



Bahrain, Kuwait deepen strong fraternal relations

MANAMA, Oct 7, (KUNA): Bahrain's Shura Council Chairman Ali Al-Saleh commended on Wednesday the deep and longstanding fraternal ties between Bahrain and Kuwait.

He highlighted their continued development and growth with the support and attention of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa.

Al-Saleh made the remarks during a meeting with Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Jasem Al-Najem, underlining the importance of building on the joint successes and bilateral achievements between both sides.

He lauded the strong Bahrain-Kuwait relations, which are rooted in deep fraternal bonds, affection and longstanding family ties that have provided a solid foundation for cooperation and integration over the decades.

He also highlighted continued coordination and fruitful cooperation across various fields.

Al-Saleh noted Kuwait's contributions to Bahrain's development and its support for development projects, saying these efforts reflect the depth of the ties between the two countries and the longstanding historical and civilizational foundations of their relations.

Meanwhile, Al-Najem expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to Al-Saleh for his kind sentiments and congratulations on his appointment as Kuwait's ambassador to Bahrain.

He affirmed his commitment to making further efforts to strengthen Kuwait-Bahrain relations and expand cooperation and coordination in ways that serve the mutual interests of the two countries and their people.

Al-Najem also expressed appreciation in the deeply rooted and distinctive ties between Kuwait and Bahrain, underscoring the importance of continued joint efforts to strengthen these bonds and broaden bilateral cooperation across various fields. The meeting was attended by Kuwait Embassy Counselor Yousuf Al-Banwan and Second Secretary Lujain Abu Alyan.

Kuwait steps up readiness for Saudi Super Cup



Ministry of Interior photo
Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, chairs a coordination meeting on Wednesday to evaluate Kuwait's preparedness for hosting the Saudi Super Cup matches.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah chaired a coordination meeting on Wednesday to assess Kuwait's readiness to host Saudi Super Cup matches.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar and Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma.

In a press statement issued by the Ministry of Interior (MoI), Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef underscored the importance of continuously monitoring preparations on the ground, maintaining direct coordination among relevant authorities and confronting any obstacles promptly.

This would ensure all agencies are fully prepared and able to perform their duties accurately and efficiently, safeguard the safety of fans and participants, ensure the matches are well organized and present the sporting event in a manner befitting Kuwait, he said.

The meeting also aimed to follow-up on preparations for hosting the matches, strengthen coordination among relevant authorities, integrate security,

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Family homes get new legal shield in Kuwait

Divorce notarization to follow reconciliation effort

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Yousef Al-Sumait affirmed that the Cabinet's approval of a draft decree-law amending Article 830 of the Civil Code comes in implementation of the directives of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

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Photo by Rezk Tawfik

UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi addresses the attendees of a conference titled, "Water Secure Future for All".

Kuwait champions action for a water-secure future

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) recently organized a conference titled, "Water Secure Future for All".

Participants included Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Sabih Al-Mukhaizim, ambassadors and representatives of

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Other Voices

A timely step to strengthen family stability in Kuwait

By Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb

Years ago, a thoughtful Kuwaiti told me a story that stayed with me. In 2009, a delegation from Kuwait's Islamic-Christian Relations Council visited the Vatican and met Pope Benedict XVI. I was later told that, during the broader dialogue, a question arose about what Islam and Christianity could stand together to protect. The answer was simple: the family.



Dr. Alkhateeb

He explained that the move reflects a commitment to safeguarding family and residential stability while protecting the financial rights of real estate co-owners. The amendment addresses the social consequences arising from the partition and public auction of residential properties, particularly when the property serves as the family home and the sole shelter for a father, mother, or child, and the proceeds from its sale would be insufficient to purchase a suitable alternative residence.

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Day by Day

THOUGH snakes may feel smooth to the touch, their fangs conceal deadly peril.

A person with empty hands may win love, while the heart may despise another who possesses gold.

A person's true worth rests solely on their principles, for neither wealth, titles, nor rank endure.

When the mean-spirited acquire riches, they strut in arrogance, declaring, "It is I - I alone!"

In contrast, the noble-hearted resemble a fruit-laden tree branch: the more fruit it bears, the deeper it bows in humility.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

The minister to his illiterate brother-in-law: 'Do not worry, I have appointed you head of the evaluation committees'

Lack of oversight prompted the principal to appoint his brother-in-law—the school janitor—as a teacher

The moment the janitor panicked, flustered and feared exposure

Whenever a teacher was absent, he would ask his brother-in-law to go to the students

Eventually, the principal was promoted to regional director for education

A mighty empire found itself facing an unstoppable tide

The Muslim army was led by a man who had never known defeat in his life

The two men clashed and the duel ended with the death of the Persian warrior

They could no longer bear to witness the deaths of their comrades, it was a total defeat

Online appeals open for 'school transfers'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Ministry of Education announced the opening of an electronic grievance process for teaching and supervisory staff affected by school transfer decisions issued on October 6, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Grievance applications will be accepted electronically from October 7 through October 9.

In a statement, the ministry explained that the service is limited to staff covered by the October 6 transfer decisions. The online platform allows applicants to submit grievances,

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

TUNIS: The Permanent Committee for Television Programs of the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) announced Wednesday that **Kuwait** TV won third place in the 2026 Comprehensive Television Exchange Competition.

In a statement announcing the results of the 2026 competition, ASBU said that Kuwait TV received third place, while Iraq TV won first place and Qatar TV won second place.

The statement added that Qatar TV won the award for the most active participants in program exchanges under the annual work plan, while Iraq TV and Algeria TV ranked second and third, respectively. (KUNA)

Siberian lab death sparks Trump-Putin health talks

WASHINGTON, Oct 7, (AP): US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he has a call scheduled with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss a possible case of plague at a Siberian research institute.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump said he would be talking with Putin about the case "very soon."



People walk past the fence of the building of the Irkutsk Anti-Plague Research Institute of Siberia and the Far East in Irkutsk, Russia, on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026. (AP)

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Zain partners with ETLAQ to launch 'The Agentic AI Experience' in Kuwait



NBK launches 'National Initiative for Early Childhood' in partnership with MoH

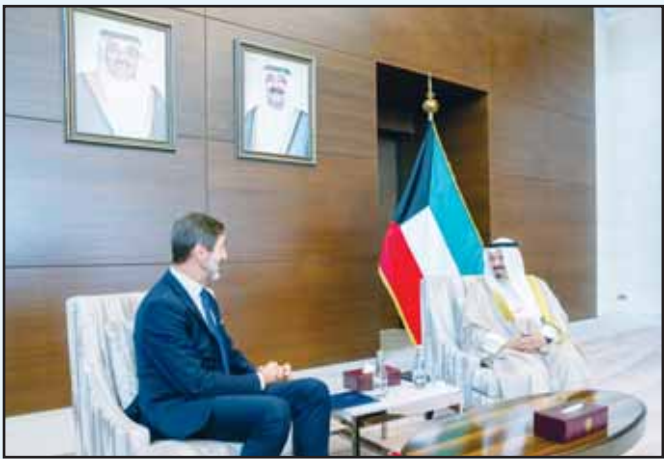


Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:26 Asr 14:56
Sunrise .. 05:44 Maghrib .. 17:26
Zohr 11:36 Isha 18:43



Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the Slovak minister.



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Slovak minister.

Kuwait Crown Prince, PM receive Slovak minister

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Wednesday Slovak Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Juraj Blnar and his accompanying delegation during his official visit to Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Head of the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and senior officials.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in the presence of Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, received Wednesday Slovak Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Juraj Blnar and his accompanying delegation during his visit to Kuwait. The meeting reviewed bilateral cooperation and ways to further strengthen relations between the two friendly countries, as well as a number of issues of mutual interest.



KUNA photo
Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets the visiting Slovak Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Juraj Blnar and his accompanying delegation.

Kuwait, Slovakia explore ways to enhance bilateral relations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met on Wednesday with visiting Slovak Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Juraj Blnar and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed close relations between both friendly countries and ways to promote and develop them in a way that serves their common interests, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said in a press release.

Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah welcomed the Slovak government's decision to reopen

the Slovak embassy in the country, stressing the significance of this step as bolstering Kuwaiti-Slovak relations and opening wider horizons for bilateral cooperation and coordination.

They also addressed the latest regional and international developments and exchanged views on several issues of mutual interest, primarily the regional situation and diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions and safeguarding security and stability.

A memo of understanding pertinent to bilateral political consultations was signed during the meeting.

Sports minister hails KUNA as Kuwait's 'positive' image

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Dr. Tarek Al-Jalahma hailed the country's state news agency KUNA as having conveyed a "positive" image of Kuwait to the world, against the backdrop of the agency's 50th anniversary.

Hailing the prominent role the Kuwaiti state news agency has played during the course of the past five decades, he described KUNA as being a "pillar" of the national media industry, citing its meticulous coverage of global events over the years.

Through such coverage, KUNA has risen to the upper echelons of the global news industry, while simultaneously depicting a favorable image of Kuwait to the world, the minister reiterated, wishing the state news agency every success as its journey progresses.

'Women wielding power pillar of sustainable development'

NEW YORK, Oct 7, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait reaffirmed Tuesday that empowering women and enhancing their participation in decision-making constitute a national priority and a fundamental pillar for achieving sustainable development.

Speaking before the UN General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Affairs) during discussions on the "Advancement of Women," Second Secretary at Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the UN Wafiqah Al-Mulla highlighted state efforts to expand female participation across diplomatic, judicial, military, security, and scientific sectors.

Al-Mulla cited milestone achievements, including the increase of female judges and public prosecutors to 122, the historic appointment of the first female Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice, and the graduation of the first cohort of female officers in the Kuwait Fire Force.

She emphasized that these milestones reflect Kuwait's commitment to the Women, Peace, and Security agenda and the expanding institutional role of Kuwaiti women.

Al-Mulla added that the National Committee for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 continues to build capacity across national bodies, including judicial, security, and defense ministries, while drafting a national implementation plan in coordination with ESCWA to establish clear execution and monitoring mechanisms.

On legislative protection, Al-Mulla highlighted the enactment of Decree-Law No. 11 of 2026 on protection from domestic violence, alongside new regula-



Wafiqah Al-Mulla

tions for shelters for abused women and the government's 2026-2029 family protection program.

She emphasized that these initiatives fortify national prevention, protection, and rehabilitation systems, noting that women's empowerment remains unattainable without safeguarding women and girls from all forms of violence.

Al-Mulla concluded by affirming that empowering women extends beyond expanding participation opportunities to cementing their roles as essential partners in policy formulation, peacebuilding, and national development.

She emphasized that Kuwait will continue translating recent progress into sustainable institutional mechanisms that safeguard women's rights and dignity, adding that "the full participation of women is not an option, but a necessity for building a safer, more just, and prosperous future."



KCCI photos
The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) conducted a workshop focusing on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) disclosure.

KCCI stresses joint effort to tackle int'l climate change

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) conducted a workshop on Tuesday, focusing on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) disclosure reports, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This is in response to an invitation from the Union of Specialized Environmental Institutions and Companies.

The workshop is a manifestation of the collaborative commitment of KCCI and the union to raise awareness on sustainability reporting and its implications for the Kuwaiti economy, environment and society.

It highlighted the objective of KCCI to support its members in fulfilling the requirements set by regulatory authorities, such as the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and the Central Bank of Kuwait, in compliance with the recent directives of the Ministry of State for Development and Sustainability Affairs.

Firas Al-Awda, KCCI Assistant Director General, greeted the participants during the opening of the workshop. He stressed that climate change is a pressing reality with profound effects on countries, including Kuwait, and on workplaces in various sectors.

He pointed out that this situation prompted international organizations and economies to reassess their economic frameworks, such that international

agreements were established to tackle climate change, and countries made national commitments and innovative economic strategies prioritizing environmental conservation.

He said the KCCI is keen on motivating the local private sector to integrate environmental sustainability as a core aspect of its operations.

He added that the initiatives of KCCI in this area are ongoing, citing the collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO) to conduct a study on the private sector's shift towards a low-carbon economy in Kuwait, released in February 2025.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the union Dr. Ali Khuraibet pointed out that as part of the social responsibility of the union, it will organize and promote environmental consultancy efforts, engage experts, and raise awareness about ESG disclosure reports.

He explained that the goal is to ensure these reports accurately depict corporate realities and serve as the basis for enhancing the companies' environmental and social impacts while improving governance standards.

The representatives of the union then presented details of the elements of these reports and the process for their preparation, using a case study to illustrate the methodology.

KUNA wins widespread praise for 'leading role'

Ministers, dignitaries commend news agency's outstanding output

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila congratulated KUNA and its leadership and staff Tuesday on its 50th anniversary.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Huwailah said the agency had, over five decades, covered local and international events with neutrality and credibility.

She highlighted KUNA's leading role in expanding its reach and keeping pace with new media through its various social media platforms, enabling readers and followers to access news promptly.

She praised KUNA's commitment to credibility and professionalism and its cooperation with various state entities and institutions, commending its staff for strengthening the standing of Kuwaiti media, highlighting the state's efforts and covering global developments.

Meanwhile, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Acting President Hassan Al-Asmari said Wednesday that Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) has spent five decades documenting Kuwait's journey, reporting its news, and highlighting its balanced positions and foreign policy to the world with professionalism and credibility.

In a statement to KUNA marking its 50th anniversary since its establishment by Amir Decree in 1976, Al-Asmari congratulated KUNA and Kuwait's media community,



Al-Huwaila

praising the agency's long-standing contribution and role in documenting the country's national development.

He said KUNA has shown that a national news agency is more than a news carrier, it preserves national memory and connects the country with the region and the world.

Al-Asmari highlighted the strong professional ties between SPA and KUNA, rooted in the historic and fraternal relations between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as well as years of news exchange and cooperation.

He expressed hope for deeper cooperation between the two agencies, particularly in content distribution, modern media technologies, expertise exchange and talent development, strengthening Gulf news agencies' regional and international reach.

Al-Asmari described KUNA's 50-year journey as a pulse that documents history with the ink of credibility, expressing hope for further decades of growth, leadership and joint media work.

Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting



Al-Roumi

Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq congratulated KUNA Wednesday on its 50th anniversary, praising its national media role in reporting Kuwait's news, positions and achievements with professionalism and credibility.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Marzouq said the agency's 50th anniversary marks a milestone in Kuwait's media journey and reflects its role as a trusted source of news and information and a platform showcasing Kuwait's positions and achievements regionally and internationally.

He added that KUNA has accompanied Kuwait's development journey, documenting its stages, covering the activities of state institutions and sectors, and highlighting their achievements and initiatives, thereby strengthening Kuwait's presence and standing at various forums.

He noted that the agency's role has become increasingly important amid rapid developments in the media sector and the flow of information, stressing the need for national media to provide accurate information from official sources.

He expressed appreciation for generations of KUNA employees who contributed to building the institution and developing journalistic tools in line with digital transformation.

Al-Marzouq wished KUNA further success and progress and continued national and media service in the coming decades.

Minister of Oil Tareq Al-Roumi said that the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) marks five decades of national and media service.

During this period, the agency has established itself as a trusted official source of news and information and a platform reflecting Kuwait's positions and achievements locally, regionally and internationally.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Oil, Al-Roumi said KUNA had accompanied Kuwait's development journey over the past five decades and played a prominent role in covering developments in the oil sector, and highlighting Kuwait's role and positions at regional and international forums and organizations.

He praised KUNA's role in covering the activities and events of the oil sector and reporting its news and statements with professionalism and accuracy, contributing to highlighting the state's efforts in this vital sector.

The minister added that the rapid flow of information and advances in content production underscore the importance of professional official media in providing accurate information at its source and keeping pace with developments and events with credibility.

IICO, KBA ink deal to help visually impaired women

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) and Kuwait Blind Association (KBA) signed a partnership agreement for the implementation of the "Capacity Building and Professional Empowerment for Visually Impaired Women" project in Kuwait.

The signing took place at the IICO headquarters in South Surra, with IICO Director General Eng. Bader Al-Sumait, KBA Chairman Fayed Lafi Al-Azmi and other concerned officials in attendance.

The project is for 200 visually impaired women aged 18 and above, who will complete comprehensive 12-month training program on developing personal, life and professional skills, boosting confidence in one's abilities, and preparing beneficiaries to seize opportunities in the labor market and the community.

Al-Sumait stated that the organization considers the empowerment of people with disabilities as an integral part of its social responsibility and its commitment to intensify the impact of charitable work.

He said the project shall expand the experience of the organization in economic empowerment and capacity building, focusing on transitioning the condition of beneficiaries from a state of need to the realm of capability and productivity.

He affirmed that the organization is keen on ensuring the participation of people with disabilities in its programs and activities. He cited examples, such as the Al-Irada (Will-

power) Volunteer Team for People with Special Needs and the Human Building Initiative, which supports various social welfare groups.

He pointed out the efforts of the organization to intensify its impact in Kuwait through partnerships and initiatives for diverse segments of society, such as the collaboration with the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) and Human Building Initiative in the implementation of rehabilitation programs for 600 individuals, including orphans, people with special needs, elderly, recovering addicts, and those released from correctional institutions.

He added that the organization, in cooperation with the Secretariat General of Awqaf and Human Building Initiative, also implemented a specialized program for 200 people with disabilities.

He highlighted the completion of the first Quranic competition for the visually impaired with 45 contestants, disclosing that it was sponsored by Warba Bank and supervised by Al-Irada (Willpower) Team for People with Disabilities. He said the team executed various programs and initiatives for different groups of people with disabilities like the distribution of 55 Braille 'Al-Furqan' devices to the visually impaired as part of the Quran Memorizer Sponsorship Project, 225 Braille 'Moco' devices to visually impaired students in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, 45 devices for deaf mothers to help them monitor their babies, 25 wheelchairs for individuals with mobility impairments, 155 vibrating devices for the deaf.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to Cyprus Abdullah Al-Turki meets Cypriot Minister of Justice and Public Order Costas Fytiris.

Kuwait, Cyprus to boost security and legal ties

BEIRUT, Oct 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Cyprus Abdullah Al-Turki met Cypriot Minister of Justice and Public Order Costas Fytiris on Wednesday to discuss ways to strengthen security and legal cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Speaking to KUNA after the meeting, Al-Turki said the talks focused on enhancing communication and coordination between relevant authorities in both countries and exchanging expertise.

He noted that the Cypriot justice and public order minister oversees several security and police-related matters.

Two Kuwaiti lawyers named among MENA’s top 50 lawyers

Thomson Reuters’ ALB names Abdulaziz Taher Alkhateeb and Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb among the Super 50 MENA Lawyers 2026, as Taher Group Law Firm reaches the finals in 10 categories at the Middle East Law Awards 2026.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Asian Legal Business (ALB), part of Thomson Reuters, has named Abdulaziz Taher Alkhateeb, Founder and Senior Partner of Taher Group Law Firm, and Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb, Managing Partner, among its Super 50 MENA Lawyers 2026, a regional list recognizing 50 leading legal practitioners across the Middle East and North Africa.

The selection of two Kuwaiti lawyers from the same firm carries particular significance, bringing together the founding generation associated with the firm’s journey since its establishment in Kuwait in 1969 and its current leadership.

The recognition comes as Taher Group Law Firm and several members of its legal team have also reached the finals in 10 categories at the Middle East Law Awards 2026, with the winners scheduled to be



Dr. Fawaz Alkhateeb



Abdulaziz Alkhateeb

announced at the awards ceremony in Dubai on 5 November.

Individually, Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb is a finalist for Managing Partner of the Year (Regional), while Atyab Alshatti is a finalist for Woman Lawyer of the Year (Law Firm) and Noor Nasser Abdulsamad Alkhateeb for Young Lawyer of the Year (Law Firm).

The firm has also reached the finals in seven institutional categories covering deals, fintech, energy and resources, labour and employment, tax and wealth management, technology, media and telecommunications, as well as Kuwait Law Firm of the Year.

The inclusion of Abdulaziz and Fawaz Alkhateeb among the Super 50 MENA Lawyers 2026 represents a professional recognition already achieved, while the firm’s 10 award nominations reflect its broader participation in regional competition across multiple legal disciplines and individual categories.

Established in Kuwait in 1969, Taher Group Law Firm has expanded its practice over more than five decades across dispute resolution, corporate and commercial matters, transactions, finance, investment and international legal services.

The firm said the recognition reflects the collective efforts of its team and the depth of professional experience accumulated over the years, alongside its continued investment in developing Kuwaiti legal talent and strengthening its ability to handle complex legal and commercial matters.

Service center to ease needs of handicapped

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan inaugurated the Integrated Services Center for People with Disabilities at the headquarters of the Public Works Ministry on Monday.

Acting Undersecretary Kafaya Al-Najdi and several ministry officials attended the inauguration ceremony, as part of efforts to improve services and ease the processing of transactions for those with disabilities.

In a press statement, the ministry disclosed that the center provides comprehensive services catering to the needs of individuals with mobility, hearing and visual impairments. This is achieved through assistive devices and technologies that streamline procedures and create an accessible service environment tailored to the needs of beneficiaries.

The center is equipped with real-time sign language interpretation system to facilitate communication with the deaf and hearing-impaired, as well as devices for text magnification to assist the visually impaired and those with color blindness. It has an instant reading device for the blind and Braille printer to help them read documents and complete their transactions.

‘Gulf power, water integration strategic for resource security’

MANAMA, Oct 7, (KUNA): Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem affirmed Monday that Gulf integration in the electricity and water sectors represents a strategic pillar for strengthening energy and water security and enhancing GCC states’ readiness to meet changing and future needs.

Speaking to KUNA on the sidelines of the 31st meeting of GCC ministers responsible for electricity and water cooperation, which is hosted by Bahrain, Al-Mukhaizeem said the next phase requires building on achievements made in joint cooperation and advancing toward more integrated and sustainable projects and initiatives.

“The GCC states’ unity of destiny and integration of interests provide a solid foundation for taking cooperation in the electricity and water sectors to broader horizons, transforming common challenges into opportunities for development and enhancing



Al-Mukhaizeem

readiness,” he said.

The minister expressed his belief that developing the GCC electricity interconnection system and pursuing studies on water interconnection projects constitute a strategic investment in resource security and sustainability, as well as a foundation for a safer, more stable and prosperous future for GCC states and their peoples.

The meeting discussed several issues aimed at strengthening Gulf cooperation and integration in the electricity and water sectors, foremost among them developments in the GCC electricity interconnection and ways to further develop and maximize its benefits.

It also reviewed the activities of the GCC Interconnection Authority and ways to support the reliability and stability of electricity systems while enhancing coordination and integration among GCC states.

The meeting further addressed the work of several joint GCC committees concerned with water resources, rationalizing electricity and water consumption, customer services, and new and renewable energy. It also followed up on joint programs, initiatives and activities and promoted the exchange of expertise and experiences among member states in relevant fields.

KPC headed for big reform

Young blood to replace old guard

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Sweeping leadership changes are imminent across Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) subsidiaries, most notably at Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), and the changes will affect several deputy CEOs and mid-level executives.

According to informed sources, the move aligns with KPC’s drive to bring fresh, young leadership talent into deputy CEO positions, paving the way for a new era of development and innovation in managing the nation’s oil wealth.

The initiative aims to advance KPC’s progress and enhance its capacity to sustain and expand production in the refining, oil, and gas sectors, despite the operational challenges encountered during 2026.

The sources emphasized the critical importance of these structural changes in light of the current and future challenges facing global energy markets.

They stressed the urgent need to modernize management practices, enhance operational efficiency, and accelerate the implementation of major capital projects. Accordingly, KPC’s strategy continues to focus on selecting leaders capable of steering the organization through the turbulence of geopolitical shifts and complex economic dynamics, while ensuring the stability of the state’s financial sustainability.

The sources noted that national talent managing the oil sector has demonstrated over the past decades a strong capacity to operate complex oil facilities, including the Mina Al-Ahmadi and Mina Abdullah refineries.

With a combined refining capacity approaching 800,000 barrels per day, these facilities place Kuwait among the countries producing high-quality, environmentally friendly petroleum products that meet global

standards. However, the anticipated changes are also expected to create new opportunities for young professionals.

The sources also noted that Al-Zour Refinery, now managed by Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), has achieved significant success throughout its integration phases.

During the fiscal year ending March 31, the refinery exported approximately 14.291 million metric tons of products.

Under the leadership of CEO Wadha Al-Khateeb, the facility successfully transitioned from losses in previous years to profitability.

Consequently, the upcoming leadership changes, spanning both senior and middle management at Al-Zour, are expected to further strengthen domestic refining capacity and support Kuwait Petroleum Corporation’s ambition to expand its international market share of low-sulfur fuel oil that complies with the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) stringent standards.



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Other Voices

Tinting the car windows

By Ahmad alsarraf

In the 1960s, Khaled Al-Masoud, then Minister of Education and Upbringing, changed the ministry’s name to the Ministry of Education. Sixty years later, we have succeeded neither in education nor in teaching.

Education is the cornerstone of any developmental renaissance. This was evident in 1912, when enlightened citizens decided to introduce modern education to the country, replacing the traditional Quranic school system run by the “Mullah.”

Attempts to establish a modern school met with strong opposition, and many refused to contribute to its construction. After much effort, the necessary funds were raised, but the school’s troubles with the forces of backwardness did not end.

After a while, a number of parents withdrew their children, objecting to the inclusion of subjects such as English and geography in the curriculum. As a result, the school’s revenues declined, and it was eventually suspended for a period of time.

The objections to curriculum development and the refusal to retrain teachers that we are witnessing today in Kuwait are reminiscent of what happened a century ago. At the time, opposition was justified on the grounds that students might be influenced by ideas considered deviant, and that they would be taught geography, including the concept that the Earth is spherical, which some believed to be incorrect.

Today, the argument has shifted to concerns about protecting religious beliefs. Yet this overlooks the fact that the fears expressed in 1912 proved unfounded, and there is no justification for the current fears.

Customs and traditions that were adopted a century ago have changed completely, yet Kuwait remains largely stagnant, while faith remains strong in the hearts and minds of its people.

The state of education, particularly in public schools, is unsatisfactory. This problem cannot be solved simply by appointing a doctor, engineer, or even a rocket scientist to lead the Ministry of Education, because the process is far more complex.

We have no option but to seek assistance from an international organization or a Western government to help put our education system on the right track, while ensuring that



alsarraf

there is no external interference.

For example, we cannot commission an international engineering consultant to design a skyscraper and then interfere with their work by insisting that they use local sea rocks to build its walls.

Education is not a car that we import from abroad and then decide to tint its windows under the pretext of customs and traditions. Rather, it is a critical national project, and failure in education means the continuation and deepening of backwardness.

The consequences of any plan adopted today could be disastrous. The full extent of the damage may not become apparent for another decade or two.

Since we do not have the luxury of time to continue repeating failed experiments, the government must remove all obstacles and entrust educational reform to the appropriate authorities.

Current indicators, including recent appointments and promotions within the Ministry of Education, clearly show that we are still facing the same problems, and that the decline is likely to continue.

A friend of mine arranged for me to meet with a European delegation visiting Kuwait to promote a particular teaching method. I explained to the head of the delegation that he must have the courage to be frank with our officials and tell them that their educational program will inevitably fail if any party attempts to interfere with it or adapt it to conform to local customs and traditions.

No educational program can succeed if it is not implemented as designed, free from the whims and preferences of some individuals. The current teaching method, which relies heavily on rote learning and memorization and has been largely abandoned by developed countries, is completely at odds with the requirements of modern education. Modern education encourages students to ask questions, think critically, analyze information, and engage in activities that develop and strengthen their cognitive abilities.

It is essential to prepare and train teachers properly, requiring them, at a minimum, to obtain a master’s degree. They should also be granted academic freedom and given the social and financial recognition they deserve, after ensuring that they have no affiliation with any political or religious group.

I sense that something is being planned, but ultimately, no real development will take place, and the nation will pay a heavy price.

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Family homes

Kuwait champions

Kuwait steps

Online appeals

Siberian lab

hala@halakw.com

Army study found shock gloves purchased by ICE cause pain, compliance and fear

WH to assign govt lawyers to migrant kids’ cases, worrying advocates

MIAMI, Oct 7, (AP): The Trump administration is creating a team of attorneys to represent children who traveled alone to the United States in immigration proceedings, which critics say would deprive them of having lawyers who aren’t employed by the government and could put them at greater risk of deportation.

The US Health and Human Services Department lawyers will “provide direct legal advice and counsel” to unaccompanied migrant children, according to an announcement in the Federal Register signed by Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. The decision, announced last week without fanfare, offered no details beyond that broad mandate.

Health and Human Services said in a statement that its Unaccompanied Alien Children Legal Representation Division will work under its general counsel’s direction toward “safely reuniting these children with their families and ensuring they have the legal support they need.”

“This new division will give the Department an additional mechanism to provide these children direct legal support while dedicated public servants work around the clock to safely reunify them with their families,” the department told The Asso-

ciated Press in a brief statement. It didn’t answer additional questions, including whether it would continue to contract with nongovernmental groups for legal representation or when its new legal division is expected to be fully operational.

The move appears to lay the groundwork for one of the biggest changes since guaranteed free legal representation for unaccompanied migrant children was introduced in 2008. It comes after the administration cut ties with the Acacia Center for Justice, a nongovernmental organization that managed 24,000 cases and held a contract to provide representation through a vast network of legal service providers.

The change means migrant children will not have an independent representative to advocate for them who doesn’t have a conflict of interest, said Shaina Aber, the Acacia Center’s executive director.

“Placing children’s legal representation and services inside of the same agency that holds children in federal immigration custody is an unprecedented step that does not meet basic standards of independence of counsel,” Aber said. It “will only give HHS new opportunities to forsake children’s rights and well-being.”



An unaccompanied minor looks up as he waits to answer questions from a US Border Patrol agent at an intake site after he was smuggled on an inflatable raft across the Rio Grande River, March 24, 2021, in Roma, Texas. (AP)

Wendy Young, president of Kids in Need of Defense, a nonprofit that provides free legal representation and social services to unaccompanied children, called the creation of the new in-house HHS legal team “part of a pattern of attacks that this administration has engaged in, in terms of undermining zealous repre-

sentation of unaccompanied children in their immigration proceedings.”

The new division will work independently from other government agencies that deal with the minors, including the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement, which is responsible for the custody and care of the children who arrive in the US with-

out a parent or legal guardian.

There is some precedent for government-paid attorneys defending clients against government prosecutors in civilian and military courts, but as criminal defense lawyers and not in immigration court.

But Young noted that the child’s lawyer, the judge, and government attorneys seeking deportation will all be federal employees. Judges are appointed by the Justice Department and prosecutors work at the Department of Homeland Security.

“A government attorney who’s employed by the government most likely would be coached and encouraged to take the position of encouraging the child to agree to voluntary departure and to leave the United States rather than to present a full representation of the facts of their case,” Young said.

Amid the uncertainty, children have been going to their court hearings without legal representation lately, according to advocates.

Americans for Immigrant Justice, another nonprofit that provides free legal representation to unaccompanied immigrant children, said it has been challenging to secure lawyers for the minors since the government suspended funding to legal aid orga-

nizations on July 31 through Acacia.

Sui Chung, the group’s executive director, said the need for legal representation exceeds the available resources.

The government recently awarded a contract to another organization, Our Rescue, with a potential value of up to \$244 million. The transition to Our Rescue, which has been challenged by Acacia, has led to short-term arrangements, including a temporary contract with the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

Also

WASHINGTON: The shock gloves immigration agents could soon use to control detainees and protesters worked so powerfully during a military exercise that participants felt intense pain, stopped fighting immediately and feared additional exposures, according to a previously unreleased Army study.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement leaders were aware of the findings before signing a \$16.7 million contract to purchase 6,000 pairs of shock gloves in August, according to records obtained by the watchdog group American Oversight and shared with The Associated Press.

Republicans to spend \$5M in S.Carolina race

Collins distances self from Trump in Maine Senate debate

WASHINGTON, Oct 7, (AP): Republican US Sen Susan Collins distanced herself from President Donald Trump during her first Maine Senate debate with Democrat Troy Jackson, arguing she has maintained her political independence by repeatedly voting against Trump’s agenda and saying that she’s “not exactly his favorite senator.”

Democrats are trying to flip the Maine Senate seat as they work to win control of the Senate. Trump lost the state in 2024, giving Democrats hope of defeating the five-term moderate Republican, who has been targeted by Democrats in previous elections and survived.

During the hourlong debate, Jackson focused largely on attempting to connect Collins to Trump. He kicked off the night by pointing out she cast a critical vote to confirm Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, a Trump nominee who eventually helped overturn the constitutional right to abortion. Collins supports abortion rights and said Kavanaugh assured her it was settled law, but she has said recently that she does not regret her vote to confirm him.

“Would you trust her to pick the next Supreme Court justice?” asked Jackson, a former state lawmaker

and logger.

He also repeatedly brought up her procedural vote to advance the president’s 2025 tax and spending bill - though Collins ultimately broke with her party to vote against it.

Collins countered that she has voted against Trump more than she did Joe Biden when the Democrat was president, and has pushed back against Trump on tariffs, immigration enforcement and the war in Iran.

“I voted against my party more than another other senator on either side of the aisle,” Collins said.

The attention on Trump comes as only 31% of US adults approved of how the Republican is handling the presidency, according to a September AP-NORC poll. That’s well below where his approval stood when he took office last year.

The president has started holding rallies around the country in an effort to help GOP candidates win in November, telling voters to pretend he is on the ballot. At Tuesday’s debate, a moderator noted Trump has floated the idea of campaigning in Maine, and asked Collins if she would stand beside him if he does.

“I’m not exactly his favorite senator,” she said, adding “I would say that he’s not coming to Maine.”

Collins, who has said she didn’t vote for Trump in 2016, voted to convict the president after his 2021 impeachment over his role in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. In January, Collins joined a handful of Republican colleagues in backing a failed effort to limit the president’s ability to unilaterally use force in Venezuela. The move prompted Trump to say on social media that they “should never be elected to office again.”

Collins argued that her seniority and experience in the Senate have resulted in money and resources for Maine, saying: “Leadership matters in Washington.”

She also spent Tuesday evening attempting to turn the focus of Maine’s high cost of energy and housing on Jackson, arguing that he had a larger role in making a difference when he was the state Senate president and criticizing “Augusta’s failed policies” as a way to connect Jackson’s to the state’s struggle to address affordability.

Other moments showed how the two candidates were approaching their appeal to working class Maine voters. For example, as Collins touted her ability to remove certain items from Trump’s trade war with Canada, including pulp, concrete

and road salt. Jackson pushed back by quipping “we can’t eat road salt.”

Also:

WASHINGTON: The primary Senate Republican super PAC is sending reinforcements to deep red South Carolina as President **Donald Trump** prepares to travel there to boost Sen. **Darline Graham**.

The Senate Leadership Fund is putting \$5 million in the state to shore up Graham, who was appointed this summer as an interim replacement for her brother, the late Sen. **Lindsey Graham**. The spending was confirmed by a person with direct knowledge of the plans.

The spending is meant more as an insurance policy, said the person, who was granted anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, and Republicans remain confident in their chances to retain the seat.

Meanwhile, Trump’s midterm blitz is tentatively scheduled to take him to the state ahead of the Nov. 3 midterms, according to a separate person familiar with the plans who also spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.



US Sen Susan Collins addresses reporters after the ribbon-cutting at a US Coast Guard regional command center in South Portland, Maine, Feb. 20, 2019. (AP)

Rubio set to call for West to restore founding democratic principles, values

ATHENS, Oct 7, (AP): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio was set to call for the nations of the West to return to their civilizational roots and restore the values that drove the rise of Europe and North America to global dominance for centuries.

In Athens to discuss deepening economic, energy and security cooperation with Greece, Rubio was to deliver a speech later Wednesday overlooking the ruins of the Acropolis, a widely recognizable symbol of the city’s ancient civilization associated with the creation of popular participatory government and the social contract.

Rubio intends to remind listeners of qualities he says were born in Greece and later defined the West, such as curiosity, courage, ambition and a restless spirit of exploration and discovery of the unknown.

“It has become fashionable today to believe that enlightened foreign policy means prioritizing the ‘global community’ over one’s own people. Here, too, we have much more to learn from the men of Ancient Greece. They knew that there was nothing selfish or wrong about loyalty to your nation, nor in fighting



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, (left), shakes hands with Greek Defense Minister Nikos Dendias as Gen Dimitrios Choupiis, chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, looks on during a signing ceremony at the Conrad Hotel in Athens, Greece on Oct 7. (AP)

to defend its interests above all else,” Rubio plans to say in the speech, excerpts of which were distributed by the State Department.

“Today, we find ourselves at a crossroads,” he will say, according to the excerpts. “The next decade will

write the story of the next century. The course we take will determine whether the West maintains its place at the head of the world, or resigns itself to a future of atrophy, servitude, and decline. We will either choose to act now or lose the choice to act at all.”



Locals and rescuers clear the rubble of a residential building destroyed in a Russian missile strike on Pryluky, Ukraine on Oct 7. (AP)

Russian strikes on Ukrainian cities kill at least 21 civilians, injure 60

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 7, (AP): Russian missiles and drones pounded Kyiv and a dozen other Ukrainian regions overnight into Wednesday, killing at least 21 civilians, including four children, and wounding around 60 in Moscow’s latest devastating barrage, Ukrainian officials said.

Ukraine had anticipated the attack, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warning the previous day that intelligence services had concluded that Russia was building up for a “massive” strike.

Although Ukraine knew about the looming attack, which coincided with Russian President Vladimir Putin’s 74th birthday, it couldn’t fend it off completely.

The deaths and damage illustrated the difficulty Ukraine has in countering Russia’s ballistic missiles and the new jet-powered drones used in Moscow’s escalating bombardments. Without ammunition for its U.S.-made Patriot air defense systems, Ukraine can’t stop Russian ballistic weapons. It is racing to develop a new generation of interceptors fast enough to catch Moscow’s high-flying jet-propelled drones.

Russia and Ukraine are engaged in a long-range aerial war as their armies remain largely deadlocked on the battlefield, more than 4 ½ years after Moscow’s all-out invasion of its neighbor. The unrelenting aerial attacks are hurting Russia but could be ruinous for smaller Ukraine.

US-led peace efforts appear unlikely to bring any short-term relief, with the possibility of holding low-level technical talks still under discussion. Putin, meanwhile, is pressing ahead with the invasion in the belief that Ukrainians will buckle under the pressure and Kyiv’s Western supporters won’t stay the course, Western analysts say.

A Russian strike destroyed an apartment block in Pryluky, in Ukraine’s northern Chernihiv region, killing 13 people, including four children, and wounding about 50, Interior Minister Ihor Vyhivskiy said.

Deaths were also reported in three other Ukrainian cities, including the capital Kyiv, according to Zelenskyy.

“The Russians wanted to strike painfully and demonstratively,” the

Ukrainian leader said on social media.

Ukraine is looking worldwide for available Patriot missiles, which are in short supply due to the Iran war.

“Russian ballistic missiles remain the greatest challenge. And air defense packages for us right now are a vital necessity,” Zelenskyy said.

In Kremenchuk, in the Poltava region, two people were killed and seven injured, said Vitalii Diakivnych, head of the regional military administration, and a rescue operation was continuing.

“That is exactly what the enemy is counting on. For us to be afraid of falling asleep. To let our children out of our sight. To plan anything. So that everyone thinks: next time it could be my address,” he said.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said the military carried out a massive strike overnight targeting industrial facilities involved in the production and storage of missiles and drones across Ukraine. The ministry said that port and ship repair facilities in the southern Odesa region and ships carrying cargo for the Ukrainian military were also hit.

Europe

French riot police fire tear gas: Police fired tear gas to control crowds in Paris and elsewhere in France on Tuesday as more than a quarter of a million people rallied nationwide to support high school students demanding more education funding, according to government figures. The protests increased pressure on the administration of outgoing President **Emmanuel Macron**.

As pupils blockaded high schools, large crowds waving flags and placards gathered in Marseille, Strasbourg and other cities. The demonstrations showed how protests that began at a high school in the Paris region in mid-September have grown into a nationwide movement - the latest of many that have marked Macron’s nearly decade-long tenure. (AP)



Macron

Spain extends border checks: Spain has extended temporary border checks on travelers arriving from Italy by air and sea for another 15 days, until Oct 22, according to an Interior Ministry order published in

the Official State Gazette on Tuesday.

The extension will run from Oct 8 to Oct 22. It is the third extension of the checks, which were first introduced on Aug 8.

The order, signed by Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska on Oct 1, said the reasons for the measure, including serious threats to public order and internal security, remained in place.

Spain introduced the checks in response to Italy’s decision to impose controls on arrivals from Spain following a large influx of migrants into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on July 30 and 31. Italy has since extended its controls, prompting reciprocal measures by Spain. (Xinhua)

Latvian prez backs Kulbergs to lead talks: Latvian President Edgars Rinkevics said on Tuesday that incumbent Prime Minister Andris Kulbergs would lead talks on forming the Baltic country’s next government following his party’s sweeping victory in last Saturday’s parliamentary election.

Rinkevics made the announcement at a press conference after holding separate consultations with all six political forces elected to the new parliament.

Kulbergs’ United List party won 35.3 percent of the vote in the Oct. 3 parliamentary election, securing 41 mandates in Latvia’s 100-seat parliament, according to preliminary results. (Xinhua)

Okinawa governor Koja wants discipline for US military in Japan

TOKYO, Oct 7, (AP): The governor of the southern Japanese island of Okinawa demanded Wednesday that the central government do more to ensure effective discipline among US service members on the southern island following the arrest of a US Marine on accusations that he robbed and murdered a local woman.

Governor Genta Koja, in Tokyo for the first time since taking office last month, met with Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi to express outrage over the killing. He also asked the defense minister for further efforts to reduce the burden of hosting US military bases on the small island.

People in Okinawa have long opposed the heavy US military presence on the island and complained about noise, pollution and crime related to American bases, though some have come to see its strategic value due to what is widely viewed as a growing threat from China.

Lance Cpl. Devin Jacob Ballard, a 20-year-old Ohio native belonging to the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, was arrested over the weekend on suspicion of strangling Anna Yagi, 39, at a hotel and stealing her wallet and backpack. He has denied the allegations, according to



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, (center), poses with Okinawa Governor Genta Koja, (left) and Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara ahead of their meeting at the prime minister's office in Tokyo, Japan on Oct 7. (AP)

Japanese media.

"Okinawa has requested preventive measures every time similar crimes were repeated in past, and now we have this case again," Koja told Koizumi as they met in the minister's office packed with reporters and cameras clicking.

"I must say past disciplinary measures and human rights education implemented by the US military have not worked at all," Koja said.

Koizumi said that he was aware of Okinawa's concerns and that his government will cooperate with the US side to discuss effective preventive measures.

Hours earlier, the US military in Okinawa announced a 48-hour pause of all military operations for training through noon on Friday, as well as restricting the ability of troops to leave their base and prohibiting consumption of alcohol.

Min Aung Hlaing to meet Anwar Myanmar military leader arrives in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Oct 7, (AP): The leader of Myanmar's military-backed government arrived in Malaysia on Wednesday for talks.

Min Aung Hlaing's visit to Malaysia highlights the growing engagement between Myanmar and some governments in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, even as the regional bloc has continued to exclude the country's leaders from top-level meetings since a 2021 military takeover, which triggered armed resistance.

His visit comes four days after nearly 1,500 Myanmar nationals returned to Myanmar from Malaysia.

Malaysian officials greeted Min Aung Hlaing after landing at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. He is set to meet Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Thursday.

Myanmar's Foreign Ministry said in a statement Wednesday Min Aung Hlaing attended and spoke at a private business dialogue aimed at enhancing investment and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Malaysia says about 5,000 Myanmar nationals - including those returned Sunday - have agreed to be repatriated in stages from Malaysia. As of the end of August, 11,804 Myanmar nationals were being held at immigration detention depots across Malaysia, according to the Malaysian Home Ministry.

It was unclear if any of the returnees included minority Muslim Rohingya, who are facing persecution in Myanmar and have been denied citizenship.



In this photo released by Myanmar President Office, Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing, greets a diplomat before his departure to Malaysia, at the Naypyitaw international airport, in Naypyitaw, Myanmar on Oct 7. (AP)

Malaysia is home to about 215,600 refugees and asylum seekers registered with the UNHCR, including about 126,000 Rohingya who make up one of Southeast Asia's largest refugee communities. Despite hosting them, Malaysia is not a party to the UN Refugee Convention and treats refugees as undocumented migrants.

Rohingya have faced growing public hostility in Malaysia due to their increasing numbers, fueled by concerns over jobs, public services and security.

Anwar has defended the repatriation policy as a diplomatic effort to find a

long-term solution, saying Malaysia cannot host refugees indefinitely and Myanmar must take responsibility for its citizens.

Min Aung Hlaing has stepped up his diplomatic engagements since he was sworn in as president in April following an election that critics say was designed to cement the military's hold on power.

Wednesday's trip is part of an attempt to rebuild regional ties that deteriorated after he ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's government in February 2021 while serving as army chief.

DPRK calls Seoul's blame for mine explosion 'grave provocation'

S.Korea's appellate court acquits ex-president Yoon in free polling case

SEOUL, Oct 7, (Xinhua): A South Korean appellate court on Wednesday acquitted former President Yoon Suk-yeol of charges that he received free opinion polls from a political broker in violation of the Political Funds Act.

The Seoul High Court overturned a lower court's partial guilty ruling, clearing both Yoon and self-proclaimed political broker Myung Tae-kyun of charges that Yoon illegally accepted free public opinion polls from Myung in exchange for political favors.

The team of Min Joong-ki, an independent counsel who led an investigation into corruption allegations involving Yoon and his wife, Kim Keon-hee, sought a four-year prison sentence for Yoon and a three-year sentence for Myung.

The appellate bench stated that there was no evidence of an agreement between the Yoons and Myung about the conduct or free provision of public opinion polls, saying that it was difficult to establish criminal intent to donate illegal political funds.

It directly contradicted the lower court's finding, which ruled that there was a tacit agreement between the former first couple and Myung.

Yoon was accused of conspiring with his wife to receive customized opinion polls free of charge from the political broker on 58 occasions from June 2021 to March 2022, ahead of the 2022 presidential election, in exchange for the illegal nomination of a former People Power Party lawmaker in a parliamentary by-election later that year.

In the initial trial, the lower court found Yoon guilty of receiving 14 of the polls, where Myung directly delivered the results to the couple, sentencing Yoon to two years in prison and Myung to 18 months.

The lower court acquitted them of the remaining 44 polls due to the lack of definitive proof of a mutual agreement, given that Myung's direct delivery could not be established.

The appellate court's verdict on Yoon aligned with the previous rulings for his wife, who was acquitted of the same charges in both her first and second trials.



South Korea's ousted former president Yoon Suk Yeol arrives to attend his trial at the Seoul Central District Court in Seoul, South Korea, May 12, 2025. (AP)

Kim's case was currently pending a final decision by the Supreme Court. Yoon was sentenced to life in prison in February for the insurrection stemming from his martial law declaration and 30 years in prison in June for the general treason relevant to the infiltration of drones into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The emergency martial law was declared by Yoon on the night of Dec. 3, 2024, but it was revoked hours later by the National Assembly.

The constitutional court upheld a motion to impeach Yoon in April 2025, officially removing him from office.

He was indicted under detention in January 2025 as a suspected ringleader of the insurrection, becoming the first sitting president to be arrested and indicted.

Also:

PYONGYANG: The recent mine explosion in the demilitarized zone on the Korean Peninsula was a "farce" fabricated and unilaterally determined by South Korea, the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said Tuesday.

Seoul's attempt to shift responsibility for the incident onto the DPRK and tarnish its international image constituted a grave provocation that could not be overlooked, the Korean Central News Agency quoted the ministry as saying.

The ministry said in a statement that the incident was a plot by the South Korean military to brand the DPRK's fortification of its southern border as a "military invasion" and shift the blame for the accident onto the DPRK.

The DPRK will act in a more resolute and bold manner to ensure the security of its southern border, it said.

Three South Korean soldiers were injured, two of them seriously, in a landmine explosion on Sept 21 while conducting a mission in the demilitarized zone on the South Korean side near the military demarcation line.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff held a press conference on Monday to announce the final results of its investigation, saying that the explosion was caused by anti-personnel landmines planted by the DPRK south of the military demarcation line. It demanded an apology from the DPRK and the immediate removal of the mines concerned.



People carry their belongings as they walk toward their villages after flash floods damaged roads in Nuwakot, Nepal on Oct 2. (AP)

Nepal ends search for thousands of flood victims as family reactions range from anger to relief

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Oct 7, (AP): Nepal announced its intention to cease search and rescue operations for victims of the Aug. 26 flood that killed at least 1,455 people with thousands more still missing.

Family members of 5,285 people who remain unaccounted for, including hundreds of foreign nationals, expressed mixed reactions, with some relieved and others unhappy with the decision by Nepal's government announced late Monday.

The office of Prime Minister Balendra Shah said the government will concentrate on rehabilitation and reconstruction including restoring roads and bridges cut off by floods, particularly in remote areas where damaged infrastructure has made aid deliveries difficult.

The government estimates reconstruction and recovery will cost \$4.77 billion. Nearly 33,000 people have been affected and about 7,500 homes were damaged or destroyed.

Hopes for finding survivors were revived after two Nepalese workers were rescued from an underground tunnel at the Trishuli hydropower project on Sept. 4, and again two days later when res-

cuers found a Chinese man at the same location.

The families of other flood victims have held protests and vigils in Nepal to call for the search efforts to be improved.

Usha Khatri opposed the government's decision to end rescue operations. She has spent days searching for her husband in many of the towns where the river flows and bodies have been recovered.

"I am so angry at the government for giving up on search and rescue with thousands of people still missing. I just don't understand how they can do that when we still have hope left that our loved one can still be found," Khatri said Wednesday.

During her ongoing search she has checked photos of bodies that were recovered but buried for preservation until identification is made.

"Either they have to give up the body or show some solid proof that my husband is gone and then only they can declare him dead," Khatri said.

Other family members welcomed the decision and said they are seeking government-issued death certificates.

"After so many days and weeks there is little or

no hope of finding anyone alive. We are sure that none of our family members survived and we are just looking for a closure," said Nirajan Poudel, who lost five family members in the flood.

Several people whose relatives remain missing have performed symbolic funerals. Cremation is an important final rite in the Hindu tradition and performing the ceremony even without a body provides a sense of spiritual release for some families.

Poudel said the government has so far refused to issue death certificates, saying laws need to be amended first. Death certificates are necessary in Nepal for families to receive compensation, insurance and inherit properties.

Nepal's government did not immediately respond to a request by The Associated Press for more information about the death certificates.

Legal experts said the key issue was determining the number of people who were swept away by the flood.

"There is more to do with practical complications than legal provisions," supreme court lawyer Hardik Subedi said. "The process has not been initiated that facilitates the death certificate."

Mali armed forces retake northern rebel stronghold of Kidal, says govt

BAMAKO, Mali, Oct 7, (AP): Malian armed forces have recaptured the northern city of Kidal five months after it was seized by separatist rebels of the Azawad Liberation Front and Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam, an armed group linked to al-Qaida, the West African country's transitional government said Tuesday.

The capture of the Tuareg stronghold, carried out by air and ground forces, was assisted by Russia's Africa Corps paramilitary group, according to a statement by government spokesman Brig. Gen. Issa Ousmane Coulibaly read on state television.

But according to the armed groups that controlled the city, the Malian army entered Kidal on Tuesday without a fight. Mohamed Elmaouloud Ramadane, a spokesperson for the Azawad Liberation Front, said in a news release that its withdrawal stemmed in part from what he called "the disproportionate use of aerial assets by Russian mercenaries from the Africa Corps."

Mali has been plagued for over a decade by militants affiliated with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group, as well as a Tuareg separatist rebellion in the north.



Gold panners break stones in Kidal, Mali, on Jan. 23, 2020. (AP)

West Africa's vast Sahel region has become the deadliest place in the world for extremism. The military governments of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger in recent years have turned from Western allies to Russia for help combating the fighters affiliated with al-Qaida or the Islamic State group.

The Africa Corps is a Russian mili-

tary unit that has replaced the Wagner mercenary group and has teamed up with Mali's military to hunt down extremists.

The Malian army withdrew from Kidal in April following a series of attacks across the country that resulted in the death of Defense Minister General Sadio Camara.

Lat/Am

'Mexico to continue mirror ops with US': Mexico will continue coordinated "mirror" operations with the United States along their shared border in Tamaulipas state to avoid incidents following a reported shooting involving US Coast Guard personnel in the area, Mexican President **Claudia Sheinbaum** said Tuesday.

She said that Mexico maintains communication with the US Northern Command and the Coast Guard, stressing that bilateral security cooperation must adhere to the principles of "sovereignty, territorial integrity, mutual trust, and coordination without subordination."

"We decided to undertake the mirror operations, which is something that had previously been agreed on. One has already taken place and another is taking place to avoid any situation of misinterpretation," Sheinbaum said at her daily press conference at the National Palace.

Mexico seeks to maintain "a good relationship with the United States ... particularly in security ... in accordance with our Constitution and our laws," she said. (Xinhua)



Sheinbaum

Haiti extends candidate registration: Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council has extended the deadline for candidate registration to Oct. 31 and postponed the start of campaigning for presidential and legislative elections scheduled for December, local media reported Tuesday.

Registration had been due to close Oct 9. In a statement dated Monday, the council said the extension applies to both online registration and the submission of required documents.

The first-round campaign, originally scheduled to begin Oct 5, has also been postponed, with new dates to be announced later.

The council said the changes followed consultations with political groups and amendments to the electoral decree approved by the Cabinet on Monday, giving candidates more time to complete registration requirements.

Under the current electoral calendar, the first round of voting is scheduled for Dec. 13, with a second round set for Feb 21, 2027. The council's latest statement did not announce any change to the voting dates. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Colombia's prez offers support to vets: Colombian President Abelardo de la Esparilla offered legal assistance Tuesday to a group of Colombian military veterans who were arrested over the 2021 killing of Haitian President Jovenel Moise and recently extradited from the Caribbean country to Florida after their case languished for years.

In a message on X, the Colombian leader said his government will provide economic support to the families of the 17 Colombian suspects, who are expected to face trial in Florida. He also said he had ordered Colombia's ministries of justice and defense to provide them with legal support.

"The innocent cannot pay for crimes committed by sinners," de la Esparilla wrote. "I want to know exactly what happened and for the responsibility of each individual to be cleared up." (AP)

Kuwait oil price down to \$102.80 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went down USD 4.42 to reach USD 102.80 per barrel (pb) during Tuesday’s trading, compared to USD 107.22 pb the day before, as the Kuwait Petroleum

Corporation (KPC) stated on Wednesday. Globally, Bent crude went up by 26 cents to reach USD 100.58 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate edged one cent up to reach USD 89.44 pb.

Business

CITRA, US Embassy partnership helps businesses turn AI into practical solutions

Zain partners with ETLAQ to launch ‘The Agentic AI Experience’ in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Zain Kuwait announced its strategic partnership with ETLAQ to bring The Agentic AI Experience to Kuwait, reflecting its commitment to supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and translating the potential of artificial intelligence into practical capabilities that serve the business sector and contribute to Kuwait’s innovation ecosystem and digital economy. Created and organized by ETLAQ, the Experience is designed to enable business owners, executives, and leaders to build and practically deploy teams of AI agents around their specific business needs.

The announcement was made during a ceremony hosted at Zain’s headquarters in Shuwaikh, attended by Dr. Khaled Al-Zamel, Chairman of the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA); Nawaf Algharabally, Chief Executive Officer of Zain Kuwait; Steven Butler, Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait; Khalid Al-Zanki, Founder and CEO of ETLAQ Consulting; and Nada Al-Daihani, Director General of the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity.

The Masterclass will take place at GUST from November 2 to December 2, 2026, with sessions held Monday through Wednesday, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM Kuwait time. These dates cover the Masterclass component, rather than the full experience. Applications via: <https://www.theagenticaiexperience.com/>

The Experience starts with participants’ business needs and connects them to practical uses of agentic AI: systems in which AI agents can carry out defined tasks and coordinate work under human oversight. Its intended outcome is a working AI-agent team built around those needs, with clear responsibilities, permissions and human approval points. No technical background is required.

Dr. Khaled Al-Zamel, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), said: “Our ambition is to see local talent build solutions that serve our society and strengthen Kuwait’s presence in global markets. The expertise our people gain today expands what they can achieve tomorrow. CITRA’s role in agentic AI is grounded in regulating information technology services, protecting users, and safeguarding their data privacy. As these systems can carry out actions on users’ behalf, their permissions and responsibility for their actions must be clearly defined”.

Nawaf Algharabally, Chief Executive Officer of Zain Kuwait, said: “AI is rapidly reshaping how organizations operate, innovate, and create value, and Agentic AI represents an important next step in that evolution. At Zain, our ambition is not simply to adopt new technologies, but to translate them into meaningful value while



Khalid Al-Zanki, Nawaf Algharabally, Steven Butler, Dr. Khaled Al-Zamel, and Neda Al-Daihani at the event.



Dr. Khaled Al-Zamel, Chairman of CITRA.



Nawaf Algharabally, CEO of Zain Kuwait.



Khalid Al-Zanki, Founder and CEO of ETLAQ Consulting.



Neda Al-Daihani, Director General of SACGC.



Steven Butler, Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

■ **Al-Zamel:** “Building local capabilities must go hand in hand with clearly defined permissions, responsibility and data privacy”

■ **Algharabally:** “Our ambition is to harness emerging technologies in ways that create lasting value while reinforcing accountability, security, and responsible governance”

■ **Al-Zanki:** The Experience moves participants from understanding AI agents to putting them to work with clear purpose and human oversight

■ **Aldaihani:** Empowering young people and innovators to turn AI knowledge into practical solutions helps shape Kuwait’s future

■ **Butler:** The program is a direct investment in Kuwait’s talent and the future of its economy

ensuring that human judgment, accountability, security, and responsible governance remain at the center”

He added: “Through our strategic partnership with The Agentic AI Experience, we are reinforcing our commitment to Kuwait’s innovation ecosystem by helping entrepreneurs and startups gain greater access to emerging technologies, knowledge, and practical capabilities, empowering them to play a greater role in the digi-

tal economy. As we continue our evolution from a Telco to a TechCo, we are focused on creating meaningful impact through technology and enabling innovation to grow within a secure, well-governed, and responsible digital environment”.

Steven Butler, Chargé d’Affaires, The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, said: “The U.S. Embassy is proud to support this program as a direct investment in Kuwait’s talented youth and in the future of Kuwait’s economy. We are living through

a remarkable moment in technology, and today’s technologies go far beyond what was once imagined. In the President’s words, today’s frontier systems “amplify human ingenuity and unlock new forms of creativity.” They make the impossible possible in science, medicine, and nearly every other field”.

Khalid Al-Zanki, Founder and CEO of ETLAQ, who will personally lead the Masterclass, said: “The Agentic AI Experience brings together my background in computer engineering

and more than 20 years of experience in entrepreneurship and business. I designed it to help business owners and leaders without a technical background implement agentic AI in their businesses and day-to-day work. My approach to teaching starts with the business need, then connects the technology to a practical application. The goal is to help participants move from understanding what AI agents can do to putting them to work with clear purpose and human over-

sight”.

Neda Aldaihani, General Manager, Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC), said: “Our participation in THE AGENTIC AI EXPERIENCE reflects Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity’s commitment to empowering young people and innovators to explore agentic AI applications and turn knowledge into practical solutions that help shape Kuwait’s future”.

Alongside the Masterclass, the Experience brings together Mentorship, Talks, Showcase and Membership to strengthen continued learning, practical application and knowledge exchange, helping participants translate what they learn into capabilities that can be applied within their business environments.

This approach supports the development of digital and economic capabilities in Kuwait by helping business decision-makers translate emerging technologies into practical tools that address real business needs. Enabling business owners, executives and leaders to deploy AI agents across defined areas of their operations can support productivity, contribute to the development of new services, and strengthen the private sector’s capacity to innovate and grow.

This direction aligns with Kuwait Vision 2035 priorities around human capital development, productivity and strengthening the role of the private sector in building a diversified economy driven by knowledge and innovation. In this context, the initiative focuses on building practical capabilities that enable participants to develop effective AI-agent teams and direct them responsibly, positioning technology to create tangible value and impact rather than an end.

The initiative brings together organizations across business, technology, education, innovation and the community. Zain Kuwait serves as Strategic Partner, while the Communication & Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) joins as Digital Trust Partner. ETLAQ and the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait are the Launch Partners, with GUST Startup Lab and Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) as Innovation Partners. Cinescape and BPG Kuwait support the initiative as Media & Creative Partners, while Amcham, Kuwait Economic Society, Kuwait Society of Engineers, and the Association of Kuwait Small and Medium Enterprises participate as Community Sponsors.

Through partnerships of this kind, Zain Kuwait continues to support initiatives that strengthen digital capabilities, entrepreneurship and responsible technology adoption, while connecting emerging technologies with practical business needs. This reflects Zain’s broader role in enabling innovation, supporting private-sector competitiveness and contributing to the development of Kuwait’s digital economy.

Jazeera Airways joins Gulf Bank 642 Marathon as airline sponsor

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Jazeera Airways collaborated with Gulf Bank and Suffix Events to announce its partnership with the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon one of Kuwait’s most prominent annual sporting and community events, as Official Airline Sponsor. The partnership reflects Jazeera Airways’ commitment to supporting initiatives that bring the communities in Kuwait together, encourage active lifestyles and showcase Kuwait as a vibrant destination for major sporting and recreational events.

Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Officer of Gulf Bank, the title sponsor of Kuwait’s largest and only internationally accredited marathon, welcomed Jazeera Airways as the official airline partner of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. She noted that the partnership brings together two Kuwaiti institutions with a shared commitment to serving the community and supporting initiatives that deliver a positive and lasting impact.

She stated: “We take pride in the continued success of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon and its development into a prominent sporting and community platform that brings together participants of all ages and backgrounds. Through this event, we seek to encourage physical activity and promote a broader culture of health and well-being.

“Our partnership with Jazeera Airways will support our efforts to consolidate the marathon’s position as one of the leading sporting events in Kuwait and the region. It will also contribute to strengthening Kuwait’s standing as a destination for sporting and community events that promote participation, engagement, and social connection.”

Ahmed Almajed, Chief Operating Officer of Suffix Events, welcomed Jazeera Airways as the Official Airline Sponsor of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. He noted that the partnership will help connect runners and visitors from across the region with the event, while supporting efforts to showcase Kuwait as a destination for major sporting and community events.

He stated: “The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is designed to bring people together through movement, shared experiences and community spirit. We are pleased to welcome Jazeera Airways as the Official Airline Sponsor for this year’s event. Its

extensive network will help make the marathon more accessible to runners and visitors from across the region, while supporting our ambition to showcase Kuwait as a destination for major sporting events.”

As Official Airline Sponsor, Jazeera Airways will also support the Gulf Bank Marathon in connecting participants and visitors to Kuwait through its growing network of destinations across the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Africa.

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways, said:

“We are delighted to partner with the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, an event that has become an important part of Kuwait’s sporting and community calendar. At Jazeera Airways, connecting people is at the heart of what we do, and this partnership gives us another opportunity to bring people together through a shared passion for sport, well-being and community. The Marathon also provides a great platform to showcase Kuwait and encourage participation from runners and visitors from across the region and beyond. We look forward to supporting the event and welcoming participants to Kuwait on Jazeera Airways.”

Bringing together professional athletes, amateur runners, families and fitness enthusiasts, the Gulf Bank Marathon 642 promotes health, wellbeing and community participation while providing an opportunity for runners of different abilities to take part.

A team of runners from Jazeera Airways will also participate in the race, reinforcing the airline’s focus on wellbeing and teamwork. The airline will also encourage passengers to engage with the event. The partnership builds on Jazeera Airways’ continued support for sporting, cultural and community initiatives in Kuwait and complements the airline’s wider commitment to contributing positively to the communities it serves.

With an extensive network from its home at Jazeera Terminal 5 at Kuwait International Airport, Jazeera Airways continues to strengthen Kuwait’s direct connectivity with key regional and international markets.



Jazeera official airline sponsor of Gulf Marathon.

Al-Zour operations drive KIPIC’s record profit

KIPIC records historic KD 239.2 mln profit

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The ambitious strategy adopted by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to restructure the oil sector has yielded tangible benefits and historic returns, particularly through the integration of the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) into the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC).

This strategic move brought an end to years of consecutive losses at KIPIC and drove a significant financial and operational turnaround after KNPC assumed leadership, supported by the operations of the Al-Zour Refinery. This paved the way for the company’s full transformation and complete merger in 2026.

Official data confirm that the merger produced a wide range of results, primarily focused on maximizing the efficient use of Kuwait’s heavy crude resources, enhancing operational reliability, and increasing refinery flexibility in processing various types of crude oil.

Regarding expense rationalization and profitability enhancement, which remain key priorities for executive management, the same data reveal that KIPIC achieved total financial savings of USD 49.88 million.

This figure includes USD 17.68 million generated through the profitability enhancement program during the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

On the operational front, the Al-Zour Refinery achieved notable success in implementing key initiatives. These included the successful introduction of “Umm Niqa” crude oil into Kuwait’s heavy crude processing mix while maintaining continuous operations. This helped diversify the heavy crude feedstock and achieve a sustainable record processing rate of 120,000 barrels per day of Kuwaiti heavy crude.

This step was complemented by the successful processing of a new medium-heavy crude blend, comprising 50 percent

“Ratawi” (Burgan) crude and 50 percent West Kuwait crude, in the crude distillation unit.

Operations were gradually ramped up to processing rates of 30,000, 60,000, and 100,000 barrels per day.

Laboratory and operational results demonstrated the refinery’s strong capability to process heavy crude without operational constraints while maintaining high product quality.

The data indicated that these technical achievements also extended to maximizing the processing of “Eocene” crude at the Al-Zour Refinery by fully accommodating the share of Chevron Saudi Arabia.

This enabled the refinery to process heavy crude at maximum capacity, with processing rates reaching 360,000 barrels of “Eocene” crude in January 2026, significantly strengthening the company’s marketing and profitability position.

These initiatives, among others, included improving overall economic efficiency through the processing of new feedstocks and the development of petroleum products.

They also involved implementing a rigorous program to optimize and rationalize energy consumption across various operational units, paving the way for Kuwait’s refining sector to enter a new era defined by greater efficiency and global competitiveness.

According to the same data, this integrated system culminated in a significant marketing and export achievement - the shipment of the first consignment of low-sulfur jet fuel during the past year.

The product met stringent international standards, with a sulfur content not exceeding 500 parts per million.

The shipment opened new global markets and generated additional value, strengthening the refinery’s overall profit margins.

Notably, KIPIC concluded the 2025/2026 fiscal year with impressive net profits of KD 239,152,417, a substantial increase from the approximately KD 52.2 million recorded in the 2024/2025 budget.

Kuwait joins GCC push to boost trade

MANAMA, Oct 7, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq on Tuesday headed Kuwait’s delegation attending the 71st meeting of Gulf ministers of commerce, held in Manama.

Kuwait’s participation in the meeting reflects its commitment to bolstering Gulf cooperation and promoting economic integration and coordination in trade and economic fields, contributing to supporting sustainable development and developing the business environment and Gulf trade.

The meeting, which was chaired by Bahrain and attracted Gulf ministers of commerce, explored several issues aimed at promoting inter-Gulf trade and economic integration and cooperation.

The participants discussed a study purposed to bolster Gulf integration in such strategic sectors as planned strategic food and medicine warehouses and negotiations about free trade agreements with other countries and international economic blocs.

The agenda also covered ways and means to stepping up

coordination between relevant Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) authorities to strengthen consumer protection and standardization in member countries.

The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) represented Kuwait at the “Made in Gulf” Forum and Exhibition, hosted by Bahrain from October 6 to 8 under the patronage of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, with the participation of officials and industrial sector representatives from GCC countries.

Kuwait’s delegation is headed by Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq, with the participation of Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Industry Shamlan Al-Juhaidi, along with PAI officials and representatives of Kuwait’s industrial sector.

In a statement, PAI said Kuwait’s participation underscores its commitment to supporting GCC industrial integration, strengthening cooperation and promoting the exchange of expertise and experience among member states.

KFH offers Hajj & Umrah financing up to KD 25,000

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: As part of its commitment to delivering innovative financing solutions that fulfill customer aspirations and diverse needs, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offers Hajj and Umrah financing to help customers and their families perform these rituals easily and conveniently. This service covers all related expenses through cooperation with selected certified Hajj and Umrah campaigns.

Executive Manager Personal Finance Products at KFH, Abdulaziz Alsaeed said that Hajj and Umrah financing reflects the bank's commitment to providing innovative, Sharia compliant solutions. These offerings are designed to meet customer needs and facilitate comfortable ritual performance through competitive benefits and flexible options.

He added that the service is distinguished by a range of features that enhance the flexibility of customers' financial planning. KFH provides financing of up to KD 25,000, with convenient monthly installments extending up to 5 years, and a competitive profit rate. This delivers added value to customers and accommodates the needs of various segments.

Alsaeed explained that the financing enables customers to enjoy exclusive offers with leading Hajj and Umrah campaign operators, providing diverse choices and comprehensive services to



Alsaeed: Financing solutions & exclusive offers in collaboration with Leading Hajj & Umrah Campaigns

ease their spiritual journey.

He noted the option to add the KFH Pass service to the financing granting customers the advantage of deferring one instalment annually which provides greater flexibility in managing financial obligations according to diverse needs and circumstances.

Additionally, Alsaeed stated that obtaining the financing requires the original Civil ID, a salary certificate, and a price quotation from a campaign or company cooperating with KFH.

He emphasized that the launch of the service

reflects KFH's commitment to developing financing solutions that respond to customers' needs and make it easier for them to meet their personal and religious requirements. It also reinforces the bank's leadership in providing comprehensive and Sharia-compliant banking services.

Through this service, KFH reinforces its pioneering role in developing specialized financing products that elevate customer experience and deliver innovative solutions to help them achieve goals and fulfill their diverse lifestyle needs.



For the second consecutive year

Warba sponsors 'Bedoon Waraq' podcast

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Warba Bank is sponsoring the "Bedoon Waraq" podcast for the second consecutive year, continuing its support for media content that addresses topics relevant to society. The podcast covers social, religious, scientific, and economic topics through discussions aimed at informing and engaging a broad audience.

Warba Bank is collaborating with Sard Group on the sponsorship. The partnership expands the bank's presence across major digital platforms while supporting informative content and community-focused initiatives.

Over 20 Million Views Across Multiple Platforms

According to the sponsorship performance report, 10 episodes released between December 2025 and April 2026 generated 21.22 million views across the measured platforms. The report recorded the following platform-level performance:

- YouTube: Approximately 10.1 million views
 - Instagram: 6.8 million views
 - TikTok: 2.64 million views
 - X Platform: 656,000 views
 - Audio Platforms: 777,400 listens
 - YouTube Shorts: 327,000 views
- The report also showed a 19% year-on-year increase in views on the main YouTube channel in 2025. Together with the podcast's performance on Instagram, TikTok, X, and audio streaming platforms, the figures reflect continued audience growth across multiple channels.

Diverse Content for a Broad Audience

"Bedoon Waraq" covers a broad range of topics relevant to everyday life, allowing the partnership to extend beyond brand visibility by associating Warba Bank with informative content designed for a diverse audience.



'Bedoon Waraq' podcast

Executive Commentary

Commenting on the partnership, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Senior Director of Public Relations and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, stated: "Our sponsorship of 'Bedoon Waraq' for the second consecutive year reflects our belief in supporting meaningful media platforms that reach broad segments of society and provide informative content that addresses topics relevant to everyday life."

Al-Mutairi added: "We see this partnership as an extension of Warba Bank's role in supporting initiatives that contribute to community awareness. The previous season achieved strong reach and engagement, reinforcing the value of continuing our collaboration and connecting with audiences through meaningful content."

Brand Presence Across Digital Platforms

The sponsorship includes Warba Bank branding across the official "Bedoon Waraq" channels, including Instagram and YouTube, as well as visibility across

other digital platforms where the podcast is distributed.

This allows the bank to reach audiences through digital formats that reflect current media consumption habits, while maintaining an association with informative and awareness-focused content.

Continued Support for Meaningful Content

Muneera Jaber Al-Sharifi, Co-founder of Sard Group and Content Producer of "Bedoon Waraq," stated:

"Creating a space for meaningful dialogue and knowledge requires strong content, engaged audiences, and committed partners. Our partnership with Warba Bank reflects a shared belief in the value of knowledge and cultural investment in supporting community awareness."

Al-Sharifi added: "We appreciate Warba Bank's continued support and look forward to another season that delivers meaningful value to our audience."

The renewed partnership reflects Warba Bank's continued support for digital platforms that provide informative and socially relevant content to broad audiences.

Kuwait Fund marks Breast Cancer Awareness

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Kuwait Fund for Development illuminated its building in pink to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, joining efforts to raise awareness about the importance of early detection of the disease.

This initiative is part of the Kuwait Fund's support for awareness campaigns, the promotion of health education, and the importance of regular screenings and their vital role in early detection and improving treatment outcomes.

The pink illumination of the building conveys a message that awareness and early detection can save lives, while encouraging regular screenings and greater attention to health.

The pink color is associated with breast cancer awareness worldwide

and solidifies a message of unity and hope. Simultaneously, it reminds society of the importance of early detection.



The Kuwait Fund for Development illuminates its building in pink to support Breast Cancer Awareness.

The Fund's participation is part of its community initiatives supporting health and humanitarian causes, helping to promote awareness messages

across different segments of society, and reinforcing the importance of public health, prevention, and early detection.

ALSAYER Group renews partnership with Kuwait National Robotics Competition

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: ALSAYER Group has renewed its strategic partnership with the Kuwait National Robotics Competition (KNRC) for the 2026-2027 season, reaffirming its commitment to empowering young people, advancing innovation, and supporting Kuwait's transition toward a knowledge-based economy in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

The partnership was announced during a press conference held on 4 October 2026 at Kuwait University, attended by representatives from ALSAYER Group, Kuwait University, educational institutions, and strategic partners.

The collaboration reflects a shared commitment to nurturing future generations through science, technology, engineering, and innovation initiatives that equip students with the skills required to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer, Executive Board Member and Chairman of the Sustainability Committee at ALSAYER Group, said:

"ALSAYER Group is proud to renew its strategic partnership with the Kuwait National Robotics Competition, reaffirming our long-standing commitment to supporting innovation, education, and youth development in Kuwait. We firmly believe that investing in young people is one of the most impactful ways to contribute to the nation's future. As technology continues to reshape industries and societies, equipping the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital economy has never been more important."

He added that KNRC has become a leading platform for developing creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and technological capabilities among students. The competition provides participants with valuable opportunities to explore robotics, automation, and artificial intelligence, while strengthening the leadership and teamwork skills needed to support Kuwait's future economic and technological progress.

Dr. Haider Behbehani, Acting Dean of the College of Science at Kuwait University, highlighted the important role of academic institutions in fostering innovation and scientific excellence. He noted that collaboration among universities, the private sector, and government entities is essential to developing national talent.

"The Kuwait National Robotics Competition has evolved into an important educational platform that encourages students to transform theoretical knowledge into practical innovation. Through initiatives such as KNRC, students gain valuable hands-on experience in emerging technologies while developing the analytical and creative skills needed to address future challenges. Kuwait

University remains committed to supporting programs that inspire scientific curiosity and strengthen Kuwait's innovation ecosystem."

Eng. Ibrahim Al-Fouzan, Senior Business Director of Toyota Group Service Division and Vice Chairman of the ALSAYER Sustainability Committee, emphasized the educational value of robotics competitions:

"Robotics competitions offer students unique opportunities to apply classroom learn-

ing in real-world contexts. Beyond technical knowledge, participants develop problem-solving, collaboration, resilience, and adaptability, all of which are essential in today's technology-driven environment. The continued growth of KNRC reflects the increasing interest among young people in science, technology, and innovation, and we look forward to seeing the remarkable ideas and solutions they present each year.

Eng. Nehad Al-Haj Ali, Group Manager of the Corporate Excellence Department at ALSAYER Group, underscored the importance of strategic partnerships in creating long-term value for society:

"At ALSAYER Group, sustainability extends beyond environmental responsibility to include the development of people and communities. Our support for initiatives such as KNRC reflects our belief that building human capital is fundamental to creating a resilient and prosperous future. Through strategic collaboration with educational institutions and national stakeholders, we continue to invest in opportunities that empower young talent, encourage innovation, and contribute to Kuwait's sustainable development goals."

The 2026-2027 season of KNRC will bring together students from across Kuwait, providing a dynamic platform for innovation, technological exploration, and collaborative learning. The competition is supported through the collective efforts of Kuwait University, the Ministry of Education, the Public Authority for Youth and Sports, ALSAYER Group, and partners from the public and private sectors.



Photos during the event.



'Bringing economic dialogue to action'

Lei WaLakom to organize inaugural 'Women & the Economy Conference'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Lei WaLakom, a Kuwait-based nonprofit initiative dedicated to empowering individuals through financial awareness, knowledge-sharing, and community development, today announced the inaugural Women & the Economy Conference, to be held on October 17, 2026, at the Grand Hyatt Kuwait and on a closed high-level roundtable on October 18, 2026, at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the Union of Investment Companies.

Held under the patronage and attendance of H.E. Abdulaziz Nasser Al-Marzouq, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment of the State of Kuwait, the conference is organized in collaboration with Kuwait University and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

The Women & the Economy Conference serves as a landmark platform for advancing women's economic participation and contributing to a more inclusive, productive, and sustainable economic future for Kuwait and the region. It will convene policymakers, CEOs, global experts, investors, academics, and emerging women leaders from across the region and beyond for two days of dialogue, analysis, and action-oriented collaboration.

It is designed as a platform where dialogue translates into tangible commitments, connecting the economic potential of women with the institutions, opportunities, and capital needed to turn that potential into lasting impact.

The program includes an address by H.E. the Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, and a keynote by Taiba Alhumaidhi, the founder of Lei WaLakom, on why women's economic inclusion is a national imperative. The morning continues with two panel discussions. The first, "Present-Day Realities," brings together policymakers, economists, and private sector leaders to examine the current state of women's participation, its challenges, and its success stories.

The second panel, "The Future of Women in the Economy," moderated by H.E. Ambassador Qudsi Rasheed, British Ambassador to Kuwait, explores the role of artificial intelligence, fintech, and policy in shaping a more inclusive economic landscape.

The program also features a presentation by Dr. Noura Shuaibi, Head of the Women's Research and Studies Center at Kuwait University, and Greg B. Davies, PhD, Head of Behavioural Finance at Oxford Risk, alongside a project announcement by NBK. The afternoon offers interactive workshops in partnership with KAFO on AI agents, personal financial health, and AI and cybersecurity.



Women & The Economy Conference logo



Scan the code to register for free.

- Two-day conference to be held under the patronage and attendance of the Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, in collaboration with the Kuwait University and KFAS.
- The conference will include an address by H.E. the Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment.
- Convening policymakers, CEOs, global experts, investors, and academics, with speakers from J.P. Morgan, Agility, NBK, KFH, Boubyan Capital, IKEA, Oxford Risk, and more.

ity, followed by an evening Youth & Children Conference, "Our Future in the Economy," held in collaboration with the Sabah Al-Ahmad Centre for Giftedness and Creativity, giving the next generation a seat at the table.

Day two opens with a closed, high-level roundtable, "From Participation to Economic Contribution: Unlocking Women's Economic Potential in Kuwait," held at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Union of Investment Companies, which aims to convert insights into actionable strategies, with outcomes published in a post-event report. The conference concludes with a session between speakers and students at Kuwait University, in collaboration with the Women's Studies Unit.

Event Objectives

The event aims to facilitate networking opportunities among participants, empower women in various fields, and promote knowledge sharing for economic advancement.

■ Networking: Facilitate meaningful connections among leaders, innovators, and decision-makers across sectors.

■ Empowerment: Elevate and amplify women's voices and leadership across economic and policy spheres.

■ Knowledge Sharing: Exchange global insights, research, and strategies for advancing women's economic inclusion.

Expected Outcomes

■ Launch of a national/regional financial literacy campaign.

■ New strategic partnerships.

■ Stronger engagement between generations around economic planning and

opportunity.

■ Enhanced visibility of Kuwait as a hub for inclusive economic dialogue.

About the Women & the Economy Conference

The Women & the Economy Conference is an inaugural two-day, in-person gathering in Kuwait that convenes policymakers, CEOs, global experts, investors, academics, and emerging women leaders from across the region and beyond. It is held under the patronage and attendance of the Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, in collaboration with the Kuwait Economic Society and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

The conference is supported by a distinguished group of sponsors, including the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), IKEA, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Kuwait Investment Company (KIC), Zain, the Union of Investment Companies, and Al Nasser & Al Nashie United Company; alongside its partners, including Kuwait University, the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), Alrai Media Group, Kuwait Zone, Diwaniya Media, the World Health Organization, MADE51 (made possible by UNHCR), and KAFO.

Please note that the first day's sessions on 17 October, held at the Grand Hyatt Kuwait, are open to the public, while the second day's sessions on 18 October, scheduled to take place at Kuwait University, will be closed to the general public. For the full agenda and registration, visit leiwalakom.com/women-economy or follow @women_andtheeconomy on Instagram.

To support child development from birth to age five

NBK launches ‘National Initiative for Early Childhood’ in partnership with MoH



His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Isam Al-Sager, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Salah Al-Fulaij, Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Faisal Al-Hamad, Hisham Al-Nusif, Ghadeer Al-Awadhi, Manal Al-Mattar, and Abdulmohsen Al-Rushaid



His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Isam Al-Sager, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Salah Al-Fulaij, Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Faisal Al-Hamad, Dr. Wafaa Al-Ateeqi, Dr Nahed Al-Ateeqi, and Sumaya Al-Jasem



His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi



Isam Al-Sager delivers his speech.



Dr. Wafaa Al-Ateeqi



Dr Nahed Al-Ateeqi



His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Isam Al-Sager, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Salah Al-Fulaij, Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, and Dr. Wafaa Al-Ateeqi



His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Isam Al-Sager, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Salah Al-Fulaij, Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Faisal Al-Hamad, Hisham Al-Nusif, Manal Al-Mattar, and Dr. Wafaa Al-Ateeqi



His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Isam Al-Sager, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Salah Al-Fulaij, Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, and Dr. Wafaa Al-Ateeqi



Minister of Health, Isam Al-Sager, and Shaikha Al-Bahar



Minister of Health and Isam Al-Sager



The Minister of Health, Isam Al-Sager, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Dr. Wafaa Al-Ateeqi, and Dr Nahed Al-Ateeqi

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, officially launched the National Initiative for Early Childhood at a ceremony held at the Drama Theatre of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Minister of Health. The event was also attended by Isam Jasem Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO of NBK, members of NBK’s Executive Management, as well as senior officials, medical professionals and specialists.

The comprehensive national initiative aims to make early childhood development and empowerment a national priority by providing every child in Kuwait with the support and follow-up needed from the earliest moments of life through the age of five.

The initiative provides integrated support for children and their families, beginning with awareness and guidance through the Bida platform and extending to collaboration with healthcare professionals to establish a clear pathway for the early identification of children’s needs through developmental screening and facilitate timely access to support and specialized services, when intervention can have the greatest impact.

In his remarks at the event, His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Minister of Health, said: “Through the launch of the National Initiative for Early Childhood, we reaffirm that caring for children during their early years is a shared national responsibility, and that investing in childhood is an investment in the people who will carry Kuwait’s future forward. These formative years lay the foundations for health, learning and communication, and are when a child’s abilities begin to develop. The care, knowledge and security we provide during this stage leave a lasting impact on the child, the family and society as a whole. This is why early childhood is at the heart of our health and development priorities, alongside supporting families and empowering them with the knowledge and services they need as the primary partners in caring for their children.”

He added that the Ministry of Health’s vision for child health is built around a continuum of care across every stage, beginning before pregnancy through parental health, health counselling and preventive screening, and continuing through pregnancy, childbirth, newborn care, vaccinations, and the monitoring of growth and development. This approach places early prevention at the foundation of the health of families and future generations.

Al-Awadhi explained that the National Initiative for Early Childhood adds a structured pathway to the healthcare system for monitoring children’s development and supporting their families, helping to enhance children’s growth, learning and quality of life in Kuwait. He noted that the initiative aims to ensure that every mother and father can find trusted knowledge that provides reassurance, support that helps them along the way, and services that respond to their child’s needs.

On the partnership with NBK in this initiative, Al-Awadhi said: “We are proud of our partnership with National Bank of Kuwait and of the model represented by the NBK Specialized Children’s Hospital as a partnership dedicated to serving child health. Partnerships between public institutions and the private sector, when built around a clear purpose and shared responsibility, contribute to developing services and extending their impact.”

He explained that joint teams from the Ministry of Health and NBK contributed to preparing the National Initiative for Early Childhood, developing referral pathways, preparing knowledge resources and training healthcare professionals. He expressed his appreciation to NBK’s Board of Directors, leadership and teams, as well as to the joint teams and Ministry of Health staff who contributed to the development of the initiative.

Al-Awadhi concluded by emphasizing that the initiative’s success will be

- Al-Awadhi:**

- We are proud of our partnership with NBK and extend our sincere appreciation to the Bank’s Board of Directors, leadership and teams
 - A partnership built on a clear purpose and shared responsibility contributes to developing services and extending their impact
 - Investing in childhood is an investment in the people who will shape Kuwait’s future
- Al-Sager:**

- At NBK, we believe that building a more prosperous future for Kuwait begins with caring for its children during their early years
 - The initiative aims to provide the resources and support needed to help every child reach their full potential
 - Two key pillars: launching the National Developmental Screening Program and the “Bida” digital platform to educate and empower families
 - We thank the Ministry of Health’s leadership, medical teams and administrative staff for their tremendous support in bringing this idea to life
- Al-Jasem:**

- The initiative provides parents with a trusted source of knowledge to help them understand their child’s development and support them during their early years

measured by its ability to ensure that every child receives the care they need and that their family receives timely support. He reaffirmed the Ministry of Health’s commitment to ensuring that the benefits of this progress reach every family in Kuwait and that every child receives care suited to their needs, stressing that Kuwait’s children are a responsibility entrusted to us today, and caring for them is our responsibility towards Kuwait’s future.

Reinforcing the shared national vision behind the initiative, Isam Jasem Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO of NBK, highlighted the initiative’s broader dimensions and national objectives, saying: “It is a pleasure to be with you today on this special occasion as we mark the launch of the National Initiative for Early Childhood, a national effort that reflects our deep conviction that building a more prosperous future for Kuwait begins with caring for its children during their early years, the stage that has the greatest influence on shaping their capabilities, potential and future.”

Al-Sager expressed his appreciation to all participating parties, extending his sincere thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Health’s leadership, medical teams and administrative staff for their tremendous support and effective partnership, which played a fundamental role in bringing the initiative to life. He added: “From the outset, we witnessed a genuine commitment to the success of this initiative and to mobilizing the resources required for its implementation in a way that serves the health of children and families in Kuwait.”

Elaborating on the initiative’s origins, Al-Sager said: “The journey of this initiative began more than two years ago, when this promising idea was first presented to us. Since then, our support has gone beyond contributing to a community initiative. It has reflected a firm conviction that caring for children and empowering families during the early years of their children’s lives is a shared national responsibility that requires integrated roles and coordinated

efforts across government institutions and the private sector.”

Al-Sager noted that what distinguishes the initiative is its focus on the most important stage of human life. Accordingly, the initiative aims to provide the tools and support needed to help every child reach their full potential through two main pillars: the National Developmental Screening Program, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Health, and the Bida Early Childhood Development Platform, which will provide families with a trusted source of information, guidance and support.

Concluding his remarks, Al-Sager reaffirmed NBK’s commitment to continuing to support national initiatives with sustainable impact and to strengthening constructive public-private collaboration in ways that serve Kuwait and enhance the quality of life of its people. He expressed his hope that the initiative would mark an important step toward a healthier and more prosperous future for Kuwait’s children and their families.

Meanwhile, Sumaya Al-Jasem, Chief Executive Officer of Creative Confidence, said: “Every mother and father strives to provide the best for their children. Today, with the launch of the National Initiative for Early Childhood, and through the developmental screening program and the Bida platform, parents now have support and a trusted source of knowledge to help them understand their child’s development, monitor their progress and support them during their early years.”

Two Key Pillars of the Initiative

The initiative is designed to address key challenges in supporting child development through two integrated pillars:

1. National Developmental Screening Program (in partnership with the Ministry of Health):

- The program provides standardized developmental screening using the Ages and Stages Questionnaires, Third Edition (ASQ-3™), as part of primary healthcare services and routine well-child visits across Kuwait. The screening aims to ensure that children’s development is monitored at key age intervals from birth to five years.
- Licensing 95 health centers, training more than 240 physicians on developmental screening, and expanding service capacity.
- Standardizing and updating medical referral pathways to support the early identification and intervention of children who require additional support.
- Opening 12 evening well-child clinics across Kuwait’s six governorates, with two clinics in each governorate, alongside efforts to enable advance electronic booking through the “Salem” app to make follow-up easier for families and working parents.

2. “Bida” Digital Platform and Community Awareness:

- A free bilingual digital application in Arabic and English that provides mothers and fathers with a trusted tool to monitor their children’s development from birth to five years through more than 150 developmental milestones, interactive activities and evidence-based guidance developed in collaboration with a group of local physicians and specialists. The application helps parents monitor their child’s development across five key areas: communication, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, problem solving, and personal-social skills.
- Field and community awareness campaigns to enhance understanding of the importance of the early years of life.

NBK remains committed to reinforcing its leading position as one of Kuwait’s foremost supporters of corporate social responsibility and sustainability by advancing national initiatives with lasting social and strategic impact that contribute to improving quality of life and supporting community development.

PARIS
FASHION



Models wear creations as part of the Louis Vuitton Womenswear Spring Summer 2027 collection presented in Paris, France, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026. (AP)



Ease over armor
Louis Vuitton
softens future

PARIS, Oct 7, (AP): Coco Chanel designed her postwar suit so women could move. Seven decades later, designer Matthieu Blazy has made it stretch.

Suits in a new “smocked tweed” anchored Blazy’s spring-summer 2027 collection for Chanel, shown Monday night at the Grand Palais beneath a flock of illuminated birds as Nicole Kidman, Dua Lipa and Pedro Pascal watched from the front row.

The fabric gives like sportswear, but the idea is old. Chanel built its name by changing how women dressed, and a year after his debut as its designer, Blazy is applying that principle to the house’s own uniform.

Louis Vuitton closed Paris Fashion Week on Tuesday evening with Zendaya in the audience and car sculptures hovering above the runway at the Louvre Museum. It was the final major show of a spring runway season that began in New York last month.

Blazy came from Bottega Veneta to succeed the long-time right hand of Karl Lagerfeld, Virginie Viard, who took over after Lagerfeld’s death in 2019. Viard’s tenure brought record sales. Blazy’s has brought back surprise.

He loosens the house’s symbols rather than replacing them. Tweed stretches. Jackets go on over bare skin. Quilted bags slouch. Longtime clients still recognize the codes; newer ones are invited to play with them.

This season, he staged Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel’s life as an escape: from the corsets and stiff tailoring of her Edwardian youth, through the men’s clothes she borrowed, to the easy suits of her postwar comeback.

“It’s about the women within a woman,” Blazy said.

Kidman, who attended with her daughter Faith Margaret, also supplied recorded readings from Virginia

Woolf’s “Orlando,” whose protagonist lives across centuries and changes sex. Kidman won an Oscar for portraying Woolf in “The Hours.”

Kidman, Lipa, Pascal and Alexa Demie sang along to a-ha’s “Take On Me,” and the show ended with Britney Spears’ “Gimme More.”

Edwardian dress lingered in traces of boning, peplums and ruffled collars. Men’s formal wear was cut down into raw-edged vests and narrow skirt suits.

A pearl-stitched corset top worn with plain black trousers complicated the story of escape, making constraint part of the appeal.

The most beautiful pieces were dresses of layered, printed silk that tracked the sky from morning to nightfall, and 1930s-style sequined or beaded gowns that Chanel described as having the ease of a T-shirt.

Not everything landed. Pattern-on-pattern outfits and ballet tutus tipped into costume, and at 83 looks, the argument sometimes sprawled.

The birds made it more gracefully: swallows perched on buttons and jewelry, and a birdcage evening bag came with its birds already flown.

Model Dyanira Hurbuscher walked first and last, both times carrying the founder’s own 2.55 handbag from the house archives - freedom, with the past firmly in hand.

Louis Vuitton offered a softer vision of the future - and another argument for giving the body room to move.

Nicolas Ghesquière, known for sculpted, futuristic silhouettes, loosened things up with gauzy shift dresses, cardigans, short jackets and soft tailoring. Delicate fabrics rippled as models walked, and slim trousers incorporated sheer mesh panels.



Deal creates new Hollywood powerhouse

Paramount completes Warner Bros. takeover, forms Skydance

CHICAGO, Oct 7, (AP): It's official: Skydance-owned Paramount closed its \$81 billion takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery on Tuesday, ushering in a new Hollywood behemoth.

The merger brings two of America's oldest moviemaking studios together under a new name: Skydance.

HBO Max, titles ranging from "Harry Potter" to "Sinners" and networks such as CNN now also find themselves under the same roof as Paramount+, CBS and the likes of "Top Gun" and "The Godfather." All are under the helm of billionaire David Ellison and his new co-CEO Ynon Kreiz.

"Today is a historic day, not just for Skydance but for our entire industry," Ellison said. "We couldn't be more excited to get to work."

Ellison's Skydance bought Paramount for \$8 billion last year before setting its sights on Warner. What followed erupted into a tumultuous, roughly yearlong fight over the storied Hollywood giant. Including billions of dollars in debt, the acquisition amounts to nearly \$111 billion.

The now-combined Skydance

marks one of the biggest tie-ups in media and entertainment history, further concentrating power in an industry already run by just a handful of big players. Politics also loomed over much of the process. The Ellison family has notably held a long relationship with Republican President Donald Trump, who said Tuesday that Skydance is "going to be a great company."

The early days of Paramount's quest for Warner turned into a messy bidding war.

Months after disclosing it was open to selling all or part of its business, Warner initially struck a studio and streaming deal with Netflix in December.

But Paramount said it also had made offers that Warner management "never engaged meaningfully" with. It soon launched a hostile counterbid.

The Hollywood giants spent much of early 2026 in a heated back-and-forth over who had a stronger offer, with Warner leadership repeatedly backing Netflix as its preferred suitor. But Netflix bowed out after Para-



A Skydance billboard is displayed outside Paramount Global office in Times Square, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026, in New York. (AP)

mount eventually upped its offer to buy all of Warner for \$31 per share.

Warner and Paramount inked a mutual merger agreement in late February.

Hollywood was closely watching the fight over Warner's future. From awards shows to online petitions,

ken critics of the deal like Jane Fonda and Mark Ruffalo, as well as Hollywood heavyweights from Denis Villeneuve to J.J. Abrams - warned of fewer jobs and "less choice for audiences in the United States and around the world."

Others lined up to back Paramount as Ellison reiterated his commitments to the movies. At CinemaCon, the company debuted a glossy mini movie about the studio directed by Jon M. Chu and narrated by Tom Cruise - who ended the spot atop the iconic Paramount water tower, with the words "the future is paramount and the future looks pretty great from here." Director James Cameron also doubled down on his support of Ellison.

The prospect of a new Warner owner also loomed over awards season, from #BlockTheMerger pins to more subtle nods in acceptance speeches. When accepting her Emmy last month, "Remarkably Bright Creatures" actor Sally Field - who also signed the open letter in opposition to the Paramount-Warner deal - stressed that "unique storytell-

ing matters" and "we can't let those voices be silenced, or compromised or merged."

Many industry critics were also outspoken when Netflix's studio and streaming deal was on the table, with a particular focus on the future of movies staying in theaters.

Critics are also watching what happens with CNN under Skydance.

Trump has regularly attacked reporting he deems unfavorable at CNN (most recently attempting to bar the outlet from the White House altogether). And over the course of the Warner buyout, his administration also chimed in about hopes for a new owner.

Days after Paramount launched its hostile bid for Warner, Trump said CNN spread "poison and lies" and that it was "imperative" the network be sold. The White House took aim again at CNN in March, over the network's coverage of the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth told reporters that "the sooner David Ellison takes over that network, the better."



Brenda Guzman performs with other University of Nevada, Las Vegas mariachi students at a football game Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, in Las Vegas. (AP)

Mexican folk tradition

Mariachi thrives in Vegas as UNLV trains future teachers

LAS VEGAS, Oct 7, (AP): Axel Rodríguez Olivas nervously steps on stage, carrying a violin. He raises his bow and begins to play, his nerves melting away.

Mariachi music explodes throughout the room as violins, trumpets, the guitarrón, and a stringed instrument called the vihuela launch into an upbeat melody. There they are joined by a warm voice as a tenor begins to sing.

"I think joy is what I feel ultimately," said Rodríguez Olivas, dressed in an ornate "traje charro," the traditional mariachi suit brightly decked out with decorative metal buttons and a wide bow tie.

The 20-year-old musician is set to become the first student to graduate with a minor in mariachi from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, one of the only universities in the country to offer such a niche specialization.

In a city where Latinos comprise more than a third of the population, mariachi music is so popular in schools that there often aren't enough teachers to meet demand. The minor was created to train students to become mariachi educators in the Clark County School District, which boasts of one of the largest mariachi programs in the U.S. with about 6,000 students taking part.

Not just a popular student extracurricular, mariachi culture is a staple and deep-seated form of entertainment across Las Vegas.

"If you go out today, there's going to be mariachi somewhere on the Strip," said Stephen Blanco, who oversees the mariachi minor at UNLV and directs Las Vegas High School's Mariachi Joya.

A form of Mexican folk music, mariachi was born out of joy and pride in Mexico, he said. Its songs tell stories of pain, love, joy and excitement, capable of tugging at the heartstrings of audiences everywhere, he added.

"I think that it's just something that everyone enjoys," Blanco said. "You don't even have to be able to speak Spanish or understand it. I think it's impossible for someone to walk away without a smile on their face."

As members of the professional group Mariachi Paloma Azteca, Rodríguez Olivas and Blanco perform at birthday parties, weddings and funerals. Recently, at a concert in Las Vegas, the ensemble opened with the quintessential "El Jaliscoense," a song celebrating the Mexican state of Jalisco made famous by the Regional Mexican music superstar Vicente Fernández.

Holding her violin and a microphone in one hand, Emily Vargas sang, "Yo me muero donde quiera," - "I'll Die Wherever I Please" - as she belted out the story of a woman proudly dying for her country.

There is beauty in the mariachi performance from the way the group plays in unison right down to how the violinists hold their bows, Rodríguez Olivas said, calling it a powerful means of expressing the

deepest of emotions through storytelling and music.

Rodríguez Olivas played saxophone in a middle school band, but he grew up watching mariachi performances in school and always found the music exciting and intriguing. When he saw mariachi being offered in his high school, he thought it would be fun to learn a new instrument.

"The rest is history," he said.

"It connects me to my roots," Rodríguez Olivas said. "My family is from Mexico, so you know it kind of brings that conversation with my parents, other family members and friends as well."

In high school, he was the student director of Mariachi Joya, an award-winning mariachi from Las Vegas High School that performed for Joe Biden's presidential inauguration in 2021.

Mariachi Joya is Las Vegas High School's top mariachi ensemble, though there are about 350 students in the program. During practice, Blanco runs the mariachi through their setlist, correcting an out-of-tune student and improving an intonation.

A first-place trophy from the 2026 Mariachi Extravaganza Las Vegas sits in front of the classroom.

During a performance, the high school ensemble dresses in bright red suits. The violinists raise their bows and shout "joya" - Spanish for "jewel" - before they launch into an upbeat melody. A mariachi lets out a "grito," the iconic yell or whistle of excitement, and the audience claps along.

Instructors begin teaching the students early about mariachi repertoire. Ramiro Benavides, director of a middle school mariachi in the district, not only drills his students on how to play their instruments and sing, but also how to bring a theatrical and dramatic flair to their performances.

During one middle school mariachi practice, an instructor encourages a girl to come out of her shell and yell excitedly. She starts off timidly, but when joined by her classmates, her yell becomes more confident.

The mariachi program at Clark County School District has grown significantly since its 2002 inception, and in recent years it's become increasingly difficult to find enough mariachi teachers, said Jeffrey Williams, the director of CCSD's Fine and Performing Arts Department.

To fill the gap, Blanco recently launched a 22-credit curriculum for the minor program at UNLV, joining only a few universities in Texas that offer such training. Students learn about mariachi repertoire and how to teach the mariachi genre.

In one class, students study more than 70 mariachi songs over a semester, discussing their lyrics and style and what makes each unique, Blanco said. Students are trained in the traditional mariachi repertoire one would expect to hear regularly - ready to perform and pass on the music to those who will follow after.

Food

Recipe rich with memory & tradition

Wonton recipe is Ming-Na Wen's family gold

NEW YORK, Oct 7, (AP): Wontons hold a special place in my heart. Sitting around our kitchen table making wontons is something I loved doing with my mother as a child.

Time was scarce, so the chance to make wontons with her became special mother-daughter moments for us. She always had all the fillings ready to go - my favorite was and still is shrimp and vegetables. I'd carefully scoop a bit of filling onto the wonton wrapper and do my best to fold it as neatly as possible.

Years later, I've continued the tradition with my own children, and together as a family we make Popo's wontons ("Popo" is the Chinese word for "maternal grandmother"). Just as it was for my mother and me, making wontons gives me and my kids the opportunity to escape the chaos of daily life and bond while we fold 34 together.

It also gives me the chance to share more about our heritage. For example, the Chinese revere wealth (like most people!). Wontons are a symbol for gold - when folding, your goal is to create a wonton shaped like a Chinese gold ingot. I suppose that's one way of getting rich. My kids thought it was the silliest, most fun thing to eat "gold."

Servings: Makes about 60

- 1 (3-inch) nob peeled ginger, minced
- ½ pound large (31 to 40) raw shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch, divided
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided
- 1 pound frozen shepherd's purse, defrosted (or 2 bunches fresh watercress)
- 2 tablespoons light soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- ½ teaspoon ground white pepper
- 1 pound ground meat (turkey or chicken)
- 1 large egg
- 2 (12-ounce) packages square, thin wonton wrappers (you won't use them all)

In a small bowl, soak the ginger in ¼ cup of water for 15 minutes.

Rinse the shrimp with cold water. Drain them and place in a medium bowl with 1 tablespoon of the cornstarch, massaging it gently into the shrimp to further clean them. Rinse the shrimp again with clean, cold water. Drain them, then toss with ½ teaspoon of the salt. Finely chop the shrimp. Set aside.

Rinse the defrosted shepherd's purse with cold water, then squeeze out the excess water. Finely chop the greens, then toss them with ½ teaspoon



This image released by S&S/Element shows a recipe for Popo's wontons from the cookbook, "Have You Eaten Yet," by Ming-Na Wen. (AP)

of the salt. Set aside. (If using watercress, boil 2 bunches for 3 minutes, then drain and rinse with cold water. Squeeze out the excess water and finely chop.)

Remove the ginger from the water and squeeze it over the water to retain as much of the ginger-scented soaking water as possible. Discard the ginger, keeping only the ginger water.

In a medium nonreactive bowl, combine the ginger water, soy sauce, the remaining 1½ teaspoons of salt, oil, the remaining 1 tablespoon of cornstarch, and the white pepper. Add the ground meat and thoroughly mix it with the seasoning. Add the shrimp and greens and mix everything together. Allow it to marinate, covered in the refrigerator, for 30 minutes. Take a small piece and cook the meat mixture in boiling water until the meat floats, about 3 minutes. Taste it to see if it's seasoned well. If not, then add another teaspoon of salt to the meat and mix well.

In a small bowl, whisk the egg so that it can be used to seal the wonton skins.

Fan the stack of skins out to create a pinwheel of skins. This separates the skins, making them easier to pick up. Take one wonton skin and place a dollop of meat mixture (about ½ tablespoon) in the center.

Using the tip of a butter knife dipped



Ming-Na Wen poses for a portrait on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026, in New York. (AP)

in the egg, brush the top and side edges of the skin. Fold the square in half and gently press edges together. The wonton is now a rectangle. Brush the bottom corners with egg. Holding the rectangle in your palm, bend the left and right corners together toward the center of the wonton. Squeeze the corners together to seal.

On a tray or plate lined with parchment paper, place the wontons in

rows with a bit of separation between them so that they do not stick together. Make sure the tray or plate will fit in your freezer. Once the tray is full, freeze the wontons until the skin feels solid and frozen, about 1 hour. You can then place the wontons in a plastic freezer bag without worrying about them sticking together. Place the bag immediately back into the freezer to further freeze the wontons. Remember to write a date on the bags. They will keep for 3 to 4 months.

If you're starting with fresh wontons, bring a large pot of water to a boil. Leave enough room in the pot for 1 to 2 cups of additional water. Add the wontons. When the water boils again, add ½ cup cold water. When the water boils again, add another ½ cup of cold water. When wontons float to the top, they are done. Adding cold water in steps like this keeps the skin of the wontons from overcooking and becoming too soft.

With frozen wontons, repeat the above, but add ½ cup cold water one more time because the frozen meat needs a bit longer to cook through.

□ □ □

Ming-Na Wen is an actor and author of the cookbook "Have You Eaten Yet: Family Recipes From a Restaurant Daughter."

Obituary

'More than a legendary voice'

Jackson, Grammy-nominated R&B star, dies at 70

LOS ANGELES, Oct 7, (AP): Grammy-nominated R&B singer Freddie Jackson, known for his smooth '80s hits "Rock Me Tonight (For Old Times Sake)" and "You Are My Lady," has died. He was 70.

A statement shared by his family on his official Instagram account confirmed Jackson died Monday, three days after his 70th birthday. No cause of death was provided.

"Freddie was more than a legendary voice. He was a kind, generous soul who loved his fans, his family, his friends, and his music with everything he had. For decades he gave us the songs that became the soundtrack to our love stories, our celebrations, and our most treasured memories. That gift will live on forever," the statement read.

"To everyone who ever sang along, danced, or felt something when Freddie took the stage: thank you. You were family to him, and he carried your love with him always," it continued.

Details regarding arrangements will be announced in the coming days.

Jackson was born and raised in Harlem, where he learned all about soul music and sang gospel at White Rock Baptist Church. He started his career in the New York club scene, eventually making his way out West with the band Mystic Merlin in the late '70s. He soon returned to New York and released his debut album, "Rock Me Tonight," in 1985. His distinctive voice proved to be his superpower: The album, which was quickly certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America, also led to his two career Grammy nominations. Those were for best new artist and best male R&B vocal performance for the single "You Are My Lady."

"Rock Me Tonight" also created a new R&B superstar: Jackson became a mainstay of those Billboard charts and a fixture of contemporary urban radio play throughout the '80s



Freddie Jackson attends "MJ: The Musical" Broadway opening night in New York on Feb. 1, 2022. (AP)

and early '90s.

His sophomore album, 1987's "Just Like the First Time," was also

certified platinum.

In 2024, Jackson revealed he had been diagnosed with kidney disease in a video shared to his social media accounts.

"This journey has had its challenges but I've decided to face it with openness and resilience," he said in the clip. "It's important to me that I share this with you, not just as a part of my personal story, but as a way to make a positive difference."

At the time, Jackson also revealed he had partnered with the National Kidney Foundation to raise awareness of the disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1 in 7 American adults has chronic kidney disease. As many as 9 in 10 don't know they have it.

Chronic kidney disease is a condition where the kidneys are damaged and struggle to filter blood. As a result, excess waste and fluids remain and can lead to other health issues, such as heart disease.

Dr. Al-Sharhan invites doctors, healthcare professionals, researchers to participate

Kuwait to host conference on Precision Pediatrics: From Genomics to Care on Oct 9-10

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Chairperson of the “Precision Pediatrics: From Genomics to Care” Conference Dr. Hind Al-Sharhan announced that the event, organized by the Kuwait Pediatric Society in partnership with the Kuwait Academy for Rare Diseases and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, will be held on Oct 9-10 at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, under the patronage and in the presence of Health Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah.

In a press statement, Al-Sharhan disclosed that the conference will focus on the role of precision medicine in utilizing genetic information to improve disease diagnosis, guide the selection of the most appropriate treatment, and provide care

tailored to the needs of each patient.

She pointed out that patients and their families frequently endure a lengthy process to obtain diagnosis, especially for rare, genetic and metabolic disorders.

She explained that Genomics plays a crucial role in finding the origins of such conditions, as well as taking decisions regarding treatment and follow up, thus, the conference aims to convert genetic insights into advantages for patients and their families.

She elaborated that genetic testing is vital for facilitating informed choices regarding premarital and preconception screenings, as well as prenatal diagnoses, thereby, improving prevention, early intervention and genetic counseling for families.

She said the conference will be a gathering of experts from Kuwait, Gulf region and beyond to explore the latest advance-



Dr. Hind Al-Sharhan

ments in genetic diagnosis and targeted therapies, and share experiences in implementing precision medicine in clinical settings.

She added that the agenda include discussions on genome programs and premarital screenings in the region, infant genome sequencing, metabolic and mitochondrial disorders, precision medicine approaches for diabetes and obesity, molecular diagnosis of pediatric tumors, prenatal diagnosis, innovative technologies for in-utero gene therapy and editing, issues surrounding genetic data privacy and security, medical liability, and the economics of rare diseases.

She stressed that the involvement of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia adds a significant scientific dimension to the conference, given its expertise in pediatrics, genetics and advanced therapeutic

approaches.

She revealed that the conference includes a presentation on the case of ‘KJ’, a child who received the first patient-specific gene-editing therapy, showcasing the potential to transform genetic discoveries into personalized treatment options.

She added that the conference provides a platform to showcase research and scientific papers and to discuss opportunities for collaboration and establishing a Gulf network for rare diseases to promote knowledge exchange and advance patient care.

She invited doctors, healthcare professionals, researchers and students in health-related fields to participate, urging them to fully benefit from the scientific program and opportunities for dialogue and collaboration to help improve care for children and families in Kuwait and the region.



The outpatient clinic at Jahra Hospital.

OPAT service launched at Jahra Hospital to improve patient care

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Head of the Medical Staff at Jahra Hospital Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Shammari announced the launching of the Out-patient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) service, in line with efforts to improve health services and patient care.

The service will enable patients requiring intravenous (IV) antibiotics to complete their treatment in an outpatient setting, while adhering to medical standards and treatment plans that ensure continuous monitoring and patient safety, thereby, reducing the need for hospitalization. This will shorten hospital stays, minimize the risk of hospital-acquired infections, improve the patients’ quality of life, ensure treatment efficacy and efficient use of healthcare resources.

The launching of the service is in accordance with Ministerial Decision No. 140/2026 regarding the establishment and implementation of OPAT.



The medical team responsible for the program.

The aim is to standardize the implementation of the program in hospitals based on the best medical practices to improve healthcare and achieve optimal therapeutic outcomes for patients.

Al-Shammari confirmed that the program is a significant step in the evolution of healthcare delivery by providing the right treatment to the right patient at the right time, optimizing hospital resource utilization and enhancing health service efficiency.

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the team members who contributed to the preparation and launching of the program, which reaffirming the commitment to support initiatives aimed at developing health services and raising the standard of patient care.

Scientists pay tribute to Kagan and Soai’s groundbreaking work

Nobel Prize in chemistry awarded to duo for research solving ‘mirror image’ mystery

STOCKHOLM, Oct 7, (AP): Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for their efforts to resolve mysterious mirror images in chemical molecules, a discovery that transformed modern medicine.

Many molecules of life come in versions that look alike but aren’t exactly identical, like right and left hands. One mirror image of the chemical carvone smells like mint, for example, while the other has a whiff of caraway.

When designing drugs to treat diseases, scientists want to be choosy about which mirror image they’re getting. They want the version of a molecule that’ll treat a cold, not the kind that’ll make the sniffles worse.

Kagan and Soai found ways to make chemistry pick a side, designing and manipulating reactions to produce the desired mirror image.

“This is probably the coolest experiment in organic chemistry,” said Peter Somfai, a member of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry. “Taken together, the groundbreaking discoveries by Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai have reshaped our understanding of molecular chirality - how it is created, amplified and transmitted.”

Scientists paid tribute to Kagan and Soai’s groundbreaking work, which the Nobel committee described as a feat never previously achieved by anyone “other than life itself.”

“It might be difficult to say that this drug, or that drug, was developed using this,” Somfai said. “I would say all of them, because we use this as a tool, we use this as an understanding, how to develop catalysts, how they function.”

“Chirality” comes from the Greek word for “hand.”

In the 1980s, Kagan’s work showed there might be a way to design reactions to produce one form of a molecule over the other. Years later, Soai brought that dream to life. He created the first-ever chemical reaction to pro-



Portraits of Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai are shown on the screen as they are awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden, on Oct 7. (AP)

duce only one of a molecule’s mirror images, in what’s now known as the “Soai reaction.”

“The medicines we have today would not be possible without this chemistry,” said Rigoberto Hernandez, president of the American Chemical Society.

Kagan, 95 years old and born in France, is affiliated with the Université Paris-Sud in Orsay, France, and Soai, born in 1950 in Japan, with the Tokyo University of Science.

The French Academy of Sciences, of which Kagan is a member, congratulated the two scientists and expressed its pride in the prize.

Neither the Université Paris-Sud nor the Tokyo University of Science responded immediately to AP requests for comment.

“I’m very excited to receive the very nice news,” Soai told the committee and journalists by phone. “Of course this is one of the most exciting days in my life.”

He said he was shopping near his home when he was reached by the Nobel committee.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced the winner in Stockholm.

Last year, three scientists won the chemistry Nobel for their development of new molecular structures that can trap vast quantities of gas inside, laying the groundwork to potentially suck greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere or harvest moisture from desert environments.

This year’s prizes began with the Nobel for medicine, awarded Monday to three scientists whose work led to a tool that uses light to help unravel how the brain works. The physics award Tuesday recognized a scientist’s efforts to demystify a rare group of neutrinos.

The literature prize is set to be awarded Thursday. After Friday’s peace prize is awarded, the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences will be announced Monday.

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.

What would you see if you had one eye on the back of your head and the other in the front?

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

By Abigail Witmer
The Ohio State University

Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you’d like an expert to answer, send it to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com.

What would your vision look like if I had one eye in front and another in back? - Mohibul, age 18, India

Have you ever tried to quickly grab that last cookie while your mother’s back was turned? Even without turning around, I bet she noticed. As the saying goes, moms can sometimes seem like they have eyes on the back of their heads.

What would their vision be like if they really did have one eye in front and one eye in back?

As an optometrist, I work daily to make sure my patients’ eyes are seeing well and partnering with one another to provide a single, clear image to the brain. As a clinical professor, I help my students understand how binocular vision - the use of two eyes - works. Sometimes, this may include using animal examples to illustrate how important it is for humans to have two eyes that face in the same direction.

As you can see by looking at yourself in the mirror, our two eyes sit side by side on the front of our heads. Since our eyes are a couple of inches apart, each eye has a slightly different perspective on the world around you.

There’s a good bit of overlap between what each eye sees, though.

Close one eye at a time - you should still be able to see the words in the middle of the page with each eye individually. The words on the left side, though, might only be clear when your left eye is open, and with the same true for the right side and the right eye.

Someone with normal side vision can see about 180 degrees around them while looking straight ahead. In other words, your view of the world should be everything directly in front of you stretching back to roughly your ears - about half of a circle. This whole area that you can see at once is called your field of vision. About 70% of that field is an overlap between the images captured by each eye.

Next, your brain takes these images from each eye and combines the overlapping portion into one 3D image. The ability to see in three dimensions is called stereopsis, or depth perception.

This is how you can tell which objects in front of you are closer or farther away. Depth perception allows you to better navigate around objects and is important for hand-eye coordination. Without 3D vision, it would be hard to perform all the complicated tasks that people do in their daily lives - writing, reading, cooking, playing sports, driving and so much more.

Animals have evolved to have different eye placements based on the jobs they need their eyes to do.

For example, predators - animals that need to hunt other animals for food to survive - will have eyes on the front of their heads, just like us. This setup allows for depth perception. They will be able to more accurately scan specific

areas and pick out animals that may be hiding.

Predators also tend to have more crystal clear vision and better contrast sensitivity, meaning they’re able to tell the difference between an object and its background. All of these adaptations help them hunt.

In contrast, prey animals’ job is to detect and get away from predators that are trying to eat them. They have eyes closer to the sides of their heads, which increases their side vision. This larger field of view allows them to scan a wider area to watch for incoming danger. Of note: Their vision isn’t as sharp as predators’.

A good example of a predator-prey relationship is a fox and a rabbit. The fox has forward-facing eyes to help it find and hunt the rabbit. The rabbit has eyes on the side of its head to help it scan and escape from the fox.

An owl is an example of an animal that gets the best of both worlds. Owls are predators whose eyes are positioned on the front of their heads, giving them excellent depth perception. Because of how their eyes are shaped, though, they can’t move them in their eye sockets. Instead, they have adapted to have very mobile necks so they can turn their head to be facing completely backward. This gives them a much wider field of vision than most animals with forward-facing eyes, while preserving their depth perception.

So what would it be like for us to have one eye in front and one in back?

This setup would be most similar to a prey animal. You’d have a wide field of view and be able to see almost all of your surroundings - forward and be-

hind at the same time.

But the cost would be loss of depth perception. With eyes on opposite sides of your head, the images they capture would not overlap, causing your vision to be less three-dimensional.

Also, if the switch from side by side to one-front/one-back happened instantaneously, your brain would get confused about how to interpret the images delivered from each eye, since the setup would be quite different from what you were used to.

In my patients, especially kids, my goal is to make sure their vision is clear and their eyes are working together to achieve depth perception.

If your eyes ever have trouble pointing in the same direction, or you notice double vision or eyestrain when reading, headaches, or other visual symptoms, visit an eye care specialist to check your eyes.

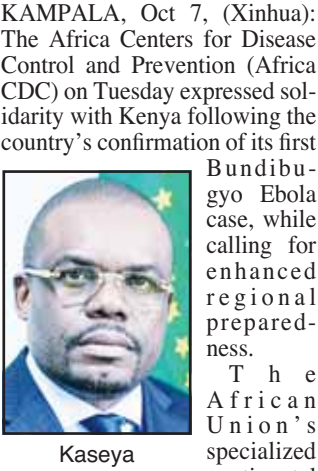
They can make sure you are using your eyes the way evolution intended - two eyes in the front of the head working together for clear, binocular vision. It’s important to keep your forward-facing eyes healthy - especially if you’re a mom who needs to watch out for cookie bandits.

Hello, curious kids! Do you have a question you’d like an expert to answer? Ask an adult to send your question to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com. Please tell us your name, age and the city where you live.

And since curiosity has no age limit - adults, let us know what you’re wondering, too. We won’t be able to answer every question, but we will do our best. (AP)

Uganda remains Ebola-free

CDC deploys experts to Kenya



Kaseya

KAMPALA, Oct 7, (Xinhua): The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) on Tuesday expressed solidarity with Kenya following the country’s confirmation of its first Bundibugyo Ebola case, while calling for enhanced regional preparedness.

The African Union’s specialized continental public health agency said in a statement that a high-level, multidisciplinary Africa CDC team will be dispatched to Kenya on Tuesday to provide support.

“I will personally travel to Kenya in the coming days to assess, together with the national authorities, the needs of the response and any additional support required,” said Africa CDC Director-General **Jean Kaseya**.

Earlier in the day, Kenya confirmed its first imported case of Bundibugyo Ebola virus disease, after a man died in a Nairobi hospital on Monday.

The patient was a Kenyan citizen who had lived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the past seven years, Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale

said in a statement.

Kenyan authorities have identified 28 contacts, including family members and health workers, and are tracing a further 23 passengers and four crew members who travelled with the patient.

The Africa CDC also called on member states to strengthen surveillance and cross-border information sharing, ensure laboratory readiness, reinforce rapid response teams, and maintain strong infection prevention and control measures.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday it is working closely with the Kenyan government to intensify control measures after Kenya confirmed its first imported case of Bundibugyo virus disease.

In a statement issued in Nairobi, WHO said the Kenyan government is strengthening response coordination and case investigation while monitoring and listing contacts for enhanced disease surveillance.

Meanwhile, Uganda remains Ebola-free despite reports that a confirmed case in neighboring Kenya had transited through the country, Ministry of Health said late Tuesday.

Charles Olaro, director general of health services at the ministry, said in a statement that Uganda continues to maintain strong surveillance and preparedness measures to protect public health.

Soccer players’ remarks trigger backlash

South Korea signals military exemption cuts for athletes

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 7, (AP): The reward of a military service exemption for gold medal-winning South Korean athletes could be abolished or reduced in future after public backlash to some controversial comments from winners at the Asian Games.

Three players from the men’s soccer team came under fire for comments following South Korea’s 1-0 win over Japan in the Asian Games final last weekend in Japan.

All three apologized but a broader debate had already reignited over whether athletes should receive special treatment for sporting achievements, particularly as ordinary citizens - and even members of BTS, the globally famous K-pop group - had to complete their mandatory service.

Criticism intensified and, on Wednesday, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Choi Hwi-young told the National Assembly’s Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee that the alternative military service exemption system for artists and

athletes “will inevitably have to be scaled back.”

“It is true that the system has contributed to helping outstanding artists and athletes maintain and develop their abilities,” Cho said. “However, the values attached to fairness and public perceptions of military service have changed. I agree that the system should be comprehensively reviewed once again.”

Most South Korean men must start 18 to 21 months of military service by the age of 28. Since 1973, however, Olympic medalists and Asian Games gold medalists have been able to replace the full term with a supplementary service which consists of three weeks of basic training.

Three of the soccer players, including Yang Min-hyuk, who assisted the winning goal against Japan, made comments that were viewed as insensitive.

“The medal and winning the championship weren’t important. I played the game with only one thing in mind - the reward of a mil-



South Korea's team members celebrate as they defeated Japan in the men's final in football at the Asian Games in Toyota, central Japan. (AP)

itary-service exemption,” Yang, who joined Tottenham Hotspur in 2025 and is currently on loan at Belgian club Westerlo, said.

Newcastle United midfielder Park Seung-soo posted a photo on social media showing him wearing a cap associated with soldiers who

have completed their service. In a post-match interview, captain Lee Gi-hyuk held up his gold medal and said, “I’m not going to the military.”

A number of politicians, including Ahn Cheol-soo of the People Power Party, said it was time to change.

“Some players’ remarks after the match were outrageous,” Ahn posted on social media. “Even the captain bragged about not having to serve in the military. Are all the young people who enlist every year fools?”

Former lawmaker Yoo Seong-min said the flippant comments had provoked resentment and asked: “Is it really fair that BTS has to serve in the military while Asian Games gold medalists are exempt?”

In a Korea Herald editorial Tuesday, the newspaper declared that the practice was outdated.

“South Korea now stands shoulder to shoulder with the world’s leading nations,” the newspaper said. “The days when finishing first in Asia could meaningfully enhance the country’s national prestige are long

gone. It is time to reconsider.”

That was the message from Defense Ministry spokesperson Chung Binna during a press briefing in Seoul.

“Ultimately, we have plans to cut back or scrap the supplementary service, including one designed for artists and athletes,” Chung said.

The soccer players were among many winners from the Asian Games who qualified for the military exemption.

Golfer Tom Kim won the men’s singles on Saturday after flying across the Pacific when the Presidents Cup competition ended so he could compete in Japan. Asked about the military exemption, he took the gold-medal approach.

“I’m more proud that I’m able to bring a medal for my country,” he said. Sixteen South Korea baseball players are also exempt after defeating Japan 3-1 in the Asian Games final. So are three South Koreans who won gold in esports, an event at the Asian Games.

Gauff loses to Mertens after ‘insane’ wave of racist abuse



Iga Swiatek, of Poland returns a ball to Iva Jovic, of the United States, during the fourth round of the women's singles match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing. (AP)

Swiatek cruises past Jovic

BEIJING, Oct 7, (AP): Coco Gauff lost to a player she had beaten in all five of their previous matchups after receiving what she described as an “insane” amount of racist comments on social media following a controversial point in the preceding round.

The 19th-ranked Elise Mertens beat the fourth-ranked Gauff 6-3, 6-3 to reach the China Open quar-

terfinals on Wednesday.

In Monday’s match against home player Sun Xinran, Gauff stopped a rally after electronic advertising boards lining the court flickered during a point late in the first set.

Sun appeared about to win the point when Gauff stopped playing. The chair umpire then ordered the point to be replayed.

“Hey everyone, you can dislike me or disagree about what happened without being racist,” Gauff, who is Black, said in a reply on X. “The amount of racist comments/dms I’ve

received in the last few hours is insane. Lastly, I’m not a cheater or a thief.”

Against Mertens, Gauff dropped her serve four times.

Mertens reached her first quarterfinal at a WTA 1000 event - the level just below the Grand Slams - in five years.

“She’s an incredible player, of course. I knew it was going to be a very tough match,” Mertens said. “But I had motivation. My coach/boyfriend, it’s his birthday tomorrow. So this win is dedicated to him

and all the work we do.”

Mertens improved to 3-3 against top-10 opponents this year. She also beat defending champion Jasmine Paolini at the Italian Open and current No. 1 Elena Rybakina in the third round of Wimbledon, where she reached the quarterfinal.

Earlier, Iga Swiatek broke Iva Jovic’s serve twice in the last four games to beat the 18-year-old American 6-1, 6-3.

Swiatek, a six-time Grand Slam champion who has struggled at times this year, will next play Mertens.

Chile beats Mexico as Márquez faces more pressure

US sweeps four friendlies with win over Canada

ST. PAUL, Minn., Oct 7, (AP): Teenager Justin Ellis scored the only goal on Tuesday as the United States completed a successful international window with a 1-0 victory over Canada.

It was the fourth victory in four friendlies for the U.S., which used the window to get a longer look at several young players who could play a role in the program’s future. The U.S. starting lineup on Tuesday had an average of just 21 caps and the average age was 23 years, 156 days.

“They seemed pretty comfortable from the beginning because they all knew each other,” U.S. defender Chris Richards said of the 13 players who earned their first international caps over the past four matches. “It’s been a lot of fun getting to know everyone, and not just on the field.”

Ellis, a 19-year-old forward who plays professionally for Orlando of Major League Soccer, put the U.S. on the board in the 29th minute. A give-and-go between Alex Freeman and Malik Tillman created space down the right side before Freeman threw a cross in front of the net that Ellis tapped in for his second goal in three national team appearances.

Just 10 minutes earlier, Ellis - who also scored the opening goal in a victory over Peru on Sept. 26 - was on the ground after a hard foul. He received treatment on the sideline but was still

limping when he returned to the field shortly before he scored.

Canada is looking to build on its success after appearing in back-to-back World Cups for the first time. Earlier in this international window, the Canadians beat Chile 2-1 in Toronto and blanked Peru 2-0 in Montreal.

Meanwhile, in the last 10 days the U.S. beat Chile, Peru and Mexico by a combined total of 11-3.



United States' George Campbell (18) and Canada's Tani Oluwaseyi (12) battle for possession of the ball during the first half of an international friendly soccer match in St. Paul, Minn. (AP)

“The effort was massive,” U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino said. “We played four games in two weeks, and to play with the same intensity, the same commitment, the same passion is not easy.”

“I’m not happy because we won. I’m happy because of the performance and the commitment that the players showed.”

Pochettino made six changes from

the starting lineup in Friday’s 3-0 win over Mexico in Glendale, Arizona. Seventeen-year-old phenom Cavan Sullivan, who became the youngest player to score for the Americans in that game, did not play against Canada.

Brian Schwake, who starts for Nashville, earned the clean sheet in goal. Schwake made three saves in his first start and second appearance for the U.S.

Schwake’s biggest moment came in the 63rd minute when he tipped a close shot by Luc de Fougerolles off the crossbar.

The U.S. now has 18 wins, 12 losses and 13 draws across all competitions against Canada.

Both teams return to action in November in the CONCACAF Nations League quarterfinals. The U.S. will face Haiti while Canada squares off with Guatemala.

Meanwhile, Maximiliano Gutiérrez and Vicente Pizarro scored second-half goals to lead Chile to a 2-0 victory Tuesday over a Mexico lineup that continues to struggle under coach Rafael Márquez.

Gutiérrez opened the scoring in the 54th minute and Pizarro extended the lead in the 65th for Chile, which was coming off losses in previous friendlies in North America against Canada (1-0) and the United States (4-2).

Antonelli set to extend lead

Russell faces power unit penalty for Singapore GP

SINGAPORE, Oct 7, (AP): George Russell will be hit with a power unit penalty at this weekend’s Singapore Grand Prix that could result in Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli extending his lead in the Formula 1 drivers’ standings.

“George has the added challenge of a power unit penalty, which will mean starting from the back of the grid on Sunday, following the engine failure in Malaysia,” Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff announced Wednesday.

“That is particularly frustrating given the way he drove last weekend and the result he deserved to be fighting for. Unfortunately, these things are part of the sport and our focus now is on giving him the best possible car and opportunities to fight back through the field.”

Russell’s retirement in Malaysia already helped Antonelli stretch his lead over Russell from 66 to 84 points, with seven races remaining this season.

“Malaysia was obviously a very difficult weekend for us,” Wolff said. “We have spent the days since then working hard to understand why our performance was not where it should have been.”

The 20-year-old Antonelli, who



Mercedes driver George Russell of Britain arrives at the track ahead of the Bahrain Grand Prix in Sepang, Malaysia, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026. (AP)

finished second in Malaysia, is closing in on his first F1 title.

“The characteristics of the (Singapore) circuit are very different,” Wolff said, “and that will help us build a clearer picture of where we are.”

Changchun ’27 Winter Universiade unveils medals, torch and uniforms

CHANGCHUN, Oct. 7, (Xinhua): Medals, the torch, uniforms and equipment for the Changchun 2027 Winter Universiade were unveiled Wednesday at a 100-day countdown event at Changchun International Aviation Expo City.

The torch, named “Ji Xiang,” or “Auspicious Flight,” is inspired by the clivia, Changchun’s city flower. Its upper section features a filmstrip motif and 12 winter sports icons representing the Games’ disciplines, a reference to Changchun’s film industry.

Snowflake and ginseng flower motifs appear near the top, while ski-inspired lines run down the sides and a wheel-hub pattern decorates the base.

The torch stands 711 millimeters tall, a reference to the highest elevation in Changchun’s urban area, 711 meters.

The medals, named “Ji Meng,” or “Auspicious Dream,” combine traditional Chinese cultural elements,

winter sports imagery and features associated with Changchun.

The front features patterns inspired by skate blades and ski tracks, while the reverse depicts the “First Jade Bird of Ancient China,” an artifact unearthed at the Wutaishan historic site in Nong’an, Changchun. Part of the bird design is inlaid with Songhua stone from Jilin.

A filmstrip pattern along the medal’s edge also references Changchun’s film heritage. An embedded NFC chip allows athletes to access images of their medal ceremonies and seasonal scenery from Changchun by tapping the medal with a smartphone.

Uniforms for torchbearers, torch escorts, volunteers, staff, technical delegates and ceremony personnel were also unveiled.

The Changchun 2027 Winter Universiade will be held from January 15 to 25, with competitions in Changchun and nearby Jilin City.



The Changchun 2027 Winter Universiade medals, named “Ji Meng,” or “Auspicious Dream,” were unveiled on Oct. 7 at a 100-day countdown event. (Xinhua)

Best of the Rest

Kaur resigns as India cricket captain: Harmanpreet Kaur, the only cricketer to lead India to a Women’s World Cup title, gave up the captaincy after 10 years on Tuesday.

“I feel I have done my duty. I gave this team everything I had,” the 37-year-old Kaur said.

One of the greatest match-winners for India said she often put aside personal goals for the team. Kaur first captained India as a stand-in at the 2012 Women’s T20 Asia Cup and led them to the title. (AP)

□ □ □

Olympic judo medalist Cysique hospitalized: Two-time Olympic judo medalist Sarah-Léonie Cysique of France was transported to a hospital after landing on her head as a result of her opponent’s move during a semifinal bout at the world championships Tuesday.

The incident took place just seconds into her bout against Japan’s Akari Omori in the 57-kilogram category.

Cysique’s neck was stabilized in a brace before she was taken away on a stretcher, according to French sports daily L’Equipe. (AP)

Kuwait's Al-Anzi advances to chess semis at the Asia Pacific Deaf Games in Malaysia



Kuwait Asia Pacific Deaf Games delegation.

KUNA photo

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct. 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's deaf national team continued its strong showing at the 2026 Asia Pacific Deaf Games in Malaysia, with Abdulrahman Al-Anzi advancing to the semifinals of the classical chess competition after defeating a Malaysian player.

Kuwait Deaf Sports Club Chairman Khaled Al-Mutairi said Al-Anzi's achievement reflected the determination and commitment of the

national team's players to deliver strong performances and represent Kuwait with distinction at the continental event.

Al-Mutairi said the team is competing with high morale and great ambition after thorough preparations, adding that Al-Anzi's place in the semifinals has strengthened Kuwait's hopes of reaching the podium.

He praised the performances of Kuwait's deaf athletes, saying they demonstrate their

ability to compete at the highest level in Asia. He also expressed confidence that Al-Anzi and his teammates would continue producing positive results and raising Kuwait's flag at future competitions.

Kuwait is represented at the 2026 Asia Pacific Deaf Games in four sports — table tennis, chess, athletics and bowling — in an event bringing together deaf athletes from across Asia and the Pacific.

Merino comes up clutch again as Spain preserves unbeaten streak

Kane marks record-setting match with 2 goals for England

SPLIT, Croatia, Oct. 7, (AP): Spain preserved its 2½-year unbeaten streak by rallying to beat Croatia thanks to a clutch second-half double from super-sub Mikel Merino, while Harry Kane scored two more goals on another record-setting match for the England captain.

The marathon batch of Nations League matches ended with Merino - a star off the bench so many times for Spain in recent years - powering home an 88th-minute strike to complete the world champions' stirring recovery in a 2-1 win in Split.

The Arsenal midfielder had already equalized in the 61st minute after entering as a halftime substitute, with Spain trailing to a goal by veteran midfielder Ivan Perišić. That marked the first time the Spanish had conceded the first goal in a match since the European Championship in 2024.

Kane's double in England's 3-0 win over Czechia came on his record-tying 125th appearance for his country. It took him to 91 international goals, extending an outright England record.

"It was the perfect night for me personally and also the team," said the Bayern Munich striker, who is among the favorites for the Ballon d'Or being awarded on Oct. 26.

Spain joined Portugal as the only teams to win all four of their group games in the Nations League over the last two weeks and has confirmed its place in the competition's quarterfinals taking place in March.

England's only dropped points in that period? They came in a loss to Spain.

Time and again, Merino delivers off the bench for his country.

At the recent World Cup, he netted a stoppage-time winner over Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal in the round of 16 and then in the 88th minute to see off Belgium in the quarterfinals a few days later.

Two years earlier, Spain's progress to the Euro 2024 title included a win over Germany in the quarterfinals sealed by Merino's



Spain's Lamine Yamal, left, passes the ball as Croatia's Ivan Perišić tries to block during a Nations League soccer match between Croatia and Spain in Split, Croatia. (AP)



England's Harry Kane celebrates after scoring third goal during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between England and Czechia in London. (AP)

119th-minute winner.

On Tuesday, there he was again, dancing around the corner flag - to mimic his father Miguel's goal-scoring celebration from the early 1990s - after coming to Spain's rescue against Croatia.

"He understands these moments in a match so well," Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said. "He's got that gift for goals and important ones, too."

His first goal was a lovely sidefooted finish after Merino

received a short pass in the area from Dani Olmo. The second, scored when Croatia was down to 10 men after Perišić's sending-off for two yellow cards, was a rising shot that flew into the roof of the net.

Spain is now undefeated in 42 matches dating back to a loss to Colombia in March 2024 and is still setting the standard in world soccer.

England coach Thomas Tuchel said this week he was running

out of superlatives for Kane, and the striker's teammates think the same.

"There's not much more you can say that hasn't already been said," England star Jude Bellingham said after Kane inspired the team to a third straight win and the brink of the Nations League quarterfinals.

"He is the best England player to ever wear the shirt and it is an honor to play with him."

Kane, who moved level with former goalkeeper Peter Shilton on the list of most caps won for England's men's team, swept home a close-range finish in the 40th minute and headed home at a corner in the 57th to push to 91 England goals.

Before that, it was Kane who sent in the cross that Czechia right back Vladimir Coufal turned into his own net to put England ahead.

Kane can break the appearance record when England plays Croatia on Nov. 12, also at Wembley.

"He will inspire loads and loads of young people to play football and encourage people to have a career like him and try their luck," Tuchel said. "He's a fantastic role model and he deserves the praise."

Another team on maximum points is Switzerland, which beat North Macedonia 3-0 in the second-tier League B thanks to goals by Fabian Rieder, Johan Manzambi and Dan Ndoye in Lucerne.

The Swiss, quarterfinalists at the World Cup and one of Europe's most consistent soccer nations, are heading for promotion back to the top level of the competition.

Things look much bleaker for Scotland, though, after a 2-1 home loss to Slovenia that ended with boos from supporters at Hampden Park.

Sebastian Pocognoli has picked up four points from a possible 12 in his first camp as Scotland coach after replacing Steve Clarke.

While Scotland's other home loss in this international window - 3-0 to the Swiss - can be attributed to a quality opponent and an early red card, this latest defeat will raise more questions - especially after the hosts went ahead thanks to Ryan Christie's close-range goal.

Aljosa Matko and Danijel Sturm scored in the second half for Slovenia.

Police Club makes First Division League debut

KUWAIT CITY, Oct. 7: The Zain First Division League gets underway today with three matches in the opening round. Burgan takes on Al-Jazeera at Nasser Al-Osaimi Stadium, Sporty faces Khaitan at Naif Al-Dabbous Stadium, while Al-Shamiya meets Police Club at Al-Sahil Stadium. All three matches kick off at 5:50 pm.

Al-Yarmouk sits out the opening round.

This season marks the first appearance of Police Club, representing the Ministry of Interior, in the competition. The league will be played over three rounds, with the top two teams securing promotion to the Zain Premier League for next season.



Players gear up for their debut.

O'Neill staying on as Celtic manager

Arteta signs new contract at Arsenal

LONDON, Oct. 7, (AP): Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has signed a new contract that is set to extend his stay at the English champions beyond a decade.

Arteta penned a deal that keeps him at Arsenal until 2030, the club said Wednesday. The Times of London reported that Arteta will now be earning 20 million pounds (\$26.40 million) per year.

The 44-year-old Spanish coach took charge in December 2019 and is now comfortably the longest-serving coach in England's top flight.

He led Arsenal to the Premier League title last season, ending the club's 22-year wait to be the champions of England again, and also to the Champions League final.

"We have already built a special bond and created memories that will last a lifetime," Arteta said in a club statement, "and what is so exciting is that this is only the beginning of what we can achieve together."

Arteta also played for Arsenal, spending the last five years of his career there.

"He has a deep understanding of Arsenal's values and carries them in his heart," Arsenal co-chairmen Stan and Josh Kroenke said.

"He knows what this club means to everyone connected to it and is committed to building on everything we have achieved together."

Arteta's previous contract with the club was due to expire at the end of this season. If he sees out his new deal, he would be the third-longest-serving Arsenal manager in its history, behind only Arsene Wenger and George Allison.

The stage could be set for a period of dominance for Arsenal, with leading rival Manchester City facing sanctions - they could range from huge fines to expulsion from the Premier League - after being found guilty by an independent commission of large-scale financial violations in one of the biggest scandals in English Soccer. City has lodged an appeal against the findings.

In announcing Arteta's contract extension, Arsenal said the club's focus was "competing for major trophies in a sustainable way" and also

continuing to strengthen the bond between the club and its supporters.

□ □ □

Martin O'Neill has decided to stay on as Celtic manager after a period of reflection following three straight losses - including two against fierce rival Rangers - before the international break.

The 74-year-old O'Neill said he is "just as determined now as ever before" ahead of the team's return to action, at Motherwell in the Scottish Premiership on Sunday.

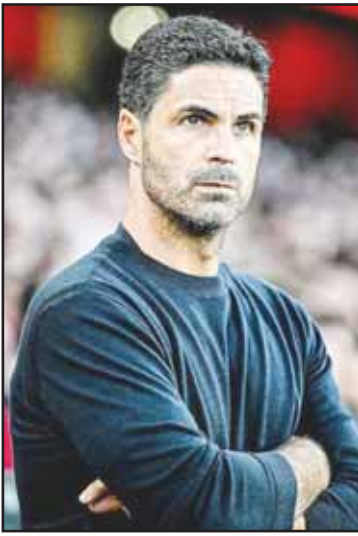
"I did think I would take a little bit of time," O'Neill said, "and it didn't take me that much time to think about it."

"I want to lead the club. I want to try and win the league, which is what we set out to do."

O'Neill, who underwent what the club said was a "small procedure" in the hospital in early August, signed a one-year deal with Celtic after leading the team to the Scottish league title in dramatic fashion last season as interim manager.

Celtic leads the league but lost its last match 1-0 to Rangers, a week after also getting beaten by its Old Firm rival in the Scottish League Cup. In between was a defeat to Ferencváros in the Europa League.

"It's certainly not the end of the world, as it seemed to be described," O'Neill said. "But (I'm) ready to go."



Arsenal manager, Mikel Arteta.

Fire edges Whitecaps in Lewandowski-Müller reunion

CHICAGO, Oct. 7, (AP): Philip Zinkernagel scored early in the second half, Maren Haile-Selassie had a late goal and an assist, and the Chicago Fire beat the Vancouver Whitecaps 3-1 in a matchup of former Bayern Munich teammates Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Müller.

Lewandowski and Müller spent eight seasons together at Bayern from 2014-22. The stars were supposed to reunite in MLS months ago before wildfires postponed the highly anticipated matchup.

Lewandowski's unselfish pass to a wide-open Haile-Selassie at the back post capped the scoring in the 88th minute. Lewandowski, who returned to Chicago early from international duty with Poland after a yellow-card suspension ruled him out of Monday's match, has six goals and three assists through his first 12 MLS appearances.

Chicago (13-8-6) moved past Charlotte into fourth place in the Eastern

Conference standings. The top four finishers earn home-field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Vancouver (15-7-5) remains atop the Western Conference with 50 points, three ahead of St. Louis and Dallas.

Jonathan Bamba opened the scoring in the ninth minute for his first goal since March 21. The Fire's designated player dribbled to the top of the 18-yard box and bent a shot past goalkeeper Yohei Takaoka.

Zinkernagel finished a nice give-and-go with Haile-Selassie to make it 2-0 in the 50th. Zinkernagel's first goal since May came after he missed a penalty kick in the first half.

Vancouver defender Mathias Laborda scored in the 73rd by heading in Oliver Larraz's corner kick.

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NEWS



Golden State Warriors guard Brandon Williams, right, dives for the ball next to Golden State Warriors forward Yaxel Lendeborg during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game in San Francisco. Warriors won 124-98. (AP)

Sports

Amir congratulates Saudi King on Gulf Cup victory



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



Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Team's sportsmanship praised

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (Agencies): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable on Tuesday to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, on the Saudi national football team's victory in the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup (Khaleeji 27).

The Amir praised the Saudi team's outstanding technical performance and strong team spirit, which helped secure the title. He also commended the sportsmanship and fraternal spirit displayed by all participating Gulf teams during the tournament, hosted in Jeddah from Sept. 23 to Oct. 6.

He hailed the championship's success and praised Saudi Arabia for providing world-class facilities and demonstrating high organizational standards in hosting the regional sporting event.

The Amir wished King Salman continued good health and well-being, and the Kingdom and its people further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership.

His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, also sent a congratulatory cable to King Salman on the Saudi team's Gulf Cup triumph.

The Crown Prince praised the team's outstanding performance and Saudi Arabia's efforts in providing all the facilities and requirements needed to host the championship, which earned widespread praise and admiration.

Kuwait Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah likewise sent a congratulatory cable to King Salman on Saudi Arabia's victory in the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup.

Saudi Arabia ended a more than two-decade wait for a major trophy by beating the UAE 2-0 in Jeddah in the Gulf Cup final, securing their fourth Gulf Cup title.

The victory at Al-Inma Stadium brought Saudi Arabia's senior international title tally to nine, including three Asian Cup crowns, two Arab Cup titles,



Saudi Arabia players celebrate on the podium after winning the Gulf Cup.

and four Gulf Cups.

The Green Falcons' last major success came at the 2003 Gulf Cup, held between December 2003 and January 2004, before they finally returned to the winners' circle in 2026.

Saudi Arabia won the Asian Cup in 1984, 1988, and 1996, and lifted the Arab Cup in 1998 and 2002. It won the Gulf Cup in 1994, 2002, 2003, and 2026.

The latest triumph moved Saudi Arabia level with Iraq on four Gulf Cup

titles, leaving them second on the all-time list behind Kuwait, who have won the competition a record 10 times.

Saudi midfielder Humam Al-Humami was named the tournament's best player and received the Prince Khalid Al-Faisal Award. Goalkeeper Mohammed Al-Owais was named Best Goalkeeper after keeping a clean sheet throughout the tournament, while Firas Al-Buraikan finished as the top scorer with three goals.

Yemen's Adel Abbas was named the tournament's Best Promising Player.

'Source of great pride to wear this jersey for over 20 years'

Messi caps Argentina farewell with goal and 2 assists

Buenos Aires, Argentina, Oct 7, (AP): Lionel Messi turned his official farewell to Argentina into a gala performance, contributing a penalty and two assists in a 3-0 win over Benin at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires, where the crowd offered a deafening final ovation to the genius who defined the footballing pulse of a nation for two decades.

In front of 85,000 fans, the superstar capped off an international career spanning 21 years, 126 goals, a 2022 World Cup victory, and two Copa América titles.

"It was a source of great pride to wear this jersey for over 20 years," Messi told the crowd, speaking into a microphone from the center of the pitch. "I never stopped fighting, never stopped giving my all. I would love to keep coming back forever, because playing for the Argentine national team is the most beautiful thing that can happen to you."

His teammates - many of them overcome with emotion - along with the coaching staff led by Lionel Scaloni and the fans, gave him a standing ovation.

"I'm going to miss you all. Now I'll be on your side, supporting the national team and the guys who come next," Messi promised. "When we're united, we're stronger than anyone and can overcome anything. Tough times lie ahead, because what this group achieved won't be easy to repeat."

Following a corner kick taken by Messi, defender Nicolás Otamendi connected with a header to open the scoring in the 48th minute. Messi then provided an assist to young talent Nicolás Paz, who paid tribute to the star with an exquisite left-foot finish in the 61st.

Ten minutes later, Messi buried a left-foot penalty into the top corner, adding to his tally as the Albiceleste's all-time leading scorer.

"Olé, olé, Messi," the crowd chanted



Argentina's Lionel Messi waves to fans at the end of an international friendly soccer match against Benin, marking his farewell appearance for the national team, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)

in his honor.

Despite still playing at a high level at age 39, Messi announced on Aug. 31 that the end of his time with Argentina was set.

Messi played his final match - his 208th for Argentina - amid a spectacular fireworks display. He wore a special edition Albiceleste jersey featuring wider vertical stripes than the standard design, a giant sun, and a golden No. 10 on the back. The back detail featured a goat's horns in the print - a nod to the "GOAT," referencing both the animal and his status as the "Greatest of All Time."

Ten minutes after kickoff in the international friendly, the referee paused the match to honor the Argentine captain. Rivals and teammates approached to greet him while fans rose for a standing ovation. Messi raised his hand in acknowledgment.

After the match ended, he thanked his teammates for the titles they had won and left them with a directive: "We need

to build a strong, united group because there are people who want the national team to fail, and we shouldn't give them the satisfaction."

A successor to the legendary Diego Maradona, Messi made his senior national team debut in 2005. His journey was fraught with frustration until 2022, when he finally lifted the World Cup - a triumph that secured his place in the pantheon of the sport's greatest players and cemented his status as a national hero in Argentina.

Accompanied by his sons Thiago, Mateo, and Ciro, Messi was overcome with emotion as the Argentine national anthem played, sung by a veteran of the 1982 Falklands War. Goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez tried to comfort him by placing an arm around his shoulders.

"It's not a goodbye, it's a 'farewell forever,' Captain" - that was the message Rebeca Arias and Daniel Lema emblazoned on a hat designed for the occasion. On the brim, they drew vari-

ous depictions of Messi corresponding to each of the six World Cups he contested. The young couple traveled more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from their native Tucumán to witness his final performance.

"We believe this is a unique moment. It's all worth it - being here, making the journey we did. Something like this might never happen again with a player," Arias remarked.

In the last World Cup, Messi went close to another title, falling just short after a 1-0 defeat to Spain in the final. However, the runner-up finish didn't overshadow his remarkable performance in the tournament - featuring eight goals and four assists.

"The match against England took a huge toll on us; the reality is that we were running on fumes," he explained, referring to the dramatic 2-1 semifinal victory.

His contribution was so pivotal that Messi has once again entered the conversation for the Ballon d'Or, competing against the two top contenders to succeed him: Spaniard Lamine Yamal and Frenchman Kylian Mbappé.

The Argentine star remains the only footballer to have won the award eight times.

"I am proud to be Argentine and to have been able to fulfill this dream with all of you," he concluded, before taking a solitary victory lap to cherish the fans' final chants of "Messi, Messi."

Before his farewell at the stadium, Messi received an honorary doctorate from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), a public institution.

The academic institution presented the honor at the national team's training complex in the suburb of Ezeiza. The star was awarded a diploma and a medal in recognition of his performance with the national team, as well as his influence both on and off the pitch.

Whites face Burgan in the league

Jiddo joins Kuwait Club ahead of Gulf handball championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Kuwait Club has finalized its foreign-player lineup for the first handball team after signing Egyptian international Mahmoud Abdel Aziz from Spanish club Valladolid.

The pivot, better known as "Jiddo," will represent Kuwait Club for the remainder of the 2025-26 season and throughout the 2026-27 campaign. He joins Montenegro's Vladan Lipovina and Bahrain's Mohammed Habib as the club's three foreign professionals.

Kuwait Club returns to action today as the 2025-26 season resumes after being suspended in early March. It faces Burgan at 6:30 pm at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Sports Complex in the second round of the Premier League. Kazma take on Al-Nasr at 5 pm at the same venue.

The team will then travel to Cairo for a 10-day training camp from Oct. 30 to Nov. 8, where they will play four friendly matches as they build up for the Gulf Club Championship for Cup Winners in Manama from Nov. 21 to 30.

Kuwait Club is also set to strengthen its squad for the Gulf tournament by signing Burgan's Japanese player Yasuhiro temporarily.

The club is preparing on two fronts, aiming to complete the remaining fixtures of the 2025-26 season while also building toward the 2026-27 campaign, which opens in February with the Super Cup before the league begins.

Kuwait Club enters the new season



Mahmoud Abdel Aziz

as one of the country's most successful handball sides. It won the Kuwait Cup and league title the season before last before adding the Super Cup last season, and will seek to maintain its domestic dominance while challenging for Gulf honors.

Meanwhile, the 2025-26 Premier Handball League resumed Wednesday at the Handball Federation Hall, with Qadsia and Salmiya failing to show after previously announcing the dissolution of their senior teams while retaining their youth squads.

The Handball Federation said neither club had submitted an official letter confirming its withdrawal, leaving both teams on the league schedule. Their absence will therefore be handled under the competition regulations.

The federation is expected to wait for the two clubs to miss the next three rounds before taking action to remove them from the schedule and impose the relevant administrative and financial penalties.

Ronaldo says he is still available for Portugal after walking out on squad

LISBON, Oct 7, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo is not following Lionel Messi into international retirement just yet.

The Portugal superstar said he will remain available to play for his national team, despite having walked out on the squad during the current international window.

In a long statement posted Tuesday, just hours before Messi's much-anticipated farewell game with Argentina, Ronaldo said recently hired

coach Jorge Jesus hadn't been true to his word about when he would play the striker in the latest round of Nations League matches.

Still, the 41-year-old Ronaldo said he owed fans and his teammates an apology and expects to receive a punishment.

"I can promise all my fans, and naturally especially all Portuguese people, that we will have one or more farewell matches. There will be time for that," Ronaldo said.

He added: "Therefore, if I am physically fit, playing for my club, hopefully scoring goals, then after serving whatever suspension is imposed on me, I will be available, as I have always been until today, to compete and win for our national team."

Ronaldo was an unused substitute for Portugal's 2-1 win over Norway in Oslo. He then left camp after Jesus said the star forward wouldn't start the game against Denmark last Thursday. Portugal beat the Danes

4-2 in Copenhagen.

Ronaldo could possibly face a harsh punishment for leaving the training camp. The federation's disciplinary regulations say that any player who "abandons or fails to appear" without justification at a training session, match or activity of the national teams, "shall be sanctioned with a suspension of one to six months," in addition to a fine.

Ronaldo did tell the federation that he was leaving, but it wasn't clear

whether the decision would be considered justified in accordance with the regulations.

"Despite the absolute breach of trust in the coach's word, as anyone who witnessed these conversations can attest, I should not have done it," Ronaldo said. "The responsibility is entirely mine. I apologize to the Portuguese people once again, but the breaking of one's word has, for me, a defining impact. I felt that, from that point on, my staying would only

harm the group, and I did what I have always said I would do if I didn't feel useful: I picked up my bags and left."

He said "I believe the punishment should be no mitigating factors," as he is the team captain "and that is an aggravating factor."

"I have already apologized, but I know that actions must have consequences. Anyone in football as I am knows that, regardless of each person's status, the rules are the same for everyone."