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KUWAIT SLAMS HOUTHI 'COWARDLY' ATTACKS ON SAUDI HOLY CITIES

Makkah Pact draws defense line



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Activate the defensive maritime alliance

ACTIVATING the 'Makkah Agreement' is a constructive milestone in solving the bizarre crisis in Yemen.

Since 2011, the Yemenis have been suffering a grave tragedy that has plunged 'Happy Yemen' back to the dark prehistoric era. The implementation of this agreement, along with the 'Dawn of Yemen' Operation is crucial, as regional security threats leave global stability vulnerable to the Houthis—an entity acting under Iranian command, as highlighted repeatedly.

Far from being a secondary passage, the Bab al-Mandab Strait is a vital artery connecting several continents to global supply networks. Any obstruction within this strait undermines the global economy. Houthi dominance over this strait and the continuous volatility in the Strait of Hormuz remarkably increased the prices of essential commodities and stoked international inflation. If left unchecked, this trajectory could replicate the dire economic conditions in the 1920s, when runaway inflation and compounding crises triggered a global conflict.

Consequently, addressing this crisis by taking superficial measures will only amplify the international alarm. Countries affected by developments in Bab al-Mandab and the Yemeni theater must intervene to stop the actions of the Houthis and their Iranian sponsors. Diplomatic rhetoric and formal denunciations are inadequate, as words alone cannot restore lost lives, reclaim occupied land or alleviate starvation.

Saudi Arabia continues to serve as an unyielding bulwark against Iranian aggression. Along with its partners in other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, the Kingdom shouldered a huge burden in countering the Houthis since 2015. Yet, it is unreasonable to expect Saudi Arabia to single-handedly resist a campaign that jeopardizes the economic, military, social and religious fields in the region.

Meanwhile, nations benefiting from the vital maritime passages limited their response to declarations, behaving as though they do not bear any responsibility for the stability of the region.

Even if the implementation of the 'Makkah Agreement' is a constructive development, it is imperative to take more decisive steps, including the immediate activation of the defensive maritime alliance announced on July 30. Putting this coalition into action is vital to safeguarding global trade corridors and securing energy supply routes, particularly the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Bab al-Mandab Strait, from the ongoing disruption.

For years, the Houthis have continually destabilized the Bab al-Mandab, with Saudi Arabia standing as the sole nation taking decisive action to counter them. Now that the maritime coalition has been established, it must be fully operational to end such persistent Houthi threat, an abnormal situation requiring firm intervention to eradicate a destructive force.

When certain states strive to dismantle Iranian influence in the region, while others turn a blind eye, they enable and sustain terrorism in its most overt manifestation.

In the same vein, neglecting the activation of defense agreements, especially those comprising 14 nations, is tantamount to offering tacit backing to piracy.

This dynamic mirrors the instability that overtook Somalia after 1991, when pirate networks dominated the Somali coastline, Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean. Today, similar maritime threats are emerging due to the failure to manage the Houthi crisis.

If global leaders are genuinely committed to safeguarding international shipping lanes, they must face this reality. If their policies legitimize maritime piracy, they are acting against their own interests and those of their citizens—a path where no party prevails.

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Twin airport strikes leave 3 injured

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6, (KUNA): Kuwait on Tuesday strongly condemned the Houthi militia's continued attacks on Makkah and Madinah, calling them a provocation to Muslim sentiments and a dangerous escalation against Islamic sanctities.

The Foreign Ministry said the strikes also hit Riyadh and other Saudi cities, as well as civilian and economic facilities and vessels in the Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandab Strait, warning they threaten regional security

and maritime safety.

It described the acts as "hostile and cowardly," stressing they violate Saudi sovereignty and breach international law and international humanitarian law.

Kuwait reaffirmed support for Yemen's legitimate government and the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, praising Saudi Arabia's sustained efforts since 2014 to back political settlement initiatives and its leadership of the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen.

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PM Diwan photo

HH the PM receives Italian Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy Adolfo Urso.

Kuwait PM, Italian minister push economic ties forward

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday, in the presence of Minister of Oil Tareq Suleiman Al-Roumi, Italian Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy Adolfo Urso and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait.

The meeting reviewed aspects of cooperation between

Kuwait and Italy and ways to enhance and develop them, particularly in the economic, investment and industrial fields, as well as supporting the business sector and encouraging innovation in a manner that serves the two friendly countries' common interests.

During the meeting, Urso expressed his sincere gratitude to Kuwait, represented by Kuwait

Petroleum International (Q8), for responding to the Italian government's call to cap fuel prices, reflecting its significant consideration for the economic conditions of Italian families.

The meeting was attended by Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

28,371 traffic violations logged

7-day blitz nabs 197 wanted persons

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: As part of the efforts led by the Traffic and Operations Sector in the Interior Ministry under the command of Brigadier General Ahmed Al-Azmi, the Rescue Police General Department continued its security and traffic campaigns.

From Sept 27 to Oct 3, patrols were strategically deployed in various governorates to intensify security efforts and closely monitor the traffic situation, during which 1,729 security operations were executed,

resulting in the discovery of 929 traffic violations.

Authorities also dealt with cases involving 197 individuals wanted by law, 112 individuals with expired residency permits, and 63 individuals without official identification, while 15 wanted vehicles were seized and 22 suspects were referred to the Drug Control General Department. Other campaign activities were dealing with 94 traffic accidents, compiling 396 incident reports, providing humanitarian aid to 581 citizens and residents, and impounding four vehicles.

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Al-Ajmi bows out of 'Social Affairs'

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs, submitted his resignation to Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila citing personal reasons.

In his resignation letter, Al-Ajmi emphasized that public office is not a privilege tied to a position, but rather a trust and a duty.

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MS center gets nod

New shops, cafés cleared for government facilities

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: The Municipal Council has approved the licensing of various commercial activities in government buildings and the addition of certain services in government hospitals.

This decision was made during the 26th ordinary session of the council on Monday, under the chairmanship of Abdullah Al-Mahri, during which all agenda items were approved.

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Pope Tawadros II hails Kuwait's historic 'October War' support

By Bassam Al-Qassas
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: In a recent telephone conversation, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark His Holiness Pope Tawadros II stated that the anniversary of the October War victory is a significant national event that brings all Egyptians together around the noble principles of loving their country and protecting its territory and dignity.

His Holiness said "this occasion allows us to proudly remember the bravery and sacrifices made by the members of

the Egyptian Armed Forces, as well as the resilience and determination exhibited by the Egyptian people until victory was achieved.

For Egyptians, October transcends being just a month in the calendar, as it represents a vibrant national memory that has been passed down through generations. It tells the story of a people who believed in their homeland, an army that fulfilled its responsibilities, and an Arab nation that stood in solidarity with Egypt during a crucial moment in history."

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Pope Tawadros II



8 NBK hosts specialized knowledge-sharing session with KOC



9 Gulf Bank expands strategic partnership with GUST to sponsor Management Club

Newswatch

Kuwait chiefs step up joint readiness

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6, (KUNA): Kuwait's Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian held a Supreme Military Committee meeting on Tuesday to discuss ways to coordinate and cooperate between military and security agencies, and how to enhance readiness in carrying out joint tasks.

The meeting was held with the presence of the Ministry of Interior Undersecretary Lt. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib, National Guard Undersecretary Lt. Gen. Hamad Al-Barjas, and Kuwait Fire Force Chief Major Gen. Talal Al-Roumi, said the General Staff of the army in a statement.

It was also attended by a number of senior officers and leaders from the military and security sectors.

KUWAIT CITY: The Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations of the Kuwaiti Army announced that the army will conduct live ammunition shooting on Wednesday and Thursday, October 7 and 8, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the shooting range in the Al-Abraq area.

In a statement, the Directorate called on all citizens and residents traveling by land to avoid approaching or setting up camps in the area during the announced period to ensure public safety. (KUNA)

DOHA: Qatar received 2,614 million visitors through its land, air and sea entry points during the first nine months of 2026.

Qatar News Agency (QNA), quoting a statement by Qatar Tourism on Tuesday, reported that the number of visitors in September rose 1.1 percent year-on-year to 276,000, compared with 273,000 visitors in the same month last year.

The statement said visitors to Qatar from January through September came from diverse markets, with GCC countries ranking first, accounting for 40.9 percent of total visitors, or 1,069 million.

Asia and Oceania ranked second with 548,000 visitors, representing 21 percent of the total, followed by Europe with 538,000 visitors, or 20.6 percent. (KUNA)



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Some photos during the German Unity Day celebration hosted by the Embassy of Germany.

Germany, Kuwait commit to broader bilateral cooperation

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Newly appointed Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kuwait Dr. Dirk Rothenberg confirmed the deep ties between his country and the State of Kuwait.

Ambassador Rothenberg made the statement during the German Unity Day celebration hosted by the Embassy of Germany at Al-Raya Hall recently.

Present at the event were Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, other officials, diplomats, and members of the German community in Kuwait.

Rothenberg praised the friendship and cooperation between the two nations, indicating that Germany is keen on developing and strengthening these

relations in various sectors. He stated that German-Kuwaiti relations were built on a solid foundation of friendship and mutual respect, expressing his appreciation for Kuwait, its leadership, government and people.

He also expressed appreciation for the high-level visits and communications between the two countries. He indicated that the visit of the Kuwaiti foreign affairs minister to Germany and the talks with German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Johann Wadepuhl in September reflected the depth of bilateral relations, the growing momentum they are witnessing, and the shared desire to continue strengthening cooperation in various fields.

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Fajr	04:25	Asr	14:57
Sunrise ..	05:44	Maghrib ..	17:27
Zohr	11:36	Isha	18:44



His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad with attendees at the Al-Dughaishim Diwan.

Photos by Rezq Tawfiq



Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali, Khaled and Abdulaziz Al-Dughaishim

Al-Dughaishim Diwan welcomes its regulars

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: After the summer break, the Al-Dughaishim Diwaniya in Abdullah Al-Salem welcomed back guests on Sunday in a hospitable atmosphere for relatives and friends, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Hosts Khaled and Abdulaziz Al-Dughaishim expressed warm greetings and wishes of health and happiness to the attendees.

Throughout the gathering, visitors engaged in amiable conversations about diverse topics and societal affairs—a reflection of the camaraderie and strong social connections that define Kuwaiti diwanias.

All those present expressed their happiness over the resumption of the weekly gatherings and the continuation of such a cherished tradition.



Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, Sheikh Emad Al-Sabah, Egyptian Ambassador Mohamed Abul-Wafa, and Abdulaziz Al-Dughaishim



Dr. Mohammad Al-Dalal, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times Ahmed Al-Jarallah, and colleagues Saud Al-Farhan and Abdulaziz Al-Dughaishim



Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber and Major General M. Muhammad Al-Sabr



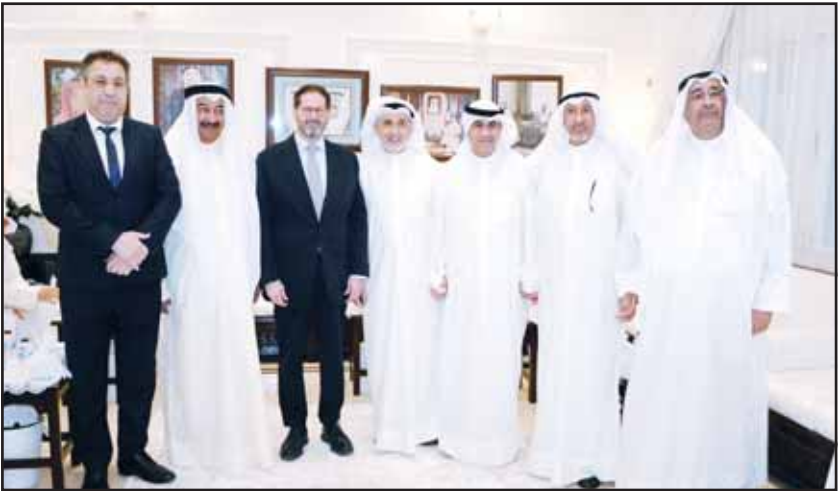
Deputy Editor-in-Chief Suleiman Al-Jarallah, Khaled Al-Dughaishim, Abdul Latif Al-Jassar, and Majed Al-Ajeel



Khaled Al-Dughaishim, Qatari Ambassador Ali Al Mahmoud, and Abdulaziz Al-Dughaishim



Fahad Al-Shuraian and Abdulaziz Al-Dughaishim



Hani Al-Othman, Mubarak Al-Banwan, Captain Bader Buabbas, Syrian Charge d'Affaires Tamim Al-Madani, and Dr. Raafat Ibrahim



Captain Fahd Al-Dughaishim, Abdulrahman Al-Rakhis, and Abdulaziz Al-Dughaishim



Mishari Dhaifallah Sharar and Sheikh Badr Sabah Al-Nasser



Fawaz bin Fahd bin Sufyan, Editor-in-Chief Al-Jarallah, poet Mubarak bin Madgham, and Al-Dughaishim



Abdulaziz Al-Dughaishim with other dignitaries



Brigadier General Saleh Al-Dughaishim, Mohammed and Khaled Al-Dughaishim, Hamad Al-Hababi Al-Qahtani, Saud Al-Hababi Al-Qahtani, and Brigadier General Suhaib Al-Asaker

Risks of US pullout from Iraq for next-door states

“THE 2003 US military intervention in Iraq toppled Saddam Hussein’s regime and plunged the country into chaos. This environment allowed the terrorist group ISIS to emerge and expand,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Ahmad Al-Dawas

“US forces and their allies confronted the group and significantly curtailed its influence, albeit at a steep cost - Iran gained substantial influence within Iraq. Today, more than two decades after the fall of Saddam’s regime and the subsequent fight against ISIS, the Iraqi government is calling for the withdrawal of US forces by September 30, 2026. It is also demanding that Iraqi militias, including those allied with Iran, lay down their arms by June 2027.

“A US withdrawal is a key demand of Iraqi Prime Minister Ali Al-Zaidi and Iran-backed militias in the country. The aim is to turn a new page with Washington and move toward a relationship based on investment and economic partnership, while seeking to consolidate control over weapons solely in the hands of the state. What would this entail? The Americans would leave Iraq, Baghdad would resolve its internal affairs, and the militias would presumably surrender their weapons. But what if these conditions are not met? What if internal security deteriorates and drones and missiles are launched at neighboring countries?

“A withdrawal could ultimately serve Iran’s interests by enabling it to maintain or expand its influence in Iraq, while allowing Iran-linked Iraqi militias to continue attacking US facilities or energy infrastructure in Gulf states. Our government and the Gulf states must exercise caution, as the internal situation in Iraq could deteriorate. While I am aware of the dialogue and exchange of views between Kuwait and Iraq, the question remains - Who will rein in and deter the armed factions?

“Even the Kurdistan Region fears a breakdown in security and the possibility of being targeted by missiles launched by these militias. The withdrawal of US forces could embolden Iran to mobilize its allied armed factions and use force to threaten neighboring countries. Furthermore, ISIS could also be emboldened to mobilize its own operatives.”

Also:

“In truth, I wonder what secrets lay within my article “Khalaluh,” which recounted the story of the “Great Pearl of Kuwait,” known as the “Pearl of Captain Omar Al-Yaqout” - a gem that has remained among the treasures of the British Crown from the reign of King George V to the present day,” Kuwaiti writer **Tariq Idris** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Many followers and readers engaged with this remarkable story from our maritime history, a history rich in tales and facts that have yet to be fully uncovered. Indeed, the stories of Kuwait’s treasures, whether from the sea or the land, are great historical narratives cherished by those dedicated to preserving our national and folk history and heritage.

“This places a significant responsibility on officials at the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) to organize programs and seminars and produce documentaries that bring these great Kuwaiti treasures to light for future generations while enriching the historical archive. It is in this context, I believe, that officials at the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) conceived the idea of naming oil-rich and natural gas-rich fields with names such as “Al-Durra” and “Al-Jazza.”

“There is no doubt that “Hayr Khalaluh,” where the great Kuwaiti dana (a massive and rare pearl) was discovered, is a rich treasure trove of oysters and pearls. Its waters are deep and its seabed rugged with rocky formations teeming with oysters and shells. It is a site frequented by pearl-diving captains who knew its secrets well.

“The “Khalaluh Dana” also captivated the curators at the Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya (DAI). I am deeply grateful to H.E. Sheikhha Hessa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah for giving me a wealth of historical information, including publications, books, and documentary material, regarding the “Timur Ruby,” or Lal-i-Samarqand, a centerpiece of the British Crown Jewels.

“The Al-Sabah Collection at the DAI possesses a strikingly similar ruby; however, the Al-Sabah ruby bears an inscription mentioning “King Ulugh Beg,” King Timur’s grandson - a name notably absent from the ruby in the British Crown. Queen Elizabeth once displayed the British Crown’s ruby alongside the Al-Sabah ruby during an exhibition held by the DAI in London. Indeed, the treasures of the Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya, rich in

artifacts, models, jewelry, and historical pieces documented in its publications, represent rare gems of Arab and Islamic heritage and are undoubtedly among Kuwait’s greatest treasures.

“This is the story of “Khalaluh,” which revealed to me the treasures of my homeland, Kuwait, both at sea and on land. My sincere appreciation and gratitude go to everyone who followed my article, reached out to me, and shared their praise and appreciation. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to the Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, H.E. Sheikhha Hessa Al-Sabah, and my colleague and friend, Mishari Al-Yaqout, who enriched my knowledge with valuable information about Kuwait’s great “Dana,” the precious pearl known as “Khalaluh.” Best regards to all.”

□ □ □

“Biographical accounts and stories of the noble Companions recount that Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (may Allah be pleased with him), while serving as Caliph over a vast realm spanning the Arabian Peninsula and extending into the Levant (Sham) through military campaigns, drew a stipend from the public treasury (Bayt al-Mal) sufficient only to sustain himself and his small family,” Imam and preacher **Mohammad Al-Fawzan** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“He had been a merchant before assuming the Caliphate, but the demands of leadership occupied him fully, leaving him no time to earn a living through trade. Consequently, he was compelled to draw a stipend from the public treasury to support himself and his household, prioritizing the interests of the Muslims and the administration of the state. The allowance he received was barely enough to sustain his household, providing only the essentials of bread and a simple side dish (idam). His wife had no means to prepare elaborate meals or a wide variety of foods, unlike the wealthy families and townspeople whom Allah had blessed with abundance.

“The family had enjoyed a more comfortable life and greater ease when its head, al-Siddiq, earned his living through trade. Abu Bakr had young children who relied on a monotonous diet that merely sustained them. They lacked the sweets and fruits that satisfied the cravings of their peers, the children of wealthy families in Medina whose parents owned orchards, businesses, and farms. His wife sensed this and wished to give the young children some sweets for a change. She asked her husband for permission and requested an increase in her allowance from the public treasury.

“He replied, “The public treasury of the Muslims, which must also support the poor and needy, cannot afford to indulge every desire or provide a variety of foods and drinks.” She asked, “If I were to economize on our household expenses over several days and save a surplus, would there be any objection to using it to buy sweets?”



Al-Fawzan

He said, “There is no harm in that; it depends entirely on your own ability and effort.” “Thus, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq’s wife managed to save enough from the household budget over several days to purchase sweets. She handed the small sum of coins to Abu Bakr, saying, “Here are some coins. You can use them to buy us some sweets.” Al-Siddiq, however, returned the coins to the public treasury and said to the official in charge, “It has become clear to us that our family can live and sustain itself on less than the amount we currently receive from the public treasury.

“Therefore, deduct the value of these coins from our daily allowance, as they were surplus to our needs. The public treasury of the Muslims is not meant for the Caliph’s family to live in luxury or indulge in lavish dining.” And so it was done; his daily stipend was reduced by the value of those coins. Thus, the lot of this righteous family, whose head ruled vast lands and received spoils and wealth from far and wide, was to forgo gain in favor of sacrifice. She was unable to satisfy her craving for the sweets she desired. Instead, she had to content herself with a stipend lower than what she had previously received from the public treasury.

“Yet Abu Bakr al-Siddiq’s wife accepted her husband’s decision, viewing it neither as a burden nor as a loss. Abu Bakr al-Siddiq, the Caliph of the Muslims, set a profound example for those entrusted with the affairs of the Muslim community. He prioritized asceticism and contentment over indulgence in food and drink or the gratification of personal desires. He stood as a shining example of preferring the Hereafter to this worldly life, embodying the conviction that true and lasting goodness lies with Allah. May Allah be pleased with him and grant him His pleasure.”

– Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Arab experts meet

Securing radio content in fast-changing times

TUNIS, Oct 6, (KUNA): The Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) held on Monday a workshop of the permanent committee on radio content security at a digital environment and the protection of intellectual property.

The workshop included the participation of ASBU representatives, the committee’s members, involving Kuwait Radio and some Arab experts and specialists.

The training was held within aligning with rapid transformations witnessed in the media and radio sector in a digital environment.

The participation of Kuwait, along with experts from Iraq, Algeria and Egypt, came within the framework of enhancing cooperation among Arab radio stations and sharing expertise to address challenges facing radio action in this environment.

The participants underlined that protecting intellectual property and content has become a main challenge facing media institutions.

They underlined the importance of sharing expertise and experiments among Arab states in a manner that enhances cooperation and develops practices to ensure radio content and protect its producers.

House help held, to be deported in theft case

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: An Egyptian expatriate reported a theft at Abu Halifa Police Station after his wife discovered that gold jewelry and cash were missing from their home, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the woman initially noticed that several items were missing before discovering that the list included a gold chain, five rings, other jewelry, and KD 70 in cash.

The discovery coincided with the disappearance of the couple’s Asian maid, who had left the home without notice. The husband subsequently accused her of stealing the jewelry and cash and told police that her whereabouts were unknown.

Security personnel recorded the details of the missing items and the accusation, and the case was referred for further processing and verification before any necessary action was taken.

The case later took a different turn when it emerged that the maid had been arrested and referred to the Deportation Department after her sponsor filed an absconding report and a theft complaint against her.

Court annuls 5-year jail, acquits man in all cases

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: The Court of Cassation, led by Counselor Abdullah Jassim Al-Abdullah, annulled the ruling of a lower court, which sentenced a defendant to five years in prison with hard labor for committing robbery with violence, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court dismissed the motion of the Public Prosecution to continue the trial after the defendant’s innocence was confirmed by a final ruling in an unrelated drug case—the same case that the prosecution used as basis to argue that he violated the conditions of his pledge of good conduct.

The robbery case stemmed from allegations that the defendant used violence to steal cash, sheep and other movable items, as he used an air rifle to threaten the victim and assaulted him along a public road in Salmi.

In April 2023, the Criminal Court decided to suspend the sentence, requiring the defendant to sign a pledge of good conduct secured by a financial bond of KD300 for two years.

However, the prosecution motioned to move forward with his trial after he was charged in a drug-related case within the duration of the pledge of good conduct.

The Court of Appeals then overturned the earlier decision, sentencing the defendant to five years in prison with hard labor and ordering the forfeiture of the bond. The defendant filed an appeal this ruling at the Court of Cassation.

The defense lawyer, Attorney Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan, argued that the ruling was flawed due to insufficient reasoning as it did not adequately explain how his client violated the terms of the pledge of good conduct, especially since the drug case referenced by the prosecution ended with a final acquittal.

The Court of Cassation confirmed that the challenged ruling neither outlined the facts and actions proving that the defendant breached the pledge of good conduct nor presented clear evidence, thus, making the judgment flawed.

The court acknowledged the defendant’s conclusive acquittal in the drug case and noted that neither the evidence provided by the prosecution nor the case records indicated any breach of the pledge of good conduct that would justify proceeding with the trial or imposing a penalty.

As a result, the court annulled the imprisonment ruling and rejected the prosecution’s request to continue the trial.

However, it deemed another aspect of the appeal regarding a previous appellate ruling inadmissible, because it was submitted after the legal deadline.

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Case over KD3 fuel: The Misdemeanor Court acquitted a citizen of stealing fuel worth three dinars, stating that the accusation was surrounded by significant doubt and suspicion, reports Al-Anba daily.

The court was not convinced of the validity of the charge, noting the absence of evidence proving an intent to misappropriate the fuel or any conduct indicating an intention to take ownership of it.

The complaining company reported that the defendant had stolen fuel by filling his vehicle with three dinars’ worth of fuel without paying. He left his personal driver’s license with the gas station attendants as a guarantee before leaving, after which the authorities were notified.

The court found that the defendant had acted in good faith, noting that he left his license as a guarantee of his return and consistently denied the charge from the outset of the investigation.

He was also represented by counsel, who denied the accusation and sought his acquittal.

In its reasoning, the court explained that theft is not established merely by the physical appropriation of property. Rather, criminal intent requires the perpetrator to know that they are taking another person’s property without consent and intend to claim ownership of it.

For his part, Lawyer Khalil Haider said the ruling was consistent with the facts of the case, noting that his client had maintained his innocence and acted in good faith from the outset.

He pointed out that the case file contained no conclusive evidence of criminal intent to misappropriate the value of the fuel, particularly since the defendant left his driver’s license at the station as a guarantee of his return.

Lawyer Haydar added that, after weighing the prosecution’s evidence against the defense’s arguments, the court concluded that doubt could not support a conviction and therefore acquitted his client of the charges.



HH the Amir



Abdulfattah El-Sisi

Amir congratulates Egyptian Pres. on October War ’versary

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of Egypt, Abdulfattah El-Sisi, on the 53rd anniversary of the October 6 War victory.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir recalled the Kuwaitis that had stood side by side with Egyptians during this war, which embodied the historical ties between the two countries.

His Highness the Amir also wished the president everlasting health and further progress and prosperity to Egypt and its people.

Crown Prince congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of Egypt, Abdul-

fattah El-Sisi, on the 53rd anniversary of the October 6 War victory.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president everlasting health and further progress and prosperity to Egypt and its people.

PM congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of Egypt, Abdulfattah El-Sisi, on the 53rd anniversary of the October 6 War victory.

Defense Min. congratulates

Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah congratulated Egyptian Minister of Defense Ashraf Zaher on Tuesday on the 53rd anniversary of the October 6 War victories, said the Ministry of Defense in a press statement.

Man acquitted in cash fraud case

Non-existent finance company

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: The Court of First Instance acquitted a man of fraud charges involving the misappropriation of funds from a Kuwaiti woman by misleading her about a financing project, following the appearance of Lawyer Mohammad Jaber Baqer on the defendant’s behalf, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with exploiting the victim’s financial difficulties by lending her money at an exorbitant interest rate and deceiving her into handing over funds through fraudulent means and by falsely representing the existence of a financing project.

According to the case files, the victim said she was facing financial difficulties and contacted the defendant after seeing an Instagram advertisement offering loan opportunities. She agreed to a financing arrangement worth KD 340,000 and signed a debt acknowledgment and several cheques as security, but ultimately received only KD 287,000.

After reviewing the documents and hearing the arguments, the court concluded that the elements of fraud had not been established.

It found that the victim was aware from the outset that she was obtaining financing or a loan at an agreed-upon interest rate.

The court further noted that her submission of cheques and a debt acknowledgment resulted from the agreement to secure the financing, rather than from being misled about a non-existent project.

The court explained that an Instagram advertisement does not, in itself, constitute a fraudulent method under criminal law, particularly since the initial contact was followed by negotiations, discussions, agreements, and the signing of official documents, cheques, and guarantees, as well as subsequent settlement and rescheduling arrangements.

These factors confirmed that the parties had entered into a multi-stage relationship. The court further held that the victim’s failure to receive the full agreed-upon amount, or the existence of deductions, commissions, returns, and financial obligations, was insufficient on its own to classify the incident as fraud. Rather, such matters give rise to a dispute over the true nature of the relationship, its terms, its legitimacy, and the rights of the parties involved.



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Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs, Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and Head of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receive Argentine and Tajikistan Ambassadors to Kuwait.

Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, Head of Crown Prince's Diwan receive ambassadors

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6, (KUNA): Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs, Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and Head of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Argentine and Tajikistan Ambassadors to Kuwait.

During the meeting with Argentina's Ambassador, Ramiro Hernn Velloso,, they reviewed the friendly bilateral relations and discussed

ways to support and develop them in various fields, serving their common interests and broadening prospects for cooperation.

The meeting also addressed the latest regional developments and included an exchange of views on a number of regional and international issues.

During the meeting with the Tajik Ambassador, Khusrav Noziri, they discussed the distinguished relations between Kuwait and Ta-

jikistan and ways to develop and advance them across all fields, with both sides affirming their commitment to strengthening bilateral co-operation.

They also reviewed developments on the regional and international fronts and discussed a number of issues of mutual interest.

Director of the Office of the Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sami Al-Mulla attended the meetings.

After invasion from rebuilding to digital media

KUNA's 50 years of excellence, credibility

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6, (KUNA): Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Tuesday marked its 50th anniversary at a ceremony held at its headquarters, attended by officials, staff and guests, celebrating five decades of media work and achievements.

KUNA Acting Director General Mohammad Al-Mannai said the agency has covered major local, Arab and international events over the past 50 years, achieving milestones in breaking news and receiving prestigious awards and recognition. He attributed KUNA's success to combining speed with accuracy, objectivity and credibility.

Al-Mannai said KUNA has served as a trusted official platform for covering local events and reporting on government bodies, public-benefit associations and the private sector in Kuwait and abroad.

The ceremony also featured the launch of two books: Kuwait in the Memory of Days, documenting key historical events and milestones in Kuwait, and KUNA: 50 Years of Leadership and Credibility, chronicling the agency's history, development and achievements. A video highlighting KUNA's major milestones over five decades was also shown.

Al-Mannai expressed confidence in KUNA's staff as the agency enters its golden jubilee, looking ahead to a promising media future that supports its goals and Kuwait's standing under the leadership of His Highness the



Al-Mannai

Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince.

Amina Al-Shammari, head of the team that prepared KUNA: 50 Years of Leadership and Credibility, said the book is the first to document KUNA's history, achievements and key milestones since its establishment. She thanked Al-Mannai, Deputy Director General for the Editorial Sector Essam Al-Ghanem, and the team and colleagues who contributed to the publication.

Ibtihal Al-Muzaini, head of the team that prepared Kuwait in the Memory of Days and head of the Information Sector at KUNA's Information and Research Center, said the book documents major events in Kuwait through 2025, providing a chronological reference by day, month and year. She also thanked Al-Mannai, Al-Ghanem and everyone involved in its preparation.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Director General for the Editorial Department Essam Al-Ghanem, Acting Editor-in-Chief Bader Al-Sharhan, and a number of KUNA directors, editors and staff.

KUNA ... from rebuilding to digital media

As soon as Kuwait was liberated from the brutal Iraqi invasion, KUNA promptly began reclaiming its professional role upon returning its permanent headquarters in the homeland to broadcast its news on November 19, 1991, concluding a challenging 14-month period of forced exile.

The relaunch of the agency was preceded by a temporary transmission phase from London, as broadcasting from its devastated Kuwait headquarters was impossible.

During the Iraqi invasion, the headquarters witnessed comprehensive destruc-

tion, and its equipment was looted and sent to Baghdad.

When the main office in Kuwait became ready, the process of resuming operations was completed by 1992 since news transmission initially began with an average of 40 items daily as a first step toward full media recovery, after which daily news output gradually rose.

After liberating the country, KUNA witnessed a paradigm shift in its media policy when it set a strategic vision to enhance its international and regional presence and cement its status - to be a Kuwait media voice on international levels - through activating its overseas correspondents' network in the most important global and Arab capitals.

The agency was committed to strengthening its relations with global and regional news agencies through signing and renewing several bilateral deals and memos to share news, photos and publications, along with expertise in training and other techniques.

On December 17, 1994, KUNA have gradually developed its news services by launching a pioneering telephone news service allowing individuals to dial 120 to listen to round-the-clock local, regional, and international news.

On September 11, 1995, the agency established the KUNA Center for Media Capacity Development to train the agency's employees in media sector and enhance their professional skills. The center's scope then expanded to include national, Gulf, and Arab media personnel by organizing advanced training courses and specialized workshops.



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PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister chaired the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Oct 6.

‘Decree-law’ okay on e-notarization

Co-owner gets respite

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6, (KUNA): Kuwait's Cabinet approved Tuesday a draft decree-law amending provisions of Law No. 10 of 2020 on notarization, aimed at simplifying procedures, developing electronic linkage between relevant authorities and strengthening official records and documents while preserving existing legal positions.

The draft decree-law was approved during the Cabinet's weekly meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The decree seeks to modernize and develop notarization procedures at the Ministry of Justice's Notarization Department through two main tracks.

The first involves transferring the authority to notarize company documents from government notaries to the competent unit at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Commercial Registry, while regulating coordination and the exchange of records between the two entities.

The second concerns the notarization of personal status matters, including marriage, divorce and other forms of marital separation, reconciliation and related procedures, including premarital qualification and pre-divorce reconciliation efforts, alongside introducing electronic notarization remotely.

The draft also aims to protect family rights by requiring the notarization of marriage, marital separation and reconciliation, linking these procedures to premarital qualification and reconciliation efforts, and establishing electronic remote notarization and links with judicial records.

Under the proposed legislation, a marriage contract may not be notarized unless both parties have completed a premarital qualification program.

The Minister of Justice will issue a decision specifying the program's curriculum, duration, completion requirements and implementing authority.

The Cabinet referred the draft decree-law to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Cabinet also approved a draft decree-law amending Article 830 of the Civil Code, issued by Law Decree No. 67 of 1980, concerning jointly owned residential property, and referred it to His Highness the Amir.

The amendment would authorize courts, under specified conditions, to order the continuation of joint ownership for a limited period to protect a co-owner who has no other home, while allowing other co-owners to purchase the share of a party seeking partition at its fair value instead of selling the property at public auction when physical division is not possible.

At the outset of its meeting, the Cabinet was briefed on the results of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's official visit to Bern last week and the official talks he held with Swiss President Guy Parmelin.

The talks reviewed Kuwait-Switzerland bilateral relations and ways to strengthen and expand cooperation across various fields, in addition to regional and international developments and issues of common interest.

The visit was crowned by the signing of a memorandum of understanding on promoting direct investment between the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) and Switzerland Global Enterprise, in the presence of the Crown Prince and President Parmelin.

The MoU was signed by KDIPA Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Swiss Global Enterprise CEO of Investment Promotion Magali Heuberger.

The memorandum aims to strengthen economic and investment cooperation, expand partnerships in areas of mutual interest and promote direct investment opportunities between the two countries.

The Cabinet also strongly condemned continued attacks by the Houthi militia against Makkah and Madinah, as well as attacks targeting Riyadh and other Saudi cities, civilians, civilian and economic facilities, and vessels in the Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandeb Strait.



Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri and Jonathan Panikoff

Jonathan Panikoff concludes visit to Kuwait, hosted by Reconnaissance Research

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Reconnaissance Research hosted Jonathan Panikoff, Senior Director of the Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative at the Atlantic Council, during a visit to Kuwait as part of the center’s ongoing engagement with leading international policy institutions and experts.

Panikoff was accompanied by Joze Pelayo, Associate Director for Strategic Initiatives and Policy at the Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative.

During the visit, Reconnaissance Research hosted a series of closed-door discussions bringing Panikoff together with Kuwaiti participants from diplomatic, economic and academic backgrounds, alongside his private meetings with senior government officials.

The discussions focused broadly on U.S. policy and the regional outlook, Kuwait-U.S. relations, Gulf security and the changing geopolitical landscape. The principal roundtable, “U.S. Policy, Allies and the Regional Outlook,” was conducted under the Chatham House Rule to encourage a candid exchange of perspectives.

Reflecting on his visit, Panikoff said: “I’m grateful for the chance to spend a few days in Kuwait, especially now at this challenging time. Kuwait is a critical ally of the U.S., and the opportunity to hear a myriad of Kuwaiti perspectives will directly help to better inform our Center’s research and to find avenues for additional cooperation, including with our host, Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri and Reconnaissance Research.”

The visit builds on an ongoing relationship between Reconnaissance Research and Panikoff, including previous meetings between Al-Anjeri and Panikoff at the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C.

Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, Founder and CEO of Reconnaissance Research, welcomed Panikoff’s visit



and said the center would continue to build bridges with leading policy experts and institutions from around the world.

“Reconnaissance Research was established as an independent platform for serious dialogue. Visits such as Jonathan’s allow for a direct and dynamic exchange of perspectives,” Al-Anjeri said.

The visit forms part of Reconnaissance Research’s ongoing engagement with international think tanks, policy experts and institutions.

About Jonathan Panikoff
Jonathan Panikoff is Senior Director of the Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative at the Atlantic Council.
From 2015 to 2020, he served as Deputy National Intelligence Officer for the Near East at the U.S. National Intelligence Council.
Panikoff’s work has appeared in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Politico, Time, and Newsweek, among others.
He is a frequent media commentator and has appeared on CNN, BBC and Fox Live, and is regularly cited by major publications.

Kuwaitis, Egyptians shed blood for each other during their wars

By Bassam Al-Qassas
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Based on my four decades of experience in Kuwait, I can confidently assert, as a witness and a devoted admirer of the country, that the relationship between Egypt and Kuwait has never been transient, as it has always been a bond built on sacrifice and loyalty. The October 1973 War is the clearest evidence, as the unwavering support of Kuwait was central to the conflict.

On the part of Egypt, the Kuwaiti Yarmouk Brigade fought heroically, and the blood of Kuwaiti martyrs was spilled on the hallowed sands of Sinai in defense of Egypt and the Arab cause.

This was not just a symbolic act, considering the involvement of a warrior who understood that the struggle of Egypt was his own and that crossing the Suez Canal was a crossing for the entire nation.

Kuwait extended sizeable political and economic assistance. Its position during the ‘oil battle’ proved that while Kuwait is small in size, it is huge in its principles and actions. Here is a remarkable equation that is often overlooked, summarizing the story of these two nations: October 1973 (Kuwait beside Egypt) + 1990 (Egypt beside Kuwait) = an unbreakable bond of loyalty. Just as Kuwait supported Egypt in the trenches of October, the whole Egypt—its army, people and leaders—stood with Kuwait during the 1990 invasion. Egyptian blood was shed in the fight to liberate Kuwait, just as Kuwaiti blood was spilled in the effort to free Sinai.

This is a debt of loyalty that those



October 53 Logo

with noble hearts never forget. If the October generation inscribed the story in blood, the present generation, under the leadership of President Abdul-Fattah El-Sisi and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, is crafting the most crucial chapter through investments, development, and economic and political partnerships that honor the sacrifices of the past.

Today, we observe a partnership for the future, supported by more than 600,000 Egyptians who consider Kuwait their second home, Kuwaiti investments that are the largest in Egypt, and a shared political stance on all Arab matters.

The real lesson of October is that victory is not attained through military action alone, as it is realized through economic and developmental progress that preserves the dignity and future of generations to come.

Egypt and Kuwait will remain united in spirit and purpose from the trenches of October to the partnership of the future.

25 years of Narendra Modi

From a small-town dream to a changing India

By Rajpal Tyagi

A quarter century in public life has taken Narendra Modi from the political landscape of Gujarat to the centre of India’s national and global story.

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KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Twenty-five years is a long time in the life of a nation. It is long enough for a generation to grow up, for cities to change, for technology to transform the way people live and communicate, and for a country to redefine how it sees itself and its place in the world.

For Narendra Modi, 25 years in government is also the story of an extraordinary personal journey from a modest childhood in Vadnagar, Gujarat, to the highest elected office in India.

On 7 October 2001, Narendra Modi took oath as Chief Minister of Gujarat. Few could have imagined then that the relatively little-known political organiser would go on to become one of India’s most recognisable political leaders and serve as Prime Minister for more than 12 years.

On 7 October 2026, that journey reaches a remarkable milestone: 25 uninterrupted years at the head of a government. The significance of the moment lies not simply in the number of years. It lies in the distance travelled.

Born on 17 September 1950 in Vadnagar, Modi grew up in a modest family and worked at his family’s tea stall while continuing his education. His early years, as described in his public life, were shaped by discipline, reading, debate and an engagement with India’s social and cultural traditions.

Those beginnings are important because they remain central to the story of the man who would eventually occupy India’s highest political office. His journey was not one of instant national prominence. It was built over decades through organisational work, political campaigns, setbacks, responsibilities and an increasingly prominent role within the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Then came October 2001. The BJP leadership selected Modi to take over as Chief Minister of Gujarat, and on 7 October he took the oath of office. The next 13 years would change both his political standing and the scale of his ambitions, eventually taking him from Gujarat to the national stage.

From Gujarat to New Delhi
In 2013, the BJP named Modi its prime ministerial candidate for the 2014 Lok Sabha election. The election transformed the political landscape. The BJP won an absolute majority and, on 26 May 2014, Narendra Modi became Prime Minister of India.

What followed was an effort to reshape the relationship between the Indian citizen, the state and the economy. Swachh Bharat put sanitation and cleanliness at the centre of a national campaign. Jan Dhan sought to bring millions into the formal banking system. Make in India placed manufacturing and investment at the heart of the economic narrative, while Digital India sought to expand digital infrastructure and government services.

Ujjwala sought to bring cleaner cooking fuel to eligible households. Ayushman Bharat expanded the focus on public healthcare. GST attempted to create a nationwide indirect-tax framework. Infrastructure development accelerated across roads,

railways, airports and digital networks. UPI and digital payments became a defining feature of India’s rapidly expanding digital economy.

For supporters, these initiatives represent an India becoming more connected, more digitally enabled and more confident about its economic future. But the Modi years have also been defined by major political decisions and moments of intense national debate.

His second term, beginning after another BJP majority in 2019, saw the abrogation of the special status under Article 370 for Jammu and Kashmir, the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act and the enormous challenge of managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2024, the political equation changed again. The BJP did not secure an individual majority, but remained the largest party, while the National Democratic Alliance secured a majority. Modi subsequently took oath for a third consecutive term as Prime Minister on 9 June 2024.

His third-term vision has increasingly been expressed through the idea of ‘Viksit Bharat’ a developed India with an emphasis on economic growth, infrastructure, technology, manufacturing, innovation and India’s expanding role in the global economy.

A journey watched closely from Kuwait
For the Indian community in Kuwait, however, Narendra Modi’s story is not simply one of Indian domestic politics. It is also a story of a changing India that millions of Indians living abroad have watched, discussed and experienced from a distance.

For the Indian diaspora, India’s growing international profile has often carried a personal significance. The country’s global standing is not an abstract idea when one’s family, business, culture and future remain connected to India.

That makes Modi’s relationship with the Indian diaspora an important part of his 25-year journey. I had the opportunity to meet Modi on four occasions as part of Indian Business Council Kuwait delegations, first during his years as Chief Minister of Gujarat and later as Prime Minister of India.

But perhaps the most emotional chapter came in December 2024.

The day Modi came to Kuwait
On 21–22 December 2024, Narendra Modi made his first official visit to Kuwait at the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. For India and Kuwait, it was more than a diplomatic visit. It was historic. No Indian Prime Minister had visited Kuwait for 43 years.

For the Indian community, the emotional centre of the visit was undoubtedly ‘Hala Modi’, where the Prime Minister addressed a large gathering of Indians at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Sports Complex.

The visit also brought together the people-to-people dimensions of India-Kuwait relations. Modi attended the opening ceremony of the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup as Guest of Honour and held high-level meetings with Kuwait’s leadership.

Then came another historic moment. H H H

Good teachers to produce good students

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: The Ministry of Education stated that enhancing teachers’ skills is fundamental to improving education quality and achieving better learning outcomes, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

It highlighted the importance of linking teachers’ professional development with classroom practices and curriculum improvements to strengthen students’ scientific reasoning and critical thinking abilities.

The statement was made during the participation of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Dr. Khaled Al-Rasheed in a high-level regional discussion focused on improving student learning outcomes across the Gulf, Middle East, and North Africa.

The event, themed “Insights from PISA 2025 Results,” was held in Riyadh and organized by the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS) in partnership with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

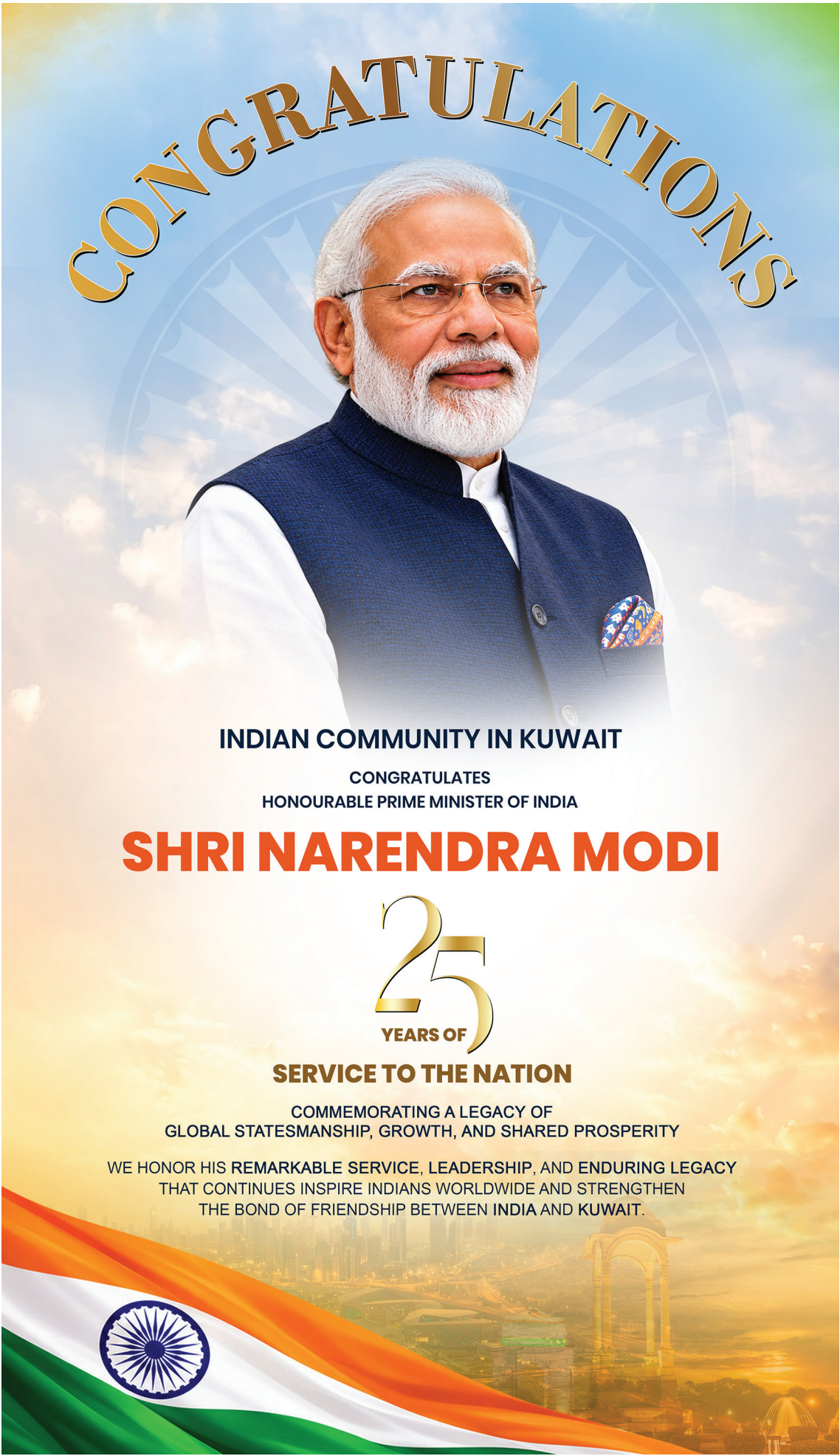
In one of the dialogue sessions, Al-Rasheed explained that teaching scientific thinking involves more than simply incorporating an activity or experiment into a science lesson. The objective is to enable students to observe phenomena, formulate testable questions, collect evidence, analyze results, and reassess their conclusions based on that evidence, thereby strengthening their scientific reasoning and evidence-based thinking skills.

He also emphasized the need to develop curricula that provide teachers with engaging questions, experiments, and hands-on tasks designed to nurture students’ scientific reasoning, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities.

Al-Rasheed outlined Kuwait’s initiatives and projects aimed at advancing the education system and improving educational quality. Notable initiatives include the teacher licensing program, curriculum development, schools for gifted students, and efforts to equip teachers with the essential skills and competencies needed to prepare students for future challenges.

The event aimed to examine regional outcomes from international studies, identify ways to benefit from the findings from the “PISA 2025” study to enhance educational policies, and promote the exchange of expertise and successful practices among participating countries and organizations.

Alongside Al-Rasheed, the Ministry of Education delegation included Bader Fouad Al-Shatti, Arabic Language Technical Supervisor for the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Zone.



SIPRI chief warns of narrowing window to avert war

Global military spending reaches record \$2.9 trillion

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Ambassador Dr. Kareem Hajjaj, Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), emphasized that the global and regional security and military sectors are undergoing rapid transformations, reports Al-Seyassah.

Hajjaj made the statement at a seminar titled, “Trends in Armament and Security in the Middle East,” held at the Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute in Kuwait, during which he reviewed major international shifts and their implications for regional security. He explained that these shifts are driven by the resurgence of conventional interstate warfare, escalating power rivalry, rapid advancements in weaponry and military technology, and erosion of international order pillars, such as arms control, non-proliferation, international law and multilateral cooperation.

He revealed that the estimated global military spending increased for the 11th consecutive year in 2025, reaching \$2.9 trillion or 2.5 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP) -- an all-time high.

He said the world is witnessing the resurgence of conventional warfare between nations possessing advanced technological and military capabilities. He cited the Russia-Ukraine War, describing it as the largest conflict in Europe since World War II, as well as the conflict in the Middle East involving the United States and Israel on one side and Iran on the other side.

He also highlighted the intensification of US-led security alliances and arrangement through NATO or bilateral partnerships with Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, occurring in the midst of intensifying security competition among major powers.

He pointed out that the interna-



Photos during the “Trends in Armament and Security in the Middle East,” held at the Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute in Kuwait on Oct 5.

tional system is witnessing an erosion of the arms control and non-proliferation architecture and a decline in the role of international law—particularly international humanitarian law—along with securing supply chains and vital materials and the diminishing effectiveness of multilateral frameworks.

He mentioned the rise in cyber operations, including data system breaches, electronic warfare and at-

tacks on infrastructure, in addition to the expanding use of artificial intelligence technologies in these activities.

He talked about the shift in war economies and military manufacturing prompted by the decreasing cost of technology and weaponry components, as well as the availability and military application of technological systems, indicating that a significant portion of these technologies originate from the civilian sector.

He explained that this altered the nature of armament and accelerated the pace of military operations, while narrowing the gap between war and peace and reducing the time available for decision-makers to deal with incidents.

He warned that this compressed decision-making window increases the likelihood of miscalculation and the risk of escalation, which could lead to unforeseen consequences, such as the entanglement of neutral states in escalation scenarios.

He added that recent developments blurred the lines between the civilian and military spheres, as well as between conventional and nuclear domains, while shifting the balance between defense and offense in favor of the latter.

Regarding the Middle East, he indicated that the region is witnessing the resurgence of armed conflict between states, following three decades dominated by irregular warfare -- civil wars and state interventions in such conflicts.

He stated that regional conflicts have increasingly taken on an existential character, influencing the calculations and military and security preparations of the parties involved. He then underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation and using resources and capabilities to maintain security and stability in the region.

Four-hour power cuts possible in 19 areas

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is continuing its periodic maintenance works in the secondary substations in 19 areas.

This initiative is part of the efforts of the ministry to raise the efficiency of the electrical grid and ensure

stable power supply.

In its announcement about the maintenance schedule, the ministry stated that work planned for Wednesday may require a temporary power outage. Maintenance work will start at 8:00 am and will last up to four hours, depending on the schedule of each substation. It clarified that the power outage duration could change, based on working conditions and the technical procedures being carried out at the sites.

It confirmed that the maintenance teams are working hard to complete the tasks and restore power as quickly as possible.

The scheduled maintenance work covers several residential areas and blocks, including Sulaihiya Residential (Blocks Five and 10), Mishref (Block One), Funatees (Block Seven), Masayel (Block One), Salmiya (Block Three) and Bayan (Blocks Three and Five).

Continued from Page 1

New shops,

The approved activities include cafés, snack bars, document printing and photocopying centers, ATMs, grocery stores, shops selling flowers, sweets and medical supplies, and retail activities suitable for the operations of the facility.

The council granted final approval to reorganize the 6,000-square-meter portion of Plot One in the Diplomatic District, subdividing it into six 1,000-square-meter plots.

It approved the request of the Ministry of Interior to amend the its previous decision regarding the police-mounted unit (cavalry and camel corps) headquarters in the Central District, allowing expansion of the site from 75,000 to 102,022 square meters.

It approved two requests from the Ministry of Health -- allocate Plot No. 162 in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area Two for insect and rodent control services and to allocate a 20,000-square-meter site in Granada (Al-Sulaibikhat coast), including an access road, for the construction of a multiple sclerosis treatment center as per Cabinet Decision No. 417 issued on April 7, 2026.

It approved amendments to Articles Two and Eight of Ministerial Decision No. 322/2023 regarding the subdivision of land designated for construction. These amendments regulate the procedures for submitting subdivision or parceling applications, verifying ownership and real rights, and establishing the mechanism for notifying rights holders before and after project approval.

It approved the request of the Ministry of Public Works to create an entrance and exit for the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy site Sulaiikhat Cemetery (Block One), as well as the proposal to standardize fees for administrative certificates issued to government employees.

It referred the proposal of member Abdullah Al-Enezi regarding the creation of two U-turn points on Al-Hajjaj bin Yusuf Al-Thaqafi Street in Sulaihiya to the executive body for review.

and political challenges that the global community is facing.

He reaffirmed his country’s solidarity with the State of Kuwait, its leadership and people, commending the resilience of Kuwait and its ability to triumph over challenges and deal with the unstable security condition in the region.

7-day blitz

The Rescue Police General Department reaffirmed its commitment to guarantee the continuous presence of patrols and promptly respond to reports and emergencies, thereby, ensuring security, public order and road user safety.

In a related development, the General Traffic Department carried out another series of traffic campaigns in all governorates.

The campaigns conducted last week led to the issuance of 28,371 traffic citations and 305 vehicles were impounded.

Data released by the department for the period starting Sept 28 until Oct 4 revealed that authorities handled 2,994 traffic reports and apprehended 19 wanted individuals and 25 others who were found to be holding expired residency permits.

Furthermore, 11 wanted vehicles were confiscated, five juveniles were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution, 43 individuals were referred to the traffic detention center, 305 vehicles and 19 motorcycles were impounded, and the authorities responded to 1,713 collision reports, including 206 collisions that resulted in injuries.

Al-Ajmi bows

He clarified that his decision was guided by the public interest and respect for the requirements of the current phase.

Al-Ajmi expressed his pride and gratitude for the high-level trust placed in him by 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.

He described the trust as a national honor and a cherished responsibility that enabled him to serve Kuwait and its people.

Al-Ajmi also described his tenure at the ministry as an enriching experience, marked by various files, challenges, and responsibilities.

He noted that working alongside colleagues in the ministry’s sectors enabled him to gain insight into matters directly affecting citizens’ lives, while contributing to streamlining procedures, improving services, and strengthening the ministry’s capacity to fulfill its societal obligations.

Al-Ajmi affirmed that serving the nation is not contingent on holding a specific office and that national responsibility does not end when an assignment concludes.

He underscored that loyalty to the homeland and the leadership, along with a commitment to public service, remains the defining principle at every stage of the journey.

Makkah Pact

The ministry urged the UN Security Council to implement its relevant resolutions, particularly 2216 and 2817, and reiterated full solidarity with Saudi Arabia, affirming support for all measures taken to safeguard its sovereignty, security and the safety of citizens and residents.

“Saudi Arabia’s security is an integral part of Kuwait’s security and that of the GCC member states,” it said.

Injuries in airport attacks

Saudi Arabia’s General Authority of Civil Aviation said three people sustained minor injuries in two attacks on King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Jazan and Najran International Airport on Monday.

The authority said the strikes caused material damage, emergency teams responded immediately, and the injured were taken to hospital for treatment.

It said it is coordinating with security authorities to assess damage and ensure the safety of passengers and personnel, affirming its commitment to protecting the Kingdom’s civil aviation system.

Saudi condemnation and call for action

The Kingdom on Monday strongly condemned the Houthi militia’s continued targeting of civilian and economic sites, including attacks on Makkah, Madinah, Riyadh and cities such as Abha, Khamis Mushait, Jazan, Najran, Taif and Yanbu, as well as Saudi vessels in the southern Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

The Foreign Ministry said that since the 2014 coup, the Kingdom has pursued a comprehensive political solution in Yemen, but the militia has chosen military escalation, deepening humanitarian and economic suffering in service of external agendas.

It affirmed Saudi Arabia’s right to defend its territory, resources, sovereignty and the safety of citizens and residents, and reiterated full political and military support for the Presidential Leadership Council and Yemen’s legitimate government to end the coup and restore state institutions.

The Kingdom called on the international community, especially permanent Security Council members, to implement relevant resolutions and fully support Yemen’s government in confronting the militia and ending threats to Yemen, the region and the world.

Makkah Pact Alliance activates defense commitments

The Makkah Pact Alliance decided on Monday to immediately implement its collective defense commitments after an emergency meeting of its Political and Defense Strategic Committee held by Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye in Riyadh.

A joint statement said the committee would provide agreed-upon military forces and capabilities and rapidly de-

ploy them in the Kingdom, in line with approved arrangements and national legislation.

Retired Lieutenant General Noman Mahmood of Pakistan was appointed the Alliance’s first Secretary-General for a three-year term.

The participating states condemned attempts to target Makkah and Madinah and continued attacks on cities and infrastructure, affirming categorical rejection of any threat to the Kingdom’s security and territorial integrity.

Pakistan and Türkiye praised the vigilance, readiness and professional performance of the Saudi Armed Forces in protecting the Kingdom’s security.

They affirmed that each member’s security is an integral part of the collective security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the three countries under the agreement.

GCC, Arab interior ministers and EU denounce strikes

GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi strongly condemned the attacks on Jazan and Najran airports, saying targeting civilian infrastructure is a dangerous escalation and a flagrant violation of international laws that threatens civilian safety and civil aviation.

He called on the international community to adopt a decisive stance, hold perpetrators accountable and halt practices that jeopardize regional security and international air navigation, reiterating GCC unity with Saudi Arabia and support for all measures to protect its security and citizens.

The Council of Arab Interior Ministers strongly condemned the airport attacks, affirming full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for measures to safeguard its security and stability.

The European Union condemned Houthi attacks on Saudi infrastructure, including a refinery and airports, warning they destabilize the region and threaten global energy security.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the Iran-backed Houthis’ attacks “keep destabilising the region, igniting further violence and undermining global energy security,” adding: “We stand in solidarity with Saudi Arabia and our Gulf partners,” and noting regional security would be central to upcoming GCC talks.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo
Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan with Dana Kovarijkova, Director General of the Diplomatic Academy at the Czech Foreign Ministry.

Kuwait, Czech Republic sign MoU on diplomatic training

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6, (KUNA): Kuwait and the Czech Republic signed Tuesday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on diplomatic training between the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute and the Czech Diplomatic Academy.

The MoU was signed by Kuwait’s Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan and Dana Kovarijkova, Director General of the Diplomatic Academy at the Czech Foreign Ministry.

The signing took place on the side-

lines of the fifth round of political consultations between the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry and the Czech Foreign Ministry, held in Prague with Al-Mashaan heading the Kuwaiti side and Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Maria Chatardova leading the Czech side.

The consultations addressed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen and develop cooperation across various fields, as well as the latest regional and international developments.

Nazaha raises awareness on transparency, integrity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6, (KUNA): The Anti-Corruption Authority, Nazaha, delivered on Monday an awareness lecture for the Ministry of Finance’s staff as part of efforts aiming to enhance the values of transparency and integrity and cementing corruption prevention at government agencies.

The lecture included the concept of transparency culture, its goals and importance at work, as well as the principles of reform and means of enhancing them, Nazaha said in a

press statement.

It also reviewed the main types of financial and administrative corruption, the mechanisms implemented to prevent and combat it, and the role of transparency in mitigating its risks, it added.

The lecture further focused on justice and equal opportunities at work and its role in upgrading institutional performance efficiency and establishing proper administrative practices.



Nazaha photo
Part of the Nazaha awareness lecture for the employees of the Ministry of Finance to promote the values of integrity and prevent corruption in government agencies.

Trump criticizes election officials in Arizona’s Maricopa County

Republicans return to tough-on-crime message ahead of midterm elections

WASHINGTON, Oct 6, (AP): Political advertising warns about Democratic plots to defund the police. Campaign events feature law enforcement unions and tough talk about law and order. Stump speeches boast about record low levels of violent crime.

From coast to coast, Republicans are focusing on public disorder, illegal immigration and violent crime in midterm campaigns as voters sour on their party’s handling of the cost of living and the war with Iran.

The messaging reflects a belief that lawlessness is safer political ground in the midterms despite Donald Trump’s own criminal record for paying hush money to a porn star, making him the only president to be convicted of a felony. Democrats have tried to counter the attacks by recruiting candidates with law enforcement backgrounds and emphasizing their own anti-crime plans, but Republicans believe it’s a rare opportunity to go on the offensive in an otherwise challenging year.

“Do you know that right now we have the lowest violent crime rate in 126 years in America right now? Because we emphasize the rule of law,” House Speaker Mike Johnson recently told an audience at Louisiana State University. Crime rates have generally trended down since the 1990s with a brief spike during the COVID pandemic. “We have the most secure border we have had in the past half century.”

Trump returned to the topic on Monday night in Nebraska, warning about how the country used to be before he returned to the White House.

“We had a border with people pouring in, crime like nobody’s ever seen,” he said.

In Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Texas and Wisconsin, Republican candidates for governor have attacked their Democratic rivals as weak on crime or warned they could cut police funding. Texas Gov Greg Abbott, for instance, has lambasted



US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson speaks during a campaign event for Rep. David Valadao, background left, in Bakersfield, Calif on Sept 30. (AP)

Democratic nominee and state Rep. Gina Hinojosa for not supporting legislation that would require judges to deny bail to illegal immigrants charged with a violent crime.

Hinojosa has campaigned on her tenure as a civil rights lawyer and criticized Abbott’s crime policies as

violating civil liberties.

Rick Jackson, a billionaire health-care executive running in Georgia, has repeatedly attacked Democratic opponent Keisha Lance Bottoms over her tenure as Atlanta mayor.

“I grew up in the type of neighborhood Keisha Lance Bottoms abandoned,” Jackson said at a summer campaign rally. “I know who gets hurt when politicians defund the police.”

In an interview with Atlanta station 11Alive, Bottoms emphasized that her administration gave pay raises to police and firefighters, and said she called for increased federal funding for public safety during her time as mayor.

It’s a similar story in US House races.

In Virginia’s first congressional district, Rep. Rob Wittman has attacked his Democratic opponent Shannon Taylor, a former county prosecutor, over her allegedly “soft on crime” record in office. In Michigan’s 10th district, Republican Michael Bouchard is running on his service as a Bronze Star Army captain and son of a longtime local sheriff. He’s claimed his Democratic opponent, former prosecutor Christina Hines, supports “woke, soft on crime, socialist policies.”

Also:

PHOENIX: US President Donald Trump on Monday criticized election officials in Arizona’s Maricopa County after about 3,000 ballots were mistakenly mailed early to voters.

The miscue, blamed on a vendor error, would have no effect on the voters who received the ballots, the county recorder’s office said. Maricopa County has about 2.5 million registered voters.

The president was responding to a reporter’s question when he said Maricopa, the most populous county in the battleground state and home to Phoenix, should “be ashamed of themselves.”



Students and members of French unions march during a protest against under-resourced schools, in Bordeaux, France on Oct 6. (AP)

Protesting pupils blockade French high schools again

Pupils blockaded French high schools on Tuesday as thousands of demonstrators marched in cities across the country to support the teenagers’ demands for more education funding, increasing

pressure on the government of outgoing President Emmanuel Macron.

Crowds waving flags and placards in Marseille in the south, Strasbourg in the east and other

cities showed how protests that began at a high school in the Paris region in mid-September have grown into a nationwide movement - the latest to have marked Macron’s nearly decade-long tenure. (AP)

Russia intercepts nearly 900 Ukraine drones overnight: Defense Ministry

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 6, (AP): Russian air defenses intercepted nearly 900 Ukrainian drones overnight over multiple regions of the country, as well as the occupied Crimean Peninsula and the Sea of Azov, the Defense Ministry in Moscow said Tuesday.

Unconfirmed media reports said a major fuel depot in the Moscow region was on fire after the attack that killed two people.

Ukraine’s domestically developed long-range drones and, increasingly, missiles have allowed Kyiv to hit Russian soil during the more than 4 ½ years since Moscow’s forces launched a full-scale invasion.

The bigger Russian military’s air superiority during the war has made aerial attacks on civilian areas of Ukraine routine.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyannin said 650 drones flew toward the Moscow region between Monday evening and Tuesday morning. Most were destroyed far away, and 105 were downed as they approached the city, he said.

Sobyannin later reported 68 more drones targeting Moscow were downed during daylight on Tuesday morning.

Ukraine has regularly targeted Russian oil refineries and storage depots,



Rescue workers extinguish a fire at a furniture factory, damaged by a Russian drone strike, in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine on Oct 6. (AP)

claiming last weekend that it had disabled 51% of Russia’s oil refining capacity. The claim could not be independently verified. Russian President Vladimir Putin said last week that the attacks had cost Russia roughly 1% of its gross domestic product.

Russia has traditionally been the world’s third-largest producer of refined fuel products from crude, after the US and China. The Kremlin has banned diesel exports due to the Ukrainian strikes, pushing global prices higher. That prompted US President Donald Trump last month to urge Ukraine to stop hitting Russia’s refineries.

After several days of targeting bridges in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, as part of a campaign to make civilian life difficult, Russia attacked one of the bridges over the Dnipro River in the southern city of Zaporizhzhia, according to Mykhailo Semikin, the regional military administration chief.

Europe

Rubio begins 3-nation NATO tour in Iceland:



Rubio

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has begun a three-nation tour of NATO allies with a stop Tuesday in Iceland, where unease persists about the Trump administration’s Arctic intentions even after a deal was reached to ease the president’s designs on neighboring Greenland.

Rubio called Iceland “a good friend” and offered no hint of tensions with the island that is a NATO member but has no army. Before the Greenland deal was signed last month, Iceland was an occasional feature of Trump’s comments and social media complaints about NATO allies not doing enough to support the US. (AP)

Ex-spy chief arrested in Germany: A former head of Germany’s foreign intelligence service was arrested on Tuesday on suspicion that he had passed state secrets to a foreign intelligence service, the federal prosecutor’s office said.

August Hanning, who led the Federal Intelligence Service, known by its German acronym BND, from 1998 to 2005, is “strongly suspected of treasonous espionage, spying out state secrets, attempted treason, and espionage,” the federal prosecutor’s office said in a statement. (AP)

Drones attack 2 vessels – Bulgaria PM: Bulgarian Prime Minister Rumen Radev said two commercial vessels were struck by drones on Tuesday in the first attack on shipping in the NATO member’s exclusive economic zone in the Black Sea.

“This is an unacceptable attack in Bulgaria’s exclusive economic zone. It is a blatant violation of international law and maritime law,” Radev said. (AP)

Anger grows after US Marine arrested over killing of woman in Okinawa

Japan hit by cyberattacks, data breaches affecting millions

TOKYO, Oct 6, (Agencies): Several Japanese companies and a university have reported data breaches or cyberattacks since Monday, potentially affecting millions of customers, members, students and teachers in a series of separate incidents.

Osaka Metropolitan University said Monday that data on at least 130,000 students and teachers may have been leaked following a cyberattack that caused a system failure at the institution.

About 500 servers supporting the university’s information system stopped operating after a suspected ransomware attack Friday last week, according to the university.

The campus network for students and the portal site for teaching staff remained unusable as of Monday, while lectures were canceled.

Japanese discount store chain operator Mr. Max Holdings Ltd. said Tuesday that personal data of up to 1.7 million customers may have been compromised following unauthorized access to a server handling its online shopping services.

The retailer has halted services, blocked the attack route and is working with external security specialists, regulators and police to investigate and strengthen monitoring.

Japan’s internet service firm GMO Research & AI Inc. said Monday that up to 948,500 records of its members were stolen following unauthorized



Okinawa Gov Genta Koja, (right), hands a letter of protest to US Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Benjamin T. Watson at Okinawa prefectural office in Naha, Okinawa on Oct 5 after Japanese police arrested a US Marine accused of robbing and killing a woman. (AP)

access to its server.

The company said some members’ rewards, worth about 2.9 million yen (about 18,000 US dollars), were illicitly exchanged for Amazon gift card codes.

Monogatari Corp., which operates

the Yakiniku King barbecue restaurant chain, said Monday that more than 10 million pieces of customer information, covering almost its entire registered user base, were leaked following unauthorized access to a system supporting its smartphone app for restaurant reservations and rewards.

Also:

TOKYO: The arrest of a US Marine on suspicion of robbing and killing a local woman on Okinawa has renewed protests against the heavy American military presence on the southern island as Japan’s leaders condemned the crime.

The killing could complicate Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s push to strengthen Japanese military on the island and to work more closely with the US military to deter China in the region.

Okinawa prefectural police said they arrested Lance Cpl. Devin Jacob Ballard, 20, who is stationed at Futenma Air Station, on suspicion of strangling Anna Yagi, 39, at a hotel in the island’s capital city of Naha early Saturday and stealing her wallet and backpack. He has denied the allegations, according to Japanese media.

US envoy holds meeting with Sudan’s top gen in push to seek end to fighting

KHARTOUM, Oct 6, (AP): A US envoy met over the weekend with Sudan’s top general as the Trump administration pushes for diplomatic efforts to end a war that has created what many describe as the world’s largest humanitarian crisis.

Massad Boulos, President Donald Trump’s senior adviser for Arab and African affairs, met Saturday with Sudanese Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan at a luncheon hosted by Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi on the sidelines of the mid-year coordination meeting of the African Union, according to a social media post.

“These efforts aim to enable Sudan to restore its security and stability, embark on reconstruction and development, and, through an inclusive Sudanese-owned and Sudanese-led national dialogue, transition toward a civilian-led government,” Boulos wrote on X.

The rare meeting between Boulos and Burhan comes as the U.S., Egypt and other intermediaries seek to renew pressure on the warring parties in Sudan to negotiate an end to the fighting that has killed at least 59,000



White House senior adviser Massad Boulos speaks to reporters at the White House, July 21, 2026, in Washington. (AP)

people, displaced some 13 million and pushed many parts of the African nation into famine.

It also took place less than two weeks after Sudanese Foreign Minister Mohieldin Salim Ahmed Ibrahim accused the U.S. of denying a visa

for Burhan to attend the high-level week of the U.N. General Assembly last month in New York, saying it was a betrayal of Washington’s host country obligations. The State Department declined to comment at the time, citing visa privacy laws.

India opp’n parties rally for election chief’s exit over voter list changes

NEW DELHI, Oct 6, (Agencies): Opposition parties held protests in India’s capital New Delhi on Tuesday, demanding the resignation of the country’s election chief over a contentious revision of voter lists as hundreds of police personnel were deployed across the heart of the city.

Tuesday’s demonstration is the latest in a series of near-daily protests beginning last week by student groups, opposition parties and India’s “Cockroach” youth movement.

The protesters have demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, accusing the polling body he oversees of manipulating voter registrations to benefit Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

The commission and government deny any wrongdoing. Modi’s party on Tuesday defended the Election Commission, calling the opposition’s allegations “completely misleading.”

Opposition lawmakers shouted slogans against Modi and called for Kumar’s resignation as they marched



Congress party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, (center), and others hold placards as they march during a protest organized by opposition parties in New Delhi, India, on Oct. 6. (AP)

toward the Election Commission headquarters in central Delhi. Authorities blocked the march with barricades, closed roads and issued travel advisories around the area. Several protesters were detained.

The opposition has increasingly

adopted Gen Z-style language to appeal to younger voters after the “Cockroach” movement drew large numbers of young people to its protests. The outreach has become a key part of broadening support and challenging Modi.

Strengthening strategic partnerships with oil sector entities

NBK hosts specialized knowledge-sharing session with KOC

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: As part of efforts to strengthen its strategic partnership with oil sector entities and support human capital development, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) hosted a delegation from the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) for a specialized knowledge-sharing session, during which the Bank showcased its leading practices and initiatives in learning and development, reflecting its commitment to building national capabilities and fostering talent.

This session builds upon the existing collaboration between NBK and KOC regarding employee development and aligns with both parties' shared objective of embedding a culture of continuous learning, which is a cornerstone of organizational excellence and sustainable growth.

The session featured a review of various development initiatives and programs implemented by the Bank to enhance the learning experience, boost employee readiness for future demands, and build leadership and professional capabilities. It also highlighted the latest trends and digital solutions used to develop skills and



Munirah Al-Sejary

foster learning within the workplace. Additionally, the session addressed NBK's approach in designing and managing training and development programs, as well as the mechanisms



KOC X NBK

for measuring the impact of learning on organizational performance. It also examined success indicators and lessons learned from initiatives that contributed to increased participation

and engagement with educational programs. On this occasion, Munirah Al-Sejary, AVP – Learning and Development, Group Human Resources at

NBK, said: "This session aligns with our shared vision with KOC to foster a culture of knowledge sharing and utilize successful experiences. We believe that collaboration among national

institutions accelerates organizational development and enhances the readiness of national talent to meet future demands".

Al-Sejary added: "We are committed to continuously advancing our organizational learning framework by using cutting-edge educational technologies and delivering diverse, up-to-date training content that keeps pace with the rapid transformations in the business environment, which should consequently boost performance efficiency and embed a culture of professional development within the organization".

Finally, Al-Sejary emphasized that NBK's training and development initiatives are grounded in a long-term vision that prioritizes the development of national talent. NBK is committed to utilizing its extensive expertise and team of specialists and experts to transfer knowledge and practical experience to national professionals across various sectors.

It is also worth noting that NBK remains the primary supporter of oil sector companies, acting as the key banking partner for the government sector; it consistently strives to enhance the capabilities of the oil sector workforce, driven by its commitment to aligning the Group's economic sustainability goals with those of the country, which focus on building a workforce trained to the highest global standards.

Volatile chokepoints spur

GCC grids need export diversity, steady supply

MANAMA, Oct 6, (KUNA): Greater flexibility across power grids in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states is contingent upon energy export diversification and perpetual supply chains, the six-member bloc's secretary general Jassem Al-Budaiwi said on Monday.

These measures ensure that the wider Gulf Arab region would be capable of coping with the "rapid changes," seen in the global energy market, he told GCC-wide oil cooperation committee talks in the Bahraini capital, presided over by Manama's Oil Minister Mohammed bin Dainah.

Gulf Arab states are rising to prominence in the global energy market, with the six-member bloc's cumulative

crude oil reserves exceeding some 518 billion barrels and natural gas reserves worth more than 44 trillion cubic meters he said, citing indicators for the year 2025.

On GCC crude output, the bloc's chief said that the figure has surpassed 16 million barrels per day, while total natural gas production amounts to roughly 461 billion cubic meters, according to these indicators.

At a time of volatility surrounding major energy supply routes, including critical maritime chokepoints, it would behoove GCC member states to ratchet up cooperation in a bid to ensure the security of supply chains and stability of the region's energy market, he added.

Tariq Al-Roumi: Energy security requires deeper GCC integration

MANAMA, Oct 6, (KUNA): Minister of Oil Tariq Al-Roumi affirmed Monday that GCC states are moving forward with strengthening cooperation and integrating their energy capabilities to support supply security and enhance preparedness for regional and international developments.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Roumi said the GCC states' ongoing regional cooperation reflects the growing importance of energy security and sustainable supplies amid geopolitical developments and tensions in the region.

He headed Kuwait's delegation to the 37th meeting of the GCC Committee for Petroleum Cooperation, attended by ministers responsible for oil and energy affairs from GCC states.

Al-Roumi stressed that the reliability of energy flows depends not only on production capacity, but also on the resilience, continuity and adaptability of the entire supply system, covering production, refining, storage, transportation, infrastructure and supply chains.

He said strengthening supply chains, enhancing their readiness and ensuring sustainable flows constitute a shared Gulf priority that requires greater coordination and optimal use of available capabilities among GCC states.

Al-Roumi noted that GCC states have established a pivotal position in global energy markets thanks to their resources, production and refining capabilities, infrastructure, investments and accumulated expertise.

Preserving and building on this position, he said, requires deeper

integration among Gulf energy sectors, coordinated positions on regional and international issues, and translating common visions into more effective and influential action plans.

The meeting reviewed the GCC Energy Strategy and Energy Media Strategy and mechanisms for their implementation, along with a number of programs and initiatives aimed at developing joint Gulf action and keeping pace with rapid regional and international changes in the energy sector.

Following the meeting, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil Sheikh Dr. Nimr Fahad Al-Malek Al-Sabah said that the decisions and recommendations adopted by ministers at the meeting reflect a Gulf-wide drive to enhance preparedness and improve coordination in addressing rapid changes in the energy sector.

Sheikh Dr. Nimr said the meeting's outcomes were particularly significant given the diversity and interconnectedness of the issues discussed, combining supply security and emergency preparedness with international regulatory and trade developments.

He said the breadth of these issues underscored the expanding scope of challenges facing the energy sector and the need for continued Gulf coordination at both technical and implementation levels.

Sheikh Dr. Nimr highlighted the development of a regional emergency plan for petroleum products as an important step toward strengthening Gulf preparedness.

on Tuesday. In global markets, Brent crude went down USD 1.93 to reach USD 100.32 pb, as well as the US West Texas Intermediate, which dropped USD 1.68 to reach USD 89.43 pb.

General index up 0.18%

Boursa Kuwait closes higher

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Tuesday higher, with the general index up 15.52 points (0.18%) to 8,654.04. Total turnover reached 263.8 million shares across 19,334 cash trades, valued at 74 million dinars (about \$228 million).

The main market index gained 13.76 points (0.15%) to 8,900.83, on 153.8 million shares traded in 11,792 transactions worth 30 million dinars

(\$92.4 million). The premier market index rose 16.70 points (0.18%) to 9,050.66, with 109.9 million shares changing hands in 7,542 deals valued at 43.9 million dinars (\$135.2 million).

The Main 50 Index led gains, climbing 109.99 points (1.10%) to 10,078.49. Trading in the index totaled 119 million shares across 8,781 transactions, worth 23.9 million dinars (\$73.6 million).

Global markets navigate inflation, fiscal risks, geopolitics, & policy expectations

By National Bank of Kuwait

Global markets this week remained dominated by the interplay between inflation concerns, rising sovereign yields, and geopolitical risks. In the US, Treasury yields retreated after touching multi-decade highs, with the 10-year yield easing from above 5.34% as investors sought safety amid growing concerns over France's fiscal deterioration, before seeing declines following a weaker-than-expected September payrolls report. Economic data presented a mixed picture, with consumer spending rising 0.6% MoM, core PCE inflation moderating to 0.2% MoM and 3.0% YoY, and initial jobless claims falling to 197K. However, September nonfarm payrolls increased by just 29K, the unemployment rate rose to 4.2%, and wage growth eased to 0.1% MoM and 3.0% YoY. Nevertheless, ISM prices paid surged to 77.9, reinforcing concerns that inflation pressures remain sticky. Federal Reserve communication remained mixed, with Dallas Fed President Logan indicating rates may need to rise by at least another 50 bps, while softer labor market data led investors to sharply reduce expectations for an October rate hike. DXY closed the week at 101.932 [+0.95%]. In Europe, France's fiscal challenges intensified, with the 10-year yield rising to 4.9% and the spread over German bunds widening to 141 bps, its highest level since 2011, raising concerns about broader Eurozone stability. Eurozone inflation accelerated to 3.8% YoY from 3.2% YoY, while core inflation rose to 2.5% YoY, reinforcing expectations that the ECB may deliver at least one additional rate hike by year-end. Swiss inflation also rose modestly to 1.0% YoY. EUR/USD and USD/CHF closed the week at 1.1255 [-1.19%] and 0.8288 [+0.06%] respectively. In the UK, second-quarter GDP growth was revised higher to 0.5% QoQ, confirming the UK as the fastest-growing G7 economy during the first half of 2026. GBP/USD closed the week at 1.3241 [-0.05%]. Across Asia Pacific, Tokyo core inflation accelerated to 2.7% YoY and core-core inflation jumped to 3.0% YoY, reinforcing expectations of further BOJ tightening, while Australia raised rates by 25 bps to 4.60% before softer inflation data eased expectations of another near-term move. USD/JPY and AUD/USD closed at 157.85 [+0.36%] and 0.6956 [-0.95%] respectively. In China, authorities rolled out targeted stimulus measures, including a 25 bps cut in the Pledged Supplementary Lending (PSL) rate to 1.5% and additional lending support, to support growth within the government's 4.5%-5.0% target range. USD/CNH closed the week at 6.7058 [-0.25%]. Meanwhile, Brent crude and gold closed the week at 102.25 [-1.98%] and 4141.19 [-3.35%], respectively, while the US Treasury 2s10s and 5s30s curves moved by +13.49 bps and 6.59 bps, respectively, as evolving inflation expectations, rising fiscal concerns, and Middle East geopolitical developments continued to drive global market sentiment.

US Consumer Spending +0.6% MoM, Core PCE +0.2% MoM and +3.0% YoY as Labor Market Conditions Ease

US economic data painted a mixed picture of resilient demand alongside weaker labor market data, prompting investors to scale back expectations for near-term Federal Reserve tightening. Nonfarm payrolls increased by just 29K in September, well below expectations, while the unemployment rate rose to 4.2% and average hourly earnings slowed to 0.1% MoM and 3.0% YoY, the weakest annual wage growth since 2021. Despite softer labor market conditions, consumer activity remained robust, with inflation-adjusted personal spending rising 0.6% MoM in August, the strongest increase since March 2025. Meanwhile, core PCE inflation increased 0.2% MoM and 3.0% YoY, below expectations, while Q2 GDP growth was revised higher to 2.2% from 1.5%. Manufacturing activity remained in expansionary territory, with the ISM PMI at 54.5, although input cost pressures intensified as the prices-paid index surged to 77.9 from 71.1. Initial jobless claims fell to 197K, underscoring still-limited layoffs. Financial markets responded positively to the softer employment report, with Treasury yields declining, equities advancing, and expectations for an October rate hike easing significantly.

Fed Officials Signal Diverging Policy Views as October Hike Odds Fall Below 25%

Recent Federal Reserve communication highlighted diverging policy views, with Dallas Fed President Lorie Logan maintaining a hawkish stance while several senior officials advocated patience. Logan stated that the policy rate may need to rise by an additional 50 bps or more to restore price stability, although she noted that higher Treasury term premiums and tighter financial conditions could reduce the need for further rate increases. In contrast, Vice Chair Philip Jefferson, New York Fed President John Williams, and Vice Chair for Supervision Michelle Bowman emphasized the need for more time to assess incoming data and underlying economic trends before adjusting policy. Following the weaker-than-expected September payrolls report and moderation in wage growth, markets further reduced expectations for near-term tightening, with futures-implied odds of an October rate hike falling to 23% from around 70% earlier in the week. Meanwhile, 30-year Treasury yields have risen 66.8 bps since 30 June, reinforcing broader financial tightening.

United States and Canada

US 10Y Treasury Yield Retreats from 24-Year High as 2Y Yield Falls to 4.82%

US Treasuries staged a strong rebound after a prolonged global bond selloff, with safe-haven demand accelerating as investors reacted to deepening fiscal and political concerns in France. The yield on the US 10-year Treasury retreated from a 24-year high above 5.34%, while the 2-year yield declined by 2.7 bps on the week to 4.82%. Softer-than-expected US manufacturing data and comments from Fed Vice Chair Philip Jefferson suggesting policymakers could take more time before deciding on further tightening also supported bond prices. The rally accelerated following September's weaker-than-expected labor

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.1391	1.1215	1.1395	1.1255	1.1130	1.1330	1.1300
GBP	1.3247	1.3181	1.3311	1.3241	1.3140	1.3280	1.3246
JPY	157.28	156.38	158.45	157.85	157.30	159.05	156.66
CHF	0.8283	0.8228	0.8383	0.8288	0.8200	0.8475	0.8198

market report, which showed nonfarm payrolls increased by just 29K and the unemployment rate rose to 4.2%, reinforcing expectations that the Fed will remain on hold at its October meeting. DXY last printed at 101.932.

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Europe and the United Kingdom

Eurozone Inflation Accelerates to 3.8% YoY and Core Inflation Rises to 2.5% YoY

Eurozone consumer prices accelerated to 3.8% YoY in September, up from 3.2% YoY in August and above the market expectation of 3.7%, marking the highest inflation rate since September 2023. Core inflation, which excludes energy and other volatile components, rose to 2.5% YoY, while services inflation increased to 3.2% YoY, indicating continued un-

derlying price pressures. The latest acceleration was driven primarily by higher energy costs linked to ongoing disruptions in oil and natural gas markets, with inflation across the bloc's largest economies exceeding expectations and reaching 5.0% YoY in Spain. In Germany, inflation rose to 3.3% YoY, the highest level in almost three years, while core inflation remained stable at 2.4% YoY. Although ECB policymakers have signalled no urgency for an immediate rate increase, inflation remains well above the 2% target, supporting expectations for at least one additional policy rate hike by year-end, with financial markets increasingly pricing a move in December rather than October. EUR/USD last printed at 1.1255.

France 10Y Yield Surges Above 4.9% as Debt-to-GDP Nears 120% and Spread Over Germany Widens to 141 bps

French sovereign debt came under renewed pressure as concerns over fiscal deterioration, political uncertainty, and rising borrowing costs drove a sharp repricing of risk. France's 10-year government bond yield rose to 4.9%, its highest level since 2002, while the spread over equivalent German bunds widened to 141 bps, the largest since 2011. Investor concerns have intensified as the fiscal deficit moves further away from the government's 5% target and public debt remains near 120% of GDP, almost double Germany's level. The government's latest budget includes ambitious spending cuts aimed at restoring fiscal credibility, though implementation risks remain elevated amid a fragmented political landscape ahead of next year's presidential elections. Market participants increasingly view France as a key source of Eurozone risk, with concerns extending to potential contagion effects on regional bond markets, fiscal governance, and the euro.

UK GDP Revised Higher to +0.5% QoQ in Q2; Economy Expands +1.2% in H1 2026

The UK economy outperformed expectations in the first half of 2026, with second-quarter GDP growth revised higher to 0.5% QoQ from an earlier estimate of 0.4%, following a 0.6% expansion in the first quarter. Output increased 1.2% during the first six months of the year, making the UK the fastest-growing G7 economy over that period. Growth was supported by a 0.3% rise in household consumption, a 1.8% increase in business investment, and a stronger-than-expected 2.8% surge in exports. Real household disposable income per capita advanced 1.0%, while the savings ratio increased to 8.8%. Despite the strong performance, economists expect momentum to moderate in the second half of the year as higher energy costs, rising borrowing rates, and persistent inflation pressures weigh on household spending and business activity. GBP/USD last printed at 1.3241.

Swiss Inflation Accelerates to 1.0% YoY as Core Inflation Edges Up to 0.5% YoY

Swiss consumer prices rose to 1.0% YoY in September from 0.8% in August, reaching its highest level in two years and reflecting the combined impact of higher oil prices and a weaker Swiss franc. Core inflation also edged higher to 0.5% YoY from 0.4%, marking a second consecutive increase. Nevertheless, inflation remains comfortably within the Swiss National Bank's 0%-2% target range and significantly below the Eurozone

inflation rate of 3.8%. Policymakers continue to view the recent acceleration as largely temporary, although the weakening franc is contributing to rising import prices and gradually increasing domestic inflation pressures. Market participants remain divided on when the SNB may begin normalizing rates from their current zero level. USD/CHF last printed at 0.8288.

Asia-Pacific

Tokyo Core CPI Jumps to 2.7% YoY and Core-Core Inflation Accelerates to 3.0% YoY

Inflation in Tokyo accelerated sharply in September, strengthening expectations that the Bank of Japan could deliver another policy rate increase before year-end. Tokyo core CPI rose 2.7% YoY, surpassing forecasts of 2.4% and accelerating from 1.8% in August, marking the fastest pace in ten months. A more closely watched measure excluding both fresh food and energy climbed 3.0% YoY from 2.0%, its strongest reading since August 2025. Service-sector inflation also accelerated to 2.3% YoY from 1.4%, reflecting growing pass-through of labor and input costs. Following last month's decision to raise rates to 1.25%, BOJ policymakers reiterated that preventing inflation from overshooting the 2% target has become a key objective, with swap markets pricing an 80% probability of another rate increase by December. USD/JPY last printed at 157.85.

Australia Raises Cash Rate to 4.60% as CPI Holds at 4.0% YoY and Core Inflation at 3.6% YoY

The Reserve Bank of Australia raised its cash rate by 25 bps to 4.60%, the highest level in approximately 15 years, citing persistent inflation risks linked to resilient demand and elevated energy prices. However, subsequent inflation data provided some reassurance, with headline CPI moderating to 4.0% YoY in August versus expectations of 4.1%, while core inflation remained stable at 3.6% YoY and trimmed-mean inflation slowed to 0.2% MoM from 0.5%. Housing costs remained the largest contributor to inflation, increasing 5.7% YoY, while fuel prices surged 14.8% MoM. Following the data release, markets sharply reduced expectations of a further November rate hike, with investors increasingly expecting the RBA to pause while assessing the cumulative effects of tightening. AUD/USD last printed at 0.6956.

China Targets 4.5%-5.0% Growth as PBOC Cuts PSL Rate by 25 bps to 1.5% and Expands Targeted Lending

China unveiled its largest stimulus package since 2024, although markets viewed the measures as insufficient to address deeper structural challenges facing the economy. Authorities expanded targeted lending programs by an additional CNY 700 billion, introduced mortgage subsidies for qualifying homebuyers, and reduced the pledged supplementary lending rate by 25 bps to 1.5%. The package aims to support growth within the government's 4.5%-5.0% annual target range following second-quarter growth of 4.3% YoY. While recent PMI data suggest manufacturing activity returned to expansion in September, economists argue that weak domestic demand, subdued property activity, and elevated local government debt continue to constrain the recovery. Investors responded cautiously, with Chinese equities extending losses and government bond yields remaining near multi-year lows, highlighting lingering concerns over the effectiveness of targeted policy support. USD/CNH last printed at 6.7058.

Kuwait

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30795.

Marafi: ABK expands customer engagement beyond banking

ABK hosts an exclusive evening with Panerai for its customers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) hosted an exclusive customer event in collaboration with Morad Yousuf Behbehani, the agent and distributor of luxury watch brand Panerai. Attended by Bank representatives and a select group of customers with an interest in fine watchmaking, the event formed part of ABK's ongoing efforts to engage with different customer segments and meet their aspirations through partnerships across Kuwait's various business sectors.

The event offered attendees the opportunity to explore Panerai's latest innovations and watch designs, which combine a rich maritime heritage with advanced watchmaking technology.

The evening featured a special showcase of some of Panerai's most renowned timepieces, alongside detailed presentations by the brand's experts

on mechanical movements and the exacting standards applied in crafting its watches.

Commenting on the occasion, Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, said, "This event forms part of our efforts to strengthen relationships with our customers and offer them exclusive experiences that extend beyond traditional banking services. Our collaboration with Panerai reflects our shared commitment to excellence and innovation, and to providing distinctive experiences that match our customers' aspirations."

Marafi explained that the evening reflected ABK's commitment to introducing new approaches to customer



Johair Marafi

engagement, building lasting relationships, and offering exclusive experiences that enrich customers' lifestyles. These efforts further strengthen the Bank's position as a trusted partner for their banking and financial needs.

She added, "This event is part of a series of initiatives through which we aim to create meaningful opportunities to connect with our customers beyond everyday transactions. It also provided an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to staying close to them and delivering solutions and services that strengthen their confidence in us."

Marafi concluded, "This initiative complements the activities the Bank organizes throughout the year for its customers, helping us better understand their needs and meet them through compelling offerings, while reinforcing our distinguished position within Kuwait's banking sector."



Distinctive design for Panerai watches.



Explore the world of horology.



A group photo on the sidelines of the event.

US Treasury: Iran loaded zero crude oil last month

WASHINGTON, Oct 6, (KUNA): US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent affirmed on Monday that Iran loaded zero crude oil onto tankers last month.

In a post on X, Bessent said, "Operation Economic Outcast is delivering results: the rial has plunged to record lows, Iran loaded zero crude oil onto tankers last month, and even Iran's top security official has admitted the country is facing one of the most difficult periods in its history."

"The Iranian regime allows its own people to suffer while it pours resources into terrorism. "Operation Economic Outcast will not stop until the Iranian regime understands that the Trump Administration will never allow the regime to fund terrorism and develop a nuclear weapon," he added.

Southeast Asia power demand surges as supply risks multiply

BANGKOK, Oct 6, (AP): Risks to Southeast Asia's energy supplies are multiplying faster than nations are coming up with solutions to meet rapidly rising demand for electricity, according to an International Energy Agency report released Tuesday.

Southeast Asia has a seemingly insatiable appetite for energy, but the region is now in a pinch as energy costs rise, partly due to the Iran war. Fast-growing Southeast Asian economies also need more electricity to power data centers and keep homes and businesses cool.

To beef up regional energy security, the report says Southeast Asian nations should share electricity amongst each other and diversify where they get their power. But countries face multiple hurdles, from territorial conflicts between neighbors to differing types of national energy markets, according to analysts, who warn these barriers may keep the region vulnerable to energy shocks.

"Southeast Asia is one of the world's most dynamic regions, but its rising needs for energy to power its economic growth face challenges in an increasingly uncertain global energy landscape," Fatih Birol, the IEA executive director, said in a statement.

With the Iran war now bleeding into its seventh month, the IEA warns energy security issues among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will intensify as the region's electricity demands outpace growth in power generation.

Rapid industrialization, urbanization and rising living standards are driving Southeast Asia's energy demand, which has risen almost 30% per person over the last 10 years. From now until 2030,

the IEA forecasts demand will expand at an average annual rate of 5.4% because of demand for cooling, data centers and industry.

The energy crisis stemming from the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has been a wake-up call for Southeast Asia, which has suffered fuel shortages and soaring costs.

Unlike their wealthier East Asian neighbors Japan and South Korea, countries in Southeast Asia have limited energy reserves and fewer resources for dealing with the crisis.

To survive, countries went into a state of energy triage to conserve power, while also burning more coal and buying Russian crude oil. But as the conflict lengthened, it also led to new policies for cleaner power - from nuclear energy agreements, to solar power subsidies and incentives for buying electric vehicles.

That can help diversify the region's energy sector, according to Amy Kong, with Zero Carbon Analytics. "The Iran war has given governments a bit of a reality check," she said.

If Southeast Asia wants to improve its energy security, nations need to continue diversifying energy supply sources and routes, make greater use of domestically available energy resources and accelerate electrification alongside efficiency improvements, the IEA said.

Countries need to act, and move faster, said Putra Adhiguna, with the Jakarta-based Energy Shift Institute. "Southeast Asia is at a crossroads," he said. "There needs to be much more drastic change in how the region adopts the energy transition and diversifies its traditional energy sources."

Strategic partner of the AIU AI & Cybersecurity GCC Forum

Zain advances dialogue on AI governance & cybersecurity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Zain Kuwait announced its strategic partnership with the fourth edition of the AI & Cybersecurity GCC Forum 2026, hosted by the American International University in Kuwait (AIU). The forum brought together a distinguished group of decision-makers, government officials, academic and technology leaders, experts, and specialists from Kuwait and across the region.



Areej Al-Ghanim with AI-Khashti and Zain officials at the company's booth.

The opening ceremony was attended by AIU Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Faiza Al-Kharafi, AIU Board Member Areej Al-Ghanim, AIU President Dr. Youssef Haik, Chairman of the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) Dr. Khaled Al-Zamel, Head of the National Cybersecurity Center Abber Al-Awadi, Chairman of the Artificial Intelligence of Things Association Sheikh Mohammed Al-Sabah, and Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti.



Al-Khashti delivers Zain's remarks during the opening ceremony.



Dr. Faiza Al-Kharafi honors Waleed Al-Khashti in recognition of Zain's support for the forum, in the presence of Dr. Youssef Haik and Sheikh Mohammed Al-Sabah.

Zain's participation builds on its ongoing role in supporting platforms that bring together the private sector, academia, and decision-makers to exchange knowledge and expertise around the most significant shifts shaping the technology landscape. This is particularly important as AI adoption continues to accelerate, bringing with it new considerations around governance, cybersecurity, privacy, ethics, and the responsible use of technology.

Over two days, the forum featured a comprehensive program focused on the future of AI and cybersecurity, including AI policy, Large Language Models (LLMs), Agentic AI, digital transformation, and governance. The first day brought together senior executives and government leaders for strategic discussions, while the second day, held at the AIU campus, focused on the next generation of technology talent through workshops, panel discussions, and practical experiences.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, Waleed Al-Khashti said: "Zain's strategic partnership with this forum comes at a time when AI is advancing at an extraordinary pace, reshaping how we work, innovate, and create value for society."

He added: "At Zain, we strongly believe in the importance of collaboration between the private sector and academia, particularly as emerging technologies cannot be addressed in isolation. The private sector brings practical experience and real-world application, while academia contributes research, knowledge, and the young talent that will help shape the future."

Al-Khashti continued: "Zain has been among the early companies in Kuwait to responsibly deploy AI use cases across different areas of the business, including solutions based on Large Language Models (LLMs). More importantly, these capabilities are developed and managed internally by our national talent and operated within Zain's own infrastructure, helping us maintain data sovereignty while strengthening security and privacy."

He stressed that innovation and cybersecurity must advance together, noting that Zain continues to strengthen its cybersecurity capabilities and foster a strong cyber-aware culture across the organization. This commitment also extends to investing in the next generation and equipping young people with the digital, AI, and cybersecurity skills that will be essential to the future of Kuwait's digital economy.

Al-Khashti concluded: "The real opportunity is not simply to adopt AI faster, but to adopt it responsibly and securely in a way that creates sustainable value for everyone."

As part of the forum, Zain also participated in a number of panel discussions, including "AI Policy and Governance: Shaping Responsible AI Adoption," featuring Hind Al-Amiri,

Cloud and Database System Team Leader at Zain Kuwait. The session explored practical approaches that governments, institutions, and businesses can adopt to establish effective frameworks for responsible AI adoption and governance.

The discussion examined how organizations can balance innovation with appropriate safeguards, while addressing accountability, transparency, trust, privacy, security, risk management, and responsible technology deployment. It also explored these issues from a regional perspective and considered the specific priorities and requirements of the GCC.

On the second day, Zain also joined a panel titled "From Education to Innovation: Preparing the Next Generation for a Digital Future," featuring Humoud Al-Khamees, Cloud Networking Department Manager at Zain Kuwait. The discussion highlighted the importance of developing young people's digital skills and strengthening the connection between academic learning and practical application, helping students keep pace with emerging technologies and the evolving demands of the job market.

The session also highlighted the role

of collaboration between academia and the private sector in transforming knowledge into practical experience and preparing young talent to contribute meaningfully to the innovation ecosystem and the digital economy.

The forum addressed a wide range of issues shaping today's technology landscape, including the future of AI policy, governance and ethics, Large Language Models, Agentic AI, and digital transformation, as well as the increasingly important relationship between advances in AI and cybersecurity requirements. The program featured specialized sessions and workshops led by regional and international experts, with a focus on moving the conversation beyond identifying opportunities and challenges toward practical approaches and actionable recommendations.

Zain's strategic partnership reflects its continued efforts to support Kuwait's innovation ecosystem, strengthen collaboration between the private sector and academic institutions, and contribute to the development of national capabilities in advanced technology fields. These efforts support the development of a safer, more innovative digital economy that is better equipped to capitalize on the opportunities created by emerging technologies.

Reaffirming its commitment to supporting youth & developing their leadership & management skills

Gulf Bank expands strategic partnership with GUST to sponsor Management Club

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Gulf Bank has expanded its strategic partnership with Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) to include sponsorship of the university's Management Club, alongside its existing support for the Engineering Club. The collaboration reinforces the Bank's commitment to empowering students and helping them develop the skills, confidence and professional connections they need for their future careers.

Through the partnership, Gulf Bank will support student-led activities throughout the academic year, including seminars, workshops, discussions and interactive events. These initiatives will provide opportunities for students to strengthen their leadership, management and entrepreneurial skills, engage with business professionals and gain a better understanding of the workplace.

Commenting on the agreement, Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Officer at Gulf Bank, said: "Our strategic partnership with GUST is built on a shared commitment to students and their future. Since the university's establishment, Gulf Bank has supported initiatives that enrich the student experience and help young people connect what they learn in the classroom with the opportunities and challenges they will encounter in their careers."

Aleisa congratulated GUST's management and students on ranking first in Kuwait in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, recognising the university's commitment



Najla Aleisa signs the sponsorship agreement with Management Club President Saad Almutairi.



A group photo of the Gulf Bank and GUST teams.

to academic quality, research and institutional excellence.

She added: "Student clubs give young people valuable opportunities to take initiative, work as a team and put their ideas into practice. Building on our successful collaboration with the Engineering Club, we are pleased to extend our support to the Management Club and help more students develop their capabilities, learn from industry professionals and explore their ambitions."

"Investing in young people is an in-

vestment in Kuwait's future," Aleisa continued. "Through our partnership with GUST, we want to create meaningful learning experiences that help students grow into confident professionals, entrepreneurs and leaders who contribute to their communities and the country's development."

The expanded partnership forms part of Gulf Bank's sustainability and social responsibility strategy, which prioritises education, youth empowerment, innovation and entrepreneurship. By working closely with edu-

cational institutions, the Bank helps connect academic learning with practical experience, strengthening students' readiness for professional life.

Alongside career readiness, Gulf Bank supports young people in developing greater financial confidence. Through its support for the Diraya financial awareness campaign, the Bank encourages students to build sound financial habits, understand banking products and services, and make informed decisions. Complementing these efforts, Gulf

Bank's red student packages offer banking solutions tailored to students' needs and lifestyles, supporting them as they take their first steps towards financial independence.

The Bank's commitment to youth development also extends to its longstanding partnership with INJAZ Kuwait, spanning more than 20 years, through which it continues to help young people develop essential skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

Members of GUST's Management Club welcomed the partnership, noting

that Gulf Bank's support will enrich the student experience and broaden career perspectives by creating more opportunities to learn from and connect with professionals in business and management.

Established in 2013, the Management Club helps students develop their management skills through engagement with industry experts, business leaders and entrepreneurs. Its activities encourage professional networking, innovation and entrepreneurship across the university community.

Participating with a delegation headed by Al Marzouq & including Alshamlan

KFH showcases its leading banking experience at IMF & World Bank Annual Meetings

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Group announced its participation in the 2026 Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group through a high-level delegation representing the Group. The meetings are scheduled to take place from 12 to 18 October 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the attendance of finance ministers, central bank governors, banking leaders, and financial decision-makers from around the world.

The KFH delegation participating in the meetings will include, the Chairman, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al Marzouq, Group Chief Executive Officer, Khaled Yousif Alshamlan, Deputy Group CEO Treasury and Financial Institutions, David O’Loan, Chief Treasury Officer Kuwait, Ahmad Al-Sumait, KFH Capital Chief Executive Officer, Abdullah Al-Haddad, and Head of KFH Group Public Relations and Media, Youssef Al-Ruwaieh.

This participation reinforces KFH’s international presence and underscores its leading position on both the regional and global stage as a world-leading Islamic banking group. KFH operates in 10 countries worldwide, most notably Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and Germany, supported by an extensive network of more than 600 branches. The Group continues to pursue a clear strategic vision aimed at strengthening its position among the world’s top 100 banks in the coming years.



KFH Chairman Hamad Al Marzouq



KFH Group CEO Khaled Alshamlan

The participation also reflects KFH’s ongoing commitment to strengthening its presence at international economic forums and showcasing its pioneering banking experience. It further highlights the pivotal role Islamic finance

plays in promoting financial stability and supporting sustainable development pathways.

The World Bank Group and IMF Annual Meetings also provide a valuable opportunity to explore cooperation and partnership prospects with global financial institutions, while highlighting the role of the Islamic banking industry and KFH’s extensive experience in Islamic finance. KFH’s global presence has been affirmed by its ability to sustain growth, drive innovation, and keep pace with transformations in the financial sector, positioning the Group as a model capable of contributing to sustainable development. The meetings also offer an opportunity to showcase the strength of the Kuwaiti economy and the resilience of its financial and banking system.

KFH Group’s delegation is expected to participate in a series of meetings attended by finance ministers, central bank governors, and senior executives of major financial institutions from across the globe to discuss ways to enhance growth prospects, while addressing a range of issues related to economic development and the advancement of the financial and banking sectors.

KFH will also participate in the Gulf-Asia Economic Forum through a session entitled “Banking, Investment and Digital Infrastructure,” featuring a distinguished group of officials and representatives from investment and technology institutions across the GCC countries and Asia.

Driving digital innovation

Warba wins 6 esteemed awards from the ‘Islamic Finance News’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Warba Bank achieves a distinguished milestone by winning six prestigious awards at the Islamic Finance News (IFN) Awards, in recognition of the bank’s leadership in arranging and managing sukuk issuances, providing distinguished investment solutions, and driving innovation in digital banking services. The bank was awarded six awards, namely:

- IFN Perpetual Sukuk Deal of the Year 2025
- IFN Hybrid Sukuk Deal of the Year 2025
- IFN UAE Deal of the Year 2025
- Best Digital Offering by a Bank in Kuwait
- Best Money Market Fund in Kuwait - KWD
- Best Money Market Fund in Kuwait - USD

This achievement further reinforces Warba Bank’s position as a leading financial institution and reflects its commitment to delivering innovative Sharia compliant solutions, strengthening its presence in global markets, continuing to build strategic partnerships with major financial institutions and corporations worldwide, as well as driving digital innovation across financial products and services. This recognition also builds on the bank’s strong track record, having earned six similar awards from IFN last year, including awards for several landmark financing transactions arranged and managed by the bank.

Six Awards reflect expertise in structuring and executing financing transactions

Warba Bank earned six prestigious awards in recognition of its role in arranging and managing financing transactions across a range of structures and formats, underscoring its expertise Islamic finance.

These awards reinforce Warba Bank’s continued role in Islamic capital markets, by delivering innovative Sharia compliant financing and investment solutions that meet the needs of financial institutions and corporates.

Growing Expertise in Global Islamic Finance and International Sukuk

This milestone highlights the continuous development of Warba Bank’s capabilities, as the bank participates in transactions across multiple markets, drawing on its international market presence.

The bank’s expertise in arranging and managing financing transactions aligns with the bank’s strategy to strengthen its position as an Islamic financial institution capable of offering advanced financing solutions to financial institutions and corporates, while maintaining adherence to Sharia principles and internationally recognized professional standards.

Warba Bank participated in arranging a \$450 million sukuk issuance for Arada Developments, a real estate development company in the United Arab Emirates, acting as Joint Lead Arranger and Bookrunner.

The transaction received strong demand, with the order book reaching \$2 billion, more than 3.5 times the issuance size. Given the nature and structure of the transaction, Warba Bank secured two awards: IFN Hybrid Sukuk Deal of the Year 2025 and IFN UAE Deal of the Year 2025.

Warba Bank also successfully arranged Türkiye’s VakıfKatilim Debut Perpetual Sukuk Issuance acting as Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner, the order book attracted

\$1.8 billion in investor demand, earning Warba Bank the IFN Perpetual Sukuk Deal of the Year 2025 award.

Warba Bank Reinforces Its Leadership in Sharia-Compliant Investment Solutions

Affirming Warba Bank’s leadership in offering bespoke investment solutions compliant with Sharia principles, the bank won the Best Money Market Fund in Kuwait - KWD and Best Money Market Fund in Kuwait – USD awards. These awards reflect the distinguished performance of both funds and the effectiveness of their investment strategies in managing liquidity while delivering competitive returns.

Chorghay: The Awards Reflect Warba Bank’s Expertise in Islamic Finance

On this occasion, Yusuf Chorghay, Acting Chief of Investment Banking Group at Warba Bank, stated:

“We are proud that Warba Bank has received prestigious honors from the Islamic Finance News Awards, which recognize the bank’s efforts and expertise in arranging and managing Islamic financing transactions. They also reflect our ability to provide innovative financing solutions that comply with Sharia principles and meet the needs of institutions and corporations across local and international markets. This milestone provides further motivation to continue developing our capabilities in financial markets and strengthening Warba Bank’s presence as a trusted partner in executing specialized financing transactions.”

Chorghay added: “Our success in executing Sukuk transactions and collaborating with global financial institutions and corporations underscore the importance of specialized expertise and the ability to develop financing structures tailored to the requirements of each transaction. At Warba Bank, we continue to invest in our people and expertise and to expand our partnerships, supporting our strategy to solidify our standing among active Islamic financial institutions in global markets.”

IFN: A Specialized Platform in the Islamic Finance Industry

Islamic Finance News (IFN) is a specialized platform dedicated to tracking and covering developments across the Islamic finance sector and Islamic capital markets. It provides specialized coverage and analysis of institutions, transactions, and markets operating in this sector. Its awards program features multiple categories covering deals, financing, Sukuk, and diverse segments of Islamic financial services.

IFN Deal Awards evaluate transactions submitted by financial institutions based on a range of factors related to the nature of the transaction, its impact, complexity, level of innovation, challenges encountered, and the parties involved.

About Warba Bank:

Warba Bank has achieved significant milestones over a relatively short period, establishing a leading position in Islamic digital banking. With one of the largest shareholder bases among local banks, Warba Bank maintains close ties with different segments of Kuwaiti society. This achievement reaffirms the bank’s standing as a trusted banking partner that combines innovation and social responsibility in delivering the best financial products and services. In this context, Warba Bank also received the Best Digital Offering by a Bank in Kuwait award by IFN.



KIBS opens fifth Risk Management Leaders Program.

Strengthening risk management talent

Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies launches 5th cohort of the Risk Management Leaders Program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: The Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS) inaugurated the fifth cohort of the Risk Management Leaders Program on Sunday, October 4, 2026, at its headquarters. The program is part of Kafa’a, a strategic initiative launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in collaboration with Kuwaiti banks and managed by KIBS.

The program aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to make strategic decisions and apply effective risk management practices within banks and financial institutions. It also seeks to prepare a new generation of specialized risk management leaders in line with international best practices.

Ms. Rana Al Nibari explained that the program aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to make strategic decisions and develop effective risk management practices

within banks and financial institutions. Al Nibari added that the program brings together a select group of Kuwaiti professionals from the banking sector, alongside participants from other sectors as part of the banks’ social responsibility efforts, to prepare a new generation of risk management leaders in line with international best practices.

Spanning nearly five months, the program is delivered in four phases. The first two phases take place in Kuwait and include training sessions and practical lectures in risk management led by local and international experts. The third phase focuses on the preparation and presentation of case studies and graduation projects.

The fourth and final phase consists of one week of international field training in collaboration with the University of St Andrews Business School in Scotland, featuring practical workshops and inter-

active learning experiences designed to strengthen participants’ professional capabilities.

Speaking at the opening, Ms. Rana A. Al-Nibari, Director General of KIBS, welcomed participants and stressed the program’s role in cultivating a new generation of leaders specialized in risk management in line with international best practices. She expressed appreciation to the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Chairman of KIBS’ Board of Directors Basel A. Al-Haroon, as well as the Board and HR managers at participating banks, for their continued support of this program and other training initiatives.

The Kafa’a initiative supports the development of qualified national talent by providing participants with the knowledge and professional skills needed to contribute to the continued advancement of Kuwait’s financial and banking sector.

Why it’s more important than ever to jump-start entrepreneurial careers from college classroom

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



By Raghupathy Sivakumar
Georgia Institute of Technology

Recent college graduates are facing a job market that’s only getting tougher. Their unemployment rate hit 5.7%, compared to 4.1% for all workers, in June 2026. That may not sound like much, but it’s one of the worst rates in the past 20 years.

Meanwhile, roughly 4 in 10 graduates are underemployed, which means they work in jobs that typically don’t require a college degree. That’s the highest rate since the COVID-19 pandemic.

As an educator for more than 25 years, I see the growing anxiety every day. In a change from years past, parents are now peppering me with questions: How can their kids leverage their college education in such a fast-changing world? Will they learn skills in school that will soon be antiquated once they graduate?

What’s essential to understand is that technology adoption cycles have accelerated at a breathtaking rate over the past few years. While the telephone and television took decades to reach 100 million users, ChatGPT and TikTok attained that threshold in a matter of months. Colleges need to adapt their curricula accordingly.

Georgia Tech, where I teach engineering, has focused on pushing entrepreneurship across our campus since 2014. We’re seeing encouraging signs from our follow-ups with graduating students that it’s helping their early careers.

I believe one of the best ways to adjust to these changes is to embed entrepreneurial experiences throughout college. Such hands-on learning, in turn, develops versatile, adaptable talent, producing graduates who can pivot across jobs as industries, technologies and opportunities evolve. And this needn’t be confined to business students - young people in all majors can benefit.

The educational value of entrepreneurship isn’t principally that every student will be able to start a company. It’s that entrepreneurial experiences develop the capabilities students need in a rapidly changing economy - and ultimately build more resilient careers.

Here are some ways educators can future-proof the college experience, based on what I’ve learned and applied at Georgia Tech.

Making adaptability a core skill: Students need to learn how to be nimble. This means recognizing important changes in the landscape, identifying new problems and the opportunities they create, articulating a response and mobilizing the necessary resources. Ultimately, this approach will help students be prepared for the real world.

To impart these lessons, I believe colleges should provide hands-on opportunities to help students learn through experience before they enter the workforce. For example, they could encourage students to develop a business venture idea that addresses a newly created opportunity in the marketplace through accelerators, or short-term “boot camps” for young companies to help them grown quickly. One example is Greptile, a startup that came out of the Georgia Tech CREATE-X accelerator.

The goal isn’t that a startup will be launched - that depends on several factors coming together - but that the student gains the experience to understand a changing landscape.

Understanding customer value: Colleges can also teach students how to think about customer value - namely, why the solution they’re working on matters to the consumers buying it. This isn’t just for business students. All students can gain from learning to think about the customers or clients they will deal with in their careers. In fact, stu-

dents from 38 majors have participated in the entrepreneurship programs at Georgia Tech.

Through on-the-ground experience that requires them to find customers, students can learn about the real-world impact of the products and services they create. When students spend hundreds of hours selling their young startup to the outside world, they learn to understand value at a deep level.

Emphasizing fundamentals: Fundamental skills are key because they outlast the technology underpinning the business. In fact, the more quickly specific technologies change, the more important a strong grounding in fundamentals becomes. This means it’s a smarter investment to offer, say, a fundamental course on wireless networking or deep learning concepts over a course that teaches specific wireless technologies or emphasizes the use of a specific model. A strong foundation gives students the tools to adapt to technologies that may not yet exist when they graduate.

Another great advantage of entrepreneurial experiences is that they force students to deal with uncertainty, recognize opportunities, work around resource constraints and learn how to create value.

But other strategies work as well. A few examples are project-based learning, internships and interdisciplinary capstone classes that let students pursue independent research projects as their final course.

That said, entrepreneurial experiences provide an unusually concentrated and effective environment that requires students to solve problems, engage with customers and mobilize resources they don’t directly control - all while getting real-world feedback.

More and more universities and colleges understand this point and have ramped up support for entrepreneurial activity for their students, such as Cornell and the University of Washington. At Georgia Tech, we have a playbook that we have developed through our experiences that follows the following principles:

Embed entrepreneurship into the curriculum: One simple way for colleges to incorporate entrepreneurial experiences into their coursework is to offer an entrepreneurship minor to all students, regardless of major. This would offer the opportunity to a broader range of students who otherwise might miss out.

Build a pathway to business creation: Entrepreneurial education is most effective when it leads to something bigger. To that end, many colleges are now offering a startup accelerator, including MIT, Rice University and the University of Texas.

But more is needed: A startup pathway that caters to students at all stages can substantially broaden participation and impact, regardless of whether a business results. At Georgia Tech, we have a learn/make/launch/scale pathway that offers programs and resources for learning about entrepreneurship, building solutions, launching new ventures and eventually scaling them.

Offer real venture experience: A successful model combines theoretical learning with hands-on experience. The confidence that students gain through that experience may be at least as important an educational outcome as the viability of the startups they launch. After all, since most startups tend to fail, confidence is a value that successful entrepreneurs have to sustain.

There’s another important element that’s needed: private sector partnerships. Fortunately, entrepreneurial education is well aligned with the interests of universities’ traditional corporate partners.

These companies, especially those with established, successful business models, are eager to hire students with a strong understanding of fundamentals and entrepreneurial confidence. This next generation can help the companies navigate the future. (AP)



Warba Bank secures six Islamic finance awards.

PARIS
FASHION



Models wear creations as part of the Chanel Womenswear Spring Summer 2027 collection presented in Paris, France, Monday, Oct. 5, 2026. (AP)

Twweed learns to stretch
Blazy bends
Chanel rules

PARIS, Oct 6, (AP): Chanel’s artistic director Matthieu Blazy sent the fashion house’s suits stretching towards sportswear and evening dresses drifting through clouds, with Nicole Kidman, Dua Lipa and Pedro Pascal in the audience as he unveiled his spring-summer 2027 collection.

The Monday night show underscored that a year into his creative revival, Blazy has made the house feel newly unpredictable.

The former Bottega Veneta designer succeeded Virginie Viard, who took over after Karl Lagerfeld’s death in 2019. Viard’s tenure brought record sales but Blazy’s contribution has been to restore a sense that Chanel’s familiar ingredients can produce something unexpected.

That renewal is visible in his treatment of the house’s symbols: tweed can stretch; formal jackets sit against bare skin; quilted bags turn slouchy.

The appeal lies in giving established clients something recognizable, and newer ones something to reinterpret.

Beneath illuminated birds at the Grand Palais, Blazy’s collection traced Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel’s passage from Edwardian constraint towards the freedom she sought in dress.

“It’s about the women within a woman,” Blazy wrote in his notes.

Across 83 looks, that meant expanding the possibilities of a Chanel wardrobe: knits that skimmed the body,

masculine tailoring, airy eveningwear and sharply abbreviated skirts.

Raw-edged waistcoats and narrow skirt suits reworked men’s formal clothes. A pearl-embroidered corset top paired with black trousers brought the tension between restriction and ease into focus.

Older fashions lingered in ruffled collars, peplums and traces of corset boning.

The strongest development was Chanel’s new “smocked tweed,” designed to stretch and move with something of athletewear’s ease. It was a useful proposition for an expensive, familiar garment: preserve its character while improving its possibilities.

Competing patterns and frothy tutus sometimes tipped towards costume. Dresses made from layered, printed silk were more persuasive, turning cloud formations and changing light into shifting color.

Model Dyanira Hurbuscher opened and closed the collection - carrying Gabrielle Chanel’s own 2.55 handbag, borrowed from the famed archives.

That element neatly framed the collection’s ambition: continuity with room for change - a balance Blazy’s revitalization of Chanel rests on.

He has made Chanel’s heritage feel available for play, backed by serious work in the ateliers.

Lipa wore a sleeveless skirt suit with pink heels. Kidman attended with her daughter Faith Margaret.



Books

Family, fame & legacy

Douglas reveals once-avoided memories in ‘One Helluva Ride’

NEW YORK, Oct 6, (AP): Michael Douglas, the award-winning actor and producer, recently turned 82. He is a cancer survivor, a recovered addict, a married man, the father and son of actors. He is also an author, who begins his memoir with a message of thanks to his family — past and present and future — for the “sense of immortality.”

Immortality. “Many times my father was asked, ‘Kirk, are you jealous of your son?’” he said during a recent interview at a Manhattan hotel, referring to his late father, fellow actor and sometime combatant Kirk Douglas. “And he said, ‘Jealous?’ This is a sense of immortality, a continuity of generations.”

Family is how Douglas anchors his legacy and his place in a world he fears is breaking down. But there are other ways to live on past your own time: starring in cultural touchstones like “Fatal Attraction” or “Basic Instinct,” or writing a 500-page book that is called “One Helluva Ride,” a famous man’s journey from rebellion and coming-of-age, to midlife success and transgression to the inevitable reckoning with mortality and past mistakes.

Publishing on Tuesday, his memoir is framed around the making of some of his most notable movies, including “Basic Instinct,” “Fatal Attraction,” “Falling Down,” “Romancing the Stone” and two films that brought him Oscars: as a producer of best picture winner “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” and as star of “Wall Street,” when his turn as corporate raider Gordon Gekko brought him the prize for best actor and helped make “Greed is good” a catch phrase for the late 1980s.

Douglas himself was once enough a symbol of hedonism that he was rumored to be undergoing treatment for sex addiction. False, he says, but in his memoir he acknowledges that at the time he met Catherine Zeta-Jones, whom he married in 2000, he was dating five other women. They were all in different cities, he explained during his interview, and “as long as you weren’t seeing somebody else in the same city that might embarrass her, they were all right.”

He is now well settled with Zeta-Jones and satisfied enough with his career that he no longer has any great drive to top himself; he’s just as happy taking a walk in the garden. But Douglas also sees the book as a baring of dilthe most painful moments of his life: his near-archetypal quest to forge an identity apart from his father; a childhood damaged by violence and divorce that only was resolved in the latter part of Kirk’s life; Douglas’ own divorce from first wife, Dian-dra Luker; the substance abuse battles of Michael and son Cameron Douglas, who spent seven years in prison on drug charges; and the diagnosis of Stage IV tongue cancer in 2010 that he at first assumed would kill him.

Wearing a dark blazer, blue shirt and no tie, Douglas is a warm and open conversationalist. During his interview, he spoke of the awesome burdens and privileges of being Kirk Douglas’ son, his improbable decision to become an actor, too, and the single line of dialogue he says comes closest to the truth about himself.

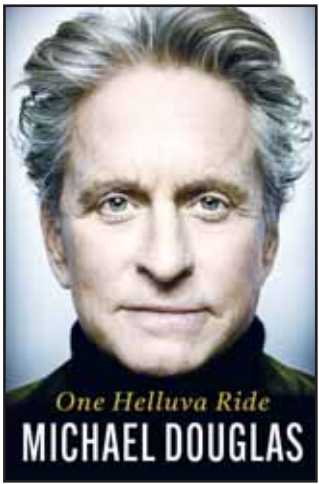
Questions and answers have been edited for brevity and clarity.

The way you describe your father in this book, it feels like something larger than just the two of you: the king and the heir who only wants to live up to him.

DOUGLAS: I looked at dad as just Superman. He was so dynamic. He was so strong. He has such tenacity. I watched him on the screen as Spartacus, saw him as Ulysses ... I never thought I could be the man my father was. I didn’t think it was in the cards. It took me a long time to gain confidence and then to make a lot of the same mistakes he made.

AP: And still, perhaps against all common sense, you decide to become an actor.

DOUGLAS: I never thought about being an actor until I was



This cover image released by Grand Central Publishing shows “One Helluva Ride” by Michael Douglas. (AP)

in college. I had no major. And they called me into the office, “You got to declare a major. You can’t just take general education courses.” I was a bit of a hippie at the time. And I thought, “Well, my mother (Diana Douglas) is an actress, and I had seen her doing stage productions. And my father ...” So I thought it would be an easy course.

I started then performing in school. I had terrible, terrible stage fright, you know, (vomiting in) wastebaskets off stage.

AP: What made you decide to stick with it?

DOUGLAS: I wanted to overcome my stage fright. I wanted to fight the uncomfortable feeling I had of being in front of a camera.

AP: In so much of the book, it seems like you’re at war with yourself.

DOUGLAS: I think that’s probably true. I think I inherited my father’s tenacity, my father’s ambition, and his rage. He had a big temper growing up. There must have been this desire to feel like I was somebody. Because growing up, I was always the son of ...

AP: Your father used to say that the most personal words he ever spoke on screen were in “Lonely Are the Brave,” when he said “I’m a loner clear down deep to my very guts.” What a line. A two-part question: Do you think that was true of him? And is there a line from one of your movies that says the same about yourself?

DOUGLAS: They (his parents) had good friends and everything, but there was always an isolation about him. And I find I have a bit of that, too.

As far as a line for myself, I always love in “Falling Down,” when he (an unemployed defense worker who turns violent) says “I’m the bad guy?”

AP: Why do you relate to that?

DOUGLAS: I’m fairly tough on myself in the book and, you know, honest. I tried to do the right thing but have found myself in situations where it appears that I am the bad guy.

AP: You write about how you regretted spending so much time away from home during your first marriage. But seeing all the movies you made and everything else you did, would you have done it differently if you had the chance?

DOUGLAS: I can’t say I would. I do not believe that you can balance career with family. You just can’t balance it. So I’m always saying to my kids or anybody else that will listen — get your career out of the way before you think about marrying and having kids. That affected my first marriage, because I was consumed.

AP: Could you have written this book if your father was still alive?

DOUGLAS: No.

AP: Why not?

DOUGLAS: Because I was very uncomfortable talking about the early years and his physical abuse. He was of a generation that hit; my mother used the hairbrush. He was tough. That was also one of the reasons why it took a little time to warm up as we got older, and to forgive him.

AP: What was that process like? There’s a lot to forgive.

DOUGLAS: Time heals, you know. Hopefully. Life moves on. Dad had that great line right after I won (the Oscar) for “Wall Street.” He said to me, “You know, I would have been nicer to you if I knew how successful you were going to be.”

Privacy concerns rise

Norway seeks temporary ban on smart glasses

OSLO, Norway, Oct. 6, (AP): A trip to the park. A day at the beach. A workout session at the gym. All in public spaces where smart glasses can snap photos, record conversations or stream video online - without people in the line of their lenses and microphones knowing about it.

Norway’s government wants to get a handle on both the promise and peril of AI glasses, and is proposing that parliament enact a temporary ban on them in some places.

It’s the latest sign of growing concern in many countries about new technologies that are fundamentally changing the way people live. Some governments have banned the use of social media by children and young teens.

One effort to rein in the use of AI glasses has run aground - in the home of Silicon Valley.

California’s governor last week vetoed legislation that would have penalized the use of smart glasses to record people without their permission in places like changing rooms, doctor’s offices and other spaces people generally consider private.

And Microsoft last month an-



Michael McLoughlin, of El Confidencial, gets a demonstration of Gemini on Android XR glasses at a Google I/O event in Mountain View, Calif., Tuesday, May 20, 2025. (AP)

nounced plans to adopt guardrails and privacy standards for its AI in schools, as negotiated with the second-largest teachers union in the United States.

Norway’s government said the proposal for the temporary ban will be made to parliament, the Storting, “as soon as possible.”

Torgeir Micaelsen, the Norwegian minister of digitalization and public governance, expressed concerns about the emergence of new technology that could photograph, film or record the audio of people without their knowledge.

A key question is where to draw the line: Norwegian authorities say

a ban on the use of smart glasses could apply to places where “privacy is particularly important,” like healthcare facilities, or fitness centers with changing rooms and showers. A major focus is spaces where children congregate, such as schools, kindergartens, playgrounds and youth clubs.

But it could also extend to public concerts and sporting events, as well as parks, beaches, museums and shopping centers.

The temporary ban would give authorities time to look more deeply into the matter, decide what types of devices might be affected, and hold an “informed debate” that could lead to permanent regulation, Micaelsen said.

The government was quick to note that it was not proposing a total ban on AI glasses or other “wearable technology,” adding that such devices should still be allowed in some places and for private use.

The government also said it was considering exceptions to the ban for vulnerable groups, so that “socially beneficial uses” of smart glasses could be permitted in some circumstances.

Flamenco’s heart-wrenching wail captured in images



Flamenco singer Diego Vargas, known as “El Boquerón”, performs on a stage during a concert organized as part of the Seville Flamenco Biennial in Seville, Spain, Saturday Sept. 19, 2026. (AP)



Flamenco singer José Sánchez Triguero, known as “Itoli de Los Palacios”, performs on a stage during a concert organized as part of the Seville Flamenco Biennial in Seville, Spain, Friday, Sept. 18, 2026. (AP)



Flamenco singer Jose Valencia performs on a stage during a concert organized as part of the Seville Flamenco Biennial in Seville, Spain, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026. (AP)



Flamenco singer Fabiola Pérez, known as “La Fabi”, performs on a stage during a concert organized as part of the Seville Flamenco Biennial in Seville, Spain, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026. (AP)



Flamenco singer Montse Cortés performs on a stage during a concert organized as part of the Seville Flamenco Biennial in Seville, Spain, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026. (AP)



Flamenco singer Esperanza Fernandez performs on a stage during a concert organized as part of the Seville Flamenco Biennial in Seville, Spain, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026. (AP)

SEVILLE, Spain, Oct 6, (AP): It was almost midnight and much of Seville was heading to bed. Yet a crowd had gathered in front of a stage on the bank of the Guadalquivir River, beside the bridge connecting the Spanish city’s center with a neighborhood famous for its flamenco music.

The night was heavy with late-summer heat, and audience members fanned themselves as the musicians took their places. Then Fabiola Pérez let out a prolonged “Aaayyy!” that traveled across the water.

Her cry, known in Spanish as a “quejío,” is a hallmark of flamenco. It is an intense expression, sometimes guttural and often stretched to the point of breaking, through which a singer reaches beyond the lyrics toward something more intimate: pain, passion, absence, memory.

The sorrow consumes me. I sing for him, for my father. The quejío is the pain of losing him,” Pérez, known as La Fabi, told The Associated Press after her performance. “I go deep inside myself, and there I also find God.”

Flamenco music has medieval roots and is

strongly associated with Spain’s large Roma, or “gitano,” population and with southern Spain. Its dramatic singing and dancing, clapping and stomping, flamboyant dresses for female performers and guitar accompaniment have made it a symbol of Spanish culture worldwide.

And for several weeks every two years, the heart of flamenco beats loudest at the Seville Flamenco Biennial. Flamenco fills the city’s riverbanks, courtyards, churches, and old factories, bringing together established artists and younger generations. Again and again, singers spoke of channeling lost siblings, a forgotten innocence, hardship, their roots. The fear of surviving. God. Or an emptied mind surrendering to the wail erupting from within.

Nene Escalera described digging into his roots to reach the source of the quejío.

“I see myself as a child and become emotional remembering those who are no longer here,” Escalera said. “That’s where the quejío comes from.”

For Esperanza Fernández, it is an invocation.

With her siguriya - a heartfelt song of deep lament - she calls upon her recently deceased parents.

“Orphaned and vulnerable, I sing for them,” she said.

Others arrive at the quejío on a different path. The artist known as Arcángel spoke not of searching for pain, but of extreme concentration, while Antonio Reyes says he thinks of nothing at all: his mind goes blank, completely absorbed by the song.

Translated into a photograph, the artist appears to forget the stage and the audience. The eyes close. The face tightens. Hands clutch the body or reach into empty space. For a few seconds, a performance becomes something private.

When the singers were shown images of themselves unleashing the quejío, they immediately recognized each instant. They could return to it and speak about where they had traveled emotionally.

In each of those fleeting moments, their faces were bathed in light. And their quejíos could be captured.

Arts

Melody travels far beyond classrooms

Ancient characters, guqin music bring Chinese culture to NYC

NEW YORK, Oct. 6, (Xinhua): An ancient pictograph evolving into a Chinese character; a child’s mouth forming the sounds of a word; a brush sweeping across paper; and the centuries-old notes of a guqin filling the air...

For students and visitors in New York, these became different entry points into Chinese culture -- ways to encounter it not just through books, but through sight, sound and direct experience.

A series of cultural activities, recently held at the State University of New York at Old Westbury and the Long Island School of Chinese, featured exhibitions of Chinese poetry, calligraphy, painting and seal carving, guqin performances and a lecture on the origins and evolution of Chinese characters.

At the center of the programs were Chinese artist and guqin performer Nie Hui and her husband, cultural researcher Xie Feidong, who have worked together for years to study and share traditional Chinese culture and arts.

In one session, children were invited to say the Chinese word for “laugh” and observe what happened to their faces. As they pronounced it, the corners of their mouths lifted into a smile.

The exercise connected language with something the children could immediately see and feel. The lesson then moved to the visual origins of Chinese writing.

Nie drew early pictographic forms



A student tries to play guqin, a plucked seven-string traditional Chinese musical instrument, during a cultural activity in New York, the United States, Sept. 27, 2026. (Xinhua)

of the sun and moon, showing how ancient characters resembled the objects they represented.

“Chinese characters were originally pictographic characters. They were a picture,” Xie said.

A discussion of oracle-bone inscriptions offered another glimpse into the early development of Chinese writing and the ways ancient people drew upon images of the natural world to express meaning.

For Christian D’Ambrosi, an American student pursuing a master’s degree in education at SUNY Old

Westbury, the presentation further sparked an interest in China that had taken root years earlier.

“I was here to learn more about Chinese culture, because I’ve always loved Chinese history,” he said. “I hope to teach about Chinese history in the future.”

The activities also explored connections across cultures, including a discussion linking the ancient Chinese story of Dayu controlling the floods to the biblical story of Noah’s Ark.

“Art and culture have no borders,” Xie said.

Catherine Fan, a high school junior and volunteer at the Long Island School of Chinese who plays the gu-zheng, particularly enjoyed hearing Nie perform Liu Shui (Flowing Water) on the guqin.

The ancient melody has traveled far beyond the classroom. A recording of Liu Shui was included on the Golden Record carried aboard NASA’s Voyager spacecraft, launched in 1977 with sounds and music selected to represent life and culture on Earth.

For Edmund Yan, a Chinese American attendee, the Chinese paintings were particularly striking.

“I think it’s very impressive how detailed it is and how much personality you can put into it,” Yan said. “Being able to show off the personality of the artwork with just black and white is very beautiful and very impressive.”

Olivia Chen, a sixth-grade student who has attended the Long Island School of Chinese since second grade, said the program helped explain what lies behind the characters she learns in class.

“We actually learn the history of words and stuff like that here,” she said. “In Chinese class, we learn how to read, write and memorize words.”

“I hope that the children today can remember a particular character that touched them,” Xie said.

Nie captured their approach in a single line: “Let art have the depth of culture, and let culture have the beauty of art.”

823 new breast cancer cases recorded among women in Kuwait in 2022

Awareness and early detection vital in fight against breast cancer: CAN

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Board member at Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) and head of the breast cancer awareness campaign Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen pointed out that since its inception, the campaign has always believed that health awareness is for everyone, not a specific group.
Al-Shaheen made the statement in an event that CAN organized recently, in collaboration with the Kuwait Blind Association at the theater of the association. The event included honoring the winners of the women's table tennis tournament for association members.
She praised the role of the media, describing it as a key partner in raising health awareness, conveying vital messages to the community about prevention and early detection. She asserted that delivering accurate health information to diverse segments of society is a shared responsibility requiring cooperation, partnership and concerted efforts.
She confirmed the importance of integrating awareness into daily life, understanding risk factors, committing to regular screenings, and not delaying a doctor's visit when symptoms appear.
She revealed that cancer data for



Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen is pictured in the middle of the participants in the tennis tournament.

2022 recorded 823 new cases of breast cancer among Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti women or 49.7 percent of all new cancer cases diag-

nosed among women in Kuwait. She stressed that these figures are not cited merely for statistical purposes, but to underscore the importance

of awareness, prevention and early detection, as identifying the disease in its early stages can make a significant difference in the treatment

journey.
She extended her sincere thanks and appreciation to the Association of the Blind—led by Fayez Lafi Al-

Azmi—for its cooperation and for hosting the event, as well as for its ongoing efforts to serve and empower its members.
She highlighted the members' participation in the table tennis tournament, emphasizing that sports are essential components of health and quality of life.
Meanwhile, Abdulaziz Hamad Al-Azmi, Head of the Cultural Committee at the Kuwait Blind Association, delivered a speech on behalf of the chairman of the association.
He appreciated the attendees and participants, praised the ongoing cooperation between the association and the CAN campaign, and wished speedy recovery for all those battling cancer.
Dr. Najla Al-Sayed shared information regarding breast cancer during the awareness session. She asserted that awareness and prevention are superior to treatment, indicating that understanding the disease and protecting oneself are the right paths toward a healthier life.
She said the recovery rate for breast cancer exceed 90 percent when detected early, often without the need for chemotherapy or radiation, and outlined risk factors, such as excessive exposure to sunlight or radioactive materials, dietary habits and others.



An aerial view of the slum of Kibera with the Nairobi skyline in the background, Kenya, Jan. 4, 2008. (AP)

Kenya confirms first Ebola case imported from Congo after patient dies in Nairobi

NAIROBI, Kenya, Oct 6, (AP): Kenya's Health Ministry on Tuesday confirmed the country's first imported Ebola case from Congo.
Health Minister Aden Duale said a Kenyan citizen who arrived in the country on Saturday from Congo via Uganda had been isolated and treated at Nairobi Hospital. The patient tested positive for the Ebola virus after developing symptoms associated with hemorrhagic fever.
The patient died late Monday while receiving treatment. Health authorities have placed the country's border points on high alert and are monitoring for possible additional cases.
Duale said 28 contacts, including family members and health workers who cared for the patient, had been identified. Another 23 passengers who traveled on the same flight from Uganda were being traced.
The contacts will remain in isolation for 21 days and will be released after testing negative for the virus, the ministry's director, Patrick Amoth, said.
The patient will be buried within 24 hours in accordance with recommended public safety protocols.
The minister said the patient had



Kenya Health minister Aden Duale speaks to journalists as he announces the first case of Ebola virus in Kenya, Nairobi on Oct 6, 2026. (AP)
been living in Congo for the past seven years and fell ill about a month ago. He was treated at various hospitals before traveling by road to Kampala, where he boarded a flight to Nairobi, arriving on Saturday afternoon.

Director Amoth said the patient was screened at the airport but, because he was already undergoing treatment, the screening process did not detect any symptoms.
The patient's relatives later took him to Nairobi Hospital in a private vehicle, where he was immediately isolated.
The minister said Kenya had tested 267 samples at five laboratories across the country since May, with only one testing positive - the country's first case.
Kenya is the fourth country to record an Ebola case in the current outbreak, which was declared in eastern Congo in mid-May. Uganda recorded 20 cases and France one. Before Kenya reported its case, there had been no active cases outside Congo since Uganda declared its outbreak over in late August.
This is the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak in history. The World Health Organization has warned it could become the deadliest as it continues to outpace efforts to track and contain it.
The outbreak is caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, for which there is no approved vaccine or treatment. Vaccine and treatment trials are underway in Congo's Ituri province, the outbreak's epicenter.

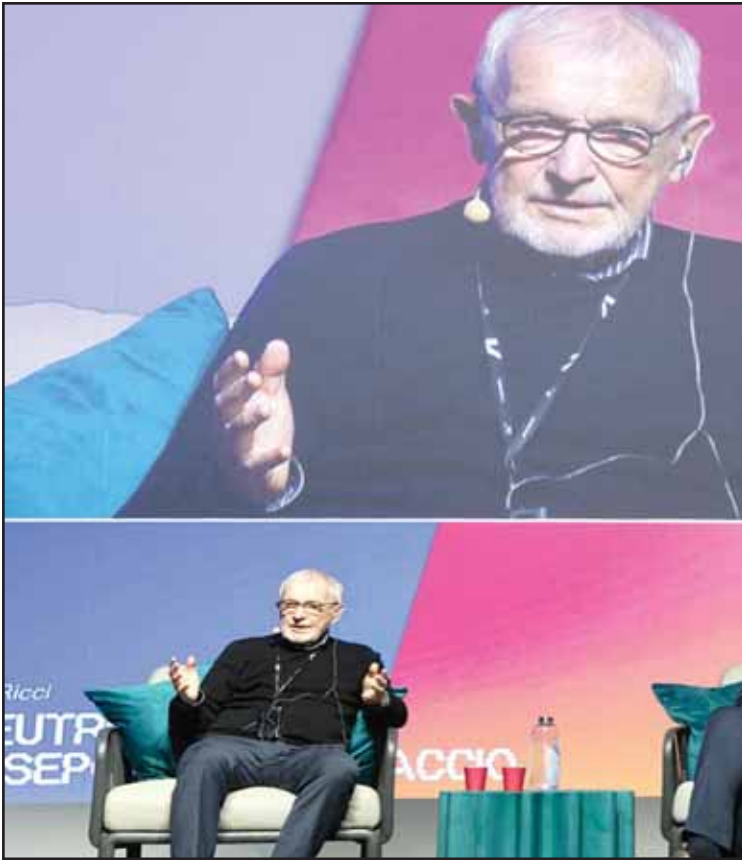
Belgian scientist wins Nobel in physics for work on mysterious ghost particles called neutrinos

STOCKHOLM, Oct 6, (AP): Belgian-born scientist Francis Halzen won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday for his efforts to demystify a rare group of neutrinos, tiny cosmic particles that researchers believe offer clues to how the universe evolved.
"It was a great surprise, and I obviously didn't expect it," Halzen said, speaking to the Nobel Physics Committee by phone from Italy, in a call broadcast at the news conference to announce the winner.
Halzen said it was predicted that he would win the prize, but the announcement still made him feel "strange."
"I am working on a proposal, and I hope that this prize will help getting it approved," he said to chuckles from the audience.
Neutrinos are tiny cosmic particles with no electrical charge and extraordinarily small mass, making them difficult to detect. Yet they are everywhere: They spew from stars like the sun, and trillions zip through our bodies every second.
Scientists cannot glimpse the mysterious ghost particles zooming

around on their own. Instead, they measure what happens when the particles collide with other bits of matter, producing flashes of light or charged particles.
The Nobel committee said Halzen's work was instrumental to the construction of the IceCube Neutrino Observatory in Antarctica, which was designed to turn ice into a neutrino detector. The observatory helped scientists discover the first high-energy neutrinos from other galaxies.
Halzen "realized that the ice at the South Pole could visualize these neutrino messengers" from the cosmos, committee member Eva Olson said during the news conference. "People joined him in the quest for these neutrino messengers." The neutrinos "opened the door to distant galaxies and tell us about the processes of exploding stars."
Born in Belgium, the 82-year-old scientist is affiliated with the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the U.S., which operates the observatory. Efforts by The Associated Press to reach him were not immediately

successful.
Halzen helped pull the curtain back on a rare gang of neutrinos that scientists say hold clues about the development of the universe.
"This experiment in the Antarctic is a revolutionary way of understanding the universe that we didn't have before," said Michael Moloney, chief executive officer for the American Institute of Physics.
In a post on social media, Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever said Halzen is the 11th Belgian to win a Nobel Prize.
De Wever called the award "impressive recognition for a lifetime dedicated to shedding light on the great mysteries of the cosmos through its smallest components."
A representative from the IceCube Neutrino Observatory did not immediately return a request for comment. The University of Wisconsin-Madison did not immediately comment when reached by the AP.
Ellen Moons, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, announced the award Tuesday

in Stockholm. She is the first woman to head the prestigious academy and present the award.
The prize money this year is 12 million Swedish kronor (about \$1.2 million), whether for an individual, a small group of laureates or an organization.
Last year, three scientists won the Nobel Prize in physics for research on the strange behavior of subatomic particles called quantum tunneling that enabled the ultrasensitive measurements achieved by MRI machines and laid the groundwork for better cellphones and faster computers.
The announcements of this year's prizes began Monday with the Nobel Prize in medicine being awarded to three scientists whose work led to a tool that uses light to help unravel how the brain works.
This week's awards continue Wednesday with the chemistry prize and literature on Thursday. After Friday's peace prize is awarded, the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences will be announced Monday.



In this handout photo provided by 'Bergamo Scienza 2026', physicist Francis Halzen speaks during a presentation on the IceCube Neutrino Observatory at the BergamoScienza science festival in Bergamo, Italy on Oct 4. (AP)



Firefighters spray water to put out wildfires burning through peatland forest in Kubu Raya, West Kalimantan, Indonesia on Sept 12. (AP)

El Nino and Atlantic warming could offer early warning of Amazon heat, says study

MELBOURNE, Oct 6, (Xinhua): El Nino and warming in the tropical Atlantic could help provide early warning of extreme heat in the Amazon, with some signals appearing as much as seven months earlier, new research has found.
Researchers from the Australian Research Council Center of Excellence for the Weather of the 21st Century and Brazil's National Institute of Space Research studied how major patterns of natural climate variability influence temperature and rainfall extremes across the Amazon Basin, according to a statement released Tuesday by the Australian center.
The study found Amazon heat extremes were more likely to fol-

low unusually warm conditions associated with El Nino in the tropical Pacific and warming in parts of the tropical Atlantic.
The clearest long-range signal occurred from March to May, when extreme heat across much of the Amazon was associated with climate conditions observed up to seven months earlier, according to the study published in the journal Earth's Future.
The research also found early-warning potential for compound hot-dry events, particularly in the northern and lower central Amazon, although predictability was considerably weaker elsewhere.
Also:
NAIROBI: Kenyan authorities have

activated a national response plan ahead of incoming El Nino rains, placing search-and-rescue teams, evacuation centers, and emergency supplies on standby nationwide.
The Ministry of Interior and National Administration said on Monday it has opened designated evacuation shelters and launched a standardized registration system to register and assist displaced families as well as coordinate emergency aid during the El Nino rains.
The ministry said a joint emergency force comprising the Kenya Defence Forces, National Police Service, Coast Guard, Red Cross, and National Youth Service will carry out 24-hour search-and-rescue operations where needed.

Razaullah earns first call-up

Farhan replaces Agha as Pakistan T20 captain for Sri Lanka series

ISLAMABAD, Oct 6, (AP): Pakistan axed Salman Ali Agha as the Twenty20 cricket captain and replaced him with Sahibzada Farhan for the three-match home series against Sri Lanka this week.

Farhan led Pakistan to the silver medal at the Asian Games, losing to India in the final on Sunday.

Batter Hasan Nawaz and fast bowler Naseem Shah were recalled to the T20 squad.

Nawaz had been out of favor since November but in the Asian Games final he hit 96 and was out off the final ball as Pakistan lost by 19 runs.

Shah last played T20s at the T20 World Cup in February. He was also added to the one-day international squad for the following tri-series with Sri Lanka and England.

Rising star Razaullah was rewarded for his performance in his test debut against England last month in Birmingham and was included in the T20 and ODI squads. He's yet to make his white ball debut.

Fast bowler Shaheen Afridi was retained as ODI captain of a team including Agha and Babar Azam.

But the selectors ignored Mohammad Rizwan because the wicketkeeper was under investigation at the National Cyber Crime Investigation Author-



Pakistan's Saim Ayub plays a shot during the gold medal cricket match between India and Pakistan at the Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan. (AP)

ity. Rizwan was one of the seven players who were summoned home after Pakistan lost the second test to England at Lord's in August.

Khawaja Nafay was the specialist wicketkeeper for the T20s while Ghazi Ghori, who made his test debut in England, was the first-choice gloveman for the ODIs.

Rawalpindi will host the three Sri Lanka T20s from Oct. 9-13. The tri-series begins on Oct. 18.

Former Australian fast bowler Shaun Tait was named as Pakistan's bowling coach after working with the Bangladesh team. Under Tait, Bangladesh beat Pakistan 2-0 in the test series this year.

Tait replaced Ashley Noffke, who has been contracted by the Netherlands.

Pakistan T20 squad: Sahibzada Farhan (captain), Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Arafat Minhas, Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Nawaz, Muhammad Imran Randhawa, Khawaja Nafay, Maaaz Sadaqat, Naseem Shah, Razaullah, Saim Ayub, Mohammad Salman Mirza, Shadab Khan, Sufiyan Moqim.

Pakistan ODI squad: Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Salman Ali Agha, Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Ghazi Ghori, Haris Rauf, Hasan Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Razaullah, Saad Baig, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Sufiyan Moqim.

NBA tests smart-ball tech

Towns says Knicks extension before season looks unlikely



In this file photo, New York Knicks center Karl-Anthony Towns carries the Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy after the team defeated the San Antonio Spurs in Game 5 of the NBA Finals basketball series in San Antonio. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA, Oct 6, (AP): Karl-Anthony Towns said Monday the prospects of him getting a contract extension with the reigning NBA-champion New York Knicks before the start of the regular season were not looking good.

Opening night against the 76ers and the Knicks' banner-raising celebration on Oct. 20 is a little over two weeks away.

Towns, who is set to turn 31 on Nov. 15, is eligible for a four-year, \$276 million deal. He is due to make \$57 million this season and has a \$61.1 million player option for 2027-28.

Asked at the start of training camp how he would feel about negotiations extending into the season, Towns said, "In this situation, there's no comfortability to be had."

Towns is a six-time All-Star who averaged nearly 16 points and had more than 10 rebounds a game during the Knicks' first title run since 1973. He believes he should be rewarded for his role in winning it all.

"I want to do something that can keep the team together and work with the Knicks and also values me," Towns told reporters before the Knicks' preseason opener at Philadelphia.

Owner James Dolan has said the team would not go into the second spending apron. Big man Mitchell Robinson left New York after eight seasons to sign a three-year deal in free agency with rival Boston.

The NBA is experimenting with two pieces of technology in the leadup to the season, the league announced Monday.

Select exhibition games will include a smart basketball that has a Bluetooth sensor in it and can collect data for future use in real-time officiating decisions. The league said the information from the Wilson-developed connected balls will be for research only and not affect calls made during those games.

Officials in select games will also use wrist wearables to communicate with the replay center in designated situations, including replay reviews, scoring changes and clock malfunctions.

The wearables went through what the NBA called a successful pilot program during the summer league. The technology will not extend into the regular season.

Charlotte Hornets point guard Coby White suffered a left calf strain during training camp and will miss the entire preseason, the team announced.

It's unclear if White will be available for the regular season opener Oct. 21 at Brooklyn.

The Hornets said updates on White will be provided when more is known about the extent of the injury.

White had been expected to take over the starting point guard spot after the team traded LaMelo Ball to Minnesota earlier this offseason. In 21 games with the Hornets last season White averaged 15.6 points, 3 rebounds and 3 assists per game.

Charlotte's first preseason game is Tuesday night at home against the Nets.

BERLIN, Oct 6, (AP): Germany's Jürgen Klopp era has started with just one win from four games.

Klopp avoided becoming the first Germany coach not to win any of his first three games in charge, but he also oversaw the country's first loss to Greece, which spoiled his home debut last week.

Four consecutive Nations League matches during the first international break of the season gave Klopp time to experiment and draw conclusions that may yet lead to success, but they also showed there won't be a quick fix for the German national team after a decade of disappointment.

Germany imagines itself as a soccer heavyweight with four World Cup titles (three as West Germany) and a long tradition of being among the best. In recent years it has been overtaken in Europe by France, Spain, England and Portugal. Even presumed weaker nations like Greece - which won 1-0 in Augsburg last week and drew 0-0 in Thessaloniki on Sunday - have managed to upset Germany with concerning regularity.

Germany was knocked out of the World Cup by Paraguay at the first knockout stage, ending Julian Nagelsmann's increasingly prickly spell in charge and ushering in Klopp's entrance as potential savior.

Klopp began his tenure by naming two squads with a combined roster of 44 players including a host of first-time call-ups, boosting enthusiasm among fans and offering fresh perspectives to players. It sent a signal that good performances in the Bundesliga can be rewarded with international call-ups.

Germany opened with a 1-1 draw against the Netherlands in Klopp's first game in charge, followed with the defeat to Greece, then beat Serbia 2-0 in Munich before Sunday's draw in Thessaloniki.



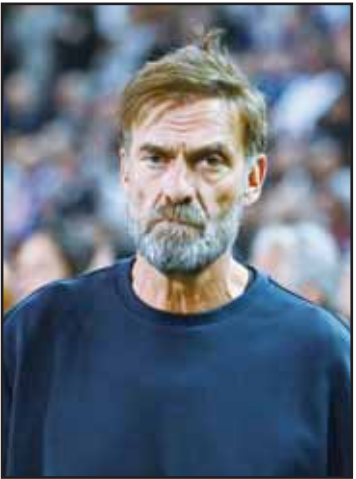
Germany's Derry Scherhant, left, challenges for the ball with Greece's Christos Zafeiris, centre, and Konstantinos Mavropanos during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Greece and Germany in Thessaloniki, northern Greece. (AP)

Klopp said he was "super happy" after seeing the progress his young team had made against Serbia and Greece.

"I didn't think such football would be possible with this group after a week," said Klopp, who praised team captain Florian Wirtz and Freiburg winger Derry Scherhant among others.

"A couple of weeks ago we were saying German football is in the cellar. We have no talent. We're missing it here, we're missing it there," Klopp said. "I worked with 44 German players over two weeks, and they certainly don't lack talent. They all want to work hard. And when the players arrive the next time, the German national team's hard drive will not be empty. We won't have to start from scratch."

Klopp handed debuts to 10 play-



Germany's head coach Jurgen Klopp prepares for the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Greece and Germany in Thessaloniki, northern Greece. (AP)

ers altogether. Freiburg's Philipp Treu made his debut at right back against the Netherlands and he also played the full games against Serbia and the draw against Greece.

"We now have alternatives in many positions," Klopp said.

Germany next faces Serbia away on Nov. 13, before hosting the Netherlands in Berlin three days later.

"Of course we won't have 44 players there. It will be a smaller squad, that's clear," said Klopp, hinting at the dilemmas he now faces.

Klopp will likely have to decide between the impressive Aleksandar Pavlović and Bayern Munich teammate Joshua Kimmich in midfield, while his other dilemmas including picking between Marc-André ter Stegen and Jonas Urbig in goal.

"We've taken the first step," Klopp said.

Financing awaits bankruptcy court approval

LIV Golf in line to get initial investment

NEW YORK, Oct 6, (AP): BC Partners Credit on Monday announced an initial investment in LIV Golf, part of a targeted \$300 million in cumulative financing to help the beleaguered circuit emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy with a team-focused golf league with players as equity owners.

The announcement comes two days before the first of several hearings related to the bankruptcy filing from Sept. 8.

The financing by funds advised on the BC Partners Credit platform requires bankruptcy court approval. It would allow LIV to start planning on a 2027 season, which includes a 10-tournament schedule, half of them at international sites.

"Our goal is to facilitate LIV Golf's emergence from the restructuring process on sound financial footing and with renewed momentum heading into the 2027 season," said Ted Goldthorpe, partner and head of BC Partners Credit, the credit arm of BC Partners.

"Just as importantly, we want the players who make this league what it is to share in what they help build," he said. "Giving players real and actionable ownership in the league and the teams is a unique opportunity in professional golf, and it aligns everyone around the long-term success of the product for the game and for the fans."

LIV players still have a few weeks to decide if they want to be



Jon Rahm of Spain drops his club on the 13th hole during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament in Virginia Water, England. (AP)

part of LIV Golf 2.0 now that the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia withdrew its massive funding of more than \$5 billion since it launched in 2022. That funding included signing bonuses - nine figures in some cases - and the \$20 million prize funds for individual play.

Sergio Garcia last week asked the court to clarify the status of his LIV contract, whether it is terminated because of the bankruptcy filing or if he can terminate the

contract himself.

Adrian Meronk, who joined LIV Golf in 2024, won the Dunhill Links Championship on Sunday which paves the way for him to have European tour status next year.

"It's been a very strange year on LIV, obviously finding out Saudis backing off and finding new investors," Meronk said after he won. "There's still a lot of unknowns that we are not sure of. And to be honest, it's hard from a

player's perspective to make a decision. So I'll just wait and see. We still have a couple weeks but as I said, this helps a lot.

"I have to really reconsider and see what's going to happen."

LIV Golf CEO Scott O'Neil said the investment was an important step, thanking Goldthorpe and BC Partners "for their conviction in what we're building."

"We believe deeply in the future of this league and in the opportunity to build something distinctive alongside our players," O'Neil said in a statement. "We're delivering on our major milestones, and while there is still work ahead, today marks meaningful progress toward a player-owned, team-focused, truly global league that complements the wider game and creates new opportunities for players, fans, partners, and the next generation of golfers."

The PGA Tour has not indicated if it will create an instant path back for LIV players, similar to what it did for Brooks Koepka at the start of this year. Much of the attention focuses on LIV's top players, such as Jon Rahm, Tyrrell Hatton and Joaquin Niemann.

"We are excited about what this next phase can mean for the players who compete in the League," Goldthorpe said. "We invite those who want to help build a strong, sustainable, team golf league to join us."

Copa del Rey first round offers Cup glory with upsets unlikely

MADRID, Oct. 6, (Xinhua): The first-round draw for the Spanish Copa del Rey was made on Monday, pitting some of the country's biggest clubs against amateur and semi-professional sides.

The first two rounds do not include the four clubs that will play in the Spanish Super Cup in February, with FC Barcelona, Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and reigning Copa del Rey holder Real Sociedad entering at the round of 32.

However, the draw does include teams such as 2024 Cup winner Athletic Bilbao, as well as Real Betis, Villarreal, Sevilla and Valencia.

The first round also features 10 teams from Spain's regional leagues that came through a preliminary round, with those sides guaranteed a lucrative home tie against higher-level opposition.

Eight of the teams to play in the first round were decided this weekend, although the return leg between Prat and San Rafael was postponed due to weather-related travel disruption, while the match between Guimara and Sporting Hortaleta was suspended following violent scenes in which the Guimara coach was allegedly assaulted during the warm-up.

The first round will be played over three days from Oct. 27 to 29. Although no team from the sixth tier of Spanish football has ever knocked out a top-flight opponent, the round traditionally provides some of the competition's biggest contrasts.

In addition to the 10 matches involving regional-level sides, La Liga clubs Levante and Villarreal face opponents from RFEF III, the fifth tier. Villarreal travels to Mallorca to face Manacor, hometown of tennis great Rafael Nadal, while Levante plays Tarancon.

Betis, Espanyol, Celta Vigo and Rayo Vallecano face opponents from RFEF II, the fourth tier. Rayo visits Recreativo Huelva, Spain's oldest football club, while Betis takes on Navalcarnero.

Espanyol faces a potentially tricky trip to Sestao River on the outskirts of Bilbao, while Celta Vigo travels to face Salamanca CF UDS, now coached by former Athletic Bilbao captain Iker Muniain, who lifted the Copa del Rey with his former club less than two and a half years ago.

Copa del Rey first-round ties involving La Liga sides: Ribadesella - Racing de Santander; Auriense - Deportivo La Coruna; Atletico Calatayud - Osasuna; Anaitasuna - Deportivo Alaves; AE Prat or San Rafael - Athletic Club; Tavernes - Valencia; Pinatar - Elche; Sporting Alcazar - Malaga; UB Lebrjiana - Getafe; Atletico Guimar or Sporting Hortaleta - Sevilla; Tarancon - Levante; Manacor - Villarreal; Recreativo de Huelva - Rayo Vallecano; Navalcarnero - Real Betis; Sestao River - Espanyol; Salamanca CF UDS - Celta Vigo.

Disciplinary system faces questions after Mpsi revelation

FIFA knew before World Cup that DR Congo goalie was ineligible in key qualifying games

GENEVA, Oct 6, (AP): FIFA knew before the World Cup that Congo’s goalkeeper was ineligible when he played in multiple qualifying games and let him continue at the tournament, according to media reports on Tuesday. The New York Times and French daily Le Monde cited internal FIFA documents about the case of Lionel Mpsi that increased scrutiny on the soccer body’s disciplinary processes under President Gianni Infantino after the World Cup furor around United States forward Folarin Balogun.

The 32-year-old Mpsi was a France Under-17 international and never completed the FIFA process of switching his national eligibility to Congo where he has family ties, the reports claimed.

Mpsi played in all four of Congo’s games at the World Cup including the 1-1 draw against Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal, and a standout display in a 2-1 loss to England in the round of 32.

An Associated Press report in Atlanta about Mpsi facing England noted he “will have to console himself with one of the great defensive performances in a tournament filled with stellar play from the keepers.”

Yet Mpsi never was eligible to play in five games that took Congo to the World Cup and could have been forfeited under FIFA rules, the reports alleged Tuesday.

He played in five qualifiers in the past year including an African playoff win over Nigeria last November, and an intercontinental playoffs win over Jamaica in March that sent Congo to its first World Cup for 52 years.

The Nigerian soccer federation formally complained to FIFA about possible rule-breaking by Congo giving passports to players to make them eligible to represent the country.



In this file photo, Congo goalkeeper Lionel Mpsi makes a save over England's Jude Bellingham during a World Cup round of 32 soccer match in Atlanta. (AP)

The New York Times and Le Monde cited internal documents from the investigation that FIFA disciplinary lawyers noted Mpsi did not have formal

approval from the governing body when he came onto Congo’s radar in 2021.

The FIFA disciplinary officials drafted options including letting Nigeria replace Congo to play Jamaica or dismissing the Nigerian complaint on the technicality of a late filing. In a FIFA ruling from qualifying games for the 2018 World Cup, Bolivia defaulted two games for fielding an ineligible player.

The section of FIFA’s disciplinary code relating to fielding ineligible players states the body “may act ex officio,” meaning it has powers to take on a case outside of a complaint.

FIFA said in a statement to the New York Times its disciplinary bodies were independent and “decide cases based on the applicable regulations and the specific facts before them.”

FIFA was approached for comment Tuesday.

The FIFA documents also noted, Le Monde reported, that defaulting Congo’s results in qualifying games that Mpsi played would have sent Burkina Faso instead into the African playoffs.

The reports on Tuesday were published one day before officials from Congo, Nigeria and Burkina Faso were set to attend a three-day summit of the 54-member Confederation of African Football (CAF) in Cape Verde. Infantino is expected to attend.

The president of Congo’s soccer federation is a close friend of Infantino, Véron Mosengo-Omba, who was elected unopposed in May after being CAF general secretary for several years. Infantino and Mosengo-Omba studied together at university in Switzerland and later were colleagues at UEFA and FIFA.

The African soccer summit comes as Infantino is relying on the continent’s support in the FIFA presidential election scheduled in March.

Djokovic seals 7th China Open title after Alex retires injured



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, poses with the trophy after winning the men’s singles final match against Alex De Minaur, of Australia at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing. (AP)

Alcaraz retains Japan Open title in big step following injury layoff

BEIJING, Oct 6, (AP): Novak Djokovic was handed the China Open trophy after Alex de Minaur retired injured in the final on Tuesday.

Both players asked for medical timeouts after the opening set. De Minaur had a groin issue and quit after winning the opening game of the second set.

The 39-year-old Djokovic won 7-6 (3), 0-1 and extended his perfect record at the China Open to 34-0.

It was his seventh China Open title and 102nd on the ATP tour. He’s one behind Roger Federer. Jimmy Connors leads with 109 in the Open era.

Djokovic lost his only other final this year to Carlos Alcaraz at the Australian Open. De Minaur was seeking his first Beijing trophy and a second title of the year following Rotterdam in February.

No. 9-ranked De Minaur kept No. 11 Djokovic at bay with aggressive groundstrokes in the first set and saved two break points before unforced errors cost him the tiebreak. He hit 11 winners compared to three by Djokovic.

Djokovic earned three straight wins over top-10 players. He passed U.S. Open champion Alexander Zverev in the quarterfinals and Daniil Medvedev in the semifinals after the Russian struck a spectator with the ball and was disqualified.

De Minaur advanced to the fi-



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after winning the men’s singles final against Czechia's Jiri Lehecka at the Japan Open tennis tournament in Tokyo. (AP)

nal when Hubert Hurkacz retired injured in their second set.

Carlos Alcaraz required two tournaments after a 4 ½-month injury layoff to raise another trophy.

The third-ranked Alcaraz beat Jiri Lehecka 7-6 (4), 6-4 on Tuesday to successfully defend his Japan Open title.

“It’s been a while,” Alcaraz said, “and obviously it’s extra special.”

Alcaraz returned from a right wrist injury in late August and made a run to the U.S. Open quarterfinals, where he lost to Ben Shelton in a match that ended at 3:33 a.m. He’s been wearing a compression sleeve on his right arm since his return.

Alcaraz discussed what went through his mind while sitting out the French Open and Wimbledon.

“A lot of negative thoughts come to your mind. If you’re going to come back healthy, if you’re going to come back the same as I was before. If I will be able to get the ball normal without pain at all,” he said.

“But I try to put those thoughts away all the time. My team and I knew that if I come back, I’m going to be healthy 100%. If I feel something, it’s not going to be anything at all. So I have to go full to every shot, every ball. ... It worked out.”

It was Alcaraz’s third title of the year and first since winning in Doha, Qatar, in February. At the start of the year he won his sev-

enth Grand Slam title at the Australian Open.

It was the 27th title of Alcaraz’s career.

The 19th-ranked Lehecka entered the final on a six-match winning streak. He won both of his singles matches when he led the Czech Republic past the United States to qualify for the Davis Cup Final 8 then also took his opening four matches in Tokyo.

Alcaraz was broken in the opening game of the final but broke back for 3-3. In the tiebreaker, Alcaraz fell behind 4-2 then won five straight points.

He was at his best in the tiebreaker, digging out a difficult shot at his feet following a net cord from Lehecka, producing a massive forehand return and then a forehand drop-shot winner. Lehecka missed two backhands to end the set.

Alcaraz broke Lehecka again midway through the second set and served it out at love on his first opportunity.

In the earlier rounds, Alcaraz struggled with his consistency at times. In his semifinal against qualifier Jaume Munar, Alcaraz dropped the first set during a run of 16 straight points lost.

“I didn’t find my best tennis, my best level, but I did find the good solutions and I think that’s what matters at the end, playing the most important points the best you can and I think I did it this week,” Alcaraz said. “I would say today was the best match of the week.”

Malagò kept in charge of Italian soccer federation

ROME, Oct 6, (AP): A solution was found to keep Giovanni Malagò in charge of the beleaguered Italian soccer federation on Tuesday despite an irregularity in his election this year.

While Malagò was stripped of the presidency, he was named as the federation’s emergency commissioner on an interim basis pending a new election.

The compromise was made in a last-minute meeting between Malagò and Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) president Luciano Buonfiglio, just before CONI voted on the matter.

The irregularity was that Malagò was not registered as a member of the soccer federa-

tion at the time of the election in June.

Malagò received 68.58% of the votes in the election, easily beating former federation president Giancarlo Abete, who received 29.17% and was the only other candidate.

The vote was to replace Gabriele Gravina, who resigned after four-time champion Italy failed to qualify for a third consecutive World Cup.

A new election will likely be held in January, with Malagò expected to run again.

Malagò previously led the Italian Olympic Committee and the Milan Cortina Olympics organizing committee. He’s also an International Olympic Committee member.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin warned Italian authorities of political interference if Malagò was removed.

Besides the struggling national team - which has shown improvement under returning coach Roberto Mancini in the Nations League - Malagò has also inherited Italy’s problem-plagued preparations for hosting the 2032 European Championship.

Last week, the federation submitted a list to UEFA of 14 stadiums in 13 cities that could potentially host games for the tournament that is being co-organized with Turkey. But only one of the venues - Juventus’ Allianz Stadium in Turin - is ready.

‘Exploration season’

Shiffrin shifts focus to giant slalom, super-G this season

WASHINGTON, Oct 6: Two-time Olympic slalom champion Mikaela Shiffrin will shift her focus from that discipline this season to turn more of her attention toward training for giant slalom and super-G events.

The ski racer from Colorado announced her strategy Tuesday in what she describes as a season of “exploration.” It’s part of her plan to push herself coming off a season where she won her second Olympic gold in slalom at the Milan Cortina Games and earned her ninth World Cup season title in the discipline.

The season kicks off on Oct. 24 with a giant slalom race in Soelden, Austria. Shiffrin said her first slalom race is expected to be in Killington, Vermont, over Thanksgiving weekend and she will proceed from there.

“I’m not trying to do less because I care less. I’m trying to do something different because I still care SO much,” the 31-year-old Shiffrin said in a statement. “The joy for me has never been about medals or records.

“This season is an exploration. We’re calling it the exploration season.”

Shiffrin won her sixth overall World Cup title by 87 points over Emma Aicher of Germany. Shiffrin also won the crystal globe in the slalom by beating Camille Rast of Switzerland.

In the giant slalom standings Shiffrin was fourth, while winding up outside the top 30 in the super-G. Her last World Cup



In this file photo, United States’ Mikaela Shiffrin competes in an alpine ski, women’s giant slalom race, at the Lillehammer World Cup Finals, in Hafjell, Norway. (AP)

win in the super-G, an event that blends the speed of a downhill with the turns of a GS, was in December 2022. She won a downhill event in 2023.

“Racing slalom underprepared would be like jumping into a giant blender and just trying to avoid the blades,” Shiffrin said. “I’m trying a little bit more to live in the gratitude of it and ski because I want to ski. ... I’m not looking for less commitment. I’m not looking for actually even less effort.”

She added: “I feel ambitious. I still feel competitive. I feel like I have a desire to ski fast. I feel like those things haven’t changed. I’m really just giving myself permission to be curious about where that takes me, and that’s the exploration.”

Shiffrin also plans to continue to work on her podcast, “What’s the Point with Mikaela Shiffrin.”

Best of the Rest

Son becomes SKorea’s all-time leading scorer: Son Heung-min became South Korea’s all-time leading scorer when his 59th goal helped the team beat Uzbekistan 2-0 in a friendly on Tuesday.

The sixth-minute free kick moved Son past Cha Bum-kun’s record of 58. Cha retired from international soccer after the 1986 World Cup.

Oh Se-hun added a second goal on the hour as South Korea won comfortably at Mireu Stadium in Yongin, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Seoul.

Son also holds South Korea’s appearance record with 151 caps. He made his international debut in 2010 and has played at four World Cups.

The 34-year-old joined Los Angeles FC in 2025 after a decade with Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League. (AP)

□ □ □

Estudiantes beats Gimnasia: Fabricio Perez scored twice as Estudiantes cruised to a 3-0 home win over Gimnasia Mendoza in Argentina’s Clausura tournament.

It took until the 83rd minute for Estudiantes to take the lead courtesy of an Edwin Cetre penalty after Guido Carrillo was brought down by Diego Mondino.

Perez doubled the lead seven minutes later by finishing clinically on the counterattack and the 20-year-old put the result beyond doubt with a stoppage-time header following Gaston Benedetti’s cross.

The visitors had just two shots on target en route to their fourth loss of the campaign. (Xinhua)

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India's Anwar Ali, right, and Uruguay's Rodrigo Zalazar, left, fight for the ball during the international friendly soccer match between India and Uruguay in Kolkata, India. Uruguay won 6-1. (AP)

Sports

'Athletes have to be at the heart of everything we do'

IOC confirms India, Qatar among 7 bidders who want to host 2036 Olympics

GENEVA, Oct 6, (AP): The ambitions of India and Qatar to host the 2036 Olympics were confirmed on Tuesday by the IOC among seven bidders in the race.

India and Qatar have long been seen as favored candidates in a hosting contest the IOC aims to decide in 2029 by a contested vote of its 100-plus members.

The International Olympic Committee said South Africa, South Korea, Germany, Hungary and Turkey also are in talks about a future hosting option with the 2040 edition and even 2044 also in view.

"But wherever the Games take place, one thing must never change: Athletes have to be at the heart of everything we do," said IOC President Kirsty Coventry, a two-time swimming gold medalist.

The IOC set an Oct. 31 deadline for other national Olympic bodies to join the 2036 contest.

India's bid plan centers on the city of Ahmedabad, which will host the multi-sport Commonwealth Games in 2030, and has the world's largest cricket stadium which is named for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Qatar has hosted world championships in most top-tier Olympic sports, including soccer's 2022 World Cup. Its bid could yet expand from Doha to send some events to Gulf neighbors.

A Qatar-hosted Olympics should require the Summer Games to move from the July-August slot it has occupied at each edition from 2004 in Athens through 2032 in Brisbane.

The key date is in March, the IOC said, when the Coventry-chaired

executive board will approve a shortlist of candidates to develop detailed projects.

The 2029 target date for a contested vote is a return to the IOC's previous long-time schedule and process to pick Summer Games hosts.

It is also later than seemed likely last year when Coventry was elected, and both India and Qatar seemed poised to push for a quick decision. They and other national Olympic officials promoted their bid plans in Paris during the 2024 Olympics.

Coventry's first big decision on taking office in June 2025 was to pause the fast-track process, and more secretive one, which allowed Brisbane to be picked as the 2032 host fully 11 years in advance and without a contested vote.

France stages late comeback to crush Belgium

Zidane and Mancini get first home wins

PARIS, Oct 6, (AP): France left it late to beat Belgium 4-1 in the Nations League as Zinedine Zidane got his first home win as the national coach.

Substitutes Désiré Doué, Rayan Cherki and Michael Olise (two) netted four goals in 14 minutes to completely turn the match around for France, which trailed until the 77th minute.

"Tonight, this is soccer, this is what we love," Zidane said. "We faced some difficulties in the first half but that's part of the game; it's the kind of match you get from time to time. It's good to set things right - which is what we did - and we managed to play an extraordinary second half."

The win reinforced France's control of Group A1, three points above Italy, which beat Turkey 3-1.

Third-placed Belgium slipped four points below France. Turkey has no points.



France's Michael Olise celebrates after scoring during the Nations League soccer match between France and Belgium in Saint-Denis near Paris. (AP)

Zidane started his time in charge of Les Bleus with wins over Turkey and Belgium before being held to a draw by Italy on his home debut on Friday.

"It's a collective effort, too," Olise said. "He (Zidane) brings in ideas, we follow them - we've done that well over the last four matches, we're going to continue like this."

France was still to book a spot in the quarterfinals. It would have been assured of one of the top two places in the group if it beat Belgium and Italy failed to beat Turkey.

At the Stade de France, Belgium took the lead in the 35th minute. Dodi Lukébakio sprung the offside trap to run onto a magnificent, long pass from Roméo Lavia, raced through one-on-one with debutant Guillaume Restes and powered it over the France goalkeeper and into the back of the net.

But Zidane's star-studded bench turned things around. Doué leveled in the 77th with a low shot into the bottom right corner, and Les Bleus took the lead in somewhat strange fashion four minutes later.

Maarten Vandevoortd appeared set to save Cherki's strike but the ball hit the Belgium goalie's foot and rebounded in off his left arm. Olise set that up and added two goals in three minutes himself to seal the match.

"We knew the substitutes could change the game because they are high-quality players," Zidane said. "But, once again, it was a complete team performance; while the substitutes might have made the difference when they came on, everyone has been good over these past two weeks - everyone played their part, and that's what stands out to me."

"We talk about Olise because he scored, and Désiré came on and scored - every player who came on scored - which means it was the right call."

In Italy, Roberto Mancini was also looking for a first home win.



Italy's Antonio Vergara, left, and Turkey's Eren Elmalı challenge for the ball during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Italy and Turkey in Bologna, Italy. (AP)

He started his return to the Italy bench with a loss in Rome to Belgium before morale-boosting away performances against Turkey - where the Azzurri won 4-1 - and France.

Turkey was under pressure after scoring just one goal and conceding eight in its three matches. It was also missing key players but nevertheless started the brighter in Bologna.

However, Italy took the lead against the run of play in the 26th. Gianluca Scamacca attempted to knock down a cross and it bounced off a Turkey defender's shoulder before falling kindly back to Scamacca, who volleyed it in off the underside of the crossbar.

Aral Şimşir swept in a deserved equalizer for Turkey in the 61st but Italy was back in front just

three minutes later when Riccardo Calafiori headed in Nicolò Barella's free kick.

Pio Esposito sealed the win late on when he tapped in Alessandro Romano's shot. Esposito became only the second Italy player to score seven international goals before his 21st birthday.

Victor Gyökeres extended his record Nations League scoring streak to seven games to fire

Sweden to a 1-0 win in Romania.

It was a fourth of the campaign for Gyökeres, who broke the record on Friday.

Sweden tops Group B4 and is two points above Bosnia-Herzegovina, which beat Poland 1-0.

Northern Ireland remained on top of Group B2, despite being held to 0-0 by Georgia. Hungary won against Ukraine 2-1 and was second.

Federation yet to receive an official letter

Handball Premier League resumes amid Qadsia and Salmiya withdrawal standoff

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/ Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: The 2025-26 Kuwait Handball Premier League resumes today with two matches at the Handball Federation Hall, but the restart comes amid uncertainty over the status of Al-Qadsia and Salmiya following their announced withdrawal from the senior competition.

Al-Qadsia meets Sulaibikhat today, followed by Al-Arabi's clash with Salmiya. However, the Handball Federation has yet to receive an official letter confirming the withdrawal of either club.

The federation said both teams therefore remain on the league schedule, and any failure to attend will be handled under the competition regulations. It is expected to wait until the two clubs miss their next three matches before taking action to remove them from the schedule and impose the relevant administrative and financial sanctions.

Al-Qadsia and Salmiya are both expected to be absent from today's matches, creating an unusual backdrop to the league's resumption. The remaining clubs, meanwhile, are determined to complete the 2025-26 season, which was suspended in early March due to events in the Gulf region.

The second round will be played tomorrow at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex, with Kazma facing Al-Nasr at 5pm and Kuwait Club



A file photo of players in action.

taking on Burgan at 6:30pm. The third round is scheduled for Sunday, with the fourth round to follow next Wednesday.

The Premier League teams have maintained their preparations through intensive training sessions and a series of friendly matches. Burgan held a training camp in Bosnia ahead of its participation in the recently concluded IHF Men's Club World Championship in Cairo, where it finished seventh.

Sulaibikhat also held an overseas camp in Doha, playing several friendlies before returning to Kuwait to complete its preparations for the domestic campaign.

All teams are keen to bring the 2025-26 season to a normal conclusion and decide the league title before turning their attention to the Federation Cup, scheduled from November 1 to 16.

The 2026-27 season is scheduled to begin after the national teams' World Championship in Germany next January. The Super Cup is expected to be held in early February, followed by the start of the new league season.

Championship begins Friday

Sulaibikhat drawn in Group B of Arab Basketball Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/ Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 6: Sulaibikhat's first basketball team will compete in the 38th Arab Basketball Championship for Clubs, hosted by Lebanese club Al-Hikma in Beirut, after being drawn in Group B alongside Qatar's Al-Arabi, Lebanese clubs Hoops and Beirut, Yemen's Shaab Hadramout and Syria's Homs Al-Fida.

Group A comprises Al-Hikma and Centralia of Lebanon, Syria's Ahli Aleppo, Oman's Al-Seeb, Qatar's Al-Rayyan and Bahrain's Manama.

The championship begins this Friday and runs until October 20. Sulaibikhat's delegation will travel to Beirut tomorrow in preparation for the tournament. The team will open its campaign against Shaab Hadramout on Friday, followed by a meeting with Beirut on Sunday. It will then face Homs Al-Fida the following day before taking on Al-Arabi of Qatar on October 14. Sulaibikhat will conclude the group stage against Hoops on October 16.

Sulaibikhat delegation head and team manager Ayman Al-Anzi said the team is ready for the tournament, adding that the "Reds" aim to deliver strong performances and challenge for



Team manager Ayman Al-Anzi.

the top positions.

Al-Anzi said Group B appears well balanced, with the teams closely matched and no significant differences in quality. This, he added, gives Sulaibikhat extra motivation to perform at its best and seek a place in the second round.

He explained that the team completed its preparations by playing several friendly matches against Al-Sahel and Kazma, in addition to a game against the US Army team. These matches helped improve the players' readiness and prepare them adequately for the start of the competition.