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Egyptian President receives HH Amir's Rep

Kuwaiti, Egyptian relations deep-rooted: El-Sisi

CAIRO, Oct 30, (Agencies): Egyptian President Abdelattah El-Sisi received on Thursday the Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation in Al-Ittihadia Palace during a visit to Egypt.

His Highness the Prime Minister conveyed to President El-Sisi His Highness the Amir's and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's greetings, alongside their wishes for Egypt and its people for continued stability and prosperity.

He affirmed the strong relations between Kuwait and Egypt as well as the efforts of Egypt both in its leadership and government in maintaining the security and stability of the region.

His Highness the Prime Minister congratulated President El-Sisi on the completion of the Grand Egyptian Museum project, which represents a major cultural landmark.

Also attending the meeting on both sides is a number of ministers, directors, and ambassadors from both countries.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi met with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah here on Thursday to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments, including the Gaza ceasefire, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.

During the meeting, Sisi affirmed "the deep strategic relations" and "the historical ties" between Egypt and Kuwait, stressing Egypt's welcome of Kuwaiti investments in all fields and its commitment to removing any obstacles and providing all necessary

facilities for Kuwaiti investors.

For his part, the Kuwaiti prime minister commended "the tangible development witnessed in Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations at all levels" and affirmed his country's keenness to deepen the historic ties of cooperation between the two nations.

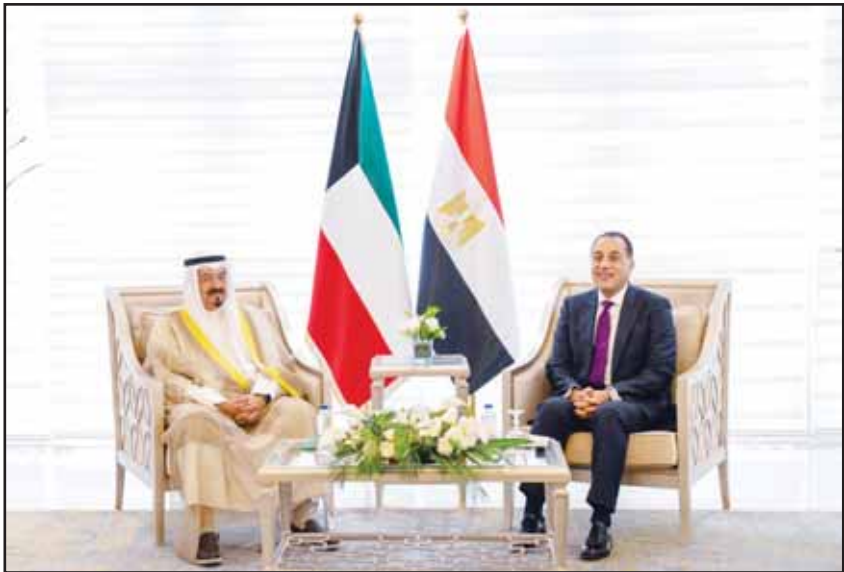
The two sides also discussed regional developments. The Kuwaiti prime minister praised Egypt's "pivotal role" in promoting security and stability in the region and its efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

They emphasized the importance of the "full implementation" of the Gaza ceasefire deal and the launch of the Gaza reconstruction process, according to the statement.



PM Diwan photo
Egyptian President Abdelattah El-Sisi receives the Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation.

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PM Diwan photo
Visiting Kuwaiti Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah holds talks with his Egyptian counterpart Dr. Mostafa Madbouli.

PMs discuss boost in relations

CAIRO, Oct 30, (KUNA): The visiting Kuwaiti Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, held official talks on Thursday with his Egyptian counterpart Dr. Mostafa Madbouli on cementing bilateral ties between the two brotherly countries.

The two sides exchanged views on re-

gional and international developments, affirming necessity of pursuing consultations and coordination regarding various issues. They also examined the trade relations and economic partnership His Highness the

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Kuwait and UK on verge of free trade agreement, says minister

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: British Minister of State for Trade **Chris Bryant** confirmed that the free trade agreement between Kuwait and the United Kingdom will be finalized very soon.



Bryant

At a press conference on the sidelines of his visit to the country on Wednesday, Bryant clarified "I cannot give a precise date because I do not like setting artificial deadlines, but the truth is that the deadline I set was two weeks ago, and we are very close. There are just a few areas that need clarification between the two sides. We will hold another round of discussions next week in London."

He expressed his belief that there are many areas where the region aligns with the United Kingdom. He said "we want to

strengthen this alignment. We had very good discussions yesterday, perhaps the longest round of talks between ministers from both countries, but they were very positive. I am very optimistic that in the next few weeks, or at least very soon, we will be able to reach a signed and finalized free trade agreement between the two countries. There are just a few minor details that we need to amend or clarify. We are working on that right now."

Regarding the details of the talks with the Kuwaiti side, he disclosed "we focused on the free trade agreement. If we assume that we will sign the agreement soon, next year will be the year of real work to ensure its implementation and actual use, because signing the agreement is not enough if it is not put into effect."

As for his assessment of trade relations between Kuwait and the United Kingdom (UK), he stated "the relationship has been excellent for a very long time. Kuwait Investment Authority has a constant presence in Britain. There are ongoing discussions and a great deal of mutual respect."

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'Gulf can mint money by joining hands in tourism'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said Thursday that pan-Gulf tourism integration is essential to make the most of shared potential.

"We believe that Gulf tourism integration is our gateway to maximizing utilization of our common potential, achieving sustainable growth and diversifying our income sources in a way that promotes our region's position on the global map," Al-Mutairi said during a visual meeting of GCC tourism ministers.

"The meeting reflects our wise leaderships' great attention to the tourism sector as one of the pillars of economic and social development in the GCC countries, and as a bridge of deeper cultural and human communication between the peoples of the region and the world," said the minister, who

chaired the pan-GCC event.

He conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, hoping that this gathering could lead to bolstering joint Gulf cooperation and stepping up tourism integration efforts.

He thanked the UAE for requesting the holding of this joint meeting and its keenness on cementing pan-GCC cooperation and coordination ahead of the 26th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), thus unifying the Gulf countries' stances and strengthening their presence in this international event.

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Kuwait calls on citizens to abide by hunting rules abroad

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (Agencies): Kuwait has called on its nationals to comply with hunting rules and regulations when pursuing such activities abroad, Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs Aziz Al-Daihani said on Thursday, highlighting the need to obtain the required permits.

The call is part of efforts to look after the welfare of Kuwaiti citizens abroad, ensuring that they do not face legal consequences for any outlawed activities, the Kuwaiti diplomat told KUNA, citing an emergency hotline at (00965159 - 009652225504) for any

assistance citizens may need.

Earlier, Iraq's Ministry of Interior announced on Wednesday the arrest of four Kuwaiti hunters and an Iraqi citizen accompanying them inside Iraqi territory in Muthanna Governorate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the ministry explained that patrol teams from the Muthanna Customs Police Department, under the Border Guard Command, apprehended five hunters - four Kuwaiti nationals holding tourist visas and an Iraqi citizen - in the Adima area of the Muthanna desert. The

reason behind their arrest was their violation of regulations governing the entry of foreign hunters into Iraq and the practice of hunting within the country.

Authorities confiscated five falcons and two vehicles with Kuwaiti license plates and confirmed that the necessary legal measures were being taken.

The Iraqi Ministry of Interior affirmed its commitment to enforcing the law on all individuals, stressing that violations of regulations issued by the competent Iraqi authorities will not be tolerated.

Shop selling aphrodisiacs shut in Farwaniya

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Director of the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al-Ansari confirmed that inspection teams are continuing their intensive campaigns in various governorates, as the ministry is keen on protecting consumers and ensuring that commercial facilities are complying with market laws and regulations.

Al-Ansari told the newspaper that Farwaniya Governorate witnessed a series of intensive inspection tours in recent days, which resulted in the closure of a shop selling unlicensed sexual enhancement products. He said these products contain substances of unknown origin and their sale is prohibited as they are not authorized by the Ministry of Health. He added that a decision was immediately issued to close the

shop and refer the case to the Commercial Prosecution.

He also affirmed the closure of a furniture store after receiving complaints from consumers regarding its failure to stick to the terms of its contracts, stressing his department does not tolerate any commercial establishment that violates consumer rights or undermines fair business practices.

He asserted that these campaigns are in line with the directives of the senior leadership at the ministry to intensify field monitoring, protect the local market, and guarantee the quality of products and services provided to consumers.

He added that consumer protection is a top priority, and that the ministry does not hesitate in taking legal action against anyone proven to have violated the law or endangered consumer health, emphasizing that public health is a red line.

Asian expat held with 6 kilos of pure heroin

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: In another blow to drug traffickers, the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) at the Interior Ministry, led by DCGD Director Brigadier General Mohammad Qabazard and his assistant, Brigadier

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Kuwait pulls nationalities of many more individuals

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): The Supreme Committee for Kuwaiti Citizenship held a meeting on Thursday, chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

A Committee statement said it decided to revoke Kuwaiti citizenship from a number of cases, with the matter referred to the Cabinet.

Those citizenships were revoked due to dual citizenships, forgery, fraud, and conflict with the state supreme interest.



2 Kuwait needs its James Baker

8 Boursa Kuwait ends week higher

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:39	Asr	14:40
Sunrise ..	05:59	Maghrib ..	17:04
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:22

Local

Weather						
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:	erly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h.		Bubyan	32	12	
	By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h.		Jahra	36	19	
By Night: Mild to rather cold with light to moderate northwest-	Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	Failaka Island	33	16
	Kuwait City	36	23	Salmiyah	33	25
	Kuwait Airport	36	16	Ahmadi	35	19
	Abdaly	35	16	Nuwaisib	34	18
				Wafra	35	17

Messages of love and encouragement reflect nation's admiration for the veteran journalist

Well-wishes continue to pour in for Al-Jarallah after successful Paris surgery



Abdul Latif Al-Sari



Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali



Sheikh Dr. Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah



Sheikh Khalid Al-Badr Al-Muhammad Al-Sabah



Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled



Bader Abdullah Al-Mudaires



Abdulaziz Al-Dughhaishim

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Messages of support and affection continue to pour in for the Dean of Kuwaiti journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, congratulating him on the success of his surgery in Paris. These messages reflect that, despite the severity of the pain, he will always find comfort in the hearts of the Kuwaiti people, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Via a phone call, the Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali congratulated Al-Jarallah on the success of his surgery, and prayed to God Almighty for his full recovery and safe return home in good health, so he may continue his distinguished journalistic career under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah.

Also, former Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled offered his warmest congratulations to Al-Jarallah, saying, "I ask Almighty Allah to grant you a speedy recovery."

Sheikh Dr. Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory telegram to the Dean of Kuwaiti journalism and Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah. It read, "I extend my sincerest congratulations and best wishes to my dear brother Ahmed Al-Jarallah on the success of his surgery. I pray to God to grant you a full and speedy recovery, and to bless you with continued health, well-being, and a long life."



Emil Karimov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the State of Kuwait

Sheikh Khalid Al-Badr Al-Muhammad Al-Sabah sent a bouquet of flowers along with his heartfelt congratulations to Ahmed Al-Jarallah, saying, "We received with great joy the news of the successful surgery you underwent in the French Republic. I would like to express our sincere congratulations. We ask God Almighty to grant you continued good health and well-being so you may continue your pioneering and distinguished media career serving our dear



A bouquet of flowers from Sheikh Khalid Al-Badr Al-Muhammad Al-Sabah.



Awadelkarim Elrayah Balla, Ambassador of Sudan to the State of Kuwait

homeland under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah."

Bader Abdullah Al-Mudaires, former Assistant Secretary-General of Kuwait University, also congratulated Brigadier General Al-Jarallah on the success of his surgery in France, adding, "We ask God

Almighty for your safe return so you may continue your successful media career as Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers."

Former Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice Abdul Latif Al-Sari also congratulated Al-Jarallah, saying, "I ask God Almighty to grant you abundant health and well-being, and that you return safely to your homeland, God willing, to continue your distinguished media contributions."

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the State of Kuwait Emil Karimov offered his congratulations to Al-Jarallah on the success of his surgery.

He said, "It gives me great pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the success of the surgery you underwent last week in Paris. I wish you a speedy recovery, and I ask God Almighty to grant you continued good health."

The Ambassador of Sudan to the State of Kuwait Awadelkarim Elrayah Balla congratulated Al-Jarallah on the success of his surgery, saying, "I ask God to grant you a full recovery, continued health and well-being, and to protect you from all harm, so that you may remain a source of pride for Kuwait and its people."

In addition, Abdulaziz Al-Dughhaishim also congratulated Al-Jarallah, saying, "It gives me great pleasure to thank God for granting my dear brother Ahmed Al-Jarallah a full recovery and the successful completion of his surgery. I hope for his safe return to his homeland soon, by God's grace."



Celebration at Turkish Embassy commemorates the 102nd anniversary of the Republic.

Turkiye, Kuwait vow new horizons

Turkish Embassy marks 102nd Republic anniversary

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sönmez said the fraternal relations between Türkiye and Kuwait have been further strengthened under the wise leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, affirming that these relations are moving towards new horizons in all fields.

Sönmez made the statement at the celebration of the 102nd anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye, organized by the Turkish Embassy at the Grand Hyatt Hotel recently. Minister of Health Ahmed Al-Awadhi, Deputy Commander of the Turkish Gendarmerie Major General Hüseyin Kurtoglu, and a number of diplomatic corps members attended the event.



Photos by Mohammad Morsi
Tuba Nur Sonmez, the Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait with Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, Minister of Health during the cake-cutting ceremony.

She pointed out that "Kuwait's swift and sincere support following the devastating earthquakes that struck Türkiye was a profound gesture of solidarity. We will never forget the kindness, generosity and compassion it showed us. This gesture is etched in our collective memory as a symbol of true brotherhood."

She confirmed that Türkiye and Kuwait maintain identical principled positions on vital regional

issues, particularly Palestine and Syria, guided by shared sensitivities and a commitment to justice. She added that in these challenging times, cooperation between the two countries is more important than ever, and the ongoing dialogue between the leaders of both nations is a valuable contribution to regional peace and humanitarian efforts.

She stressed that the Turkish Embassy in Kuwait remains committed to strengthening these close ties between the two countries through joint initiatives and projects that bring mutual benefit to both nations. She emphasized that the two countries have demonstrated solidarity and cooperation during difficult times, reflecting the depth of the historical relations between them.

After her speech, a special video message from President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was shown on the occasion of the National Day. He expressed his pride in the achievements of Türkiye for more than a century, and the active role of Turkish communities around the world in representing their country in an honorable manner.

Sönmez presented a commemorative gift to the guest of honor, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, as an expression of appreciation and gratitude for attending the celebration, and then they both proceeded to the National Day cake-cutting ceremony amidst a festive atmosphere filled with joy and pride.

Kuwait lauds UNAMI's role in Iraq's political stability

WASHINGTON, Oct 30, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait commended the role of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in supporting Iraq's political stability and promote security and development.

Addressing the UN General Assembly in New York, Abdulaziz Al-Saidi, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations, expressed his

country's appreciation for the mission; which mandate ends by end of this year, as well its positive support regarding the files of Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing persons, nationals of third countries, and Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

In this context, Al-Saidi emphasized the importance of Iraq's full cooperation with the UN High-Level

Representative tasked exclusively with following up on these files, pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2792 (2025), to ensure the desired progress on these sensitive humanitarian issues in a constructive and responsible manner, free from any political exploitation.

He said that the State of Kuwait reiterates that Iraq's security and stability are essential elements of

regional security, affirming commitment to continuing close cooperation with the UN and the brotherly Iraq to ensure that these humanitarian issues are addressed within a consistent UN framework, in a manner that upholds the principles of international law, strengthens good neighborly relations and mutual respect, and enables Iraq to successfully fulfill its international obligations and duties.

Other Voices

Kuwait needs its James Baker

By Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

I met James Baker on January 30, 2023, at the Willard Hotel in Washington. I had hoped to speak with him about Kuwait, but in his calm and deliberate manner he turned the discussion toward something larger. He reflected on the diplomacy of his time and contrasted it with today's reflexive reliance on force.

Not long before that meeting I had listened to William Burns's memoir The Back Channel. In it, Burns described Baker's diplomacy as firm yet rational. He emphasized Baker's reliance on dialogue and sustained engagement even when politics pointed toward confrontation. For Burns, what set Baker apart was his insistence on legitimacy in international law and his credibility with allies—foundations that underpinned his success.

If Americans can still turn to a man in his mid-nineties for lessons and inspiration, why should Kuwait not do the same? Where are our own elder statesmen—those who witnessed independence in 1961, endured the invasion of 1990, and navigated the turbulence after Iraq in 2003? Their absence is more than silence; it weakens our national memory.

Their voices are not a luxury but a necessity. They carry the lived experience of guiding institutions through difficult times and of navigating moments when stability was at risk. They know that calm on the surface does not always mean true security, and that a sudden loss of balance can quickly bring serious



Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

peril. They can link past to present and foresee future risks with the perspective of those who once managed national responsibilities under intense pressure.

This is why Kuwait must carve out a special space for them. While public debate is often constrained by rules and sensitivities, these men and women must be allowed to speak with a freedom not granted to others.

Their critiques, their warnings, and their predictions are precisely what can prevent avoidable crises. It is the responsibility of the Council of Ministers to provide them with that platform and to show the patience that truth sometimes demands. For the bitter honesty of those who care, however uncomfortable, is far less painful than the silence that leaves a country blindsided by problems it might have avoided.

'Together for Shared Prosperity'

Kuwait to host 9th EU-GCC Business Forum on Nov 5-6

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: European Union (EU) Ambassador to Kuwait Anne Koistinen announced that Kuwait will host the Ninth EU-GCC Business Forum with the theme, "Together for Shared Prosperity," on Nov 5 and 6 at Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center.

The high-level joint event will bring together senior policymakers, business leaders, investors and entrepreneurs from both regions to foster dialogue and build partnerships that support economic diversification and sustainable growth.

In a press statement, Koistinen pointed out that Kuwait, as the current chair of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the host country of the forum, plays a vital role in strengthening the partnership between the EU and the GCC.

She confirmed that European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maroš Šefčovič will visit Kuwait to attend the forum. Vice-President of the European Investment Bank Ioannis Tsakiris and EU Special Representative for the Gulf region Luigi Di Maio are also expected to participate as high-level speakers.

She added that the business forum will discuss ways to enhance the enormous po-



Anne Koistinen, European Union Ambassador to Kuwait

tential of relations between the EU and the GCC countries in the areas of innovation, trade and investment. She said the Gulf region is EU's sixth largest trading partner, while the EU is the GCC's second largest, accounting for 11.7 percent of the total merchandise trade of the GCC. In 2024, the volume of trade in goods between the two sides reached €161.7 billion.

She invited interested parties from the public and private sectors to register for this important event by visiting the website and social media accounts of the EU Delegation in Kuwait.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Citizenship: between the origin and responsibility

“CLEARLY, in every nation, there are moments that call for a return to the roots of citizenship, not as a privilege granted, but as a commitment encompassing both rights and responsibilities,” columnist Major General **Eng. Faisal Musaed Al-Jazzaf** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The statements by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef on the issue of revoked citizenships reaffirm this fundamental principle, which goes beyond administrative concerns to touch on the justice of belonging and the dignity of identity. Citizenship is a fundamental right, serving as the gateway to all other rights, which cannot be accessed without it.

“The Minister emphasized that the “issue of reinstatement” falls under the authority of the political leadership, with the final decision resting with His Highness (May God protect him). This underscores that fairness is the responsibility of the state, while loyalty to the homeland is the responsibility of the citizen. Citizenship is more than a document; it is a social contract based on mutual commitment between the state, which provides care, and the citizens, who respond with loyalty, productivity, and achievement.

“Kuwait, which has always been a haven for Arabs and a beacon of humanitarianism, cannot compromise the rights of its citizens. At the same time, it will not forsake its principles of national security or institutional justice. This requires a delicate balance guided by wisdom and prudence, as preserving the integrity of the state is as vital as ensuring justice for individuals.

“As we revisit this national dialogue on identity, we reaffirm that citizenship is not a static inheritance but a commitment reflected through action, loyalty, and responsibility. It is our collective duty to nurture this awareness, for national dignity is inseparable from adherence to the law, and justice cannot be realized without upholding public order.

“Ultimately, the minister conveys a reassuring message - Kuwait is a state of justice and humanity, and its doors will remain open to every sincere citizen who proves their loyalty through deeds, not mere words. The homeland is not a gift to be begged for, but an identity to be preserved through action and a responsibility to be fulfilled with trust and integrity.

“We ask God to have mercy on our righteous martyrs, to protect our beloved Kuwait, and to bless the efforts of all who work for its progress, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness the Crown Prince (may God preserve and protect them).”

Also:



Faisal Al-Jazzaf

“When one reaches the age of 50, one assumes, in one way or another, that they are beginning a new phase of life with different choices than before, perhaps new opportunities for personal development, and a desire to improve the way they deal with the challenges and encounters in life,” Kuwaiti writer **Khaled Al-Janfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“From my perspective, there are some principles that distinguish life after 50, including fear of God and obedience to Him through the remaining part of one’s life.

“When a wise Muslim reaches the age of 50, he realizes that he may be entering the final phase of his life. Therefore, he prepares as much as he can for the afterlife and devotes most of his time to obeying God, doing good deeds, and complying with His commands, because the days pass quickly and the remainder of his life may be shorter than before.

“A Muslim, especially after the age of 50, must strive to be among the people of the Qur’an. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Indeed, God has people among mankind.” They said, “O Messenger of God, who are they?” He said, “They are the people of the Qur’an, the people of God and His chosen ones.”

“Becoming a person of the Qur’an means reading it daily, reflecting on its noble meanings, and striving, as much as possible, to embody its morals and principles in both private and public life. Blessed is the one who does not abandon the Book of God after the age of fifty.

“Life after fifty is an opportunity for daily reflection on the lessons learned from half a century of living on this small planet. The fruits of such contemplation include a sense of tranquility and emotional stability, acceptance of the past, pride in meaningful relationships, and a more selective outlook on life.

“After reaching the age of fifty, a Muslim’s heart becomes increasingly attached to the mosques.

“Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, “Seven will be shaded by God on the Day when there is no shade but His: a just ruler, a young man who grew up in the worship of God, a man whose heart is attached to the mosques, two men who love each other for the sake of God, a man who is tempted by a woman of high status and beauty but does not yield, saying that he fears God, a man who gives charity in secret so that his left hand does not know what his right hand is giving, and a man who remembers God alone and whose eyes overflow with tears.”

□ □ □

“In a remarkable development, a US federal judge issued a ruling to halt President Donald Trump’s unlawful decision to lay off 800,000 federal government employees during the government shutdown, pending a final ruling on the lawsuit,” columnist **Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah**

daily.

“Regardless of the justifications, it is well known that the United States has a presidential administration. However, the judiciary holds authority over everyone, including the president. This means that all must comply with judicial rulings until the lawsuit is resolved.

“In many Third World countries, the president issues orders that are obeyed without question. This is why such countries fall behind, like what happened in Syria and Iraq where the Ba’ath Party reduced the nation to the authority of the president alone.

“Saddam Hussein was synonymous with all of Iraq, where he had the power to order the killing of people without any judicial oversight. The rulings of his regime reflected the dictates of the intelligence services.

“The same is true in Libya and other Third World countries, where fear prevails and everyone thinks twice before taking any initiative or making any gesture.

“I am not a fan of the United States’ foreign policy, but it must be acknowledged that it is characterized by freedom of thought and opportunities for all, in the economy, politics, and society.

“Despite the lingering effects of racism, everyone has the chance to prove themselves. This is why we see giant corporations and wealthy individuals. It is also why some states have some of the strongest economies in the world, because the United States is a land of opportunities.

“America is distinguished by its freedom of thought, where the individual is independent and free to exercise their rights as long as they do not violate the law or harm society.

“Bill Gates started in his family’s garage and built his company into the largest technology company in the world, Elon Musk, whose father immigrated to America from South Africa, is now one of the richest people in the world.

“This court ruling against President Donald Trump, in his capacity as president, limits individual control over the law and prevents its manipulation to serve personal political interests. Limiting the power of the President of the United States reflects the constitutional checks and balances that cannot be bypassed. This demonstrates a genuine separation of powers, with the judiciary exercising its authority free from pressure. As a result, individuals enjoy considerable freedom, especially in business and entrepreneurial initiatives, freedoms that are largely unavailable in Third World countries.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Al-Kharafi



KUNA photo
Director General of the Interior Ministry’s General Directorate of Coast Guard, Commodore Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah speaking at the occasion.

‘GCC unity vital to curb threats’

Guards mark ‘Special Day’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): Director General of the Interior Ministry’s General Directorate of Coast Guard, Commodore Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah, affirmed that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries’ Coast Guard and Border Guard Day is an annual occasion to celebrate the noble efforts of the agencies.

This came in a speech delivered by Commodore Al-Sabah during an event held by Kuwait’s Coast Guard at Sabah Al-Ahmad Coast Guard Base on Wednesday, with representatives from the GCC’s Coast Guard Directors present, and several heads of diplomatic missions.

He added that this day is not only a celebratory occasion, but also a platform for a professional exchange of experiences and expertise, enhancing field coordination, and consolidating the concepts of joint security work, which contributes to strengthening the security of the borders and territorial waters of the GCC countries. He emphasized that GCC unity and the cohesion of security agencies are a source of strength and a driving force for continued success and the ability to face challenges with confidence and competence.

The General Directorate of Coast Guard in Kuwait has witnessed significant developmental steps over the past two years, characterized by scientific planning and an institutional approach, based on a strategic vision aimed at raising performance efficiency and improving the maritime command and control system.

Commodore Al-Sabah explained that among the most prominent projects implemented within this framework is the Coastal Surveillance System Development Project, considered one of the most important strategic projects in the history of the Coast Guard, which combines modern infrastructure with advanced digital systems contributing to enhanced operational capabilities and field readiness.

Furthermore, maritime drones were launched, a pioneering step in the region, enabling the Coast Guard to conduct remote surveillance and patrol missions with high efficiency and advanced safety.

He also reviewed the GeoFace system, which represents the main digital infrastructure of the system which connects all sites, centers, and towers in a unified platform, allowing for real-time monitoring and the accurate and reliable analysis of operational data.

Work is currently underway to establish new operations centers equipped with the latest technologies, along with the construction of modern radar towers equipped with advanced thermal cameras at multiple locations.

GCC Chiefs of Staff eye boost in defense cooperation



KUNA photo
GCC Supreme Military Committee of Chiefs of Staff pose for a picture at the meeting.

Joint bid eyed against terror, cyber threats

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): The acting interior undersecretary, Major General Ali Al-Adwani, on Wednesday held talks with the visiting Deputy Commander of the Turkish Gendarmerie General Command Lieut-General Huseyin Kurtoglu on issues of common interest particularly in the security sphere.

The Ministry of Interior said in a statement that the two sides discussed cooperation, expertise swap, exchange of potentials in the realm of the special forces, the border security, combating terrorism and organized crime, in addition to swapping experience in the fields of cyber security, modern technology for monitoring and security analysis.

It quoted Maj. Gen. Al-Adwani as affirming depth of the bilateral relations and the two countries’ cooperation in employment of modern technology for fighting crime.

The talks are dealt with backing efforts to maintain security and stability in the two countries, exchanging information and field expertise among the special apparatuses and endorsing the principle of sustainable security partnership between the two friendly countries.



KUNA photo
Acting Interior Undersecretary, Major General Ali Al-Adwani meets Deputy Commander of the Turkish Gendarmerie General Command Lieut-General Huseyin Kurtoglu.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): The 22nd meeting of the GCC Supreme Military Committee of Chiefs of Staff was held Thursday in Kuwait to discuss means of enhancing defense cooperation among the armed forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

In a statement, the Kuwaiti Army General Staff said the meeting was chaired by Chief of the General Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian, with the participation of the GCC Assistant Secretary-General for Military Affairs, the Commander of the Unified Military Command, and several senior military officials.

The meeting reviewed a number of topics, focusing on strengthening defense cooperation, coordinating operational and training concepts, and boosting military readiness to enhance security and stability in the region.

Al-Shuraian affirmed that the meeting reflects the ongoing commitment to military cooperation and integration among GCC states, underscoring the importance of unity and solidarity in facing regional challenges.

He conveyed the greetings of the Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, who expressed appreciation for the participants’ efforts in supporting joint military work and wished them a pleasant stay in Kuwait.

Procedural invalidity acquits 3 defendants in drug smuggling

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Attorney Abdullah Al-Alanda stated that the Criminal Court, in its ‘Renewed Panel’ session, decided to release his client, along with another Kuwaiti citizen and an expatriate, on b.a.il of KD1,000 each, in the case of smuggling around 300 kilograms of hashish by sea with the intent to traffic the substance.

In a statement to the newspaper, Al-Alanda confirmed that the court accepted his arguments, which maintained the invalidity of the procedures, implausibility of the incident, and lack of justification for pretrial detention, leading to the court’s decision to release the defendants.

Al-Alanda stressed that the decision reflects confidence in the fair and just application of the law, which is not surprising given the impartial judiciary in the country.

□ □ □

‘Partial disability’: The Court of Appeals overturned the decision of the Technical Committee of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), to deny the classification of a 1961-born citizen as visually impaired. The court ruled that the citizen should be recognized as having moderate and permanent visual impairment, granting her a disability certificate and entitling her to the financial allowances associated with her condition, with PADA covering the related expenses.

The citizen had initially applied to PADA for recognition of her visual impairment, but the specialized medical committee rejected the request on February 6, 2024, stating that her condition did not meet the official definition of disability.

After her appeal was rejected in March, the citizen turned to the Administrative Court, seeking the annulment of the decision on the grounds that it violated the law and contradicted medical reports confirming the loss of useful vision in one eye.

The court affirmed that the forensic medical report verified the plaintiff’s loss of useful vision in her right eye, classifying her condition as moderate visual impairment.

Lawyer Abdullah Shujaa Al-Otaibi, the plaintiff’s legal counsel, described the ruling as an important victory for the principle of subjecting medical committee decisions to judicial oversight, emphasizing that the committees’ discretionary powers must be based on clear scientific and legal foundations.

Kuwait’s anti-drugs drive praised

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): Chairperson of the Ghiras National Awareness Project for Drugs Prevention Dr. Ahmad Al-Samdan on Wednesday lauded the qualitative achievements in combating drugs in the country.

Dr. Al-Samdan in a press statement praised the great efforts made by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah in protecting Kuwait and its people against this scourge.

He also acclaimed the ministry’s efforts that succeeded in cutting amounts of drugs smuggled into the country by 90 percent and the enacting of a new law that stipulates punitive deterrence against traders of the poisonous materials.

The noticeable cooperation among the state and society’s institutions reflect growing national awareness of the necessity of joint action in the spheres of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, added Ghiras’ chairperson.

Specialized programs contribute to treating addicts, helping them restore confidence to be effective and productive individuals, he added.

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Social Affairs unveils mega elderly resort in strategic 2026/2027 plan

KD60m project boosts public-private partnership

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Financial, Administrative and Cooperative Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Sayed Issa revealed that the ministry included the Sabah Al-Ahmad Elderly Care Resort project, measuring 133,000 square meters in the service area of Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City, in its strategic plan and budget for fiscal 2026/2027.

In a press statement, Issa explained that if the final total cost of the project exceeds KD60 million, it will be offered for public subscription, similar to some energy projects. He affirmed the serious efforts of the ministry, under the guidance of Minister Dr. Amthar Al-Huwailah, to make this a key government gateway for achieving the Kuwait 2035 vision. He said the primary objective of this vision is to solidify the principle of partnership with the private sector, thereby, contributing to strengthening the non-oil fi-

nancial resources of the State. He added that the tendering procedures are currently being finalized by the relevant authorities, indicating the Legal Advice and Legislation Department will be consulted for legal approval, after which the project will be submitted to the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to select a consultant.

He revealed the project includes the establishment of a world-class resort with comprehensive rehabilitation services, comparable to those in developed countries. "It will serve as a Gulf and regional center for developing elderly care services without the need to travel abroad. It is in line with the Kuwait 2035 vision in terms of strengthening partnerships and supporting social welfare initiatives. It will provide essential services, including education, healthcare, psychological support and recreation, for the elderly to guarantee their psychological and social well-being," he added.

He pointed out that "upon completion, the resort will be a distinguished landmark offering the highest level of elderly care. It will have green spaces, a range of buildings for social, psychological, recreational, administrative and secu-

rity services, a five-star hotel, a residential care home, and a center for raising awareness about Alzheimer's, neurodegenerative diseases and multiple sclerosis, to train patients and their families on how to manage these conditions. In addition, there will be a health, rehabilitation, sports and cultural club, a center for physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and sound therapy, sports fields, a walking track, rest areas, a restaurant complex, a cinema, a mosque, and administrative and service facilities. One of the most important features of the project is the creation of job opportunities for dozens of citizens in the public and private sectors. It will also improve the international standing of Kuwait and its ranking in the Sustainable Development and Human Rights indices, while being fully compliant with Law No. 18/2016 on elderly care, particularly Article 19, which obligates the government to allocate spaces for the elderly in clubs, sports, cultural, religious and recreational centers according to their needs."

He then disclosed that in cooperation with Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), the ministry is currently studying a number of investment projects that could increase its revenues and ease the burden of the public treasury. He said these projects include wedding halls, private nurseries, development centers and the new juvenile complex, which will be implemented through a build-operate-transfer (BOT) system or the sole operation-management model.



Dr. Issa



KUNA photo

Director General of the Joint Program Production Institution of the Gulf Cooperation Council during the 21st Arab Media Forum in Beirut.

Calls for credible, positive reporting

‘Arab media key partner in sustainable development’

BEIRUT, Oct 30, (KUNA): Director General of the Joint Program Production Institution of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Sabah, said Thursday that Arab media is a key partner in sustainable development.

He highlighted media's role in keeping pace with regional and global transformations and shaping public awareness to support societal progress.

Sheikh Mubarak spoke to KUNA on the sidelines of the 21st Arab Media Forum in Beirut under the theme "Media and Sustainable Development: Partners of the Present, Alliance for the Future."

The forum, under Lebanese President Michel Aoun's patronage, gathered Arab media leaders and experts to exchange knowledge and develop practical strategies.

He said media production and content are important tools for promoting national and strategic issues when aligned with developmental perspectives.

Sheikh Mubarak urged Arab media professionals to adopt national positions and spread positive messages that support development visions and societal advancement.

He thanked President Aoun, Information Minister Paul Morcos, and Forum Secretary-General Madi Al-Khamis for ensuring the forum's success, which began Wednesday and runs for two days.

The forum, an observer member of the Arab Ministers Council for Media and the Arab League Permanent Committee on Media, is held in Lebanon for the first time.

Lecturers at the Arab Media Forum that kicked off on Wednesday affirmed need for a transparent media for boosting investments in the Arab world and attain the aspired sustainable development.

During a session themed "the media role in creating a relevant environment for economic development," Director General of the Institute for Planning Dr. Adel Wuqayyan alluded to the gap between legislations and laws and the rapid making of financial and investment products. He warned against dissemination of inaccurate information that may mislead the investor and weaken confidence in the economy.

Dr. Al-Wuqayyan affirmed that investors need "a clean and reliable media" to limit risks, noting the social media have been abuzz with fake news and intentionally publish inaccurate information

Ali Hassan Khalil, Chief Executive Officer of the Kuwaiti Financial Center, affirmed that the media can create a suitable investment environment by publishing facts and accurate information.

The Lebanese media figure, Albert Kostanian, said the media must broadcast figures and indexes in the context of economic reporting.

In another session, titled "in the heart of sustainable development," the Kuwaiti former minister of oil and minister of state for economic affairs, Dr. Saad Al-Barrak, underscored need for "responsible freedom that can help the media play a positive and effective role in tandem with development."

He alluded to the substantial freedom for the Kuwaiti media but called for "limiting the prevalence of the official media in the Arab world."

The 21st session of the forum kicked off in Beirut earlier today, under the logo, "the media and development, partners of the present, an alliance for the future," under sponsorship of Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and the Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abulghait. Both attended today's session.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti engineer Abdullah Al-Gharib wins the Arab Youth Excellence Award in the research achievement category.

Al-Gharib wins Arab Youth Excellence Award

CAIRO, Oct 30, (KUNA): Engineer Abdullah Al-Gharib, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Society of Engineers, won the Arab Youth Excellence Award on Wednesday at its 13th session, organized by the League of Arab States, in the category of research and innovation achievement in the ministerial and civil engineering fields.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Engineer Al-Gharib said the award recognized his pioneering project entitled "Recycling Glass and Rubber Tire Waste to Improve Concrete Properties," considering the honor a culmination of the efforts of Arab youth in the fields of research and innovation.

He expressed pride in this achievement, which aims to treat environmental waste and transform it into value-

added materials that enhance concrete quality and contribute to building more sustainable infrastructure.

He explained that the project highlights the importance of utilizing industrial waste to improve the mechanical properties of concrete and reduce environmental impact, noting that the results achieved will help develop sustainable building concepts in the region.

Al-Gharib dedicated the award to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God protect him, and His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, may God protect him, as well as to the Kuwaiti people, emphasizing that the state's support for innovation and scientific research has been instrumental in achieving this distinction.



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Kuwait University photo

Dr. Osama Al-Omair, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, during the reception of the Turkmenistan delegation.

KU hosts Turkmenistan delegation

In a move to strengthen local and international academic ties with Kuwait University (KU), Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Professor Osama Ali Al-Omair received a delegation from Turkmenistan. The delegation was led by Advisor to the Department of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Maksat Bekiev.

According to a press release issued by KU, the meeting was organized in cooperation with the Office of the Vice President for Planning and the Public Relations and Media Department at the university.

It was attended by Assistant Vice President for Research for External Research Cooperation and Consulting Dr. Mabkhout Mohammed Al-Dousari, Assistant Vice President for Academic Support Services for University Site

Planning Dr. Majed Abdulrazzaq Ma-jeed, and Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs for Academic Development Professor Huda Mahmoud.

The meeting was held at the Visitors Center in Sabah Al-Salem University City on Tuesday, October 28.

Prof. Huda Mahmoud welcomed the delegation and delivered a presentation, expressing the university's interest in collaborating with Turkmenistan.

She also highlighted the university's academic and infrastructural developments through a visual presentation.

The delegation then conducted a field tour of the university's research and academic facilities, accompanied by the Acting Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences Dr. Ali Rashid Al-Mutairi.

Equal opportunities, access guaranteed

PAHW organizes first-ever housing draw for women with special needs

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: In a first-of-its-kind move, the Women's Housing Affairs Committee at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) organized a special lottery for female citizens with disabilities whose housing grant applications are registered under the rental housing project.

In a televised statement, Chairperson of the committee Sheikhha Bibi Al-Yousef said the committee decided to prioritize this category in the lottery in recognition of their special needs, affirming that all eligible cases were allocated houses, thereby, ensuring that every eligible woman receives her house without waiting in line.

She confirmed that the lottery was conducted for two separate boxes -- one for Sulaibiya houses and the other for Taima houses. She explained that this procedure was implemented as per the wishes of the eligible women to allow them to choose the area suitable for them. She added those who were unable to update their data or attend the lottery for people with disabilities will be contacted later to choose the area they prefer, so that all their procedures are completed before the end of the year.

She then announced that the general lottery for women's housing applications will be held on Dec 2, stressing this is for all eligible women who can choose between Taima and Sulaibiya. She clarified that this focus on

housing for women is in compliance with directives of the higher leadership and in line with the commitment to provide a decent life for eligible female citizens.

Moreover, Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikhha Jawaher Al-Sabah praised the role of the committee in championing the rights of people with special needs. She pointed out that conducting a lottery to distribute houses to people with disabilities is a first-of-its-kind step, which translates the rights enshrined in the Constitution and reflects the commitment of Kuwait to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Present at the event were Chairperson of Women's Housing Committee Bibi Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, acting Director General of PAHW Eng. Rashid Al-Anzi, Director of the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) Dr. Dalal Al-Othman, Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikhha Jawaher Al-Sabah, Honorary President of Kuwait Sports Club for the Disabled Sheikhha Sheikhha Al-Abdullah, and a number of PAHW officials.

In a press statement, PAHW confirmed that this step is the first of its kind in the history of the Authority -- holding a separate lottery for female citizens with disabilities to ensure the application of the principles of justice and equality between male and female citizens, and enabling eligible groups to obtain their housing rights easily and conveniently.

Crown Prince and Prime Minister extend best wishes

Amir congratulates Pres of Cote d'Ivoire on re-election

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Thursday sent a cable to President Alassane Ouattara of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on his re-election for a new presidential term.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir lauded the good relationship between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and wished President Alassane Ouattara success and good health and the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and its friendly people all progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Thursday sent a cable to President Alassane Ouattara of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on his re-election for a new presidential term, wishing him best of luck and the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and its friendly people all progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Thursday sent a cable to President Alassane Ouattara of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on his re-election for a new presidential term.

Tokyo Governor lectures Kuwaiti students on climate change perils

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike delivered a lecture at Kuwait University on Thursday that delved into the challenges of climate change, chief among them an increase in natural disasters across different parts of the globe.

The lecture highlighted environmental protection initiatives as crucial moving forward, citing carbon neutral goals and green energy projects as imperative to deal with the mounting threat of climate change, according to the Tokyo governor.

She went on to hail the "breadth" of Japan's ties with Kuwait, recalling the copious amounts of Kuwaiti aid

given to her country in the wake of a deadly 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck northeastern Japan in what was one of the most powerful tremors in recorded history.

Echoing her sentiments, Kuwait University president Dr. Dina Al-Mailem welcomed the visit of the Tokyo emperor and the delegation accompanying her, saying such initiatives as the lecture was part of Kuwaiti efforts to bolster academic ties with international partners.

These activities are routinely organized by Kuwait University to further "reinforce" its position as among the most prominent contributors to the national 2035 vision for development, she added.



KUNA photo
Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike delivers a lecture on environmental protection and the challenges of climate change.



KUNA photo
The Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives his Indonesian counterpart Muhammad Anis Matta.

Kuwait, Indonesia discuss boosting relations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): The Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Thursday his Indonesian counterpart Muhammad Anis Matta, discussing means of cementing bilateral relations between the

two friendly countries.

The talks touched on latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

The Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah held a luncheon in honor of the guest and his entourage.

Continued from Page 1

'Gulf can

The minister, further, affirmed Kuwait's support to Sheikhha Al-Nowais' nomination to the post of secretary-general of the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for 2026-2029, regarding this nomination as reflecting honorable Gulf presence and influence in the international arena.

He also commended Saudi Arabia's great efforts in hosting the 26th session of the UNWTO General Assembly as a watershed in the history of Gulf tourism diplomacy.

The Kuwaiti minister also appreciated Bahrain's hosting of the "Gateway Gulf" as a pioneering pan-Gulf platform of dialogue and economic, investment and tourism cooperation in order to promote integration, develop strategic partnerships and share successful expertise.

Kuwait and UK

On what the UK can offer, he pointed out "I want to see investment flowing in both directions. Kuwait has historically invested heavily in the UK. It could be argued that the current strength of the British stock market is partly due to Kuwaiti and other Gulf investments. In recent days, we announced a massive multi-billion pounds fund to support British exporters who want to invest here in the Gulf under the UK Export Finance framework."

He explained that the agreement is not limited to oil, gas, iron and steel, as it includes a wider range of products. He revealed that the UK launched a new industrial strategy earlier this year, identifying eight key sectors in which it believes it has a particular advantage, such as advanced engineering (including aerospace), financial services and creative industries.

He added that the main reason for his visit is to support and strengthen trade cooperation. "Many people in the Gulf states have been doing business with the UK for years, decades and centuries. We want to build on this legacy. We are striving to finalize the free trade agreement as soon as possible," he elaborated.

Regarding the impact of Brexit on the economic relations of the UK with the Gulf states, Bryant said "If we were still members of the European Union (EU), I would not be here now negotiating a free trade agreement, because that would have been done by the EU."

Indicating this is his first visit to Kuwait, Bryant expressed his happiness over being in one of the oldest areas of human settlement in the world. He pointed out "I am a historian. I have written many history books, so coming to a place where humans have lived since ancient times is very exciting and enjoyable."

Asked about the alignment of the agreement with Kuwait 2035 vision, he said "it is clear that any country that relies on a single industry will face future shocks. Therefore, economic diversification is crucial. We are ready to support Kuwait in this endeavor. We are already working on this, hence, the free trade agreement is so important, as it covers multiple sectors and reduces customs barriers and other obstacles to trade."

Kuwait, Türkiye

Ghoneim and briefed them on the shooting ranges, the simulation training field, the sniper field, and the (91) mechanized infantry battalion, it noted.

This visit comes within the framework of strengthening cooperation and exchanging expertise between the Kuwaiti National Guard and the Turkish Gendarmerie Forces, which contributes to developing the fields of training and joint field work, it added.

Maze of

This comes amid sweeping economic and legislative reforms throughout the Gulf region aimed at diversifying income sources and en-

hancing the investment environment.

In this regard, real estate expert Badah Al-Dousari stressed that allowing foreigners to own property in Kuwait is a sound economic strategy that serves the country's interests.

He explained that there is no obstacle to granting residency to foreign investors, which would bring significant capital and investment into the local market. Achieving a balance between attracting foreign investors and protecting citizens' interests requires an effective real estate authority to regulate the market, implement fair mechanisms, and ensure the rights of all parties as well as organize the relationship between investment and housing development.

Offering a ten-year residency permit to foreigners who purchase property or residential units would be a strong incentive to attract investors, as this approach has already proven successful in other Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Kuwait needs a comprehensive review of its real estate laws, including amendments to allow foreign ownership under specific regulations, while taking lessons from Gulf experiences, particularly the UAE.

The main challenge lies in the complexity of current real estate laws, which hinders the attraction of foreign investors, despite a substantial segment of expatriates and business people ready to invest in property, and who already form the economic backbone of many important sectors in Kuwait.

Al-Dousari indicated that opening the market to foreign ownership could help revitalize the local real estate sector and boost transaction volumes, but it could also raise concerns about potential price increases and their impact on citizens with limited incomes.

Real estate developer Khaled Bebbhani emphasized that legislative differences among Gulf countries regarding foreign property ownership have become increasingly pronounced in recent years.

He explained that Qatar has emerged as the fastest and most transparent, allowing foreigners freehold ownership in designated areas and granting residency and official title deeds within days, provided they invest at least \$200,000. Saudi Arabia has also made major progress by enacting a foreign ownership law in 2025, permitting ownership in specific, carefully regulated areas while excluding Mecca and Medina from direct ownership.

Bebbhani went on to explain that Kuwait's recent legislative reforms are a positive step in the right direction but are still insufficient to attract significant investment compared to its neighbors.

Allowing foreigners to own limited properties within regulated quotas, for example, residential units ranging from 120 to 200 square meters, linked to a 15-year residency permit would benefit the Kuwaiti economy. Such a policy would attract residents likely to spend their income locally, boosting the service and consumer sectors, especially if accompanied by measures to prevent speculation and ensure housing priority for citizens.

Bebbhani called for the allocation of specific areas for foreign ownership and linking property ownership to residency permits under specific conditions, similar to Qatar's model.

He proposed creating a unified digital real estate registry to facilitate procedures and enable transactions to be completed within days.

To balance attracting investment with protecting citizens, Bebbhani recommended setting maximum quotas and designated areas for foreign ownership, imposing minimum holding periods before resale, and applying fees on quick-sale transactions. He also suggested allocating a portion of proceeds from foreign ownership to support citizens' housing funds, and limiting foreign ownership to investment and commercial properties, excluding private residential areas.

Real estate researcher Abdulrahman Al-Hussainan stressed that allowing foreigners to own property in Kuwait is a sound economic strategy aimed at attracting foreign invest-

ment and stimulating the economy.

He explained that such a move would help revitalize stagnant economic sectors, as has been observed in several other Gulf countries.

Foreign ownership extends beyond investment benefits, as it positively impacts social and economic spheres by increasing consumption and supporting education and services sectors. Enabling expatriates to own property would strengthen Kuwait's standing in the real estate market, but it must be limited to investment and commercial areas to protect the privacy of citizens' residential areas and prevent speculation.

The UAE is one of the most successful Gulf models, having opened the door to foreign ownership in 2008, which directly fueled the economic boom in Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, and Ras Al Khaimah. The UAE established clear regulations for foreign ownership, linking benefits to the investment value of the property, which helped create an attractive and sustainable real estate market.

Saudi Arabia adopted a similar approach under its Vision 2030, not only implementing the model but also enhancing it with additional incentives to encourage real estate ownership and investment.

Al-Hussainan also highlighted experiences in Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar, noting that Bahrain successfully leveraged its strategic location and tourist attractions along the Arabian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz to attract foreigners seeking to settle in an open environment. Many residents who previously lived in Saudi Arabia moved to Bahrain and acquired properties there, contributing significantly to the growth of the Bahraini economy.

Challenges to Foreign Real Estate Ownership:

- Absence of an independent real estate authority to regulate the market and ensure fairness between citizens and investors.
- Complexity of current laws and the multiplicity of regulatory bodies, which slows down investment procedures.
- Concerns over rising property prices and their impact on citizens' ability to own property.
- Lack of transparency and oversight, potentially opening the door to speculation and monopolies.
- Legal complexities related to inheritance and the transfer of ownership to foreigners after death.

Real estate legal consultant Iman Al-Hashash emphasized that foreign ownership of real estate is no longer just a legal issue, but has become a strategic matter where economic interests intersect with social and sovereign dimensions.

She explained that each Gulf state has adopted an approach reflecting its unique economic and social identity.

Qatar has implemented a model of rapid liberalization, allowing foreign investors to own property in designated areas with a minimum value of \$200,000.

Saudi Arabia enacted a law permitting non-Saudis individuals and companies to own real estate in areas specified by royal decree, excluding Mecca and Medina. This approach is more conservative than Qatar's but more open than Kuwait's.

Kuwait has taken a balanced approach, beginning with Law No. 74/1979, which restricted property ownership to citizens, followed by Law No. 1/2000 granting Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) citizens the right to own property, and the 2004 amendment that removed the reciprocity requirement. This was further developed with Laws No. 7/2025 and 195/2025, allowing listed companies and real estate funds to own property under strict regulations.

Al-Hashash emphasized that private residential areas in Kuwait remain fully protected, striking a balance between attracting foreign capital and protecting citizens from price increases.

She affirmed that Qatar provides a model of clear conditions and quick procedures, enhancing investment attractiveness, but stressed that effective oversight is necessary to prevent inflationary pressures, adding

that opening up the real estate market carries sovereign and social implications that require careful regulation, as land ownership is closely tied to national sovereignty.

Advantages of opening up ownership:

- Attracting new capital and revitalizing the real estate and investment markets.
- Diversifying national income sources and reducing dependence on oil.
- Stimulating urban development and improving the quality of real estate projects.
- Creating indirect job opportunities in contracting, services, and operations sectors.
- Enhancing Kuwait's investment image and keeping pace with regional experiences in Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

PMs discuss

Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah expressed pride of the distinguished relations between the two countries, affirming that these ties depict mutual respect and joint action at various levels.

The discussions involved Governor of the Egyptian Central Bank Hassan Abdullah, Finance Minister Ahmad Kojok, Minister of Supplies and Internal Trade Dr. Sherif Faruq, Minister of Investment and External Trade Hassan Khatib and other officials.

From the Kuwaiti side, the meeting was attended by the Minister of Electricity, Waterm Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance, the Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem, Undersecretary of the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Managing Director and Board member of the Public Investment Authority Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah, the State of Kuwait Ambassador Ghanem Sagr Al-Ghanem, Assistant Director General of the Investment Operation at Direct Investment Promotion Authority Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Humoud Al-Sabah.

Asian expat

General Hamad Al-Sabah, continued the intensive campaigns targeting the hideouts of drug dealers.

In a press release, the ministry revealed that an Indian was arrested in Mangaf after weeks of meticulous surveillance and investigations, which resulted in the discovery of six kilograms of pure heroin and four kilograms of crystal meth with an estimated total value of KD170,000, in addition to two weighing scales.

According to the ministry, the accused was receiving instructions from abroad and employing an innovative method for getting shipments through the geolocation feature of a social media application. The drugs were then dropped off at predetermined locations without any direct contact.

The ministry confirmed that the accused and the confiscated drugs were referred to the relevant authorities. It added that security campaigns will continue unabated to protect society from drug addiction, urging everyone to cooperate and report any suspicious activity through official channels.

Meanwhile, a security source said methamphetamine and heroin are among the most dangerous and lethal narcotics, asserting that "anti-narcotics officers remain vigilant to apprehend anyone who attempts to spread poison among the youths."

Kuwaiti, Egyptian

An ongoing ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the war-torn enclave took effect on Oct. 10 after two years of conflict. The long-awaited ceasefire deal was reached through the mediation of Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye, and the United States.

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Mohammad Al-Khaldi on Wednesday issued a circular on educational supervisory positions in public, private and religious schools, as well as the Special Education Department, for the 2025/2026 academic year.

In the circular, Al-Khaldi announced that registration for nominations will be open from Nov 2-27 through the website of the ministry by clicking e-services – Educational Supervisory Positions Services – Nomination Registration for Educational Supervisory Positions. The required years of experience will be calculated up to the end of this month. He said a candidate with experience in two different stages of work is eligible for nomination in the current stage if he completed three consecutive years, or for the previous stage if a nomination exists.

He emphasized in his circular the necessity for candidates to have received an "excellent" actual performance rating three times in the last four years, including the year preceding the nomination application, while holding the current

position.

He added that an employee subjected to disciplinary penalty will not be considered for nomination until the specified periods for expunging the penalty, as stipulated in Article 29 of the Civil Service Law and Article 70 of the Civil Service Regulations, have elapsed.

He clarified that those who passed the written exam and personal interview before the issuance of Resolution No. 116/2025 may apply to have their score on the interview or written exam equated to a minimum of 20 percent, which is required to pass the nomination process. Alternatively, the higher score obtained by the applicant, exceeding 20 percent, will be considered equivalent, whichever is higher. He clarified that Master's and Doctoral degrees are taken into consideration in calculating the years of experience only for those who obtained these degrees through study leave from the Development and Training Department or a scholarship from the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

He affirmed that nominations for supervisory positions are for Kuwaiti citizens only, urging all those wishing to apply to register through the website within the specified period.

Other Voices

Iran ... Hijab and water

By Ahmad alsarraf

After 46 years of insisting on the obligation for women to wear the hijab, the Islamic Republic of Iran has suspended the order at the request of the President.

Wearing the hijab is now optional, and no fines or penalties will be imposed on those who choose not to wear it.

The fate of the 100,000 individuals who monitored its enforcement remains uncertain.

This decision marks a rational and radical shift, welcomed after years of protests, loss of life and property, and billions of working hours wasted on trivial matters, at the expense of the many pressing problems facing the country.

In a meeting with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reformist Masoud Pezeshkian, who has gained greater political influence than his predecessors, declared his rejection of the principle of imposing the hijab.

Pezeshkian called for dialogue and the avoidance of violence or coercion, citing his personal experience at home and his refusal to force his daughter to do anything against her will.

Although an increasing number of Iranian women are now appearing in public without the hijab, the law could be reinstated at any time, as conservative forces continue to push for its return.

Al-Qabas newspaper received a response from the Iranian Embassy regarding what I previously reported in my article titled "The good news of KD 1.5" (published two weeks ago). The article mentioned the poisoning of two individuals in Gulf countries and the claim that this resulted from drinking mineral water produced by an Iranian factory. In its response, the Iranian Embassy stated that preliminary investigations revealed the incident to be a criminal matter arising from personal disputes, indicating that the water had been deliberately poisoned by an individual.

I would like to express my gratitude to the embassy for its kind response and clarification, and we are even more appreciative of its acknowledgment of the veracity



alsarraf

of the poisoning incident. Therefore, what I wrote was not an "allegation" but a factual account, the result of drinking contaminated water.

As for what later emerged, according to the embassy's claim that the incident was intentional and stemmed from "personal differences," I was unaware of this at the time I wrote the article. In any case, this should not alter the substance of the matter, particularly since, in the same article, we warned against the consumption of products from several countries, including France.

As for the response's assertion that "Iranian products" have been present in the region's markets for decades, this is true. My wife, who dislikes any non-Lebanese fruits or vegetables, does not hesitate to choose Iranian products instead, given their quality and taste, which are very similar to Lebanese products, even though I have recently begun to express some doubts about the methods used in their cultivation and irrigation.

Regarding the embassy's claim that Iranian products are subject to strict health inspections and monitoring, this is likely true, although we should avoid exaggeration in asserting that it is impossible for low-quality goods to originate from Iran.

I would like to remind the Iranian Embassy that the primary goal of any producer or farmer is profit, which can sometimes lead some to resort to illegal practices. If the word "impossible" were accurate, the poisoning incident would not have occurred.

The article I wrote was not about the poor quality of Iranian products, but rather about the majority of products we receive from certain countries, whose cultivation, irrigation, and cleaning methods remain unknown to us.

If I were an official at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, I would conduct inspection visits to some of the countries from which we import food, particularly fresh produce, and visit livestock and poultry farms, because prevention is better than cure.

If I were an official at the Iranian Embassy, especially during these times, I would invite a number of media professionals and members of the Kuwaiti-Iranian Friendship Society to visit Iran and witness firsthand its many wonderful aspects.

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Attendees cheer during a ‘This is the Turning Point’ campus tour event at the University of Mississippi, in Oxford, Miss. on Oct 29. (AP)

US VP Vance calls for reduction in legal immigration at Turning Point event

WASHINGTON, Oct 30, (AP): US Vice President JD Vance advocated a slowdown in legal immigration Wednesday, saying, “We have to get the overall numbers way, way down.”

Vance took questions from students at the University of Mississippi at an event organized by Turning Point USA, stepping into the role of debater that was so often performed by the organization’s slain founder, Charlie Kirk.

Vance said the optimal number of legal immigrants to admit is “far less than what we’ve been accepting,” but he did not offer a firm number when pressed by a woman who questioned his stance. He criticized former President Joe Biden’s immigration policies, which he said allowed too many people into the country and threatened the social fabric of the United States.

“When something like that happens, you’ve got to allow your own society to cohere a little bit, to build a sense of common identity, for all the newcom-

ers - the ones who are going to stay - to assimilate into American culture,” Vance said. “Until you do that, you’ve got to be careful about any additional immigration, in my view.”

Vance also spoke forcefully about avoiding American deaths in “unnecessary foreign conflicts,” touting President Donald Trump’s Middle East diplomacy and the strike on Iranian nuclear facilities, even as the US steps up military pressure on Venezuela and strikes boats that the Trump administrations says are transporting drugs.

Asked whether Trump’s deployment of the National Guard to Democratic-led cities will lead to a future president using that government power against conservatives, he said his allies shouldn’t be worried about Trump’s exercise of executive power. He justified Trump’s targeting of his political enemies by pointing to his arrest during Biden’s administration. He was charged with illegally keeping classified documents after his first term and attempting to subvert the 2020 election

he lost, but the charges were dismissed after he was elected to his second term a year ago.

“We cannot be afraid to do something because the left might do it in the future,” Vance said. “The left is already going to do it regardless of whether we do it.”

Vance was introduced by Kirk’s widow, Erika Kirk, in one of her first public appearances since she took over her husband’s role leading Turning Point.

“Being on campus right now, for me, is a spiritual reclaiming of territory,” she said, reflecting on Kirk’s love of visiting universities and his mission to move campuses to the right.

Wearing a white “freedom” shirt like the one her husband wore when he was shot, Erika Kirk urged young Christian conservatives to courageously fight for their beliefs and not fear the social consequences.

“If you’re worried about losing a friend-I lost my friend,” she said. “I lost my best friend.”

If someone abandons moratorium, Russia will act accordingly: Peskov

Trump appears to suggest US will resume testing nuclear weapons for first time in 30 years

BUSAN, South Korea, Oct 30, (AP): US President Donald Trump appeared to suggest the US will resume testing nuclear weapons for the first time in three decades, saying it would be on an “equal basis” with Russia and China.

The Kremlin pointed out that a global test ban on nuclear test has remained in place, but warned that if any country resumes nuclear testing Russia would follow suit.

There was no indication the US would start detonating warheads, but Trump offered few details about what seemed to be a significant shift in US policy.

He made the announcement on social media minutes before he met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday in South Korea. When he spoke to reporters later aboard Air Force One as he flew back to Washington, he offered little clarity.

The US military already regularly tests its missiles that are capable of delivering a nuclear warhead, but it has not detonated the weapons since 1992.

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which the US signed but did not ratify, has been observed since its adoption by all countries possessing nuclear weapons, North Korea being the only exception.

Trump suggested, however, that changes were necessary because other countries were testing weapons. It was unclear what he was referring to, but it evoked Cold War-era escalations.

“Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis,” he said in a post on Truth Social. “That process will begin immediately.”

Asked about Trump’s comments, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reaffirmed an earlier warning from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who said that Moscow would resume nuclear tests if others do so first.

“If someone abandons the moratorium, Russia will act accordingly,” Peskov said in a call with reporters.



A sub-surface atomic test is shown on March 23, 1955 at the Nevada Test Site near Yucca Flats, Nev. (AP)

The White House did not immediately respond to questions seeking more details. Trump ignored a question from

a reporter about his post as he sat face-to-face with Xi in Busan, a meeting that focused on trade issues between the two

countries.

When he spoke to reporters later, Trump appeared to be conflating the testing of missiles that deliver a nuclear warhead with the testing of the warheads.

Other countries, he said, “seem to all be nuclear testing” but when it comes to the US, “We have more nuclear weapons than anybody. We don’t do testing.”

“I see them testing and I say, well, if they’re going to test, I guess we have to test,” Trump said as he continued speaking to reporters.

Trump was asked where the tests would occur and he said, “It’ll be announced. We have test sites.”

Pentagon officials didn’t immediately respond to questions about the announcement from Trump on the nuclear missile tests.

Putin this week announced that Russia tested a new atomic-powered and nuclear-capable underwater drone and a new nuclear-powered cruise missile. Putin did not announce any tests of Russia’s nuclear weapons, however, which

last occurred in 1990.

Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, emphasized that Russia’s recent tests of the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile and the Poseidon nuclear-powered underwater drone had nothing to do with the global ban on testing nuclear warheads.

“Regarding the tests of the Burevestnik and the Poseidon, we hope that President Trump was correctly informed about it,” Peskov said. “There is no way it can be interpreted as nuclear testing.”

Trump did not specifically mention the Russian tests in his post, but alluded to the nuclear stockpiles controlled by both Xi and Putin, saying, “Russia is second, and China is a distant third, but will be even within 5 years.”

Putin in 2023 signed a bill revoking Russia’s ratification of a global nuclear test ban, which Moscow said was needed to put Russia on par with the US. The global test ban was signed by President Bill Clinton but never ratified by the Senate.



An aerial view shows the partly flooded village of Blatten after recent snowfalls, five months after a landslide destroyed the village, Blatten, Switzerland, on Oct 28. (AP)

Residents of Swiss village swallowed by mudslide work to rebuild for return home

BLATTEN, Switzerland, Oct 30, (AP): When a devastating landslide all but swallowed his Swiss village and topped his three-generation family-owned hotel in May, Lukas Kalbermatten was overwhelmed by a sense of emptiness before the emotions hit. But he choose not to dwell on them long, and snapped into action to rebuild.

The hotelier’s response sums up a mindset of many of the 300-odd residents of Blatten: They could have left their bucolic village in the southern Lötschental valley for dead - but instead decided to try to see it come alive again one day, and are taking steps to rebuild.

Authorities evacuated villagers and livestock, but a 64-year-old man was killed as 9 million cubic meters of ice, stone and earth tumbled down from the Kleines Nesthorn peak on May 28. The landslide left a trail about 2-1/2 kilometers (about 1-1/2 miles) wide and 100 meters (about 330 feet) high in places.

It all came down in about a half-minute, coating the valley in plumes of

dust for kilometers (miles). More than 90% of village homes and buildings were destroyed.

“A lot of people were emotional of course, but I didn’t get much too emotional,” Kalbermatten said. “I was really realistic and the emotions, they came later after three or four days.”

If the toll had been higher, locals say, many might not have wanted to return to Blatten.

Kalbermatten, whose website for his Hotel Edelweiss in Blatten shows it half-sunk in a pea-soup-green pond created by the disaster, joined up with other local families to set up a temporary hotel at the summit of a gondola lift in the neighboring village of Wiler - one of three villages in the valley where most Blatten residents relocated.

“For tourism in this valley it’s also a catastrophe because we don’t have enough beds for all the tourists,” he said Tuesday. “The most important for us is to do something quickly.”

Laurent Hubert, co-owner of the Nest- und Bietschhorn hotel and res-

taurant near Blatten, said it was “pulverized” last May. His wife, Esther Bellwald, is spearheading the new hotel with Kalbermatten. Its website said the families of the staff were “all deeply shaken and endlessly sad” after the hotel was destroyed.

“This project is a bit of the light at the end of the tunnel,” Hubert said in knee-deep snow near the construction site, with crews in short sleeves working fast under sunny skies for a planned Dec. 18 opening of the “Momentum” hotel.

A 30-centimeter (12-inch) dump of snowfall over the weekend gave the valley its white wintertime gleam again.

In recent months, work crews have restored electricity and telecom lines to the Blatten area, used backhoes to dig a drainage canal, and cleared high roads that lead to Blatten, allowing for some exiled residents to briefly return to collect some belongings. Some used rowboats to access attics of inundated homes.

significance as a rare instance of executive accountability before Parliament. It is the second time in Spain’s democratic history that a prime minister has appeared before a parliamentary inquiry, following former Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero in December 2004. (KUNA)



Serbian youth rally: Thousands of mainly young people in Serbia embarked on a two-day march from Belgrade on Thursday, aiming to join a major rally in the country’s north this weekend that will mark the anniversary of a deadly train station disaster.

The concrete canopy collapse at the central train station in Novi Sad killed 16 people on Nov. 1. The tragedy unleashed a youth-led protest movement against autocratic President Aleksandar Vucic.

Protesters believe the victims died because government corruption led to sloppy renovation work at the station. They have been demanding accountability for the disaster, and an early parliamentary election that they hope will oust Vucic’s populist government from power. (AP)

Neck-and-neck finish in Dutch election as Wilders’ far-right party and D66 tie

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Oct 30, (AP): Far-right lawmaker Geert Wilders’ far-right Party for Freedom and the centrist D66 were were tied with nearly all votes counted Thursday in the Dutch general election in an unprecedented neck-and-neck race to become the biggest party.

The near total vote count showed each party winning 26 seats in Wednesday’s election, according to the vote count tallied and published by Dutch national news agency ANP and cited by Dutch media.

The nail-biting finish is expected to lead to delays in starting the process of forming a new coalition. No Dutch election has previously ended with two parties tied for the lead.

Wilders’ Party for Freedom is forecast to lose 11 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives, while D66, led by Rob Jetten, gains 11, according to the vote count.

Wilders insisted early Thursday that his party should play a leading role in coalition talks if it is the largest.

“As long as there’s no 100% clarity on this, no D66 scout can get started. We will do everything we can to prevent this,” he said. A scout is an official appointed by the winning party to look into possible coalitions.

“It’s neck and neck, a few thousand votes” difference, D66 lawmaker Jan Paternotte told national broadcaster NOS. “I don’t know if it’s been this close in the Netherlands before. There are often close elections ... but this time it’s exceptionally close.”



Far-right lawmaker Geert Wilders, center, arrives at a polling station during general elections in The Hague, Netherlands on Oct 29. (AP)

The NOS said that votes from a small number of municipalities including three overseas municipalities and postal votes were yet to be tallied. It was not immediately clear when those votes would be registered.

The result remains a momentous win for D66, whose biggest previous seat tally was 24. When the party reached that number in 2021, the leader at the time, Sigrid Kaag, danced for joy on a table at a party meeting.

Despite his party’s big gains, with a victory now in the balance, Jetten is unlikely to be dancing on any table Thursday, when parties traditionally gather at

parliament to digest the result.

“Millions of Dutch people today chose positive forces and a politics where we can look forward together again,” Jetten told cheering supporters on election night.

Despite vying for the top spot, Wilders’ party, known by its Dutch acronym PVV, saw a sharp decline in its support in the early election, which he forced when he torpedoed the outgoing four-party coalition in June in a dispute over migration. His party was the biggest in the coalition which lasted just 11 months and was marked by infighting between its members.

Russia blasts Ukraine’s power grid again, causing outages across country; 3 killed

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 30, (AP): The latest in a sustained Russian campaign of massive drone and missile attacks on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure brought power outages and restrictions in all the country’s regions Thursday, officials said, with the Ukrainian prime minister describing Moscow’s tactic as “systematic energy terror.”

The strikes, which were the latest in Russia’s almost daily attacks on the Ukrainian power grid as bitter winter temperatures approach, killed at least three people and injured 17, including children between 2 and 16 years of age, according to authorities.

Russian launched more than 650 drones and more than 50 missiles of various types in the attack, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Ukrainian cities use centralized public infrastructure to run water, sewage and heating systems, and blackouts stop from them working. Months of attacks have aimed to erode Ukrainian morale as well as disrupt weapons manufacturing and other war-related activity almost four years after Russia’s full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

“Russia continues its systematic energy terror - striking at the lives, dignity, and warmth of Ukrainians on the eve of winter. Its goal is to plunge Ukraine into darkness; ours is to keep the light on,” Ukrainian Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko said.



Emergency personnel examine the site of an airstrike after a Russian missile hit a hostel in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine on Oct 30. (AP)

“To stop this terror, Ukraine needs more air defense systems, tougher sanctions, and maximum pressure on (Russia),” she added, referring to fruitless U.S.-led diplomatic efforts to make Russia enter negotiations for a peace settlement.

Strikes in the southern Zaporizhzhia region injured 17 people, including a 2-year-old girl, regional authorities said. Rescuers pulled a man from the rubble of a building, but he did not survive, according to Ivan Fedorov, head of the

Zaporizhzhia regional administration.

Two energy infrastructure facilities were damaged in the western Lviv region, near the border with Poland, local authorities said.

The Polish military said that it scrambled Polish and allied NATO aircraft as a preventive measure due to the Russian attack on Ukrainian territory. The Polish regional airports in Radom and Lublin were closed to ensure the military freedom of operation, the Polish Air Navigation Services Agency said.

Europe

Spanish PM Sanchez testifies: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez appears Thursday before a Senate parliamentary inquiry into a corruption case known as the “Koldo Case”, in an exceptional step marking a pivotal moment in Spain’s political landscape, and reinforcing the principle of executive accountability.

The Socialist Workers’ Party (PSOE) leader was summoned at the request of the opposition Popular Party (PP) to answer questions about his knowledge of, or links to, an alleged corruption network accused of receiving illegal commissions in exchange for public contracts.

The appearance carries deep symbolic and historical



Sanchez

Security forces kill 18 terrorists in Balochistan

Pakistan and Afghanistan to resume talks in Istanbul after dialogue deadlock: officials

ANKARA, Turkey, Oct 30, (Agencies): Pakistan and Afghanistan are expected to resume peace talks in Istanbul to revive a dialogue that collapsed earlier this week, Pakistan's defense minister and state media in both countries said Thursday.

The new round of negotiations, facilitated by Turkey and other friendly nations, was aimed at easing border tensions between the two sides who earlier this month exchanged fire, leaving dozens of soldiers, civilians and militants dead.

Despite the collapse of the previous round of talks, a ceasefire has largely held and no new border clashes were reported this week. However, both countries have kept major crossings closed, leaving hundreds of trucks carrying goods and refugees stranded on each side.

Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif told the Geo news channel that the decision to give peace another chance was made by Pakistan at the request of Qatar and Turkey, and that the Pakistani delegation, set to return home last night, was asked to stay in Istanbul.

According to Pakistani state-run television, Islamabad said the talks will be based on Pakistan's central demand that Afghanistan take clear,

verifiable and effective action against militant groups.

Also Thursday, Afghanistan's state broadcaster, RTA, reported that the stalled talks were set to resume in Istanbul under the mediation of Turkey and Qatar.

In Islamabad, two senior security officials told the Associated Press that Pakistan has once again stressed that Afghan soil should not be used for what it called "terrorism" against Pakistan and that it appreciates the constructive role of its hosts and remains committed to seeking a peaceful resolution in good faith.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter with the media on the record.

There was no official confirmation of the resumption of talks by Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. No government spokesperson in Islamabad and Kabul has responded to requests for information on the latest development.

It comes a day after Pakistani Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said four days of talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan had ended without agreement, and after Asif warned Kabul of a "stern response" if militants based in Afghanistan carried out new



Local journalists gather for an online press conference with Afghan Defence Minister Mullah Muhammad Yaqoob after he signed a ceasefire agreement with his Pakistani counterpart Khawaja Asif in Qatar, at the Government Media Center in Kabul, Afghanistan on Oct 19. (AP)

Afghanistan.

The clashes prompted Qatar to host emergency talks between the two neighbors, resulting in a ceasefire on Oct 19.

That was followed by four days of negotiations in Istanbul that ended inconclusively on Tuesday. Since then, Qatar and Turkey have been working to bring the delegations back to the negotiating table, the Pakistani officials said.

Also:

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani security forces killed 18 terrorists in two intelligence-based operations in the country's southwestern province of **Balochistan**, the military said on Thursday.

The operations were carried out on Tuesday and Wednesday against the banned terrorist organization Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistani army, said in a statement.

The first operation took place in the provincial capital city of **Quetta**, where troops engaged the militants' location and killed 14 of them after an exchange of fire, according to the statement.

In a separate operation in **Kech District**, four militants were neutral-

ized and a hideout was destroyed, the military said.

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were seized during the raids, it added, noting that the militants had been involved in multiple attacks in the region.

The military said that sanitization efforts were continuing to eliminate any remaining BLA terrorists.

Pakistani Prime Minister **Shahbaz Sharif** commended the security forces for the successful operations and vowed to eliminate all forms of terrorism from the country.

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KABUL: A total of 305 Afghan prisoners were released from Pakistani jails over the past week and have safely returned to Afghanistan, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation announced on Thursday.

The freed detainees, who were held in various facilities across Pakistan on charges with sentences ranging from one day to two months, crossed back into Afghanistan through the Spin Boldak border crossing in southern Kandahar province, the ministry stated.

Upon arrival, they received immediate humanitarian assistance and were transported to their home provinces for reintegration support, it said.

Subcontinent

'Nat'l election date by 1st week of Dec': The Bangladeshi Chief Adviser's office has announced that the country's Election Commission could declare the date for the upcoming national election by the first week of December this year.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam made the announcement following a high-level meeting on election preparations with Chief Adviser **Muhammad Yunus** in the chair on Wednesday.

"The date for Bangladesh's next national election is expected to be declared by the first week of December," Alam said at a press briefing.

He further said the high-level meeting discussed mainly four major issues: the posting of officials, comprehensive training, security arrangements, and strategies to counter disinformation on social media.

To ensure the timeline is met, Alam said the chief adviser has directed relevant authorities to complete all necessary preparations by Nov 15.

Yunus announced in August to organize the country's 13th general election in February 2026, before Ramadan, for the first time since a mass uprising ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last year.

Economist Yunus took oath as the head of the country's interim government on Aug 8, 2024. (Xinhua)

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'133 people drown during India fest': At least 133



people drowned and many others went missing in the Indian eastern states of Bihar and Jharkhand during the festival of Chhath Puja, local media reports said Wednesday.

In Bihar, 108 people lost their lives due to drowning and 10 others are reported missing. In the neighboring Jharkhand, the number of such deaths is 25.

The drownings have taken place in rivers and other water bodies across various districts of these states during the observance of the festival.

The local government has deployed disaster response force personnel to trace the missing.

Local media reported that divers and police teams are participating in the search and rescue operations. Authorities have urged devotees to stay cautious at river banks and avoid venturing into deep waters during ritual bathing. (Xinhua)

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2 dead as crane falls in India: At least two persons died and a couple of others were injured when a crane crashed on an under-construction railway bridge in India's central state of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday, confirmed a local police to Xinhua over the phone.

A portion of the crane and debris from the under-construction bridge fell on two vehicles. Two people inside one of the ill-fated vehicles died in the incident.

The mishap occurred in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district. (Xinhua)

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Sri Lanka blast injures 3 soldiers: Three Sri Lankan army soldiers were injured in a hand grenade explosion during a training exercise at the Army Training School in Maduru Oya, in Sri Lanka's north central province, on Tuesday morning, police said.

The soldiers sustained minor leg injuries and were admitted to Polonnaruwa Hospital for treatment. (Xinhua)

South Korean, Japanese leaders vow to improve ties in face of global uncertainty

APGYEONGJU, South Korea, Oct 30, (AP): South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi met in their first summit Thursday, pledging to strengthen ties that have been frequently strained by their bitter wartime history.

Their meeting in South Korea came after both launched charm offensives toward US President Donald Trump, who visited their countries and pressed the two key US allies to complete their massive US investment pledges.

Meeting with Takaichi ahead of the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Gyeongju, Lee said South Korea and Japan share common challenges in the face of "rapidly changing international dynamics and trade conditions" and that their future-oriented cooperation was more important than ever.

Takaichi said trilateral cooperation between Tokyo, Seoul and Washington is becoming increasingly crucial "under the current strategic environment," according to Lee's office.

The two leaders agreed to continue their "shuttle diplomacy," in which they take turns hosting summits, Lee's office said in a statement.

Takaichi described her first talks with Lee as "very enjoyable and meaningful" and that she believes "we will welcome (Lee) in Japan next time."

The Oct 22 election of Takaichi raised concern in Seoul about a potential deterioration in ties, as South Koreans view her right-wing views on history as hawkish. She has resisted acknowledging Japanese aggression in World War II and atrocities and denied that coercion was used against Korean



South Korean President Lee Jae Myung speaks during a talk with President Donald Trump at the Gyeongju National Museum in Gyeongju, South Korea on Oct 29. (AP)

Sudan's RSF killed hundreds at hospital in Darfur, say residents and aid workers

CAIRO, Oct 30, (AP): Sudan's paramilitary forces killed hundreds of people at a hospital, including patients, after they seized the provincial capital of North Darfur over the weekend, according to the U.N., displaced residents and aid workers, who described harrowing details of the atrocities.

The 460 patients and their companions were reportedly killed Tuesday at Saudi Hospital by fighters from the Rapid Support Forces in the city of el-Fasher, said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization.

As part of their assault on el-Fasher, RSF fighters also went from house to house, beating and shooting at people, including women and children, witnesses told The Associated Press. Many died of gunshot wounds in the streets, some while trying to flee to safety, witnesses said.

Two years of fighting for control of Sudan has killed over 40,000 people - a figure rights groups consider a significant undercount - and has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis with over 14 million displaced. The capture of el-Fasher by the powerful Arab-led force raises fears that Africa's third-largest nation may split again, nearly 15 years after oil-rich South Sudan gained independence following years of civil war.

Sudanese residents and aid workers revealed harrowing details of atrocities by the RSF after it seized the army's



Sudanese who fled el-Fasher city, after Sudan's paramilitary forces killed hundreds of people in the western Darfur region, speak at their camp in Tawila, Sudan on Oct 29. (AP)

US strikes another alleged drug-carrying boat in Pacific and kills all four aboard

WASHINGTON, Oct 30, (AP): US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced Wednesday that the U.S. military carried out another strike on a boat he said was carrying drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing all four people aboard the vessel, as the Trump administration pursues its divisive campaign against drug cartels in the waters off South America.

Hegseth, who's been traveling in Japan and Malaysia, said in a social media post that intelligence determined the craft was "transiting along a known narco-trafficking route, and carrying narcotics." He said the strike was conducted in international waters and no US forces were harmed.

A video posted by Hegseth shows a boat exploding into flames and smoke.

The Trump administration has been conducting a nearly two-month campaign in the region, while building up an unusually large force of warships that are carrying Marines and aircraft. Their presence has fueled speculation that the moves are aimed at ousting Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, whom the US has accused of narcoterrorism.

President Donald Trump has justified the attacks on the boats as a necessary escalation to stem the



US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth gives a thumb up to the soldiers after delivering his speech ahead of the arrival of US President Donald Trump to the USS George Washington at the US Navy's Yokosuka base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo on Oct 28. (AP)

Haiti, Jamaica and Cuba pick up pieces after Hurricane Melissa's destruction

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Cuba, Oct 30, (AP): People across the northern Caribbean were digging out from the destruction of Hurricane Melissa on Thursday as deaths from the catastrophic storm climbed.

The rumble of large machinery, whine of chainsaws and chopping of machetes echoed throughout southeast Jamaica as government workers and residents began clearing roads in a push to reach isolated communities that sustained a direct hit from one of the most powerful Atlantic storms on record.

Stunned residents wandered about, some staring at their roofless homes and waterlogged belongings strewn around them.

"I don't have a house now," said a distressed Sylvester Guthrie, a resident of Lacovia in the southern parish of St. Elizabeth, as he held onto his bicycle, the only possession of value left after the storm.

"I have land in another location that I can build back but I am going



Workers clear downed trees and debris to make way for a convoy carrying aid to Black River, which was hit by Hurricane Melissa, as it moves through Holland Bamboo, Jamaica on Oct 29. (AP)

Africa

Malawi elects Suleman as speaker: Members of the Malawian Parliament on Wednesday elected Sammeer Suleman of the governing Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) as speaker of the National Assembly.

Suleman, who was nominated by the DPP leader and president of the country, Peter Mutharika, won with 134 votes against his Malawi Congress Party (MCP) opponent Peter Dimba, who got 85 votes.

The Malawian Parliament has 229 seats, although not all of these have been filled as elections in the constituencies were suspended due to various irregularities.

Suleman has since taken the oath of office and will execute his duty for the next five years. (Xinhua)

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Protests in Tanzania enter second day: Hundreds of protesters took to the streets for a second day of demonstrations in Tanzania on Thursday after a disputed election, while Amnesty International reported that two people have died.

After the protests broke out on Wednesday, the government shut down the interest, imposed a curfew and deployed the military to the streets.

The ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi or CCM party, which has been in power since independence in 1961, sought to extend its rule in Wednesday's election, with presidential candidates from the two main opposition parties barred from running. (AP)



Complexo de Penha favela residents protest in front of the Guanabara Palace against a deadly police operation on alleged drug traffickers of the Comando Vermelho gang, in Rio de Janeiro on Oct 29. (AP)

Protests erupt in Rio after raid

A massive police raid on a drug gang embedded in low-income neighborhoods of Rio de Janeiro that left at least 119 people dead drew protests for excessive force Wednesday and calls for the Rio's governor to resign.

Dozens of favelas residents gathered in front of the state's government headquarters shouting "assassins!" and waving Brazilian flags stained with red paint, a day after Rio's deadliest raid and hours after families and residents laid dozens of dead bodies on a street in one of the targeted communities to show the magnitude of the operation. (AP)

Kuwaiti crude drops to \$65.66 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti crude decreased by 55 cents to USD 65.66 per barrel on Wednesday after being at USD 66.21 pb last Tuesday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday. The prices of Brent crude globally increased by 52 to USD 64.92 and West Texas Intermediate increased by 33 cents to USD 60.48 pb.

Business

In an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh

New step toward GCC credit integration: CINET & SIMAH explore joint cooperation to enhance transparency across Gulf markets

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen Gulf cooperation and exchange expertise in the field of credit information, the Kuwait Credit Information Network Company (CINET) conducted an official visit to the Saudi Credit Bureau (SIMAH) headquarters in Riyadh. The visit aimed to explore collaborative opportunities and review best practices in advancing the credit information industry at both national and regional levels.

The visit comes as part of CINET's broader efforts to expand regional partnerships and activate the GCC credit information exchange project through technical and regulatory infrastructures that comply with both GCC and international supervisory standards. This initiative is in line with the resolution adopted by the GCC Supreme Council during its 37th session, approving the exchange of credit information based on a comprehensive framework and action plan to facilitate such exchange across member states. The project seeks to reinforce financial and economic integration, enhance credit environments, promote transparency, and strengthen trust among GCC markets.

In this context, both sides exchanged expertise on digital transformation initiatives, credit evaluation models, and advanced data solutions, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen mutual cooperation. The discussions also highlighted efforts to strengthen regional partnerships and adopt best practices in governance, data protection, and credit information quality.

Commenting on this visit, Mrs. Alia B. AlHumaidhi, Chairperson of CINET, said:

"Our visit to SIMAH marks an important step in fostering Gulf wide collaboration in the credit information sector. At CINET, we firmly be-



CINET Chairperson Mrs. Alia B. AlHumaidhi presents a commemorative plaque to SIMAH CEO Mr. Sultan Alqudiry.

lieve that secure, cross-border connectivity and the exchange of insights among GCC credit entities play a critical role in improving financial market efficiency and reinforcing lender confidence. We look forward to continued collaboration that supports credit transparency and aligns with the

evolving digital landscape of our region."

SIMAH's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sultan Alqudiry added: "We are pleased to welcome our partners from CINET. This visit underscores the strategic importance of the credit information industry as a pillar of trust and enabler of financial decisions. The growing cooperation among GCC credit bureaus represents a significant step toward a unified and transparent credit ecosystem, aligned with our shared vision for sustainable economic development."

Concluding the visit, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing coordination and the development of joint GCC initiatives aimed at establishing a unified credit market capable of meeting future challenges while upholding efficiency, reliability, and advanced technological integration.

About CINET

Kuwait Credit Information Network Company (CINET) is the sole and leading provider of credit information and credit scoring services in the State of Kuwait. It offers inquiry, scoring, and credit information services in an innovative way and with the highest standards of professionalism and trustworthiness, contributing to the enhancement of the credit system, the advancement of credit culture, and the increase of trust among participants in the credit community.

The activities of the Kuwait Credit Information Network Company are subject to the control and supervision of the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Law No. 9 of 2019 regulates the exchange of credit information.

Executive regulations of Law No. 9 of 2019.

Boursa Kuwait ends week higher

General index up 0.64%

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Thursday's trading session on a positive note, with its general index climbing 57.46 points, or 0.64 percent, to end at 9,031.88 points. Overall, 523.4 million shares changed hands through 31,695 transactions, amounting to a total value of 140.8 million Kuwaiti dinars (about 429.4 million US dollars).

The main market performed strongly, adding 130.69 points, or 1.53 percent, to close at 8,680.07 points. It recorded a trading vol-

ume of 277.3 million shares through 19,527 deals valued at 54.7 million dinars (roughly 166.8 million dollars).

The premier market index also advanced, gaining 42.03 points, or 0.44 percent, to reach 9,565.92 points. Trading there saw 246 million shares exchanged in 12,168 transactions worth 86 million dinars (approximately 262.3 million dollars).

Additionally, the Main 50 Index ticked up by 22.81 points, or 0.26 percent, closing at 8,853.63 points. It registered 169 million shares traded across 9,562 deals with a total value of 32.3 million dinars (around 98.5 million dollars).

Budget set at KD 9.8 bln

KOC to invest KD 1.2 bln in exploration drilling by 2030

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Deputy CEO for Exploration and Drilling at Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Khaled Al-Mulla announced that the company plans to invest KD 1.2 billion (\$3.92 billion) in its exploration drilling program through 2030, adding that the plan includes drilling 79 onshore and offshore exploration wells, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an interview with Reuters, Al-Mulla explained that this investment is part of a larger KD 9.8 billion budget allocated for drilling projects, operations, and well maintenance through 2030. This is the highest budget in the company's history, and aims at drilling up to 6,193 wells.

Kuwait, which is a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), aims to increase its crude oil production capacity from about 3.2 million barrels per day currently to 4 million bar-

rels per day by 2035 and maintain that level until 2040. Of this increase, 3.65 million barrels per day are expected from KOC, with the remainder from Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC), which operates the Neutral Zone with Saudi Arabia.

KGOC relies on its workforce and advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, to boost oil and gas output from deep and complex reservoirs. This is part of a long-term strategy to reach 3.65 million barrels of oil and 1.5 billion cubic feet of gas per day by 2035 and maintain these levels through 2040.

Several Kuwaiti fields have been in production since the 1930s, resulting in a natural decline in output and an increase in associated water content. This requires more precise reservoir management and exploration of deeper layers, including Triassic and Paleozoic formations.

Modern technologies have made the development of unconventional reservoirs economically viable, citing the Mutriba field in northwest Kuwait, which began production in 2025 after decades since its discovery.

Al-Mulla highlighted that the company is developing the Ahmadi Oil Technology Valley, a 275,000-square-meter research hub that will host world-class centers specializing in reservoir management, digital transformation, and sustainability, offering technical consulting in exploration, development, and production.

He revealed that KOC has launched several AI-driven initiatives, including a smart assistant for drilling teams and a predictive maintenance project designed to anticipate potential failures in critical equipment before they occur.

China, Saudi Arabia pledge to deepen cooperation

RIYADH, Oct 30, (Xinhua): Chinese Vice President Han Zheng and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman met here on Wednesday and pledged to further promote bilateral relations and cooperation.

During their meeting at Al-Yamamah Palace, Han conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the crown prince.

Noting that Saudi Arabia is China's comprehensive strategic partner, Han said China has always placed Saudi Arabia in an important position in its diplomacy.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations 35 years ago, and especially since Xi's successful visit to Saudi Arabia in 2022, China-Saudi Arabia relations have made new positive progress, he said.

The fourth plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee, held last week, reviewed and approved recommendations for formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, sending a clear signal for China to further advance comprehensive reforms and expand high-level opening up, the vice president added.

China, he said, will make greater contributions to world development through new achievements in Chinese



Chinese Vice President Han Zheng meets with Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Oct. 29, 2025. (Xinhua)

modernization, which will provide valuable opportunities for the future development of China-Saudi Arabia relations.

China stands ready to work with Saudi Arabia to implement the important consensus reached by their leaders, enhance high-level exchanges,

continuously support each other on issues concerning their respective core interests, expand practical cooperation in various fields, and increase people-to-people and cultural exchanges, in order to lift the China-Saudi Arabia comprehensive strategic partnership to higher levels, he said.

China, he added, is also willing to strengthen cooperation with Saudi Arabia in multilateral affairs, enhance coordination on multilateral platforms such as the United Nations and the G20, advance global governance in a more just and reasonable direction, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

The crown prince, for his part, asked Han to convey his best wishes to President Xi.

Noting that China is an important major country in the world, he said that Saudi Arabia and China are good friends and partners, their political relations are solid and at the highest level in history, and Saudi Arabia firmly adheres to the one-China policy.

Saudi Arabia-China cooperation is based on mutual benefit, he said, adding that the Saudi side is willing to deepen cooperation with China in areas such as economy and trade, investment, artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and mining, to achieve common development.

Saudi Arabia, he said, shares similar positions with China on regional and international issues, highly appreciates China's efforts to facilitate reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and values its fair stance on the Palestinian issue. He also expressed hope that China will play a greater role in maintaining regional peace and stability.

Saudi leads with eight IPOs

MENA region sees 11 IPOs escalate \$0.7 bln in Q3 2025

DUBAI, Oct 30: According to the EY MENA IPO Eye Q3 2025 report, the region continued to demonstrate healthy activity and investor interest, with 11 initial public offerings (IPOs) raising US\$0.7b in total proceeds. The number of listings increased by 120% when compared with the same quarter last year, driven by mid-market activity.

In terms of MENA stock exchange performance, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index recorded a gain of 25%, followed closely by the EGX 30 Index and Boursa Kuwait Premier Market Index, which rose by 23.3% and 19.6% respectively.

Brad Watson, EY-Parthenon MENA Leader, says:

"Amid shifting market dynamics, performance in this past quarter reflects the increasing depth and maturity of MENA capital markets, supported by a steady pace of listings across multiple sectors and geographies. Companies are becoming increasingly strategic with market timing – carefully assessing investor sentiment and macro-economic conditions before going public. With strong regulatory frameworks and a healthy pipeline leading into Q4 2025, the region is well-positioned for sustain, long-term growth which is likely to attract continued international participation."

KSA sees the region's largest IPO for the quarter

In Q3 2025, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) remained the most active market with eight IPOs that together raised US\$637m. Dar Al Majed Real Estate Company's listing on the Tadawul Main Market led the quarter for the region in terms of capital raised at US\$336m, contributing 45.5% of the total proceeds. This was followed by Marketing Home Group for Trading Co., which raised US\$109m, and Sport Clubs Company, which raised US\$69m, both on the Tadawul Main Market.

The remaining IPOs were launched on the Nomu parallel market, collectively raising US\$124.1m. The proceeds on the Tadawul Main Market were spread across a range of sectors, with real estate making up 55%. The Nomu – Parallel Market also continued to attract diverse issuers across sectors such as retail, healthcare, and industrial services.

Beyond the GCC, Egypt welcomed the IPOs of Bon-yan For Development & Trade SAE and National Printing Company (NPC), while Morocco saw the listing of Vicenne S.A. The broadening activity underscores MENA's rising appeal to regional and global investors.

Gregory Hughes, EY-Parthenon MENA IPO Leader, says:

"IPO activity was robust in Q3 2025, with KSA remaining the main driver of regional listings. With lower oil prices, we continue to see economic diversification from non-oil revenues, and the sector focus for



Gregory Hughes, MENA EY-Parthenon IPO Leader

- KSA's Dar Al Majed Real Estate Company raised the quarter's highest proceeds in the region at US\$336m
- KSA dominated listing activity with eight IPOs, overall MENA listings included Egypt and Morocco
- The pipeline for IPOs in the MENA region remains strong, with 19 companies and funds intending to list on the region's exchanges

KSA listings transitioned from healthcare and mobility in Q2 2025 to real estate, hospitality, construction and retail. In Q4 2025, we can look forward to a healthy pipeline, highlighting the region's position as a hub for capital market activity."

Strong MENA IPO pipeline into Q4 and beyond

The outlook for MENA IPOs remains strong, with 19 companies and funds across various sectors intending to list on the region's exchanges. KSA continues to lead with 13 entities, including AlmasarAlshamil Education Company and Al Romansiah Company, having received approval from the Capital Market Authority (CMA). In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), ALEC Holdings PJSC was successfully listed on the Dubai Financial Market (DFM) as of 15 October 2025.

In non-GCC countries, Diar Dzair from Algeria and Gharb Papier Et Carton SA from Morocco have announced their intention to list, pending regulatory approval.

This trend is supported by sustained policy momentum, diversified market participation and a growing focus on the integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects. These factors continue to position the region as a key destination for capital formation and investment.

Regulatory landscape witnesses positive shifts

Regulatory reforms in MENA are progressing as regional markets mature. In the UAE, updated governance rules now permit the combination of Board Chair and CEO roles under defined conditions, while KSA's CMA initiated consultations on proposed amendments to market-making regulations and foreign ownership limits. These steps are aimed at enhancing liquidity, transparency and access to capital.

Al-Sharaa highlights \$28 bln in investments for Syria's rebuilding

Saudi, Syrian leaders discuss strengthening cooperation in Riyadh

RIYADAH, Oct 30, (Xinhua): Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Syrian interim leader Ahmed al-Sharaa discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen cooperation across various sectors on Wednesday, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the

ninth Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh.

During the event, al-Sharaa said Syria's reconstruction would heavily rely on investment, noting that the country had attracted about 28 billion U.S. dollars in investment over the past six months. He expressed con-

fidence in the resilience and determination of the Syrian people.

This marks Al-Sharaa's third visit to Saudi Arabia since he became Syria's interim leader. In July, Saudi Arabia signed investment and partnership deals with Syria worth 6.4 billion dollars to support post-war reconstruction.

US to cut China tariffs

Trump, Xi hail ‘successful’ trade talks in South Korea

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE, Oct 30, (AP): President Donald Trump described his face-to-face with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday as a roaring success, saying he would cut tariffs on China, while Beijing had agreed to allow the export of rare earth elements and start buying American soybeans.

The president told reporters aboard Air Force One that the U.S. would lower tariffs implemented earlier this year as punishment on China for its selling of chemicals used to make fentanyl from 20% to 10%. That brings the total combined tariff rate on China down from 57% to 47%.

“I guess on the scale from 0 to 10, with ten being the best, I would say the meeting was a 12,” Trump said. “I think it was a 12.”

Trump said that he would go to China in April and Xi would come to the U.S. “some time after that.” The president said they also discussed the export of more advanced computer chips to China, saying that Nvidia would be in talks with Chinese officials.

Trump said he could sign a trade deal with China “pretty soon.”

Xi said Washington and Beijing would work to finalize their agreements to provide “peace of mind” to both countries and the rest of the world, according to a report on the meeting distributed by state media.

“Both sides should take the long-term perspective into account, focusing on the benefits of cooperation rather than falling into a vicious cycle of mutual retaliation,” he said.

Despite Trump’s optimism after a 100-minute meeting with Xi in South Korea, there continues to be the potential for major tensions between the world’s two largest economies. Both nations are seeking dominant places in manufacturing, developing emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, and shaping world affairs like Russia’s war in Ukraine.

Trump’s aggressive use of tariffs since returning to the White House for a second term, combined with China’s retaliatory limits on exports of rare earth elements, gave the meeting newfound urgency. There is a mutual recognition that neither side wants to risk blowing up the world economy in ways that could jeopardize their own country’s fortunes.

When the two were seated at the start of the meeting, Xi read prepared remarks that stressed a willingness to work together despite differences.

“Given our different national conditions, we do not always see eye to eye with each other,” he said through a translator. “It is normal for the two leading economies of the world to have frictions now and then.”

Translation

There was a slight difference in translation as China’s Xinhua News Agency reported Xi as telling Trump that having some differences is inevitable.

The leaders met in Busan, South Korea, a port city about 76 kilometers (47 miles) south from Gyeongju, the main venue for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

In the days leading up to the meeting, U.S. officials signaled that Trump did not intend to make good on a recent threat to impose an additional 100% import tax on Chinese goods, and China showed signs it was willing to relax its export controls on rare earths and also buy soybeans from America.

Officials from both countries met earlier this week in Kuala Lumpur to lay the groundwork for their leaders. Afterward, China’s top trade negotiator Li Chenggang said they had reached a “preliminary consensus,” a statement affirmed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent who said there was “a very successful framework.”

Shortly before the meeting on Thursday, Trump posted on Truth Social that the meeting would be the “G2,” a recognition of America and China’s status as the world’s biggest economies. The Group of Seven and Group of 20 are other forums of industrialized nations.

But while those summits often happen at luxury spaces, this meeting took place in humbler surroundings: Trump and Xi met in a small gray building with a blue roof on a military base adjacent to Busan’s international airport.

The anticipated detente has given investors and businesses caught between the two nations a sense of relief. The U.S. stock market has climbed on the hopes of a trade framework coming out of the meeting.

Trump has outward confidence that the grounds for a deal are in place, but previous negotiations with China this year in Geneva, Switzerland and London had a start-stop quality to them. The initial promise of progress has repeatedly given way to both countries seeking a better position against the other.

“The proposed deal on the table fits the pattern we’ve seen all year: short-term stabilization dressed up as strategic progress,” said Craig Singleton, senior director of the China program at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. “Both sides are managing volatility, calibrating just enough cooperation to avert crisis while the deeper rivalry endures.”

The U.S. and China have each shown they believe they have levers to pressure the other, and the past year has demonstrated that tentative steps forward can be short-lived.

For Trump, that pressure comes from tariffs.

China had faced new tariffs this year totaling 30%, of which 20% were tied to its role in fentanyl production. But the tariff rates have been volatile. In April, he announced plans to jack the rate on Chinese goods to 145%, only to abandon those plans as markets recoiled.

Then, on Oct. 10, Trump threatened a 100% import tax because of China’s rare earth restrictions. That figure, including past tariffs, would now be 47% “effective immediately,” Trump told reporters on Thursday.

Xi has his own chokehold on the world economy because China is the top producer and processor of the rare earth minerals needed to make fighter jets, robots, electric vehicles and other high-tech products.

China had tightened export restrictions on Oct. 9, repeating a cycle in which each nation jockeyed for an edge only to back down after more trade talks.

What might also matter is what happens directly after their talks. Trump plans to return to Washington, while Xi plans to stay on in South Korea to meet with regional leaders during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which officially begins on Friday.

“Xi sees an opportunity to position China as a reliable partner and bolster bilateral and multilateral relations with countries frustrated by the U.S. administration’s tariff policy,” said Jay Triesdale, a former State Department official who is CEO of TD International, a risk and intelligence advisory firm.

Fed cuts rates for second time this year, signals caution ahead

Powell warns further rate cuts ‘not a foregone conclusion’

WASHINGTON, Oct 30, (AP): The Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate Wednesday for a second time this year as it seeks to shore up economic growth and hiring, even as inflation stays elevated.

But Fed Chair Jerome Powell also cautioned that further rate cuts weren’t guaranteed, citing the government shutdown’s interruption of economic reports and sharp divisions among 19 Fed officials who participate in the central bank’s interest-rate deliberations.

Speaking to reporters after the Fed announced its rate decision, Powell said there were “strongly differing views about how to proceed in December” at its next meeting and a further reduction in the benchmark rate is not “a foregone conclusion - far from it.”

The rate cut - a quarter of a point - brings the Fed’s key rate down to about 3.9%, from about 4.1%. The central bank had cranked its rate to roughly 5.3% in 2023 and 2024 to combat the biggest inflation spike in four decades before implementing three cuts last year. Lower rates could, over time, reduce borrowing costs for mortgages, auto loans, and credit cards, as well as for business loans.

The move comes amid a fraught time for the central bank, with hiring sluggish and yet inflation stuck above the Fed’s 2% target. Compounding its challenges, the central bank is navigating without the economic signposts it typically relies on from the government, including monthly reports on jobs, inflation and consumer spending, which have been suspended because of the government shutdown.

Financial markets largely expected another rate reduction in December, and stock prices dropped after Powell’s comments, with the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average closing slightly lower.

“Powell poured cold water on the idea that the Fed was on autopilot for a December cut,” said Gennadiy Goldberg, head of U.S. rates strategy at TD Securities. “Instead, they’ll have to wait for economic data to confirm that a rate cut is actually needed.”

Powell was asked about the impact of the government shutdown, which began on Oct. 1 and has interrupted the distribution of economic data. Powell said the Fed does have access to some data that give it “a picture of what’s going on.” He added that, “If there were a significant or material change in the economy, one way or another, I think we’d pick that up through this.”

But the Fed chair did acknowledge



Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell speaks at a news conference after the Federal Open Market Committee meeting Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025, at the Federal Reserve Board Building in Washington. (AP)

that the limited data could cause officials to proceed more cautiously heading into its next meeting in mid-December.

“There’s a possibility that it would make sense to be more cautious about moving (on rates). I’m not committing to that, I’m just saying it’s certainly a possibility that you would say ‘we really can’t see, so let’s slow down.’”

The Fed typically raises its short term rate to combat inflation, while it cuts rates to encourage borrowing and spending and shore up hiring. Right now its two goals are in conflict, so it is reducing borrowing costs to support the job market, while still keeping rates high enough to avoid stimulating the economy so much that it worsens inflation.

On Wednesday, the Fed also said it would stop reducing the size of its massive securities holdings, which it accumulated during the pandemic and after the 2008-2009 Great Recession. The change, to take effect Dec. 1, could over time slightly reduce longer-term interest rates on things like mortgages but won’t have much impact on consumer borrowing costs.

The Fed purchased nearly \$5 trillion of Treasury securities and mortgage-backed bonds from 2020 to 2022 to stabilize financial markets during the pandemic and keep longer-term interest rates low. The bond-buying lifted

its securities holdings to \$9 trillion.

In the past three years, however, the Fed has reduced its holdings to about \$6.6 trillion. To shrink its holdings, the Fed lets securities mature without replacing them, reducing bank reserves. In recent months, however, the reductions appeared to disrupt money markets, threatening to push up shorter-term interest rates.

Two of the 12 officials who vote on the Fed’s rate decisions dissented, but in different directions. Jeffrey Schmid, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, voted against the move because he preferred no change to the Fed’s rate. Schmid has previously expressed concern that inflation remains too high.

Fed governor Stephen Miran dissented for the second straight meeting in favor of a half-point cut. Miran was appointed by President Donald Trump just before the central bank’s last meeting in September. Trump has repeatedly attacked Powell for not reducing borrowing costs more quickly. In South Korea early Wednesday he repeated his criticisms of the Fed chair.

“He’s out of there in another couple of months,” Trump said. Powell’s term ends in May. On Monday, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent confirmed the administration is considering five people to replace Powell, and will decide by the end of this year.

September’s jobs report, scheduled

to be released three weeks ago, is still postponed. This month’s hiring figures, to be released Nov. 7, will likely be delayed and may be less comprehensive when they are finally released. And the White House said last week that October’s inflation report may never be issued at all.

Before the government shutdown cut off the flow of data, monthly hiring gains had weakened to an average of just 29,000 a month for the previous three months, according to the Labor Department’s data. The unemployment rate ticked up to a still-low 4.3% in August from 4.2% in July.

More recently, several large corporations have announced sweeping layoffs, including UPS, Amazon, and Target, which threatens to boost the unemployment rate if it continues. Powell said the Fed is watching the layoff announcements “very carefully.”

Meanwhile, last week’s inflation report - released more than a week late because of the shutdown - showed that inflation remains elevated but isn’t accelerating and may not need higher interest rates to tame it.

The government’s first report on the economy’s growth in the July-September quarter was scheduled to be published on Thursday, but will be delayed, as will Friday’s report on consumer spending that also includes the Fed’s preferred inflation measure.

TikTok future unclear after Trump–Xi meeting

BUSAN, Oct 30, (AP): President Donald Trump’s meeting Thursday with China’s top leader Xi Jinping produced a raft of decisions to help dial back trade tensions, but no agreement on TikTok’s ownership.

“China will work with the U.S. to properly resolve issues related to TikTok,” China’s Commerce Ministry said after the meeting.

It gave no details on any progress toward ending uncertainty about the fate of the popular video-sharing platform in the U.S.

The Trump administration had been signaling that it may have finally reached a deal with Beijing to keep TikTok running in the U.S.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had said on CBS’s “Face the Nation” on Sunday that the two leaders will “consummate that transaction on Thursday in Korea.”

Wide bipartisan majorities in Congress passed - and President Joe Biden signed - a law that would ban TikTok in the U.S. if it did not find a new owner to replace China’s ByteDance. The platform went dark briefly on a January deadline but on his first day in office, Trump signed an executive order to keep it running while his administration tries to reach an agreement for the sale of the company.

Three more executive orders followed, as Trump,

without a clear legal basis, extended deadlines for a TikTok deal. The second was in April, when White House officials believed they were nearing a deal to spin off TikTok into a new company with U.S. ownership. That fell apart when China backed out after Trump announced sharply higher tariffs on Chinese products. Deadlines in June and September passed, with Trump saying he would allow TikTok to continue operating in the United States in a way that meets national security concerns.

Trump’s order was meant to enable an American-led group of investors to buy the app from China’s ByteDance, though the deal also requires China’s approval.

However, TikTok deal is “not really a big thing for Xi Jinping,” said Bonnie Glaser, managing director of the German Marshall Fund’s Indo-Pacific program, during a media briefing Tuesday. “(China is) happy to let (Trump) declare that they have finally kept a deal. Whether or not that deal will protect the data of Americans is a big question going forward.”

“A big question mark for the United States, of course, is whether this is consistent with U.S. law since there was a law passed by Congress,” Glaser said.

About 43% of U.S. adults under the age of 30 say

they regularly get news from TikTok, higher than any other social media app, including YouTube, Facebook and Instagram, according to a Pew Research Center report published in September.

A recent Pew Research Center survey found that about one-third of Americans said they supported a TikTok ban, down from 50% in March 2023. Roughly one-third said they would oppose a ban, and a similar percentage said they weren’t sure.

Among those who said they supported banning the social media platform, about 8 in 10 cited concerns over users’ data security being at risk as a major factor in their decision, according to the report.

The security debate centers on the TikTok recommendation algorithm - which has steered millions of users into an endless stream of video shorts. China has said the algorithm must remain under Chinese control by law. But a U.S. regulation that Congress passed with bipartisan support said any divestment of TikTok would require the platform to cut ties with ByteDance.

American officials have warned the algorithm - a complex system of rules and calculations that platforms use to deliver personalized content - is vulnerable to manipulation by Chinese authorities, but no evidence has been presented by U.S. officials proving that China has attempted to do so.

Resolution targets national emergency used to impose tariffs, but unlikely to pass House

Senate vote on nullifying tariffs on Canada demonstrates opposition to Trump’s trade policy

WASHINGTON, Oct 30, (AP): The Senate passed legislation Wednesday that would nullify U.S. tariffs on Canada, just as President Donald Trump is engaged in trade talks in Asia as well as an increasingly bitter trade spat with U.S.’s northern neighbor that is one of its largest economic partners.

The 50-46 tally was the latest in a series of votes this week to terminate the national emergencies that Trump has used to impose tariffs. While the resolutions won’t ultimately take effect, they have proven to be an effective way for Democrats to expose cracks between the president’s trade policy and Republican senators who have traditionally supported free trade arguments.

Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, the Democrat pushing the resolutions, said that higher prices caused by tariffs would force Republicans to break with Trump. “It will become untenable for them to just close their eyes and say, ‘I’m signing up for whatever the president wants to do,’” Kaine told reporters.

The Senate passed a similar resolution applying to Brazilian tariffs on Tuesday, and it has already passed a resolution on Canadian imports in April. The same four Republicans - Sens. Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Susan Collins of Maine, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Rand Paul of Kentucky - voted again with all Democrats to approve the resolution applying to Canada.

Kaine, joined by other Democrats and Paul, has forced the votes under a decades-old law that allows Congress to block a president’s emergency powers. However, House Republicans have passed new rules that allow leaders to prevent such resolutions from getting a vote

in that chamber, and Trump could veto the legislation even if it did clear Congress.

Wednesday’s vote happened as Trump was in Asia to advance trade talks with partners there. The president has also been jousting with Canadian officials amid a delicate negotiation to reduce tariffs between the two countries.

Sen. Mike Crapo, the Republican chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, acknowledged in a floor speech that many “may be nervous about what comes next” as Trump remakes global trade. But he urged Congress to stay out of the way.

“Let’s truly get a balanced, fair playing field in trade,” Crapo added. Yet there is increasing tension between GOP senators and the president over how soybean farmers have suffered from the trade war with China, as well as his administration’s plans to allow the purchase of more beef from Argentina.

Vice President JD Vance visited Republicans during a closed-door luncheon this week and also argued that they should steer clear of trade policy while the president negotiates deals. But Vance’s efforts appeared to have little impact on those determined to vote against the tariffs.

“Retaliatory tariffs on American products have turned agricultural income upside down for many of Kentucky’s nearly 70,000 family farms,” said Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, the former longtime Republican Senate leader, in a statement. “Bourbon has been caught in the crossfire from day one. And consumers are paying higher prices across the board as the true costs of trade barriers fall inevitably on them.”

Trump said earlier this week he wanted to impose another 10% tariff hike on imports of Canadian goods because of an anti-tariff television ad aired by the province of Ontario. The television ad used the words of former President Ronald Reagan to criticize U.S. tariffs.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has been trying to engage with Trump to ease the import taxes that have hit Canada hard. The U.S.-Canada economic relationship is one of the largest globally, totaling \$909.1 billion in 2024, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. More than three-quarters of Canadian exports go to the U.S., and nearly \$3.6 billion Canadian (\$2.7 billion U.S.) worth of goods and services cross the border daily.

Canada has also tried to turn to Asian trading partners amid the trade war.

Democrats argued the trade war was impacting a range of industries, from farmers to shipbuilders. They also said it made little sense to engage in a trade war with a close military ally.

Trump has invoked a national emergency to impose the tariffs, saying that fentanyl and other illegal drugs are entering the country from Canada. So far this year, less than 1% of the total fentanyl seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 66 pounds, was seized at the northern border.

Kaine argued in a floor speech that Trump’s trade policy was actually hinging on his personal feelings. He claimed that Trump had “such thin skin that an ad on television quoting Ronald Reagan” had prompted an end to the negotiations.

He asked, “How about that as a rationale for trade policy?”

What's On

SPOTLIGHT



Got a birthday or event?
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As part of its strong commitment to social responsibility and leading role in supporting women

NBK organizes campaign for breast cancer awareness

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: In line with its commitment to social responsibility and leading role in supporting women and society, National Bank of Kuwait concluded its annual campaign on breast cancer awareness, which was held in October, the breast cancer awareness month. The campaign shed light on the importance of early detection and prevention and included a chain of initiatives promoting awareness targeting the bank employees and society.

On this occasion, NBK's headquarters building was lit in pink during October, marking a strong visual mark that aims to remind people of the importance of early detection and prevention, in addition to confirming the bank's continuous support to health issues in society.

Internally, the campaign initiatives focused on spreading awareness in the workplace by distributing pink colored pins and pink drinks in collaboration with Pret on the bank's eighteenth floor to encourage open dialogues about breast cancer awareness.

Moreover, the bank organized specialized consultation sessions with Dr. Rehab Hussain from Wara Hospital, who gave advice and guidance on breast health and early detection, prevention, and self-examination.

The bank also organized a specialized medical seminar on breast cancer, which was presented by Dr. Mustafa Fouad Abdullateef, Head of the Department of General Surgery, Oncology, and Advanced Endoscopy at Al-Seef Hospital, aiming to exchange knowledge and latest updates with the female employees.

Additionally, NBK highlighted the importance of health and fitness, and the need to adopt a healthy lifestyle and engage in sports activities, given their vital role in disease prevention. This was achieved by offering a free Pilates class to male and female employees in cooperation with Inspire Gym.

Tree of Hope

In a unique initiative that reflects its commitment to psychological and moral support, the bank launched the "Tree of Hope" on the 18th floor, on which NBK employees wrote letters of support and encouragement for cancer patients. The tree was then transported to the Sidra Association for the Psychological Care of Cancer Patients so they can read the letters of support that provided them with a significant morale boost during their treatment journey.

On this occasion, Danah Faras - Public Relations and Event Man-



Group photo during the campaign.



NBK headquarters

Faras:

- Such campaigns embody NBK's commitment to its established values and its deep commitment to serving all segments of society and empowering women.
- The bank holds a long record of social and humanitarian initiatives in different fields.

agement Officer at NBK said: "such campaigns are an integral part of our ongoing efforts to raise awareness among society in general, and women in particular, about the dangers of breast cancer, prevention methods, and the importance of early detection, as this is the first line of defense in combating the disease".

Faras emphasized that the NBK places social responsibility at the core of its corporate culture, believing in the importance of its role as an active partner in community development. The campaigns that the bank has been organizing, along with numerous other environmental, educational, and health initiatives, are a practical embodiment of the bank's established values and its deep commitment to serving all segments of society.



The campaign focused on spreading awareness.

worth noting that NBK holds a track record of pioneering social and humanitarian initiatives spanning a wide range of fields. These initiatives include awareness, health, and illness prevention campaigns, most important of which is the annual campaign to combat breast cancer, early detection, diabetes, and prostate cancer, among other targeted campaigns.

A major boost to Kuwait's entertainment and tourism sector through public-private partnership

UPAC and TEC celebrate Messilah Beach opening

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: United Projects for Aviation Services (UPAC), a leading company in commercial real estate and facilities management, announced the official opening of the newly redeveloped Messilah Beach (Plage 2), Kuwait's latest and most comprehensive beachfront destination. The family-focused project is a landmark public-private partnership, developed by Touristic Enterprises Company as part of its role in driving growth and development in Kuwait's tourism sector, with UPAC overseeing all aspects of the project, including leasing, recreational activities, facilities management, and operations, under a 17-year contract.

The grand opening ceremony was attended by representatives from UPAC, TEC, and key government officials, as well as board members and senior management from both companies, including their Chief Executive Officers.

Eng. Hamad Malallah, Chief Executive Officer at UPAC, said: "The reopening of Messilah Beach, which represents a long-term partnership between public and private sectors, reflects UPAC's commitment to professionalism, innovation, and quality in facility management. We have invested in top resources to ensure the long-term success of this vibrant, year-round destination. Last July, we introduced Villa Shams, Kuwait's first women-only beach club, and brought together a mix of Kuwaiti and international brands that cater to diverse tastes and create safe, engaging experiences. Working closely with our partners at the Touristic Enterprises Company, we aim to position Messilah Beach as a distinctive destination that supports the growth of Kuwait's tourism sector while enhancing the seaside experience and maximizing its unique setting."

Engineer Anwar Al-Hulaila, Chief Executive Officer of Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC), said: "The reopening of Messilah Beach in its new look comes as part of TEC's ongoing efforts to develop its facilities in line with the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035, which aims to position Kuwait as a leading regional tourism and leisure destination. The company completely renovated the project in 2023 and offered its management to the private sector in 2024 to enhance operational efficiency and service quality. This project



Cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the Messilah Beach project.



CEO of UPAC, Hamad Malallah and Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer.

- Developed by Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) and Currently Managed by United Projects for Aviation Services (UPAC).
- Hamad Malallah: "The opening of Messilah Beach reflects UPAC's commitment to professionalism, innovation, and quality in facility management."
- Engineer Anwar Al-Hulaila: "Today's reopening is part of a series of projects aimed at supporting Kuwait's tourism and leisure sector."
- The Messilah Beach project spans over 70,000 SQM and features modern operational and service standards.

serves as a successful example of public-private partnership and represents a significant step toward sustainable development in the tourism sector. Together with our partners at UPAC, we are proud to deliver a modern, safe, and innovative beachfront destination that blends creativity with Kuwait's authentic identity."

The reopening was marked by a vibrant beachfront celebration, where visitors of all ages enjoyed live music, dazzling stage performances, and a variety of family-friendly activities inspired by the sea. Guests explored the different facilities, participated in interactive games and cultural showcases, and experienced a festive atmosphere that captured the spirit of Messilah Beach as a welcoming and lively destination for everyone.

Spanning more than 70,000 SQM the project meets world-class operational and service

standards and offers direct access to a 250-meter sandy beachfront. Messilah Beach features shaded and open seating areas for relaxation and sunbathing, as well as a wide variety of water activities. Facilities include four swimming pools, a dedicated children's play area, a Sky Trail attraction, sports courts, beachside activities, garden spaces, and 350 shaded parking spots. The destination is designed as a vibrant and recreational hub open to visitors year-round.

Earlier this year, Messilah Beach welcomed its first operator, Villa Shams, Kuwait's first ladies-only beach club. Opened on July 10, 2025, Villa Shams offered an exclusive, premium experience for women in a secure and refined setting. As the season shifts, Villa Shams has now transformed into a beachside restaurant, providing a vibrant culinary and social experience while continuing to maintain its refined

atmosphere.

In addition to Villa Shams, Messilah Beach now features a carefully curated lineup of tenants, offering a diverse selection of local and international dining experiences alongside distinctive entertainment operators, including: Frost Gelato, Ananas, Oliver, Good Stuff, amongst others. Guests can enjoy Trampo at the Beach, a first-of-its-kind indoor entertainment concept, and Fun Quest, an interactive outdoor games and kids' play zone. With additional operators set to join the growing Messilah Beach Family, the destination continues to expand its dynamic mix of retail, dining, and leisure offerings, providing an all-encompassing experience for visitors of all ages.

Messilah Beach is the latest addition to UPAC's growing portfolio of flagship projects. UPAC is also a co-investor in Abu Dhabi's

\$1.3 billion Reem Mall on Reem Island. The mall is one of the region's first fully integrated omnichannel retail ecosystems with digital, e-commerce, and logistics capabilities. Beyond shopping, Reem Mall delivers a unique entertainment offering, including Snow Abu Dhabi the UAE's largest Snow Park, while also combining a diverse mix of retail, dining, and leisure options to ensure a seamless customer experience.

UPAC brings to this project a strong track record in managing and operating commercial real estate and facilities, supported by long-standing government partnerships and extensive expertise in Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) projects. Earlier this year, the company successfully completed its 26-year BOT concession for Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 1, formally handing the facility back to the Directorate General of Civil Avi-

ation in May 2025.

UPAC is also a co-investor in Reem Mall on Abu Dhabi's Reem Island, a USD 1.3 billion retail and entertainment destination that officially opened in May 2024. Designed as a unique family-focused landmark attracting both residents and tourists, Reem Mall features the region's first fully integrated omnichannel retail ecosystem, supported by advanced digital, e-commerce, and logistics infrastructure. It offers a wide range of leisure and entertainment options, including the UAE's largest snow park, alongside an diverse range of retail, dining, and services that deliver a seamless customer experience.

Messilah Beach will be offering a wide variety of entertainment activities through its operators and partners. Visitors can find out more information by visiting the company's website: messilahbeach.com.

Grammy winning artist brings jazz to a new generation

Samara Joy reflects on the creative journey behind ‘Portrait’

LOS ANGELES, Oct 30, (AP): Samara Joy’s voice has the ability to transform listeners to the early jazz clubs, filling them with warm nostalgia for legends like Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan.

At 25, Joy is a five-time Grammy winning recording artist, whose album, “Linger Awhile” won her best new artist and best jazz vocal album in 2023. She’s been praised by artists like Chaka Khan, Regina King and Quincy Jones and has amassed a large following of her Gen-Z peers on TikTok, introducing a new generation to jazz.

Last year, Joy released “Portrait,” her third and most personal studio album allowing listeners into the tension between excitement and feeling overwhelmed that often follows a whirlwind of accolades and success. Her first original song “Peace of Mind” fully captures this moment.

“I wrote it in a time where I was really questioning whether I could continue or not because I was so exhausted,” said Joy. “I reminded myself through that Sun Ra composition that I have experienced something wonderful, and it doesn’t have to be the end all be all. This is just the beginning ... this is just a springboard for all of the other creative ideas that I have and what I feel like I have to offer.”

For Joy, releasing “Portrait” was a creative challenge and a turning point toward trusting her creative instincts.

“It’s taught me a lot about what I can do and to stand firm in the creative vision and the direction that I see for myself,” she said.

Joy sat down with The Associated Press to talk about life post-Grammy wins, how diving into “Portrait” helped her grow as an artist and what it means to make her mark on the classic genre.

This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.



Samara Joy poses for a portrait in Los Angeles on Sept 25, 2025. (AP)

ity.

AP: How does it feel to look back on “Portrait” and how have you grown from that moment into the new projects that you’re working on?

Joy: This album was a turning point. Because I feel like it was the first time I really had to make a decision about what my path was going to be. With the first two albums, it was just songs that I loved and felt like I could interpret as my own. And this album, “Portrait,” was the first time I felt like I took the reins of creative direction and band mates and songs. And honestly kind of opened up even more to my band mates and said, arrange. I want you guys to orchestrate this next era.

So, it was definitely a big leap, I think, from maybe what people thought I should do after the second album after the best new artist. And I think this album

taught me the importance of patience and not rushing to stay relevant or spark up a moment or just stay in that moment. It taught me to just take my time and really wait until you have something you feel like you have to say.

AP: I want to go back to that moment of winning best new artist. Talk to me about that moment and kind of having this surreal moment of “Oh wow, I’m being celebrated by my idols and by people that I’ve looked up to for years.”

Joy: I never expected to be nominated. I never thought that that was a possibility, at least so early on in my career.

Even thinking about it now, I can see everybody still and still feel the way that I felt that night. It’s a night that I will never ever forget. And I’m thankful. I’m really thankful to everybody who believed in me enough to allow me to have that moment, who voted, who listened to my music, who support me then and still support me now. Which is why I never want to lose sight of what I do this for.

AP: You’ve been praised by Chaka Khan, by Regina King. Was there any one specific person that once you connected with them, they shared something about your music that influenced the way that you looked at yourself and your own approach?

Joy: A couple years ago I did the Hollywood Bowl and it was a birthday celebration for Quincy Jones - Patti Austin, I got the chance to sing alongside of her. And backstage, you know, she was funny and sharp and quick, but she was just very supportive and very honest. And that meant a lot to me from somebody who has been in the industry for as long as she has and collaborated with Quincy Jones and George Benson and James Ingram and all these people to be so encouraging on this new journey as

I kind of embark on it.”

AP: Does it feel like an act of reclamation and resistance being a Black woman in jazz who is at the top who is making it in the mainstream and bringing the genre back to a new generation?

Joy: I guess I never thought about it that way. There are so many wonderful artists that I draw inspiration from - Billy Strayhorn, Duke Ellington through the course of their lives contributed to the changing to the evolution of the music that we call jazz. I know that there’s always gonna be a certain sense of nostalgia and a certain artist or song that people can connect to or relate to easily because jazz is not mainstream, at least to me, I don’t think unless it is really, really, really, really watered down, I don’t think it will be.

But it’s an opportunity for me to once again be authentic and show people like, “Have you ever heard of this Abby Lincoln song?” Or maybe this Thelonious Monk song doesn’t have lyrics, but I can put lyrics to them and share a different, you know, a different compositional style. And a different voice in jazz. And so I guess that’s my way of reclaiming it and educating in a way and just introducing people to the sound that they may not recognize at first, but good music is good music.

AP: You get compared to Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan. What does that mean to you?

Joy: I feel very honored and sometimes undeserving because of how new my relationship to their music was initially. I hadn’t really listened to their music or their voices at all growing up and getting introduced to them in college, it just felt like another world had opened up and I felt like I wanna sing, I wanna be able to move people the way that they move me with their voices.

Variety

LONDON: Universal Music Group and AI song generation platform Udio have settled a copyright infringement lawsuit and agreed to team up on new music creation and streaming platform, the two companies said in a joint statement.

Universal and Udio said Wednesday that they reached a “compensatory legal settlement” as well as new licensing agreements for recorded music and publishing that will “provide further revenue opportunities” for the record label’s artists and songwriters.

The rise of AI song generation tools like Udio has disrupted the \$20 billion music streaming industry. Record labels accuse the platforms of exploiting the recorded works of artists without compensating them.

The deal is the first since Universal, along with Sony Music Entertainment and Warner Records, sued Udio and another AI song generator, Suno, last year over copyright infringement. (AP)

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DAKAR, Senegal: Nobel Prize-winning author Wole Soyinka said on Tuesday that his non-resident visa to enter the United States had been rejected, adding that he believes it may be because he recently criticized US President Donald Trump.

The Nigerian author, 91, won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1986, becoming the first African to do so.

Speaking to the press on Tuesday, Soyinka said he believed it had little to do with him and was instead a product of the United States’ immigration policies. He said he was told to reapply if he wished to enter again.

“It’s not about me, I’m not really interested in going back to the United States,” he said. “But a principle is involved. Human beings deserve to be treated decently wherever they are.” (AP)

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NEW YORK: ESPN and Athletes Unlimited announced a three-year rights extension Wednesday that makes ESPN the official broadcast partner for the women’s professional sports company’s softball, basketball and volleyball leagues.

ESPN platforms will broadcast more than 50 exclusive Athletes Unlimited Softball League games each year during the deal. ABC will broadcast at least one AUSL championship series game in 2026. It will be the first time women’s pro softball will be shown on network television in the United States.

ESPN also will show all 24 games of Athletes Unlimited’s basketball and volleyball leagues on ESPN+ and ESPN+.

Rosalyn Durant, ESPN’s executive vice president for programming and acquisitions, said increased interest in women’s sports led to the deal. (AP)

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MELBOURNE, Australia: Messages in a bottle written by two Australian soldiers a few days into their voyage to the battlefields of France during World War I have been found more than a century later on Australia’s coast.

The Brown family found the Schweppes-brand bottle just above the waterline at Wharton Beach near Esperance in Western Australia state on Oct. 9, Deb Brown said on Tuesday.

Her husband Peter and daughter Felicity made the find during one of the family’s regular quad bike expeditions to clear the beach of trash.

“We do a lot of cleaning up on our beaches and so would never go past a piece of rubbish. So this little bottle was lying there waiting to be picked up,” Deb Brown said. (AP)

Music



Anoushka Shankar, (left), and Arooj Aftab perform on stage at the 65th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023, in Los Angeles. (AP)

India and Pakistan artists redefine global music trends

South Asian sounds make an impact worldwide

LOS ANGELES, Oct 30, (AP): Arooj Aftab became the first Pakistani Grammy winner when she took home the global music performance award for her song “Mohabbat” in 2022.

A year later, actor and singer Diljit Dosanjh stepped onto the smoke-filled stage of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Southern California, becoming the festival’s first artist from the Indian state of Punjab near the border with Pakistan, a region known for its vibrant musical culture.

In August, the first-generation Indian American artist Avara sat in a bed of rose petals at a concert hall in Brooklyn for the opening performance of her first tour. Fans crowded around the stage for a glimpse of the artist, who has gained over 250,000 new monthly Spotify listeners since November 2024 - a more than 250% increase.

“I started getting a bunch of her TikToks,” said audience member Alex Kim, a 22-year-old music assistant. “Everyone has a short attention span these days, but I was like, ‘Wait a minute, I actually really like this.’”

Following Afrobeat, K-pop and Latin music, songs with South Asian influences are the latest global trend to build audiences around the world. In April, Warner Music Group launched 5 Junction Records, a label dedicated to selling South Asian-influenced artists to North American listeners.

“It’s something that’s been forming slowly,” Billboard CEO Mike Van said about the overseas surge of South Asian-influenced artists. “We started to see these growth spurts over the last couple of years because of all the technology, evolving tastes and activation of these diaspora audiences.”

5 Junction Records general manager Jürgen Grebner told The Associated Press that his label looks for artists with strong fan bases in their home countries. A No. 1 song in India “automatically will chart in the Top 20 on Spotify’s global charts,” he said.

Born to Moroccan parents in Toronto, actor-turned-singer Nora Fatehi became a Bollywood celebrity to perform at a FIFA World Cup and billions worldwide watched the closing ceremony in Qatar. A Toronto talent agency encouraged her to explore opportunities in India. Eleven years ago, she moved



Diljit Dosanjh performs at the Coachella Music and Arts Festival at the Empire Polo Club on Saturday, April 22, 2023, in Indio, Calif. (AP)

there, learned Hindi and began auditioning for every modeling and acting role she could find, determined to make a name for herself.

“The Indian audience is the reason why I am what I am today. So while I’m making myself into a global artist, I’m bringing them with me,” Fatehi told the AP.

In the multibillion-dollar global music business, musicians often need to team up with local artists or brands to expand beyond their popularity at home, Grebner said.

“The only way really to win in those markets is to collaborate,” he said.

The international girl group Katseye features members of Indian, Japanese and Filipino descent who starred in a recent Gap ad.

Fatehi’s single “Snake,” featuring US pop and R&B singer Jason Derulo, reached the top 20 on Spotify charts in both the UK and Canada.

Some music from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan,

Sri Lanka and the Maldives evolved as a way to teach Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism and other spiritual teachings thousands of years ago, said Professor Francesca Cassio, chair of the music department at Hofstra University. One North Indian classical genre, khyal, gained popularity in the West during the 1960s as sitar great Ravi Shankar influenced musicians like the Beatles and John Coltrane.

As the US becomes increasingly diverse, it’s been encouraging to see younger audiences showing an “overall acceptance of global sounds,” Van said.

Van pointed out that Gen Z and Gen Alpha are leading the charge in embracing music that crosses cultural lines.

“Artists have a direct connection now to their fans,” said Van. “You’ve got clips now, literally edited down to 10 seconds or less, that are capturing people’s attention that can go viral. And so it’s a new way of not only promotion, but also again, consumption and discovery.”

Avara, the 25-year-old artist, said she gained a social media following by posting videos that blend her meditative R&B and soul music, with elements of her years of Indian classical and Western vocal training.

In Marietta, Georgia, she grew up feeling “never a part of the brown community but never completely a part of the American community,” she said.

“I was around a lot of white people and people that didn’t look like me and I rejected a lot of parts of myself,” she said.

Her debut album, “a softer place to land,” honored the artistic community that shaped her over the past two years. Her next project, “MARA,” is about reclaiming her identity as a “young brown girl” through the lens of a “third culture kid”- someone who grows up balancing their parents’ heritage with the cultures they’re raised in, she said.

She described her next album as a mixture of every culture that has influenced her over the past 25 years, blending Indian vocal riffs with Spanish guitar, reggae, and other styles.

“I’m trying to create something completely different,” she said. “I’m trying to create a new genre with this stuff that comes from those influences of what I learned as a kid.”

Probe deepens as arrests did not help uncover loot

Five more arrests made in Louvre crown jewel heist

PARIS, Oct 30, (AP): Five more people were arrested overnight in the Louvre crown-jewels heist - including a man identified by DNA as one of the suspected robbers - the Paris prosecutor said Thursday, signaling an accelerating dragnet across the French capital and its suburbs.

The separate, late-night operations in Paris and nearby Seine-Saint-Denis bring the total arrests to seven. The prosecutor, Laure Beccuau, told RTL radio that one of the detainees is suspected of being part of the four-person team that robbed the Louvre's Apollo Gallery in broad daylight on Oct. 19.

She said the DNA-linked suspect was "one of the objectives of the investigators - we had him in our sights." Others taken into custody, she said, "may be able to inform us about how the events unfolded," but she did not release their identities or other details.

Beccuau said the latest arrests still did not help uncover the loot, which includes a diamond-and-emerald necklace that Napoleon Bonaparte gave to Empress Marie Louise as a wedding gift. The stolen pieces - valued at \$102 million - also comprise crown jewels tied to 19th-century Queens Marie-Amélie and Hortense, and Empress Eugénie's pearl-and-diamond tiara.

French police have acknowledged major gaps in the Lou-

vre's defenses, turning the dazzling daylight theft into a national reckoning over how France protects its treasures. The Paris police chief said that the first alert to police came not from the Louvre's security systems but from a cyclist outside who dialed the emergency line after seeing helmeted men with a basket lift.

Two earlier suspects, men aged 34 and 39 from Aubervilliers, north of Paris, were charged Wednesday with theft by an organized gang and criminal conspiracy after nearly 96 hours in custody. Beccuau said both gave "minimalist" statements and "partially admitted" their involvement.

Evidence

One was stopped at Charles-de-Gaulle Airport with a one-way ticket to Algeria; his DNA matched a scooter used in the getaway. For now, she said, there is no evidence of insider help among Louvre staff, though investigators are not ruling out a wider network beyond the four seen on security footage.

That footage shows at least four thieves forcing a window into the Apollo Gallery in broad daylight, cutting open display cases with power tools and fleeing on two scooters toward eastern Paris. Investigators say the crew arrived in

a truck equipped with a freight lift that allowed two men to reach the window.

After less than four minutes inside, the crew pried open two display cases and made off with eight pieces of priceless jewelry before alarms sounded.

Beccuau renewed her appeal to those holding the items: "These jewels are now, of course, unsellable ... Anyone who buys them would be guilty of concealment of stolen goods. There's still time to give them back."

Information about investigations is meant to be secret under French law to avoid compromising police work and to ensure victims' right to privacy. Only the prosecutor can speak publicly about developments, and violators can be prosecuted. Police and investigators are not supposed to divulge information about arrests or suspects without the prosecutor's approval, though in high-profile cases, police union officials have leaked partial details.

The daylight smash-and-grab inside the world's most-visited museum shocked the heritage world. Four men, a lift truck and a stopwatch turned the Apollo Gallery's blaze of gold and light into a crime scene - while Empress Eugénie's damaged but salvageable crown, dropped in the escape, became the theft's lone survivor.



A soldier patrols in the courtyard of the Louvre museum, Thursday, Oct. 30, in Paris. (AP)

Heritage



An ancient building goes back to Roman eras.



Dendera Temple draws visitors from around the world.



Carvings showcasing astronomical figures.



Drawings embodying the genius Egyptian ancient art.



'Dendera Zodiac' one of the oldest astronomical maps in history.



The astronomical art of Dendera Temple. KUNA photos

Dendera Temple displays ancient Egypt's astronomical, artistic brilliance

Dendera Temple in Qena Governorate, located on the western bank of the Nile River, stands as one of Egypt's most remarkable temples, reflecting the ancient Egyptians' deep connection with astronomy.

Dating back to the Ptolemaic and Roman eras, the temple features a massive facade with 24 columns symbolizing the hours of day and night, each topped with the head of Hathor, ancient Egyptian idol, adorned with

intricate carvings showcasing the splendor of ancient Egyptian art.

Its walls and ceilings are decorated with depictions of zodiac signs representing the months of the year, as well as religious scenes and sacred celebrations.

This includes the famous "Dendera Zodiac," one of the oldest astronomical maps in history, now displayed at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

In ancient times, the temple served as a center for astronomy and calendrical studies, where priests observed the stars to determine the timing of festivals and religious events.

Today, it remains one of Upper Egypt's most prominent tourist attractions, drawing visitors from around the world for its cultural and artistic significance, embodying the genius of ancient Egyptian art, architecture, and faith. (KUNA)

World's largest museum to showcase 50,000 artifacts

Grand Egyptian Museum finally opening to the world

CAIRO, Oct 30, (AP): After two decades of anticipation and countless delays, the Grand Egyptian Museum is finally having its grand reveal.

The museum, which is set to officially open Saturday, highlights Egypt's ancient civilization and is a centerpiece of the government's drive to boost the tourist industry, a major source of foreign currency in the cash-strapped country.

Located just outside Cairo next to the famed Giza Pyramids, the \$1 billion mammoth facility is poised to become the world's largest museum dedicated to a single civilization with over 50,000 artifacts detailing the life in ancient Egypt. By comparison, the Louvre Museum in Paris has about 35,000 pieces on display.

The museum is one of the mega-projects championed by President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who since taking office in 2014 embarked on massive investments in infrastructure with the aim of reviving an economy weakened by decades of stagnation and battered by the unrest that followed the 2011 Arab Spring uprising.

The museum's construction began in 2005, but work stopped for three years during the political turmoil that followed the 2011 uprising.

The grand opening was postponed multiple times, most recently in July this year because of conflicts in the Middle East. World leaders are expected to attend the opening ceremony Saturday.

Designed by the Irish firm Heneghan Peng Architects, the museum, known as GEM, boasts a towering, triangular glass facade imitating the nearby pyramids.

In its entrance atrium stands the granite colossus of one of Egypt's most famed pharaohs, Ramesses the Great. The 3,200-year-old, 11-meters-tall (36-foot-



Tourists stand under the statue of Pharaoh Ramses II, at the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, Egypt, Friday, May 23, 2025. (AP)

tall) statue was moved to the museum after decades of standing in the center of a traffic-clogged roundabout in front of Cairo's main train station.

From the atrium, a grand six-story staircase lined with ancient statues leads up to the main galleries and a view of the nearby pyramids. A bridge links the museum to the pyramids, allowing tourists to move between them either on foot or via electric, environment-friendly vehicles, according to museum officials.

The museum includes 24,000 square meters (258,000 square feet) of permanent exhibition space, a children's museum and conference and educational

facilities, and a commercial area as well as a large conservation center.

The 12 main galleries, which opened last year, exhibit antiquities spanning from prehistoric times to the Roman era, organized by era and by themes.

Many of the 50,000 artifacts in the GEM were moved from the Egyptian Museum, a packed, century-old building in downtown Cairo's Tahrir Square. Others were recently unearthed from ancient cemeteries, including the Saqqara necropolis, another complex of pyramids and tombs about 14 miles (22 kilometers) south of the museum.

The halls are equipped with advanced technology and feature multimedia presentations including mixed-reality shows to help explain ancient Egypt to new generations, said Ahmed Ghoneim, the museum's CEO.

"We're using the language that the Gen Z uses right now," he said in an interview. "Gen Z doesn't use anymore the labels that we read as old people but rather use technology."

Saturday's grand opening will include the inauguration of two halls dedicated to the 5,000 artifacts from the collection of King Tutankhamun.

The collection is being displayed in its entirety for the first time since British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered King Tut's tomb in 1922 in the southern city of Luxor. The old Egyptian Museum didn't have enough space to show all the tomb's treasures at once.

Some masterpieces were restored at the museum's conservation center, including the boy pharaoh's three funeral beds and six chariots, said Jailan Mohamed, chief restorer at the conservation center.

'Secret Power of Scents'

German expo lets visitors smell 1,000 yrs of history

DÜSSELDORF, Germany, Oct 30, (AP): Ever wondered what war smells like? Or ponder the odor of love, or the stench of medieval Paris, or the sacred fragrance of religion?

A new exhibition in Germany allows visitors to discover unknown worlds of smells by sniffing their way through 81 different fragrances across 37 different galleries.

The show "The Secret Power of Scents," which opens to the public on Wednesday at the Kunstpalast museum, in the western city of Düsseldorf, combines fragrances with art, taking visitors on a journey of more than 1,000 years of cultural history.

"This exhibition is an experiment - and an invitation for our audience to discover the history of scents with their noses," said Felix Krämer, the museum's director general.

The exhibition follows a chronological order, from religious artifacts of the Middle Ages through to contemporary art of the 21st century. The various galleries are equipped with scent steles, atomizers and diffusers to create a connection between the art and the smell of a specific time period or cultural context.

Waves of myrrh waft through a darkened gallery of Christian wood carvings depicting various scenes from the Bible. Christianity, but also Judaism and Islam used myrrh as a symbol for prayer and purification, the show explains.

Scents evoke direct emotional reactions more strongly than any other sense. So it comes as no surprise that visitors almost retreat in fear when they press a button in a gallery about World War I. The scent released from the diffuser

was created by mixing the pungent smell of gunpowder with the metallic odor of blood and sulfur.

"Anyone who has ever experienced war, conventional war, will hate it, because you can actually smell the brutality of war here," said Robert Müller-Grünow, the show's curator and a leading expert in the field of scent and scent technology.

"It's the first exhibition worldwide to bring scents into a museum in this form, format and scale," he said.

On the other side of the fragrance spectrum, there's the Venus and Adonis painting from 1610 by Flemish artist Peter Paul Rubens showing two lovers.

"This room is all about passion and emotions," said Müller-Grünow, adding that the smells diffused here are dominated by roses and the scent of the civet - a cat whose scent was considered erotic in the 17th century, but made today's visitors turn up their noses in disgust.

Certain smells also connect to different eras of history - pressing the button to release the stench of medieval Paris made some visitors choke when they inhaled a mix of sewage, mold and unwashed bodies.

On the other hand, in a gallery dedicated to the Roaring 20s, there's an oil painting by Gert Wollheim from 1924, called Farewell from Düsseldorf, which celebrates the liberation of women, who at the time began wearing bold lipstick, bobbed their hair and smoked cigarettes in public. The room is filled with the uplifting scent of tobacco, vanilla and leather - a mixture that's a nod to famous early fragrances such as the historic Tabac Blond which was launched by the fragrance house Caron in 1919.



A woman smells samples of famous perfumes during the exhibition 'The Secret Power of Scents', showing the history of scent from antiquity to the present as a sensory experience at the Kunstpalast art museum in Duesseldorf, Germany, Tuesday, Oct. 28. (AP)

Character.AI bans minors from interacting with its chatbots

NEW YORK, Oct 30, (AP): Character.AI is banning minors from using its chatbots amid growing concerns about the effects of artificial intelligence conversations on children. The company is facing several lawsuits over child safety, including by the mother of a teenager who says the company's chatbots pushed her teenage son to kill himself.

Character Technologies, the Menlo Park, California-based company behind Character.AI, said Wednesday it will be removing the ability of users under 18 to participate in open-ended chats with AI characters. The changes will go into effect by Nov. 25 and a two-hour daily limit will start immediately. Character.AI added that it is working on new features for kids - such as the ability to create videos, stories, and streams with AI characters. The company is also setting up an AI safety lab.

Character.AI said it will be rolling out age-verification functions to help determine which users are under 18. A growing number of tech platforms are turning to age checks to keep children from accessing tools that aren't safe for them. But these are imperfect, and many kids find ways to get around them. Face scans, for instance,

can't always tell if someone is 17 or 18. And there are privacy concerns around asking people to upload government IDs.

Character.AI, an app that allows users to create customizable characters or interact with those generated by others, spans experiences from imaginative play to mock job interviews. The company says the artificial personas are designed to "feel alive" and "humanlike."

"Imagine speaking to super intelligent and lifelike chat bot Characters that hear you, understand you and remember you," reads a description for the app on Google Play. "We encourage you to push the frontier of what's possible with this innovative technology."

Critics welcomed the move but said it is not enough - and should have been done earlier. Meetali Jain, executive director of the Tech Justice Law Project, said, "There are still a lot of details left open."

"They have not addressed how they will operationalize age verification, how they will ensure their methods are privacy preserving, nor have they addressed the possible psychological impact of suddenly disabling access to young users, given the emotional dependencies that have been created," Jain said.

US health authorities promote affordable biotech drugs

Saliva test detects heart failure quickly, accurately

SYDNEY, Oct 30, (Xinhua): Scientists in Australia have developed a rapid saliva test that could revolutionize heart failure detection, promising to make heart failure screening more accessible, especially in remote and under-resourced communities.

Scientists from the Australian Research Council Center of Excellence in Synthetic Biology have developed a biosensor that can rapidly detect the heart failure biomarker S100A7 in saliva, the center said in a statement on Wednesday.

Heart failure affects 64 million people worldwide, but current diagnostics, such as blood tests, clinical evaluations, and imaging technologies, are often expensive and geographically inaccessible, leading to delayed diagnoses when treatment options become limited.

“Early symptoms are often subtle and non-specific, meaning patients typically receive treatment only in advanced disease stages,” said the study’s first author Roxane Mutschler of the center at Australia’s Queensland University of Technology.

The biomarker S100A7 was discovered by Professor Chamindie Punyadeera’s team at Griffith University. Instead of using the body’s natural antibodies to detect problems, researchers used a technique called mRNA display to custom-build their own protein detectors from scratch. They created millions of different versions and let them compete to see which ones best latched onto the heart failure marker. The winning designs were

then produced in bacteria, researchers said.

Healthy people typically have lower levels of S100A7 in their saliva, while heart failure patients have roughly twice as much, researchers said, adding the test can detect this difference reliably, and will alleviate the pressure on centralized testing laboratories or hospitals.

This synthetic biology approach was faster and cheaper than traditional methods, and the same technique can be used to detect different diseases by simply changing the target biomarker, according to the study.

US Federal regulators are trying to make it easier to develop cheaper alternatives to powerful drugs that many Americans depend on to treat autoimmune diseases or cancers.

The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday it has released guidance to simplify studies for biologic drugs and cut unnecessary testing.

Biologic drugs are made from living cells instead of by mixing chemicals. They have led to major advances in treating immune system disorders, eye diseases and some cancers since the late 1990s, but they also are very costly.

For decades, biotech drugmakers argued that their medicines were too complex to be copied by competitors. That finally changed under President Barack Obama’s 2010 health overhaul, which ordered the FDA to create a system for approving “biosimilar drugs.” The industry term arose be-

cause scientists insisted it would be impossible to produce exact copies of their biotech drugs.

FDA’s pathway, finally published in 2015, suggests that drugmakers conduct studies showing patients respond similarly to biosimilar versions when compared with the originals.

The latest proposal seeks to ease that standard, which the administration calls an “unnecessary resource-intensive requirement.”

“The result will be more competition, lower prices and faster access to lifesaving medicines,” said Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The draft guidance is the first step in an extensive bureaucratic process. It amounts to a tentative set of recommendations for drugmakers.

The FDA will take public comments on its proposal for 60 days. After that, it must review and revise the document. The final guidance, expected in three months to six months, will not be binding. It will serve as suggestions for drugmakers working on biosimilars.

Biosimilar competition has brought some price relief to patients who take such drugs such as the autoimmune disease treatment Humira. But this may not happen immediately. That can depend on insurance coverage and whether the biosimilar is added to a pharmacy benefit manager’s list of covered drugs.

Experts say that over time, biosimilars also can prompt drugmakers to lower the cost of their biologic drugs or offer bigger rebates to keep their product on a formulary.

Vaccination urged

Rise in respiratory illnesses within normal range: MoH

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): The official spokesman for the Ministry of Health Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad announced Wednesday that the increase in respiratory illness cases in the country is within the expected seasonal rates.

According to the national digital platform for monitoring respiratory diseases (EmFlu), results showed 75 percent of the recorded respiratory cases are due to type (A) influenza virus, he explained.

In a statement, Dr. Al-Sanad clarified that the platform noted that epidemiological surveillance recorded the presence of other accompanying viruses such as respiratory syncytial virus and a number of seasonal bacterial diseases.

The platform represents a qualitative leap in the health surveillance system, as it contributes to enhancing the speed of health response and early warning, the statement mentioned.

Al-Sanad stressed the continuation of the national campaign for seasonal vaccinations, which has benefited more than 67,000 people so far during the first month of its launch.



KUNA photo
The official spokesman for the Ministry of Health, Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad.

Vaccination services are available at more than 75 locations nationwide, including 15 new centers to expand access and ensure broader health coverage, he explained.

He confirmed that vaccination is the first line of defense for protecting the individual and society, and reflects national awareness and collective responsibility for preserving human health.

AI chatbot eases anxiety

AI tool prepares patients for hip & knee surgeries

DALLAS, Oct 30, (AP): Preparing for orthopedic surgeries such as hip or knee replacement can be stressful for patients, who often have many questions and concerns about what to expect. Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) presented new findings at the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons annual meeting suggesting that artificial intelligence (AI) is a powerful educational tool that can help patients feel prepared and supported before and after surgery.

HSS researchers piloted and evaluated a custom-tailored AI (CTAI) platform that was trained on patient education content developed and approved by HSS surgeons. They found that patients were able to easily access and interact with the chat bot, which provided on-demand, personalized, accurate information about their surgery.

“Our study showed that most patients found the technology easy to use and helpful in making them feel ready and confident going into surgery,” says Eytan M Debbi, MD, PhD, hip and knee replacement surgeon at HSS and senior author of the study.

HSS investigators partnered with Aidify to develop the CTAI agent to address patient questions related to total joint arthroplasty (TJA) procedures such as hip and knee replacement surgery. Orthopedic surgeons at HSS trained the chat bot with their specific surgical protocols so that patients could receive personalized content that reflects their expertise.

Patients undergoing orthopedic pro-

cedures frequently face confusion and anxiety before surgery and are often dissatisfied with printed educational materials that can be hard to understand and not tailored to their needs. However, patients in the study gave Aidify high marks for responses that were useful, understandable, and complete.

“This platform can provide round-the-clock access to reliable, doctor-specific guidance and reduce the risk of getting inaccurate or irrelevant information from other general-purpose tools like Google or Chat GPT,” says Karlos Zepeda, DO, clinical research coordinator at HSS and lead author of the study.

The study included 40 patients scheduled to undergo TJA at HSS. Among the 32 patients who used the chat bot, about 85% said they understood the responses to their questions and 75% reported that it helped them feel well prepared for surgery. More than 80% of patients stated they would recommend the platform to others.

“I think patients get a lot of comfort knowing they have access to the chat bot because it gives them the sense that they can always be in contact with our office and get their questions answered whenever they need it,” explains Dr. Debbi.

Patients in the study were emailed a link to the interactive platform trained on information about the surgery they were going to have. They could then type their questions into the chat bot and get responses instantly.



Shenzhou-21 spacecraft sitting atop a Long March rocket covered on a launch pad is seen through a Chinese character, at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, Thursday, Oct. 30. (AP)

China upgrades spacesuit

China says it’s on track to land astronauts on the moon by 2030

JIUQUAN, China, Oct 30, (Agencies): China said Thursday it’s on track to land astronauts on the moon by 2030 as it introduced the next crew of astronauts who will head to its space station as part of the country’s ambitious plans to be a leader in space exploration.

“Currently, each program of the research and development work of putting a person on the moon is progressing smoothly,” said Zhang Jingbo, spokesman for the China Manned Space Program, citing the Long March 10 rocket, moon landing suits and exploration vehicle, as fruitful efforts of that work. “Our fixed goal of China landing a person on the moon by 2030 is firm.”

China is also preparing to send up its latest rotation of astronauts who make up part of the ongoing mission to complete the Tiangong space station, part of its broader space exploration plans. Each team stays inside the station for six months, conducting research.

The latest crew joining others on the station will be made up of Zhang Lu, Wu Fei and Zhang Hongzhang. They will take off from the Jiuquan launch center Friday at 11:44 p.m. in China. Zhang was previously part of the Shenzhou 15 mission to the station. For Wu and Zhang, this will be their first time in space.

The astronauts will also carry four

mice with them on this trip, two male and two female. They will study the effects of weightlessness and confinement on the animals.

China began work on the Tiangong, or “Heavenly Palace,” after the country was excluded from the International Space Station over US national security concerns over the Chinese space program’s direct link to the People’s Liberation Army.

Meanwhile, two new extravehicular spacesuits are able to provide astronauts with greater comfort and convenience during spacewalk activities, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) on Thursday.

These two new suits, delivered to orbit in July 2025 by the Tianzhou-9 cargo spacecraft, feature improvements in thermal comfort, human-machine interface capability and operational safety, while maintaining high standards of reliability. Zhang Jingbo, spokesperson for the CMSA, said on Thursday at a press conference focused on the upcoming Shenzhou-21 crewed spaceflight mission.

Notably, one in-orbit spacesuit, which was used more than 20 times, exceeding its original design of 15 uses within three years, will retire from future extravehicular missions.

Experts push early heart screenings for youth

Why late teens, early 20s vital times for lifelong heart health?

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

By Jewel Scott
University of South Carolina

Emerging adulthood - the life stage that unfolds around ages 18-25 - is full of major transitions, such as starting college or learning a trade, making new friends and romantic connections, and generally becoming more independent.

It’s also a stage where behaviors that diminish heart health, such as spending more time sitting, consuming more fast food and using more tobacco and alcohol, become more common. In fact, only about 1 in 4 youths maintain positive health behavior patterns during the transition to adulthood.

More Americans die of heart disease than of any other condition. People often think of heart disease as an illness that mostly affects older people, but data from electronic health records show that the rate of heart disease in people under 40 has more than doubled since 2010 and tripled among people who use tobacco. Researchers like me are learning a great deal more about how heart health later in life heavily depends on the habits built during late adolescence and early adulthood.

I am a primary care nurse practitioner and researcher studying how early life shapes long-term heart health. In my clinical practice, I frequently care for people in their early 20s who are entering adulthood and are already facing serious cardiovascular risk factors such as elevated blood pressure, high blood sugar or a body mass index in the obesity range.

Just as young people on the cusp of adulthood make important decisions about their education, career and relationships, the health habits they build during this critical time also lay the foundation for lifelong heart health and better quality of life.

The most common form of heart disease is atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, which develops when sticky, fatty plaque builds up in the blood vessels and makes it harder for blood to flow.

Heart health doesn’t suddenly decline in middle age. It starts to slip



A subject’s waist is measured during an obesity prevention study in Chicago on Jan 20, 2010. (AP)

much earlier, often without people realizing it. In fact, research shows that a key turning point is around age 17. That’s when overall heart health scores based on behaviors such as diet, movement and sleep, along with clinical measures such as blood pressure, begin to worsen.

That means by the time many young people are finishing high school, heart disease risk factors are already emerging. The good news is that most of the risk factors that drive this buildup are modifiable - meaning you can do something about them.

In a report I co-authored in March 2025, my colleagues and I explored the key risk factors for heart disease in emerging adults. One of the most important is nicotine exposure. Use of cigarettes, vapes and other nicotine products has surged among young adults in recent years, from 21% of 18- to 23-year-olds in 2002 to 43% in 2018. Nicotine damages blood vessels and speeds up the plaque formation process, increasing the risk of serious heart problems later in life. While signs such as chest discomfort or shortness of breath tend to show up much later, the groundwork for those symptoms is laid much earlier.

Obesity is another early risk factor. In fact, 1 in 5 young people under age 25 have a BMI of 30 or higher, and projections suggest nearly 3 in 5 will meet that threshold by age 35.

Meanwhile, fewer than half of adults ages 18-34 recognize high cholesterol, obesity, high blood pressure and lack of physical activity as heart disease risk factors. These early warning signs, often uncovered during routine checkups, can set the stage for future heart disease.

Heart health isn’t shaped by individual choices alone. Broader policies and systems also play a major role.

For example, the Affordable Care Act allows young adults to stay on their parents’ insurance plans until age 26, which can help ensure access to preventive services. These services, such as routine checkups, blood pressure screenings and conversations about family history, are key opportunities for your primary care provider to catch early signs of cardiovascular risk.

The other four factors are clinical measures: blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol and BMI. Since the early 2000s, three of the four - blood pressure, blood sugar and BMI - have all worsened among young adults.

These changes can go unnoticed until much later, but checking in on them early creates an opportunity to take action. The next time you are at a checkup, ask your provider about your heart health - even if you think you’re too young to be worrying about heart disease. A simple conversation today could shape the way you feel years from now, and your future heart will thank you. (AP)

Bat-like robotics may aid rescue missions

Tiny drones could save lives in stormy conditions

WORCESTER, Mass., Oct 30, (AP): Don’t be fooled by the fog machine, spooky lights and fake bats: the robotics lab at Worcester Polytechnic Institute lab isn’t hosting a Halloween party.

Instead, it’s a testing ground for tiny drones that can be deployed in search and rescue missions even in dark, smoky or stormy conditions.

“We all know that when there’s an earthquake or a tsunami, the first thing that goes down is power lines. A lot of times, it’s at night, and you’re not going to wait until the next morning to go and rescue survivors,” said Nitin Sanket, assistant professor of robotics engineering. “So we started looking at nature. Is there a creature in the world which can actually do this?”

Sanket and his students found their answer in bats and the winged mammal’s highly sophisticated ability to echolocate, or navigate via reflected sound. With a National Science Foundation grant, they’re developing small, inexpensive and energy-efficient aerial robots that can be flown where and when current drones can’t operate.

Last month, emergency workers in Pakistan used drones to find people stranded on rooftops by massive floods. In August, a rescue team used a drone to find a California man who got trapped for two days behind a waterfall. And in July, drones helped find a stable route to three mine workers who spent more than 60 hours trapped underground in Canada.

But while drones are becoming more common in search and rescue, Sanket and researchers elsewhere want to move beyond the manually operated individual robots being used today. A key next step is developing aerial robots that can be deployed in swarms and make their own decisions about where to search, said Ryan Williams, an associate professor at Virginia Tech.



Colin Balfour, a sophomore studying robotics engineering, flies a small drone at a laboratory at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Monday, Oct. 20, in Worcester, Mass. (AP)

“That type of deployment - autonomous drones - that is effectively nil,” he said.

Williams tackled that problem with a recent project that involved programming drones to choose search trajectories in coordination with human searchers. Among other things, his team used historical data from thousands of missing person cases to create a model predicting how someone would behave if lost in the woods.

“And then we used that model to better localize our drones, to search in locations with higher chances of finding someone,” he said.

At WPI, Sanket’s project addresses other limitations of current drones, including their size and perception capabilities.

“Current robots are big, bulky, expensive and cannot work in all sorts of scenarios,” he said.

By contrast, his drone fits in the palm of his hand, is made mostly from inexpensive hobby-grade materials and can operate in the dark. A small ultrasonic sensor, not unlike those used in automatic faucets in public restrooms, mimics bat behavior, sending out a pulse of high-frequency sound and using the echo to detect obstacles in its path.

During a recent demonstration, a student used a remote control to launch the drone in a brightly lit room and then again after turning off all but a faintly glowing red light. As it approached a clear, Plexiglas wall, the drone repeatedly halted and backed away, even with the lights off and with fog and fake snow swirling through the air.

“Currently, search and rescue robots are mainly operational in broad daylight,” Sanket said. “The problem is that search and rescues are dull, dangerous and dirty jobs that happen a lot of times in darkness.”

But development didn’t go completely smoothly. The researchers realized that the noise of the bat robot’s propellers interfered with the ultrasound, requiring 3D printed shells to minimize the interference. They also used artificial intelligence to teach the drone how to filter and interpret sound signals.

Still, there’s a long way to go to match bats, which can contract and compress their muscles to listen only to certain echoes and can detect something as small as a human hair from several meters away.

“Bats are amazing,” Sanket said. “We are nowhere close to what nature has achieved. But the goal is that one day in the future, we will be there and these will be useful for deployment in the wild.”

Face senators

Casey Means tapped for SG

NEW YORK, Oct 30, (AP): Casey Means, a Stanford-educated physician who rose to popularity as a wellness influencer after becoming disillusioned with traditional medicine, to face senators Thursday as she seeks approval to be the nation’s surgeon general.

Means, who is pregnant, is set to appear virtually for her confirmation hearing before the Senate health committee. She is expected to share a vision for ending chronic disease by targeting its root causes, an idea that aligns with the Make America Healthy Again message of her close ally, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The 38-year-old author and entrepreneur will also be tasked with defending her credibility after concerns surfaced about her qualifications and potential conflicts.

As the nation’s doctor, the surgeon general is a leader for Americans and health officials on public health issues. If confirmed, Means will represent an administration that has already transformed the public health landscape by calling for increased scrutiny of vaccines, the nation’s food supply, pesticides and prescription drugs.

Means has no government experience, and her license to practice as a physician is inactive. Though she went to medical school at Stanford University, she dropped out of her surgical residency program at Oregon Health and Science University in 2018. She later cited her belief that the health care system was broken and exploitative as the reason for her withdrawal.

Means then turned to alternative approaches to address what she has described as widespread metabolic dysfunction driven largely by poor nutrition and an overabundance of ultra-processed foods. She co-founded Levels, a nutrition, sleep and exercise-tracking app that can also give users insights from blood tests and continuous glucose monitors.



Means

Sinner’s No. 1 bid starts with 2nd-round win over Zizou Bergs

Zverev rallies past Ugo Carabelli

PARIS, Oct 30, (AP): Jannik Sinner’s bid to reclaim the No. 1 ranking got off to a good start with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Zizou Bergs in the second round of the Paris Masters, which the Italian needs to win to knock Carlos Alcaraz off the top spot.

Sinner’s 65-week reign as No. 1 ended in September when Alcaraz won the U.S. Open final against him for his sixth major title and the top spot. But Alcaraz lost in Paris on Tuesday in the second round to unseeded Cameron Norrie, opening the door for Sinner in their seesaw rivalry.

Sinner had Bergs under constant pressure, forging 11 break-point chances and converting three, while not conceding a break point of his own.

“I was very precise, and I also started off with a break straight away, which gives you a bit more confidence,” said Sinner, who is chasing a fifth title of the year and 23rd overall. “I’m very happy how I served today.”

The 24-year-old Sinner clinched victory on his first match point and plays unseeded Francisco Cerundolo in the third round.

“I felt like mostly the movement (was good),” said Sinner, who won an ATP 500 tournament in Vienna on Sunday despite having cramps.

Defending champion Alexander Zverev joined Sinner in round three by rallying from 3-1 down in the final set to beat Camilo Ugo Carabelli 6-7 (5), 6-1, 7-5. The third-seeded German made a telling difference on his second serve, winning 78% of points compared to 42% for his opponent, who dropped his serve four times. Zverev next plays 15th-seeded Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

Elsewhere, ninth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada rallied from a break down in the second set and 3-0 down in the third set tiebreaker in a 5-7, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4) win over Frenchman Alexandre Muller.

Auger-Aliassime’s erratic performance combined 50 winners and 55 unforced errors as he maintained his chances of reaching the season-ending, eight-player ATP Finals in Turin, Italy.

He next faces unseeded Daniel Altmaier, who beat eighth-seeded Casper Ruud 6-3, 7-5 to end the Norwegian’s Turin chances. Seventh-seeded Lorenzo Musetti lost 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 to fellow Italian Lorenzo Sonego, who next plays No. 11 Daniil Medvedev, the 2020 champion and 2021 runner-up.

Medvedev had a walkover after Grigor Dimitrov - the 2023 tournament runner-up - pulled out of their match with a shoulder injury.

Valentin Vacherot came out on top again in the battle of the cousins as he beat Arthur Rinderknech 6-7 (9), 6-3, 6-4.



Italy’s Jannik Sinner returns the ball to Belgium’s Zizou Bergs during their second round match at the Paris Masters tennis tournament at the Paris La Defense Arena in Paris. (AP)

“It was very physical. Mentally, it was hard, as well,” Vacherot said. “We were very tense, I think the crowd could see it.”
A little more than two weeks ago, Vacherot won the Shanghai Masters final

against Rinderknech, making a run from qualifying in China to win his first career tournament.
The 40th-ranked Vacherot, who is from Monaco, plays Norrie next.

Preparations are going right down to the wire

Milan-Cortina reaches 100-day countdown with ice hockey arena still under construction

MILAN, Oct 30, (AP): With 100 days to go until the start of the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, preparations are going right down to the wire.

The ice hockey arena that is set to welcome back NHL players to the Olympics is still not ready and won’t be tested until less than a month before the first puck is dropped at the 2026 Games.

“There are some things that we are paying more attention to, monitoring them and then there are others that are absolutely completely ready,” Milan-Cortina organizing committee president Giovanni Malagò told journalists outside an event to celebrate the 100-day countdown .

“Being completely honest I would say that these 100 days are necessary, we need them but I don’t think that’s any different than any other big event, you always see people working even hours before the start to ensure it meets expectations.”

Readiness of the venues is not a new concern for the local organizing committee, which rebuilt the century-old sliding track in Cortina after tangling with the International Olympic Committee at length over the decision.

The controversial track is up and running, with the IOC even saying recently that the venue has “surpassed expectations.” It secured preliminary certification in March and test events are taking place through November.

“The sliding center was a very complicated item in that period. It is clear that we respected our promises. It was



2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympic podiums are unveiled in Milan, Italy, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025, with the mascot during a press conference marking 100 days to go until the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics. (AP)

not so easy to obtain the faith from the international community - my colleagues in the IOC, the international federations,” Malagò said.

“They did a fantastic job and now we want to meet the same expectations with Santagiulia.”

However, a test event at the Santagiulia Ice Hockey Arena - the new, 16,000-seat venue that is being built on the outskirts of Milan - had to be moved, and new ones won’t be until Jan. 9-11.

The first Olympics match at the main hockey arena is the women’s preliminary round competition on Feb.

5, just one day before the opening ceremony.

“We are convinced that we will have a beautiful facility, and we will be ready to do the test event the first week of January, which will be very important because it has never been used,” Milan-Cortina CEO Andrea Varnier said.

“We need to test the ice, which is temporary not permanent, and also the function of the entire facility, which will be heavily visited.”

There are fewer concerns over other sites as the Milan-Cortina Games will be using mainly existing venues, with

this the first Olympics to fully embrace cost-cutting reforms installed by former IOC President Thomas Bach.

That means that it will also be the most spread-out Winter Games in history.

But “the credibility of the venues,” Malagò said, compensates for the distance.

“What is fundamental is that the athletes want to compete in what is the temple of their own discipline. All these events have a recognized, first-class ranked venue ... for me it was a good choice and I think for the athletes too,” he said.

The 100-day mark launched the final phase of ticket sales.

Varnier said they have exceeded their own forecasts, selling more than 850,000 tickets to date. “Many sessions are sold out,” he said. In all, Milan-Cortina organizers are selling 1.4 million tickets for both the Feb. 6-22 Olympic Games and for the Paralympics running from March 6-15.

Organizers also unveiled the two podiums for the Winter Olympics and Paralympics, the last of the design objects created for the Milan-Cortina Games after the medals, torches and posters.

The low-rise podiums are in a deep blue, with graphic elements meant to recall snow and ice. During the presentation, the two mascots, Tina and Milo, symbolically mounted the podiums.

A pair of stoat - or weasel - siblings, all-white Tina represents the Olympic Winter Games, while Milo, whose coat is brown, is the mascot for the Paralympic Winter Games.

Pioli and Vieira risk losing their jobs

Race wide open as Napoli, Roma stay level on points

ROME, Oct 30, (AP): Nearly a quarter of the way through Serie A there’s still no clear front-runner.

Defending champion Napoli and Gian Piero Gasperini’s Roma are level on top, three points ahead of the two Milan clubs.

Nobody is counting out Inter Milan, which has a deeper bench than any of the other contenders, or AC Milan, which isn’t competing in Europe and will be more rested as the season wears on.

The parity is nothing new.

Serie A has become the most unpredictable of Europe’s five biggest domestic soccer leagues with four different champions over the last six seasons, with last season marking the second time in four years that the title race went down to the last round.

Sunday’s meeting between Milan and Roma at the San Siro could add some clarity to the title race.

Napoli could be tested, too, with a visit by fifth-placed Como on Saturday.

With Luciano Spalletti expected to be hired to replace the fired Igor Tudor at Juventus, the former Napoli and Italy coach could make his debut with the Bianconeri at Cremonese this weekend.

Juventus ended an eight-match winless run by beating Udinese under interim coach Massimo Brambilla. Facing Cremonese could be complicated. The



Lecce’s right wing Santiago Pierotti, left, and Napoli’s Noa Lang in action during the Serie A soccer match between Lecce and Napoli in Lecce, Italy. (AP)

promoted club is exceeding expectations in eighth place - with only one loss.

Meanwhile, Stefano Pioli at winless Fiorentina and Patrick Vieira at last-placed Genoa risk losing their jobs if their clubs can’t beat Lecce and Sassuolo, respectively.

The arrival of former Leicester striker Jamie Vardy

attracted attention to Cremonese at the start of the season. But it’s been Federico Bonazzoli who has emerged as the club’s leading forward.

Bonazzoli scored twice in a 2-0 win at Genoa on Wednesday, his first coming with a bicycle kick, to raise his total to four goals this season.

Hakan Calhanoglu leads the league with five goals for Inter after his brace in a 2-0 win over Fiorentina.

Napoli midfielder Kevin De Bruyne could be out until March after undergoing surgery to repair his injured right thigh.

He joins Belgium teammate Romelu Lukaku on Napoli’s long-term injury list.

Lukaku injured his left thigh in a preseason game and could return in December.

Serie A is still waiting for the Asian Football Confederation to approve holding a game between Milan and Como in Perth, Australia, in February.

Both Milan and Como fans have voiced opposition to traveling so far for a game between clubs situated less than an hour apart.

Also recently, Serie A president Ezio Simonelli said he supports moving evening matches to 8 p.m. starts instead of the current 8:45 p.m. kickoff times.

“Let’s allow kids,” Simonelli said, “the chance to watch an entire game.”

boss Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One Management and the FIA governing body. Lawyers for the defendants applied Wednesday for the case to be thrown out.

Massa, who never won a drivers’ title, believes he was the rightful winner in 2008. He missed it by a single point after a deliberate crash at the Singapore Grand Prix. The Renault team staged a win for Fernando Alonso by ordering Nelson Piquet Jr. to crash. That brought out a safety car and led to Massa finishing 13th after his strategy was compromised. Piquet revealed the next season he had been told by team bosses to crash deliberately.

Ecclestone, the longtime F1 boss before being ousted in 2017, suggested two years ago the sport’s executives were aware of the cover-up during the 2008 campaign. (AP)

which said the injury rules Agyemang out of the rest of the 2025-26 season.

“We are in close contact with Brighton as we determine a treatment and recovery programme for Michelle,” Arsenal said. “We will be giving Michelle our full support as she begins the road to recovery.” (AP)



Massa brings claim to London court: Felipe Massa’s claim for \$85 million in a legal case against Formula One was described in court Wednesday as a “misguided attempt” to reopen the 2008 drivers’ championship that he lost to Lewis Hamilton.

Hamilton’s first F1 title is the subject of civil action in London brought by the Brazilian against former F1

Best of the Rest

Agyemang out for the season: England forward Michelle Agyemang is set to miss the rest of the season after tearing an anterior cruciate ligament in her knee while playing in a friendly against Australia.

Agyemang, who scored crucial goals in England’s run to the title at Euro 2025, was taken off on a stretcher in the second half of England’s 3-0 win on Tuesday in Derby.

“I am so grateful for all the kind words and the support from everyone,” Agyemang wrote on Instagram on Thursday. “Recovery starts now, I will be back stronger than before.”

Agyemang is on loan at Brighton from Arsenal,

Better than gold?

\$100,000 for US athletes who make Winter Olympics and Paralympics

NEW YORK, Oct 30, (AP): The stakes for all these U.S. skiers, skaters, snowboarders and sliders over the next 100 days could not be more clear.

A chance for Olympic glory.
A chance to compete for a gold medal.

And this year, for the first time, a chance to make \$100,000.

Thanks to a recent record \$100 million donation to the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation, athletes who make the U.S. Olympic or Paralympic teams starting next year in Milan-Cortina will be eligible to receive a \$100,000 award when they retire.

It’s a game-changing piece of news for Olympic athletes, most of whom toil in obscurity outside of the two weeks the lights go on at the Games, and many of whom live in or near poverty: According to the foundation, some 57% of U.S. athletes earn \$50,000 or less a year.

“At the age of 25, 26, I definitely was like: ‘I can’t do this to (my family) anymore. I can’t continue living in my car. I have student loans. I have to get on with my life,’” said biathlete Deedra Irwin, who is now 33 and has made ends meet by everything from dog sitting to joining the Vermont National Guard.

Though Wednesday marked the 100-days-out point on the Olympic calendar, only a small slice of the approximately 225 Olympic and 65 Paralympic spots on Team USA in Italy have been locked up.

The majority of those spots will be earned based on athletes’ finishes in upcoming World Cup events being held across the globe over the next few months.

So, while many of these athletes have heard the stories about how the Olympics can change their lives - usually through sponsorships, speaking engagements and talk-show appearances that spring from inspiring performances - never before has the promise of cold hard cash been dangled quite like this.

“As an athlete, you don’t put into a 401K,” Paralympian Ok-sana Masters said. “We don’t have those traditional jobs of paying into that kind of stuff. It’s about time that we’ve done this.”

There are a few catches, mostly that the money will be divided

into four payments and won’t go into bank accounts until 20 years after the athletes retire, or when they reach 45 - whichever comes later. (The math is interesting for snowboarder Nick Baumgartner, who will be 44 next year and hopes to extend his career through Salt Lake City in 2034.)

The grant also funds a \$100,000 life insurance policy for a beneficiary.

Both the award and the insurance are accrued each time an athlete makes the Olympics, meaning, for instance, someone who makes it three times would receive \$600,000 in total benefits.

“We’ve received other transformational gifts, but this has reflected a shift in how we’re able to holistically care for our athletes,” USOPF president Christine Walsh said.

The \$100 million came from Ross Stevens, the founder and CEO of Stone Ridge Holdings Group, a finance firm that focuses on “nontraditional” investment options such as crypto and fine art.

It was the biggest single donation to the USOPF, which started operation in 2013 - the brainchild of former Olympic leader Peter Ueberroth, who helped turn the Olympics into a moneymaker, in part out of necessity because the U.S. government does not fund its Olympic athletes.

With most of the next decade’s TV and sponsorship dollars accounted for, the foundation will need to bankroll improvements in athlete benefits for the foreseeable future. Walsh said the charitable arm is projecting to account for 27% of the USOPC’s revenue this Olympic cycle, compared to 12% from 2021-24.

The foundation’s contributions are directed toward athlete-centered programs that focus on performance and innovation, health and wellness, and career placement and economic mobility. Never before has the economic mobility part looked as simple as this: Make the Olympics, get \$100,000.

“The \$100,000 definitely motivates all of us to make that team,” cross-country skier Gus Schumacher said. “Cross-country isn’t generally huge money, and \$100,000, especially for the people that maybe are on the edge of the team, is going to be a lot.”



U.S. Para Nordic skier Aaron Pike speaks during a press conference at Team USA Media Summit, on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025, in New York. (AP)

Salwa and Al-Qurain set for Tunisia tourney

Kuwait handball team aims to shine at Islamic Solidarity Games

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): Kuwait Handball Federation board member and head of the national men’s team delegation, Nasser Al-Dadas, affirmed that the team is focused on delivering a strong performance at the Islamic Solidarity Games Handball Tournament in Saudi Arabia, running from November 7 to 21, with aspirations to compete for the title.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Dadas said the training camp in Tunisia is proceeding smoothly, with players engaged in daily intensive training sessions, morning and evening. He highlighted the team’s commitment to following the guidance of the technical and administrative staff to maximize the benefits of the camp and friendly matches ahead of the tournament.

Al-Dadas also praised the Kuwait Embassy in Tunisia for facilitating all arrangements for the team’s camp and friendly matches in preparation for the Islamic Solidarity Games.

The delegation, led by Al-Dadas, includes Treasurer Khaled Taleb, team manager Abdulaziz Al-Zuabi, and the technical staff headed by Icelandic coach Aron Kristanson with assistant Haini Giversson, alongside 21 players.

Kuwait faces Tunisia tomorrow in the final match of the friendly tournament, after beating Guinea 31-28 and playing Iran yesterday. The team is drawn in Group C of the Asian Handball Championship qualifiers for the 2027 World Championship, alongside UAE, Hong Kong, and India.

Meanwhile, Salwa Al-Sabah Club and Al-Qurain Club arrived in Tunisia on October 28 to participate in the 7th Arab Women’s Handball Championship for League and Cup Winners, held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from November 3 to 9.

Al-Qurain women are in Group A with MCN, Association Hammamet (Tunisia), and Qasioun (Syria), while Salwa Al-Sabah women are in Group B with Al-Afriqi, Association Sahel (Tunisia), and Nabk (Syria).

The Salwa Al-Sabah delegation includes Bahraini coach Mohamed Mirza, assistant coach Sakina Mahmoud, and supervisor Amina Khalifa, along with 14 players, including four Tunisian professionals: Saida El Sassi, Salma Bousaheeh, Aya Al-Zaidi, and Safaa Dallous.



Salwa Women's Handball Team poses for a team photo.

The Al-Qurain delegation is led by club secretary Khalifa Al-Shahoumi, with team manager Hamed Mazal, administrators Ali Al-Jibaa and Rawia Al-Anzi, coach Saad Salem, and 13 players, including three Egyptians

and one Serbian professional.

Both Kuwaiti teams are preparing for strong showings as they aim to represent the country with pride on the Arab handball stage.

Supporting local businesses and contributing to domestic tourism

Zain strategic sponsor of the 5th Outdoor Sports & Activities Expo

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Zain Kuwait announced its strategic sponsorship of the 5th Outdoor Sports & Activities Expo in collaboration with USC Group, reaffirming its commitment to supporting local businesses and SMEs that are an important pillar of the national economy, and contributing to domestic tourism and expanding the country’s recreational and sports ecosystem.

Zain took part in the opening ceremony held at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref, joined by the Governor of Mubarak Al Kabeer and the Acting Governor of Hawalli, Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, along with Hamad Al-Musaibeeh, Corporate Relations Department Manager, officials from participating entities, and representatives of sponsors.



Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and Hamad Al-Musaibeeh at Zain's booth.

The exhibition runs until Saturday, 1 November. It brings together under one roof a wide range of Kuwaiti and interna-

tional brands specialized in outdoor and marine trip gear, fishing, camping, and outdoor sports. This gathering helps cre-

ate direct opportunities for local small business owners, while stimulating seasonal retail activity and supporting sectors linked to domestic tourism such as hospitality, transportation, and logistics.

Zain’s support comes as an extension of its approach to empowering Kuwaiti companies and providing effective marketing platforms for SMEs by supporting specialized exhibitions that attract tens of thousands of visitors and enable companies to showcase their products and innovations to the public.

Through its partnership with USC Group, Zain also works on developing an annual calendar of high-quality events that keep pace with community trends and encourage families and youth to explore local and seasonal destinations.

Kazma, Salmiya eye key wins

Qadsia aims for crucial victory against Tadamon

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The seventh round of the Zain Premier League kicks off today with a single encounter, as Qadsia host Tadamon at Mohammad Al-Hamad Stadium at 5:30 p.m.

Action continues tomorrow with two more fixtures – Fahaheel face Kazma at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 5:30 p.m., followed by Salmiya’s away match against Shabab in Ahmadi at 7:45 p.m.

The Kuwait Football Association announced that the games between Arabi vs. Nasr and Kuwait Club vs. Jahra have been postponed to next Tuesday, due to Arabi and Kuwait Club’s participation in the AFC Challenge League. In today’s matchup, Qadsia, who sits fifth with 8 points, will be eager to end its recent winless streak after suffering losses to Kuwait CVLub (1-2) and Kazma (0-1), followed by a 0-0 draw with Salmiya. The team currently trails league leaders Kuwait SC by five points, with the latter holding a game in hand.

Meanwhile, Tadamon, placed ninth with 4 points, will look to capitalize on Qadsia’s recent struggles and secure its second victory of the season, after a 0-1 defeat to Jahra in the previous round.

Kazma, currently third with 10 points,



Qadsia players confer ahead of a free kick in the game.

aim to maintain its unbeaten run and return to winning ways following their 1-1 draw with Shabab last week. For Fahaheel, who sits eighth with 6 points, the focus will be on earning a positive result and moving further clear of the danger zone.

In the final game, Salmiya, fourth with 10 points, is determined to bounce back after dropping five points in its last two matches – a 1-3 loss to Arabi and a goalless draw with Qadsia. Meanwhile, Shabab, in sixth place with 8 points, will look to stay among the top contenders in the standings.

No margin for error for Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi head into today’s final group stage matches of the AFC Challenge League with a simple goal: win or go home.

Kuwait Club takes on Basundhara Kings of Bangladesh at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium at 7:00 p.m. in Group B, while Al-Arabi faces Ramos United of Kyrgyzstan at Dolin Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek at 5:00 p.m. in Group C.

Only the group winners and the best second-placed team across the three groups will advance to the next round.

Kuwait Club needs a victory to advance, provided Seeb SC draws against Lebanese side Al-Ansar, who meet at 4:00 p.m. on the same pitch. Kuwait



Kuwait Club player fires a shot on goal during the game.

Club and Seeb are tied atop Group B with 4 points each, sharing the same goal tally (4

scored, 3 conceded).

Al-Arabi, currently second in Group C with 4 points, must

win its match to move forward, as any other result would see it eliminated from the tournament for the second straight season.

The battle for the best second-placed team is heating up in Group A, where Ten Asir of Turkmenistan and Al-Shabab of Oman both have 6 points and meet today to decide the group winner.

Kuwait Club’s path depends on the Seeb vs. Al-Ansar result: a draw or Seeb loss means any win will suffice, but if the Omani team wins, Kuwait Club must win with a higher goal difference than Seeb. Injuries to key players Saud Al-Hoshan and Yousef Nasser have added further challenges for the team.

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi is under pressure to claim all three points, as anything less will end its hopes of advancing in the competition.

Kuwait Equestrian League begins

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The fifth edition of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation League

kicks off today at 4:00 p.m. at the Kuwait Equestrian Center in Subhan, with riders from all local clubs taking part. Prize money of KD 13,000 will be awarded to the top finishers in today’s competitions. Today’s events feature jumps at 60, 80, 105, 115, 125, and 135 cm, while tomorrow at 4:00 p.m., six more rounds will take place at 70, 90, 110, 120, and 130 cm, concluding with the Grand Prix at 140 cm. Masoud Hayat, President of



Hayat

the Kuwait Equestrian Federation, praised the progress of Kuwaiti equestrian sports, noting the federation’s successful organization of the league over the past four seasons and its hosting of two- and three-star international competitions under the FEI. He highlighted the noticeable improvement in riders’ technical skills, with many now competing strongly across all heights.

Hayat also expressed his gratitude to the Public Authority for Sports and private sector sponsors for their support of equestrian sports. Meanwhile, Ghazi Al-Jarwi, Secretary-General of the federation, said the season is packed with both local and international competitions, and the high level of performance among local riders promises a highly competitive and exciting season ahead.

LAFC edges Austin

Flamengo holds Racing to reach Libertadores final

Buenos Aires, Oct 30, (Xinhua): Brazil’s Flamengo advanced to the Copa Libertadores final on Wednesday after holding Argentine side Racing Club to a goalless draw in Buenos Aires despite finishing with 10 men.

Ecuadorian winger Gonzalo Plata was sent off in the 56th minute at El Cilindro after clashing with veteran defender Marcos Rojo.

The hosts dominated the rest of the semifinal second leg but were denied by a series of fine saves from Flamengo’s Argentine goalkeeper Agustin Rossi.

The result gave Flamengo a 1-0 win on aggregate after the Rio de Janeiro outfit’s victory in last week’s first leg at Maracana Stadium.

“We’re extremely happy to reach another final,” Flamengo manager Filipe Luis said, noting it will be the club’s fourth Copa Libertadores title decider since 2019.

“Today was a victory for a team with soul. We were competitive and determined, and we showed that we can deal with any situation against any opponent. The players who have won multiple titles are the most ambitious, and my team is full of them. There’s still a long way to go, but we’re on the right track.”

Racing manager Gustavo Costas refused to blame his players, saying he could not have asked for more.



Goalkeeper Agustin Rossi of Brazil’s Flamengo celebrates winning a Copa Libertadores semifinal second leg soccer match against Argentina’s Racing Club in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)

“The boys gave everything,” he said. “I want to thank them for all they put in for the team. I take responsibility. This is the trophy we wanted

most. I’m grateful to the players who fought like warriors and represented the shirt in the best way possible.”

Flamengo will face either Palmeiras or LDU Quito in the final, scheduled to be played in Peruvian capital Lima on November 29.

□ □ □

Nathan Ordaz scored an easy tap-in in the 79th minute to give LAFC a 2-1 victory over Austin on Wednesday night to begin the best-of-three series.

LAFC plays at Austin on Sunday for a chance to advance to the Western Conference semifinals.

LAFC took a 1-0 lead in the 20th minute on Brendan Hines-Ike’s own goal. Ryan Hollingshead beat his defender in the box for a cross in front of goal that was deflected in by Hines-Ike.

Jon Gallagher tied it at 1-1 in the 63rd for Austin. A loose ball in front of net fell to the feet of Myrto Uzuni, who poked it to Owen Wolff for a feed to a wide-open Gallagher at the back post.

Son Heung-Min started the game-winning sequence with a long run to get into the area and draw defenders for a pass to Denis Bouanga, whose shot took a deflection to Ordaz at the back post. Austin won the two regular-season meetings with LAFC this year by a 1-0 scoreline - both goals coming on headers off corner kicks.

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NEWS



Los Angeles Lakers guard Austin Reaves (15) celebrates with teammates after making the game-winning shot at the buzzer in an NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, in Minneapolis. (AP)

Sports

Amir praised for strengthening Kuwait's shooting legacy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Kuwait Asian Shooting Championship officially opens today at 8:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The tournament runs from October 31 to November 8, featuring 17 participating countries.

The opening ceremony will be attended by Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud, President of the Asian Shooting Federation and Honorary President of the Kuwait Sports Shooting Club, Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi, Presi-

dent of the Kuwaiti and Arab Shooting Federations, Luciano Rossi, President of the International Shooting Federation, along with government officials and representatives of the participating delegations.

Earlier today, the general assembly of the Asian Shooting Federation will convene at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, chaired by Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud. The assembly will approve the calendar of upcoming continen-

tal championships; including events scheduled in Kuwait. Competitions begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Olympic Shooting Complex, featuring men's and women's skeet and trap events, and will conclude at 3:00 p.m.

Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud expressed his gratitude for the continuous support of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, which has elevated Kuwaiti shooting on

the international stage, both in terms of organization and competition.

He welcomed Luciano Rossi and the representatives of Asian shooting federations, noting the importance of their participation in both the assembly and the championship.

Sheikh Al-Hamoud highlighted Kuwait's proven ability to successfully host major tournaments, particularly in shooting, and confirmed that preparations for this championship have been exten-

sive to ensure a high standard of competition.

He also praised the Higher Organizing Committee, its subcommittees, and relevant ministries for their continuous support and dedication to the event's success.

The participating nations are: Kuwait, Qatar, Pakistan, Lebanon, Indonesia, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Japan, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, China, Jordan, Italy, and Morocco.



Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud, President of the Asian Shooting Federation and Honorary President of the Kuwait Sports Shooting Club.

Al-Yarmouk edges Kuwait Club to win Futsal Cup



Al-Yarmouk players celebrate with the championship trophy.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Al-Yarmouk was crowned champion of the third edition of the Futsal Cup after an exciting 8-7 victory over Kuwait Club in the final held at Al-Shabab Club's indoor hall.

The match delivered plenty of drama and intensity, with both sides showing strong determination and high energy that kept the crowd on edge throughout.

Al-Yarmouk started strong, finishing the first half ahead 4-3, and despite heavy

pressure from Kuwait Club in the second half, the team's solid defense held firm to secure the win and the historic title.

On its way to the final, Al-Yarmouk defeated Kazma in the semifinals, while Kuwait Club beat Al-Arabi.

The triumph marks Al-Yarmouk's first Futsal Cup title, placing it alongside Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi, who have each lifted the trophy once before.

Lakers fend off Timberwolves

Celtics snap Cavaliers win streak

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct 30, (AP): Austin Reaves swished the 12-foot winner in the lane right before the buzzer to finish with 28 points and lift the Los Angeles Lakers to a 116-115 victory on Wednesday after the Minnesota Timberwolves had taken the lead with a late 14-2 run.

Reaves matched his career high with 16 assists, Jake LaRavia had 27 points on 10-for-11 shooting, and DeAndre Ayton added 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who built a 20-point late in the third quarter and were up 112-101 after a 3-pointer by Reaves with 4:01 left.

Julius Randle, who led the Wolves with 33 points, capped the furious rally by dropping in the go-ahead finger roll with 10.2 seconds left. Jaden McDaniels added 30 points and seven rebounds for the Wolves.

The star power of this game was considerably diminished with Luka Doncic and LeBron James sidelined for the Lakers and Anthony Edwards out for the Wolves. Reaves, who had a career-high 51 points in a win over Sacramento on Sunday and 41 points in defeat by Portland on Monday, has had something to say with his play about that.

Celtics 125, Cavaliers 105

In Boston, Jaylen Brown scored 30 points, including 13 during a 20-3 run to end the first half that helped the Boston Celtics pull away from Cleveland to win and snap the Cavaliers' three-game winning streak.

Sam Hauser scored 21 points off the bench for Boston, which has won two straight since opening the season with three losses in a row. Josh Minott had 14 rebounds, Neemias Queta had 13 and Payton Pritchard had 10 assists for the Celtics.

Evan Mobley scored 19 points with 11 rebounds and Jaylon Tyson also scored 19 for the Cavaliers. Donovan Mitchell made all four 3-point attempts for 12 points in the first quarter, when the Cavaliers led 42-40, but made just one of his last eight shots and finished with 15 points.

Rockets 139, Raptors 121

In Toronto, Kevin Durant scored 31 points, Jabari Smith Jr. added a season-high 25 and the Houston Rockets thumped the struggling Toronto Raptors.

Alperen Sengun had 18 points, nine assists and eight rebounds as the Rockets won their second straight after starting the season with back-to-back losses.



Phoenix Suns guard Collin Gillespie (12) drives past Memphis Grizzlies forward Jaren Jackson Jr. during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Phoenix. (AP)

Amen Thompson scored 18 points and Tari Eason added 14 points for the Rockets. Steven Adams scored 12 points and led Houston with 12 rebounds.

Houston outrebounded Toronto 53-22. Seven Rockets players had five or more rebounds.

Durant finished 11 of 19 from the field and 4 of 8 from 3-point range.

Nuggets 122, Pelicans 88

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 21 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists, matching an NBA record with his fourth straight triple-double to start the season, and the Denver Nuggets routed the winless New Orleans Pelicans.

Jokic joined Oscar Robertson (1961-62) and Russell Westbrook (2020-21) as the only players to begin a season with four consecutive triple-doubles. Those are the only players Jokic trails on the career triple-double list; the three-time MVP now has 168.

Jokic shot 10 of 15 from the field and played 28 minutes. He sat out the fourth quarter after the Nuggets went on a 24-0 run in the third period to open up a 33-point lead.

Jamal Murray and Christian Braun scored 17 points apiece for the Nuggets, who have won three straight since a season-opening loss at Golden State.

After missing the Pelicans' loss to visiting Boston on Monday night with a bone bruise in his left foot, Zion Williamson scored 11 points. He finished with 27 points in each of New Orleans' first two games.

Mavericks 107, Pacers 105

In Dallas, Brandon Williams scored 20 and Dwight Powell scored 18 points as the Dallas Mavericks beat the Indiana Pacers in a matchup of injured-depleted teams.

West Asia Archery Championship kicks off in Doha

DOHA, Oct 30, (KUNA): The second edition of the West Asia Archery Championship began recently at the Lusail Shooting Complex in Doha, Qatar, and will run until November 3. The tournament features around 100 archers representing nine countries, including Kuwait, competing for top honors.

The championship includes contests in the Olympic recurve and compound bow categories across individual, team, and mixed team events. The opening day was dedicated to official training, followed by qualifying rounds on the second day.

Friday's schedule features elimination rounds in the team and mixed team categories, with the individual eliminations to be held tomorrow. The competition will conclude on Monday with the finals for all categories, after which the winners will be crowned.

Obeid Al-Asimi, Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti and Arab Shooting Federations, expressed his delight at Kuwait's participation, noting that such tournaments play a vital role in enhancing athletes' technical and competitive levels.

He also extended his thanks and ap-



Participants preparing for the championship.

preciation to the Qatar Shooting Federation for organizing the event, wishing all participants success and hoping the

Kuwait archers achieve strong results that bring pride to their country.

The nine participating nations are

Qatar (host), Kuwait, the UAE, Palestine, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Yemen, and Syria.

Madrid plays Valencia in La Liga ahead of Liverpool trip

BARCELONA, Spain, Oct 30, (AP): Real Madrid will look to take care of business against a struggling Valencia and maintain its La Liga lead this weekend before turning to its demanding match at Liverpool.

Xabi Alonso's team visits Anfield in a clash of European title hopefuls next Tuesday in the Champions League.

Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 last weekend to end a run of four clasico victories for the Catalan club from last season. The victory allowed Madrid to open a five-point gap at the top of the league standings over second-placed Barcelona.

Madrid is on a five-game winning streak that includes a 1-0 win over Juventus in the Champions League.

Kylian Mbappé struck his 11th goal in the domestic league to help defeat Barcelona. The France striker is also joint top of the Champions League

with Harry Kane on five goals each.

On Saturday, Madrid will host a Valencia that was jeered by home fans during a 2-0 loss against regional rival Villarreal in the last round. Valencia is winless in five games and has sunk into the relegation zone.

An injury-hit Barcelona will look to lick its wounds from its clasico defeat when it hosts Elche on Sunday.

Elche has been the surprise package in the first months. The small southern club was promoted at the end of last season and has so far defied expectations. Coach Eder Sarabia has his team in eighth place after just two losses through Round 10.

Third-placed Villarreal can provisionally move ahead of Barcelona on Saturday if it beats Rayo Vallecano.

All eyes in the Santiago Bernabeu will be on Vinicius Junior and Alonso. Vinicius was visibly upset when his

coach substituted him with around 20 minutes left in the clasico. He went straight to the changing room before rejoining the bench minutes later.

The Brazil forward later apologized on social media saying that "sometimes my passion gets the better of me."

Alonso, who replaced Carlo Ancelotti this summer, has given Vinicius less playing time than his predecessor.

Midfield leader Pedri González has joined a long list of injured Barcelona players that already included Robert Lewandowski and Raphinha, the team's top scorers from last season's championship side.

Pedri, who tore a muscle in his left thigh, played 72 of 73 games since coach Hansi Flick took over Barcelona last season. The Spain playmaker's vision, control and passing skills are unmatched by his teammates.

IOC, Saudi Arabia cancel their 12-year deal to host video gaming Esports Olympics in Riyadh

GENEVA, Oct 30, (AP): The IOC and Saudi Arabia have canceled their 12-year deal to host the video gaming Esports Olympics in Riyadh in a rare setback for a sports project backed by the oil-rich kingdom.

The International Olympic Committee said on Thursday they "mutually agreed that they will end their cooperation on the Olympic Esports Games."

An official Olympic event shaped as a signature asset in the Saudi drive to acquire and develop sports as part of the Vision 2030 modernization program driven by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is known to be a video gaming fan.

"At the same time, both parties are committed to pursuing their own esports ambitions on separate paths," the Olympic body said, announcing a reset of a major project seven months into the presidency of Kirsty Coventry.

The partnership was confirmed on the eve of the Paris Olympics last year but the inaugural Esports Olympics

due to be held this year in Riyadh was already postponed to 2027.

Saudi Arabia already hosts the Esports World Cup which has shooter games like Call of Duty and Street Fighter that always shaped to be an issue for the IOC to endorse while also seeking to connect with younger audiences.

Announcing the Saudi partnership last year, then IOC president Thomas Bach cautioned "we have also ensured that the Olympic values are respected, in particular, with regard to the game titles on the program."

Last year, Saudi sports minister and national Olympic body leader Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal said "we are committed to hosting a special event that respects and celebrates the Olympic values."

The annual Esports World Cup in Riyadh pays tens of millions of dollars in prize money and is personally supported by the crown prince, who is known by his initials MBS.