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AMIR CONDOLES WITH SAUDI KING OVER AIRPORT ATTACK MARTYRS

Deaths ground Riyadh's calm



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Activating global partnership to save world from Iranian terrorism

SCRUTINIZING historical patterns is vital in times of crisis in order to grasp the operational framework of an adversary. A thorough analysis of Persian military and political strategies —from the Achaemenid era to modern times—exposes the recurring behavioral tendencies of the current Iranian regime.

Historically, the Achaemenid Empire formulated a doctrine anchored on maritime piracy and territorial extortion to extract advantages. This approach depended on deploying proxies inside adversary or exploitable states to carve out a maneuvering room.

The alignment with and mobilization of the Houthis to achieve the goals of Tehran fit squarely into this legacy, a partnership further reinforced by overlapping sectarian affiliations. Using the Bab al-Mandab Strait as leverage is a manifestation of such calculation, mirroring the exploitation of the Strait of Hormuz earlier.

This policy portends pressure far beyond the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, threatening the international community in general.

Excessive crude price hikes caused heavy strains on consumers around the world. This situation is exacerbated by the disruption of global energy flows and major agricultural inputs like fertilizers,

triggering widespread market pressure and global diesel shortage.

Markets are currently grappling with a severe global diesel shortage, made worse by deliberate disruptions to energy supplies and vital agricultural products, thereby, threatening global food security.

The revival of maritime piracy in this form since Feb 28 has compelled all the involved parties to look for a solution. This urgency intensified after the breakdown of the initial truce and Iran's abandonment of the Memorandum of Understanding with the United States—a pact that briefly gave a glimmer of hope for worldwide stability.

Tehran's retreat from the agreement severely hindered efforts to establish lasting international economic stability. This instability became obvious when the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps opened a new front in Yemen.

Continued on Page 5

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Kuwait Airways cancels two Riyadh flights

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10, (Agencies): His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable to his brother King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, of Saudi Arabia, expressing his sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy over the martyrdom of three Saudi citizens and the injury of others in the two attacks that targeted King Khaled International Airport.

His Highness the Amir prayed for the Almighty Allah to bestow His vast mercy upon the martyrs, grant them eternal rest in Paradise, and grant their families patience and solace.

He wished the injured a quick recovery and good health.

His Highness the Amir also prayed for the Almighty Allah to maintain the security, safety and stability in the

sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and protect it from all evils.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable on Friday to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, of Saudi Arabia, expressing his sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy over the martyrdom of three Saudi citizens and the injury of others in the two attacks that targeted King Khaled International Airport.

He prayed for the Almighty Allah to bestow His vast mercy upon the martyrs and grant their families patience and solace, wishing the injured a quick recovery.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable on Friday to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, of Saudi Arabia, expressing his sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy over the martyrdom of three Saudi citizens and the injury of others in the two attacks that targeted King Khaled International Airport.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait braces for above-average rainfall



Ministry of Public Works photo

Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan chairs a meeting to review flood preparedness and emergency response plans ahead of the rainy season.

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan chaired the meeting of the committee tasked to look into the impact of rains and floods, with the committee members and representatives of relevant agencies in attendance.

During the meeting, Al-Mashaan stressed the need to raise the level of readiness and strengthen coordination among the relevant entities to ensure rapid response to rainwater accumulation and other emergency situations.

Continued on Page 5

Viral nursery video triggers 'abuse' probe

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Faisal Al-Kandari confirmed that the necessary measures were taken regarding the video of the alleged child abuse in a nursery, which went viral on social media, as per the instruction of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah.

Al-Kandari stated that the relevant department called the child's guardian and the nursery official to investigate the allegation and take legal action, if necessary.

Continued on Page 5



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Group photo during the conference titled "Precision Pediatrics: From Genomics to Care."

Medical experts explore new paths in 'precision pediatrics'

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Ministry of Health Undersecretary Dr. Salman Al-Sabah launched the conference titled, "Precision Pediatrics: From Genomics to Care."

Organized by the Kuwait Pediatric Society, Kuwait Academy for

Rare Diseases and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the conference gathered distinguished experts and specialists to exchange knowledge and discuss the latest applications of precision medicine in diagnosing and treating genetic and rare diseases.

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait on Saturday expressed solidarity, as well as sympathy after a quake the friendly country of Panama has recently suffered.

A foreign ministry statement wished a speedy recovery for all those wounded amid the natural disaster. (KUNA)

— See Also Page 7

KUWAIT CITY: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) destroyed 773 kilograms of spoiled fish deemed unfit for human consumption during a joint inspection campaign targeting fish, vegetable, and meat markets in Fahaeel, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and fisheries authorities.

In an official statement, PAFN explained that the campaign also resulted in the issuance of four citations for violations of public hygiene regulations and requirements. The campaign forms part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen market oversight and ensure food safety.

It affirmed that inspection campaigns would continue in coordination with the relevant authorities, with necessary legal action taken against violators to protect public health and consumer safety.



South African-born jurist and former U.N. human rights chief Navanethem "Navi" Pillay, sits at the Nuremberg Forum in Nuremberg, Germany, Friday, Oct. 9, 2026, following the announcement that she had been awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize. (AP)

Pillay honored with 'Nobel Peace Prize'

OSLO, Oct 10, (AP): Navi Pillay, a South African-born jurist and former U.N. human rights chief whose career has spanned from defending the rights of an imprisoned Nelson Mandela to leading a panel that found that Israel committed genocide in Gaza, won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for efforts that the award committee said promoted international law as it comes under attack.

Continued on Page 5

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2 Shoulder-to-shoulder on the battlefield

National Bank of Kuwait participates in IMF & World Bank Group Annual Meetings in Bangkok



10 AI Mulla & LG Electronics sign strategic distribution agreement in Kuwait

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:28	Asr	14:54
Sunrise ..	05:46	Maghrib ..	17:23
Zohr	11:35	Isha	18:39

OCTOBER 6 VICTORY TESTAMENT TO STRONG EGYPTIAN-KUWAITI BONDS

Shoulder-to-shoulder on the battlefield

Arab world basks in glory of stupendous achievements



A group photo of the attendees at the celebration.



Sheikh Mubarak Al-Faisal with the Egyptian Ambassador and the Military Attaché



Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Mishal, Colonel Mohammed Abdulwahed, Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Ahmed Ismail Behbehani, and Bassam Al-Qassas



Colonel Mohammed Abdulwahed



Major General Pilot Fahd Al-Khurainj



US Chargé d'Affaires Steven Butler with Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Kamel



Japanese Ambassador Mukai Kenichiro offers congratulations.



Major General M. Faisal Al-Jazaf offers his congratulations.



Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Jawad Boukhamsin, and colleague Mohammed Al-Farhan

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- Previous secretarial or administrative experience is preferred

Responsibilities:

- Manage correspondence, emails, calls, and appointments in Arabic and English
- Maintain files, records, and office documentation
- Assist management with daily administrative tasks
- Coordinate meetings and support office operations
- Welcome visitors and provide professional front-office support

Interested candidates should send their CV to: m.alfarhan@alhadafkuwait.com
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The celebration of the 53rd anniversary of the October 6 Victory was a heartfelt expression of the affection and appreciation of Kuwait for Egypt and its military, proving the deep historical connection and strong fraternal bond between the two countries.

The event witnessed the gathering of political, military, diplomatic and economic figures, including members of the esteemed Al-Sabah Family, military and security officials, representatives of the diplomatic corps, military attachés, business leaders, public personalities and diwaniya hosts.

Held under the auspices of Egyptian Defense Attaché in Kuwait Colonel Mohamed Abdul-Wahed Abdul-Jawad , the celebration underscored the fact that the October Victory is not just a defining moment in the national consciousness of Egypt, but also a landmark in the collective memory of the Arab world.

The victory is a legacy of determination and sacrifice, reflecting the spirit of brotherly solidarity demonstrated on the battlefield, where Egyptian and Kuwaiti blood mixed in defense of their land and dignity.

Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed Gaber Abul-Wafa, together with Defense Attaché Colonel Mohamed Abdul-Wahed Abdul-Jawad, warmly welcomed the guests.

They personally greeted the attendees, creating an atmosphere that manifested their appreciation for the guests and their pride in the strong relations linking Egypt, Kuwait and various segments of Kuwaiti society.

The diverse gathering was far more than a formal participation in an Egyptian national celebration, as it was a clear testament to the profound respect Kuwaitis hold for Egypt and its military.

It also highlighted the deep-rooted public and official dimensions of bilateral relations, strengthened by historic positions and a lasting partnership in different fields.

In his speech at the event, Abdul-Jawad expressed his pride in celebrating the anniversary of the October Victory with all those present. He stressed that the occasion is a historic milestone in the collective consciousness of the Egyptian people, embodying the determination of the nation, resilience of its people, and the ability of the Egyptian Armed Forces to realize their objec-

tives and safeguard national sovereignty.

He stated, "On the anniversary of the days etched in the hearts of the Egyptian people, it gives me great pleasure and honor to express my thanks and appreciation for your participation in our celebration of the 53rd anniversary of the glorious October Victory—a victory that embodied the will of Egypt, affirmed the resilience of its people, and proved the capability of the Egyptian Armed Forces to achieve their goals and protect the sovereignty of the nation." He added that the October Victory will forever remain a testament to the greatness of the Egyptian people and a source of national pride.

He paid tribute to the members of the Egyptian Armed Forces who greatly contributed to reclaiming the land and restoring national dignity, while honoring the souls of the martyrs who gave their lives in defense of the homeland.

He also remembered the leaders who made the decision to go to war and cross the Suez Canal, foremost among them was the late President Anwar Sadat. He emphasized that the October achievements were the outcome of political and military determination, as well as the planning, preparation and sacrifices of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Capabilities

He stressed that the Egyptian Armed Forces remain an integral part of the Egyptian people and possess the capabilities and expertise needed to overcome challenges. He indicated that the Egypt that went to war and reclaimed its territory is the same Egypt that remains committed to peace and continues to work toward consolidating it.

Affirming the pan-Arab significance of the October Victory, he commended the position adopted by the State of Kuwait, including its leadership, government and people, and the support it extended to Egypt. He recalled the participation of Kuwaiti fighters alongside their Egyptian counterparts in the war, describing it as one of the most significant chapters in the history of Arab solidarity. He said the Kuwaiti fighters exhibited remarkable bravery beside the Egyptian Armed Forces, with Kuwaiti and Egyptian blood mingling on the battlefield. "This powerful image depicted the true meaning of Arab brotherhood, transforming solidarity from a political position into participation on the battlefield and a shared commitment to make a sacrifice for the nation," he asserted.

He said these actions will remain engraved in the memories of both nations, proving that Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations are founded on far more than mutual interests, resting instead on a history of brotherhood, cooperation, and reciprocal support during decisive moments.

He then expressed his gratitude to the sisterly State of Kuwait, appreciating the continuous cooperation between the two countries and stressing the importance of further solidifying these distinguished relations and broadening the scope of their partnership.

On the other hand, Commander of the Kuwaiti Air Force Major General Pilot Fahad Falah Al-Khareenj, speaking on behalf of the Kuwaiti side, extended sincere congratulations to the Arab Republic of Egypt, its leadership, government and people, on the anniversary of the October 6 Victory, describing it as an immortal day in the history of Egypt and the Arab world.

Al-Khareenj stressed that the Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations are not recent, but are firmly rooted in lasting brotherhood, shared positions, and a rich history of cooperation and solidarity. He emphasized that these relations continue to serve as a model for ties between Arab peoples, founded on solidarity, loyalty and mutual support.

He pointed out that military cooperation is vital in this relationship, while citing the 'Yarmouk' exercise as a leading joint air drill. He disclosed that "the exercise carries historical significance, which extends beyond military training." He called to mind the heroism and sacrifices of the Kuwaiti Yarmouk Brigade and its noble martyrs, who fought along with their Egyptian counterparts during the October War.

He indicated that the 'Yarmouk' exercise, whose name carries profound historical symbolism, confirmed the continuous military cooperation between the two countries and their commitment to strengthen coordination and exchange expertise. "It also demonstrated the close partnership between their respective military institutions and the lasting bond forged through decades of shared positions and common experiences," he concluded.

The commemorative event reaffirmed that the anniversary of the October Victory goes beyond the remembrance of a decisive military battle, evoking a broader history of Arab solidarity and sacrifice, particularly Kuwait's participation alongside Egypt in the 1973 War.

The occasion also highlighted the significant Egyptian presence in Kuwait and the importance of bilateral relations, which are rooted in longstanding historical connections and people-to-people ties that continue to grow through political, diplomatic, military and economic cooperation.

Linking the memory of the crossing with the sacrifices of the fighters, the celebration conveyed a message of loyalty in a shared history. It reaffirmed that the bond forged between Egypt and Kuwait on the battlefield remains a living legacy, strengthening relations between the two countries and paving the way for broader horizons in their future partnership.

Ali Al-Obaidli is a national role model... support him

“ARE there creative talents in Kuwait? The answer is undoubtedly yes,” columnist Eng. **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Do we have individuals who stand out? Absolutely. Are there people capable of achieving global recognition, setting records, and producing work that competes on the international stage? Without a doubt. Unfortunately, the support they receive is insufficient. This becomes clear when we consider the achievements of young Kuwaiti Ali Al-Obaidli, who spoke openly about the “impossible” challenges created by limited resources, yet persevered and won a prestigious international award in astro-photography. He represents many young Kuwaiti men and women who pursue innovation quietly despite limited resources and other constraints. Some have secured international positions through their own initiative, while others continue to develop a variety of creative projects.

“Kuwaiti organizations should therefore take a more active role in identifying, encouraging, and supporting these talents. Consider Ali Al-Obaidli, for example. Why is there no dedicated platform to support him or a government agency to promote his achievements? If he has succeeded in bringing international recognition to Kuwait through his own modest efforts, imagine what he could accomplish with official support. Why is there no support for him, or indeed, comprehensive support at every level for young Kuwaitis representing the country in international organizations?”

“This raises another important question - if such achievements can be accomplished with limited resources, what more could be achieved with official support and adequate funding? Instead, we constantly hear about the closure of public benefit associations, allegations of embezzlement and financial mismanagement involving their boards of directors, and other negative issues. Yet, we rarely hear about the achievements and excellence of our youth. When such excellence emerges, it is largely the result of individual initiative rather than the efforts of any official body. While we hold the Public Authority for Youth and Sports in high regard, its focus appears to be primarily on sports, which admittedly falls within its mandate.

“However, youth interests extend far beyond sports. Many young Kuwaitis possess creative talents in other fields that also fall within the broader scope of youth activities and deserve equal attention and support. If limited budgets are an obstacle, resources must be found to support these talented young people, who proudly raise Kuwait’s profile on the international stage. They should not have to seek support; instead, the state should be actively seeking them out.”

Also:

“Crises are catastrophes for some but lucrative opportunities for others. Regardless of ethical considerations, the end is often seen as justifying the means,” **Dr. Nayef Al-Adwani**, Doctor of Law and Kuwaiti lawyer, wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Arms dealers typically thrive during wars and border conflicts, as do traffickers of illicit goods, particularly narcotics. They exploit the vulnerabilities and weakened border controls that often accompany such turmoil to amass vast fortunes. Bribery and threats to national security can also become more widespread, particularly when a state is structurally weak or has been severely weakened by a crisis or war. This environment often leads to the flight of private capital, both legal and illicit, alongside the theft or misappropriation of public funds by corrupt individuals and those wielding political influence.

“On the other hand, when a state has a well-organized institutional structure capable of maintaining internal order and security, such violations and thefts can be curbed. Nevertheless, the challenge remains considerable, as state resources are primarily directed towards managing the crisis or mounting a defense during wartime. While this describes the behavior of individuals - opportunists seeking quick riches - entire nations can also behave opportunistically. They may attract businesses, investors, and major corporations by offering procedural, legal, and banking incentives, as well as facilitating residency and property ownership.

“By drawing in capital and commercial activity, these states inject billions of dollars into their economies, revitalizing the broader economic landscape and real estate markets as investors relocate their assets to safer, more stable environments. Amid the threat of war involving the United States, Iran, and its ally Israel, significant Iranian capital flowed into neighboring countries in search of security and stability. These countries, whether serving as safe havens or seizing the opportunity, managed to attract billions of dollars, boosting their economies and real estate sectors. In effect, they became opportunists, capitalizing on a fundamental principle of investment: capital is inherently risk-averse and gravitates towards safety and protection.”

□ □ □

“I went to the public park for my usual walk, hoping to enjoy a refreshing escape. Instead, I was confronted with

a distressing sight - tissues, plastic containers, empty water bottles, cigarette butts, and litter scattered everywhere,” **Dr. Reem Ahmad Al-Hazeem**, PhD (Plant Philosophy), wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“I asked myself - How can we demand a healthy environment while polluting, with our own hands, the very places where we go to breathe fresh air? I decided not to wait for a sanitation worker or dismiss the problem as someone else’s responsibility. I brought gloves, a face mask, a rubbish bag, and a grabber tool from home and began picking up the litter. I then cleaned and sanitised one of the benches, placed my bag beside me, and, after completing my walk, sat down to reflect and jot down a few notes in my journal.

“I did not do this to seek recognition or applause; I did it out of sadness over the neglect of a public space meant to offer the community a breath of fresh air. I shared the experience on my Instagram account and was surprised by the overwhelmingly positive response and the influx of new followers. That was when I realized that people still value initiative and are eager to see positive examples they can follow and take part in. Many are deeply frustrated by this kind of neglect.

“Given my background in botany and environmental science, I can say that what I witnessed cannot be described in a single word. The waste we leave behind in our parks can contribute to a much wider environmental and public health crisis. Cigarette butts, for instance, are not merely an eyesore; they contain harmful chemicals and can persist in the environment for a long time. Plastic containers and bags can accumulate as waste, eventually breaking down into smaller fragments and contributing to plastic pollution, which affects plants, animals, and soil alike.

“Undoubtedly, the accumulation of non-biodegradable waste and scattered debris can create breeding grounds for insects, pests, and rodents, particularly when combined with food scraps, moisture, and high temperatures. Furthermore, pollution in areas surrounding plants can harm soil health and degrade the overall quality of the garden ecosystem.

“A clean garden is not merely more pleasing to the eye. It provides a more inviting space for walking, exercising, sitting, and relaxing, while contributing to a healthier urban environment for residents. Plants are fundamental to this equation. Trees, shrubs, and green spaces help improve environmental quality, provide shade, reduce temperatures, mitigate the effects of climate change, and support urban biodiversity. However, we cannot expect plants to create a healthier environment if we treat the soil and surrounding areas as dumping grounds for waste and refuse. We must do our part to protect the environment.

“There is also an equally important social message - when a child or young person sees someone bending down to pick up a discarded container or tissue, they learn far more from that simple act than they would from dozens of slogans. We need to move away from the mindset that “someone else will clean up after me” and embrace a culture that says, “This is my environment, and I am responsible for keeping it clean.” I believe that the institutions responsible for parks and the environment could turn these individual initiatives into community-wide programs.

“Examples include organizing volunteer park cleanups, launching awareness campaigns in schools and universities, installing adequate waste bins, implementing effective waste-sorting systems, and educating the public about the environmental impact of cigarette butts and plastic waste. Furthermore, park visitors could be encouraged to report littering and behaviours that damage these public spaces. Plant and environmental specialists could also play a greater role in raising community awareness. After all, protecting green spaces begins not with the soil itself, but with the way people treat it.

“Ultimately, I returned from the park with more than just the benefits of a workout; I came away with a message that I believe deserves to be shared with everyone—and, thankfully, I succeeded in doing so. No religion, sect, moral code, upbringing, or sense of public decency justifies leaving behind a polluted space or creating an environment that fosters disease. Cleanliness is not the sole responsibility of sanitation workers, nor do parks belong exclusively to government authorities. They are public spaces that we all use, and preserving them is a shared community responsibility.

“What I did today may have involved nothing more than a rubbish bag, a grabber tool, and a pair of gloves, but it reaffirmed an important lesson - even a small initiative can make a significant impact when others witness it. Let us leave behind only one thing in our parks - a beautiful impression, not rubbish. In my view, creating a clean environment does not always require major policy changes. Often, it begins with an individual who notices a problem and chooses to act rather than ignore it. With this spirit of initiative and responsibility, we look forward to a prosperous future for agriculture.”

– Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Adel Al-Kharafi



Major General Talal Al-Roumi honors the new graduates.

KFF photos

‘Fire-fighting national duty, humanitarian mission’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), under the leadership of Major General Talal Al-Roumi, celebrated the graduation of 123 non-commissioned officers with the rank of Sergeant, at the Civil Protection Building Theater in the presence of various KFF officials, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

During the ceremony, Al-Roumi extended his heartfelt congratulations to the graduates for successfully completing their training and meeting all qualification requirements, wishing them success in their endeavors.

He also conveyed congratulations from First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef.

Al-Roumi confirmed the significance of the oath taken by the graduates, urging them to perform their duties with utmost honesty, integrity and dedication. He stated that fire-fighting is not just a national duty, but also a humanitarian mission, hence, the need for the highest level of readiness, discipline and commitment.

He pointed out that the KFF personnel exemplify the values of sacrifice and selflessness through their tremendous efforts to protect lives and properties.

He urged the graduates to continuously improve their skills, strictly follow regulations and guidelines, and contribute to the advancement of operational standards.

Address forger gets reprieve

Expat acquitted in cash fraud case

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The Court of Appeals overturned the prison sentence imposed on the first defendant in a case involving the manipulation of residential addresses registered with the Public Authority for Civil Information, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The court decided not to impose a penalty for forging an official document, acquitted the defendant of unauthorized access to an automated system, and upheld his acquittal on charges of money laundering and bribery.

Previously, the Criminal Court had sentenced the first defendant to four years of hard labor for unauthorized access to an automated system and forgery of an official document. However, it had acquitted him of charges related to money laundering, bribery, and forming an organized criminal group.

Lawyer Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan represented the first defendant and maintained his client’s innocence throughout the proceedings.

He explained that the elements of money laundering were absent due to a lack of criminal intent. The charge of joining a criminal group was unfounded, as the act of joining had never taken place. Furthermore, the elements of bribery were not established and that no conclusive evidence proved the offense had occurred.

Lawyer Al-Qattan insisted that the requirements for unauthorized access to an automated system had not been met.

He challenged the legality of the defendant’s statements to the Public Prosecution, highlighted the absence of evidence linking his client to the alleged acts, and questioned the credibility of the investigations and the arresting officer’s testimony.

The defense submitted a dossier containing copies of the defendant’s marriage contract, documents relating to his family members, and purchase invoices for the confiscated gold jewellery. Taking into account his client’s circumstances and the facts of the case, the defense sought an acquittal as its primary request or, alternatively, the maximum possible leniency.

The Court of Appeals overturned the prison sentence, decided not to impose a penalty for forging an official document, and acquitted the defendant of unauthorized access to an automated system. It also upheld his acquittal on the charges of money laundering and bribery.

□ □ □

Expat freed in fraud case: The Court of Appeals upheld a ruling acquitting a resident of charges related to the misappropriation of KD 23,000, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The defendant, along with another individual, had been accused of misleading two residents by promising to purchase a restaurant in a European country and secure residency permits for them in exchange for the specified amount.

The Misdemeanor Court had initially sentenced both defendants in absentia to three years in prison, fined each KD 200, and ordered their deportation upon completion of their sentences.

However, one of the defendants challenged the ruling, and his objection was accepted, resulting in his acquittal.

The court explained that the case files and investigations indicated that the investment project was legitimate and registered in the name of one of the complainants.

The dispute arose when the residency permits were not obtained, eventually leading to the restaurant’s closure due to unpaid rent and the complainants’ absence from the premises.

The court also noted that the defendant had submitted photographs documenting the project’s inauguration, which was attended by the father of one of the complainants.

The court stressed that fraud requires the use of deceptive means to induce a victim to hand over money. The evidence presented did not establish these elements or convince the court that the defendant had committed the alleged actions.

The defense lawyer Jarrah Al-Malik said the ruling vindicated his client’s legal position. He noted that the court had established that the project was genuinely set up and registered, and that the money had been transferred under an investment agreement rather than obtained through fraudulent means. This, he explained, undermined a key element of the fraud charge.

B’deshi nabbed for dumping waste on Jabriya Road

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The General Traffic Department, represented by the Traffic Regulation Section of the Security Control Department, apprehended a Bangladeshi truck driver for dumping waste on a road in Jabriya, leaving the roadway dirty, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The action followed a complaint filed against the driver.

According to a statement from the department, traffic officers located and detained the driver after an investigation revealed that he was operating the vehicle without the required license. He was issued traffic citations for littering and driving without a valid license.

The driver was placed in traffic detention pending deportation proceedings, while the vehicle is scheduled to be crushed in accordance with established procedures.



Fire engine at the site.

KFF contains waste fire at a recycling company

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Fire broke out in waste materials at a recycling facility in Mina Abdullah on Friday afternoon, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) explained that firefighting teams from the Mina Abdullah, Umm Al-Haiman, and Support stations rushed to the location and successfully brought the fire under control without any casualties.

In another incident, fire broke out in a shop inside a garage in Shuwaikh Industrial on Friday morning, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Firefighting teams from the Shuwaikh Industrial and Al-Shaheed stations began tackling the fire immediately upon arrival and successfully contained it without any injuries or casualties.

Wheel locks enforced for misplaced parking

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry intensified its campaigns in all governorates, leading to the issuance of 313 citations for failure to use turn signals within 24 hours, reports **Al-Seyassah**.

A security source disclosed that the traffic officers uncovered a number of violations and issued 313 violation citations for failure to use turn signals. The source urged motorists to comply with the traffic regulations.

The officers also put wheel clamps on vehicles parked in restricted areas, resulting in the issuance of 84 citations.

These campaigns are ongoing with the aim of instilling traffic discipline.



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Plan to modernize postal sector, upgrade services

Kuwait Post marks World Post Day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10, (KUNA): World Post Day, observed annually on October 9, highlights Kuwait’s postal sector and its role in connecting the country with the world, serving society and supporting trade.

The Ministry of Communications is moving to modernize legislation and services in line with technological advances and the growing needs of individuals and businesses.

Kuwait’s official postal service dates back to the opening of its first post office on January 21, 1915. The country assumed responsibility for domestic postal services in 1958 and international services in 1959, before joining the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1960, marking key milestones in its integration into the international postal network.

Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications Meshal Al-Zaid told KUNA that the ministry is taking practical steps to develop the postal sector and upgrade its services, aiming for a qualitative improvement in the efficiency and standard of services



Stamps from the time after opening of the post office.



Opening of the post office library on Feb 1, 1958.

KUNA photos

provided in Kuwait.

He said one of the main priorities is preparing a new postal law to replace Law No. 1 of 1970 on the regulation of postal activities. The proposed legislation aims to establish a modern legal framework suited to contemporary

postal services and the sector’s technological and operational developments, while supporting service improvements and providing an appropriate regulatory environment for the future.

Al-Zaid added that the ministry plans to launch a

tender to engage an international consultancy specializing in the postal sector. The consultancy will study the sector and prepare the necessary studies and documents for its transformation into a public-private partnership model.

The initiative aims

to benefit from international expertise and best practices in developing, managing and operating postal services, improving operational efficiency and service quality, upgrading operational and technological infrastructure, and introducing new postal and logistics services to meet the growing demands of e-commerce, individuals and businesses.

He stressed that legislative reform and the use of international consultancy expertise are part of an integrated vision to build a modern, more efficient and sustainable postal sector, maximize its economic and service potential, maintain the quality and continuity of postal services, and improve the customer experience.

Al-Zaid said World Post Day provides an opportunity to highlight the sector’s evolving role and its importance in supporting trade, communications and logistics.

The UPU established World Post Day in 1969 at its congress in Tokyo to commemorate the founding of the organization on October 9, 1874, and raise awareness of the role of postal services in the lives of individuals and institutions and their contribution to social and economic development.



Kuwait's Diplomatic Attache Omar Al-Saeed makes a speech at the UN.

KUNA photo

No to racial discrimination

Kuwait backs UN efforts to end all kinds of colonialism

NEW YORK, Oct 10, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Diplomatic Attache Mohammad Al-Mulla on Friday reaffirmed his country’s support for the UN efforts to end all forms of colonialism, stressing the right of all peoples to self-determination and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

In a speech to Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the UN General Assembly, he said that Palestine cause remained a priority that requires the international community shoulder their responsibility for ending the Israeli occupation.

He urged protecting the Palestinian rights and establishing an independent state on the June 4, 1967, borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He stressed the need to uphold the Gaza ceasefire, ensure humanitarian aid delivery and protect civilians.

On the tensions in the Arabian Gulf region, Al-Mulla condemned Iranian attacks on Kuwait and other countries in the region, urging Tehran to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 2817 of 2026.

He reiterated Kuwait’s support for the UAE’s sovereignty over the islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, calling for a peaceful resolution through negotiations or the International Court of Justice.

He underscored the importance of ensuring freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and reaffirmed Kuwait’s support for UN efforts to reach a just and lasting political solution to the Moroccan Sahara issue, as well as Morocco’s autonomy initiative.

Al-Mulla reaffirmed Kuwait’s commitment to the UN Charter and all efforts aiming to end occupation and colonialism and promote international peace and security.

Racial discrimination
The State of Kuwait has firmly rejected all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Human dignity is an inherent right of all people that must not be undermined or denied on any grounds, Kuwait’s Diplomatic Attache Omar Al-Saeed said in a speech to the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues (Third Committee) of the UN General Assembly on Friday.

The committee meeting deals with social, humanitarian and cultural affairs, during its discussion of the agenda item on the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Al-Saeed stressed the need for full and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Durban Declaration and Program of Action.

These documents represent key pillars of international efforts to combat racism and address its root causes and impacts on individuals and communities, he said.

Underscoring the importance of confronting ideas and practices that fuel racism, particularly hate speech and incitement to discrimination and violence, the Kuwaiti diplomat warned that such practices pose a growing threat to social cohesion and stability.

He also highlighted the role of dialogue, education and respect for cultural and religious diversity in combating intolerance and promoting a culture of tolerance and mutual respect, particularly among younger generations, alongside strengthening national legislation to protect national unity and preserve social peace.

At the national level, Al-Saeed noted that Kuwait presented its combined 25th and 26th periodic reports before the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva last August, reaffirming the country’s commitment to continued cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms.

Eradication of racism requires genuine political will and concrete measures to ensure equality and safeguard human dignity, rather than relying solely on slogans and declared commitments, he stressed.

International justice
Kuwait reaffirmed its support for international justice and called for respect for international law, the UN Charter, and peaceful dispute resolution.

This came in a statement delivered by Diplomatic Attache Mohammad Al-Mutairi to the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the UN General Assembly during the discussion of Agenda Item 84, titled “The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels.”

Al-Mutairi emphasized the importance of the International Court of Justice and respect for its rulings, noting that the rule of law supports peace, security, and human rights.

He condemned Iranian attacks on Kuwait, GCC states, and Jordan as violations of sovereignty and threats to regional stability, warning against further escalation. He condemned attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, urging Iran and the Houthi militia to comply with international law and UN resolutions.

The Kuwaiti diplomat reaffirmed his country’s support for a two-state solution and the New York Declaration for a just peace, including an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. He called for respect for the ICJ’s advisory opinion deeming Israeli presence in the Occupied Territories illegal.

He condemned Israeli practices against Palestinians and called for ending the occupation and ensuring accountability.

He denounced Israeli attacks on Syria and called for withdrawal from all occupied Syrian territories. He expressed full support for Lebanon’s sovereignty and warned about continued Israeli attacks.

He recalled Kuwait’s experience with the 1990 Iraqi aggression, stressing the importance of respecting sovereignty and international law.

He noted Kuwait’s efforts to improve its justice system, promote women’s empowerment, and strengthen good governance. He called for stronger cooperation in developing international legal norms that respect diverse national experiences. He concluded by reaffirming Kuwait’s commitment to the rule of law and a just international order.

Other Voices

Glimpse into Kuwaiti Samri art

By Ahmad alsarraf

SAMRI is one of the most beautiful and prominent forms of traditional folk art in the Arabian Gulf region. It is distinguished by its emotional character and unique group performances.

Although Samri originated in the heart of the Arabian Peninsula, it has received greater attention in Kuwait than in other Gulf countries.

The Samri art form originated in the Najd region, among the desert communities and neighbouring villages, before spreading to other areas through migration and social interaction.

Poetry and art critics consider Muhsin bin Uthman Al-Hazzani (1732–1824) as the founder of Samri poetry. He was one of the most renowned figures in Nabati poetry in the Arabian Peninsula.

Al-Hazzani ruled Al-Hariq for a period before retiring. He introduced the two-rhyme metre known as Samri and is regarded as an innovator and renovator of folk poetry. Among his most famous poems is “Al-Istighatha” (The Plea for Help), and he also produced creative works in love poetry.

Kuwaiti poets and musicians contributed greatly to establishing the rules, conventions, and guidelines of Samri. The term “Samri” is derived from “Samar” or “Musamarah,” meaning the exchange of conversation and singing at



alsarraf

night among loved ones and friends.

Perhaps the tranquility of desert nights, the boredom of long evenings, or the desire for relaxation in old villages contributed to the emergence of this beautiful art form.

Samri subsequently gained widespread popularity, attracting the attention of elders and rulers, many of whom had their poems sung by renowned artists. One such poem, “Who Will Return My Beloved Who Has Forsaken Me?”, was sung by Abdul Latif Al-Kuwaiti.

The poem “Twenty-Five Days of the Month Have Passed Without Me Seeing My Beloved,” by the poet Muhammad bin Hamad bin La’boun (1790–1831), is considered an example of Khamari poetry.

Bin La’boun is a favourite poet of Walid Al-Nisf, editor-in-chief of Al-Qabas newspaper. His poems are known as “La’bouniyat,” and one of his most famous works is “O Paper Dove.”

Saleh Al-Aidi, also known as Saleh Al-Wateed, and Aisha Al-Murta are also regarded as among the finest performers of Samri. The Kuwaiti poet Fahad Boursli made notable contributions to this art form through his distinguished poems and is considered one of its pioneers.

The poet Abdulaziz Al-Duwaish is known for his beautiful poems, the most famous of which begins, “Last Night, My Eyes Knew No Sleep.”

Kuwait is considered a pioneer in women’s participation in Samri performances. The men’s dance associated with Samri is known as “Zafan.”

□ □ □

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Carabinieri National Association of Kuwait members during the beach cleanup.

Carabinieri National Association of Kuwait holds beach cleanup in Al-Khiran

The Carabinieri National Association of Kuwait dedicated an entire day to environmental conservation, organizing a beach cleanup at Al-Khiran to help preserve Kuwait’s coastline.

Members of the association worked together to remove various types of waste from a section of the beach, including plastic, general garbage, polystyrene and metal debris.

The initiative highlighted the importance of protecting the marine environment and keeping public beaches clean, while encouraging greater environmental responsibility among the community.

Through the cleanup effort, the association demonstrated its commitment to community service and the preservation of Kuwait’s natural surroundings.

Continued from Page 1

Activating global

The move aims to undermine relations between Iran and Arab Gulf nations, enabling Tehran to persist in its economic extortion of the regional and global powers. A regression of this nature could plunge the international order back into the 18th and 19th centuries—a period when maritime terrorism, characterized by acts of plunder, violence and piracy, was routinely utilized to realize political and military objectives.

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and extensive disruption fueled by the Iranian regime, the global community cannot afford to tolerate such coercive maneuvers.

This vulnerability is magnified as the world economy struggles against compounding pressures, including the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine and heightened regional volatility, exacerbated by domestic political maneuvering within the United States, Israel and Iran.

Under these conditions, inaction is unviable considering a rogue terrorist entity is advancing its objectives through proxies deployed in Yemen, Iraq and Lebanon.

Moreover, incessant aggression aimed at Saudi Arabia and important maritime lanes like the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab Strait could further destabilize the global economy.

A strategic opening now exists to neutralize Iran’s Houthi proxy in Yemen by fully mobilizing regional and international security frameworks around Gulf nations, particularly Saudi Arabia.

These mechanisms include the Kingdom’s status as a major non-NATO ally, the Joint Arab Defense Treaty, bilateral defense agreements, Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition, Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen, multinational maritime defense coalition and operation of the ‘Makkah Alliance’.

Mobilizing this comprehensive network of partnerships extends beyond safeguarding Saudi Arabia, as it is imperative for maintaining international peace and stabilizing the global order.

Neutralizing Iran’s Houthi proxy in Yemen could complete the mobilization of Gulf-centered security alliances, with Saudi Arabia playing a crucial role.

Dismantling the Houthi menace to global security will deal a decisive blow to the Iranian regime’s regional influence, thus, establishing the long-awaited peace, because even the grandest transformations originate from simple and careful steps.

Kuwait braces

They reviewed the operational plans for the rainy season, readiness of field teams, equipment and machinery at various locations, and weather forecasts for the upcoming period, which indicate that rainfall levels in October, November and December could exceed average rates.

The minister also assessed the cleaning of rainwater drainage inlets and networks, readiness of pumping stations, and procedures in place to manage locations prone to water accumulation. She underscored the importance of continuous coordination among the concerned agencies and quick response to developments during rainy days.

Viral nursery

He stressed that the directives of the minister about child protection and safety are clear, stressing there is no tolerance for any act that harms the children. He indicated that legal measures will be taken against anyone proven to have committed violations.

Regarding surveillance cameras, he underscored the need for all nurseries to install such cameras in line with the applicable circular to improve oversight and ensure the safety of children.

Medical experts

In his speech, Dr. Salman Al-Sabah pointed out that the rapid advancement of precision pediatrics and its applications are considered a valuable shift in pediatric healthcare systems. He stated that this transformation goes beyond simply reading and understanding the genetic code, hence, paving the way for more precise healthcare tailored to

the individual needs of each child.

He said the advances in this field strengthen the healthcare system’s ability to achieve accurate diagnoses, particularly in rare and complex cases, while easing the selection of optimal treatment and care options and ensuring a deeper understanding of the needs of the patients and their families. He added that technology is a tool to serve humanity, enhance healthcare, and safeguard children’s health and quality of life.

He also affirmed the ongoing efforts of Kuwait to combat genetic diseases through the Kuwait Medical Genetics Center, established in 1979, which provides genetic counseling, specialized testing, and newborn screening programs in public and private hospitals.

He stressed the importance of responsible dialogue to ensure the optimal use of genetic information, while protecting individual privacy and respecting the rights of children and their families.

He reaffirmed the ministry’s commitment to develop professional expertise and laboratory capabilities to promote integration among various medical specialties.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Pediatric Society President Dr. Abdullah Shamsah said the society remains committed to supporting continuing medical education and advancing medical practices. He added these efforts aim to ensure the delivery of high-quality and advanced healthcare for children and their families here and abroad.

He disclosed that the conference intends to facilitate the exchange of medical information and expertise, while strengthening medical cooperation to keep pace with the latest scientific developments in precision pediatric care.

Meanwhile, Conference Chairperson Dr. Hind Al-Sharhan asserted that the real value of genetic knowledge lies in translating it into early diagnosis, appropriate treatment, and comprehensive healthcare that addresses the specific needs of each child and his family.

Al-Sharhan indicated that rapid advances in gene-based and targeted therapies are opening new possibilities for treating numerous genetic and rare diseases that previously presented difficult medical challenges.

Deaths ground

Kuwait on Friday strongly condemned and denounced blatant attacks launched by Houthi militia on King Khalid International Airport in Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

In a press statement, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said that these attacks, which targeted airport infrastructure and a Saudi plane, killed several Saudi nationals, injured others from different nationalities and caused material damage, constitute a serious violation of the Kingdom’s sovereignty, international law and international humanitarian law.

It underlined that the State of Kuwait vehemently rejects such repeated cowardly aggressions due to their direct threat to regional security and the safety of civilians and civilian infrastructure as well as air navigation, calling for halting such aggressive acts immediately.

The ministry reiterated that Kuwait restates its utter solidarity with Saudi Arabia and backs all measures it may take to safeguard its sovereignty and security and protect its citizens and residents.

It reaffirmed that the Kingdom’s security is an integral part of the security of Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

The ministry also expressed sincere condolences to the Saudi government and people and the families of the victims, wishing the injured a swift recovery.

In latest development, the Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) said that King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh was attacked on Saturday afternoon, causing several injuries whose extent is being assessed, amid continued blatant attacks on civil aviation facilities in the Kingdom.

GACA said operations at the airport have been temporarily suspended pending a full damage assessment and verification of the safety of its facilities, in coordination with the relevant authorities, and that further updates will be announced.

King Khalid International Airport has been targeted multiple times this week, with three Saudi civilians including a pilot killed on Thursday.

Thursday’s attacks were the deadliest in Saudi Arabia since the kingdom

and allied forces in neighboring Yemen launched a major military offensive against Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthi rebels last weekend.

The attacks also marked a significant escalation on the latest front in the Iran war, which has kept oil prices and financial markets volatile.

U.N. special envoy Hans Grundberg told the U.N. Security Council that the situation in Yemen remained “highly fluid,” with civilians bearing the brunt of escalating violence in a country already facing dire humanitarian conditions and food insecurity.

Kuwait Airways announced Saturday the cancellation of flights KU775 from Kuwait to Riyadh and KU776 from Riyadh to Kuwait due to the closure of the airport amid the prevailing security situation.

The airline urged passengers to monitor their flight status for updates, saying notifications and text messages would be sent to the mobile numbers registered in their bookings.

Passengers were also advised to follow the airline’s official communication channels for the latest information.

Kuwait Airways thanked passengers for their understanding and cooperation.

By Friday afternoon, at least 124 flights to and from Riyadh had been canceled after hundreds more were canceled a day earlier, according to flight-tracking site FlightAware.

Air India, FlyDubai, Lufthansa Group and Pakistan International Airlines were among the airlines that suspended flights to and from Riyadh and other Saudi airports for the next few days due to the situation in the Middle East.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency has expanded its guidance on Saudi airspace, noting the Houthis’ ability to strike targets deeper inside the kingdom, including Riyadh, and a “greater focus on aviation infrastructure.”

The latest guidance adds that “recurrent missile and drone attacks, together with the activation of air-defense systems, create an increased risk of misidentification of civil aircraft, as well as risks associated with missile and drone overflights, interception activity and falling debris.”

The first attack on Thursday targeted airport facilities, while the second struck the aircraft, the Saudi statement said. It did not identify those responsible, though the Houthis claimed to have targeted the airport with a ballistic missile.

Among the dead was Capt. Hamoud Ali Alkalthami, the Saudia Group said in a statement. It appeared to be the first confirmed attack on the Saudi national carrier since the new offensive began. A separate Saudia Group statement said one of its aircraft was damaged while it was on the ground, with no passengers on board.

The aviation statement also said the injuries to Saudi citizens and people of other nationalities “ranged from minor to serious.” The Saudia Group statement later said operational activities at the airport had returned to normal.

Meanwhile, the Saudi-led Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen has destroyed three missile launch platforms used by the Houthi militia to threaten regional security.”

Pillay honored

Her win is sure to be seen as a high-profile rebuke to U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who have both rejected the findings of the U.N. commission she led on Gaza. The leaders also have been highly critical of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. Pillay has worked at both.

Hours after the award was announced in Norway, the Trump administration imposed sweeping new sanctions on the International Criminal Court as part of its campaign to dismantle the tribunal over investigations into the United States and its allies, including Israel.

Trump railed against the decision on Friday, claiming he deserved the prize and dismissing Pillay as “a liberal person who works at the United Nations who nobody has ever heard of.” He later said on social media that “she, very obviously, hates Israel.”

“The Nobel Peace Prize has been forever discredited by a handful of radical ideologues who are antidemocracy and really enemies of civilization,” Trump told a rally for Republican candidates in Syracuse, New York. “And we will not forget, Norway.”

‘Kuwait By Your Side’ extends global reach

Relief mission across borders

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait continues to advance its global humanitarian mission through a wide array of medical, relief, and developmental projects across conflict zones and impoverished communities worldwide, providing vital aid under the national banner “Kuwait By Your Side.”

In Sudan, the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) launched a year-long financial sponsorship program valued at over USD 135,000 to assist 100 vulnerable families, benefiting roughly 600 individuals across Khartoum, Kassala, River Nile, and White Nile states.

IICO Deputy Director-General for Projects Ibrahim Al-Bader told KUNA the initiative supports female-headed households, orphans, elderly citizens, and persons with disabilities facing severe economic hardship.

In Chad, the Al-Najat Charity Society completed three medical camps under its Vision 9 project, executing 400 successful cataract and eye surgeries for Chadian patients and Sudanese refugees.

Al-Najat Director-General Dr. Jaber Al-Wanda highlighted that each procedure costs approximately KWD 40 (USD 130), noting that over 1,600 patients remain on waiting lists for upcoming surgical phases.



KUNA photo

Namaa Charity distributes school bags and essential educational supplies to 150 students.

es.

In Yemen, “Namaa Charity,” an affiliate of the Social Reform Society, conducted a targeted medical campaign providing specialized treatment, therapeutic nutrition, and clinical follow-up to over 350 malnourished children, according to Marketing Director Ibrahim Al-Sanea.

In the Gaza Strip, Namaa Charity distributed school bags and essential educational supplies to 150 students. Public Relations Director Walid Al-Kandari stated the effort aims to safeguard children’s right to education and ease economic burdens on Palestinian families.

Namaa Charity Public Relations and Media Director Walid Al-Kan-

dari told KUNA that the initiative aims to safeguard children’s right to education while easing the severe economic strain on Palestinian families struggling to secure basic school supplies.

In India, Namaa Charity executed multifaceted development and medical initiatives, including 100 cataract surgeries, 10 sewing machines for micro-income generation, direct assistance to 24 low-income families, and the drilling of four semi-artesian water wells.

Programs Head Khaled Al-Shammari emphasized that combining urgent relief with sustainable livelihood tools empowers vulnerable communities to achieve long-term self-reliance.



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A non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender fees must be deposited and bidder must attach proof of payment copy as follows:

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	RIYADH BANK		
	IBAN: SA2620000003100019949901		
	IN SAUDI RIYAL		

The start date for the following Tenders will be on **SUNDAY, 11 OCT 2026** and closing date will be on **TUESDAY, 10 NOV 2026 @ 09:00 A.M.**

S. NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS CLOSING DATE	FEES (KD)	CLOSING DATE
1	BPT#284-26	Blanket Purchase Tender for Ingersoll-Rand Compressor Spares	25	10/11/2026
2	059056-R1	1 Line Pickup & Setting Tool 2-3/16" OD, HF/Browning/Lufkin, Wafra	5	10/11/2026
3	062398	Ball & Gate Valves, 5 LIs, 3/4-24in, Approved MFR, Wafra, Produced Water Line B3	5	10/11/2026
4	062396	Control Panels, 1 LI, HEI LCP System, Approved MFR, MGC- Wafra, H-202C Heater	5	10/11/2026
5	061382	Instrument Cables, 6 LIs, 1Px1.5-12Px1.0mm², Approved MFR, Wafra, PD-1102 SCADA	15	10/11/2026

In NY gov’s race, Republican rallies with Trump and leans into political playbook

Rogers and El-Sayed trade attacks in combative first Michigan Senate debate

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan, Oct 10, (AP): The first debate in Michigan’s closely watched US Senate race turned combative as Republican Mike Rogers and Democrat Abdul El-Sayed repeatedly traded personal attacks, talked over each other and even continued arguing during a commercial break.

The contentious hourlong grudge match followed weeks of the two candidates sparring online and in advertisements that have flooded the state in the highly competitive campaign for an open Senate seat.

“I’d like to be a part of the debate, too,” moderator Rick Albin said during the quarreling. “In 30 years of doing debates,” he added later, “I’ve never seen it continue during the commercial. But it did.”

Rogers is a former congressman who ran unchallenged in the Aug. 4 Republican primary. He lost a previous Senate race to then-US Rep. Elissa Slotkin by just under 20,000 votes two years ago. El-Sayed is a progressive and former public health official who defeated US Rep. Haley Stevens in the Democratic primary this year by less than a percentage

point.

The seat is open because Democratic Sen. Gary Peters is retiring. Both parties see the race as pivotal to deciding which party wins control of the Senate in November.

Rogers has broken with Trump on two major issues in recent weeks. In September, Rogers said the war with Iran needed to “end quickly.” On Wednesday, he released an ad criticizing Trump’s tariffs on Canada, saying, “we know that Canada is not our enemy” and “we need to end this tariff war now.”

Early in the debate, Rogers doubled down on both. Regarding the war, Rogers said: “I do believe it’s going to come to an end. We need it to come to an end.”

Later, Rogers said he had called the White House this week to push for a “deal” with Canada to end the trade dispute.

“We were originally told that the Canadian tariff was going to be settled and settled quickly,” Rogers told reporters after the debate. “It didn’t happen. My argument is, and I made this to the administration, time to wrap it up.”



Democratic nominee for US Senate Abdul El-Sayed, (left), appears with Republican nominee for U.S. Senate Mike Rogers during a televised debate at WOOD-TV, on Oct 8, in Grand Rapids, Mich. (AP)

Rogers also criticized US Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s actions earlier this year, saying the “efforts in Minnesota were probably not appropriate.”

“That to me was something that they could have done differently,” Rogers said.

Trump had surged immigration agents into the state, stirring outrage when two protesters were shot and killed.

El-Sayed worked during the debate to not only attack Rogers but also appeal to Democrats who may still contemplating their vote after a contentious primary divided the party’s coalition.

El-Sayed was asked during the debate if he would support sending weapons to Israel if they were attacked by another country. He responded that he did not “want our tax dollars being used to subsidize war abroad.”

Asked later if Iran or Israel posed a more dangerous threat, he called it a “ridiculous question” and “both of them have proven dangerous in their own way.”

After the debate, El-Sayed was asked why he wanted Rogers to answer for his association with Trump while being dismissive of questions about his association with Hasan Piker, an online commentator with a history of controversial remarks.

“That’s a serious question?” El-Sayed retorted. “To equate the most powerful person in the world with a streamer in California seems to me to just be - I’m not going to use the word - but silly.”

High-profile Democrats have tried to help El-Sayed bring together Democrats in recent weeks. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appeared with him for the first time Thursday since she endorsed Stevens during the primary.

Also:

SYRACUSE, NY: In his campaign to become the next governor of New York, Republican **Bruce Blakeman** has suggested Democrats might steal the election, played up fears about immigrant criminals and posted AI-generated videos depicting the state as dangerous and unaffordable.

And on Friday night, he’ll rally with President **Donald Trump** in Syracuse. It is not exactly a message that seems geared toward winning over moderate voters.

At a political moment where Republicans are hoping to capture centrists wary of an ascendent progressive left, Blakeman has instead embraced the president and his aggressive conservative tactics. The approach has puzzled some in a state where Democrats outnumber Republicans by more than 2-to-1.



An American flag flaps in the wind generated by the effects of Isaias on an empty beach on Friday, Oct. 9, loom overhead, in Mon Louis Island, Ala. (AP)

Hundreds of thousands without power after Isaias slams Florida Panhandle and Alabama

GULF BREEZE, Fla., Oct 10, (AP): Hundreds of thousands of people in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle were without power early Saturday after Isaias crashed into the U.S. Gulf Coast as a dangerous hurricane and left flooded roads and downed trees in its wake as it moved inland.

The storm made landfall Friday as a Category 2 hurricane, then quickly moved north through Alabama as its wind speeds dropped sharply. But the possibility of life-threatening storm surges still loomed for parts of the Florida Panhandle, along with heavy rain and potential flooding for much of the Southeast over the weekend.

Isaias was about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south-southwest of Montgomery, Alabama and nearly 105 miles (170 kilometers) south of Birmingham, Alabama, with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph), the NHC said Saturday.

Forecasters also warned that conditions could stir up tornadoes across parts of the Florida Panhandle and into Georgia and the Carolinas.

Isaias made landfall near Destin,

Florida, as the first hurricane of the Atlantic season. Hurricane-force winds lashed the Gulf shoreline in the low-lying coastal area known for powdery white-sand beaches dotted with vacation homes, waterfront bars, and seafood shacks.

“The storm is here. Buckle down at this point. Don’t be getting out on the roads,” Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said at a news conference Friday.

Roads in Destin were flooded, while in nearby Pensacola, police warned residents to stay off the streets because of debris across roadways. While the extent of the damage was not immediately known, many area residents posted pictures online of downed trees and power lines, and one social media video showed a roof being ripped off an inn in Pensacola.

Some Panhandle counties temporarily suspended emergency response Friday night because of dangerous conditions.

Parts of southern Alabama also were flooded, with officials in Mobile reporting downed trees and power lines. Roads in Houston

County, which is in the southeastern corner of the state, were closed because of similar conditions.

More than 726,000 customers in Florida and Alabama were without power early Saturday, according to poweroutage.com.

Tim Mowry, who rode out the storm from his home in Pensacola, said the wind was so intense it sounded like a train whistle as it whipped through a crack in his patio door. He lost power around 4:30 p.m. but was able to rely on a generator. Standing water also covered his backyard, and parts of his fence were ripped down, but overall he said the storm wasn’t as bad as he expected.

“As far as Pensacola-wise, we really got fortunate,” Mowry said.

Mowry said his son, who lives about 15 minutes away, tried to drive to his home after losing power but had to turn around because downed trees and power lines blocked the roads.

Despite weakening, heavy rain is forecast as Isaias moves inland, with 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) or even more expected through the

weekend from southern Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, and southwest Georgia.

Isaias, the first hurricane to hit the eastern U.S. since Milton tore up the Gulf Coast of Florida in 2024, is also expected to bring heavy rain and potential flooding to much of the Southeast over the weekend, then to parts of the Midwest and Northeast into Monday.

The storm also grounded most Friday flights at several panhandle airports, including all flights into and out of Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport. President Donald Trump, meanwhile, scrapped his plans to attend Saturday’s football game between the University of Georgia and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He said he didn’t want to disrupt emergency response efforts.

Meanwhile, in the Pacific, Simon strengthened into a Category 4 hurricane as it approached Mexico’s coast.

Tropical Storm Rachel was also expected to bring heavy winds and rain to northern Mexico and Southern California over the weekend.

Poland’s police detain 76, check 50,000 schools after 2 attacks

WARSAW, Poland, Oct 10, (AP): Police on Saturday said they detained 76 people across Poland and checked nearly 50,000 schools nationwide as part of efforts to prevent further violence following two school attacks earlier in the week.

On Friday, schools across Poland stepped up security, with some suspending classes, many parents keeping children at home and police patrols deployed to educational institutions after two attacks at schools earlier in the week left one person dead and several others wounded, including children.

On Wednesday, a 19-year-old student at a vocational school in the Mazovian province in central Poland attacked fellow students, teachers and passersby with a sharp object, injuring nine people before fleeing and being arrested nearby.

The following day, a 15-year-old killed a school custodian and wounded two others in a knife attack at his former school in the same province.

The assaults, both carried out by Polish nationals, shocked a country where school violence by minors is a new phenomenon.

By Thursday night, rumours that the attacks were coordinated and that there would be more on the culmination day dubbed “bloody Friday” were being shared in parents’ online groups and by mainstream media.

59 schools preemptively suspended classes on Friday across Poland, the majority in the Mazovian



A volunteer firefighter stands near the scene following an attack on the Vocational School Complex No. 4 in Ostroleka, Poland on Oct 7. (AP)

district, where the capital Warsaw is located. School directors sent messages announcing stepped-up security measures including extra school staff placed at entrances and voluntary backpack checks.

“There will be no compromise here. The safety of the youth is the most important thing,” Interior Minister Marcin Kierwiński said.

Those detained on Friday include a 14-year-old boy from a central district of Warsaw who was found in possession of a knife with a concealed blade and 11 firecrackers, and a 16-year old from another Warsaw district who came to school

with a butterfly knife in his backpack. Others had posted online photos of knives, threatened their peers or threatened school attacks.

So far, the government said, it had found no evidence that an internet challenge promoting school attacks was ongoing. There is also no official confirmation that the two attacks were linked; both perpetrators are in custody.

Parents across Poland are now having to catch up fast on how to speak to their kids about school violence. Authorities say extra security measures at schools will continue and crisis training will be organized. The liberal government also promised to renew efforts to pass a bill blocking harmful online content.

“If that juvenile attacker had streamed the crime online today, we would have been unable to block that content because we have not been given that legal tool,” Prime Minister Donald Tusk said.

After wounding three adults in Thursday’s attack, the 15-year-old, who wore a camera to record his actions, was eventually overpowered by school director Krzysztof Ochmański. Ochmański later told reporters there was a moment when the boy seemed to realise the enormity of his actions and said he did not want to do this any more.

“Once I had established contact, he asked me for help,” Ochmański recounted. “It got to the point where he wanted a hug.”



Rescue workers clear the rubble of a residential building destroyed by a Russian airstrike in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine on Oct 10. (AP)

Russian attacks kill 15, injure 16 in Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia: officials

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 10, (Agencies): Russian strikes killed at least 15 people in Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia region, Ukrainian officials said Saturday, a day after US President Donald Trump announced a deal to buy Russian diesel that Kyiv warned would help bankroll Moscow’s war in Ukraine.

Three children were among those killed when Russian aerial bombs hit residential buildings in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine’s State Emergency Service said Saturday. At least 16 people were wounded in the attack.

Russia and Ukraine are locked in a long-range aerial war while their armies remain largely deadlocked on the front line, more than 4 1/2 years since Moscow’s full-scale invasion. Ukraine is struggling to counter escalating Russian bombardments that have killed more than 60 people over the past four days.

Trump said Friday he had struck a deal to obtain diesel from Russia, a stunning reversal of years of U.S. pressure on Moscow over its war with Ukraine and an attempt to address high fuel prices ahead of the U.S. midterm elections.

“Today, Russia expressed its thanks for the lifting of sanctions on diesel exports by dropping five glide bombs on residential buildings in

Zaporizhzhia,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote Saturday on X.

He said the attacks show Moscow understands “any easing of pressure to mean they can keep fighting, to mean they can keep dropping bombs on cities,” adding that “different signals are needed.”

Trump had been set to discuss a suspected case of plague in Russia with President Vladimir Putin in a phone call.

Instead, the American leader announced Friday that Russia will immediately supply more than 300,000 tons of diesel, followed by an additional 500,000 tons in November and 1 million tons “immediately thereafter.” Russia will deliver an additional 3 million tons “within a short period of time” after that, he wrote.

In Kyiv, people gathered at a memorial to fallen soldiers on Independence Square greeted the deal with a mix of anger and resignation.

“Trump has once again shown his true face,” said Oleksandr Petrenko, 26. “He didn’t care about the situation, the shelling or the destruction of our homes. All he’s interested in is oil or the fuel prices and how much Americans have to pay.”

“Knowing Trump, he tries to ma-

nipulate the markets. He’s got an election coming up soon,” Petrenko said. “So he needs to emphasize to his voters that gasoline will be cheap. But it won’t be effective.”

For Oksana Yakunina, a financial adviser from Kropyvnytskyi, the announcement “didn’t really come as a surprise.”

“Trump has been working with Putin for a long time,” she told The Associated Press.

Trump’s announcement was in stark contrast to a sweeping Russia sanctions law he signed last month that aimed at clamping down on the oil and gas revenues that fuel Russia’s war against Ukraine.

In a lengthy post online reacting to the deal on Friday, Zelenskyy said Russia would repay it “with further terror and perfidy.” He framed it as an investment in the war that could prolong it.

“It plays into Russia’s hands - allowing it to kill more, wage war for longer, have even less respect for America, and inflict even greater losses and damage on the world,” he said.

According to a statement released by the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, Zelenskyy called it “a weak decision, unfortunately, a weak decision by strong partners.”

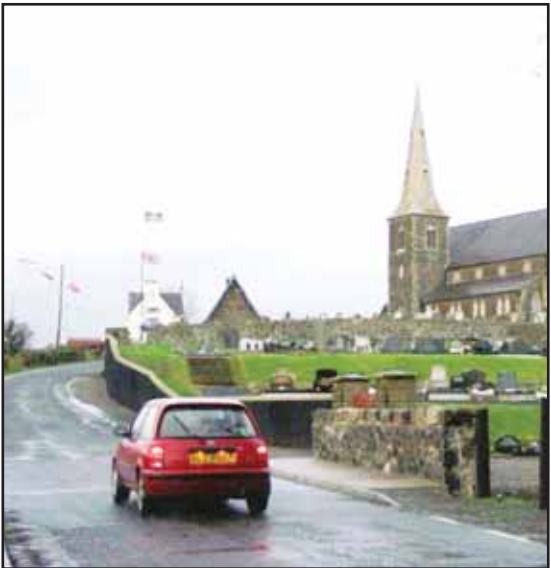
UK’s government blocks Northern Ireland march

LONDON, Oct 10, (AP): The British government has blocked a contentious march from taking place in Northern Ireland after a two-week standoff between groups that support the region’s continued union with the United Kingdom and those who favor reunification with the Republic of Ireland.

Northern Ireland Secretary of State Chris Bryant intervened Friday night to ban the procession along Garvaghy Road in Portadown, saying it wasn’t possible to find a compromise between the union-supporting Orange Order and residents of the traditionally republican area through which it wanted to march.

“I’ve decided that it’s not in the public interest for it to proceed, and I’ve therefore banned the procession,” Bryant said. The standoff grew out of the traditional marches held by unionist groups during the summer months to celebrate their Protestant roots and historic ties to the UK.

The marches have long caused tensions with the largely Catholic republican community, which says they are intentionally provocative and fuel conflict.



The often barricaded Protestant church of Drumcree stands alone near the town of Portadown on Dec. 2, 1999. (AP)

Philippine ex-president Duterte fit to stand trial, say ICC judges

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Oct 10, (Agencies): Judges at the International Criminal Court have ruled that former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is fit to stand trial on charges of crimes against humanity linked to the so-called war on drugs he waged while in office, the court has announced.

Duterte, 81, denies the charges. His trial is scheduled to open on Nov 30. The ex-leader is accused of murder and attempted murder for his alleged involvement in dozens of killings as part of the war on drugs. He faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment if convicted.

The court's Sept. 28 ruling that he is fit to face justice came after an independent panel of experts said that Duterte "has the capacity to understand the charges" and follow the proceedings including the implications of entering a plea - which he will be asked to do when the trial opens, the court said in a statement.

He also is mentally fit to understand evidence and discuss his defense with his lawyers, the panel of experts said. His legal team had previously attempted to get the case thrown out on medical grounds, but judges rejected it and denied a request for him to be released from



In this photo taken with a smartphone, former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte is seen on screen attending a hearing at the International Criminal Court, as families of victims of killings linked to his administration's war on drugs and rights violations watch the proceedings in Manila, Philippines on Sept 16. (AP)

custody.

Duterte was arrested in the Philippines in March 2025 and sent to the ICC's headquarters in The Hague

following a lengthy ICC investigation into mass killings in crackdowns overseen by Duterte, first when he served as mayor of the southern Philippine city of Davao and later as president.

Duterte, who was among the most feared leaders in Asia while in power, became the first ex-leader from the region to be arrested by the global court.

Estimates of the death toll in the crackdown on drugs during Duterte's presidential term vary, from the more than 6,000 reported by the national police to up to 30,000 claimed by human rights groups.

Also:

MANILA: Mount Kanlaon Volcano in the central Philippines erupted just over noon Saturday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

According to the institute, a "moderately explosive eruption" occurred at Mount Kanlaon Volcano in **Negros Island** at 12:46 p.m. local time Saturday. The eruption lasted for about two minutes.

The institute said the event generated a plume that rose 5 km to 6 km above the crater. The ashfall is expected to drift north and northeast.



A general view of a scene after parts of a plaster ceiling collapsed at a building in Daegu, South Korea on Oct 10. (AP)

38 injured in South Korea supermarket ceiling collapse

At least 38 people sustained minor injuries after parts of a plaster ceiling collapsed at a supermarket in South Korea's Daegu city, fire officials said Saturday.

The Daegu Fire Department said 66 other people evacuated the facility following the collapse, which

was reported at 10:16 a.m.

Nine people received treatment at hospitals. While it was possible the injury toll could rise, emergency personnel at the scene determined it was highly unlikely anyone had suffered serious injuries, according to fire department official Yoon

Jong-mi.

A photo from the scene showed emergency rescuers searching through debris following the collapse on the second floor of the four-story building. It was not immediately clear what caused the collapse. (AP)

Nobody was ready, and no one is ever ready for this type of disaster: Mulino

Panama rocked by 2 powerful quakes and aftershocks, prompting evacuations

PANAMA CITY, Oct 10, (AP): Two powerful 7.7 and 6.6 magnitude earthquakes and a series of aftershocks roiled southern Panama Friday afternoon, collapsing buildings near the epicenter and prompting evacuations across the country.

The earlier quake, felt as far away as neighboring Colombia, was centered about 10 kilometers (6 miles) southwest of the remote community of Pitaloza Arriba, in the central province of Herrera, the USGS said. It struck at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles).

The USGS initially reported the first quake as magnitude 8, then revised it to 7.6 and later to 7.7.

Visibly shaken residents of Panama City, the capital, gathered outside as they waited for news of the quake's impact on Friday.

"We felt it very strongly. It knocked things over in the kitchen, but we're okay, though we're very

scared," Rosendo Domínguez, 60, who is from Herrera province, where the earthquake struck, told The Associated Press by phone. "Everyone is outside, scared."

Multiple aftershocks continued to rattle Panama, including several measuring magnitude 5.8, 5.5 and 5.2. Seismologists at the University of Panama recorded more than 45 aftershocks, though many were too weak to be felt.

Despite the strength of the successive quakes, Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino said authorities had not documented anyone killed as of Friday evening, though he cautioned that could change in the coming hours or days.

"Nobody was ready, and no one is ever ready for this type of disaster," Mulino said, after calling for calm earlier in the day.

Images of crumbling buildings and deep fissures slicing through roads added to fears across a region



Vehicles lie crushed beneath a collapsed hotel after an earthquake struck Penonome, Panama on Oct 9. (AP)

battered by a series of devastating earthquakes in recent months.

Two back-to-back 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes roiled Ven-

lombia killed at least 289 people.

The notably lesser toll in nearby Panama may have been due to the country's strict building codes, especially governing construction of skyscrapers in the capital, said Carlos Valdés, head of the Seismology Department at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Omar Smith of the National Civil Protection Service said on the Telemetro Reporta news channel that damage was concentrated in the central provinces of Veraguas, Herrera and Los Santos and there were no reports of damages in Panama City.

Smith said several injuries have been reported, including one person struck by debris from a partially collapsed structure in the city of Penonomé, around 150 km (93 miles) from the capital. He confirmed a partial collapse and cracks at the cathedral in the district's main square, as well as damage in the governor's office

building and the Dos Continentes hotel.

Local news outlets also reported that the Church of San Atanasio, a colonial-style Catholic church in Panama's Los Santos province, had collapsed. The church was declared a National Historic Heritage Site in 1938. Elsewhere, including in Veraguas province, large fissures ran along roadways.

Tocumen International Airport in Panama City, one of the region's busiest airports with more than 20 million passengers in 2025, temporarily suspended operations after the first quake but said Friday afternoon that it was reopening.

The Panama Canal Authority said operations were continuing normally along the global trade route. It said its priority was the safety of employees, vessels and crews and that specialized technical teams were inspecting facilities for possible damage.



Workers clear mud-filled streets after heavy rains caused flash flooding in the Las Condes district of Santiago, Chile on Oct 9. (AP)

Heavy rains hit Chile, sweeping away cars and flooding homes

Heavy rains drenched Chile's capital and the surrounding region Thursday, triggering mudslides that swept cars through streets, flooded homes, forced residents to evacuate and injured at least six people, authorities said.

President José Antonio Kast declared a state of emergency for Las Condes, a wealthy suburb east of Santiago, giving government agencies more power to respond as torrential rains turned key roads into impassable water-

ways. The district's mayor, Catalina San Martín, said 14.4 centimeters (5.7 inches) of rain had fallen in recent days - about nine times the average October rainfall - leaving the area "totally saturated." (AP)

Mexico prison brawl kills ten

MEXICO CITY, Oct 10, (AP): A deadly riot broke out during family visiting hours at a prison in the violence-plagued state of Sinaloa in northwestern Mexico, state authorities said.

The violence occurred Thursday morning at the El Castillo Penitentiary in the port city of Mazatlán.

Sinaloa's Public Security Secretariat said on X that nine inmates and one family member were killed in the incident, while 16 prisoners were taken for medical treatment after being injured. Local media reported that inmates used firearms during the fight.

Authorities have not yet said how the deaths occurred.

Following the clash, members of the army, National Guard, navy and state security forces entered the prison to restore order. Mexico's federal security cabinet said the prison, which houses 1,800 inmates, is now "under control."



Police officers gather in front of the El Castillo Penitentiary during a riot in Mazatlán, Mexico on Oct 8. (AP)

Anger grows against PM, election chief

India cracks down on youth rallies

NEW DELHI, Oct 10, (AP): Indian authorities deployed a sweeping security crackdown across New Delhi and detained thousands of protesters Saturday as India's youth "Cockroach" movement sought to intensify a nationwide campaign against a contentious voter list revision that has fueled anger at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government and election authorities.

Police moved to break up the demonstration before it could begin, intercepting demonstrators on their way to Jantar Mantar, the designated protest site in the heart of India's capital, chasing off some and detaining many others. Some were dragged away before being bundled into police vehicles and taken to temporary detention centers. Several "Cockroach" movement leaders, opposition lawmakers and student activists were detained before arriving, effectively crippling the protest ahead of its start.

The crackdown extended beyond the protest venue, with police stopping buses, cars and other vehicles at checkpoints on routes into the capital and searching for demonstrators. Jantar Mantar was barricaded, while anti-riot vehicles equipped with tear gas launchers were stationed along key routes. Restrictions on mobile internet and access to parts of the city added to the hurdles facing protesters.



Policemen detain a protester during a youth demonstration demanding the resignation of the country's election chief Gyanesh Kumar, in New Delhi, India on Oct 10. (AP)

Police said Friday they had denied permission for the protest because the request was submitted late.

Sambit Patra, a spokesperson for Modi's party, dismissed the demonstrators as "anarchic elements."

"Their flop show has been completely demolished," Patra said.

The scale of the crackdown underscored the authorities' determination to disrupt a fast-growing protest campaign that has mobilized thousands of young people, drawn opposition support and intensified scrutiny of Modi. The protests also

come at a politically sensitive time, months after demonstrations led by the "Cockroach" movement over exam paper leaks forced Modi's education minister to resign in July.

Leaders of the "Cockroach" movement Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, who were expected to be at the forefront of the protest, were detained after arriving at Delhi airport from Mumbai on Saturday. A video shared by the "Cockroach Janta Party" on X showed police boarding the aircraft and detaining the three men.

Africa

'Ethiopia acting in self-defense': Ethiopia told the UN Security Council on Friday it is taking measures in self-defense against Eritrea, accusing its neighbor of sending troops across the border and occupying parts of northern Ethiopia.

The declaration adds to fears of a wider conflict as government-allied forces report advances in Tigray, a region devastated by a previous war.

In a letter dated Friday, Foreign Minister **Gedion Timothewos** invoked Ethiopia's right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter. He did not specify what measures the country was taking.

The letter, obtained by The Associated Press, accused Eritrea of deploying infantry and mechanized units in recent weeks and supporting, financing, arming and directing insurgent groups. It did not identify the occupied areas or provide evidence supporting its allegations.

Ethiopia had repeatedly urged Eritrea to withdraw its forces, Gedion wrote. The AP could not indepen-



Timothewos

dently verify the allegations.

Eritrean Information Minister Yemane Gebremeskel accused Ethiopia on Friday of pursuing aggression against Eritrea through its demands for sovereign access to the Red Sea. Writing on X, he did not explicitly confirm or deny the reported troop crossings. (AP)

□ □ □

Tanzania vehicle collision kills 28: A passenger bus was in collision with a timber truck and burst into flames in eastern Tanzania early Friday, killing at least 28 people, a fire and rescue official said.

The crash occurred at Mkambarangani on the Morogoro-Dar es Salaam highway as the bus traveled from Dar es Salaam to Mbeya, said Joseph Mwasabeja, acting commander of the Morogoro regional fire and rescue force.

The truck was heading from Iringa toward Dar es Salaam and attempting to overtake other vehicles when it collided with the bus, Mwasabeja said at the scene.

The bus was destroyed by fire. The number of injured was not yet known, though some had been taken to a hospital, he said.

Scholastica Ndunga, a spokeswoman for Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital, said it would release figures later for the dead and injured brought there. (AP)

Kuwait oil price down to \$105.68 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti oil price fell by USD 2.42 to hit USD 105.68 per barrel (pb) in Friday’s trading from USD 108.10 the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Saturday.

In global markets, Brent crude went up by 44 cents to reach USD 104.72 pb, and US West Texas Intermediate crude rose by 36 cents to USD 91.85 pb.

Business

Personalized banking, investment solutions and exclusive privileges for eligible customers

Gulf Bank showcases Priority Banking proposition, earns regional recognition at the Private Banker Awards 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Gulf Bank is highlighting its Priority Banking proposition, offering a comprehensive suite of banking services, investment solutions, and lifestyle privileges tailored to customers’ financial needs. Combining dedicated relationship management with specialist wealth management expertise, the offering reflects the Bank’s commitment to delivering a personalized banking experience and building long-term customer relationships.

Priority Banking serves customers earning a monthly salary of KD 3,500 or more, or holding deposits, cash, and investment assets ranging from KD 100,000 to below KD 500,000. Each customer is assigned a dedicated relationship manager who acts as their primary point of contact, facilitating their banking requirements and access to investment solutions aligned with their financial objectives.

Gulf Bank is also pleased to announce that it has received the award for Excellence in Banking Services for High Net Worth Clients in the Middle East at the Private Banker Awards 2026. The distinction recognizes the Bank’s continued development of its wealth management capabilities and its commitment to providing integrated banking and investment solutions across customer segments.

Commenting on the award, Abdulrahman AlKhubaizi, Deputy General Manager of Consumer Banking, Wealth Management, at Gulf Bank, said: “We are proud to receive this prestigious recognition, which reflects the quality of our banking and investment offering and the dedication of our team. Our wealth management strategy is centered on understanding customers’ financial objectives and delivering relevant solutions through specialist expertise and a consistently high standard of service.”

He added: “Priority Banking is an integral part of this strategy, combining dedicated relationship management with access to investment expertise and exclusive banking privileges. We remain committed to strengthening our capabilities and developing our offering to support customers as their financial requirements evolve.”

Through Priority Banking, Gulf Bank brings together personalized service and a range of financial solutions designed to support customers’ day-to-day banking requirements and longer-term wealth objectives. The proposition draws on the Bank’s established banking capabilities and the specialist investment services of InvestGB, its investment arm.

Saba Alfassam, Assistant General Manager of Priority Banking at Gulf Bank, said: “Our Priority Banking



Abdulrahman AlKhubaizi and Saba Alfassam



Saba Alfassam



A group photo of the Priority Banking team at the Crystal Branch, with Abdulrahman AlKhubaizi and Saba Alfassam.

proposition provides eligible customers with a comprehensive range of benefits, including priority service at branches and through the contact center, a dedicated debit card with higher cash withdrawal limits, and access to exclusive investment products and opportunities. These are complemented by preferential offers and privileges through selected partners.”

She added: “Customers also have access to premium credit cards, including Visa Infinite and Mastercard World, with complimentary issuance of primary and supplementary cards, subject to terms and conditions. Card benefits include concierge services and access to airport lounges worldwide, bringing additional convenience to customers’ travel and lifestyle needs.”



With more than 65 years of banking experience, Gulf Bank combines an established understanding of the local market with the investment expertise of InvestGB. This integrated approach supports customers in managing and growing their wealth while benefiting from a dedicated banking relationship.

AlFassam continued: “Customers increasingly expect personalized service, flexibility, and access to financial expertise. Our relationship managers bring these elements together, helping customers navigate their banking and investment requirements through a coordinated service offering. Our focus is on building enduring relationships and delivering value throughout the customer journey.”

Gulf Bank continues to develop its banking and wealth management offering in line with evolving customer needs, reinforcing its commitment to service excellence and financial solutions that support customers’ long-term ambitions.

About Gulf Bank

Gulf Bank is one of the leading banks in Kuwait, with total assets of KD 8.1 billion as of the end of March 2026. The Bank offers a wide range of personal banking and corporate banking services, in addition to treasury and other financial services, through a large network of 45 branches and more than 255 ATMs distributed across Kuwait.

Gulf Bank has maintained its credit ratings at “A” by the three major international rating agencies, reflecting its strong financial position and distinguished standing in the Kuwaiti banking sector.

For more information, please visit the Bank’s website: www.e-gulfbank.com.

Other Voices

Oil prices hinge on Hormuz navigation

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

Oil prices are unstable amid uncertainty over safe and normal navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. If the strait is not fully secure, global oil supplies could face disruptions, creating instability in the market as oil-consuming countries rush to replenish their strategic reserves.

On the other hand, if the strait remains open to unrestricted navigation, this could help stabilize supplies and ease prices.

As things stand, oil prices range from \$103 to \$119 per barrel, while Arab Gulf oil trades at around \$108 per barrel. These levels provide comfortable pricing for oil producers worldwide.

Another factor driving oil prices higher is the growing global demand to rebuild strategic reserves to more comfortable levels. Current stockpiles remain much lower, creating an urgent need to replenish them as soon as possible. This process could take an estimated two to three years to complete.

The key question is how freely the Strait of Hormuz is operating. Why do major oil markets remain uncertain about whether the strait is fully open, even as oil tankers continue to sail through the Arabian Gulf? Is navigation unrestricted, or are there still limitations? Does the uncertainty relate to Iran and the closure of its seaports, potentially restricting oil supplies from



Al-Harami

the Gulf? This would not necessarily mean that supplies from other Gulf producers are unavailable, as most are prepared to provide oil to markets around the world.

Another question is whether Russian oil supplies are under pressure, particularly as damage to refineries from sustained Ukrainian drone attacks has reduced Russia’s refining capacity from 5.2 million barrels per day to 4 million barrels per day.

Meanwhile, Russian crude oil production has declined from a peak of 9.24 million barrels per day to 8.718 million barrels per day. Could the rise in Urals crude oil prices, now reaching \$119 per barrel, help offset some of these pressures? At that level, Urals crude has reached a price higher than other major oil benchmarks, including US WTI, Brent, Dubai, and Oman crude.

The rise in Russian crude oil prices is particularly significant given Russia’s strategic position and its proximity to European countries that have relied on Russian oil delivered through pipelines, without much disruptions.

The situation could return to normal if the United States allowed European countries greater freedom to import the oil they need from Russia. Meanwhile, the United States itself continues to import oil from Venezuela, raising questions about the level of oversight applied to the volumes imported, the quantities purchased, and the prices paid.

The Congress is not asking this crucial question - How much are US taxpayers spending? Perhaps the explanation is that American consumers continue to see oil flowing into the market without major shortages. If supplies remain available, why should they be concerned?

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Maintenance plan supports clean fuel exports

KNPC steps up refinery maintenance efforts

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) continues to take measures to ensure the safe and uninterrupted operation of local refineries, which serve as a safety valve for the national economy and the cornerstone for securing clean energy.

Reliable sources told the newspaper that the maintenance strategy of KNPC aims to protect massive capital investments and guarantee highly efficient and sustainable operations. Sources said the company took this step after the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) announced the extension of the bid submission deadline for the mechanical maintenance of clean fuel units and liquefied gas facilities at Mina Al-Ahmadi Refinery from Oct 6 to Nov 3. Sources pointed out that this move is significant, because the project is considered a qualitative leap that boosted the production capacity of the refinery.

Sources explained that periodic maintenance is vital for ensuring the efficiency of technologically complex equipment and preventing sudden operational shutdowns, which could cause enormous financial losses for the refining sector, while ensuring that the products meet stringent global

environmental standards.

Sources said such efforts support the transition of the country to the “green” refining industry capable of competing in European and Asian markets and securing sustainable investment returns for the state.

Sources clarified that through the maintenance of liquefied gas facilities at the refinery, the company will secure supply flexibility and ensure stable production of gas derivatives and clean fuels, thereby, meeting the growing domestic demand and fulfilling international export commitments.

Sources said the facilities are integrated with the refining and petrochemical sectors and contribute to the optimal recovery of petroleum condensates and gas liquids, thus, adding value to the products marketed by the company locally and globally.

Sources added that the company is taking technical and operational measures that grant its three refineries exceptional operational flexibility, enabling an immediate response to global energy market fluctuations, while it supplies local power and water plants with clean fuel to reduce harmful emissions and bolster national water and electricity security.

Sources stressed that this is in line with the long-term vision of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to achieve self-sufficiency and balance between domestic consumption and exports.

Regarding the decision to extend the tender deadline for the mechanical maintenance of clean fuel units and liquefied gas facilities at the refinery, sources confirmed that this measure is beneficial for the economic and technical framework, as it gives the global consortia and qualified local engineering firms enough time to thoroughly evaluate the extensive technical scope of the project.

Sources indicated that the extension mitigates financial and technical risks, putting KPC in an advantageous position to secure competitive pricing and innovative maintenance solutions that minimize annual scheduled shutdowns and extend the operational lifespan of such vital facilities.

Sources reiterated that the move to ensure ongoing refinery maintenance reflects strong commitment to develop the refining infrastructure to guarantee its sustainability as the cornerstone of the national economy.

Sources added that the mechanical maintenance tender is not just a routine technical procedure, as it shall safeguard multi-billion-dollar investments and reinforce the standing of Kuwait as a reliable producer and leading global supplier of clean petroleum products.

Moscow gains revenue relief from US diesel supply pact

Expanding US oil supplies with Russian diesel unlikely to significantly ease prices, experts say

WASHINGTON, Oct 10: A new pact that calls for Russia to boost the U.S. supply of diesel over the next few months is unlikely to make a dent in painfully high prices at the pump or elsewhere, energy policy experts say.

President Donald Trump announced Friday that he had struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to immediately supply the U.S. more than 300,000 tons of diesel. That would be followed by an additional 500,000 tons in November, then 4 million more tons at some point after that.

The deal marks a stark reversal of policy by the U.S., which from the start of Russia’s war with Ukraine had banned imports of Russian oil, and comes at a time when the U.S. economy and consumers are being squeezed by a global rise in oil prices due to the eight-month-long U.S. war with Iran.

The price of diesel has shattered records in recent weeks, ratcheting up inflation for a broad swath of consumer goods.

The national average for a gallon of diesel in the U.S. hit a record high of \$6.53 on Sept. 22, according to motor club AAA. It averaged nearly \$6.28 a gallon on Friday, up from almost \$3.68 this time last year. Diesel prices have hit records in Europe, too.

Higher diesel prices mean more expensive transportation for a long list of everyday goods. That’s because diesel is used for many freight and delivery networks. And some businesses have already passed along steeper costs to consumers in the form of added fees on online orders and packages at the mail.

Shoppers may feel more and more sticker shock,

particularly in the grocery aisle. Perishable foods, like meat and produce, face one of the most immediate strains of expensive diesel because they need to be hauled in and restocked frequently - or may be harvested using farm equipment powered by the fuel.

That’s turned up the heat on Trump and the Republican Party to address surging prices ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections. The president’s approval ratings on the economy have hit a new low, according to an AP-NORC poll released last week, as the Iran war and his trade battles have increased U.S. prices for oil and other goods.

Energy policy experts on Friday expressed doubts that a boost in diesel supply from Russia will have a significant impact on oil prices, whether in the U.S. or globally.

“It’s kind of shuffling deck chairs on the Titanic,” said Michael Lynch, distinguished fellow at Energy Policy Research Foundation, a nonpartisan research institution focused on energy and economics.

“If we get diesel from Russia, basically it means that their existing customers are not going to get it and they’ll have to go somewhere else, and that will keep the price basically where it is now,” Lynch said.

And while the White House may be counting on this move to give some relief at the pump for U.S. truckers, ranchers and farmers who have been hit hard by rising diesel prices, that’s not a given.

“The best you could hope for is a tiny dip in prices locally in places like the New York-New Jersey area, Philadelphia maybe,” Lynch said. “It

just means that the oil is just going to be shuffled around and it’s not really going to change the price globally or across the U.S.”

If Russia, which in July moved to ban diesel exports due to Ukrainian drone strikes on its refineries, now believes it is able to resume exports of diesel, then that will help stabilize global diesel prices, said Daniel Sternoff, senior fellow at the Columbia Center on Global Energy Policy.

However, prices are likely to remain elevated overall because a lot of refining capacity in the Middle East isn’t available to the world market due to the disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz from the ongoing U.S.-Iran war.

“Refined products like diesel are still barely half of prewar levels,” Sternoff said. “So, even if there were to be some follow-through from the Russians to put a little extra diesel into the world markets, it might take the edge off of prices, but it will not substantially lower them.”

While the deal between Trump and Putin probably won’t have much of an impact on prices for diesel consumers in the U.S., it will benefit Russia, said Clayton Seigle, an energy strategist and expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

That’s because Russia is trying to offload its summer-grade diesel for the heavier winter and arctic grades that they will need in the coming months, Seigle noted.

“I don’t think it’ll be enough to materially lower prices in the United States or Europe, but it does certainly let Moscow off the hook in terms of revenue squeeze,” he said.

Sharif allocates \$268 mln for low-income fuel relief

ISLAMABAD, Oct 10, (AP): Pakistan has provided fuel subsidies to more than 10 million low-income people in recent weeks, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Friday, pledging continued relief as the U.S.-Iran war drives up energy costs and strains household budgets.

The number of beneficiaries is up from the more than 9 million reported by officials on Tuesday.

Sharif said in a televised address that the government had allocated 75 billion rupees (\$268 million) for fuel discounts to motorcycle riders, rickshaw operators and small-car owners.

His remarks came a day after the International Monetary Fund reached a staff-level agreement with Pakistan that would unlock about \$1.2 billion, subject to approval by the fund’s executive board.

To enhance operations & innovative banking solutions

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait participates in IMF & World Bank Annual Meetings in Bangkok

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) Group is participating in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group, taking place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 18 October 2026. The meetings bring together finance ministers, central bank governors, banking leaders and financial policymakers from around the world.

The ABK Executive Management delegation comprises Abdulla Al Sumait, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer; Omar Wahby, CEO of ABK-UAE, Noura Alduweesh, General Manager of Treasury and Investments; and Leen Haddad, Assistant General Manager of Executive Management Affairs.

The delegation will also attend a reception hosted by the Kuwait Banking Association on the sidelines of the meetings to exchange views on key economic and financial develop-



Abdulla Al Sumait, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer

ments and explore opportunities for cooperation that support sustainable growth and long-term prosperity.

Commenting on the participation, Al Sumait said, “Our participation in the IMF and World Bank Annual



Meetings in Bangkok holds particular significance, as they provide a global platform to discuss the latest economic trends and exchange expertise with leading figures in the international financial and banking sectors. We are committed to drawing on these insights to enhance our operations and continue delivering innovative banking solutions that support financial stability and meet the aspirations of our customers and shareholders.”

He added, “These international gatherings open doors to lasting partnerships and allow us to explore investment and development op-

portunities focused on digital transformation and sustainable finance, reinforcing ABK’s leading position and its role in supporting economic growth in Kuwait.”

Al Sumait emphasised that the Group’s participation aims to draw on forward-looking discussions about the future of the global economy, gain fresh perspectives on financial stability and banking developments, keep pace with global economic changes and learn from international best practices in banking.

AlSumait concluded by emphasizing that these annual meetings strengthen ABK’s ties with global financial institutions and bolster growth prospects across Kuwait and the wider region. Furthermore, he noted that the insights gained enable the Bank to innovate future-ready solutions, services, and products, reinforcing its market-leading position.

Delegation will discuss global economy challenges

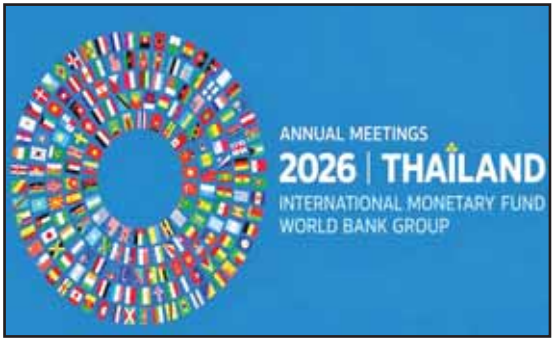
National Bank of Kuwait participates in IMF & World Bank Group Annual Meetings in Bangkok

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) will participate in the 2026 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, scheduled to take place from October 12 to 18 in Bangkok, Thailand, as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation and promote the exchange of expertise in finance and economics.

NBK’s delegation is headed by Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, and includes Mr. Salah Al-Fulaij, Chief Executive Officer, NBK – Kuwait; Mr. Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Deputy CEO, NBK – Kuwait; Mr. Omar Bouhadiba, CEO – International Banking Group; Mr. Khaled Al-Sayer, Head of Financial Institutions; and Mr. Abdul Mohsen Al-Rushaid, Head of Digital Communications.

The Bank’s delegation will participate in the Annual Meetings, which will address key economic and financial challenges, alongside a number of important topics, including the role of governance reforms in supporting economic growth and social inclusion.

The delegation will also attend the seminar hosted by the Group of Thirty (G30) alongside the IMF and World Bank Group Annual Meet-



ings. Held annually, the seminar brings together central bank governors from around the world, financial sector leaders and chief executives, as well as academics, to discuss the most pressing financial and systemic issues facing the global central banking community. The delegation will also attend the Annual Membership Meeting of the Institute of International Finance (IIF).

The Bank’s delegation will also attend a reception hosted by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) for senior global banking leaders on the sidelines of the meetings and related events. The reception will bring together senior executives from Kuwaiti banks, a number of heads of international banks, representatives of European and Arab central banks, as well as a large number of prominent

global figures and policymakers. The delegation will also attend a luncheon hosted by the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Thailand and the GCC-Asia Forum, in addition to reception events hosted by other financial institutions.

The Annual Meetings are convened by the Boards of Governors of the IMF and the World Bank Group, bringing together central bank governors, finance and development ministers, private-sector executives, representatives of civil society organizations and think tanks, and academics to discuss issues of global importance, including the global economic outlook, global financial stability, poverty eradication, inclusive economic growth and job creation.

NBK’s delegation will also hold



NBK headquarters

a number of bilateral meetings with senior international officials on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings taking place during the same period. The meetings and discussions will highlight some of the most significant challenges that have recently been facing the banking and financial industry worldwide.

The Annual Meetings also include meetings of several key committees and groups, most notably the Development Committee, the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the Group of Ten (G10), the Group of Twenty-Four (G24), and a number of other forums. The IMFC meeting is expected to focus on the outlook for the global economy, developments in financial markets and other pressing issues.

To advance global financial dialogue

Kuwait International Bank participates in IMF & World Bank Group Annual Meetings in Bangkok

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its participation in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG), scheduled to take place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 18 October 2026. The high-level meetings will convene central bank governors, finance ministers, development officials, policymakers, leaders from financial institutions and the private sector, academics, and representatives of international organizations from across the globe.

The KIB delegation will be led by Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Raed Jawad Bukhamseen, and will include KIB Board Members Marzook Khaled Al-Marzook and Abdulrazzaq Salah Al-Mutawa, KIB Invest Board Member Ahmad Bader Al-Farsi, KIB General Manager of International Banking and Financial Institutions Ma’ab Al-Qassem, General Manager of Treasury Mohammad Al-Duwailah, and Executive Manager of the Office of the Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Fahad Al-Sarhan.

Commenting on the occasion, Bukhamseen stated: “KIB’s participation in this year’s Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group reflects the significance of this global platform and the valuable opportunity it provides to stay abreast of key economic and financial developments worldwide, while exchanging perspectives and expertise with leading policymakers and financial and banking industry leaders from around the world.”

He added that the importance of KIB’s participation extends beyond attending the events to engaging in specialized discussions on markets and the financial sector, exploring global banking industry trends, and gaining insights into best practices and experiences across financing, investment, digital transformation, and risk management. The participation will also provide an opportunity to explore potential areas of cooperation and partnership that can support business growth and broaden the horizons of Kuwait’s banking sector.

Bukhamseen also highlighted that the timing of the Annual Meetings adds further significance to KIB’s participation, amid the rapid transformations shaping the global economy and financial markets, as well as the new opportunities and challenges arising from continued developments in technology and artificial intelligence across the financial sector. He noted that the Meetings’ agenda provides a valuable platform to explore and exchange perspectives on a range of issues of growing importance to the global financial landscape, in-



Raed Jawad Bukhamseen

cluding financial stability, artificial intelligence and the global economy, the future of financial infrastructure, cross-border payments and cybersecurity, sovereign risks, developments in Asian labor markets, and ways to strengthen resilience in the face of global shifts.

He emphasized that such meetings enable banking institutions to benchmark their experiences against global trends, better understand the shifts reshaping customer and market needs, and support the continued development of their products and services while enhancing their readiness for future opportunities and challenges.

The Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group bring together government, banking, and financial leaders, alongside representatives of the private sector, civil society, and international institutions, to discuss global economic and financial issues, development challenges, and practical solutions to address them. The 2026 Meetings will be held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok, reflecting Asia’s growing role in shaping the global economic and financial stability agenda.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari’ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: “Bank for Life”.

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.

6 laws drive economic reform agenda

Kuwait introduces reforms to enhance investor confidence

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10, (KUNA): Government efforts in Kuwait accelerated during the third quarter of the year to develop the financial and economic infrastructure through legislative reforms and structural changes aimed at improving the business environment, diversifying revenues and attracting foreign investment.

Six laws approved in recent months reflect the governments commitment to placing the national economy on a more sustainable path in support of Kuwait Vision 2035, alongside restructuring state sectors and advancing major development projects.

The enactment of Law No. 90 of 2026 on government sukuk marks a significant step in developing Kuwaits sovereign financing framework by expanding available financing instruments and introducing a Sharia-compliant option.

The law allows sukuk alongside conventional debt instruments, enhancing financing flexibility, diversifying funding sources and broadening the domestic and international investor base. It also supports capital market development and more efficient management of financial obligations.

The law permits sukuk issuance against existing government assets, operating rights and benefits associated with government assets, or assets to be provided in the future.

The Ministry of Finance said it would adopt an institutional approach to issuance, supporting Kuwaits regular presence in domestic and international capital markets and strengthening its position as a sovereign issuer.

The government also issued Decree-Law No. 81 of 2026, allowing borrowing from the Future Generations Reserve to support the States General Reserve while preserving the reserves capital.

The law permits the use of realized returns on a repayable basis, supporting sustainable asset growth and long-term returns without depleting the underlying wealth. The measure enhances sovereign financing flexibility alongside the Financing and Liquidity Law, which permits domestic and international debt issuance of up to KD 30 billion.

The draft Decree-Law on arbitration, approved by the Cabinet in mid-September, seeks to strengthen Kuwaits legal and economic environment and provide clearer safeguards for investors.

The legislation consolidates arbitration provisions under one framework, drawing on international best practices and principles established by the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration.

It provides faster and more flexible settlement of commercial and investment disputes, strengthens guarantees of neutrality, transparency and confidentiality, and permits electronic procedures, hearings and document exchange.

Meanwhile, the Economic Circuits Law, issued last August, establishes specialized circuits at the Court of First Instance, Court of Appeal and Court of Cassation to handle specified economic, commercial and investment disputes.

The law aims to expedite litigation, simplify procedures and expand electronic services, strengthening investor confidence, reducing costs and risks, and supporting Kuwaits position as a regional financial and commercial center.

Decree-Law No. 78 of 2026 on combating commercial concealment seeks to promote transparency, fairness and equal opportunity while strengthening state oversight and regulation.

The law prohibits enabling any person to conduct an economic activity in violation of the legislation, directly or indirectly, including through the use of another partys trade name or license.

It safeguards bona fide third parties and provides for reconciliation to settle certain violations under specified conditions without custodial penalties.

In late September, the Cabinet also approved a draft decree-law amending the Companies Law No. 1 of 2016 to facilitate company establishment and enhance confidence in business transactions.

The draft removes the requirement to notarize all company-related legal procedures and transactions, requiring written documentation signed by partners or their representatives. Commercial Register registration will constitute notarization and establish enforceability against third parties.

It also allows self-employed professionals to establish one-person professional companies and grants existing offices and companies one year to regularize their status.

In parallel, the government continues to enhance public financial management through a four-year program to strengthen integrity, transparency and governance in financial performance from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2030.

The program supports effective government and creative human capital by promoting specialized financial knowledge, best practices and financial and technological analysis to improve decision-making and support sustainable development under Kuwait Vision 2035.

Kuwait has also intensified measures to stimulate economic activity and strengthen fiscal sustainability through capital spending on development projects, private-sector reforms, new economic opportunities and greater private-sector participation.

The draft state budget for fiscal 2026/2027 includes 433 ongoing projects across ministries and government departments, in addition to 101 new projects.

Projects at affiliated public authorities total about 122, including 15 new and 107 ongoing projects.

Cook faces new inquiry amid Fed independence concerns

WASHINGTON, Oct 10, (AP): President Donald Trump opened another chapter in his effort to fire Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook Friday by establishing a “committee of inquiry” to investigate allegations that she made false statements in mortgage applications.

The inquiry will include a hearing at the White House Nov. 5, Trump said in a written memo, that Cook “shall” attend to answer questions from the committee. The hearing wouldn’t be public but a transcript would be published, the memo said.

Trump’s extraordinary demand that Cook testify before the committee will likely renew concerns about threats to the Federal Reserve’s independence. The president has repeatedly called for the central bank to cut its key interest rate, but just last month, the Fed raised it instead, led by Chairman Kevin Warsh, whom Trump appointed earlier this year.

Trump’s attempts to fire Cook from the Fed’s seven-member board of governors represent the first time in the central bank’s 113-year history that a president has sought to remove a Fed governor. Cook was appointed by former President Joe Biden and is the first Black woman on the Fed’s board. Trump’s attacks on her followed other efforts to oust or indict Black officials, such as New York Attorney General Letitia James and Gen. Charles Q. Brown, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“As President, it is my job to ensure the laws are faithfully executed, including by firing subordinates who cannot be trusted to tell the truth and follow the law,” Trump wrote in the memorandum.

Cook’s attorneys, Abbe Lowell and Norman Eisen, said they were considering having Cook appear at the Nov. 5 hearing and respond to the charges.

“We have engaged with the White House to evaluate whether the process proposed has a possibility of being a genuine one and not simply a box checking exercise,” Lowell and Eisen said in a statement. “Governor Cook welcomes the opportunity to

present the facts so she can clear her name and demonstrate there is no legal basis to fire her.”

The “committee of inquiry” will be composed of Kevin Hassett, the president’s top economic adviser, who has frequently echoed Trump’s criticisms of the Fed; Keith Sonderling, the acting director of the Office of Government Ethics, whom the president has also appointed to lead the Labor Department, and Andrea Lucas, the chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, whom Trump appointed in November 2025.

Trump initially tried to fire Cook in August 2025 after alleging she had committed mortgage fraud by declaring two different properties to be her “primary” residence in mortgage applications in 2021. Mortgages on primary homes can often receive a lower interest rate or other beneficial terms.

Cook has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged with a crime. Lowell and Eisen have previously said Cook committed an “inadvertent error” and did refer to one of the properties as a vacation home in other documents.

“An inadvertent error is not fraud, as the President and a third of his cabinet should know because they reportedly did the same thing,” Lowell and Eisen said in August.

The Federal Reserve declined to comment on Trump’s announcement.

Trump and some of his economic advisers have blamed the Fed’s broader rate-setting committee, which includes 12 voting members and 19 officials in total, for forcing last month’s rate hike, even though it followed comments by Warsh in August that signaled higher rates were likely. As a member of the board of governors, Cook is also one of the 12 voting members of the committee. The vote to lift rates Sept. 16 was unanimous.

The move also follows a Supreme Court ruling in June that Cook could keep her job after Trump sought to fire her last year.

Kuwait calls for reform of global financial system

NEW YORK, Oct 10, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Diplomatic Attache Dalal Sharar called for reforming the international financial architecture, enhancing developing countries’ representation at the United Nations, expanding concessional financing and climate funding, and easing debt burdens.

Addressing the UN General Assembly’s Economic and Financial Committee (the Second Committee) on Thursday, she said slower global growth, rising debt and declining external financing required urgent reforms to help developing countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sharar condemned Iran’s closure of the Strait of Hormuz and disruption of nav-

igation in the Bab Al-Mandab Strait through its regional proxies, warning of repercussions for global energy supplies, supply chains and food prices. She called for protecting maritime navigation in accordance with international law.

She highlighted the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development’s financing of more than 1,000 development projects across 107 countries since 1961, as well as the launch of the Kuwait Emergency Response Fund last July.

On Palestine, the Kuwaiti diplomat said that 92 percent of economic establishments in Gaza had been damaged or destroyed, unemployment had exceeded 90 percent, and recovery and reconstruction needs had reached USD 71.5 billion.



Mr. Talal A. Al Mulla and Mr. Phil Won Jung exchange the signed distributorship agreement documents at the conclusion of the official signing ceremony held at the headquarters of Al Mulla Group Head Office in Kuwait.



Mr. Talal A. Al Mulla and Mr. Young Hak Jeong sign the Distributorship Agreement at an official signing ceremony held at the headquarters of Al Mulla Group Head Office in Kuwait.



Group photo - standing from right to left: Mr. Hashem Al Munayer, Mr. Alain Bader. Mr. Elie Zoghb, Mr. Talal A. Al Mulla, Mr. Phil Won Jung, Mr. Young Hak Jeong, Mr. Sung Woo Lee



Al Mulla Electronics (state-of-the-art brand experience facility) coming in 2027.

Al Mulla & LG Electronics sign strategic distribution agreement in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Al Mulla Group, a leading diversified privately held business group established in the State of Kuwait in 1938, announced the signing of a strategic distribution agreement between its subsidiary, Al Mulla Electronics, and LGE Gulf Electronics to distribute, market, and support LG’s Consumer Electronics, Business Solutions, and Commercial Air Conditioning portfolios in Kuwait. The agreement marks a significant step in strengthening LG’s relationship with consumers and business customers across Kuwait.

Building on a shared history of market excellence and innovation, this agreement will enable Al Mulla to leverage its extensive local market expertise to deliver an unparalleled retail experience. The agreement encompasses the full spectrum of LG’s world-class product portfolio, including cutting-edge home appliances, advanced home electronics, and comprehensive air conditioning solutions, as well as a wide range of business solutions to exceed discerning consumers’ expectations.

The announcement was made during an official signing ceremony held at the headquarters of Al Mulla Group in Kuwait, which was attended by the Board Member and CEO of Al Mulla Group, Mr. Talal A. Al Mulla, who was accompanied by the CEO of LG Electronics Middle East & Africa, Mr. Phil Won Jung. The ceremony was also attended by Mr. Young Hak Jeong, Managing Director, LG Electronics Gulf; Mr. Elie Zoghb, Managing Director, Rental & Leasing and Trading & Manufacturing at Al Mulla Group; and several other senior management representatives from both companies.

Commenting on this strategic collaboration, Mr. Talal A. Al Mulla, Board Member and CEO of Al Mulla Group, said:

“We are delighted today to announce our agreement with LG, a brand that resonates with quality and innovation globally. This agreement represents a powerful synergy between our heritage and market leadership and LG’s legacy of technological excellence. By bringing this relationship to fruition, we are reinforcing our commitment to the Kuwaiti market. Our goal is to provide customers with professionally tailored business and consumer solutions that uphold our Group’s core values of professionalism, innovation, and excellence. We look forward to delivering a superior retail journey that sets a new benchmark in the electronics sector.”

On his part, Mr. Young Hak Jeong, Managing Director, LG Electronics Gulf, said: “Kuwait has long been an important market for LG, and this agreement with Al Mulla Electronics strengthens our relationship with the custom-

News Summary:

■ LG Electronics collaborates with Al Mulla Group, through its subsidiary Al Mulla Electronics, to strengthen LG’s market presence and distribution capabilities in Kuwait

■ The agreement enhances access to LG’s complete ecosystem of Consumer Electronics, enterprise Business Solutions, and Commercial HVAC systems

ers who have trusted our brand for years. Al Mulla Group’s local expertise and service culture make it a trusted distributor to bring the full breadth of LG’s innovation, from home appliances and entertainment to business and air solutions, closer to homes and businesses across the country.”

The agreement covers a wide array of LG Consumer Electronics, including TVs, audio, home appliances, residential air conditioning, monitors and laptops; LG Business Solutions, including commercial displays, digital signage, LED and hospitality solutions; and LG Commercial Air Conditioning, including VRF systems, chillers and building management solutions.

To mark this new chapter, Al Mulla Electronics will inaugurate a new, state-of-the-art brand experience facility in early 2027. This iconic flagship is designed to become the go-to destination for all consumer electronics and business solutions alike, serving as a hub for innovation and providing a unique shopping experience where customers can engage with a wide range of industry-leading products.

Al Mulla Electronics’ new facility is being developed as an integrated customer and operations interface comprising three key components. First, and in departure from traditional electronics showrooms, the LG Experience Center is designed to provide an immersive environment where customers experience LG’s technologies within realistic home and commercial settings. Complementing this is a state-of-the-art service center designed to LG’s global standards to deliver premium after-sales experience, along with a modern office space that will support the company’s commercial and operational teams

through a collaborative, efficient working environment. Collectively, these components will establish the hub for Al Mulla Electronics’ operations and customer experience in Kuwait.

LG Electronics – a global leader in consumer electronics and commercial air conditioning solutions – has chosen to partner with Al Mulla Electronics as its authorized distributor in Kuwait. This appointment reflects LG’s confidence in Al Mulla Group’s long-standing reputation, proven track record of building successful long-term partnerships with leading international brands, and unwavering commitment to delivering an exceptional customer experience.

With a heritage spanning nine decades, Al Mulla Group remains dedicated to creating effective, far-reaching solutions that address the evolving needs of the Kuwaiti community. This agreement with LG further underscores the Group’s ongoing mission to identify opportunities which provide better services, innovative products, and best value to its customers.

About Al Mulla Group:

Al Mulla Group is a leading diversified privately held business group based in the State of Kuwait. With a legacy of success spanning nine decades, the Group operates across a wide spectrum of business sectors, including automotive, engineering, financial services, trading and manufacturing, rental and leasing, healthcare, education, and real estate. Driven by the values of Excellence, Professionalism, and Innovation, Al Mulla Group represents over 200 international brands and continues to set industry benchmarks across the region.

For more information about Al Mulla Group and its various business sectors, please visit www.almullagroup.com.

About LG Electronics:

LG Electronics is a global innovator in technology and consumer electronics with a presence in almost every country and an international workforce of more than 74,000. LG’s four companies – Home Appliance & Air Solution, Home Entertainment, Vehicle Component Solutions, and Business Solutions – combined for global revenue of over KRW 80 trillion in 2022. LG is a leading manufacturer of consumer and commercial products ranging from TVs, home appliances, air solutions, monitors, service robots, and automotive components, and its premium LG SIGNATURE and intelligent LG ThinQ brands are familiar names worldwide.

For more news on LG, visit www.LGnewsroom.com

Deal may halve Chinese vehicle imports

EU & China seek to ease trade tensions with preliminary deal

HONG KONG, Oct 10, (AP): The top trade envoys for China and the European Union agreed Friday on a broad initial deal following two days of talks aimed at calming escalating tensions over trade imbalances, the EU trade commissioner said.

Neither side provided clear details on the preliminary deal, but European Commissioner for Trade Maros Sefcovic said it includes lower tariffs for some European goods to China as well as measures to stabilize rare earth supply chains.

The EU trade envoy said the deal could cut up to 50% of Chinese electric and plug-in hybrid vehicle imports to the EU and could lower tariffs on products benefiting “almost every” EU nation. The deal would require approval from leaders across the 27-nation EU.

He said that “by this step we are actually preventing several millions of car exports from China to the European Union.”

The two sides were seeking to resolve key factors behind China’s growing trade surplus, which hit 360 billion euros (\$403 billion) last year.

China’s Commerce Ministry posted online that Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao expressed concerns about the EU’s recent restrictive measures. He said that China is not the root of the EU’s problems but a partner in solving them.

The head of the European Automobile Manufacturers’ Association, Sigr d de Vries, said that the deal appears to avert further instability in the EU and “can help facilitate the transition to a new era of Chinese presence in the European market in an orderly way and this is in the long-term interests of all parties.”

Sefcovic said he will brief EU leaders meeting in Brussels next week and seek their approval.

“They would have to see that this is convincing enough to take the other steps,” he said. “We are in a situation that they (China) could put under the threat whole sectors in the European industry, literally thousands of jobs and the public opinion and the leaders clearly expect very fast action from our side.”

Sefcovic also said both sides reached understandings to further facilitate China’s export licensing for rare earths and permanent magnets, as well as to improve access to the Chinese market for various EU products through lower most-favored-nation tariffs, including car parts, olive oil and footwear, totaling almost 4 billion euros (about \$4.5 billion) in current export value.

The two sides will meet next by video in January and then in person in March.

China has been pushing for the EU to stop blocking Chinese imports of advanced computer chipmaking machines, restrictions imposed on national security grounds at Washington’s behest.

Earlier, Sefcovic had said the talks this week were the culmination of three months of intensive work. He had set an October deadline for meaningful results on trade rebalancing.

Earlier in the week, the Chinese Commerce Ministry issued a statement urging the EU to avoid protectionist measures, warning that such moves could backfire.

Trade tensions have grown in recent months, with both sides imposing or considering curbs on each other’s imports.

The EU has moved to limit imports of Chinese-made electric vehicles and EV batteries and enacted measures to protect the European steel industry. It also is limiting duty-free imports of e-commerce small parcels, essentially targeting Chinese fast fashion firms.

Last week, China launched an anti-dumping investigation into imports from the EU of p-nitrotoluene, a chemical compound used in dyes and pharmaceuticals.

Chinese officials and businesses have raised concerns over reports some EU members are pushing for new measures to protect local industries.

Worries over surging Chinese exports to Europe and other parts of the world in what some are calling a China shock 2.0 have deepened as the U.S., especially since U.S. President Donald Trump returned to the White House, has raised tariffs and enacted other measures to try to reduce its own huge trade deficit with Beijing.

Despite the backlash from some of its trading partners, China’s global trade surplus hit \$1.2 trillion in 2025 and is forecast to surpass \$1 trillion again this year.

The EU’s trade deficit with China widened to 103.3 billion euros (about \$116 billion) in the second quarter, as imports rose to 153.6 billion euros (\$172 billion), while European exports to China climbed to 50.3 billion euros (\$56 billion), according to EU statistics.

And on Wednesday, Germany blocked the sale of a major logistics firm in the port of Hamburg to the state-owned Chinese shipping behemoth Cosco over security concerns.

“As Europe’s largest economy, Germany welcomes foreign investment. At the same time, some investments can endanger the country’s security,” the German economic ministry said in a statement. “The acquisition would have deepened dependencies and jeopardized the resilience of supply chains in Germany and the EU.”

US auto industry growth predates Trump’s latest tariffs

Trump’s tariff claims on car plants face scrutiny

DETROIT, Oct 10, (AP): As President Donald Trump travels the country to rally support for Republican candidates ahead of the midterm elections, he is touting his economic agenda and crediting GOP-backed tariffs with industry growth - including what he says are more vehicle manufacturing plants all over the country.

Speaking at a Baltimore shipyard earlier this week, he credited his administration with drawing automakers back from at least five countries and painted a picture of historic plant construction after decades where there had been none at all.

But while Trump has found some success in boosting car manufacturing to the U.S. and forging deals within the industry, much of what he said was overblown or untrue.

Here’s a closer look at the facts.

TRUMP, on Tuesday: “We didn’t build a car plant for 44 years in this country. Now we’re building more car plants than we ever have in history.”

THE FACTS: It is not true that a vehicle factory has not been built in the U.S. in 44 years. The U.S. is also not currently building more auto manufacturing plants than it ever has.

More than two dozen major new vehicle assembly plants opened in the United States during the past four decades, based on the manufacturer histories, public records and data from industry group Autos Drive America. Others have been bought, retooled or repurposed.

That said, the U.S. has seen some significant automotive manufacturing movement under Trump.

So far in Trump’s second term, Rivian broke ground on a second factory in Georgia, and the Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant America opened there, too. At the time, Trump praised Hyundai and touted the news as “a clear demonstration that tariffs very strongly work.”

In his first term, Mazda and Toyota announced a mammoth joint vehicle facility in Huntsville, Alabama and Volvo’s first U.S. plant opened in South Carolina.

The developments under Trump broadly align with what’s been happening over at least the last two decades, experts say.

“We’ve always made lots and lots of the cars that people are buying here. If you buy a Honda in the U.S., it’s more likely that that was made in the U.S. That was true long before Trump,” said Joshua Hausman, University of Michigan associate professor of economics. “There have been car factories built regularly over the past few decades.”

The White House provided a list of projects that total more than \$50 billion in investments by automakers, which the administration cred-

its to the president’s trade agenda. Among them are a \$10 billion investment from Toyota said to be for operations across the country - the automaker has not confirmed it will be for adding plants - and plans by Stellantis to invest \$13 billion in expanding its U.S. footprint. Ford Motor Co., General Motors and Mercedes-Benz are said to be investing some \$15 billion in projects of their own.

“The President successfully launched a manufacturing renaissance with trillions of dollars in investments pouring into our country,” said White House spokesperson Taylor Rogers, crediting the investment to Trump’s America First Trade Agenda.

But not all of the news under Trump has specifically been for all-new vehicle assembly, and Trump’s accomplishments don’t differ much from President Joe Biden’s administration and others, industry experts noted.

As with Trump, the U.S. saw the opening of both new and retrofitted auto plants under Biden. EV manufacturers Rivian reopened a former Mitsubishi plant in Normal, Ill. and Lucid opened a plant in Casa Grande, Ariz.

Tesla opened an all-new Gigafactory in Austin, Texas. Ford opened the Rouge Electric Vehicle Center in Dearborn, Michigan, and began construction on BlueOval City, a complex for EVs and batteries, in Stanton, Tennessee.

GM announced its plans to pour \$7 billion into EV and battery plants in Michigan, and Vietnamese automaker VinFast said it would build an EV plant in North Carolina.

As of this year, Autos Drive America counted 51 total light vehicle assembly plants operating in the U.S., down just slightly from 52 five years earlier.

TRUMP: “Our car industry is coming back. They’re leaving Canada, they’re leaving Mexico, they’re leaving Japan and Germany, South Korea.”

THE FACTS: Many foreign automakers have been part of the industry in the U.S. for decades.

Volkswagen began assembling vehicles in the U.S. in the late 1970s; Honda, Nissan, Toyota and various European manufacturers followed suit in the 1980s - around the 44 year timeframe that Trump referred to earlier this week. These companies now make and sell millions of vehicles in the U.S. each year.

American vehicle manufacturing and auto assembly jobs began to decline at the same time as domestic automakers lost market share to those foreign-owned companies.

The U.S. industry’s woes came to a head during the 2008 financial crisis under the Bush administration. American companies faltered

while foreign automakers, and demand for their vehicles, grew. The nation saw more imported vehicles and increased production abroad.

Under President Barack Obama’s administration, GM had to be bailed out from bankruptcy. In the years following 2008, the American industry recovered some, both under Trump and Biden.

Biden’s policies led to a major push for investment in more fuel-efficient and electric vehicles, though many of those once-ambitious plans have since been dialed back as a result of Trump’s policies and slow consumer demand. That is, until the war in Iran sent gas prices soaring and juiced interest in cleaner vehicles.

TRUMP: “It’s all because of my favorite word tariffs.”

THE FACTS: Experts said it’s not as simple as crediting new auto manufacturing investment in the U.S. to tariffs.

“The current wave of tariffs has led to relocation of production, but they have not resulted in a tsunami of new assembly plants,” said Sam Fiorani, vice president at AutoForecast Solutions. “Vehicle manufacturers invest for the long-haul and not based on one administration’s short-term decisions.”

Building a factory takes a long time, Hausman said.

“When people think there’s a good chance that six months from now the tariffs will be reduced, or in the next presidential administration, the tariffs will be eliminated, there’s no particular reason to think that would lead car manufacturers to build new factories,” he said.

Some experts say the Trump administration’s policies have hobbled industry investment. Even if tariffs have incentivized parts of the industry to shore up U.S. operations, they also play a role in driving up vehicle prices.

Trump’s tariffs impact not only vehicles coming from abroad, but also some of the key supplies necessary to build vehicles in the U.S., such as steel and aluminum.

Automakers have to calculate whether the tariffs from offshore production outweigh producing vehicles in the U.S. while having to navigate increased costs of manufacturing goods here.

“The global automotive industry is very price sensitive and requires sourcing components and locating assembly facilities based on making the end product globally competitive,” Fiorani said. “Tariffs are disrupting the equations used to get to today’s vehicles and making them more expensive by making the affordable choices too expensive to use.”



First golf destination outside Asia to join global network

Mazagan has become the first golf destination outside Asia to join the Asian Tour Destinations network, marking the network's first expansion beyond the continent and strengthening the Moroccan resort's position on the global golf map.

The resort ranks 13th among the network's members, an elite group of golf destinations affiliated with the Asian Tour. The achievement underscores Mazagan's growing reputation as a venue for international sporting events.

The move follows Mazagan's hosting of two consecutive professional tournaments over the summer under the Asian Tour and Asian Development Tour (ADT), further demonstrating its capacity to attract major competitions and reinforcing its standing as a destination that combines luxury tourism with professional golf.



7 kilometers

of sandy beach along the Atlantic Ocean

15 restaurants

offering Moroccan and international cuisine

250 hectares

of resort grounds and facilities

500 rooms

overlooking the sea, swimming pools and gardens

'Mazagan'

Moroccan grandeur meets Atlantic allure

By Abdulaziz Al-Farhan

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Approaching the Atlantic coast near El Jadida reveals a stunning transformation of the landscape.

The sea comes into view, complemented by expansive green spaces and the distinctive features of Moroccan architecture, including elegant arches, intricate designs, and beautifully landscaped gardens.

Spanning 250 hectares, Mazagan Beach & Golf Resort is recognized as a premier destination, offering a diverse range of tourism experiences in one location.

The Mazagan experience begins long before guests arrive at their rooms. The resort features a seven-kilometre stretch of sandy beach along the Atlantic coast. It is located approximately six kilometres from El Jadida and about an hour's drive from Casablanca's Mohammed V International Airport.

From the moment they arrive, visitors are immersed in the resort's distinctive Moroccan identity.

Arches, decorative motifs, vibrant colors, and expansive open spaces, all inspired by traditional Moroccan architecture, blend seamlessly with contemporary design, offering sweeping views of the sea, gardens, and swimming pools.

500 Rooms with Sea Views
Mazagan features approximately 500 rooms and suites, many offering views of the ocean, gardens, or swimming pools.

Yet the experience extends far beyond the size of a room or the category of a suite; the surrounding environment is an integral part of the stay.

Guests can step out of their rooms in the morning and head towards the sea, begin their day with a leisurely stroll through the gardens, or simply sit back and admire the ocean.

This sense of space gives the resort the character of a self-contained destination, a place where guests can happily spend several days without feeling the need to venture elsewhere in search of activities or new experiences.

Golf with the Sea as a Backdrop
In another part of the resort, the pace of the day changes.

Here, an 18-hole golf course designed by golf legend Gary Player stretches across open terrain overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

Measuring 6,885 metres, the course is billed as the longest in Morocco. It features multiple tee positions to accommodate players of all skill levels, along with a dedicated academy for those looking to refine their game.

Yet the experience is about far more than statistics. The sand dunes, lush greenery, and refreshing sea breeze add a distinctive character to every round, with the Atlantic serving as a constant backdrop from the first hole to the last.

From Dining to Adventure
As lunchtime or dinner approaches, a new journey begins.

The resort boasts 15 restaurants and bars, offering a diverse culinary experience that spans Moroccan, Mediterranean, and French cuisine, fresh seafood, and the distinctive flavors of the Middle East and Asia.

At Al Firma, traditional Moroccan dishes take centre stage, while Sel de Mer specializes in fish and seafood.

Meanwhile, Bushra by Buddha-Bar presents a contemporary interpretation of Middle Eastern cuisine.

Each restaurant offers a different atmosphere, whether guests prefer dining by the pool, enjoying a quieter evening meal, or sitting at a table overlooking the beach.

Dining thus becomes an integral part of the overall destination experience, rather than simply a pause between activities.

The Beach: A Gateway to Adventure
Mazagan offers far more than peaceful moments of relaxation.

For those seeking excitement, the resort provides an extensive range of activities, including horse riding, cycling, tennis, go-karting, rock climbing, zip-

lining, and paintball, alongside a variety of water sports along the stunning Atlantic coastline.

Guests can begin their day at the beach, move on to an exhilarating sporting activity, and then unwind in a tranquil setting as evening approaches.

For those who prefer relaxation, the resort has swimming pools, a fitness centre, and a spa offering treatments inspired by traditional Moroccan hammam rituals and body-care practices.

Fun for the Kids, Too
Families are well catered for, with plenty to keep younger guests entertained. The resort features the Kidz Club for children aged 3 to 10 and the Rush Club for teenagers aged 11 to 17, offering a mix of play, physical activities, creativity, and adventure.

This variety allows families to plan their days with greater ease. While children enjoy activities tailored to their ages, adults can spend time at the beach, golf course, or spa before reuniting later to share a meal.

As evening falls, the resort's activities continue. Mazagan features a casino spanning approximately 3,000 square metres, with 36 gaming tables and 390 slot machines, alongside a VIP area and a restaurant.

Rather than relying on claims such as "the largest in North Africa" - which would require independent, up-to-date verification - the figures alone convey the impressive scale of the facility.

One Day, Many Stories
Perhaps Mazagan's greatest strength lies in how effortlessly guests can move between a variety of experiences in a single day - a morning by the ocean, a round of golf, time at the spa or on horseback, and an evening savoring traditional Moroccan cuisine or fresh seafood.

Throughout these experiences, two elements remain constant - the ever-present Atlantic Ocean and the resort's distinctive Moroccan identity.

Here, Mazagan is more than just a place to stay; it is an expansive destination where a holiday unfolds into a series of memorable moments - a sweeping stretch of beach, golf played to the rhythm of the waves, diverse culinary experiences, and adventures that give every day a story of its own.

The resort has become the first golf destination outside Asia to join the Asian Tour Destinations network, strengthening its position on the global golf map and marking the network's first expansion beyond the Asian continent.

With this achievement, Mazagan becomes the thirteenth destination in a network of prestigious golf venues affiliated directly with the Asian Tour, reflecting the Moroccan resort's growing reputation as a host for international sporting events.

This inclusion follows the resort's hosting of two consecutive professional tournaments over the summer, organized as part of the Asian Tour and the Asian Development Tour (ADT). These events further demonstrate its ability to attract major championships and reinforce its position as a destination that seamlessly combines luxury tourism with professional golf.

A seven-kilometre sandy beach along the Atlantic Ocean, 15 restaurants serving Moroccan and international cuisine, a resort spanning 250 hectares, and 500 rooms overlooking the sea, swimming pools, and gardens.

Mazagan has become the first golf destination outside Asia to join the Asian Tour Destinations network, strengthening its position on the global golf map and marking the network's first expansion beyond the Asian continent.

With this milestone, Mazagan becomes the network's thirteenth member. The network brings together prestigious golf destinations directly affiliated with the Asian Tour, reflecting the Moroccan resort's growing reputation as a host of international sporting events.

This inclusion follows the resort's hosting of two consecutive professional tournaments over the summer, as part of the Asian Tour and the Asian Development Tour (ADT). These events further demonstrate Mazagan's ability to attract major championships and reinforce its position as a destination that seamlessly combines luxury tourism with professional golf.



‘We were able to lean on each other ... to start healing’

Linkin Park’s ‘Unshatter’ explores band’s emotional return to music

LOS ANGELES, Oct 10, (AP): For years after the death of frontman Chester Bennington, members of Linkin Park weren’t sure if the band would - or should - continue to exist. The new documentary “Linkin Park: Unshatter” takes fans inside the uncertainty, grief and creative risk behind their return, including raw footage of early recording sessions, conversations and experimentation that eventually led to Emily Armstrong joining the group.

Formed in Agoura Hills, California, in 1996, Linkin Park became one of the defining rock bands of the 2000s by fusing alternative metal, hip-hop and electronics. The band skyrocketed to global fame with its diamond-certified 2000 debut, “Hybrid Theory,” followed by “Meteor,” built around the distinctive interplay of Mike Shinoda’s rapping and Bennington’s soaring vocals.

After Bennington died by suicide in 2017, following the release of “One More Light,” the band faced an uncertain future. Linkin Park returned in 2024 with Armstrong as co-lead vocalist, releasing “From Zero” and embarking on a new run of world tours.

In an interview alongside Armstrong and DJ and creative director Joe Hahn, Shinoda says he never wanted to predetermine what a return would look like - or even whether it would still be Linkin Park.

“Emotional stuff aside, which was very heavy ... I was like, ‘If we ever were to do it again, I wouldn’t want to assume that it had to be a guy.’ I wouldn’t want to assume it has to



From left, Joe Hahn, Brad Delson, Mike Shinoda, Emily Armstrong, Colin Brittain and Dave Farrell of the band Linkin Park pose together at the premiere of the documentary film “Linkin Park: Unshatter” on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026, at AMC The Grove 14 in Los Angeles. (AP)

be who somebody who’s sang like Chester. I wouldn’t even want to assume it had to be one person, like maybe we go tour and just play with multiple vocalists or maybe it’s not Linkin Park, maybe it’s something else, I don’t know. Like I just wanted to keep my mind open to all the

things.”

When Shinoda met Armstrong - lead singer and co-founder of the band Dead Sara - in 2019, he had a feeling she was someone the others needed to meet.

“I was like, ‘Oh, I got it. She has to meet the band. Like I have to introduce them because she’s cool. I love how she sings.’ I had a gut feeling that would have to happen,” he said.

For Armstrong, watching the footage in the documentary - now in theaters and co-directed by Hahn and Mark Ritchie - offered a glimpse at how much she was taking in during those early encounters with the group.

“I feel like I look a lot more confident than I actually was. There was so much going on in my head, having to step up to the plate, right? When you’re doing that, there’s so many adjustments that are happening,” she said. “So you’re singing a different way and you’re working with a band and people that have opinions of, ‘OK, try this, try this.’ You’re not used to that, right, and so you’re adjusting a lot.”

“It definitely was a creative risk, and we knew that to begin with, I think,” she said. “We don’t know if people are going to take to it, but we know that we love it.”

Hahn said the process of making music again was also part of the band’s healing.

“I think we were able to lean on each other and be open just to start healing, and then with that you give each other encouragement, too, like, ‘Hey, you’re good at this. ... Don’t worry about that, we’ll figure that part out later.’”

Film

‘I’m grateful for everything’

Lisa steps beyond K-pop fame in ‘Always Lalisa’

TORONTO, Oct 10, (AP): Even people unfamiliar with the K-pop superstar Lisa, of the group Blackpink, have probably experienced her global sway.

In the spring of 2024, the Thai singer and rapper was photographed with a strange little plush monster hanging from her handbag, grinning with serrated teeth. That was all it took for the Labubu craze to be born.

“I’m sorry!” Lisa says. “But I can’t help it. It’s really cute. We’re kids!”

It’s the morning after the Toronto International Film Festival premiere of “Always Lalisa,” a Sony Music Vision documentary opening for a limited engagement in theaters Oct. 12 before streaming on YouTube Premium.

Director Sue Kim follows Lisa, whose real name is Lalisa Manobal, through a pivotal year as she launches her first solo album, 2025’s “Alter Ego,” forms her own management company, plays Coachella, sings at the Oscars and makes her acting debut in “The White Lotus.”

The film also portrays a surreal evolution for Lisa, who was already in her mid-20s and one of the most famous faces in the world as the film begins. After years of strict management of her image under the South Korean label YG Entertainment that governed everything from her driving to her dating, it shows Lisa relishing a newfound independence.

“I learned so much on my own. I tried things that I never had a chance to try. It was challenging, but I’m just so proud of myself,” says Lisa, now 29. “Finding my voice, yes, and finding confidence. I’ve been with Blackpink for almost 10 years. Then



Lisa poses for a photograph on the red carpet for “Always Lalisa” at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Ontario, Friday, Sept. 11, 2026. (AP)

I wanted to do my own solo project, but I wasn’t confident and I didn’t know where to start.”

Lisa seems typically bubbly and bright during an AP interview - “I have my chips and my matcha latte. I’m good” - but she’s still shaking off some of the nerves of debuting the documentary. It’s easily the most intimate look yet into her life - her parents appear in it - and the full-life exposure is new for her. “It’s embarrassing when I see the footage when I was little and dancing,” she says, laughing and shaking her head.

Kim, a veteran documentarian and Detroit native raised by Korean immigrants, has spent enough time in the K-pop world to understand it. She produced the Apple

TV series “K-pop Idols,” which documented the rigorous training of K-pop hopefuls. But Kim, who also directed 2024’s “The Last of the Sea Women,” has an outsider’s perspective on some of K-pop’s unique pressures.

“For us, it’s sort of inconceivable that you’d be mad at an entertainer for having a romantic relationship or driving,” Kim says. “Don’t you want them to get places?”

Filming Lisa, she thought, would be a chance to show “a delayed coming of age.”

“I knew that we’d see her testing her boundaries, figuring out who she is, figuring out where she wants to take her life and her career, and also kind of figuring out what works for

her as a human,” says Kim. “I loved the idea that we would be able to witness that with her as she was experiencing it.”

At just 13, Lisa became the first non-Korean trainee at YG, beating out thousands of hopefuls. She spent her next years singing, dancing and learning Korean while abiding by the restrictions: No dating, no drinking, no driver’s license. Since Blackpink’s debut in 2016, the girl group quartet has accounted for more than 20 million records sold worldwide and more than 40 billion streams.

“I’m grateful for everything. I trained for five years. It’s like a boarding school. You go into school, sleep in a dorm with girls who have the same dream as you, and it’s fun,” Lisa says.

“Always Lalisa” chronicles some of Lisa’s growing pains. Uncertain how to present herself as a solo artist, she decides to showcase numerous identities on “Alter Ego,” to mixed reviews. Pitchfork called it “the generic embodiment of a pop star.” Global fame has also meant intense security: When Lisa wore a black-lace bodysuit to the 2025 Met Gala, online critics claimed incorrectly that Rosa Parks’ face was on her tights.

But in person, Lisa tends to win people over. Her Coachella set was mostly celebrated, as was her performance last month at the MTV VMAs. As a solo act, she’s thrived.

“If I want to do something, I just do it,” she says. “I don’t have to ask for permission or anything. If I have an idea, we make it happen. It’s fun to do whatever you want to do. Like, no limits.”

Original stars reunite for emotional anniversary

‘Phantom of the Opera’ marks 40 years with London gala

LONDON, Oct. 10, (Xinhua): Thunderous cheers filled His Majesty’s Theatre in London on Friday night as the audience rose to its feet for Sarah Brightman and Michael Crawford, the original stars of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “The Phantom of the Opera,” when they performed on stage at the musical’s 40th-anniversary gala.

The special performance marked exactly four decades since the musical opened at the same venue on Oct. 9, 1986, when it was known as Her Majesty’s Theatre. Brightman and Crawford originated the roles of Christine Daae and the Phantom, respectively.

The gala brought together performers from different generations of the musical’s history, including former cast members from productions around the world. During the special curtain call, they joined the current company in singing songs from the musical, with many gathering around Crawford in a tribute to composer Lloyd Webber. Some performers and audience members were visibly moved to tears.

PHANTOM AT 40

Speaking on stage, Lloyd Webber expressed his gratitude to those who had contributed to the musical over the past four decades. He gave



This photo taken on Oct. 9, 2026 shows decorations for the 40th anniversary of the West End debut of the musical “The Phantom of the Opera” at His Majesty’s Theatre in London, Britain. (Xinhua)

special thanks to Brightman, recalling her role in the musical’s early development and how she had helped bring him together with Crawford, who went on to become the original Phantom.

“It’s one of those rare moments that any composer, any author would want, where every element of everything came together,” Lloyd Webber said while addressing the audience.

Cameron Mackintosh, the musical’s producer, also paid tribute to the performers and production teams around the world who have brought the show to audiences over the past 40 years.

“Phantom has always attracted wonderful, wonderful artists, but tonight’s company is truly extraordinary,” he said.

For some spectators, the anniversary gala was an opportunity they had long awaited. Clemence Delaunay, a

French theatergoer who traveled from Paris especially for the occasion, told Xinhua that she had grown up watching recordings of the musical’s 25th-anniversary performance.

“I’m thrilled to finally attend such a special performance in London. It feels like being part of theatre history, celebrating a musical that has touched audiences for generations,” she said.

Based on the novel by French writer Gaston Leroux, the musical has become the third-longest-running production in West End history, behind “The Mousetrap” and “Les Misérables,” according to the Society of London Theatre.

Over the past four decades, the musical has attracted around 160 million spectators across 229 cities and been performed in 23 languages. Its international tour is currently playing in Shanghai, where a 40th-anniversary season featuring 104 performances runs until Dec. 27 at the Shanghai Grand Theatre.

To mark the anniversary, the production team also announced plans to film the London production, including Friday’s gala performance, for an international cinema release in 2027, allowing more audiences worldwide to experience the show from its original London home.

Brimming with joy

Pitbull’s ‘Pitcoin’ keeps party going but short on standouts

NEW YORK, Oct 10, (AP): At any given moment, it is hard to imagine anyone on earth having as much fun as Pitbull.

The Grammy Award-winning rapper, singer-songwriter and actor, so synonymous with his hometown of Miami that he’s referred to as Mr. 305, the city’s area code - as well as Mr. Worldwide for his global popularity - is known for his ceaseless, motivational enthusiasm. It imbues all of his biggest singles, like the 12-times platinum “Timber,” 11-times platinum “Give Me Everything,” “No Lo Trates,” and “Time of Our Lives,” to just scratch the surface. And it carries through to his public persona and live show.

“Pitcoin,” his latest album, continues that legacy. But it doesn’t evolve it. Across 24 tracks, “Pitcoin” is brimming with joy - songs to soundtrack a commute, a cafe, a quinceañera, a Friday night, a waiting room, a beach bar, anywhere really - as long as the party does not quit. But it lacks the huge singles Pitbull fans have come to know him for.

To put it another way: There is fire, but no “Fireball.”

It may be because “Pitcoin” overflows with collaborations spanning genre, generation and language. Here’s a sampling: KISS, Bon Jovi, Enrique Iglesias, Lil Jon, Jason Derulo, Akon, Wiz Khalifa, Ne-Yo, Afrojack, Gente de Zona, Jowell & Randy, Anthony Ramos, Zion and Lenier. Lil Jon appears on three tracks; Iglesias on two.

The KISS collaboration opens the record - the aptly titled “Reach for the Stars,” which lifts heavily from “Rock and Roll All Nite” but doesn’t improve upon it - and the song with Bon Jovi, “Now or Never,” directly samples the band’s 2000 rock anthem, “It’s My Life.”

On a scale of 1 to 10, the nostalgic energy is set to 100. But so is much of Pitbull’s discography, and unfortunately, the good time “Pitcoin,” for all its charms, doesn’t rise to the level of, say, 2015’s “Dale.” Those hoping to recapture that spirit would be wise to skip ahead to the arena-sized anthem “Me Paraste El Corazón” or to “Gringa Repartera.” On the lat-



Pitbull performs in concert in London on June 9, 2025. (AP)

ter, Pitbull explores the Cuban genre reperto for the first time with some help from Gente de Zona and a sample of the classic “La Tuba” by Elvis Manuel.

Despite its bloated runtime, “Pitcoin” is straightforward in its aims. Here, like in all his work, Pitbull is dedicated to keeping his audience dancing.

Take it from Mr. Worldwide himself, who described his own anthems as “there for when you’re feeling a certain way in life. It can help pick you up or it can take you to the next level,” as he told The Associated Press last year. “When I’m making those records, that’s what it’s about. I make sure that the beats are something that I know people could dance to. I know that it’s not complicated.”

On “Pitcoin,” as in the whole of his discography, that’s clearly the point. But he has other albums, and songs, that deliver on the premise with more precision.

“Pitcoin” by Pitbull

Two and a half stars out of five

On repeat: “Me Paraste El Corazón,” “Damn I Love Miami”

Skip it: “Reach for the Stars,” “Now or Never”

For fans of: Las Vegas, shots, simple pleasures and late nights

Variety

PARIS: French Culture Minister Catherine Pegard said Friday that two paintings stolen in September from the Renoir Museum in Cagnes-sur-Mer in southeastern France’s Alpes-Maritimes department have been recovered.

Pegard confirmed the recovery on X, saying the paintings would be able to return to the Renoir Museum.

Four paintings were stolen from the Renoir Museum early on Sept. 8, with two remaining missing afterward, French media reported. Local authorities estimated the value of the stolen artworks at 9 million euros (10.1 million U.S. dollars). The two missing paintings were the Portrait of Madame Colonna Romano (1910) and Jeune fille au puits (1886). (Xinhua)

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LOS ANGELES: In July, a lightsaber with Luke Skywalker’s severed hand from “The Empire Strikes Back” sold for \$3.75 million at auction, the highest price ever fetched for a prop used in a “Star Wars” film according to the auction house.

Now, someone can buy the saber that did the severing.

A Darth Vader lightsaber used in the climactic duel in Cloud City where he tells Skywalker “I am your father” is among the highlights of the Ultimate Star Wars Auction to be held by Heritage Auctions on Nov. 12.

The Vader saber, also used in “Return of the Jedi,” is expected to fetch at least \$1 million. It is one of more than two dozen lightsaber props that will be up for sale at the auction that spans “Star Wars” Episodes I through IX and other films and TV shows from the galaxy George Lucas created. (AP)

Kuwait min. touts World Mental Health Day as opportunity to raise awareness

KUWAIT, Oct 10, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah said Saturday the World Mental Health Day marks a significant opportunity to raise community awareness about the significance of mental health.

In a press statement marking the day, which falls on October 10, the minister said mental health is considered an essential component of public health and quality of life in general.

She underlined the necessity of creating a supportive environment that ensures the psychological well-being of individuals and enables them to have effective participation in society.

The minister noted that mental health has become a key pillar for achieving social development and promoting family stability and social cohesion, elaborating that better mental health produces positive outcomes for the individual, the family, and various societal institutions.



The medical team participating in the conference.

Kuwait hosts Cardiometabolic confab

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Health organized the Third Cardiometabolic Networking Symposium on Saturday, mainly to boost communication and exchange expertise regarding cardiometabolic diseases in Kuwait.

In a keynote speech, Dr. Khaled Al-Mulla, a cardiology consultant and Head of the Sabah Al-Ahmad Cardiac Center at Al-Amiri Hospital, said that the conference brings together a distinguished group of healthcare specialists, researchers, poli-

cymakers, and industry leaders.

The conferees discuss how to improve the prevention and management of cardiometabolic diseases, he said, adding that cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and metabolic disorders continue to place a big burden on society.

Dr. Al-Mulla added that Kuwait and the entire Gulf region face unique challenges involving rapid changes in lifestyles, an increasingly aging population and surging rates of diabetes and obesity.

Kuwaiti doctors showcase expertise at International Continence Society

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: A group of renowned Kuwaiti doctors conducted a scientific and training workshop at the 56th Annual Meeting of the International Continence Society (ICS), proving the competence of the local medical professionals and their active presence in international forums.

The conference is being held in Maastricht, Netherlands, from Oct 6-9. It attracted about 2,000 doctors and experts from around the world to discuss the latest research, medical practices, and advancements in diagnostics and treatment.

The workshop conducted by the Kuwaiti doctors titled, “Avoiding Over Treatment in Functional Urology,” focused on the significance of

making treatment decisions based on the results of clinical assessment and scientific evidence, while avoiding unnecessary tests, procedures and interventions. This approach aims to achieve optimal therapeutic outcomes for patients and minimize complications.

Dr. Tariq Al-Shaiji, consultant urologist and Head of the Urology Unit at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, chaired the workshop with the participation of several other consultant doctors.

During the interactive scientific sessions, the medical team reviewed clinical cases and discussed balancing treatment options, distinguishing between cases requiring medical intervention and those in which conservative management is more appropriate, and the importance of involving patients in treatment decisions.

Small acts of patience, kindness can make it easier for someone to accept help

Are we really listening to people who have mental health problems?

By Dr. Neethu Mariam Chacko, MD
Specialist Psychiatrist
FSHN Clinic

“Just get up and do something. You will feel better.”

For someone living with depression, these words may sound familiar. They often come from a relative or friend who wants to help. Yet, to the person hearing them, they can feel like another reminder that nobody understands. Getting out of bed, taking a shower or answering a phone call may already require more effort than others realise. What appears to be laziness may be a struggle to get through the day.

World Mental Health Day, observed every year on 10th October, encourages us to pay attention to mental well being and the support people need. This year’s theme, “Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change,” asks us to consider an important question: are we really listening to people who have experienced mental health difficulties?

We hear the words “lived experience” more often now, but the meaning is simple. It is the understanding a person gains from going through something themselves. In mental health, this includes the experience of illness, asking for help, receiving treatment and finding a

way back to everyday life. It also includes how others treated them along the way who listened, who dismissed their concerns and what made a difference when they were struggling.

A textbook can explain the symptoms of depression, anxiety or psychosis. It cannot fully describe what those symptoms feel like to a particular person. Someone with depression may wake up feeling exhausted despite spending hours in bed. They may lose interest in activities they once enjoyed or struggle to concentrate on a simple task. Someone with anxiety may lie awake worrying, unable to settle their mind even when their body is tired. A person experiencing psychosis may hear frightening voices that others do not hear and find it difficult to understand what is happening.

These experiences are not the same for everyone. Two people with the same diagnosis may have very different difficulties and need different kinds of support. One may be worried about losing a job. Another may be struggling to care for children or afraid of how their family will react. We learn these things by giving people time to explain, rather than assuming that a diagnosis tells us everything about them.

Unfortunately, people with men-

tal health difficulties are still often judged before they are understood. “You are thinking too much.” “Everyone has problems.” “You have so much to be grateful for.”

Such remarks may be well meant, but they can make someone feel guilty for being unwell. A person who already finds it difficult to speak may decide it is easier to remain silent.

Fear of judgement can affect anyone. A student may hide their distress because they do not want to disappoint their parents. An employee may worry that asking for help will affect how they are treated at work. A parent may feel ashamed to admit that they are struggling to cope. When people expect criticism or rejection, seeking help becomes even harder.

Listening does not require us to have all the answers. It begins with allowing someone to speak without interrupting, comparing their situation with our own or immediately telling them what to do. Asking, “What has been difficult for you?” or “How can I help?” can open a conversation.

But we must also be prepared to hear the answer, even when it is uncomfortable or different from what we expected.

Sometimes, people cannot easily explain what they are feeling. They may need time, or they may



Dr. Neethu Mariam Chacko

not wish to discuss everything at once. Respecting that choice is part of listening. We can let them know we are available without pressuring them to share more than they want to.

This year’s message also has an important place in healthcare. People who have used mental health services know what helped them and what made things harder. They may remember a doctor who explained treatment patiently, a nurse who treated them with kindness or a family member who accompanied them to appointments. They may also remember leaving

a consultation confused, feeling that their concerns were ignored or finding it difficult to get help when they needed it.

These experiences can help improve care. During a consultation, people should have the opportunity to ask questions, discuss treatment options and explain their concerns. A plan is more useful when it takes account of the person’s daily life, including work, family responsibilities and the support available at home. Asking what matters to them is an essential part of understanding what they need.

There is much we can do within our own families and communities. We can check on someone who has become withdrawn instead of assuming they are being unfriendly. We can avoid jokes or careless comments about mental illness. We can encourage professional help when needed and offer practical support, such as helping arrange an appointment or accompanying the person if they wish. Small acts of patience and kindness can make it easier for someone to accept help.

Support should not end after the first conversation or appointment. Recovery may take time, and there may be difficult days along the way. Someone who seemed better last week may be struggling again

today. This does not mean that they are not trying. Families and friends can help by remaining patient and asking what support is useful, rather than expecting constant improvement.

We must also remember that a person is much more than their illness. They have relationships, responsibilities, talents and hopes. For one person, getting better may mean returning to work.

For another, it may mean sleeping well, meeting friends or enjoying time with their children again. These ordinary parts of life matter, and they deserve a place in conversations about recovery.

This World Mental Health Day, let us look beyond the messages we share and think about how we respond when someone actually tells us they are struggling. Do we make time? Do we take their concerns seriously? Do we include them in decisions about their own care?

Listening cannot replace professional treatment or accessible mental health services. It can, however, help people feel less alone and make it easier for them to seek support. It can also teach us how to provide care that is more respectful and useful.

Real voices can create real change when we are willing to listen, learn and act on what we hear.

CDC urges heightened preparedness as Ebola cases reach 8,750 in Congo

ADDIS ABABA, Oct 10, (Xinhua): The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has called for strict regional preparedness to avert further spread of the ongoing Ebola outbreak, as the number of confirmed cases has reached 8,750 alongside a mounting death toll.

Addressing an online press briefing on Thursday evening, Wessam Mankoula, an Africa CDC official, lauded Kenya’s preparedness and ongoing response efforts, as the country became the latest country to record a Bundibugyo Ebola case.

Calling for enhanced regional preparedness and solidarity, he highlighted that the East African country’s prior investments in preparedness have enabled it to respond quickly to the imported case and strengthen contact tracing.

“Ebola is crossing another border. However, at the Africa CDC, we are calling for vigilance, not banning,” said Mankoula.

Kenyan authorities are currently tracing contacts linked to its first imported case and have enhanced disease surveillance to avoid the potential spread of the virus, after a 40-year-old patient, a Kenyan citizen who had lived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for seven years, died from the disease in a Nairobi hospital on Monday.

Africa CDC officials stressed that the imported case has triggered concern over the disease’s spread. The patient moved across the DRC, Uganda, and Kenya before testing positive, highlighting how quickly the virus can cross borders and threaten regional health security.

low fever in the country’s Upper West Region in a release late Thursday.

The release by the Ministry of Health said samples collected in the Wa West and Sissala West districts of the Upper West Region had tested positive for the virus.

“All three cases resulted in deaths, despite aggressive management by our health staff in those facilities,” the statement said.

The statement said that the national and regional health emergency operations centers had been activated, and the rapid response teams had been deployed in the affected communities for case finding, surveillance, and risk communication. It added that preparations are also underway for emergency vaccination campaigns in the Wa West, Sissala West, and Sissala East districts this month.

Measles: Lesotho has confirmed a measles outbreak in its northern

districts of Butha-Buthe and Leribe, with 12 confirmed and 20 suspected cases as of Sept. 30, according to health authorities.

Mants’oanelo Monyobi, deputy principal secretary in the Ministry of Health, said in a statement that the outbreak was first detected on Sept. 23 at Dr Strong Thabo Makenete Hospital in Butha-Buthe, where four suspected cases were identified. The National Reference Laboratory confirmed measles in three of the samples two days later.

The initial confirmed cases involved school-going children aged six to 14 from the Urban, Likila and Nqoe community councils in Butha-Buthe. By Sept. 30, the district’s tally had risen to 12 confirmed and 14 suspected cases.

Meanwhile, the neighboring Leribe district reported six suspected cases among children aged 13 to 15 in the Maputsoe Community Council.



Health workers and officials walk outside an Ebola isolation facility at The Nairobi Hospital, Kenya on Oct 7. (AP)



In this photo provided by NASA, the SpaceX Crew Dragon Freedom spacecraft splashes down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026, returning from the International Space Station. Inset: NASA astronauts Jack Hathaway and Jessica Meir, and European Space Agency astronaut Sophie Adenot sit inside the SpaceX Dragon Freedom spacecraft onboard the SpaceX recovery ship Shannon after splashdown in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California. (AP)

Four astronauts return to Earth after eight months in space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Oct 10, (AP): Four astronauts returned to Earth from the International Space Station on Thursday after hurrying there eight months ago to replace an ailing colleague and his crew.

SpaceX brought the US, French and Russian flyers back with a splashdown in the Pacific off the coast of Los Angeles.

NASA’s Jessica Meir and Jack Hathaway, France’s Sophie Adenot and Russia’s Andrey Fedyaev departed the orbiting lab on Wednesday, eager to reunite with their families after a lengthy separation. Their

replacements arrived three weeks late because of capsule repairs, stalling this crew’s homecoming.

They couldn’t wait to feel the breeze on their faces, hit the shower and, for Adenot at least, plunge back into water sports. Her 237 days in orbit set an endurance record for the European Space Agency.

“We are so excited to be back on Planet Earth after an incredible mission on the International Space Station,” Meir radioed moments after splashing down. While still in orbit, she said the crew had “a lot of mixed, swirling emotions” and

would miss the “extraordinary views of our home planet.”

All four were out of their capsule within an hour, waving and pumping their fists in the air aboard SpaceX’s recovery ship. After a helicopter ride to shore, they were going to head for Houston.

Meir and her crew left the planet in February to replace four station occupants who were sent home early after one of them - NASA’s Mike Fincke, now retired - fell ill. It was NASA’s first medical evacuation in 65 years of human spaceflight.

Yellow fever: Ghanaian health authorities declared the outbreak of yel-

No. 8 crew moves to top of drivers' championship with two rounds remaining

TOYOTA RACING celebrates dramatic home victory at 6 Hours of Fuji

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: TOYOTA RACING celebrated another memorable home victory at the 6 Hours of Fuji, with Sébastien Buemi, Brendon Hartley and Ryo Hirakawa claiming first place in the No. 8 TR010 HYBRID. The victory, Toyota's 10th at Fuji, extends the team's lead in the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) manufacturers' standings to 23 points, while the No. 8 crew moves to the top of the drivers' championship with two rounds remaining.

Hiroki "Giano" Nakajima, Executive Vice President, commented: We achieved victory at our home race, the 6 Hours of Fuji. To all the fans who fought alongside us. To everyone who came to the circuit and continued supporting us until the very end. And to everyone around the world who cheered for us. Thank you very much. Congratulations on this victory. And thank you, truly. With so many fans watching, you turned expectations into strength, overcame immense pressure, and delivered the result.

Nakajima added: I am truly proud of what you achieved. But what makes me even happier, and prouder, is the process that led to this result. With "For the Engineering Race" in our hearts, every individual continued to refine their skills, learn from past failures, communicate openly, support one another, and build a stronger team. This was not a victory earned through speed alone. It was a victory earned through human effort. That is TOYOTA RACING. Thank you for



The No. 8 Toyota GR010 Hybrid, driven by TOYOTA RACING, commands the lead position during the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC).

your continued support of TOYOTA RACING."

In front of a 72,326-strong weekend crowd at Fuji Speedway, the race began on a damp track after poor weather caused qualifying to be cancelled, with the No. 8 TR010 HYBRID starting from eighth. Buemi quickly gained two positions as the crew began working its way through the field, with the vehicle moving into the top six during the opening half of the race.

The second half brought a further setback when Hartley was pushed into a spin early in the fifth hour. Hirakawa subsequently took over the No. 8 in sixth place, with the crew remaining outside the podium positions as the race entered its final hour.

A safety car with 55 minutes remaining opened the door for a decisive strategic call. Anticipating a longer interruption while barrier repairs were carried out, the No. 8 crew refuelled

the TR010 HYBRID without changing tyres, a bold strategy that put Hirakawa into the lead when racing resumed with 20 minutes remaining.

With rain beginning to fall and pressure building in the closing stages, Hirakawa held his position to cross the line just 0.591 seconds ahead and secure a home victory for TOYOTA RACING. The result extends Toyota's lead in the manufacturers' championship to 23 points and



TOYOTA RACING drivers Sébastien Buemi, Brendon Hartley and Ryo Hirakawa celebrate their triumph on the podium at the 6 Hours of Fuji, as the No. 8 TR010 HYBRID secures Toyota's 10th victory on home soil.

moves the No. 8 crew of Buemi, Hartley and Hirakawa into the lead of the drivers' standings. The No. 7 crew of Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and Nyck de Vries sits second, 10 points behind, with two rounds remaining.

Toyota's history in motorsports dates back more than 60 years, competing worldwide across various disciplines. Guided by the concept "roads build people and cars," the knowledge and technologies gained

through motorsports support the development of "ever-better" cars. In endurance racing, TOYOTA RACING competes in top-level categories such as the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC), supporting vehicle and technology development under extreme conditions.

The penultimate round of the 2026 FIA WEC is the inaugural 6 Hours of Barcelona (18 October) at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya.

First-time champion awaits as Valkyries face Dream in finals

Atlanta sweeps Liberty

NEW YORK, Oct 10, (AP): If the Aces set the recent standard by winning three of the four past titles, the Valkyries are showing that not all the WNBA history making these days belongs only to Las Vegas.

Golden State last season became the first expansion franchise to make the playoffs, and now in its second year is the quickest to reach the WNBA Finals.

Kayla Thornton scored 18 points to lead the deep, defensive-minded Valkyries past the Aces 87-77 in overtime Friday night, sweeping the defending champions in three games.

The second-seeded Valkyries will have home-court advantage and will host No. 4 Atlanta beginning Oct. 17. The Dream swept New York earlier in the night, and now teams are 22-0 in playoff history when leading a series 2-0.

This was the first time a Becky Hammon-coached Aces team was swept in the playoffs. The last time Las Vegas went through that experience was in the 2020 Finals when the Bill Laimbeer-coached Aces were beaten in all three games by Seattle.

This series had quite an Aces flavor to it on the winning side, from former Las Vegas assistant and now Golden State coach Natalie Nakase to players Kiah Stokes and Tiffany Hayes. They each had 11 points, and Stokes also grabbed 10 rebounds.

"I actually tried to walk through the tunnel with my head down because there are so many people I consider family," Nakase said. "Obviously, Becky. She hired me. She's the one who invited me into the W. The years I spent with her, I knew I was going to learn a lot."

Her familiarity with the opposing side certainly didn't hurt.

Wilson, honored before night's game for winning an unprecedented fifth MVP, scored 21 points, but on 6-for-19 shooting for the Aces. She



Golden State Valkyries' Gabby Williams (1) and Veronica Burton (22) defend against Las Vegas Aces' A'ja Wilson (22) during the first half of Game 3 of the WNBA basketball semifinals Friday, Oct. 9, 2026, in Las Vegas. (AP)

also had 10 rebounds, joining DeWanna Bonner as the only players with 1,300 points and 600 rebounds in the postseason.

Dream 85, Liberty 83

In New York, Angel Reese was sitting at home watching the end of the WNBA Finals last season when she tweeted "manifesting the finals."

Exactly 364 days later, Reese is there after helping Atlanta reach the WNBA Finals for the first time since 2013 with a 22-point effort in the Dream's win over the New York Liberty on Friday night.

Now Reese is playing on the WNBA's biggest stage. The fourth-seeded Dream completed the three-game sweep of the Liberty and haven't lost in the postseason this year. They will face Golden State, which swept defending champion Las Vegas, in the WNBA Finals beginning Saturday,

Oct. 17.

Reese, who was the league's Defensive Player of the Year, came to Atlanta this offseason in a trade and proved to be a key reason the Dream advanced to the championship round. The Dream hadn't reached the semifinals since 2018 before this season. Now, they'll try to win the franchise's first championship with four more victories.

Atlanta led 83-81 with 17.7 seconds left after turning the ball over, giving New York one last chance. But, Breanna Stewart missed a contested layup with nine seconds left. DeWanna Bonner hit two free throws with 6.2 seconds left to seal the win.

Dream coach Karl Smesko was happy.

Atlanta won it without leading scorer Allisha Gray, who has been

sidelined with a finger injury sustained in Game 1. She missed Game 2 and warmed up before Friday night's game, but was ruled out about an hour before the tip. She was on the bench cheering for her teammates in a Howard jersey.

Howard got the Dream going early with 11 points in the first quarter. Reese had 10 in that period, including hitting two 3-pointers.

Things got chippy in the second quarter. After Isobel Borlase scored twice in a row, Sabrina Ionescu went to set a screen on her and was called for the offensive foul. She and Reese then started jawing with each other before being broken up by officials. A few minutes later, Jones blocked Reese's shot and the two bumped chests while talking trash. The referees stepped in and gave both a technical foul.

'Impact society'

US coach Hayes seeks to reshape women's soccer

LAFAYETTE, Ga., Oct 10, (AP): As much as U.S. coach Emma Hayes loves winning, she has even loftier ambitions for the national team - and women's soccer overall.

Hayes wants to fundamentally reframe the entire women's soccer ecosystem, which she laments is just the men's game applied to women. Instead, she suggests a holistic approach through a female lens, looking at how athletes are managed and trained across all levels of the sport.

"I want every little girl and woman, no matter what your practice is in our sport, to feel like this is more than just playing a game," Hayes said. "I actually think we can impact society in some way."

When Hayes first took over as coach of the national team shortly before the 2024 Olympics, there was little time to fully realize her vision. But early last year she spoke about the WNT Way, which is now taking shape in the run-up to both next year's Women's World Cup in Brazil, and the 2031 tournament, which is likely to be hosted by the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica and Jamaica.

Recently she hosted the "herLENS" conference for some 300 people from across the sport at U.S. Soccer's new headquarters in Georgia. Among the topics were keeping young girls in the game, the impact of menstruation and hormones on performance, and training practices designed for women.

Of course, there are still games to play. The U.S. faces a major test starting Saturday at Washington, D.C.'s Audi Field in the first of two games against defending Women's World Cup champion Spain. The second game is Tuesday in Chester, Pennsylvania. The matches are part of the team's preparation for World Cup qualifying later this year.

"My head's switched on to preparing for Spain and wanting to beat Spain, but this isn't about me. This is about the whole ecosystem around taking a mission, a vision, and bringing it to life," Hayes said.

The United States is uniquely positioned to reimagine the women's game as a leader on the world stage, U.S. Soccer President Cindy Parlow Cone



In this file photo, United States head coach Emma Hayes looks on during the first half of an international friendly women's soccer match in East Hartford, Conn. (AP)

said.

"I feel as president and as a coach and as a former player that we have a responsibility to grow this game, not only here domestically but internationally as well. And when I say grow it, I don't just mean more, right? More is only part of it," Parlow Cone said. "But how do we help everyone create a more developmentally appropriate, fun, engaging environment for the female player across the landscape, regardless of the level."

Hayes came to the national team after 12 successful seasons at Chelsea, where she started to look at how her players were impacted by their menstrual cycles. After she was named U.S. coach, she surveyed her players to gain insight into their needs.

"Having a coach care so much about the holistic person and player, I think, was something that we all were like, 'Oh, this is very new. This feels very different.' I think it's been incredibly important," former national team player Crystal Dunn said. "It's been really helpful for everyone to feel like it's a safe place to be vulnerable and speak about things that affect us all but you are always too afraid to speak about in the sense of like, you're not feeling too good, you're on your period. How do you voice that to a coach that hasn't once asked you about any symptoms you have or what your cycle is like?"

AFCON may return to 2-year format, says CAF president

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 10, (AP): The Confederation of African Football is reappraising its decision to hold the Africa Cup of Nations every four years, CAF president Patrice Motsepe declared when he added his organization did not take orders from FIFA or UEFA.

Motsepe, who last December announced the biennial Africa Cup would switch to a four-year cycle from 2028, said on Friday that it was "nonsense, absolute rubbish" that CAF was being dictated to by either the world or European governing body.

The decision at the time, bringing the competition to a schedule that aligned with FIFA's international calendar, rankled many at the Africa Cup in Morocco, with some saying it was made with European wishes at heart to the detriment of African interests.

Motsepe, a South African billionaire who is also a vice-president of FIFA, appeared stung by the criticism.

"My No. 1 job, my No. 1 duty is to protect, promote, and advance the interests of Africa," he said. "And there are times when I have to stand firm and say, 'Listen, we're going to fight on this issue.' And there are

times when I have to say, 'No.'

"The AFCON - because this is one of the issues we're talking about - we took a decision as Africa because there were lots of issues, but I can guarantee you we have discussed it over the last few days to say we are looking at everything, including having the AFCON coming back every two years," Motsepe said. "We're very clear."

He was speaking at the final day of CAF's three-day strategy conference in Cape Verde. On Thursday he reiterated the 54-member body's "unanimous" support for FIFA's under-fire president Gianni Infantino, and Infantino reminded his potential election voters of investments FIFA has made for African soccer since gaining the job 10 years ago.

Motsepe reaffirmed the next Africa Cup will go ahead as planned in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda next year, despite recent media reports from France saying construction projects were not going to schedule and some CAF members were pushing to have the tournament moved.

"You have to believe in Africa. There will be problems, there will be failures, fine, but we will be there. That's what Mandela taught us," Motsepe said.

Medvedev advances after disqualification

Andreeva reaches China Open final with 50th win

BEIJING, Oct 10, (AP): Mirra Andreeva earned her 50th match win of the season by beating Nikola Bartunkova 6-2, 6-2 to reach the final of the China Open on Saturday.

The French Open champion will face either Elise Mertens or home favorite Zheng Qinwen for the title on Sunday.

No. 5-ranked Andreeva is set to move up two spots in next week's rankings. The Russian player's 50 match wins puts her in a tie with Jessica Pegula for most on tour, according to the WTA.

The 19-year-old Andreeva had defeated Bartunkova, a 20-year-old Czech played ranked No. 34, in the third round of the U.S. Open in their only other meeting.

Meanwhile, Daniil Medvedev has won his first match since being disqualified at the China Open for hitting a spectator in the eye with a ball he hit into the stands.

Medvedev beat Jan-Lennard Struff



Mirra Andreeva, of Russia, returns a ball to Nikola Bartunkova, of the Czech Republic during the semifinals of the women's singles match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing. (AP)

4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in a second-round match at the Shanghai Masters, an ATP 1000 tennis event.

Medvedev, who now holds a 10-2

career edge over Struff, was disqualified during his semifinal loss Monday to Novak Djokovic for hitting the spectator with a ball the Russian

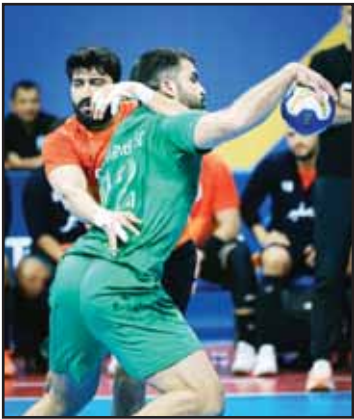
Salmiya scheduled to face Sulaibikhat

Kuwait Club faces easy test as Arabi, Kazma set for tough clash

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The Kuwait Handball League Premier Division continues today with two fixtures: Kuwait Club takes on Al-Nasr, and Arabi meets Kazma in the round's standout clash. Salmiya is also scheduled to face Sulaibikhat, while Qadsia is due to play Burgan, according to the league schedule. However, Qadsia and Salmiya are expected to remain absent after both clubs announced the dissolution of their senior handball teams and withdrew from the previous round. Another withdrawal would be the second for each club, and a third would remove them from the league standings under competition regulations.

The Premier Division resumed last Wednesday after being suspended in early March amid regional developments in the Gulf, with efforts now focused on completing the season and resuming domestic competition. Kuwait Club will aim to extend its winning run and collect another two points when it faces Al-Nasr. The



A file photo of photo of players fighting for the ball.

Whites are favorites, given their experience and stronger squad. They enter the match after a convincing win over Burgan, while Al-Nasr will look to bounce back from their defeat to Kazma and deliver a better performance.

The other fixture between Arabi and Kazma is expected to be closely contested, with both teams targeting a

top-three finish. Kazma heads into the encounter on the back of a win in the previous round, while Arabi will make its first appearance since the league resumed after missing the last round. Arabi, coached by national coach Hussein Habib, will be eager to make a strong start and prove it can challenge the leading teams. The coaching staff will also look to capitalize on several local signings made during the summer break to strengthen the squad.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club has turned its attention to the Gulf Club Championship, scheduled for November in Bahrain, and plans to hold an overseas training camp in Cairo as part of its preparations. Kuwait Club has bolstered its squad by signing Egyptian pivot Mahmoud Abdelaziz, a former Valladolid player. He will join Bahraini Mohammed Habib and Montenegrin Vladan Ljubova, while the club also plans to enlist Japanese player Yasuhiro of Burgan for the Gulf tournament. The reinforcements reflect Kuwait Club's ambition to compete strongly and challenge for the regional title. By Khaled Al-Enezi/Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

Pyramids take on Ceramica Cleopatra

Egyptian giants Zamalek and Al-Ahly renew rivalry in the Egyptian league

CAIRO, Oct 10: Zamalek and Al-Ahly face off at Cairo International Stadium tonight in the headline fixture of the sixth round of the Egyptian Premier League, with both sides eager to claim bragging rights and keep the pressure on leader Pyramids FC.

The league returns following the international break, with little separating the traditional rivals in the standings. Zamalek occupy second place with 13 points, ahead of third-placed Al-Ahly on goal difference, while Pyramids lead the table with 15 points after winning all five of their opening matches.

Victory would allow either side to strengthen its position in the standings and narrow the gap on Pyramids, who take on Ceramica Cleopatra.

Al-Ahly, under Moroccan coach Hussein Ammouta, held a closed training camp over the past two days to prepare for the derby and ensure the players are fully focused ahead of the high-stakes encounter.

Zamalek, meanwhile, will be determined to secure a win that would



In this file photo players challenge for the ball during a league match between Zamalek and Al-Ahly.

provide a significant boost to its title ambitions. Maintaining composure under pressure and converting scoring opportunities are expected to be crucial to their chances.

The clash has generated consider-

able anticipation among supporters, with the historic rivalry between Egypt's two most successful clubs adding to the significance of a result that could shape the early-season battle at the top of the table.

Verstappen does double with pole and sprint race win at Singapore Grand Prix



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands steers his car ahead of Ferrari driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain during the sprint race ahead of the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix in Singapore. (AP)

Antonelli widens lead over Russell

SINGAPORE, Oct 10, (AP): Max Verstappen is the driver to beat in Formula 1 once again, but Kimi Antonelli continues to march toward the title.

Verstappen won the sprint race and followed up with his 50th career pole position at the Singapore Grand Prix on Saturday, all at a circuit where he's often struggled in the past.

Besides Verstappen, the day's other big winner was Antonelli, who widened his lead over George Russell when his Mercedes teammate crashed out from the lead in the sprint. The Italian qualified fourth, setting him up for another solid score tomorrow, when Russell must serve a grid penalty.

An upgraded Red Bull car has been key to turning Verstappen's season around but it still has one big flaw.

Verstappen said Red Bull will need to work on its "horrendous" starts after he lost the sprint lead off the line, just as he did in Malaysia last week - when he still took his first win in 2026.

"We don't accelerate off the line," he said. "Up until now we always have terrible starts so we need to understand what's going on there."

In an action-packed race which also saw Lando Norris collide with his McLaren teammate

Oscar Piastri, Russell beat Verstappen off the line at the start in wet conditions but lost control when he put a wheel on a painted line at the end of the first lap, spinning across the track and into the barrier.

The British driver tapped his hands against the car in frustration as he climbed out.

"I'm fine. Sorry, sorry, sorry," he told Mercedes over the radio.

Verstappen eased to the win after that, with Ferrari duo Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc second and third.

Qualifying was a quieter affair but still an even fight between Verstappen and the Ferraris, with McLaren and Mercedes a little off the pace.

Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Isack Hadjar has been one of F1's better drivers since his return from injury last month but was a spectator Saturday, watching from the garage after a car problem early in the session.

In the final part of qualifying, Verstappen's first lap proved to be good enough as he held on to take pole by 0.054 of a second ahead of Leclerc, with Hamilton third and Antonelli fourth.

Russell qualified sixth but that means little because his penalty sends him to the back of the grid on a track where overtaking is notoriously difficult.

Antonelli was fourth, extending his lead over Russell from 84 points to 89, after he picked up two positions on the last lap when Norris and Piastri collided ahead of him.

Norris tried an ambitious overtake down the inside of his teammate but badly misjudged it and sent the Australian spinning into the barrier. McLaren chief executive Zak Brown shook his head in dismay on the pit wall.

Russell has a grid penalty for Sunday's Grand Prix, meaning the 20-year-old Antonelli could take another big step toward becoming F1's youngest-ever champion.

Russell wasn't the only driver to be caught out in the wet conditions. He was one of eight non-finishers after a spate of collisions and technical problems, with Hadjar stopped by car trouble.

Liam Lawson was fifth for Racing Bulls, with Haas' Oliver Bearman sixth and Nico Hulkenberg seventh for Audi. Norris recovered to claim a point in eighth in the last sprint of 2026.

The start was delayed because of heavy rain, making it the second week running that an F1 race has started late. Last week's Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia was first held up by a downpour, then because several cars' software failed to cope with the wet conditions.

The FIA issued a software update which was also being used in Singapore this week.

'I completely trust the club'

Maresca backs Man City after bombshell verdict

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 10, (AP): Manager Enzo Maresca defended Manchester City's ownership following the club being found guilty of financial wrongdoing in the biggest scandal in Premier League history.

Maresca said he had complete trust in City's hierarchy, and dismissed suggestions the club's unprecedented dominance of English soccer was tainted by the bombshell verdict that it artificially inflated its revenue by more than \$1 billion to help sign some of soccer's biggest stars.

"I completely trust the club in this moment, in the future, always," Maresca said in his first news conference since the findings of an independent panel were published last week.

City is accused of providing misleading information about its finances over a nine-year period from 2009-18 - a span in which it won three Premier Leagues and signed players like Yaya Toure, Sergio Agüero and Kevin de Bruyne.

Maresca was speaking ahead of City's league



In this file photo, Manchester City fans wave the team's flag prior to the League Cup soccer match final between Aston Villa and Manchester City, at Wembley stadium, in London, England. (AP)

match with Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday.

Unsurprisingly, the focus was on the verdict, which found the United Arab Emirates-backed team committed almost all of the 115-plus violations it was accused of during a period in which

City changed the landscape of the world's most popular soccer league.

City has always denied the charges and has lodged an appeal.

Asked if the verdict tarnished City's success over more than a decade of dominance, Maresca replied, "Absolutely not."

He was hired at the end of last season when Pep Guardiola stepped down after a trophy-laden 10-year tenure.

Maresca was Guardiola's assistant during the 2023 season when it won a treble of trophies: Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

Possible sanctions include a massive fine, points deduction or even expulsion from the league.

Asked if he still would have taken the job had the verdict come out before he became manager, Maresca replied, "100%."

Maresca's immediate job is to focus the players' minds ahead of the trip to Anfield.

Sulaibikhat faces tough test vs Beirut

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

BIERUT, Oct 10: Sulaibikhat faces a difficult challenge against Lebanon's Beirut Club at 9 pm today at Ghazir Arena as the 38th Arab Clubs Basketball Championship continues in Beirut, with both teams seeking a second-round victory in Group B. The tournament runs until October 20.

Today's other Group B fixtures see Qatar's Al-Arabi take on Syria's Homs Al-Fida, while Lebanon's Hops meet Yemen's Shaab Hadramout. In Group A, Qatar's Al-Rayyan faces Bahrain's Manama, Lebanon's Centralia meet Oman's Al-Seeb, and Syria's Ahli Aleppo takes on Lebanon's Al-Hikma.

Sulaibikhat made a winning start to their campaign, edging Shaab Hadramout 77-76 in a thrilling opener. Beirut also began with a victory, defeating Homs Al-Fida 89-70, while Al-Arabi cruised to an 89-61 win over Hops.

The opening victory has lifted Sulaibikhat's morale as it pursues a place in the quarter-finals. The competition is particularly significant for the Kuwaiti side, as it marks its first-ever appearance in an international tournament.

Under the competition rules, the top four teams in each group will advance to the quarter-finals. The knockout stage will follow a crossover format, with the Group A winners facing the fourth-placed team in Group B, while the Group A runner-up meets the third-placed team in Group B.



Sulaibikhat player goes for basket during the opening match.

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Chelsea's Maxence Lacroix, left, and Bournemouth's Marcus Tavernier battle for the ball during the English Premier League match between Chelsea and Bournemouth in London. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Club storms to top with rout of Al-Nasr

Arabi salvages draw against Kazma

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Kuwait Club surged to the top of the Zain Premier League with a resounding 7-1 victory over Al-Nasr in the opening match of the fourth round at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium.

The Whites took the lead in the 26th minute when Bahrain international Mohammed Marhoon headed home. Al-Nasr drew level in the 55th minute through an own goal by Kuwait Club defender Omar Gonzalez, but the league champion responded with a devastating second-half display, scoring six unanswered goals.

Ali Hussein restored Kuwait Club's lead three minutes later, before Yassine Khenissi struck twice in the 64th and 66th minutes. Ahmed Al-Dhafiri extended the advantage in the 74th minute, with Faisal Zayed adding another in the 84th. Omar Abdel Fattah completed the rout in the 89th minute.

The emphatic win lifted Kuwait Club to 10 points, while Al-Nasr remained on six after suffering its second successive defeat.

Elsewhere, Arabi salvaged a 1-1 draw against Kazma at Al-Sadaqa wa Al-Salam Stadium, with new signing Ali Al-Doukhi heading home the equalizer five minutes from time. Shabeeb Al-Khalidi had given Kazma the lead in the 20th minute.

The draw took Kazma to eight points, while Arabi moved to three.

The fourth round concludes today with two fixtures. Sahel takes on Fahaheel at Al-Shabab Stadium at 5:45 pm, followed by Sulaibikhat's clash with Jahra at Nayef Al-Dabbous Stadium at 8:05 pm.

Sahel, on four points, will be seeking its second victory of the season in the Tenth District derby, while Fahaheel, who has three points, will be equally eager to claim all three points.

Jahra also enters its match looking for a second win after beating Arabi 2-1. Sulaibikhat, with two points, will aim to secure its first victory and move away from the relegation danger zone.

Kuwait Club, Qadsia, Arabi and Kazma will now turn their attention to their respective continental and regional campaigns.

Qadsia will host Group C of the AFC Challenge League from October 17 to 23, welcoming India's Goa, Bangladesh's Fortis and Tajikistan's Regar-TadAZ.

Arabi will depart for Tajikistan on Tuesday to compete in Group B during



Kuwait Club players celebrate their resounding win over Al-Nasr.

the same period, alongside Syria's Homs Al-Fida, hosts Istiklol and Lebanon's Al-Najma.

Kazma travels to Dammam today ahead of Wednesday's Gulf Club Cham-

pions League encounter with Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club will host Bahrain's Khalidiya on Wednesday in their opening AFC Champions League Two fixture.

Blues out of title race

Kuwait suffers third straight loss at Arab Volleyball Championship



A Kuwaiti player spikes the ball against Oman.

By Khaled Al-Enzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

AMMAN, Jordan, Oct 10: Kuwait has been eliminated from contention for the title at the 24th Arab Men's Volleyball Championship in Amman, Jordan, after suffering its third consecutive defeat in the preliminary round.

The Blues lost 3-1 to Oman on Saturday, following earlier defeats by Bahrain and Algeria. Kuwait opened its campaign with a straight-sets loss to Bahrain before going down 3-1 to Algeria, leaving the team with little chance of challenging for the title.

Kuwait will face Saudi Arabia at 4 pm today at the Arena Hall in Amman in the fourth round of the preliminary stage. The team will seek to bounce back with a positive result and improve its stand-

ing in the competition despite having fallen out of the title race.

The participating teams will take a break on Monday, with preliminary-round action resuming on Tuesday and Wednesday. Kuwait will wrap up this stage against hosts Jordan at 6 pm on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti referee Hussein Al-Tamimi has been selected to officiate at the Asian Beach Volleyball Championship, scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar, from October 10 to 13.

His appointment marks the first time a Kuwaiti referee has officiated at an Asian beach volleyball championship, highlighting the growing presence of Kuwaiti refereeing talent at continental level and the confidence placed in local officials at international competitions.

Arsenal roars back to beat Leeds; Chelsea runs riot

LONDON, Oct 10, (AP): Riccardo Calafiori and Bruno Guimarães scored their first goals at Emirates Stadium as defending champion Arsenal recovered to beat Leeds 2-1 in the Premier League on Saturday.

It was the perfect way for Arsenal to celebrate coach Mikel Arteta signing a contract extension this week and bounce back from a hefty defeat at Brighton before the extended three-week break for internationals.

Arsenal moved level on points with Manchester City at the top of the table ahead of a tricky trip to Liverpool for City on Sunday. The game at Anfield is City's first since being found guilty of large-scale financial wrongdoing in the biggest scandal in Premier League history. City is appealing.

It was a first defeat for Leeds, which was hoping to leapfrog Arsenal into second - courtesy of a better goal difference - with a win.

The visitors frustrated Arsenal for large swathes of the match, defending well and looking dangerous on the counterattack.

Leeds scored in the 55th minute. Gabriel Gudmundsson rolled the ball across the area and it went past the flailing hand of a sprawling David Raya and through to James Justin, who blasted it into the roof of the net.



Arsenal's Riccardo Calafiori, right, challenges for the ball with Leeds' Jayden Bogle during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Leeds United in London. (AP)

That seemed to spark Arsenal into life and it equalized just seven minutes later as Ben White headed a cross back to Calafiori, who bundled in from close range.

The sixth Arsenal goal for Calafiori, who joined the club in 2024, was the defender's first at home.

Arteta made a triple change moments later, sending on Guimarães, Victor Gyokeres and Jurrien Timber and the comeback was complete in the 70th with a lovely team goal.

A free kick was taken quickly and it was flicked between several players before Declan Rice teed up Guimarães to drive into the bottom left corner from outside the area.

It was the Brazil midfielder's second goal for Arsenal - having scored against Sunderland last month - after joining from Newcastle in the off-season, and he celebrated by diving into the crowd.

Manchester United was playing Tottenham later.

Jordan Henderson became Chelsea's oldest English goal-scorer as the 36-year-old netted a brace in a 5-1 win over Bournemouth.

Henderson scored after just 66 seconds and turned provider almost immediately, setting up Morgan Rogers for a deflected shot that put Chelsea 2-0 up after just 149 seconds.

João Pedro added another in the opening minute of the second half and Evanilson grabbed one back for Bournemouth. Chelsea hadn't kept a clean sheet in the Premier League since Jan. 21.

João Pedro settled any nerves in Stamford Bridge with Chelsea's fourth before Henderson also doubled his tally with a superb free kick.

Brighton consolidated third place with a 2-0 win at Sunderland, despite playing most of the second half with 10 men after Pascal Struijk was shown a straight red card for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.

Maxim De Cuyper scored moments before Struijk's dismissal and Jaouen Hadjam sealed the match in stoppage time.

Fulham appeared set for its first win in the Premier League but two very late goals - from Abdoul Ouatara and Dara O'Shea - saw Ipswich snatch a 2-1 victory.

Brentford remained unbeaten after drawing at Aston Villa 2-2.

CR7 scores on Al-Nassr return after row

Portugal suspends Ronaldo and initiates disciplinary proceedings after walkout

LISBON, Portugal, Oct 10, (AP): The Portuguese Football Federation has suspended Cristiano Ronaldo for walking out on the team and initiated disciplinary proceedings.

The case has been referred to its disciplinary investigation committee and its findings will remain confidential until its conclusions are reached, the federation said in a statement Saturday.

The 41-year-old Ronaldo left the Portugal camp during the international window in a dispute with new coach Jorge Jesus over his lack of playing time in the Nations League.

In the three games Ronaldo was either an unused substitute or absent, Portugal won, and his replacement Gonçalo Ramos seized his chance by scoring three goals.

Ronaldo was involved only in Portugal's opening Nations League game, where he was replaced by Ramos in a 1-0 win over Wales. He left the squad after watching the second game from the substitutes' bench - a 2-1 win in Norway - and Portugal showed no ill effects from his departure with wins over Denmark and Norway to book a quarterfinal.

Ronaldo ended the international break with a long post to his 679 million followers on Instagram, where he asked the Portugal coach to ac-



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his goal against Diriyah.

knowledge a mistake in asking him to warm up on the sidelines in Oslo and then not send him on the field. Jesus did not acknowledge any mistake.

The star wrote that he expected a suspension under federation rules but promised his fans "we will have one or more farewell matches."

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 he was leaving, but it wasn't clear whether the decision would be considered justified in accordance with the regulations.

"I have already apologized, but I know that actions must have consequences," Ronaldo wrote in his statement. "Anyone in football as I am knows that, regardless of each person's status, the rules are the same for everyone."

Cristiano Ronaldo returned to club soccer action after a controversial international break with Portugal and scored the opening goal as Al-Nassr beat Diriyah 3-0 in the Saudi Pro League.

The victory put the defending champion level on points behind leader Al-Qadsiah on goal difference in the eighth round.

During the international window, the 41-year-old Ronaldo walked out of the Portugal squad, for which he has scored 146 goals in 234 appearances.

In a long statement posted on Tuesday, Ronaldo said recently hired coach Jorge Jesus hadn't been true to his word about when he would play the striker in the Nations League.