "I'll let the temperature go up 0.1 degree to get rid of malaria. People don't understand the suffering that exists today."

The Microsoft co-founder spends most of his time now on the goals of the Gates Foundation, which has poured tens of billions of dollars into health care, education and development initiatives worldwide, including combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. He started Breakthrough Energy in 2015 to speed up innovation in clean energy.

He wrote his 17-page memo hoping to have an impact on next month's United Nations climate change conference in Brazil. He's urging world leaders to ask whether the little money designated for climate is being spent on the right things.

Gates, whose foundation provides



Bill Gates poses for photos after an interview with The Associated Press in Indian Wells, Calif., Jan. 8. (AP)

financial support for Associated Press coverage of health and development in Africa, is influential in the climate change conversation. He expects his "tough truths about climate" memo will be controversial.

"If you think climate is not important, you won't agree with the memo. If you think climate is the only cause and apocalyptic, you won't agree with the memo," Gates said during a roundtable discussion with reporters ahead of the release. "It's kind of this pragmatic view of somebody who's, you know, trying to maximize the money and the innovation that goes to help in these poor countries."

Every bit of additional warming correlates to more extreme weather, risks species extinction and brings the world closer to crossing tipping points where changes become irreversible, scientists say.

University of Washington public health and climate scientist Kristie Ebi said she thoroughly agrees with Gates that the UN negotiations should focus on improving human health and well-

being. But, she said, Gates assumes the world stays static and only one variable changes - faster deployment of green technologies - to curb climate change. She called that unlikely.

Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, called the memo "pointless, vague, unhelpful and confusing."

"There is no reason to pit poverty reduction versus climate transformation. Both are utterly feasible, and readily so, if the Big Oil lobby is brought under control," he wrote in an email.

Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field said there is room for a healthy discussion about whether the current framing of the climate crisis is typically too pessimistic.

"But we should also invest for both the long term and the short term," he wrote in an email. "A vibrant long-term future depends on both tackling climate change and supporting human development."

Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer said he doesn't dispute the principle of making human well-being the primary objective of policy, but what about the natural world?

"Climate change is already wreaking havoc there," he wrote in an email. "Can we truly live in a technological bubble? Do we want to?"

Gates is clear in his memo that every tenth of a degree of warming matters: "A stable climate makes it easier to improve people's lives."

A decade ago, the world agreed in a historic pact known as the Paris agreement to try to limit human-caused warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times. The goal: to stave off nastier heat waves, wildfires, storms and droughts.

Atletico extends unbeaten La Liga run

SEVILLE, Spain, Oct 28, (Agencies): Atletico Madrid extended its unbeaten La Liga run to nine games by beating Real Betis 2-0 on Monday.

The result took the capital club to fourth place and means Diego Simeone's men have not lost in the league since an opening day reverse at Espanyol.

It has 19 points, eight behind league leader Real Madrid.

Betis, which came into the game unbeaten in eight games in all competitions, was in sixth place.

Atletico was on top for much of the away game and went ahead in the third minute. A long throw ricocheted around the Betis box before falling to Giuliano Simeone at the

edge of the area, and he swivelled to rifle a half volley into the bottom corner.

Atletico doubled the lead with a controversial second on the stroke of halftime.

The referee waived penalty claims after Jan Oblak punched clear a Betis free kick and Julian Alvarez broke down the left. His deep cross found Alex Baena, who cut inside from the left flank and hammered home a second.

Betis was more creative after the introduction of second-half substitute Giovanni Lo Celso but the Argentine could not find a way past a composed Oblak in the Atletico goal.

Meanwhile, Real Madrid defender Dani Carvajal has undergone arthroscopic surgery and is expected to be sidelined for a couple of months.



In this file photo,Real Madrid's Dani Carvajal receives the ball during the La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Villarreal in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Madrid said on Tuesday the surgery on his right knee was successful.

The club did not give an official timetable for Carvajal's recovery but he was expected to be out for two to three months.

Carvajal replaced Federico Valverde in the 72nd minute of the 2-1 win against Barcelona in the La Liga clasico on Sunday.

Vinicius Jr has apologized for his behavior after being substituted in the second half of his side's 2-1 win over FC Barcelona.

Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso replaced Vinicius by Rodrygo, which enraged the winger. Vinicius walked off the pitch, shouting and making angry gestures, before storming down the players' tunnel, in actions that provoked almost as many headlines as the match result.

Vinicius later returned to the Real Madrid dugout and picked up a booking after being involved in the angry scenes between both sets of players at the final whistle as the Real Madrid players recriminated with Lamine Yamal for comments, he had made before the match implying that Real Madrid "robbed" games.

Vinicius' behavior has renewed speculation the club could try to sell him as contract talks reportedly stalled, but in an interview with Real Madrid TV, the Brazilian tried to make light of the incidents.

"We try to maintain a balance," continued Vinicius, before adding that "we know that when we step on to the pitch, we have to defend our side, and that's how it was."

Red Bulls, Rapids fire managers

Cincinnati edges Columbus in playoffs

CINCINNATI, Oct 28, (AP): Kevin Denkey scored in his first MLS playoff game to give Cincinnati a 1-0 victory over the Columbus Crew on Monday night to begin a three-game series.

Cincinnati, which is in the playoffs for the fourth straight season, plays Game 2 at Columbus on Sunday.

Denkey scored in the 78th minute. Ender Echenique sent a cross in front of the goal that was deflected at the back post by Alvas Powell. Denkey settled the loose ball in front of the net and sent it over goalkeeper Columbus goalkeeper Patrick Schulte.

Nine of Denkey's 16 goals this season have been game winners.

Roman Celentano made three saves to earn the clean sheet for Cincinnati.

Schulte made a huge save of Brenner's strike in the final minute of the first half to keep it scoreless.



FC Cincinnati forward Yuya Kubo (7) controls the ball as he is defended by Columbus Crew forward Diego Rossi (10), left, and defender Andres Herrera, right during the first half of Game 1 in the first round of MLS soccer's Eastern Conference playoffs, Monday. (AP)

Johnston (2005-2006), Richie Williams (2006), Bruce Arena (2006-07), Juan Carlos Osorio (2008-09), Richie Williams (2009), Hans Backe (2010-12), Mike Petke (2013-15), Jesse Marsch (2015-18), Chris Armas (2018-20), Bradley Carnell (2020), Gerhard Struber (2020-22) and Troy Lesesne (2023).

Eight of MLS's 30 teams have made coaching changes since the season's start. Also leaving were Montreal's Laurent Courtis (March 24), Kansas City's Peter Vermes (March 31), St. Louis' Olof Mellberg (May 27), D.C.'s Troy Lesesne (July 10), New England's Caleb Porter (Sept. 15), Atlanta's Ronny Deila

(Oct. 19) and Colorado's Chris Armas (also Monday).

The Colorado Rapids parted ways with head coach Chris Armas on Monday after two seasons in charge.

The Rapids finished 11-15-8 this season as their attempt to earn a spot in the MLS Cup playoffs fell short. The team has started the process to pick a new coach.

Over his time with the Rapids, Armas helped the team make the playoffs last season and to a third-place finish in the 2024 Leagues Cup tournament. Colorado also won back-to-back Rocky Mountain Cup crowns.

"We're grateful to Chris for the professionalism and passion he brought to the club," Pádraig Smith, the president of the Rapids, said in a statement. "He helped our group take meaningful steps forward over the past two seasons and leaves behind a strong culture that will serve us well as we begin this next chapter."

Armas said he's "proud of the work we've done here and the progress the team has made." He added the Rapids are a "special club with passionate fans, and I'll always be grateful for my time in Colorado."

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

TUNIS, Oct 28: Kuwait's handball team begins its campaign today in the friendly international tournament in Tunis, opening against Guinea, followed by matches against Iran on Thursday and the host team Tunisia on Saturday.

The team is currently holding an external training camp in Tunisia, led by Icelandic coach Aron Kristjansson and his assistant Haini Gívarsson, as part of preparations for the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, scheduled from November 7 to 21.



Kuwait handball player trains ahead of Islamic Solidarity Games.

According to last week's draw, Kuwait has been placed in Group B of the Islamic Solidarity Games alongside host Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Iraq, while Group A includes UAE, Qatar, Iran, and the Maldives.

Heading the Kuwaiti delegation in Tunisia is Board Member Nasser Al-Da'as, accompanied by Treasurer Khaled Taleb, team manager Abdulaziz Al-Zuabi, the technical staff led by Kristjansson and Gívarsson, and a squad of 21 players.

After the Islamic Solidarity Games, Kuwait will compete in the 22nd Asian Men's Handball Championship, which serves as the qualifier for the 2027 World Cup in Germany, to be hosted in Kuwait from

January 15-26. The draw placed Kuwait in Group C alongside UAE, Hong Kong, and India.

Meanwhile, preparations are complete for the 7th Arab Women's Clubs Championship for League and Cup winners, taking place in Hammamet, Tunisia, from November 3-9. The tournament features eight clubs: Salwa Al-Sabah and Qurain from Kuwait, Qasioun and Al-Nabak from Syria, and four Tunisian teams — Hammamet Women's Association, Africain, Monastir, and Al-Sahel Association.

Hendrick, Gibbs set for epic NASCAR title battle

WASHINGTON, Oct 28, (AP): Jeff Gordon was in the thick of dissecting Hendrick Motorsports' prospects for the NASCAR championship when he was interrupted by a text message from his team's chief rival.

This wasn't any typical trash talk about the title.

Joe Gibbs Racing president Dave Alpern instead was contacting the Hendrick vice chairman to convey how privileged JGR felt in facing a longtime adversary.

"He just beat me to the punch; I would have done the same thing," Gordon said Sunday night at Martinsville Speedway, where Hendrick locked up the final two berths in the title round of NASCAR's premier series. "It just goes to show you the respect we have for one another. We're honored as well. I'm really proud to have the relationship that we have with Gibbs. Off the track, we say we're teammates, but on the track, we're fierce competitors."

For the second time in four years, the Championship 4 in the Cup Series is an even split between the two winningest playoff teams in NASCAR history. The best finisher of four drivers in the Nov. 2 season finale at Phoenix Raceway

will claim the crown.

Hendrick will be represented by 2021 champion Kyle Larson and William Byron, who beat Ryan Blaney at Martinsville for the team's record-extending 62nd playoff victory.

Ranking second with 42 playoff victories (including wins in five of the first nine playoff races this season), Gibbs has Denny Hamlin and Chase Briscoe.

It's the third time that Hendrick has owned half the title field, and the fourth time with at least two Championship 4 drivers for JGR, which had a record three in 2019 (winning the title with Kyle Busch).

The powerhouses have combined for 547 Cup wins in a friendly rivalry dating back more than three decades, when Joe Gibbs consulted Rick Hendrick about starting a NASCAR team after winning three Super Bowls as a Hall of Fame football coach.

"I didn't have anything," Gibbs said during a news conference Monday. "Everybody referred me to Rick. He helped us a lot and gave advice. It was a huge deal for us to be able to get off the ground. Rick played a huge role in that. I just really appreciate that."

Reyna plans to reboot career with new club

MOENCHENGLADBACH, Germany, Oct 28, (AP): Gio Reyna went into the 2022 World Cup as one of United States' brightest young soccer stars. Controversy over his training effort and a family conflict with the team's then-coach overshadowed his performances.

A World Cup on U.S. soil next year is a guiding light for the 22-year-old Reyna to revive a career dogged by injuries.

Reyna says he'd now handle the 2022 incident differently "in certain ways" and his actions stemmed from frustration, but the dispute wasn't "completely" his fault or that of his family.

Speaking to The Associated Press at his new club Borussia Moenchengladbach last week, the attacking midfielder wants to use this season to convince U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino he still belongs.

"I do obviously think about (the World Cup) pretty often as it's some-

where where I need and want to be," he said. "But I try to focus daily here, stay present here, work here every day, and hopefully believe everything will fall into place."

In Qatar in 2022, Reyna played only twice off the bench. Then-U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said after the tournament that an unnamed player, later identified as Reyna, was nearly sent home for a lack of effort in training.

Reyna's parents - Claudio and Danielle Reyna, both former national team players - lobbied the U.S. Soccer Federation for more playing time for Gio and contacted the USSF about a three-decades-old domestic violence allegation involving Berhalter and the woman who later became his wife - Danielle's former college roommate.

Asked if he'd do things differently if he had that chance again, Reyna told the AP: "Maybe in certain ways, but I'm not



American soccer player Gio Reyna talks during an interview with The Associated Press at the stadium of his Bundesliga club Borussia Moenchengladbach in Moenchengladbach, Germany. (AP)

just going to sort of sit here and take all the blame for something that was made out to be completely my fault, which I believe it wasn't, and also my family's, too."

Reyna added the tensions "stemmed from" unhappiness with his game time.

"At the end of the day, I was just upset that, you know, I wasn't really playing. I was playing at Dortmund. I thought that I wanted to play at the World Cup and ultimately in the end, I didn't do that, and that's really what it stemmed from," he said. "I guess the frustration and the disappointment was just wanting to play and help my country. It's so far removed now and so far in the past, I don't even really want to talk about it any more."

Reyna is hoping Gladbach is his springboard back to the national team. Joining up there with his friend and U.S. teammate Joe Scally was "the cherry on top."

Ski training dangers spark Olympic debate

VIENNA, Oct 28, (AP): When Mikaela Shiffrin started skiing again weeks after her terrifying crash last year, the American star was even more alert to the potential dangers of training courses.

Shiffrin's injuries - puncture wound to her abdomen and severe damage to her abdominal muscles - came in a World Cup giant slalom race but the two-time Olympic champion knew that training could be just as risky.

If not more.

"When I came back from injury I was aware of the fencing on the side and a hole in the course and where the trees were," Shiffrin told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

"We are often training in conditions where the variables are just too many to control and you have to decide sometimes: Is this unreasonably dangerous or is this within a reasonable level of danger that we need to train, we need to practice, and this is the only way we can do it?"

French skier Alexis Pinturault had similar experiences.

"We are training in many places where it's not really safe, yes, that's 100% sure," the 2021 men's overall World Cup champion said.

Ongoing safety discussions in Alpine skiing came into fresh focus in September, less than five months before the Milan-Cortina Olympics, when World Cup racer Matteo Franzoso died following a crash in preseason training in Chile.

The 25-year-old Italian crashed through two layers of safety

fencing on a course at La Parva and slammed into a wooden fence positioned six to seven meters outside the course. He died two days later from cranial trauma and a consequent swelling of his brain.

Franzoso was the third young Italian skier to die in less than a year, and a talented French skier died following a training crash in April.

Shiffrin, a five-time overall champion and winner of a record 101 World Cup races, dealt with lingering post-traumatic stress disorder when she got back on skis again after her injuries.

Nearly three months after her crash, she returned to racing in late February.

"Athletes and coaches and everybody are so used to saying that the sport carries an inherent risk that you start to become blind to some of the risks that are actually life-threatening," Shiffrin said.

"This was a challenge for me, that I felt so scared of the risk for the rest of the season. If you think too much about it you become paralyzed. But it's really important that we can assess what those risks are and try to find ways to mitigate that as much as possible. It's not OK to say risk is part of the sport and you take it or leave it."

The issue with training courses is that, for financial reasons, they usually lack the same safety standards that apply to race courses.

Smaller crews of course workers are on the hill to maintain the condition of the snow surface; fewer safety netting is placed along the course to break the fall when racers crash; and less medical staff and equipment, like helicopters for immediate transport to a hospital, are available.

Sofia Goggia, the 2018 Olympic downhill champion, called ski racing "an extreme sport. At a high level, it's like F1 or MotoGP in downhill, super-G, but also giant slalom, because the speed is 80-90 kph (50-56 mph), the risk is there every time."

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Special Olympics Kuwait organizes fifth Healthy Families Forum



Participants pose for a group photo during the event.

KUNA photo

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): The Special Olympics Kuwait organized the 5th Healthy Families Forum, attended by Sheikhha Sheikhha Al-Abdullah Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah, Chairperson of the Special Olympics Board of Directors Hana Al-Zawawi, National Director Rehab Boursesli, and several members of the Families Council and entities concerned with people with disabilities.

The forum, held at the Kuwait National Library, featured a scientific lecture by pediatric neurology and epilepsy specialist Dr. Issa Al-Mashmoum, titled “The Importance of Brain Stimulation in Various Disabilities.” He reviewed

programs, devices, and technologies dedicated to brain stimulation and their role in addressing concentration and attention difficulties.

Boursesli told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) during the forum that the lecture and the modern scientific information it presented contribute to enabling families to learn about innovative treatment methods for their children with intellectual and other disabilities.

She explained that the forum is part of a series of Olympic events for the 2025–2026 season, aiming to raise awareness among families about the importance of specialized healthcare in several areas, including nutrition, fitness,

mental health, and preventive care, in addition to strengthening the role of families in implementing health and training programs to ensure continuity of care and follow-up.

She emphasized that the cooperation and awareness of families represent the cornerstone of the success of these programs and of improving the quality of life for their children, noting that the health program includes medical examinations and periodic checkups for athletes and their families, physical fitness programs, nutrition, mental health support, health education, training of medical personnel, and partnerships with relevant authorities.

Yarmouk claims sole lead in First Division League



Yarmouk players celebrate their victory over Al-Jazeera.

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Yarmouk moved to the top of the First Division League standings after a 3-1 victory over Al-Jazeera in their sixth-round match at Al-Shabab Stadium.

The win lifted Yarmouk to 15 points, giving them the outright lead, while Al-Jazeera remained on 10 points.

In another key match, Sahel earned a hard-

fought 1-0 win against Sulaibikhat, moving up to second place with 14 points, as Sulaibikhat slipped to third with 11 points.

Yarmouk team manager Abdulaziz Al-Failakawi expressed his happiness with the team’s performance and its rise to the top of the table.

He described the game as “a difficult contest, especially after the first half ended in a 1-1 draw,” noting that Yarmouk missed several scoring chances before halftime.

Al-Failakawi added that the second half was marked by high intensity and determination from both sides, but the tactical adjustments made by head coach Dhafer Al-Adwani proved decisive, helping Yarmouk score twice in under five minutes to seal the win.

He concluded by praising the players’ spirit and fighting attitude, urging them to maintain the same level of focus and effort in the upcoming matches — particularly the crucial clash against Sahel.

Anyanacho and Reyes share bronze

Hungarian teen Marton wins second world taekwondo title

WUXI, China, Oct 28, (Xinhua): Hungary’s 19-year-old Luana Marton captured her second world title at the World Taekwondo Championships on Tuesday, defeating Brazil’s Milena Titoneli 2-0 in the women’s 67kg final.

Marton took the opening round 8-1 with an aggressive attacking display. In the second round, she used her close-range advantage to maintain control and held her lead to the end, sealing a 2-0 victory and the gold medal.

Two years ago, Marton claimed her first world title in the women’s 57kg at the Baku World Championships, becoming the first Hungarian woman to win a senior world championship gold in taekwondo.

This time she competed alongside her twin sister, Viviana Marton, an Olympic champi-

on, who will take part in the women’s 62kg division.

“My feeling is crazy. I don’t know if this is real or not. It feels like a dream. I worked so hard for this moment, and I think it’s magical,” said Marton after the match.

“It was really tough. My opponent was very strong and professional. I just tried to stay focused and keep my rhythm. I told myself I wanted to be perfect, not just good, and that made the difference,” she added.

Nigeria’s Elizabeth Oluchi Anyanacho and Spain’s Lena Moreno Reyes shared the bronze medals.

China’s Song Jie faced Marton in the quarterfinals but lost 2-1, missing out on a semifinal berth. “Overall, I was in good form,” said Song. “In the first round, I followed the coach’s tactical plan, but in

the next two rounds, I focused too much on one point and failed to adjust in time. Compared with my first world championships, I felt more relaxed this time.” In the men’s 68kg final, Thailand’s world No. 1 Banlung Tubtimdang defeated South Korea’s Seong Yu-hyeon 2-0. Tubtimdang had previously won bronze in the men’s 63kg event at the 2023 Baku World Championships. “I’m really happy. Last year I trained very hard, and now I finally achieved something. It feels incredible,” he said.

The United States’ Maikol Rodriguez and Croatia’s Matija Crep shared the bronze medals.

The championships will continue on Wednesday with the men’s 58kg and women’s 62kg categories.

Kuwait Club and Qadsia reach Volleyball Federation Cup final



Kuwait Club and Burgan players vie for the ball.

Burgan, Kazma suffer defeats

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Kuwait Club and Qadsia have booked their spots in the final of the Volleyball Federation Cup, set to take place on Thursday, after securing victories in the semifinals held earlier this week at the Kuwait Volleyball Association Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Kuwait Club advanced to the final with a convincing straight-sets win over Burgan (25-19, 26-24, 25-20). Qadsia, on the other hand, earned

its place by knocking out defending champion Kazma 3-1 (24-26, 25-18, 25-22, 25-21), setting up an exciting title showdown against Kuwait Club. The two teams met earlier in the group stage, where Qadsia came out on top 3-1.

The tournament followed a single round-robin format and featured nine participating clubs: Kuwait Club, Qadsia, Kazma, Arabi, Burgan, Shabab, Sulaibikhat, Nasr, and Yarmouk.

With the Federation Cup wrapping up, Kuwait’s national volleyball team will soon shift focus to preparations for the Arab Challenge Cup, scheduled to be held in Amman, Jordan, from November 28 to December 8, ahead of the start of the national league season in December.

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NEWS

Best of the Rest

Boca rallies to beat Barracas: Milton Gimenez scored twice as Boca Juniors recovered from a goal down to clinch a 3-1 away win over 10-man Barracas Central in Argentina’s Primera Division.

The hosts were reduced to 10 men in the 14th minute when Ivan Tapia was shown a second yellow card for a bad challenge on Leandro Paredes.

Despite the numerical disadvantage, Barracas took the lead through Rodrigo Insua, who pounced on a loose ball before firing a 40-yard rocket into the top-left corner.

Boca equalized shortly after halftime as Gimenez combined with Exequiel Zeballos and finished clinically past goalkeeper Marcos Ledesma.

Gimenez put his side ahead three minutes later by meeting Juan Barinaga’s cross from the right flank to nod in from eight yards.

The visitors were in cruise control and Miguel Merentiel made it 3-1 just after the hour, timing his run to perfection to tap in from close range following Zeballos’ probing run and cross.

“We treated this match like a final,” Gimenez told reporters. “We were playing well but they scored a freak goal and we had to find another gear. Thankfully we were able to turn it around and get an

important win.” The result leaves Boca third in Group A with 20 points from 13 outings, a point behind leader Central Cordoba. Barracas is 10th, two points further back. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Former IOC vice president Nikolaou dies: Lambis Nikolaou, a former International Olympic Committee vice president who helped to organize the 2004 Athens Summer Games, has died. He was 89.

Nikolaou was an IOC member for 29 years through 2015 and had since been an honorary member. The cause of his death was not stated by the IOC on Monday.

“Lambis Nikolaou lived and breathed the Olympic spirit in everything he did,” IOC President Kirsty Coventry said in a statement.

He was president of the Greek Olympic body for the seven years leading to the Athens Olympics, and by then was on the IOC executive board. He rose in status to be a vice president for four years through 2009 under the IOC leadership of Jacques Rogge.

“For all of us who had the privilege to work with him, we know first-hand his tireless efforts to strengthen Greece’s presence within the global Olympic family,” said Iidoros Kovelos, president of the national Olympic committee.

The IOC said its flag will fly at half-staff for three days at its Lausanne, Switzerland, headquarters as a mark of respect. (AP)



Golden State Warriors guard Gary Payton II, middle, reaches for the ball between guard Moses Moody, left, and Memphis Grizzlies center Jock Landale during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco. (AP)

Sports

Al-Saad: Ensuring athletes protection is a vital priority



Noura Al-Saad at the Asian Games.

MANAMA, Oct 28, (KUNA): The Kuwait Olympic Committee reaffirmed its commitment to making athlete protection and awareness a top priority, stressing that providing a safe and supportive sporting environment has become essential to safeguarding athletes' mental and physical well-being and ensuring their continued growth and success in sports.

Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on the sidelines of Kuwait's participation in the 3rd Asian Youth Games in Bahrain, Safeguarding Officer Noura Al-Saad described the implementation of the athlete protection program as a major step forward for the Committee. She noted that this initiative – relatively new in the global sports landscape – focuses primarily on protecting youth and junior athletes while promoting a culture of safe sports

and educating athletes about their rights and responsibilities in an environment free from abuse or misconduct.

Al-Saad explained that her role as Safeguarding Officer centers on ensuring that all athletes can compete in an environment that is safe, respectful, and fully protective of their rights, while preventing any form of physical, psychological, or verbal harm. She emphasized the importance of fostering a positive sports culture built on respect, trust, and integrity.

She also highlighted that one of her key responsibilities is to build strong, trust-based relationships with both male and female athletes, enabling them to speak openly and seek confidential support whenever needed. This approach, she said, helps find effective solutions to challenges that may hinder their athletic progress or affect their personal lives.

Al-Arabi strengthens Asian Challenge League chances

Nasari and Majed score against Regar-TadAZ

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan, Oct 28: Al-Arabi came from behind to claim a 2-1 victory against Tajik side Regar-TadAZ in their Group C clash of the Asian Challenge League at Dolin Omurza-kov Stadium in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The winning goals were scored by Abdulaziz Nasari and Yousef Majed. The win, boosts its prospects of advancing to the next stage of the competition.

Portuguese coach Marco Felis made tactical adjustments compared to Al-Arabi's previous match against Lebanon's Safa, setting up four defenders: Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Juma Abboud, Mohammed Khalid, and Abdulaziz Nasari. The midfield featured Ali Aziz, Hassimi Fadiga, Inayo Iwala, and Yousef



Al Arabi players celebrate after the match.

Majed, while the forwards were Christopher John and Zaid Kanbar.

The first half was cautious, with both sides reluctant to take risks following draws in the opening round – Al-Arabi 2-2 against Safa, and Regar-TadAZ 0-0 with Kyrgyz team Ramos United. Play was largely confined to midfield,

with few scoring chances, except for a powerful shot from Christopher that was brilliantly saved by Regar-TadAZ goalkeeper Manuel in the 14th minute.

The final 15 minutes of the first half saw an increase in intensity. Regar-TadAZ struck first through Sherboni (34'), who received a pass, penetrated the Al-Arabi

penalty area, and finished low past goalkeeper Suleiman Abdulghafour. Al-Arabi nearly equalized shortly after, but Manuel denied Majed's effort (37'). The equalizer came in the 39th minute through Nasari following a well-orchestrated attack.

In the second half, Al-Arabi dominated proceedings, creating several scoring opportunities. A header from Christopher was saved and fell to Zaid Kanbar, who shot over the bar (54'). Regar-TadAZ responded with a shot comfortably held by Abdulghafour, while Iwala also tested the goalkeeper (56').

Al-Arabi finally took the lead in the 70th minute, as Yousef Majed capitalized on a scramble in front of the goal, placing the ball past Manuel for the decisive strike.

After taking the lead, Al-Arabi focused on counter-attacks. Regar-TadAZ came close to equalizing when a shot slipped from Abdulghafour's grasp but went over the bar (85'), and Abdulghafour made a crucial save to block Sherboni's effort in the 88th minute.

Celtics earn first victory of season

Markkanen scores career-high 51 as Jazz outlasts Suns

SALT LAKE CITY, Oct 28, (AP): Lauri Markkanen scored a career-high 51 points, the first Jazz player to reach 50 in the regular season since Karl Malone in 1998, and Utah beat the Phoenix Suns 138-134 in overtime on Monday night.

Markkanen helped the Jazz recover after they blew a seven-point lead in the final 19 seconds of regulation, scoring seven points in the extra period. He also finished with 14 rebounds.

Markkanen made all 17 free throws and topped his previous best of 49 points set on Jan. 5, 2023. It was the most by a Utah player in the regular season since Malone had 56 against Golden State on April 7, 1998.

Keyonte George had 26 points and 10 assists, while Walker Kessler had 25 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks for the Jazz.

Celtics 122, Pelicans 90

In New Orleans, Anfernee Simons made six 3-pointers and scored 25 points, and the Boston Celtics earned their first victory over the season by pulling away to beat the New Orleans Pelicans.

Payton Pritchard added 18 points for the Celtics, who outscored the Pelicans 31-4 in the final 9:14 after they led by just five.

Simons scored 12 in the fourth quarter for Boston, which had dropped its first three games. Luka Garza had 16 points, while Jaylen Brown and Josh Minott finished with 15 apiece.

Rockets 137, Nets 109

In Houston, Tari Eason scored 22 points, Alperen Sengun added 21 points, six rebounds and six assists, and the Houston Rockets beat the Brooklyn Nets 1 for their first victory of the season.

Kevin Durant had 19 points against his former team, which fell to 0-4. Eason made five 3-pointers off the bench and fellow reserve Reed Sheppard added 15 points and eight assists.

Houston lost in two overtimes against Oklahoma City in the NBA season opener and then fell by four against Detroit in its second game, but this one was never close.

Warriors 31, Grizzlies 118

In San Francisco, Jonathan Kuminga had 25 points, 10 rebounds and four assists, Brandin Podziemski added 23 points and six assists, and the Golden State Warriors ran away from the Memphis Grizzlies in the third quarter for win.

Jimmy Butler and Moses Moody scored 20 points apiece while Stephen Curry added 16 in Golden State's balanced attack.

Draymond Green dished out 10 assists before fouling out with 7:32 left. He received a flagrant 1 foul with 3:48 remaining in the third quarter for a hard grab of Santi Aldama from behind after the Memphis forward's steal and as he was driving to the basket. Aldama missed both free throws and Green galloped around with glee.

Aldama wound up with 14 points, six rebounds and four assists.

Trail Blazers 122, Lakers 108

In Los Angeles, Deni Avdija scored 25, Jrue Holiday had 24 points and six assists, and the Portland Trail Blazers pulled away from the short-handed Los Angeles Lakers.

Jerami Grant added 22 off the bench for the Blazers, who picked up their first road win of the season in the second game of a back-to-back after losing 114-107 at the Clippers on Sunday. Shaedon Sharpe and Donovan Clingan chipped in with 16 apiece.

Austin Reaves scored 41 points to follow up his career-high 51 in a 127-120 win at the Sacramento Kings on Sunday, but the rest of the depleted Lakers struggled to generate offense around him. Rui Hachimura and Deandre Ayton each had 16, and Jarred Vanderbilt scored 14.

Thunder 101, Mavericks 94

In Dallas, Isaiah Hartenstein had 16 points and 12 points - and scored Oklahoma City's only two field goals of the final 8:28 - as the Thunder withstood a furious Dallas rally to beat the Mavericks to improve to 4-0.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 23 points to lead the defending NBA champions. Chet Holmgren had 18 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks.

Anthony Davis had 26 points and 11 rebounds for the Mavericks (1-3), playing



Phoenix Suns guard Grayson Allen, right, dives for a ball in the hands of Utah Jazz center Kyle Filipowski, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Salt Lake City. (AP)

their fourth straight home game to open the season.

Cavaliers 116, Pistons 95

In Detroit, Donovan Mitchell scored 35 points in just 29 minutes, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Detroit Pistons for their third straight victory.

The Cavaliers had a 14-0 run in the second quarter that turned a seven-point lead into a 43-26 advantage and Mitchell's layup made it 63-41 at halftime. He scored 14 more in the third quarter and departed shortly after his basket made it 108-73 with 7:07 remaining.

Mitchell shot 13 of 18 from the field, including 2 for 4 from 3-point range, and went 7 for 8 from the free throw line. Jarrett Allen added 20 points and seven rebounds for the Cavaliers, while Evan Mobley finished with 15 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

Spurs 121, Raptors 103

In San Antonio, Victor Wembanyama had 24 points and 15 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs remained unbeaten with a 121-103 victory over the Toronto Raptors.

San Antonio is 4-0 for the first time since 2017.

Stephon Castle added 22 points and Harrison Barnes had 18 for San Antonio, which did not win its fourth game until Nov. 7 last season.

Toronto lost its third straight after winning its season opener.

R.J. Barrett had 25 points, Collin Murray-Boyles added 19 and Immanuel Quickley had 15 for the Raptors.

76ers 136, Magic 124

In Philadelphia, Tyrese Maxey scored 43 points, including eight straight during a crucial fourth-quarter stretch, and rookie VJ Edgecombe added 26 points as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Orlando Magic without Joel Embiid to improve to 3-0.

Embiid, the 2023 MVP and two-time scoring champ, was sidelined to rest his surgically repaired left knee. After playing in just 19 games last season, Embiid played the first two with a restriction of 20 minutes.

Nuggets 127, Timberwolves 114

In Minneapolis, Jamal Murray scored 23 of his 43 points in the third quarter and Nikola Jokic had a triple-double as the Denver Nuggets beat the short-handed Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Timberwolves played without star guard Anthony Edwards, who will miss at least a week with a strained right hamstring after he was injured in Sunday's game against Indiana. Reserve guard Jaylen Clark also missed the game with left calf tightness.

Jokic finished with 25 points, 19 rebounds and 10 assists for his third triple-double in three games this season. He now has 167 career triple-doubles, third on the NBA's all-time list.

PSG made nearly \$1 billion in club-record revenue last season

PARIS, Oct 28, (AP): Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain generated club-record revenue of 837 million euros (\$976 million) last season.

The figures released by the club on Tuesday include 175 million euros in matchday revenue and 367 million euros in commercial revenue, with six new partners joining the club.

The figures encompass the men's and women's soccer teams as well as handball and judo teams. By comparison, revenue for the 2023-24 season was 806 million euros, which was the third highest in European soccer.

PSG's men's team won the domestic double and clinched the Champions League for the first time by

routing Inter Milan 5-0 in the final, giving the club's Qatari investor QSI the trophy it craved after taking over the club in June 2011.

The club was valued by Forbes at \$4.6 billion in May, placing it seventh among the world's most valuable soccer teams. Real Madrid led with \$6.75 billion, followed by Manchester United (\$6.6 billion) and Spanish champion Barcelona (\$5.65 billion).

However, low television revenue in Ligue 1 and the Parc des Princes stadium's 48,000-capacity - considerably smaller than other leading clubs in Europe - were hampering further financial growth for PSG.

The Parc des Princes was owned by Paris City Hall and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo does not want to sell

the stadium to the club, which hoped to buy it and expand it rather than go elsewhere.

"Our door is always open to expanding the Parc des Princes, which is owned by the City of Paris," Hidalgo told Le Parisien newspaper in June. "Not to sell, but to expand."

Plans for a new and bigger stadium away from Parc des Princes with a minimum capacity of 60,000 were still being considered in Passy or Massy, both on the outskirts of the city.

A decision on the new stadium was expected to be taken in autumn of next year.

Best of the Rest

Rawal ruled out of Cup semis: India's hopes of winning a first Women's Cricket World Cup title have been dented with the injury-enforced withdrawal of opening batter Pratika Rawal for the semifinal against defending champion Australia.

The in-form Rawal was forced off the field after injuring her ankle attempting to save a boundary in India's last league-stage game on Sunday, which ended in a washout against Bangladesh. "Tough to sit out due to injury, but my heart is with the team," Rawal said in a social media post. "Best of luck, India!"

She scored 308 runs in the league stage of the tournament - including a century in a decisive win over New Zealand - second only to teammate Smriti Mandhana's 365.

The International Cricket Council approved Shafali Verma as a late replacement in the squad for Rawal. India placed fourth in the league stage, which included a high-scoring loss to Australia. (AP)