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TRUMP WEIGHS JOINING FIGHT AS SAUDI TOLL MOUNTS



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

This is an Arab-Iranian conflict, not a Houthi one

THE Yemeni armed forces' confrontation with Houthi militants is, in essence, a direct confrontation with Iran and a collective effort in Arab regional security.

This fundamental reality must be widely understood. Tehran's expanding network of influence across Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen threatens the stability of the entire Arab world, not just the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries or Saudi Arabia.

The Houthi movement, on its own, lacks significant autonomous military power.

Operating in a country that has endured years of blockade, the movement lacks the raw materials and industrial infrastructure required for domestic arms production and relies heavily on Iranian weapons imports.

It is important to recognize that the Iranian regime has supplied the Houthis with weapons through illicit smuggling routes.

These supply lines have enabled continued attacks against Saudi Arabia, a country that has consistently pursued diplomatic solutions to contain a faction that disregards humanitarian and Islamic principles and exploits local resources while millions endure poverty.

Legitimate government forces have recently made significant advances in Bab al-Mandab and other key areas, forcing Houthi militias to retreat.

These developments suggest that the conflict is moving toward a decisive outcome, although progress remains gradual to avoid harming innocent civilians.

A key factor often overlooked by analysts is the widespread opposition to Houthi rule among Yemenis and their desire for a return to legitimate state authority.

This creates a delicate and high-stakes balance. Military operations must seek to dismantle armed factions such as the Houthis and end Iranian interference in Yemen while simultaneously protecting civilians. A reactive approach alone cannot achieve both objectives.

Saudi Arabia takes these considerations into account. As a major regional power, Saudi Arabia possesses the military capability to launch operations against the militia. However, such operations would be far more straightforward if the fighting were confined to unpopulated areas.

Continued on Page 5

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12 dead, 300 hurt in Riyadh airport horror



People gather outside a metro station on the road to King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026. (AP)

By Bassam Al-Qassab

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud over the victims of the attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, which killed several people and injured others.

His Highness expressed heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy, praying for mercy and forgiveness for the victims, and a speedy recovery to the injured.

- Amir, Crown Prince, PM condole Saudi King
- Kuwait calls for global action against airport attacks
- Civilians of 8 nationalities among victims
- Former AL chief seeks emergency Arab summit
- Houthi threats raise fears of wider war
- Red Sea shipping, Gulf oil supplies face fresh risks

His Highness strongly condemned the heinous and cowardly attack, which targeted innocent civilians and violated all religious laws and human values.

He reaffirmed Kuwait's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for all measures it takes to safeguard its security and stability and protect its citizens and residents.

His Highness stressed that the security of Saudi Arabia is integral to the security of Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud over the victims of the attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh.

Continued on Page 5

Public Prosecution steps up anti-trafficking efforts

Kuwait holds Tier 2 as probes jump

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice and Vice Chairperson of the Permanent National Committee for Combat-

ing Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Awatif Al-Sanad said Kuwait maintained its Tier Two ranking for the second consecutive year in the US Department of State's 2026 report.

Al-Sanad told KUNA on Sunday that the report recorded increases

in investigations, prosecutions and convictions compared with the previous reporting period, alongside more identified victims referred to care services and increased financial allocations for their support.

Continued on Page 4

Kuwait gold shines again at KD 42.290

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11, (KUNA): Gold prices in Kuwait continue to reflect movements in international markets, with the price of 24-karat gold reaching approximately KD 42.290 per gram, equivalent to around \$137, while 22-karat gold stood at KD 38.760 per gram, or approximately \$125. The price of one kilogram of silver reached KD 671, equivalent to around \$2,177.

Continued on Page 4

KD 143m hospital meal tender awaits audit nod

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: The Ministry of Health confirmed an article titled "KD 143 Million for Hospital and Health Center Meals" published by the daily on Monday, October 5, by stating that it had submitted a tender worth KD 142.992 million for the preparation and delivery of meals to hospitals and health centers to the State Audit Bureau.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait sets KD 100 fee for lost passport replacement

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, has issued a new ministerial decree amending certain provisions of Ministerial Decree No. 20/1971, introducing new

fees and adjusting existing charges for services provided by the General Directorate of Nationality and Travel Documents, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Amiri Decree No. 163 of 2026 was issued on Sunday, appointing expert members to the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Board of Directors for a three-year term.

The named members are Sheikh Abdullah Jaber Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahimi Al-Sabah, Ridhab Mohammad Yousef Al-Roumi, Hala Adel Yousef Bouresli, and Farah Abdulazeez Saud Al-Abdulrazzaq. (KUNA)

MANAMA: The historic links between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states form the "bedrock" intra-bloc relations and cooperation. Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa said on Sunday.

Holding talks with the six-member bloc's secretary general Jassem Al-Budaiwi in the Bahraini capital. (KUNA)

Talks reset

Kuwait T2 eyes global expertise

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) Board of Directors rescheduled for Oct 14 the negotiation session with the two pre-qualified companies for the tender on the operation, management, improvement of training services, maintenance and development of the new passenger terminal at Kuwait International Airport (T2), as well as aircraft parking, corporate operational management, and centralized maintenance for the airport complex.

Continued on Page 5

8 KIB launches BuyNow, the first Buy Now, Pay Later service offered by a Kuwaiti bank



9 ABK launches Credit Analyst Development Program under its Corporate Academy



10 NBK named 'Middle East's Best FX Bank for Corporates' for 2026



11 People-to-people links pillar of Spain-Kuwait partnership

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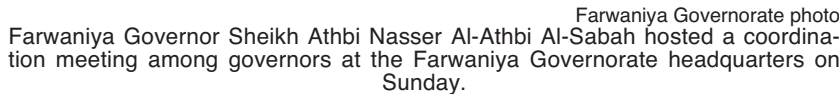
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His Highness the Crown Prince then received Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



They also talked about several topics of mutual interest, development of communication channels, and role integration regarding service and development files.

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

UK Embassy photos

British and Kuwaiti military senior officials meet to enhance defence and security relations

Discussions focused on the current regional

H.E. Qudsi Rasheed, British envoy

“The UK and Kuwait share a deep and enduring partnership, built on friendship, trust and

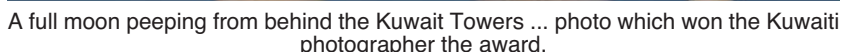
Vice Admiral Edward Ahlgren OBE

"It is a privilege to return to Kuwait to meet again with our Kuwaiti partners. Our discussions have reinforced the strength of the UK-Kuwait defence relationship and our shared commitment to regional security and stability. As the security environment continues to evolve, the UK remains committed to standing alongside Kuwait, sharing expertise, enhancing capabilities and identifying new opportunities to deepen our Government-to-Government defence partnership."

Approach

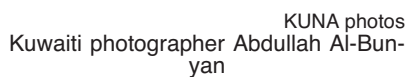
He pointed out that examining the experience of Saudi Arabia is an opportunity to benefit from its expertise in analyzing reports and coordinating with domestic entities and their international counterparts. He believes such an exchange can help strengthen technical capabilities and improve the understanding of financial trails associated with suspected corruption.

He expressed appreciation to Al-Muhanna for the warm reception, underscoring the importance of exchanging expertise in the use of modern technologies and strengthening institutional cooperation to uncover illicit financial flows and track the proceeds of corruption.



The global competition, held annually in the historic city of Siena as part of the Siena Photography Festival, drew approximately 500,000 entries from more than 150 countries across various artistic and documentary categories.

Al-Bunyan's victory underscores the growing global footprint and technical excellence of Kuwaiti visual artists partici-



pating in prestigious international forums. Winning works are awarded the crystal Pangea Prize, featured in exhibitions across Siena, and published in the annual photo book "Beyond the Lens".

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: A dispute involving three citizens at the Egaila traffic light, located on the road separating Al-Riqqa and Egaila, resulted in mutual complaints of assault, verbal abuse, and intentional property damage. Each party presented a different account of the incident to security authorities, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, a citizen filed a complaint at Al-Riqqa Police Station, alleging that he had been physically assaulted and that his vehicle had been struck. He accused another citizen and a Kuwaiti woman of being responsible for the incident.

The other two parties offered a different account, claiming that the complainant had initiated the confrontation and assaulted them, turning the incident into a case of mutual accusations among the three individuals. All parties submitted preliminary medical reports from Al-Adan Hospital to support their claims of injury.

The case has been registered as mutual assault, intentional property damage, and verbal abuse and referred to the competent authorities for further investigation, clarification of the circumstances, and determination of liability.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Russia-Kiev war expands, pivotal shift in equation

“RECENT days have witnessed a pivotal shift in the trajectory of the Russia-Ukraine war following a large-scale offensive launched by Kyiv, reportedly involving approximately 1,600 drones and ballistic missiles, against several Russian cities, with Moscow bearing the brunt of the assault,” Kuwaiti writer **Faisal Al-Harbi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The attack marks a significant escalation, potentially pushing the war into a new phase of direct confrontation with broader geopolitical repercussions. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has described the offensive as a “reaction” to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s decision to prolong the war and the resulting human and financial costs borne by Ukraine. However, an objective analysis of the situation suggests that the attack was planned with clear European backing and support. The aim was to exert military and political pressure on the Kremlin, compelling Moscow to return to the negotiating table and bring the war to an end on Western terms.



Faisal Al-Harbi

“Contrary to the outcomes envisioned by Western and Ukrainian planners, however, the attack instead served as a powerful practical demonstration of the capabilities of Russian air defense systems. Moscow’s reported interception of approximately 1,600 aerial targets, comprising both drones and ballistic missiles, within a 24-hour period represents a significant military precedent. No other nation has previously managed to simultaneously counter such a massive volume of saturation air attacks, a feat that reinforces the effectiveness of Russia’s air defense systems in protecting its strategic depth.

“From a strategic perspective regarding the balance of power, Moscow possesses extensive military capabilities, including nuclear weapons, to decisively tilt the war in its favor. However, its continued reliance on a protracted conflict instead reflects a strategic objective of drawing European nations deeper into the confrontation. Such an approach could provide Putin with an opportunity to reshape the regional balance of influence, revive aspects of the former Soviet Union’s historical sphere of influence, and expand Russia’s reach across the region.

“Statements by Russian officials and expert assessments indicate that the recent attacks targeting oil facilities and civilian areas will not go unanswered. In this context, the United States, the United Kingdom, and several European nations are on high alert, anticipating a major Russian offensive in retaliation for the West’s extensive support for Kyiv. Kyiv’s recent offensive has demonstrated that attempts to corner Russia through military escalation have backfired. These efforts have not only highlighted the capabilities of Ukrainian air defense systems but also created the conditions for retaliatory scenarios extending beyond Ukrainian territory, potentially placing European and regional stability at heightened risk.”

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Also:

“Assala Nasri is regarded as one of the most prominent Syrian artists, having earned a distinguished place across the Arab world through her talent and captivating voice,” Kuwaiti writer **Imad Khamis Al-Aqab** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Yet what truly sets her apart is not merely her artistic talent, but also the humanitarian and patriotic positions she took during her country’s crisis. In this context, the recent tribute ceremony held in her honor recognized her efforts and the patriotic stances through which she affirmed her support for her people during difficult times. Syria went through painful events in recent years that have deeply affected its people. Amid these circumstances, Assala emerged as a voice of support for her fellow Syrians, never hesitating to use her popularity and artistic influence to draw attention to their suffering and advocate for their causes.

“Despite the pressures she faced because of her positions, she remained steadfast in her principles, asserting that art cannot be separated from a deeper humanitarian and patriotic message. Assala’s position on the Syrian crisis demonstrates the power of art and artists to influence society while underscoring the importance of artists standing by their people and their causes. Unlike those who chose neutrality, Assala chose to stand with her people, earning the respect and appreciation of a wide audience both inside and outside Syria. This stance was not merely an expression of national belonging, but also a call for other artists to embrace their social and humanitarian responsibilities.

“The tribute ceremony was not simply a recognition of her artistic talent, but also an acknowledgment of her humanitarian and patriotic convictions. This demonstrates that art can serve as a means of honoring individ-

uals not only for their artistic achievements, but also for the ethical and humanitarian positions they uphold. The ceremony reflects society’s recognition of the importance of supporting artists who dedicate their efforts to humanitarian and national causes.

“Notably, Assala’s stance is remarkable not only for the courage she has shown in expressing her views, but also for the positive impact she has had on her audience. She has inspired many of her fans to support humanitarian causes and participate in efforts to assist those affected by the crisis. Her actions underscore the potential of art to serve as a positive force for social change and demonstrate how artists can play a vital role in building bridges between people. This honor highlights the significance of art as a vehicle for addressing humanitarian and national issues, while reaffirming the role of artists as role models and sources of inspiration for society.

“As the Arab world continues to face major challenges, Assala’s stance remains an example of commitment to the principles of justice and humanity, demonstrating that taking a principled stand can be more meaningful than opportunism or abandoning one’s people. Congratulations to the “Sham of Arabism” on the return of its children, and on its own return to the embrace of the Arab world and its Arab identity.”

□ □ □

“In an era when social media has become an open space for discussing virtually everything, the issue is no longer whether we speak, but how we speak, what we say, and before whom we say it,” Kuwaiti writer **Fatima Nasser Al-Muzayel** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“In recent times, we have witnessed increasing boldness among some female personalities, with their discourse going beyond mere frankness to crossing the boundaries of modesty and delving into sensitive subjects that should only be discussed within the narrowest of circles. This is not about preventing women from expressing themselves; they have every right to be present, informed, and to hold their own opinions and perspectives. However, the value of such awareness is not demonstrated through words that compromise modesty.

“Modesty is a principle, a position, and a language - not something to embrace only when convenient or discard when the goal is simply to seek the spotlight and attract attention. It is deeply regrettable to see some women broach private matters - subjects that should never be discussed publicly or in the presence of men - as though modesty had become a secondary concern. How shameful it is for a woman to squander her own privacy, turning what should be guarded and kept concealed into a subject of public conversation.

“There is a clear distinction between raising awareness and exposing private matters, and between discussing a social issue and turning sensitive details into a spectacle for public consumption.



Al-Muzayel

Ironically, some justify this boldness as “frankness” or “breaking taboos,” as though frankness required abandoning good taste, and as though progress were incomplete unless every subject were open to public debate. The distinction is clear - while some may view the courage to raise sensitive and private issues, particularly topics unsuitable for a general audience, as an act of boldness, the manner in which those issues are expressed is an entirely different matter. Such boldness is unbecoming of a woman; indeed, it diminishes her image and standing.

“A discerning woman chooses her words carefully, selecting topics and language that preserve her respect and dignity. She does not turn social media platforms into spaces where she compromises her propriety or modesty. A woman’s strength is not measured by the extent of her audacity or by her willingness to use language that crosses the bounds of decency, including broaching embarrassing, objectionable, or shameful topics that fall beneath her dignity. Rather, true strength lies in knowing when to speak, when to be concise, and when to draw the line.

“As we open these platforms wide, we must remember that behind the screens are generations still learning, young women who may imitate what they see, and a society whose tastes and standards are shaped by what we repeatedly place before it. What we view today as “just a word” could become commonplace language tomorrow. Not all fame equates to success. Some words may garner views while eroding one’s prestige, and certain forms of boldness may boost numbers while diminishing an individual’s worth. These platforms remain a reflection of those who use them. While it is wonderful to have a voice that is heard, it is even better to have a presence that commands respect.”

– Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

GTD impounds 104 cars in 24-hr campaigns

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Officers from the General Traffic Department in the Ministry of Interior impounded 104 vehicles whose drivers committed traffic violations in the traffic campaigns they conducted in different parts of the country within 24 hours.

A security source stated that these cam-

paigns are part of the ongoing efforts of the department to uncover violations and take action against those proven to have committed violation. He urged motorists to strictly comply with the traffic regulations to avoid penalties.

In another development, traffic police referred seven young men to the traffic detention center for committing various violations like reckless driving and riding all-terrain

vehicles (ATVs) on public roads, while their vehicles and bikes were impounded.

According to a security source, the traffic officers apprehended these young men during the series of traffic campaigns carried out in all governorates in the last 24 hours.

The source reaffirmed that these campaigns are continuing throughout the country to instill road discipline and ensure the safety of everyone.

House help found peddling drugs door-to-door in sponsor’s vehicle

Asian petrol pump worker provides fake ‘exit permits’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: The Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Department of Criminal Investigation, apprehended suspects in two separate cases involving drug trafficking and unlicensed activities, including the possession of state-subsidized rationed goods, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrests form part of ongoing security efforts to combat crime and apprehend law-breakers.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the Farwaniya Criminal Investigation Department, through the Sabah Al-Nasser Investigation Office, arrested a Sri Lankan national in the first case.

The suspect, a former domestic worker, was apprehended following reports that he was selling narcotics in Ardiya.

Investigations and a review of surveillance footage revealed that the suspect had been dis-

tributing and selling narcotics while driving his employer’s family, exploiting the nature of his job to avoid suspicion.

He was arrested in possession of bags containing shabu (crystal methamphetamine).

Based on information provided by the suspect and in coordination with the homeowner, authorities discovered additional quantities of the drug in his room at the residence where he worked.

The operation resulted in the seizure of 469.1 grams of shabu packaged in sachets of various sizes, 0.7 grams of marijuana, a precision scale, KD 285,950 in cash, and money transfer receipts totaling KD 6,573.

The suspect confessed to possessing the seized substances for trafficking and sale in collaboration with an individual abroad. Investigations also confirmed that money had been transferred to individuals in Sri Lanka.

In the second case, the Ahmadi Investigation Department arrested a Bangladeshi national employed at a gas station.

Investigations confirmed reports of his in-

volvement in unauthorized activities, and he was caught exchanging currency for travelers without a license.

According to the ministry, a search of the suspect’s residence uncovered state-subsidized rationed goods.

It was also discovered that he had been selling cigarettes and printing documents for travelers entering and leaving the country without the required permits from the competent authorities.

Items seized in the second case included KD 1,067, 5,021 Saudi riyals, 10 Qatari riyals, and 8 Bahraini dinars.

The ministry confirmed that the suspects and the seized items had been referred to the competent authorities for the necessary legal action.

The ministry urged families and employers to monitor their domestic workers and ensure that neither their workplaces nor residences are used for prohibited or criminal activities.

It also called on the public to report any suspicious behavior to the relevant authorities.

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MoCI traces 47 violations in Ahmadi industrial area raid

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), through its emergency team covering Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates, launched an inspection campaign in Ahmadi Industrial in coordination with the Ahmadi Security Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to an official statement issued by the ministry, the campaign resulted in the issuance of 47 citations for various violations, including commercial fraud, failure to display warranty schedules for new and refurbished spare parts, conducting vehicle repairs without authorization from the Ministry of Interior, and charging prices that differed from advertised amounts.

The ministry confirmed that the necessary legal action had been initiated against the violators.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that it had issued 19 citations for various commercial violations during an inspection campaign conducted by the Ahmadi Governorate team at several commercial outlets in the Khairan Maritime area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that the viola-

tions included the seizure of counterfeit goods, offering discounts or promotional deals without prior authorization, and failing to clearly display prices on goods offered to consumers. The violations also involved non-compliance with regulations governing the sale and distribution of energy drinks.

The ministry affirmed that necessary legal action would be taken against the violators.

□ □ □

Worker electrocuted: An Egyptian worker in his twenties died after suffering an electric shock while working at a building under construction in Salmiya, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the Ministry of Interior’s Operations Room received a report from an Egyptian worker stating that his brother had suffered an electric shock while working at the construction site.

Security personnel and ambulance teams immediately rushed to the scene. Upon arrival, they learned that the victim’s brother had taken him to a clinic opposite the building, but the worker succumbed to his injuries.



KFF photo

The rescue operation in progress.

KFF rescues 2 persons trapped in building lift

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Firefighting teams rescued two individuals who were trapped in a building maintenance lift on Saturday afternoon, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

One of the two individuals had sustained injuries and was handed over to Emergency Medical Services staff.

Step toward protecting family home, stability

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Lawyer Mubarak Ali Al-Nuwaibet welcomed the Cabinet’s approval of a draft decree-law amending Article 830 of the Civil Code, describing the amendment as an important step toward protecting the family home and promoting residential stability, particularly when a jointly owned property serves as the family’s sole residence, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Lawyer Al-Nuwaibet noted that the amendment addresses the social and humanitarian challenges arising from the division and public auction of family properties.

He also praised Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Yousef Al-Sumait for supporting legal solutions that prioritize family interests while safeguarding the rights of co-owners.

Lawyer Al-Nuwaibet explained that he had previously submitted a proposal to the Minister of Justice on May 27, 2025, concerning the “heirs’ home.” The proposal aims to protect the family residence from being sold at auction while ensuring that any co-owner seeking partition receives their share at a fair value determined by a court-appointed expert. It sought to establish a legal solution that preserves the family home while ensuring fairness among co-owners, welcoming the new legislative approach to addressing the issue.

Lawyer Al-Nuwaibet said the proposed amendment strikes a balance between a co-owner’s right to their share and the family’s right to retain its home. It empowers the court to consider family, social, and financial circumstances while allowing other co-owners to purchase the share of the co-owner seeking partition at fair market value.

He emphasized that protecting the family home does not infringe on the rights of any co-owner. Instead, the amendment establishes a legal framework that safeguards everyone’s rights and prevents families from losing their only residence through a public auction.

Lawyer Al-Nuwaibet praised the Minister of Justice for addressing the issue, emphasizing the need to update legislation to resolve practical challenges faced by the courts and strengthen public confidence in the judicial system.

He expressed hope that the legislative process would be completed and the amendment enacted in a manner that safeguards family stability and protects co-owners’ rights.

Copper cables thieves held

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh detectives have arrested two Asian expatriates accused of stealing copper cables from homes in the area, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the suspects targeted homes while residents were away. They collected the stolen cables and later sold them at scrap markets.

Both suspects have been referred to the competent authorities for the necessary legal action.



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KUNA photo
Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan with the maintenance engineers.

Al-Mashaan tours Al-Naeem, ensures road repair on track

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan confirmed recently that field inspections of road maintenance projects are continuing in all governorates to monitor progress and ensure that work is completed according to approved specifications and established schedules, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Her statement followed an inspection of ongoing road maintenance work in the Al-Naeem area of Jahra Governorate.

The visit was part of a series of field tours that recently included asphalt paving operations in Funaites, Mubarak Al-

Kabeer Governorate, where the minister reviewed progress and the various stages of execution.

Dr. Al-Mashaan stressed that the maintenance work in Al-Naeem falls within the ministry's nationwide road maintenance plan, which aims to improve the efficiency of the road network and enhance safety for road users.

She affirmed that engineering teams would continue monitoring work on-site at all locations until completion, stating, "Field monitoring is ongoing in all governorates, and quality of execution and adherence to schedules are non-negotiable standards."

Al-Saqabi named CSC Undersecretary

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Decree No. 161/2026 on the appointment of Salah Khaled Mohammed Al-Saqabi as Undersecretary of the Civil Service Commission, with the rank of a ministry undersecretary, has been published in official gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm", reports Al-

Seyassah daily.

The decree assigns responsibility for its implementation to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs.

It takes effect from the date of issuance and publication in the official gazette.

MoE recognizes ‘unacceptable’ disparity in teacher allocation

We have inherited imbalance in appointments: Al-Hamad

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Hamad Al-Hamad, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education, acknowledged an “unacceptable disparity” in teacher distribution across different programs.

He cited the example of a school in Ahmadi that employed 66 female Islamic Studies teachers, while the Religious Institute had only 12 Interior Design teachers.

Speaking in a televised interview, Al-Hamad said, “We have inherited an imbalance in staffing distribution from previous administrations.

A committee had been established to tackle the issue and had identified significant discrepancies in staffing levels. In kindergartens, for example, the number of technical supervisors varied considerably, with some schools having none and others having as many as 12.”

He noted that the previous manual transfer sys-



Hamad Al-Hamad

tem had contributed to these staffing imbalances.

Al-Hamad also cited cases in which three department heads for the same subject had been assigned to a single school. Two were subsequently reassigned to address the imbalance and ensure a fairer distribution of supervisory roles.

He said, “The ministry has established a specialized committee to redistribute teachers fairly among schools, ensuring a balanced allocation across various specializations.”

Al-Hamad emphasized that teacher redistribution was carried out through an automated system based on an assessment of the actual staffing needs for each specialization at every school. He added that the transfer of supervisory staff was intended to address existing disparities and achieve a more balanced distribution across schools.

He explained that the ministry had suspended certain specializations at Kuwait University and asked colleges of education to halt admissions to majors experiencing significant staffing surpluses.

Teacher transfers, prioritizing those most recently appointed, were based on principles of fairness and transparency. The decisions also took into account the size of the surplus at each school and its geographical location.

A grievance process had been opened to accommodate humanitarian and special cases, with appeals scheduled for review.

Regarding the committee responsible for reviewing cases individually, Al-Hamad revealed

that the large number of teachers affected by the transfer decisions reflected staffing shortages at certain schools.

In a related development, Al-Hamad noted that teacher and student records are being linked to determine the actual staffing requirements for each subject based on the number of teachers needed in each specialization.

He stressed that the ministry maintains a reserve ratio of 7 percent for male teachers and 20 percent for female teachers.

Al-Hamad denied that any teacher had been transferred to a kindergarten and urged the public to verify information for accuracy.

He emphasized that the ministry applies governance in accordance with its organizational structure and that transfers of supervisory staff were based on the criterion of the most recently promoted employees.

Al-Hamad confirmed that the minister had directed officials to consider humanitarian and exceptional circumstances, including long commuting distances, noting that the online grievance platform enables teachers to easily appeal transfer decisions.

Addressing teachers and parents, he said, “Teacher transfers typically continue until October 1 each year. We reassure parents that a teacher will be provided for every subject. Our message to teachers is that our goal is to stabilize the school environment, and reform is a long journey that requires patience.”

Consulate to boost touch with Egyptian community

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: The Egyptian Consulate in Kuwait unveiled its plan to hold a series of regular face-to-face meetings with members of the Egyptian community in Kuwait soon.

In an official statement, the consulate explained that this initiative intends to enhance communication with Egyptians living in the country and it shall serve as a platform for the participation of the representatives of various segments of the community.

The consulate urged those interested in attending such meetings to register through the designated application, which can be accessed by scanning the QR code provided in the announcement. It indicated that the selected participants will be contacted ahead of each meeting. It emphasized that attendance is limited to a certain number of participants per meeting due to capacity constraints and in order to guarantee adequate representation of each segment of the community.

It disclosed that the first meeting is scheduled for mid-October, affirming that future meetings

will include representatives of different sectors of the Egyptian community in Kuwait. It expressed its pride in the community and appreciation for the members, while reaffirming its commitment to maintain continuous communication with them.

It added that the series of meetings are part of efforts to develop communication channels between the consular and Egyptians in Kuwait, thereby, allowing the consulate to gather their opinions and suggestions, understand their needs and aspirations, and strengthen institutional ties with the community.

Exams for supervisory jobs in cooperatives commence

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: The examinations for those who applied for supervisory positions in cooperative societies started Saturday, under the supervision of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Anthal Al-Huwailah.

The examinations were divided into three sessions to guarantee a structured process for the applicants, in line with the commitment of the ministry to maintain procedural integrity, transparency and equal opportunities for all candidates.

Al-Huwailah extended her best wishes for all applicants, voicing optimism that national talents will play a vital role in developing the cooperative sector and to better serve the shareholders and residents in the areas where the cooperatives operate.

The examinations were conducted under strict organizational rules, including audio and visual monitoring, to ensure the integrity and fairness of the process.

All examination questions were drawn from the officially approved study guide provided to the candidates, ensuring that participants are assessed based on the designated study materials.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait holds

She commended the efforts of relevant national authorities, affirming Kuwait's continued commitment to combating human trafficking and protecting its victims, while stressing that the country would continue strengthening national efforts and improving measures to address the crime.

She added that the National Committee would continue cooperating with relevant authorities to develop procedures, enhance implementation efficiency and benefit from the report's observations to safeguard human rights and strengthen Kuwait's compliance with its international obligations.

The Public Prosecution said Kuwait's Tier 2 classification reflected increased state efforts, particularly in prosecution. It initiated criminal proceedings against 64 individuals accused of human trafficking offenses under Law No. 91 of 2013 on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, while also pursuing related offenses including money laundering and the forgery of official and banking documents.

The number of human trafficking cases under investigation increased from 3 to 11 during the reporting period, while two defendants were convicted of human trafficking offenses.

During the reporting period, the Public Prosecutor established a specialized unit to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The unit was tasked with overseeing the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism, standardizing procedures for identifying and protecting victims, and improving investigative methods. Its responsibilities also include creating a comprehensive database on these crimes and providing technical guidance to Public Prosecution staff and law enforcement agencies.

The Public Prosecution revealed that its members received training on the proper legal classification of human trafficking cases and that a service for reporting such crimes had been made available through its website.

It commended the efforts of the Permanent National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling, along with the entities represented on the committee.

The Public Prosecution reaffirmed its commitment to prosecuting perpetrators, enforcing the law, and protecting victims.

Kuwait gold

Globally, gold ended last week's trading at \$4,195 per ounce, recording weekly gains after a wave of declines had pushed prices close to \$4,000 per ounce. The recovery came as markets awaited US inflation data and assessed the outlook for interest rates.

According to a report issued by Kuwait-based Dar Al-Sabaek Company on Sunday, the recovery was supported by bargain hunting following the price decline, improved investment demand, lower US Treasury yields during some trading sessions, and a relative weakening of the US dollar.

Gold experienced volatile trading throughout the week, initially coming under selling pressure due to rising US yields and renewed concerns about the continuation of tight monetary policy before recovering toward the end of the week.

On Friday, the precious metal rose by more than 1.40 percent after reaching an intraday low of around \$4,130 per ounce. It subsequently approached \$4,207 before closing at approximately \$4,195.

The rebound reflected renewed buying at lower price levels. However, gold's inability to maintain gains above \$4,200 per ounce leaves open the possibility of further volatility in the coming period.

Gold's recovery coincided with weaker US consumer confidence. The University of Michigan's Consumer Sentiment Index fell to 46.3 points in October, down from 48.1 points in the previous reading and below market expectations of 47.6 points.

The decline reflected growing pessimism among US households about economic conditions, potentially affecting consumer spending in the coming period. The data also strengthened demand for gold as investors assessed the possibility of a slowdown in the US economy and its implications for Federal Reserve policy.

The US interest rate outlook remains one of the main factors determining gold's direction in the coming period. Market pricing indicated an approximately 81 percent probability that interest rates would remain unchanged at the Federal Reserve's October meeting, with rates expected to stay within a range of 3.75 to 4 percent.

Meanwhile, markets continued to price in an approximately 81 percent probability of a 25-basis-point rate increase in December, according to data cited in trading at the end of last week.



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Continued from Page 1

This is an

In 2018, forces supporting the legitimate government, alongside the Arab Coalition, advanced to the perimeter of Sana'a, pushing the "Ansar Allah" movement to the edge of defeat.

The offensive near Sana'a was strategically halted to redirect efforts toward the west coast, safeguard vital shipping lanes through the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and protect the coastal region, including Hodeidah and its strategically important port.

Protecting civilian lives was - and remains - the top priority for both the legitimate government and the Coalition.

Although political and military circumstances have changed considerably, we are currently navigating a comparable situation.

This shift is particularly evident as attacks have breached every boundary, directly targeting sacred sites and densely populated civilian areas.

These escalations underscore an undeniable truth - Tehran has failed to gain any leverage in its standoff with Washington. A decisive collapse of the Iranian regime and its regional network is now unavoidable.

This trajectory is driven by the depletion of Iran's internal resources, the systematic dismantling of Hezbollah in Lebanon, Syria's emancipation from the oppressive rule of the mullahs, and the Iraqi public's growing awareness of the destruction caused by Tehran's deep-rooted hostility.

As a result, the campaign led by the legitimate government's armed forces in Yemen will serve as the decisive blow to permanently dismantle Iranian dominance across the region.

Kuwait T2

This is in response to the request of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) to reschedule the negotiation.

The tender process is part of the preparations of PACA to receive the new airport project from the Ministry of Public Works, which is currently implementing the project that is now in its final stages.

PACA shall be responsible for the airport management and operations, hence, the need for the involvement of a global expert in airport management and operations.

T2 is one of the largest air transport projects in the region, with a capacity of 25 million passengers annually and the ability to service 51 aircraft. Its facilities include a transit hotel connected to the new passenger terminal, a VIP reception hall, first class and business class lounges, a central utility plant, and a water reservoir building.

The project aims to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold certification.

KD 143m hospital

The bureau acknowledged receipt of the tender on Wednesday and that it will proceed with its pre-audit procedures and review the submission. Approval will be granted unless concerns arise that require a response from the ministry.

The ministry also submitted a request to the bureau to extend four existing contracts for meal preparation and delivery.

In a related development, the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) voted to award the tender for preparing and providing meals to hospitals and health centers to four companies - the first for KD 36.974 million, the second KD 36.667 million, the third KD 32.354 million, and the fourth KD 36.997 million.

The ministry has also obtained CAPT's approval to extend the existing meal service contracts for its hospitals and health centers by an additional six months while the new tender is under review by the State Audit Bureau.

Kuwait sets

According to Decree No. 1769/2026, published in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm", Item 3 of Article 2 of Ministerial Decree No. 20/1971 has been amended.

Under the revised provision, the fee for obtaining a replacement for a lost Kuwaiti passport has been set at KD 100.

The decree directs the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior to implement the decision, which takes effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

12 dead,

His Highness expressed his heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy, praying for mercy and forgiveness for the victims, and a speedy recovery to the injured.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent Sunday a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud over the victims of the attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, expressing his heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy.

Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed strong condemnation of the brutal attack by the Houthis militia against King Khalid International Airport in the Saudi capital city of Riyadh.

Yesterday's cowardly attack left several casualties among innocent civilians, including passengers and airport staffers from Saudi and other

nationalities, besides suspending the airport operation temporarily, the ministry noted in a statement on Sunday.

The despicable attack represents a flagrant violation of international law and international humanitarian law and falls in the framework of systematic hostilities targeting civilian property and vital facilities.

It signals a serious escalation and direct threat to the safety of air traffic and civilians which requires bringing the perpetrators to book, the statement stressed.

The Ministry reaffirmed Kuwait's full solidarity with, and firm support to, the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in whatever measures it might take to protect it security and stability and the safety of citizens and residents on its territories.

The security of the Kingdom is an integral part of that of the State of Kuwait and other member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, it underscored.

On behalf of Kuwait, the Ministry expressed sincere condolences to the Saudi leaders, government and people, as well as the families of victims of other nationalities, wishing the wounded a quick recovery.

It urged the international community to shoulder their responsibilities and adopt a robust stance to protect the civilian property and civil aviation facilities against recurrence of such attacks and bring their perpetrators to justice.

Kuwait Airways cancels flights

Meanwhile, Kuwait Airways announced Sunday the cancellation of flights KU775 from Kuwait to Riyadh and KU776 from Riyadh to Kuwait following the temporary suspension of operations at King Khalid International Airport by Saudi authorities.

In a statement, the airline urged passengers to monitor flight updates, saying notifications and text messages would be sent to the phone numbers registered in their bookings. Updates are also available through the airline's official channels.

The airline reaffirmed that passenger and crew safety remains its top priority, adding that it is monitoring developments in coordination with the relevant authorities. It thanked passengers for their understanding and cooperation.

Fresh Houthi attack

In latest developments, the Saudi-led coalition fighting Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen said a projectile struck a passenger terminal at the international airport in Riyadh on Sunday, less than a day after a missile struck it and killed 12 people.

There were no immediate details about the latest strike, which hit the same complex housing terminals 3 and 4 for domestic flights.

The sharp escalation in the new

front in the Iran war threatens to draw in greater U.S. military involvement as President Donald Trump has said he is weighing joining the fight against the rebels.

The strike came shortly after the Houthis said the airport under their control in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa had been struck again. They blamed the Saudis but provided no details.

Saturday's missile attack on the Riyadh international airport was the deadliest in a Gulf Arab nation since the Iran war began. Over 300 people were wounded, some of them critically.

The strike on Sunday occurred as King Khalid International Airport remained closed and authorities moved schools in the capital online.

At stake, again, are global supplies and prices of oil as well as commercial shipping through a crucial alternative waterway to the Iran-threatened Strait of Hormuz - along with civilians and aviation throughout the region.

Trump weighs intervention

Trump on Saturday said he was considering whether to join Saudi strikes against the rebels. He later said he planned to speak with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

U.S. intervention could prompt the Houthis to halt shipping through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern end of the Red Sea off Yemen and further restrict the flow of oil out of the Arabian Gulf.

Saudi Arabia is running low on missile interceptors and has asked France, Britain, Pakistan and Egypt to deploy air defense support to the region, regional officials told The Associated Press last month, with one noting that the U.S. has seen its own stock dwindle during the war with Iran.

As the Riyadh airport remained closed until at least 9 p.m. Sunday, according to Flightradar24, fighting continued in Yemen.

Earlier Sunday, the Houthi-run health ministry said a child was killed and six people wounded in a suspected Saudi airstrike on a house in Sanaa. The ministry also said 91 Yemenis have been killed by the Saudi-led coalition in five weeks, 60% of them women and children.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi authorities on the claims.

And there remained no claim of responsibility for the Saturday attack on Riyadh airport, though the Houthis at times have kept silent when an attack brought widespread international condemnation.

But the rebels have acknowledged targeting Saudi airports and oil installations in recent days, and on Sunday they again warned "all airlines, experts, employees, workers and travelers against using Saudi airports and airspace, as they are vulnerable to attack and have become a theater of op-

erations for our forces."

Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, the group's military spokesperson, wrote on X that airports in the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah were exempt.

The missile on Saturday struck an airport complex housing terminals 3 and 4 for domestic flights, a regional official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the media.

A Saudi statement said the dead included four Saudi citizens, two Bangladeshi nationals, a Palestinian, a U.S. citizen, an Egyptian, a Jordanian, a Syrian and a Sudanese.

The Egyptian woman was a flight attendant identified as Azza Ramzy, who worked for Saudi airline Flynas, according to Egyptian state-run TV.

The Syrian woman was a widowed mother of four who had been living in Saudi Arabia for five years, a relative told The Associated Press. The Syrian Embassy identified her as Buthaina Ahmad Oweida. Her niece, Nisreen Oweida, said she had left during Syria's civil war. She was living in Makkah and had been returning from a visit to her sister in Riyadh when she was killed.

Bahrain and the UAE on Sunday offered condolences to Saudi Arabia and seven other countries over the deaths of their citizens in the Houthi attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, which killed 12 people and injured more than 300 civilians.

The Arab League strongly condemned the continued terrorist attacks by the Houthi militia on Saudi Arabia, most recently the attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on Saturday, which caused civilian casualties and injuries.

In a statement issued Sunday, the Arab League stressed that repeated attacks on civil aviation facilities, endangering passengers and personnel, constituted a dangerous escalation and flagrant violation of international law, threatening regional security and stability.

The League reaffirmed its full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for all legitimate measures taken by the Kingdom to protect its security, territory, citizens and residents, stressing that its security was integral to Arab national security.

The Arab League also extended its sincere condolences to Saudi Arabia and the families of the victims, wishing those injured in the attack a speedy recovery and expressing solidarity with the Kingdom during this difficult time.

Former Secretary General of the Arab League and former Egyptian Foreign Affairs Minister Amr Moussa has called for immediate and unified Arab action regarding the attacks on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Moussa published this statement on his X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook accounts. He warned about the grave threats to Arab security as

a whole, demanding an immediate meeting of Arab foreign affairs ministers in Riyadh, acting as an 'Arab Security Council', to pave the way for an urgent Arab summit to formulate a comprehensive stance on the crises in the region.

He pointed out that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is currently facing a blatant assault on its sovereignty and security — an attack that threatens Arab security as a whole.

He said, "I state clearly that the security and sovereignty of Saudi Arabia must be regarded as a red line. Statements of condemnation and solidarity are not enough in dealing with the attacks on the Kingdom. It is time for everyone in the Arab world to realize that the challenges and dangers they face mean that they must move beyond their differences — no matter how deep—or at least to postpone or freeze them and shift immediately toward a decisive and practical Arab stance. This is an opportunity and a historical necessity to rebuild solidarity based on shared interests and proper understanding of the gravity of the situation for all Arabs.

"We are at a 'to be or not to be' moment -- either we shoulder the responsibility of defending our security and sovereignty and shaping the future of the region, or we leave it to others to determine our destiny and map out our future. This outcome is absolutely unacceptable.

"I call for an immediate meeting of Arab foreign affairs ministers in Riyadh—acting as an 'Arab Security Council'—to affirm the unequivocal Arab solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the entire Arab Gulf, as well as to adopt a clear and effective collective stance to halt the chaos in the region.

"This meeting should pave the way for an urgent Arab summit to forge a comprehensive strategic position regarding the challenges we are facing on various fronts -- from the situation in the Arab Gulf and the Palestinian cause, currently facing liquidation attempts -- to the crises in the Levant, Maghreb, Red Sea and Horn of Africa.

"Today, it is not enough to manage crises in isolation or rely on reactive measures. We must formulate an Arab position that restores the initiative to the Arabs and confirms their capacity to determine the future of the region. This is an all-out offensive. It is a moment for decisive action, not for waiting. Let the attacks on Riyadh and the entire Gulf serve as the starting point for serious Arab action that restores Arab standing and unleashes Arab capabilities."

Arab Parliament Speaker Mohammad Al-Yamahi, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations have condemned the Houthi attack on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport.

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America

4 dead as Isaias brings threat of floods: Isaias peeled off hotel and condominium rooftops and facades along the Florida Panhandle before charging north Saturday, dishing out torrential rains and the threat of flash floods and tornadoes across the Southeast.

At least four deaths were linked to the storm, including two people killed when trees fell onto homes in Florida and Alabama. Forecasters warned that flooding could stretch into the Appalachians.

Isaias came ashore as a Category 2 hurricane Friday near Destin, Florida, a Gulf Coast vacation spot filled with high-rises and tourist shops. The storm weakened overnight but remained dangerous.

Despite warnings of storm surges ahead of the storm, several major routes along the coast were open by daybreak Saturday and free of downed trees and power lines typically seen after major hurricanes.

Within the first hours after landfall, nearly 900,000 customers were without power, mostly in Florida and Alabama.

Hurricane-force winds in the Florida Panhandle blew the roof off a Pensacola hotel, and the city's mayor said the airport "took some damage." The storm flattened a boathouse in Destin and ripped away part of the facade of a high-rise in Panama City Beach. (AP)

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5 dead in rural Georgia shooting: Officials say those involved were adult family members of the shooter, who died by suicide, and was found in the family's home on the outskirts of Douglas, a small

city roughly 200 miles southeast of Atlanta.

"Investigators believe this was an apparent murder-suicide involving immediate family-members who reside in the home," said Douglas Police Chief Brannen Pruette during a news conference on Saturday.

Officers responded to an emergency call made by one of the victims shortly after 11 p.m. and found a woman alive at the scene. After transport to a nearby hospital, she was pronounced dead, raising the death toll to five.

Earlier in the day, police confirmed that woman made another emergency call and summoned officers to the house. (AP)

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Shooting leaves 9 dead in Pennsylvania: A man killed eight people including a pregnant woman, children and other relatives at his home in Erie, Pennsylvania, before taking his own life as well, authorities said Saturday.

Erie Police Chief Rick Lorah said the 45-year-old man was related to seven of the victims in the previous day's shooting, while the eighth was a friend of the pregnant woman.

Video and audio evidence recovered by investigators included muffled gunshot sounds coming from inside the home just before two "distressed" women arrived and began pounding on the door shortly before 5 p.m. Friday, he said. The gunman then came out and shot them as they ran toward him, before returning inside.

Police arrived to find the two women dead outside. Inside they found the bodies of a 5-year-old boy; a 1-year-old girl on the first floor; two more women and two young men in a stairwell; and the shooter on the second floor. (AP)



People salvage the contents of their destroyed mini mart in the aftermath of Hurricane Isaias in Milton, Florida on Oct 10. (AP)

Trump urges Sen Fetterman to switch parties and become Republican

Time for term limits? Dems in majority could have familiar faces in key roles

WASHINGTON, Oct 11, (AP): Democrats hope to bring a new agenda to the House next year if they take the majority, but they will most likely do so with many of the same faces that have steered their party's legislative work for a decade or more.

Potential committee chairs in the next Congress include Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, who has served as top Democrat on the House Homeland Security panel since 2005. Then, there's Adam Smith of Washington, who began serving as top Democrat on Armed Services in 2011, and Rep. Maxine Waters of California, who became the lead Democrat on Financial Services in 2013.

Other longtime committee leaders include Reps. Frank Pallone at Energy and Commerce and Bobby Scott at Education and Workforce, who assumed their leadership posts in 2015. Rep. Richie Neal became the top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee in 2017.

None would be able to continue in that position under the rules used by House Republicans, which generally limit lawmakers to three terms as chairman or ranking member.

For Democrats, the question is whether to stick with their current system, which emphasizes seniority, or move closer to the one that Republicans have established. It's a discussion that some Democrats say they are having behind the scenes.

"I think that the idea of term limits could be appealing to the American people, to the Democratic base. It sounds Democratic," said Rep. Eugene Vindman, D-Va. "I'm open to the idea. I've spoken to a number of folks who are open to the idea."

"I personally think it makes for a more vibrant Congress, but I know I'm in the minority in the minority," said Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa.

Party leaders are playing down the issue for now. Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said seniority has always been a factor when it comes to committee leadership, but not the only one.

"The caucus is going to work its will as we move forward," Jeffries told reporters. "At the end of the day, we can't put the cart before the horse. We've got to still go out and win this thing in November."

Term limits are not a new discussion for Democrats. When they were weighing whether to return Nancy Pelosi as speaker in 2018, those opposing her bid wanted her to commit to limiting how long lawmakers could serve as House party leaders or committee chairs. She eventually agreed to serve in the post for no more than four more years.

No such restrictions were added for committee chairs. In 2022, Democrats voted overwhelmingly against a six-year term limit for committee leaders.

Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.,



US Rep Maxine Waters leads a group of House Democrats to the Supreme Court in support of Federal Reserve Board Governor Lisa Cook on Capitol Hill in Washington on Jan 21. (AP)

who has served as top Democrat on the House Rules Committee since 2018, called term limits an "artificial, random mechanism that doesn't always serve the best interest of the institution."

"I want people in chairs who are going to fight to get things over the finish line and make a real difference," McGovern said. "Some of those people may have been around for a long time and some of them may be relatively new."

Pallone said he intends to be the next Energy and Commerce chairman or ranking member. He called

term limits for chairs "very undemocratic."

"If people want to vote for something they should be allowed to," Pallone said.

He also said that term limits can lead to short-term thinking from chairs looking at their next opportunity in the private sector.

"People serve for a couple years, then they go work for some lobbying firm," he said. "What they do when they're here is very much influenced by what lobbying firm they're going to work for."

Thompson also said he would like

to serve again as top Democrat on Homeland Security if he wins reelection. He dismissed the way Republicans limit committee leaders to three terms.

"I don't want to be like Republicans. I'm a Democrat," Thompson said.

House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., says term limits have served Republicans well.

"It's been really good to show younger members that you're always going to have a path to leadership if you keep working hard, if you do your job really well," Scalise said. "We definitely lose some good chairmen along the way, but we also get new leaders who otherwise would not have been able to rise up."

Also:

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md: US President Donald Trump openly encouraged Democratic Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania to switch parties and become a Republican just weeks before the midterm elections could reshape control of Congress.

"I'd love to see him as a Republican," Trump told reporters at Joint Base Andrews on Saturday as he returned to Washington from a rally in Tennessee. "He does better as a Republican than he does as a Democrat."

The comments were among the most direct overtures by Trump to woo Fetterman into the GOP, a mat-

ter of growing importance as the party could lose its Senate majority in next month's elections. With his everyman appeal, Fetterman was a Democratic star when he was first elected to the Senate in 2022. But during his time in Washington, he has split with Democrats on issues ranging from immigration to Israel, leading to speculation that he might switch parties.

A representative for Fetterman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Fetterman has repeatedly rejected the notion of becoming a Republican, writing in The Washington Post in May that he would be a "terrible Republican who still votes overwhelmingly with Democrats." His relationship with fellow Democrats became more tenuous after he recorded a video for the Republican midterm convention last month praising his fellow Pennsylvania senator, Republican Dave McCormick, suggesting there were extremists in his party.

"I'm always going to stand with America," Fetterman said in the video. "I'm always going to reject the extremes and socialism and that anti-American way of life."

Such flirtations with the GOP could make it extremely difficult for Fetterman to win the Democratic nomination for another term in the Senate, a prospect Trump raised on Saturday as he encouraged the party switch.

Kyiv pushes back on Trump's call for new Ukraine prez as drones hit Russian data hub

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 11, (AP): Only Russia is responsible for the war in Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday as he vowed to press ahead with strikes on Russian oil refineries, despite criticism from US President Donald Trump, who blamed him for high diesel prices and said he should be replaced.

The exchange came as Kyiv pressed its campaign against infrastructure deep inside Russia, with a drone attack on Sunday shutting down a data center run by Russian technology giant Yandex, the third strike on the company's facilities in four days. 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 will be ready to stop striking Russian oil refineries if Russia stops striking our energy infrastructure," Zelenskyy wrote on X.



A rescue worker puts out a fire at a medical facility damaged in a Russian strike on Kharkiv, Ukraine on Oct 10. (AP)

"It is possible to stop strikes on energy infrastructure as early as today, but (Russian President Vladimir) Putin does not want to do so,"

he said, adding that any de-escalation must be reciprocal and backed by real guarantees.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister And-

rii Sybiha pushed back on Trump's comments, writing on X late Saturday that Zelenskyy was leading the country through a war for its independence. "He has the support of the Ukrainian people, and they have the right to decide. Statements from abroad only confirm that he is doing his job well," Sybiha wrote.

Trump said Saturday it was time for Ukraine to get a new president, suggesting Zelenskyy has not done enough to end the war and blaming him for high diesel prices in the US.

"I suggest they get a new leader who can make a deal because he could have made many deals and for some reason he never does," Trump said.

The US president, who on Friday struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to buy diesel from Russia in an attempt to address high fuel prices ahead of the US midterm elections, has been urging Zelenskyy for weeks to stop strikes on Russian energy infrastructure.

Pope Leo XIV to undergo surgery to remove nodule on his lung

VATICAN CITY, Oct 11, (AP): Pope Leo XIV announced Sunday he will undergo surgery in the coming days to remove a nodule on his lung that was recently discovered during medical checks.

The 71-year-old pope said the nodule was found at an early stage and was "circumscribed" or well-localized. The Vatican later said Leo would undergo surgery in the first days of the week, with an expected recovery time of a week.

The American pope made the announcement during his Sunday noon blessing. He thanked the crowd for their closeness and entrusted himself to their prayers.

A lung nodule is a small abnormal area measuring less than 3



Pope Leo

centimeters (1 inch) that sometimes appears on a CT scan of the chest or abdomen, according to the American Cancer Society. Often, the scans are done to investigate trauma or a lung infection, unrelated to a lung cancer screening.

Leo has no previously known health problems and is considered physically active, with weekly tennis games and swimming at the papal summer retreat in Castel Gandolfo.

The pope has a major trip planned Nov. 6-17 to Uruguay, Argentina and Peru. It's unclear whether the planned surgery and recovery would affect the itinerary, but Leo said earlier in his remarks Sunday that he planned to go.

In his remarks, delivered in Italian, Leo said during a recent medical check, "doctors found a small, localized nodule in my lung. It was detected at a very early stage and is circumscribed. The doctors believe it's best to take action, so, following their advice, I've decided to have surgery to remove it."

Europe

Czech opp'n outpaces ruling party: A political group led by Prime Minister Andrej Babiš faced a strong challenge from the opposition in the Czech Republic's first round of voting to fill one-third of the seats in Parliament's upper house, the Senate, according to the final results released on Sunday.

With all the votes counted by the Statistics Office, the centrist ANO (YES) movement led by the populist billionaire has the most, 13, candidates advancing to next week's runoffs.

But the parties and groups of parliamentary pro-Western opposition that joined forces in many districts in broad coalitions, have altogether 26 candidates making the next round. (AP)

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Babiš

Freight train derails in Croatia: A freight train carrying grain derailed near the Meja railway station in western Croatia on Saturday morning, causing heavy material damage but no casualties, according to the national broadcaster Croatian Radiotelevision (HRT).

The accident occurred at approximately 9:25 a.m. local time (0725 GMT) as the train, operated by the carrier Transagent, was traveling toward the Adriatic port city of Rijeka, according to HZ Infrastruktura (Croatian Railways Infrastructure). 11 wagons plunged into a ravine, while the locomotive and two wagons remained at the station. Prior to the derailment, the train driver notified the dispatcher that the brakes had failed, and he was unable to stop the train, HZ Infrastruktura said. (Xinhua)

'School attacks fueled by online glorification of violence'

Poland's police warn of possible plot to attack Tusk

WARSAW, Poland, Oct 11, (AP): Poland's police said Sunday they received information about a possible plot to attack Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Defense Minister Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz.

Security services, police and representatives of the Interior Ministry were scheduled to hold an emergency meeting starting at 11 a.m. (0900 GMT) Sunday to discuss the situation, Karolina Galecka, a spokesperson for the Interior Ministry, said.

In September, Tusk warned about likely intensified hybrid attacks by Russia on NATO's eastern flank. He said Russia was planning strikes with drones or rockets on European countries supporting Ukraine, among them Poland, with the goal of weakening Western support for Kyiv's fight against the Russian invasion. Moscow has denied any such plans.



Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk speaks with the media as he arrives for the EU Summit in Brussels on Dec 18, 2025. (AP)

No more information about the reported plot was immediately available.

Polish authorities were on high alert this week after three school attacks within four days in Mazovia province in central Poland, where capital Warsaw is located.

The attacks at Polish schools over the past week were "spontaneous acts" driven by the online "glorification of violence," Tusk said on Sunday.

Three attacks at schools in the Mazovian province in central Poland took place within four days this week, leaving one dead and many wounded, including children.

By Sunday morning, police had detained 117 people across Poland for carrying knives or other dangerous weapons, or for threatening to attack schools or fellow students. Some 64,000 schools were checked.

"We are not dealing with any

group organized on a big scale," Tusk said on Sunday morning, during a crisis meeting with government and security services. "These are very often spontaneous actions inspired by online activity."

"In the past years and months, we have noted - globally and in Poland - a rise in the fascination with violence."

Tusk said the acts could be associated with "nihilistic violence," a term used by authorities to describe acts of violence driven by a nihilistic worldview and misanthropy rather than specific political goals.

In the case of Poland, he said "some of the people detained are active in the ultraright environment." He said authorities have observed intensified online searches of Nazi content as well as of "mass killers who have become idols online."

Five reported missing, says police

Villages evacuated as flash flood from Budhi Gandaki river hits northern Nepal

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Oct 11, (Agencies): Residents along the Budhi Gandaki river in north central Nepal evacuated on Sunday as flash flooding destroyed homes and other structures in the area.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority evacuated villagers and warned others to move to safer areas while remaining on alert until late Sunday.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The disaster management agency is trying to determine the cause of the flash flood in the Budhi Gandaki river, which merges into the Trishuli river and is a key waterway near the capital Kathmandu.

Videos on social media show houses and sheds being swept away by the swollen river flowing between tall mountains. It was not immediately clear how many of the small villages in the mountainous area were impacted. Social media posts indicate the government warning prompted an evacuation in Arughat, a riverside town on the highway connecting Kathmandu to other parts of the country.

Nepal is still recovering from a devastating flood in August along the mountainous Nepal-China border that left more than 1,400 people dead and thousands more missing.

The office of Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Monday announced an end to search and rescue operations for additional victims. Authorities will instead concentrate on recovery including restoration of roads and bridges cut off by floods, particularly in remote areas where damaged infrastructure has made aid deliveries difficult.

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

Five people have been reported missing after a flash flood in the Budhi Gandaki River swept away 65 houses in Gorkha and Dhading districts of central nepal on Sunday morning, police said.



In this photo provided by the Nepal Army, residents affected by the flooding in Budhi Gandaki river in north central Nepal, are evacuated by a helicopter on Oct 11. (AP)

“Five people have been reported missing from Gorkha district. We are still collecting the reports,” Netra Bahadur Karki, spokesperson at the Armed Police Force, told Xinhua,

adding that the flood also destroyed two motorable bridges and two suspension bridges.

The army said it has airlifted 36 people to safer locations following

the disaster.

Search and rescue operations are ongoing, security forces said.

Massive flood has affected at least four hydropower projects in central Nepal’s Gorkha district, the Independent Power Producers’ Association, Nepal (IPPAN) said.

According to a preliminary assessment shared by IPPAN, an association of private-sector power developers in Nepal, four hydropower projects along the Budhi Gandaki River and its streams have been affected.

The Budhi Gandaki Hydropower Project suffered damage to its main camp, which was swept away by the floodwaters, IPPAN said. Some construction equipment was also washed away.

Similarly, the Dobhan Khola Hydropower Project sustained damage to some houses in its camp area, while a Bailey bridge used for construction work at the project site was swept away, the association said.

A Bailey bridge supporting construction work at the Yaru Khola Hydropower Project was also damaged, while construction materials and equipment were washed away.

Also:

MANILA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Friday it has approved a financing package of 305.75 million U.S. dollars to support Nepal’s highways and protect wildlife habitats.

The program consists of a 285 million dollar capital loan, a 20 million dollar grant and 750,000 dollars in technical assistance, according to ADB.

The fund will support rehabilitation and expansion of two highways in Nepal, and construct an elevated highway section across a wildlife zone to reduce vehicle-wildlife collisions, it added.

ADB said that by combining resilient infrastructure with wildlife-friendly design, the transport investment project can improve connectivity, support biodiversity conservation, promote sustainable development and inclusive economic growth.

Pakistan’s prez suspends provincial government led by ex-PM Khan’s party

ISLAMABAD, Oct 11, (AP): Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday declared a state of emergency in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan and suspended its government, which is led by imprisoned former prime minister Imran Khan’s party, ahead of a planned march on Islamabad by supporters demanding his release.

Zardari acted on the recommendation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s Cabinet, according to a statement from the president’s office. The measures place the province under the authority of the governor, who represents the federal government.

The announcement came hours after Sharif’s office said that the federal Cabinet had recommended emergency rule, accusing the provincial government of “deliberate disengagement from the fight against terrorism.”

The province’s chief minister, Sohail Afridi, on Saturday urged supporters to prepare to march on Islamabad. Afridi launched the protest campaign last week, leading marches through several districts in the province.



Police officers stand guard at a road barricaded with shipping containers by authorities ahead of a protest by the supporters of imprisoned former prime minister Imran Khan demanding his release, in Peshawar, Pakistan. (AP)

Sharif’s government has been urging Afridi since last month to postpone the march, citing a surge in attacks by the Pakistani Taliban in the northwest. It has also accused Khan’s party of sympathizing with the militant group, also known as Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge

in militant violence in recent years, much of it blamed on the TTP, a separate group but a close ally of the Afghan Taliban, who returned to power in neighboring Afghanistan in 2021. Islamabad has repeatedly accused Afghanistan’s Taliban government of providing sanctuary to TTP militants, an allegation Kabul denies.

Leaders of ‘Cockroach’ movement released from detention in India

NEW DELHI, Oct 11, (AP): Leaders of a popular Indian youth movement vowed to continue protests Sunday after being released from detention, a day after police cracked down on demonstrations against a controversial revision of voter lists. The movement is demanding the resignation of the country’s election chief.

The protests were triggered after authorities removed more than 130 million voters from the list since last year. Critics say the move is politically motivated. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Election Commission deny manipulation allegations.

The Cockroach Janata Party’s three leaders - Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka - were freed on condition that they commit “no breach of peace for one year,” Ratna Singh, the movement’s legal director, said in a social media post. It was unclear what the condition meant or whether it would restrict their participation in protests.

Police boarded the leaders’ flight from Mumbai after it landed in New Delhi on Saturday and



Abhijeet Dipke, (center), founder of the Cockroach Janta Party, stands on the court premises following his release in New Delhi, India on Oct 11. (AP)

took them into custody as they prepared to lead a demonstration in New Delhi.

After his release, Dipke called Modi “an embarrassment to India.”

Das, a spokesperson for the movement, urged supporters to take to the streets. “A situation has been created where the state is at war with its own citizens,” he

told reporters Sunday.

Following Saturday’s protests, authorities launched a sweeping security crackdown in the capital, detaining more than 2,000 protesters, including several opposition lawmakers. Train services to the capital were canceled, metro stations closed and mobile internet suspended in parts of the city.

Asia

China, Pakistan to hold army training: The Chinese and Pakistani armies will conduct their first joint training exercise in Korla in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in mid-to-late October, a defense spokesperson said on Saturday.

The training endeavor code-named Karakoram 2026 will focus on joint counter-terrorism operations in high-altitude areas. **Chen Xi**, a spokesperson for China’s Ministry of National Defense, said at a press conference.

The drill will include skills training in UAV operation, on-the-move target search and firing, and long-range sniping, and cover joint command and live-force exercises, Chen noted.

It will help the two sides deepen cooperation and strengthen interoperability in counter-terrorism efforts, he added. (Xinhua)



Chen

2 dead in Osaka float festival accidents: Two men were killed and 16 others injured in separate accidents involving traditional festival floats in two cities in Japan’s western prefecture of Osaka on Saturday, local police said.

In Izumisano, a 51-year-old man was trapped beneath a float that overturned while he was riding it with other participants. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital, while seven others were injured.

In a separate incident in Izumiotsu, a float also overturned, killing a 48-year-old man who was among those trapped underneath. Nine others were injured, according to prefectural police.

The accidents are believed to have occurred during “yarimawashi,” a highlight of the festivals in which

teams of participants pull danjiri floats around corners at high speed, with riders potentially losing their balance, police said.

Police are investigating the circumstances of both accidents. (Xinhua)

Australian plane crash injures 2: Two men were injured after a light plane crashed near a small airfield in Western Australia (WA) on Saturday morning.

Emergency services were called to reports that a single-engine light aircraft had crashed near a private airfield about 50 km north of the WA capital of Perth around 10:20 a.m. on Saturday.

Two men, one aged in his 60s and the other in his 30s, who were on board the aircraft received urgent medical care at the scene.

Local media reported that at least one of the men was transported to a Perth hospital with injuries not considered life-threatening.

The incident triggered a major emergency response, with 12 vehicles, a rescue helicopter and five ambulance crews deployed to the scene. (Xinhua)

3 killed in Philippine landslide: Three people were killed after a landslide buried a family’s house in a hinterland village in Cebu City, central Philippines, on Friday, according to local media reports on Saturday.

Rescuers recovered four people buried in the debris, among whom a grandmother and a child were found dead. Another child was sent to hospital but died while receiving treatment, while the mother of the two children was rescued alive.

Witnesses said the family was having lunch when soil from the mountainside a few meters behind their house gave way. The family tried to escape but was overtaken by the falling earth.

The incident destroyed two houses, and residents of 29 other houses were forced to leave their homes. (Xinhua)



A church tower is damaged after an earthquake struck Villa de los Santos, Panama on Oct 10. (AP)

Panama declares a state of emergency after powerful quakes

The government of Panama declared a state of emergency Saturday as the aftershocks of two powerful earthquakes that roiled the country shook communities for hours. Officials did not attribute any deaths to the quakes but reported damages in all 10 of Panama’s provinces and two Indigenous ter-

ritories.

The 7.7- and 6.6-magnitude earthquakes on Friday toppled buildings near the epicenter and prompted evacuations across the Central American country. Seismologists recorded more than 100 aftershocks, including ones measuring magnitude 5.8, 5.5 and 5.2.

The earlier quake, also felt in neighboring Colombia, was centered about 10 kilometers (6 miles) southwest of the remote community of Pitaloza Arriba, in the central province of Herrera, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It struck at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles). (AP)

Africa

‘109 dead after boat capsizes off Djibouti coast’: At least 109 migrants, including 15 children, have died and more than 116 others remain missing after a boat carrying 350 capsized off the coast of Djibouti, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said Sunday.

The boat was traveling from Djibouti to Yemen when it capsized during the night between Thursday and Friday. IOM teams are on the ground alongside local authorities to provide emergency assistance, according to the United Nations organization. (Xinhua)

Drone strike in Sudan kills 41: A drone strike blamed on Sudan’s notorious paramilitaries hit a gathering of displaced people on the border with Ethiopia and killed 41, a rights group said.

Friday’s strike by the Rapid Support Forces took place in the Abu Shan-di area in Sudan’s Blue Nile province, according to Emergency Lawyers, which tracks the war in the northeastern African nation.

Among the dead were eight children and many women, the group said. A spokesperson for the RSF didn’t respond to a request for comment.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said it was appalled by the reported strike that also wounded dozens.

“Condemning these senseless killings is essential, but there must also be accountability for this flagrant disregard for international humanitarian law,” said Denise Brown, the U.N. resident and humanitarian coordinator in Sudan in a statement. “As each day goes by in this war, the world continues to accept the suffering of the people of Sudan.”

Sudan’s war started in April 2023 when tensions between the military and the RSF exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and spread across the country.



In this photo taken with a smartphone, Ethiopian federal police officers gather on a road in Mekelle, Tigray Region, Ethiopia on Oct 8. (AP)

The conflict has killed at least 150,000 people, according to conflict monitor ACLED, though aid groups say the real number is likely higher. (Xinhua)

Mauritania forms new government: Mauritania President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani appointed a new cabinet on Saturday evening, replacing the ministers of defense, interior, economic affairs and energy,

among others, the Mauritanian News Agency reported.

The appointments were made by presidential decree on the proposal of Mauritania Prime Minister El Moutar Ould Djay, according to the report.

Aissata Ba Yahya, minister and secretary-general of the presidency, announced the cabinet lineup at a press conference at the presidential palace in Nouakchott. The list comprises 29 members, excluding the prime minister.

Ba Ousmane was appointed defense minister, El Moutar Ould Ahmed Bouceif interior minister, Mohamedou Ould M’Haimid minister of economic affairs and development, and Mohamed Ould Abdel Vetah minister of energy and petroleum.

Foreign Minister Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug and Justice Minister Mohamed Ould Soueidatt retained their posts. (Xinhua)

‘December 6 elections not feasible’: Guinea-Bissau’s transitional Prime Minister Ilidio Vieira Te and the National Electoral Commission (NEC) said that conditions were not in place to hold the country’s general elections scheduled for Dec 6.

The prime minister made the remarks following a meeting with transitional President Horta Inta-A, during which they discussed the political and institutional conditions for holding the elections.

Te said the Dec. 6 election date was not feasible due to organizational challenges facing political parties, noting that some parties still needed to hold their congresses before participating in the electoral process.

Meanwhile, NEC Deputy Executive Secretary Felisberta Moura Vaz said following a separate meeting with Inta-A that holding the presidential and legislative elections on Dec. 6 was not feasible from a procedural standpoint, as much of the electoral timetable was in jeopardy.

She said the commission had informed the transitional president of the difficulties in holding the elections as scheduled. (Xinhua)

Kuwait's Reachlink wins GCC Best Startup award

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11, (KUNA): Kuwait National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development announced Saturday that Reachlink, one of the Fund-supported startups, won the award for Best Startup in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The award was presented, by the GCC Gen-

eral Secretariat, during a ceremony honoring leading projects and prominent figures in the fields of civil service, labor, and social affairs across the GCC countries, held in Manama.

In a statement to (KUNA), Acting Director General of the National Fund Engineer Basma Al-Jassem, expressed her pride in this achievement.

Marking the Bank's second digital platform launch within one month under its KIB Now strategy

KIB launches BuyNow, the first Buy Now, Pay Later service offered by a Kuwaiti bank

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the launch of the BuyNow app, offering the first Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) service provided by a bank in Kuwait. The app delivers a seamless digital experience that brings shopping, flexible payment options, and financing solutions together in one place. The launch forms part of KIB's new KIB Now strategy, which aims to enhance the customer experience and expand its ecosystem of digital solutions.

The announcement was made during a press conference held by KIB on Wednesday, 07 October at KIB Business Center, where the Bank showcased the app, highlighted its key features, and explained how it works. BuyNow marks the second digital platform launched by KIB within just one month, following the recent introduction of DriveNow, underscoring the Bank's accelerated rollout of digital experiences designed to address a broad range of customer needs.

BuyNow features two core services: Split and Finance. Through Split, eligible customers can purchase products and services worth up to KD 500 and repay the amount in four equal monthly installments at 0% profit, with no fees. The service also offers instant eligibility checks and immediate approval. Customers can link either a Kuwaiti debit card or a credit card to the app.

As for the Finance service, it allows customers to finance purchases above KD 500 and up to KD 25,000, with 0% profit and no salary transfer requirement. Repayment periods start from three months, subject to customer eligibility, with a minimum monthly installment of KD 20. The service is available to both Kuwaiti citizens and residents, whether they are KIB customers or bank elsewhere, through Sharia-compliant consumer financing based on the Musawama structure.

Commenting on the Bank's newest product, Othman Tawfeq, General Manager of Retail Banking at KIB, said: "The launch of BuyNow marks another step forward in enhancing what we offer our customers. The app brings shopping, payment options, and financing together in one experience, giving customers greater flexibility in managing their purchases in the way that suits them best. We were also keen to ensure that the experience is clear and simple, while delivering practical value across a range of everyday uses."

Tawfeq added: "BuyNow comes shortly after the launch of DriveNow, as part of the continued rollout of our KIB Now strategy, through which we aim to bring our services closer to customers and align them more closely with their interests and lifestyles. We aspire for these experiences to accompany our customers across different stages of their lives, strengthening our relationship with them and reflecting our main slogan, 'Bank for Life'."

BuyNow also allows customers to browse products



Othman Tawfeq, center, with Mohammed El-Shareef and Abdulaziz Al-Shammari during the press conference announcing the launch of BuyNow.



Abdulrahman Al Bahar, Head of Musawama Unit at KIB, highlighting the features of the new app.



One application, numerous financing options.

sites, and in stores via a QR code or payment link.

In this context, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, Assistant General Manager of Retail Banking at KIB, said: "BuyNow represents more than simply introducing a new payment and financing option. It forms part of a broader approach aimed at connecting customers' needs with solutions that also support our corporate and merchant partners. Through this model, we are transforming payment and financing solutions into tools that help drive our partners' business growth, enable them to reach broader customer segments, and enhance sales opportunities, while delivering a more integrated experience across the Bank, our partners, and our customers."

Al-Shammari added: "This approach reflects greater integration across KIB's sales channels, Retail Banking, and Business Banking, as we work to build a connected ecosystem that brings together banking, payment, and financing solutions around the needs of both customers and business partners. BuyNow represents a practical step in this direction, providing a platform to expand our partner network, deepen our relationships with them, and deliver value that goes beyond banking services to support their business growth and enhance their customers' experience."

The launch of BuyNow forms part of KIB's continued efforts to strengthen its digital infrastructure and invest in innovation and technology to support business growth and explore new opportunities, in line with the rapid evolution of financial services and changing customer expectations.

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.

Govt spending supports Boursa Kuwait recovery

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Boursa Kuwait proved to be resilient in the midst of the repercussions of the war, particularly during the third quarter of this year, despite the geopolitical developments in the region that intensified in late February.

As it enters the fourth quarter, the market is experiencing a new phase of recovery and balanced activity with a solid foundation.

In a statement to the newspaper, financial, economic and legal analyst Salem Al-Kandari pointed out that this resilience is not a coincidence, attributing it to the success of the Kuwaiti market in absorbing regional shocks and overcoming geopolitical challenges that impacted trading momentum in the first half of the year.

Al-Kandari said the recovery of the stock market is due to the continuous government capital spending on major projects and the awarding of contracts for vital infrastructure. He believes these factors serve as the primary drivers for the business growth of listed companies, especially in the real estate, contracting, construction and services sectors, thereby, positively affecting the cash flows and operating profits of national economic entities aligned with the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035.

On monetary and banking matters, he thinks the wise policy of the Central Bank of Kuwait played a vital role in establishing financial stability by maintaining the discount rate at 3.5 percent. He affirmed that this decision granted the local banking sector significant flexibility and ample room to manage liquidity smoothly and meet the growing demand for credit facilities without imposing excessive financing burdens on businesses and individuals.

He explained that this stability is clearly reflected in the growth rates of the money supply and credit facilities, which bolstered the credit portfolios of banks, supported sustainable cash dividend distributions, and attracted greater institutional and local liquidity.

He said the trading patterns at Boursa Kuwait showed the prominence of local and foreign investors, indicating the renewed

confidence in the efficiency and transparency of the financial market's operational infrastructure after the completion of market development phases and the launching of new investment instruments and multi-asset platforms like bonds and Sukuk.

He cited the qualitative surge in liquidity levels in September 2026, which jumped by 37.7 percent to reach KD2.44 billion, as evidence, adding that the rise was driven by activity in the Premier Market. He added that the latter captured the largest share of trading, around 63.9 percent of the total traded value of KD15.64 billion recorded in the first nine months of the year. He indicated that this surge in liquidity coincides with the decision of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to adopt Resolution No. 80/2026, which regulates Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs).

He said these developments are considered structural legislative steps that improve the appeal of the stock exchange to global portfolios and provide flexible investment channels, which contribute to risk diversification and attract international and local institutional capitals, thus, supporting the positive performance of the market and pushing indices toward stable growth levels that are resilient to temporary volatility.

He expects that the strong performance of Boursa Kuwait will continue through the remainder of the year, bolstered by upcoming nine-month financial results and the ongoing program to list high-quality companies on the Premier Market.

He pointed out that in spite of the minor speculative fluctuations observed in September, the key indices, such as the Premier Market and General Market, maintained positive trajectories, benefiting from easing inflationary pressures and stable domestic consumption rates.

He asserted that Boursa Kuwait is increasingly demonstrating its status as the most attractive investment destination in the region, thanks to the strength of its regulatory environment and the robust operational assets provided by CMA. "This positions the exchange to achieve significant qualitative leaps and sustainable gains by the end of 2026," he concluded.

and services from a range of participating brands and partners, compare available options, and benefit from offers featured on the app. Categories include automotive, healthcare, education, furniture, electronics, and gaming. Customers can also track their financing applications and payments through the app, all in one place.

From his side, Mohammed El-Shareef, General Manager of Digital Innovation and Data Intelligence at KIB, said: "When developing BuyNow, we set out with a clear objective: to simplify the steps customers go through, from searching for a product or service to selecting the payment or financing option that best suits their needs. We therefore designed an integrated digital experience that brings these stages together within one connected environment, using technology and data to make the customer journey faster, simpler,

and more seamless."

El-Shareef added: "KIB Now provides the framework for building a new generation of digital experiences. The launch of BuyNow shortly after DriveNow reflects the progress we are making in advancing this strategy and our ability to turn ideas into practical services that fit seamlessly into customers' everyday lives. Building on this momentum, we will continue to develop new solutions that respond to evolving customer behavior and expectations."

The BuyNow user journey was designed to be straightforward. Customers can download the app, browse participating partners and the available products and services, and then choose between the Split and Finance services based on the value of their purchase and their eligibility. The Split service can be used through the app, at checkout on selected web-

General Index rises to 8,639.30

Boursa Kuwait closes Sunday higher

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed higher on Sunday, with the general index gaining 6.59 points, or 0.08 percent, to 8,639.30 points.

Trading activity totaled 248.3 million shares across 17,966 cash transactions, worth KD 66.4 million (about USD 215.8 million).

The Main Market index rose 18.27 points, or 0.21 percent, to 8,878.30 points. It recorded 115.4 million shares traded through 10,769 transac-

tions, valued at KD 24.1 million (about USD 78.3 million).

The Premier Market index added 4.44 points, or 0.05 percent, to 9,036.80 points, with 132.9 million shares changing hands in 7,197 transactions worth KD 42.2 million (about USD 137.1 million).

The Main 50 Index advanced 13.56 points, or 0.13 percent, to 10,097.85 points. Trading on the index comprised 97.4 million shares across 8,820 cash transactions, valued at KD 21.4 million (about USD 69.5 million).

Weak dollar, lower yields support gold

Gold gains as investors eye US inflation data

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11, (KUNA): Gold prices ended last week higher at USD 4,195 per ounce, recording weekly gains after a wave of declines that pushed prices to lows near USD 4,000 per ounce amid market anticipation of US inflation data and the path of interest rates.

According to a report issued by Kuwait's Dar Al-Sabaik Company on Sunday, gold's recovery was supported by buying to capitalize on the price drop, along with improved investment demand as US Treasury yields declined during some sessions of the week and the dollar weakened somewhat.

The report said investors continued to assess the likelihood of the US holding interest rates steady at its October meeting, while betting on a possible rate hike in December.

Gold experienced volatile movements last week, facing selling pressure at the start of trading due to rising US yields and renewed concerns over the continuation of a tight monetary policy, before rebounding toward the end of the week.

The precious metal rose by more than 1.40 percent during Friday's trading, after hitting a session low of around USD 4,130 per ounce before approaching USD 4,207 and closing at around USD 4,195.

The report noted that this performance reflects a return to buying at lower levels, but the inability to stabilize above USD 4,200 keeps the possibility of continued volatility alive in the coming period.

Gold's recovery coincided with the release of US data showing a decline in consumer confidence. The University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index fell to 46.3 points in October, compared with 48.1 points in the previous reading and below market expectations of 47.6 points.

This reading reflects growing pessimism among American households regarding economic conditions, which could affect consumer spending levels in the coming period. The data also boosted demand for gold as investors assessed the likelihood of a US economic slowdown and its impact on Federal Reserve decisions.

The report added that this might prompt the Fed to postpone upcoming interest-rate decisions while continuing to monitor developments in the labor market, energy prices, and new economic data.

The trajectory of US interest rates remains a

key factor determining gold's direction in the coming period. Market pricing indicates an 81 percent probability of rates being held steady at the October meeting, with expectations that they will remain within the 3.75-4 percent range.

Conversely, markets are still pricing in an 81 percent probability of a 25-basis-point rate hike in December, based on data from last week's trading.

The minutes of the last Federal Open Market Committee meeting revealed differing views among officials regarding the course of monetary policy, despite a general inclination to keep the option of raising rates open should economic conditions warrant it. Some officials believe any further increase could serve as a precautionary measure against inflation risks, while others see it as potentially marking the beginning of a new phase of monetary tightening.

Rising US Treasury yields remain a major factor pressuring gold, as higher yields increase the opportunity cost of holding the non-yielding asset. Despite a relative decline in yields during some sessions of the week, their continued high levels reflect investor concerns about inflation, financing costs, and the direction of monetary policy.

The return of yields to higher levels at the end of some trading sessions limited gold's gains, while their decline at other times supported recovery attempts.

The US dollar also continued to influence gold's movements. Its relative weakness during part of Friday's trading enhanced gold's appeal to investors using other currencies, while the dollar's subsequent rise limited gains, reflecting gold's continued sensitivity to changes in US interest-rate and yield expectations.

The relationship between the dollar and Treasury yields will remain a key short-term determinant of gold's direction, especially with the upcoming release of US inflation data, which could reshape market expectations regarding monetary policy.

Geopolitical developments in the Middle East also remain a significant factor in global market trends, with ongoing concerns related to the conflict between the United States and Iran and security tensions in strategic maritime chokepoints, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

Escalating risks could increase demand for gold as a safe-haven asset during periods of un-

certainty, in addition to potentially affecting oil supplies and global trade. Rising energy prices resulting from these developments could exacerbate inflationary pressures and prompt central banks to maintain higher interest rates for longer, which could limit gold's gains.

In such circumstances, gold might benefit from increased demand as a hedge against inflation and economic risks. However, this support could diminish if rising energy costs reinforce expectations of monetary tightening and higher real bond yields.

Investors' attention this week, from October 12 to 16, will focus on a series of important US economic data releases, most notably the Consumer Price Index for September, along with the Producer Price Index, retail sales, jobless claims, and industrial production figures.

This data could affect global growth forecasts and the movement of currencies and commodities, including gold, especially if it shows a continued economic slowdown or increased inflationary pressures in major economies.

From a technical perspective, gold faces USD 4,200 per ounce as a key obstacle to continued recovery. A breakout and sustained move above this level could strengthen the chances of regaining upward momentum.

If this occurs, attention could turn to USD 4,260 per ounce, which coincides with the 100-day simple moving average, followed by USD 4,335 at the 50-day moving average, and then USD 4,500.

Technical indicators show limited improvement in buying momentum. However, the Relative Strength Index (RSI) remaining below the neutral level of 50 indicates that the downward trend has not completely lost its influence, and continued recovery needs confirmation through a breakout above key resistance levels.

Locally, gold prices in the Kuwaiti market continue to be directly affected by global price movements, along with fluctuations in the dollar exchange rate and market expectations regarding the course of US monetary policy.

The price of a gram of 24-karat gold reached approximately KD 42.290 (about USD 137), while 22-karat gold recorded around KD 38.760 (about USD 125). The price of a kilogram of silver reached approximately KD 671 (about USD 2,177).



A group photo on sidelines of the program's launch.



An explanation of the program's importance for developing employee capabilities.

Strengthening corporate banking talent

ABK launches Credit Analyst Development Program under its Corporate Academy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has launched the second edition of its Credit Analyst Development Program under the ABK Corporate Academy, in collaboration with Euromoney.

The initiative brings together 12 Kuwaiti employees for a comprehensive, year-long development journey, reflecting ABK's focus on developing talent and equipping participants with the technical knowledge, practical experience, and professional confidence needed to contribute effectively to its credit operations.

The program combines technical development with practical application, covering key areas of banking and credit, including financial and business analysis, lending, deal structuring, risk assessment, credit monitoring, and credit report preparation. Learning is supported by practical case studies and hands-on experience across the Bank's divisions.

The launch event was attended by Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol, ABK Group Chief Executive Officer, alongside members of

the Executive Management and Euromoney representatives.

During the event, attendees were introduced to the details of the program's second cohort, which aims to develop employees' capabilities and equip them with the expertise needed to enhance the banking and credit services offered to the corporate sector.

Commenting on the occasion, Afrah Alarbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, said, "The value of this specialized program lies in its focus on refining credit and financial analysis skills and providing participants with the expertise needed to keep pace with rapid developments in corporate banking services."

She explained that developing a new generation of financial and credit analysts strengthens the Bank's internal working environment and its ability to manage risks efficiently, while also directly supporting the national economy and enhancing the competitiveness of Kuwait's banking sector.

Alarbash continued, "Investing in our



Afrah Alarbash, GM of Human Resources at ABK

people and developing young Kuwaiti talent is central to our plans. Through the ABK Corporate Academy, we are committed to providing a comprehensive learning

and training environment that equips our employees with advanced credit analysis skills. Our aim is to prepare a promising generation of professionals who can keep pace with developments in the financial sector and contribute to the Bank's sustainable success."

She emphasized that the Bank's most valuable investment is in developing its human capital and equipping employees with the latest analytical tools and international financial standards. She added that the program will strengthen young professionals' readiness to deliver expert financing solutions to the business sector, reflecting ABK's continued commitment to supporting Kuwait's vision of building a sustainable banking sector capable of driving economic growth as a trusted partner.

"We are providing more than a training course. We are offering our employees a comprehensive career development pathway that refines their skills and enables them to translate theoretical knowledge into informed decisions. This further

strengthens the Bank's position as an employer of choice for talented professionals who are passionate about banking excellence," Alarbash said.

"The launch of the new cohort under the ABK Corporate Academy reflects our proactive approach to enhancing the quality of banking services provided to businesses and corporate clients," she added.

Alarbash explained that today's economic challenges call for new standards in risk assessment and the evaluation of credit opportunities. She noted that the program's importance lies in developing a pool of highly capable credit analysts who can provide well-informed advice and financing solutions that meet corporate partners' expectations while preserving the quality of the Bank's assets.

Through its collaboration with Euromoney, ABK continues to demonstrate its commitment to empowering young Kuwaitis with the knowledge, experience, and professional capabilities needed to build successful careers in banking.

Oil exchange: The forces behind today's fuel prices

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

By Brian C. Black
Penn State

The fall of 2026 is a moment of energy centrality, when geopolitics unfolding far away shows up in Americans' everyday lives.

In Pennsylvania, the statewide diesel price averages US\$6.50 per gallon. In Iowa, farmers are paying more than \$6 a gallon for diesel. And in Alaska, unleaded gas runs more than \$9 a gallon.

As a distinguished professor of history and environmental studies at Penn State Altoona, I write widely about oil and energy issues. This moment has me thinking about how the oil industry began nearly 170 years ago in northwestern Pennsylvania.

In 1859, Edwin Drake struck oil along Oil Creek near Titusville, Pennsylvania. His well was funded by investors from New Bedford, Massachusetts, who were looking for a replacement for whale oil, which was expensive and challenging to acquire.

The first oil deals were struck on the streets of Oil City, about 90 miles north of Pittsburgh, while traders were still working out basic questions about "rock oil," as crude was then called: What was it good for, and how much should it cost?

To create a more formal system, the oil traders developed a railroad car designed to be a rolling oil exchange on the Oil Creek Railway. It made 13 stops daily between Titusville and Oil City, and trading was conducted on the honor system, with no written certificates of purchase or sale.

As the industry quickly grew, an oil exchange office was set up in the Arlington Hotel in Oil City.

Traders pushed for a building of their own, arguing that a growing industry needed a more formal market. By 1874, Pennsylvania's Oil Valley was producing roughly 30,000 barrels of crude oil a day, which sold for an average of about \$1.15 a barrel.

Rather than physically moving barrels around, trading had moved from handshakes to paper. Pipelines issued certificates representing the oil in their lines. Traders bought and sold the paper certificates representing oil, often trading the same barrels many times in a single day. As a result, the volume of oil changing hands could reach 10 million to 14 million barrels a day, hundreds of times more than the wells actually produced.

In April 1874, a group of Oil City oil men received a state charter to form the Oil City Oil Exchange. Construction started in July 1877 at the corner of Center and Seneca streets.

When the Oil Exchange opened in April 1878, the local newspaper called it "the largest and most elaborate structure ever erected in the Oil Region." The building, the paper said, reflected how big the speculative side of the oil trade had become. Standard Oil, the nation's largest oil company at the time, owned by John D. Rockefeller, kept offices in the building.

The Oil City Oil Exchange heavily influenced early crude oil pricing. Brokers there collected 10 cents a bar-

rel from buyers and 5 cents from sellers.

While the Oil City Oil Exchange was the center of the oil industry for nearly two decades, by 1895 Standard Oil had effectively cornered the market. Its chief buyer, Titusville resident Joseph Seep, began paying producers cash directly, at a price Standard set itself. That control lasted until 1911, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a landmark antitrust case that the trust had to be broken into 34 separate companies.

After that, no single company controlled the price of crude oil.

Predicting oil prices became a much bigger concern after the oil crises of the 1970s, when sudden price hikes rattled economies around the world.

Today, the price of crude oil is set largely by traders on two exchanges: the New York Mercantile Exchange and the Intercontinental Exchange. Prices there shift from second to second, and gas prices at the pump follow them, usually within days or weeks.

Much of that trading involves futures contracts, which are agreements to buy oil at a set price on a future date. In the U.S., the benchmark contract is for oil delivered to Cushing, Oklahoma, a storage hub where many of the country's pipelines meet.

The latest shock to that system began this year. War began on Feb. 28, 2026, when the U.S. and Israel launched airstrikes on Iranian military targets that killed Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iran struck back with missiles and drones and began attacking commercial ships in the waters around the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow channel between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula that connects the Persian Gulf to the open ocean.

Within days, the attacks and a wave of canceled shipping insurance brought tanker traffic nearly to a halt.

On March 2, a Revolutionary Guard commander made the closure official in a statement carried by Iran's state media: "The Strait of Hormuz is closed. If anyone tries to pass, the heroes of the Revolutionary Guards and the regular navy will set those ships ablaze."

Roughly one-fifth of the world's oil normally passes through the strait. Most of it goes to Asia, not the U.S. But because oil is traded on a global market, prices rose everywhere.

Oil and gas prices kept climbing as peace talks failed. By May 2026, the average price of a gallon of regular gas in the U.S. was 50% higher than before the war began. Since then, Gulf oil producers have found ways around the blockade, sending oil through pipelines to ports outside the strait and through a U.S.-guarded shipping route near Oman. By late September, those work-arounds had restored about half of the oil that normally passes through the strait, helping keep crude prices around \$100 a barrel instead of the much higher levels many analysts had feared.

Oil City's exchange building is long gone. It was torn down in 1926 to make way for a bank. But the market its traders built, where paper claims on oil change hands far faster than the oil itself moves, still sets what drivers pay at the pump in Oil City and everywhere else. (AP)

ABU DHABI, Oct 11: FREELANDER outlined its international market expansion roadmap at its Global Brand Launch at Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental in Abu Dhabi on 29 September 2026. With the Middle East as its strategic starting point and the UAE as its first international market, the brand will initially focus on left-hand drive markets, including the Middle East and North Africa, before expanding into right-hand drive markets, prioritising Australia and New Zealand, and then European markets.



FREELANDER 8

The roadmap brings together product readiness, dealer network development and local operations as FREELANDER builds its international presence as a stand-alone global brand.

Building from the UAE across the Middle East and North Africa

FREELANDER's international roll-out begins with left-hand drive markets. The brand has established dealer partnerships with Al Tayer Motors and Premier Motors in the UAE, covering Dubai and the Northern Emirates, and Abu Dhabi respectively. These partnerships lay the foundations for its local sales and service network. Registration of interest in FREELANDER 8 is now open in the UAE, with product launch and delivery plans to be announced through official brand channels and local partners.

In the fourth quarter of 2026, FREELANDER plans to advance dealer network development in other markets across the Middle East and North Africa, including Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan and Egypt. Expansion into further left-hand drive markets will continue in 2027.

The choice of the Middle East as the starting point reflects both the brand's positioning and local customer needs. From urban commuting and family journeys to desert exploration, customers expect comfort, intelligent technology and all-terrain capability from their vehicles. High temperatures, dust and demanding road conditions have also played an important role in FREELANDER 8's development and validation. Its air-conditioning system, Sand Mode and locally relevant cabin features reflect an approach that incorporates regional requirements from the product development stage.

Expanding into right-hand drive markets with Australia and New Zealand as priorities

Building on its left-hand drive market roll-out, FREELANDER's second phase will focus on right-hand drive markets, with Australia and New Zealand as its priorities. Further markets will be announced as plans are confirmed.

The combination of urban life, long-distance travel and outdoor exploration in Australia and New

Zealand aligns with FREELANDER's focus on premium quality, everyday comfort and all-terrain capability. The development of right-hand drive products and local partner networks will extend the brand's reach to more international customers.

Entering European markets followed by the UK and Ireland

In the third phase, FREELANDER plans to introduce products meeting European regulatory requirements into markets including Germany, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Spain, before expanding further into the United Kingdom and Ireland.

This phase will bring the brand's British design heritage and intelligent technology to more European customers. Market entry dates, product specifications and sales arrangements will be announced individually as local plans progress.

Supporting long-term growth through global engineering and local service

FREELANDER's market expansion is supported by product

development for international markets. Left-hand drive, right-hand drive and European regulatory requirements are considered from the outset, alongside development and validation for different climates, road conditions and customer needs.

Dealer networks, local teams and customer service capabilities will develop alongside the market roll-out. As Lucia Mao, CEO of FREELANDER International, emphasised at the launch, commitment "only becomes real when it is delivered locally — through people, partners and service."

From the UAE to the wider Middle East and North Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and Europe, FREELANDER is building its international presence through a clear, phased roadmap. As products and local sales and service networks develop, the brand will bring its Beyond the Legend vision to more markets, turning British design heritage, intelligent technology and all-terrain capability into experiences for customers worldwide.

About FREELANDER

FREELANDER is a British Premium Intelligent All-Terrain Brand, jointly developed by JLR and Chery. JLR owns the FREELANDER brand and has established a dedicated FREELANDER Design Hub that leads its design. Chery provides advanced intelligent technology and a top-tier global supply chain. The brand is supported by a strong global foundation, including more than 5,000 employees, five strategic hubs, and fully integrated capabilities spanning design, R&D, manufacturing, and global operations.



Modern Presence, Beyond the legend



Powerful Performance



Global Brand Launch

Awarded by international magazine Euromoney

NBK named ‘Middle East’s Best FX Bank for Corporates’ for 2026

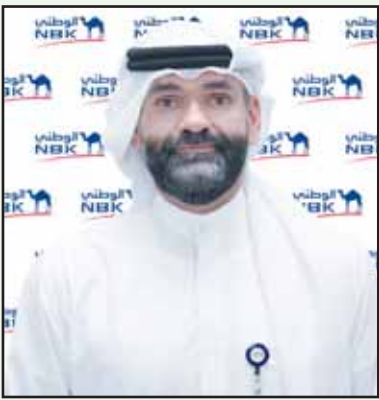
KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: In a further recognition of its regional leadership and ability to deliver advanced, innovative solutions tailored to the foreign exchange needs of companies and institutions, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has been named “Middle East’s Best FX Bank for Corporates” by international magazine Euromoney as part of its Foreign Exchange Awards 2026.

Among the leading global honours dedicated to currency markets, Euromoney’s Foreign Exchange Awards are granted following a comprehensive assessment of financial performance, innovation, client service quality and market impact, alongside client feedback, operational data and professional standards across the global foreign exchange industry. Submissions also undergo independent evaluation by industry experts and specialists, together with Euromoney’s research and editorial teams.

This recognition reflects NBK’s leading position in corporate foreign exchange solutions across the region. The Bank offers a comprehensive suite of products and services designed to help clients manage currency volatility risks, enhance the efficiency of their treasury operations and support the expansion of their commercial and investment activities across markets.

The award also affirms the success of NBK’s strategy, which centres on sustained investment in technology infrastructure and digital capabilities, the delivery of sophisticated financial solutions grounded in a deep understanding of client needs, and the use of its extensive regional and international network and longstanding expertise in financial and currency markets.

Euromoney’s awards are highly regarded across the global banking and financial sector, serving as an international benchmark for excellence, innovation and leadership in financial services. Euromoney describes its Foreign Exchange Awards programme as one of the most



Hussain Al-Shaiji

Al-Shaiji: Recognition reflects the success of our strategy in leveraging the latest technologies to enhance the efficiency of foreign exchange services

- A new achievement reinforces NBK’s regional leadership in delivering solutions that meet corporate clients’ foreign exchange needs
- A comprehensive suite of products and services tailored to help clients manage currency volatility risks



NBK headquarters



comprehensive and respected assessments in the global currency industry, recognising institutions that deliver exceptional performance and tangible value to their clients and markets.

For NBK, this achievement underscores its commitment to further developing its foreign exchange and financial markets products and services, while strengthening its ability to meet the growing needs of local and regional companies and institutions. These efforts reinforce the Bank’s position as a trusted banking partner for businesses in Kuwait and across the region.

Commenting on this achievement, Hussain Al-Shaiji, Deputy Treasurer, Treasury Group at NBK, said: “This recognition reflects the success of our strategy in leveraging the latest technologies and digital solutions to enhance the efficiency of our foreign exchange services and deliver added value to our corporate and institutional clients.”

“At NBK, we believe that technology is not here to replace people, but rather to empower them and enhance their capabilities. Our aim is to leverage technology to handle operational tasks, enabling our teams to focus more on strategic priorities and develop innovative ideas and solutions that reinforce NBK’s leadership in providing treasury and foreign exchange services across the region,” Al-Shaiji added.

The recognition adds to NBK’s extensive record of international honours and accolades, reflecting its strong performance, robust business model and leadership across banking and financial services. It also affirms the Bank’s success in maintaining the highest standards of service and innovation in line with international best practices.

For more information about the banks that won the Euromoney Foreign Exchange Awards 2026, please visit the following website: FX Awards 2026 results - Euromoney

Regional tensions and rate expectations drive markets

By National Bank of Kuwait

Global Markets spent the week tracking elevated bond yields, rising energy costs and the outlook for further monetary tightening. US equities reached fresh highs early in the week before retreating on Wednesday as long-dated Treasury yields climbed, and the 30-year yield touched a 24-year high. Markets priced less than a 20% probability of an October Fed hike, while minutes of the September meeting showed that most officials still anticipated another increase before year-end. Thursday’s 30-year Treasury auction attracted strong demand, providing some relief to bonds, while Brent crude surged more than 4% before stabilizing at around \$104.70 per barrel on Friday morning. The dollar remained firm, with EUR/USD trading around 1.1200 levels and heading for a fifth consecutive weekly decline amid concerns over France’s fiscal position. Gold rose more than 1% on Friday to approximately \$4,216 per ounce, alongside a modest pullback in the dollar and oil prices.

United States & Canada

ISM Services Eases to 54.9 as Prices Rise to Their Highest Since July 2022

The ISM Services PMI declined to 54.9 in September from 55.4 in August, remaining in expansion for the 27th consecutive month. Business activity slowed to 56.5 from 61.7, while new orders eased to 59.8 from 60.9. Employment returned to expansion at 50.1 after two months below the 50 threshold. Price pressures strengthened, with the prices index rising to 74.0 from 72.6, its highest reading since July 2022. Supplier deliveries also slowed, with the index increasing to 53.2 from 51.3. Respondents cited fuel costs and supply-chain constraints among the factors affecting costs and operating conditions.

Fed Minutes Show Most Officials Expect Another Rate Increase Before Year-End

Minutes of the Federal Reserve’s September meeting showed unanimous support for the 25bps increase that lifted the federal funds target range to 3.75%–4.00%. Most participants assessed that another increase would likely be appropriate before year-end, although subsequent decisions would depend on incoming data and the balance of risks. Officials noted that inflation remained elevated, with higher energy costs and strong AI-related investment contributing to price pressures. Several participants viewed the policy rate as either non-restrictive or only mildly restrictive, while a couple raised their estimates of the neutral rate. Policymakers generally described labour-market conditions as stable, although several highlighted low hiring and job-finding rates. The minutes did not commit the Committee to an increase at its October meeting, meanwhile markets are leaning more towards another hike taking place in December rather than October.

Initial Claims Fall to 197K as Continuing Claims Edge Higher

Initial unemployment claims declined by 2K to 197K in the week ending October 3, below expectations of 200K. The previous week’s figure was revised higher to 199K from 197K. The four-week moving average fell by 2.5K to 198K, while continuing claims

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week’s Expected Range		3-Month
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1201	1.1160	1.1276	1.1201	1.1050	1.1285	1.1245
GBP	1.3234	1.3180	1.3285	1.3231	1.3050	1.3345	1.3236
JPY	157.47	157.41	158.50	158.31	157.45	159.80	157.15
CHF	0.8275	0.8275	0.8346	0.8301	0.8205	0.8500	0.8212

increased by 17K to 1.716M in the week ending September 26. The insured unemployment rate remained unchanged at 1.1%. Initial claims stayed below 200K for a fourth consecutive week, with layoffs remaining low despite the slowdown in September payroll growth.

Michigan Consumer Sentiment Falls to 46.3 as Inflation Expectations Rise

The University of Michigan’s preliminary consumer sentiment index declined to 46.3 in October from 48.1 in September. The current economic conditions index fell sharply to 44.7 from 50.9, while consumer expectations edged higher to 47.3 from 46.3. Buying conditions for durable goods deteriorated as households cited high prices and borrowing costs, with sentiment weakening particularly among lower-income consumers and those with smaller stock portfolios. Year-ahead inflation expectations increased to 4.7% from 4.6%, while longer-term expectations rose to 3.5% from 3.4%. Both measures increased for a second consecutive month, reaching their highest levels since May.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 102.213.

Canada’s Ivey PMI Falls to 58.2 While Employment and Prices Strengthen

Canada’s seasonally adjusted Ivey PMI declined to 58.2 in September from 64.3 in August, below expectations of 65.2 but remaining above the 50-expansion threshold. The employment index increased to 56.5 from 55.0, while the inventories index eased to 58.3 from 61.4. The supplier deliveries index fell to 39.2 from 41.5, indicating longer delivery times. Meanwhile, the prices index rose to 82.8 from 80.4, extending the increase in purchasing costs. The survey recorded slower growth in purchasing activity alongside higher employment and stronger price pressures.

The USD/CAD was last seen trading at 1.4254.

United Kingdom

Bailey Calls for Credible Fiscal Policy as Repeated Supply Shocks Test Financial Resilience

Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey warned on Thursday that repeated supply shocks, weaker underlying growth and rising government debt were increasing risks to financial stability. Speaking in Istanbul, he said the Middle East conflict had created uncertainty over growth, inflation and interest rates, while stressing that banks remained well capitalised and financial markets had generally continued to function without significant funding or liquidity stress. Bailey noted that monetary policy could look through a temporary increase in energy prices only while inflation expectations remained anchored, and that interest rates might need to rise even as activity weakened if price pressures became persistent. He urged governments to maintain credible fiscal frameworks, warn-

ing that doubts over debt sustainability could drive borrowing costs higher.

The GBP/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.3231.

Europe

Eurozone Producer Prices Rise 1.9% as Energy Costs Climb

Eurozone industrial producer prices increased by 1.9% MoM in August, in line with expectations and following a 1.6% rise in July. Annual producer-price inflation accelerated to 8.2% from 5.8%. Energy prices led the monthly increase, rising by 5.6%, while intermediate goods and durable consumer goods each increased by 0.4%. Capital goods prices rose by 0.2%, and non-durable consumer goods increased by 0.1%. Excluding energy, producer prices increased by 0.2% MoM and 3.4% YoY. Energy prices were 21.0% higher than a year earlier.

The EUR/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.1201.

Asia Pacific

Ueda Reiterates Further Rate Increases as Underlying Inflation Approaches 2%

Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda said Japan’s economy continued to recover moderately, with exports supported by global AI-related demand and business investment remaining on an upward trend. He noted that higher oil prices, yen depreciation and rising wages were contributing to price pressures, while underlying inflation was approaching 2%. Following September’s increase in the policy rate to around 1.25%, Ueda said financial conditions remained accommodative, with real interest rates still low. He reiterated that the Bank would continue raising rates in line with developments in economic activity, prices and financial conditions.

The timing and pace of further adjustments would depend on the outlook and associated risks, including the possibility of underlying inflation exceeding the target.

Japan’s Household Spending Falls 3.1% for a Ninth Consecutive Annual Decline

Japan’s real household spending declined by 3.1% YoY in August, following a 3.6% fall in July. The result marked a ninth consecutive annual decline, although the contraction was smaller than the 3.6% median forecast reported by Reuters. The figures covered households with two or more people and were released by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications on Friday. Separately, data released earlier in the week showed that real wages increased for an eighth consecutive month in August. Household spending nevertheless remained below its year-earlier level despite the continued improvement in inflation-adjusted earnings.

The USD/JPY currency pair last seen trading at 158.31.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30815.



Kuwait Financial Centre’s team with the Tura team.

Connecting cultural legacy with future generations

Markaz sponsors opening of Tura Initiative’s 2026–27 cultural season

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” announced its sponsorship of the opening of Tura Initiative’s 2026–2027 cultural season, held on 7 October at the Museum of Modern Art. Featuring Kuwait’s maritime arts and traditions, preformed by the Hamad Bin Hussein Band; the opening highlighted an important chapter of the country’s history and the cultural practices that continue to shape its identity. The event was attended by prominent Kuwaiti figures and individuals with a keen interest in culture and heritage, bringing together different generations to celebrate Kuwait’s rich cultural heritage.

Tura is a Kuwaiti initiative dedicated to documenting the country’s oral history through first hand, personal narratives. Its work seeks to build an archive of Kuwait’s collective memory, including the traditions and social practices that have evolved over time.

For Markaz, whose history in Kuwait spans more than five decades, the sponsorship carries a connection to the company’s own journey alongside the country’s development. Having witnessed significant changes in Kuwait’s economic and investment landscape since its establishment in 1974, Markaz recognizes the value of

understanding the experiences and institutions that have shaped society. Supporting Tura reflects this appreciation of Kuwait’s history and the importance of keeping its stories relevant to new generations.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Abdullatif W. Al-Nusif, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Markaz, said: “At Markaz, our work is centered on creating long-term value, and we believe that the same long-term perspective matters when considering our contribution to society. Kuwait’s progress has been shaped by the knowledge, experiences and values passed down through generations. Tura’s efforts to document these stories offer an important opportunity to retain that knowledge and make it accessible to those who will shape the country’s next chapter. We are pleased to support an initiative that brings this perspective to life.”

The sponsorship enforces the cultural dimension to Markaz’s corporate social responsibility efforts, which encompass education, youth development and community engagement. By supporting initiatives across these areas, Markaz seeks to contribute to the development of Kuwaiti society while maintaining a connection to the values and institutions that have shaped its progress.

‘Wealth gap widens’

Rising debt strains US households

WASHINGTON, Oct 11, (AP): Bolstered by steady gains in the stock market, families headed by someone aged 75 or older are now America’s wealthiest, while the youngest families saw their wealth decline in the past three years, a government report released Friday said.

The finding from the Federal Reserve’s Survey of Consumer Finances underscores how robust stock market gains have made wealthier American families even richer since the survey, conducted every three years, was last completed in 2022. The median net worth of the richest one-tenth of American families soared 31% to \$3.6 million from 2022 to 2025, the survey found. The median is the midpoint between the richest and poorest families.

For the oldest families aged 75 and over, median net worth jumped to nearly \$505,000, up from just over \$367,000 in 2022. Three years ago, families aged 65 to 74 were the richest. All the figures are adjusted for inflation.

Average wealth for the oldest age group rose 10% to \$1.96 million. The higher average, compared with the median, reflects the fact that wealthier Americans pulled up the average relative to the median.

Those aged 35 and below reported median net worth of

\$33,000, a drop of 23% from 2022.

Overall, the survey found broad gains in income, even after adjusting for inflation, which slightly reduced income inequality compared with three years earlier. Higher-income families actually saw their incomes drop, likely because of declines in business income, which the Fed said can be volatile.

Median family incomes rose about 7% from 2021 to 2024, the Fed said, to about \$82,000. The survey measures incomes in the year prior to the periods covered by the report. The middle one-fifth of families saw the biggest income gain, while the top fifth reported lower incomes.

Even so, the proportion of Americans struggling with high debt payments and falling behind on their payments jumped, a sign of the toll that sharply higher inflation and higher interest rates have taken on lower-income Americans.

In 2025, nearly 20% of U.S. families said they had been late on a loan payment in the previous year, up sharply from 12.2% in 2022. And the proportion of families dedicating 40% or more of their incomes to debt payments jumped to 8.6%, the highest in at least 12 years, the report showed.

In September, offline consumption payments increased 3.1 percent from a year earlier, up 0.5 percentage points from August, marking three consecutive months of growth.

The data also showed that the weight carried by cargo ships departing from and arriving at major Chinese ports rose 43.1 percent and 0.3 percent year on year, respectively, in the third quarter.

On investment, the issuance of new special-purpose bonds rose 50.2 percent year on year in September, 43.6 percentage points faster than the August level, the data showed.

High-frequency data points to China’s improving economic momentum in Q3

BEIJING, Oct 11, (Xinhua): China’s economy continued to improve in the third quarter of this year, with new growth drivers gaining momentum, official high-frequency data on consumption, trade and investment showed Sunday.

Consumer activity continued to recover, with offline consumption payments up 2.6 percent year on year in the third quarter, accelerating by 0.7 percentage points from the second quarter, according to data released by the State Information Center under the National Development and Reform Commission.

People-to-people links pillar of Spain-Kuwait partnership

By Marlon Aquino Malinao
Managing Editor, Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: For Spain’s Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Manuel Hernández Gamallo, diplomacy begins not in chancelleries but in everyday encounters between families, entrepreneurs, artists and engineers whose work and warmth give bilateral ties their enduring strength.

In an exclusive interview with Arab Times ahead of Spain’s National Day on Oct 12, he reflected on the relationship between Spain and Kuwait, the people who keep it moving, the businesses and infrastructure projects that leave a lasting footprint, and the cultural exchanges that bring the two societies closer.

First impressions: A city that welcomes

When Ambassador Gamallo first arrived, it was not a formal ceremony that left the strongest impression, but Kuwait itself. Driving through the capital at night, he recalls being struck by illuminated villas, traditional houses and mosques set against the evening sky. Yet beyond architecture, what stayed with him was the intangible: the openness with which Kuwaitis welcome others into their homes and lives - a hospitality he describes as distinctive even after serving in several countries.

That personal dimension, he says, makes the Spain-Kuwait relationship feel natural and human-centered. “Human relations are very important,” he noted, describing Kuwait as an exceptionally sociable society.

A bridge made of people

Asked to picture the bridge between Spain and Kuwait in a single image, the ambassador did not choose a landmark, dish or melody. He chose people. He pointed to the steady flow of Kuwaitis traveling to Spain for holidays, business and property, alongside Spaniards coming to Kuwait to work and build commercial relationships. “These are really the most effective bridges between both countries,” he said.

For him, the relationship lives in Kuwaiti families who return to Spain year after year, in entrepreneurs who import Spanish products, in professionals collaborating across borders, and in Spanish companies whose work has become part of Kuwait’s physical landscape.

When business leaves a footprint

Trade figures tell part of the story: Spanish exports to Kuwait grew by around 14 percent in 2024, approaching €300 million. But Ambassador Gamallo believes the more meaningful narrative lies behind the numbers, in Spanish firms that have delivered infrastructure and major projects in Kuwait. Some completed contracts and departed; others maintain a long-term presence. Their work, he argues, remains visible in roads, facilities and systems that serve as a lasting testimony to Spain’s contribution.

This, for him, is what makes economic diplomacy meaningful: not merely the value of a contract, but the legacy it leaves behind. He highlighted Spanish entrepreneurs and businesses operating in Kuwait, as well as Kuwaiti businesspeople with ties to Spain, noting that the relationship is increasingly multidimensional - spanning infrastructure, energy, transport, trade, services and investment.

A wider door for young professionals

The long-discussed EU-GCC free trade agreement could, in his view, elevate that relationship further. Beyond tariffs and barriers, the ambassador sees practical opportunities for young professionals, entrepreneurs and businesses on both sides: improved conditions for professional mobility, recognition of qualifications and greater economic fluidity. For a young Kuwaiti engineer, that could mean easier access to European opportunities; for a Spanish architect or engineer, greater access to Gulf markets.

He added that the potential impact extends beyond traditional industries to technology and emerging businesses, with a more integrated economic environment smoothing supply chains and simplifying operations for both sides.

Spain at Kuwait’s airport

Among the projects currently capturing his attention are the work of Spanish companies related to civil aviation services. For instance, one Spanish company is providing project-management and operational-readiness services in Terminal 2 of the Airport. Another important company is involved in key projects such as the air traffic management, the air control tower simulator and the new tower at Kuwait International Airport. In both cases, the Spanish involvement in strategic flagship projects, demonstrates that the relationship goes beyond physical infrastructure to the technology and expertise required to operate modern facilities.

Other important projects implemented by Spanish companies, in fields such as energy facilities and transport infrastructure, will remain in Kuwait as a testimony of the Spanish commitment with the progress of this country.

When music becomes diplomacy

If infrastructure represents one side of the relationship, culture provides another. The ambassador recalled a Spanish guitar and multi-instrumental performance in Yarmouk Cultural Centre, “homage concert to Paco de Lucia”, the world-famous flamenco composer and virtuoso, that stayed with him, not only for its artistry, but because the guitar embodies a musical tradition with deep roots appreciated across cultures.

He also remembered a chamber orchestra concert at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Centre (JACC), organized in collaboration with Kuwait’s National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters.



H.E. Manuel Hernández Gamallo, Spain’s Ambassador to Kuwait

Ambassador Gamallo: Dialogue matters in times of regional uncertainty

Another meaningful moment was the exchange between the diplomatic academies of Spain and Kuwait, during which young Spanish diplomats visited Kuwait for an intensive introduction to the country, its foreign policy and key institutions. For Ambassador Gamallo, such encounters matter because today’s young diplomats will become tomorrow’s architects of bilateral relations. He sees the exchange as a first step toward deeper institutional cooperation and hopes it will continue to grow.

Beyond the postcard: Discovering Spain’s regions

Spain is often introduced through familiar images of football, beaches, architecture, food and holidays. But the ambassador wants Kuwaitis to see another Spain. He encourages visitors to move beyond the well-known summer destinations and explore the country’s extraordinary regional diversity. Spain, he explained, is a nation of distinct regions, traditions, cuisines and even languages; traveling from one part to another can feel like entering a different cultural and geographical environment.

He pointed to Spain’s historic heritage, including its network of Paradores - castles, palaces and other historic buildings converted into hotels while preserving their architectural and cultural character. For visitors, these places offer an unusual combination: the chance to experience history while enjoying modern comfort. He also urged Kuwaitis to discover Spain’s transport

infrastructure, historic cities, public spaces and green areas - elements of contemporary Spanish life that may not appear in the standard tourist brochure.

Visa advice: Plan ahead

For Kuwaitis planning a trip to Spain - whether for tourism, study or business - the ambassador’s advice is straightforward: apply early. Applicants should check requirements carefully and submit well ahead of intended travel dates, particularly during peak periods. The embassy’s services, he said, work efficiently, but travelers can make the process smoother by allowing sufficient time and preparing documentation properly.

National Day: More than a date

Spain’s National Day, celebrated on October 12, carries historical significance for Spaniards and is associated with the broader Hispanic world. For the ambassador, the occasion is an opportunity not only to celebrate Spain but to reflect on the country’s complex history and its connections with different parts of the world. In Spain, the day is marked by a traditional military parade in Madrid and numerous local events; in Kuwait, the embassy plans the traditional National Day reception to celebrate the event.

A country at the crossroads

Spain’s identity, he explained, cannot be reduced to a single label. It is simultaneously European, Mediterranean and Atlantic, at the crossroads with Africa and

- Spanish firms leave lasting footprint on Kuwait
- Spain’s expertise supports Kuwait’s airport expansion
- Cultural exchanges strengthen ties
- Beyond beaches, Spain offers a world of discovery
- Early visa applications key to smooth Spain travel
- Shared hospitality deepens Spain-Kuwait friendship
- Spain backs dialogue, peaceful solution in region
- Spanish envoy builds ties through everyday diplomacy

the Americas. That position has shaped the country’s history and contributed to an identity open to different cultures and influences. The same outlook, he suggested, is relevant to Spain’s role in the Gulf: a historical experience of interaction that fosters dialogue, openness and international cooperation.

A community far from home and close to it

The Spanish community in Kuwait is another vital strand of the bilateral relationship. The ambassador described Spaniards living and working in Kuwait as businessmen, professionals, traders, doctors and families who have established lives in the country. For them, National Day can be both a celebration of Spain and a reminder of home.

But Kuwait itself, he noted, has a special quality: the warmth of its society and the hospitality extended to Spaniards make it possible for members of the Spanish community to feel, in many ways, at home. That sense of belonging, he believes, is itself a form of diplomacy.

In difficult times, dialogue matters

The relationship between Spain and Kuwait exists within a wider regional environment marked by conflict and uncertainty. The ambassador referred to the recent conversations and meeting between the Spanish and Kuwaiti foreign ministers on regional stability, cease-fires and the search for peaceful solutions. Spain, he said, supports diplomatic efforts and mediation aimed at resolving conflicts in accordance with international law and UN principles.

For diplomats serving in the Gulf, such issues are not abstract; they are followed closely because developments in the region have direct consequences for people, economies and communities. The ambassador emphasized the importance of continuing diplomatic engagement and working toward stability.

A legacy measured in daily work

Asked what he would like his legacy in Kuwait to be, the ambassador resisted naming one grand achievement. It is, he said, still too early. Instead, he returned to a theme that runs throughout his approach: daily work. For him, a diplomatic legacy is built gradually by identifying opportunities, strengthening relationships, encouraging economic cooperation and advancing promising initiatives. “If we see an opportunity, we push for the development of relations,” was the essence of his message.

He pointed to efforts to deepen economic ties and advance cooperation as areas where Spain hopes to deliver meaningful results in the near future. The goal is not necessarily one spectacular accomplishment, but sustained progress.

Looking toward 2027

Asked to imagine Spain’s National Day in Kuwait one year from now, in October 2027, the ambassador was characteristically cautious. He preferred to let the work speak for itself. The embassy, he said, is working every day toward results, and he hopes that by then there will be achievements significant enough to look back on. Perhaps, he suggested with a smile, the two sides could meet again and talk about what those achievements turned out to be.

It is an answer that captures his broader philosophy: diplomacy is less about making predictions than about creating the conditions for progress.

Take the road less traveled

For Kuwaitis who have never visited Spain, the ambassador has one final recommendation. See the famous places, certainly. Visit the coast. Explore the southern regions. Experience the cities that have made Spain one of the world’s most popular destinations.

But then rent a car. Drive. Do not plan every minute. Travel inland. Explore smaller towns and discover the differences between Spain’s regions. Head north, he suggested, and visitors may find themselves looking at a landscape and architecture so different that it feels like another country - even another planet.

That sense of discovery, he believes, is the real Spain. Even as a Spaniard who has spent much of his life knowing the country, he said, he continues to discover new places and learn more about it. And perhaps that is the best invitation he can offer Kuwaitis: do not simply visit Spain. Explore it. Because somewhere beyond the famous beaches, celebrated cities and familiar postcards is a Spain that reveals itself gradually, one road, one village, one conversation and one unexpected discovery at a time.

And somewhere between those roads and the streets of Kuwait, the ambassador believes, the bridge between the two countries continues to grow.



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Spain’s Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Manuel Hernández Gamallo answers questions during an exclusive interview with Arab Times ahead of Spain’s National Day on Oct 12, discussing bilateral relations, economic cooperation, cultural exchanges and opportunities to strengthen ties between the two countries.

“People are the most effective bridges between Spain and Kuwait”

‘It’s really opened people’s eyes to what happened in ME’

Chinese hit movie ‘Once Upon a Time in the Middle East’ premieres in N. America

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 11, (Xinhua): Following its strong box office run in China, “Once Upon a Time in the Middle East” made its North American debut Friday with a limited theatrical release, bringing audiences a poignant reflection on the horrors of war and the preciousness of peace.

Distributed by Well Go USA Entertainment, the Chinese drama film is screening with English subtitles at more than 120 theaters in major North American cities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Chicago, New York, Boston, Toronto and Vancouver.

Directed by Wen Muye and starring Shen Teng and Jiang Qiming, the film follows Xu Fu, a Chinese cook who travels to the Middle East to work in a Chinese restaurant after falling into debt at home. He and restaurant manager Ma Junsheng help build a popular eatery that becomes a gathering place for people of different backgrounds. But when war breaks out, the restaurant becomes the setting for a poignant story of survival, human resilience and the pursuit of peace.

Several moviegoers, who watched the film in the Los Angeles area, told Xinhua that the movie



A child looks at a poster of the Chinese film “Once Upon a Time in the Middle East” at a theater in Los Angeles, the United States, Oct. 9, 2026. (Xinhua)

deserves high marks. They noted that the film offers North American audiences an opportunity to view and reflect on conflicts and warfare in the Middle East from a perspective different from that typically presented by Hollywood. Some moviegoers also praised the film’s technical craftsmanship and international storytelling.

Alivia, who watched the film at an AMC theater in Monterey Park, said the film has deeply moved her.

“It’s really opened people’s eyes about what really happened in the Middle East, and it shows how everybody is involved, not just the Americans and (people in) the Middle East. It’s everybody. It’s brought out all of my emotions to make me feel what they feel,” she said.

“I think it should win awards, truly. It’s a very amazing movie,” Alivia added.

“Once Upon a Time in the Middle East” has been selected by the Chinese mainland as its official entry for the Best International Feature Film category at the 99th Academy Awards.

According to data from Maoyan, a Chinese movie-ticketing and film data platform, the film has grossed more than 2.36 billion yuan (approximately 330 million U.S. dollars) at the Chinese mainland box office since its theatrical release on Aug. 11. It has received strong feedback from Chinese audience, earning a rating of 9.7 out of 10 on Maoyan.

Film

Movie opens with political ad artifice

Ben Affleck’s ‘Animals’ puts mayoral race at risk

LOS ANGELES, Oct 11, (AP): We have now gotten two remakes of Akira Kurosawa’s “High and Low,” and yet not a single new rendition of “Stray Dog.”

Lamentable though that imbalance may be - you may have your own Kurosawa favorite - it’s not hard to see the contemporary appeal of 1963’s “High and Low.” It’s an ingenious plot. A wealthy businessperson believes his son has been taken by kidnappers. But they’ve mistakenly taken the wrong boy: his chauffeur’s son. Paying the ransom becomes an anguished moral dilemma, rife with socioeconomic tension.

Last year, Spike Lee moved the drama to New York and the music industry in “Highest 2 Lowest.” Now, in a new Netflix movie, Ben Affleck has transferred “High and Low” to Los Angeles and politics.

“Highest 2 Lowest” brought some lively scenes to the table: a rap battle between Denzel Washington and A\$AP Rocky, a subway car full of Yankee fans shouting “Boston sucks!” It wasn’t nearly Lee’s best film but it was unmistakably a Lee film.

But Affleck, who directed, co-wrote and stars in “Animals,” never finds much of a pulse in his lackluster Kurosawa riff for Netflix.

In transferring the story to Los Angeles, Affleck, who wrote the script with Connor O. McIntyre and Billy Ray, opens the hostage story up to new thematic fronts - divorce, public persona, duplicity - that have meaningful reverberations for Affleck, a Hollywood A-listers who has navigated fluctuating opinion polls and much-publicized personal dramas for the better part of his career. Yet those parallels aren’t enough to enliven this far-from-wild “Animals,” an Affleck-directed movie well shy of his better “A”-titled films, “Argo” and “Air.”

The movie opens with political ad artifice. Mark Kimball (Affleck) is running for mayor of Los Angeles, and in the film’s glossy beginning, he earnestly pledges transparency. But once the opening credits have rolled in “Animals,” a less rosy reality sets in.



This image released by Netflix shows Kerry Washington, left, and Ben Affleck in a scene from “Animals.” (AP)

As Mark smiles his way through campaign headquarters, his campaign manager Sam (Steven Yeun) tells him their big ad spend didn’t help enough. He’s still trailing the incumbent by four points.

Mark maintains his optimistic front, but inside his office, panic is setting in. To bankroll the ads, Mark has mortgaged his home. If he loses the election, Mark says, he’ll lose his house, and, soon after, his wife.

Like his political image, much is for show in Mark’s domestic life, too. His wife, Abigail (Kerry Washington), a psychologist, is cheating on him. Mark’s unaware but we can sense their relationship is largely a facade. Mark also runs on a pro-immigrant platform but when the couple’s housekeeper Cecilia (Adriana Paz) asks them to hire her undocumented immigrant husband Ramon (Luis Gerardo Méndez), they decline out of fear it could harm Mark’s campaign.

On Halloween night, Mark and Abigail’s son, Denny, is kidnapped. A phone call comes: \$7 million to save him. For the well-

off Kimballs, this would typically be solvable. Except because Mark has borrowed against everything they have, raising the money is more complicated. On Sam’s advice, they call in a mysterious crisis fixer, Dayle Burton (Gillian Anderson), who, we gather, will inevitably compromise Mark’s pledges against corruption.

From the start, it’s a crisis for both the kidnapped boy and Mark’s political campaign. Even in such a fraught moment, Mark is encouraged by his campaign manager to consider how things will appear. That’s doubly true when it turns out that the kidnappers have unwittingly taken not the Kimballs’ son but Cecilia and Ramon’s.

Affleck is a savvy and thoughtful filmmaker who can deftly weave human stories, genre mechanics and social issues together. But “Animals” feels narratively underpowered and melodramatically forced. It offers Affleck some good opportunities to flaunt his Spanish and comment on the false fronts that exist both in public officialdom and intimate relationships.

But it doesn’t come anywhere close to matching the propulsion of Kurosawa.

Affleck, who earlier this year sold an artificial intelligence company to Netflix for more than \$500 million, has said he used AI in the making of “Animals.” It’s difficult to tell where. But the greater issue is that “Animals” generally appears flat and visually bland, lacking the human textures the story needs.

But before “Animals” loses its grip, Gillian Anderson casts a momentary spell over the film. In a brief, underwritten role, Anderson - sensational earlier this year in “Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma” - elevates the film. Even when handed ham-fisted dialogue like “Humans are animals that tell stories,” Anderson is queen of this “Animal” kingdom.

“Animals,” a Netflix release streaming Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language throughout, some violence and sexual references. Running time: 106 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Katseye, ‘VisionQuest,’ ‘Tenzing’ top streaming picks of the week

LOS ANGELES, Oct 11, (AP): A new album from Katseye and the Marvel series “VisionQuest” are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.

Also among the streaming offerings worth your time this week, as selected by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists: Judd Apatow’s tribute to Norm Macdonald, “Dopamine Chamber” from Fontaines D.C. and a new entry in the “Castlevania” video game series.

- Director Judd Apatow pays affectionate tribute to Norm Macdonald with the documentary “Norm: The Tale of Norm Macdonald” (Netflix). Apatow’s film about the stand-up comedian, who died in 2021, plays with Macdonald’s still constant ubiquity on social media, where bits and late-show appearances still regularly flood the feeds of comedy fans. - Jennifer Peedom’s “Tenzing” (Apple TV) is a biopic and historical drama about an often-unsung hero of mountaineering: Tenzing Norgay. Genden Phuntsok and Tom Hiddleston star as Tenzing and Edmund Hillary, respectively, in Peedom’s film about the first climbers to ever summit Mount Everest. Co-starring Willem Dafoe.

- “The Death of Robin Hood” (HBO Max) stars Hugh Jackman as a grizzled and violent outlaw little like most contemporary versions of Robin Hood. Michael Sarnoski (“Pig,” “A Quiet Place: Day One”) eschews cheerier mythologies for a brutal telling of the medieval tale. In my review, I wrote that it “drains the blood, and life, out of an old English legend.”

- **AP Film Writer Jake Coyle**

- Call Katseye the great, global girl group experiment of the decade. The band officially debuted at the end of 2023, created by the Hybe Corporation and Geffen Records in a TV competition process that was documented on the Netflix series “Popstar Academy: Katseye.” That feels like ancient history now. Today, they’re easily one of the biggest groups on the planet, and their swift ascent is further documented in a new film, “Katseye: Wild Heart,” available to stream on Disney+/Hulu.

- If the Irish post-punk band Fontaines D.C. is still unknown to you - that’s sure to change. Their last album, 2024’s “Romance,” was certified platinum in the U.K. off the strength of its singles “Favourite” and “Starbust.” Their latest album, “Dopamine Chamber,” is on track to be one of the biggest rock releases of the year, from the trip-hop-adjacent “Tongue” to the dizzying “Marianne.” (If their pop-and-then-some experiments are not enough of an incentive to press play, just know that Rosalía appears on the track “Where Is Gone?” their first guest feature. That’s unexpected!)

- When it comes to Riot Grrrl, the ‘90s feminist movement, some names loom larger than others in cultural memory. At the forefront is Kathleen Hanna, the feminist punk pioneer and celebrated Bikini Kill frontwoman, as well as acts like Bratmobile. The list should also include Heavens to Betsy, the duo of drummer Tracy Sawyer and singer-guitarist Corin Tucker (who would later form Sleater-Kinney

with Carrie Brownstein.) On Friday, they will release “Baby’s Gone,” a newly unearthed demo tape originally recorded in February 1992 by Bratmobile’s Molly Neuman - and two 7-inch EPs. It’s a miracle for followers of the DIY musical underground and a gift for others just discovering it now (perhaps in no small part due to Olivia Rodrigo’s Daisy Chain Festival)?

- **AP Music Writer Maria Sherman**

- Paul Bettany returns as Vision in the Marvel series “VisionQuest,” that closes out the WandaVision trilogy. Vision is now a fugitive after the events of “WandaVision,” with authorities hunting him down. James Spader reprises his role as Ultron, an evil artificial intelligence that built Vision to be his own ultimate physical form. The first two episodes drop on Wednesday on Disney+.

- “Hollywood Arts,” a sequel to the Nickelodeon sitcom “Victorious” that ran from 2010 to 2013, arrives on Netflix. It follows Daniella Monet’s Trina Vega, a down-on-her-luck actress with no teaching credentials who takes a substitute job at her old high school. Original stars Victoria Justice and Ariana Grande are not among the main cast, but Justice has said she may make a cameo in the future. The first 13 episodes drop on Thursday and the second half of the season will premiere at a later date.

- Before Jason ever picked up a machete, his mom was doing the bloody work. A new “Friday the 13th” prequel series called “Crystal Lake” goes back to where the legend began. It’s an eight-episode series starring Linda Cardellini as Pamela Voorhees, who is Jason’s mom. The full season debuts Thursday.

- **AP Writer Alicia Rancilio**

- William, the hero of “Valor Mortis,” takes the title (which means “the value of death”) a bit too literally. He has already died fighting for Napoleon, but somehow he has come back to life. That unholy resurrection gives William some wicked supernatural powers to go along with his slick swordplay. Meanwhile, Napoleon’s endless war has corrupted a broad chunk of 19th-century Europe, so hordes of “plague-ridden abominations” have joined the fight. Polish studio One More Level, best known for the cyberpunk slasher “Ghostrunner,” promises demanding first-person combat in a haunted alternate history. Take up arms Tuesday on PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X/S and PC.

- While we’re messing around in France, let’s travel back in time to 1499 for “Castlevania: Belmont’s Curse.” A new protagonist, Rose Belmont, has inherited the mighty whip known as the Vampire Killer. Dracula has been defeated for good, but his castle has plunked itself down in Paris and all sorts of demons - not to mention Joan of Arc - are on the loose. The 2D, side-scrolling action of Konami’s 1986 original has recently inspired dozens of imitators like “Dead Cells,” and the studios behind that cult hit have taken the reins here. Whip it good starting Thursday on PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X/S, Switch and PC.

- **Lou Kesten**



This combination of images shows promotional art for the films “Tenzing,” from left, “Norm: The Tale of Norm Macdonald,” and “The Death of Robin Hood.” (AP)

Carson’s Nobel-winning work bridges ancient Greek literature and modern life

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

□ □ □

By Amy Cannon

USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

The same year that Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey” has broken box office record after box office record, Canadian poet, essayist and translator Anne Carson has been awarded the Nobel Prize in literature at the age of 76.

Although Nolan and Carson differ in approach, medium and critical reception, both have sought to make works of ancient Greece new for a contemporary audience.

This creative accessibility is likely at least part of why the Nobel committee has seen fit to honor Carson’s “bold and inventive” body of work, which defies genre: Her poems, essays, translations, stage productions and collaborations often evoke another time and place but speak freshly and vividly to audiences today.

Take, for example, her 2019 staged performance, “Norma Jeane Baker of Troy.” In it, Carson overlays Helen of Troy with Marilyn Monroe in order to explore the destructive power of beauty. By revisiting an ancient figure blamed for the Trojan war through the lens of a 20th-century sex symbol, Carson invites audiences to reflect on the ways both women have come to represent glamour and tragedy.

Her 2015 translation of the play “Antigone,” which toured internationally, hews closer to Sophocles’ original. Yet her lively version infects this ancient tragedy with a contemporary voice. Creon’s lament over his dead wife, which Richard C. Jebb translates as “O miserable that I am, and steeped in miserable anguish!” is rendered in her translation “now I am perfectly blended with pain.” Jebb’s Antigone says “ah me unhappy” who have no home on the earth or in the shades” whereas Carson’s says “I’m a strange new kind of inbetween thing aren’t I” about her dilemma.

Other projects of hers veer into

forms the ancient world would have had trouble recognizing. She collaborated with artist Rosanna Bruno on a 2021 graphic novel adaptation of Euripides’ play “The Trojan Women,” first performed in 415 B.C.E. In 2025, she even read her poems on an album for the indie rock band Rheostatics. Dave Bidini, one of the band’s founding members, described Carson as an artist who “hasn’t been afraid to experiment with language, to carve a place that’s her own with her work.”

The originality of her contribution can also arise from a refusal to do what many tend to expect from translations of ancient works in particular.

“If Not, Winter,” her 2002 translation of Sappho, drew attention to the fragmentary nature of Sappho’s surviving work.

Only one complete poem of Sappho’s entire corpus exists: her “Ode to Aphrodite.” Of the remaining fragments, some are lengthy, some only a word or two long, often quoted by other ancient authors. A number were found in shreds of papyri likely recycled to



Canadian poet Anne Carson, winner of the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature, performs her work “Antigonick” at the Moderna Museet art gallery in Stockholm, Sweden, May 8, 2015. (AP)

wrap mummies.

In her translation, where papyri were tattered or a word obscured, Carson indicates this by using brackets and white space. Rather than eliding them, Carson ends up bringing

attention to these absences - an utterly distinctive choice.

Carson states in the introduction to the translation that the brackets “imply a free space of imaginal adventure,” an invitation to fill in the blank of language now lost to us. Additionally, as classicist and translator Emily Wilson notes, Carson “adds no possessive pronouns or definite articles” that are not present in the Greek, another way she lets contemporary readers meet Sappho’s fragments head on.

Where Carson lets an ancient voice speak without interposition, some have found “her particular kind of austerity” wanting. Wilson, for instance, is critical of Carson’s refusal to tilt her translation in a way that acknowledges the important role that Sappho’s gender and sexuality have played in her reception over time.

Wilson further critiques Carson’s “An Oresteia,” her 2010 translation and adaptation of plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides.

Wilson writes that Carson “is acutely conscious of the differenc-

es, in mood, worldview and style, among the three tragedians she translates. It is, then, a disappointment that she does not entirely succeed in making them sound properly distinct from one another.”

It may be that the most distinctive voice in Carson’s translations of ancient authors is her own. But even her original work owes an evident debt to the words of others. She writes with and through other literary voices throughout her work.

Her long poem “The Glass Essay” explores romantic heartbreak and familial sorrow in dialogue with the life and work of Emily Brontë.

“Nox,” an art book and work of poetry created after her brother’s passing, is also an exploration of the elegy that the Roman poet Catullus wrote to his own brother over 2,000 years before.

And this is what Carson so often does so well: She draws the past into the present and refreshes it for us with a poet’s capacity for language and a classicist’s awareness of the long legacy of literature. (AP)

Kuwait’s MoH marks World Mental Health Day, promotes patient support

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: The Ministry of Health organized an event at Assima Mall on the occasion of World Mental Health Day, which is observed on Oct 10 annually, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This year, the World Health Organization (WHO) is celebrating this day with the theme “Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change”.

Director of Kuwait Mental Health Center Dr. Kholoud Al-Ali stated that listening to the experiences of patients and their families is crucial for improving services, ensuring recovery, and combating the stigma associated with mental illness.

She said mental health care begins with listening, respecting the dignity of patients, understanding their needs, challenges and aspirations, and involving them and their families in the treatment and recovery journey.

She explained that the responsibilities of health institutions are not limited to providing treatment and medication, as they include creating a safe environment that upholds the rights of patients, boosts their self-confidence and trust in society, and addresses their needs through the collaborative efforts of medical, nursing, psychological, social and administrative



Dr. Kholoud Al-Ali

professionals.

She called for translating the theme into practices rooted in listening, understanding, and patient involvement in mental health care, stressing that learning from their experiences contributes to improving their lives.

She commended the efforts of those dedicated to patient care and family support and acknowledged the valuable role played by indi-

viduals with lived experience in spreading hope and raising awareness.

She added that the event featured an awareness booth manned by doctors to highlight the importance of mental health care, role of patients and their families in treatment and recovery, and the need for a supportive community to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness.

Australia invests \$770 mln to expand mental health services

CANBERRA, Oct 11, (Xinhua): The Australian government has invested a record 1.1 billion Australian dollars (about 770 million US dollars) to strengthen the country’s mental health system and expand access to care, according to a statement released on Saturday to mark World Mental Health Day.

Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention **Emma McBride** said one in five Australian adults experiences mental health challenges each year, with the proportion doubling among young people.

Almost half of all Australians will experience mental health challenges at some point in their lives, she added.

The government’s investment includes 267.3 million Australian dollars to establish or expand 32 Medicare mental Health Centres, bringing the planned national network to 92 centers.

Currently, 57 centers are operating across the country, having provided more than 570,000 free walk-in appointments.

More than 700 million Australian dollars of the investment has been allocated to supporting young Australians, including 211.5 million dollars to expand the headspace youth mental health network from its current 176 centers to more than 200 by 2030.

McBride also highlighted Medicare mental Health Check-In, Australia’s first free national digital mental health service, which allows people to access self-guided mental health programs or receive support from psychologists over the phone.

This year’s World mental Health Day, observed annually on Oct. 10, carries the theme “Together We



McBride

Thrive,” emphasizing the importance of social connections and mutual support in maintaining mental wellbeing.

Also:

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** on Saturday called for improved access to mental health services and efforts to eliminate social stigma surrounding mental health conditions.

In a message marking World Mental Health Day, Sharif said the government was working on the National Mental Health Policy 2026-35 to ensure more accessible, equitable and rights-based mental health care.

He said the government was collaborating with provincial administrations and relevant stakeholders to integrate mental health services into primary health-care facilities, educational institutions and community-based platforms.

Sharif stressed the need for early diagnosis, timely treatment and a supportive environment that allows people to seek help without fear of discrimination or social pressure.

He said children, young people, women and disadvantaged groups, as well as communities affected by poverty, displacement, emergencies and climate change, required particular attention.

The prime minister urged Pakistanis to build a society where people could discuss mental health openly and receive the support needed to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

The theme of this year’s World Mental Health Day is “Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change,” highlighting the importance of incorporating the perspectives of people experiencing mental health conditions into policies and services.

Somalia issues emergency alert

Strong El Nino brings weather, food and energy risks for Britain and beyond

LONDON, Oct 11, (Agencies): An exceptionally strong El Nino is raising concerns over Britain’s winter weather and living costs, as forecasts of disrupted rainfall worldwide sharpen warnings over food supplies, energy demand and child welfare.

In June, the British Met Office reported that El Nino had formed. By September, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) forecast that El Nino would intensify into a very strong event by the end of the year, with cascading impacts on economies and societies.

El Nino is the term widely used to describe the warming of sea surface temperature that occurs every few years, typically concentrated in the central-east equatorial Pacific, according to the Met Office. Interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere can influence weather far beyond the Pacific, affecting agriculture, infrastructure, health and energy.

Forecasts of sea-surface temperatures point to the potential strength of this El Nino.

In a July Nature news article, Zeke Hausfather, a climate scientist at Berkeley Earth, described projections from 14 models whose median estimate put peak Pacific sea-surface temperature anomalies about 0.8 degrees Celsius above the previous record. Hausfather stressed, however, that the outcome was not a foregone conclusion.

The Guardian reported on Sept. 30 that the oceans absorbed record heat in 2025, almost 40 times humanity’s energy use that year.

Against this background, heat released from the Pacific could further raise global temperatures.

In August, Amanda Maycock, a professor of climate dynamics at the University of Leeds, called for preparations for heavy rain, flooding and drought in different parts of the world, saying that all signs pointed towards a very exceptional El Nino event this winter.

The effects of El Nino will occur over and above the effects of climate change, according to an expert roundtable summary released in September by Britain’s Government Office for Science. It added that the average global surface temperature has risen by approximately 0.25 degrees Celsius since the last El Nino of a similar magnitude in 2015/2016, making it possible that 2027 will surpass 2024 and become the warmest year on record.

For Britain, seasonal timing matters. In an Oct. 5 article, the Met Office said El Nino could increase the likelihood of wetter, windier and generally milder



A firefighter moves beehives away from flames while battling a wildfire in San Martin de Valdeiglesias, west of Madrid, Spain on July 26. (AP)

conditions in late autumn and early winter in Britain, with a greater possibility of cold weather later in winter. However, the Met Office emphasized that it could not determine individual weather events.

Meanwhile, according to Akshay Deoras, a senior research scientist at the University of Reading, a stronger El Nino does not automatically mean stronger impacts in Britain.

Rainfall location is also crucial. Amulya Chevuturi, a senior hydroclimate scientist at the UK Center for Ecology and Hydrology, said that rain concentrated in Britain’s northwest could leave drought conditions persisting in the southeast into 2027. She identified the unusually warm Atlantic as an additional source of uncertainty.

The summary released by Britain’s Government Office for Science identi-

fies excessive rainfall during planting seasons as a threat to the country’s agriculture. Overseas crop disruptions could also raise prices for imported rice, coffee and cocoa, although the precise effects are difficult to predict.

According to the summary, a milder, windier start to winter could increase Britain’s wind power generation and reduce reliance on imported liquefied natural gas for electricity and heating. Colder, drier conditions later in the winter, however, could raise LNG demand, while weather-related increases in demand elsewhere could intensify competition for supplies.

Deoras also warned that strong winds could damage infrastructure and disrupt transport, while heavy rain following dry conditions could increase surface-water flooding.

The consequences of El Nino will differ sharply around the globe. An Oct. 1 WMO report on the southwestern Indian Ocean outlook identified increased drought risks in southern areas, including South Africa and parts of Mozambique, and greater flood risks in areas including Tanzania and the Seychelles.

Covering October 2026 to March 2027, the outlook also incorporated Indian Ocean climate patterns.

Also:

MOGADISHU: Somalia has issued an emergency alert to communities living in flood-prone areas as it strengthens early warning and evacuation measures ahead of potential heavy rains and flooding linked to El Nino.

The Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) announced on Sunday that the country has entered the Deyr rainy season, with heavy rainfall expected across several regions.

“SoDMA urges communities to remain alert and take necessary precautions to prepare for the expected rains and potential flooding,” the disaster agency said in a statement issued in Mogadishu on Sunday evening.

The country’s meteorologists have confirmed that 2026 is a Super El Nino year, with forecasts pointing to exceptionally heavy rainfall during the October-December Deyr rainy season.

According to SoDMA, the greatest risk lies along the Jubba and Shabelle river basins.

The disaster agency also warned that ongoing El Nino conditions could trigger heavy rains, flash floods, and river overflowing, posing severe risks to low-lying areas, riverine communities, and flood-prone locations.

Therapy dogs bring calm, joy to students following US shooting

EVERGREEN, Colorado, Oct 11, (AP): With wagging tails and kind eyes, the four-legged staff members at Evergreen High School welcome students each morning, walk the halls and visit classrooms to offer a loving, calming presence and moments of joy to a student body still processing a school shooting.

Norene and Polenta, two golden Labs, joined the high school southwest of Denver to help students relieve stress and stay focused as they heal from last year’s trauma after a student shot and wounded two of his peers before shooting himself.

“Every morning after I get off the bus, I have to say hi to these two. It’s my first thing I do every day,” said Fisher Helbraun, a junior at Evergreen High School. “Every single time I see one, I always have a smile on my face. I always get either some puppy kisses or I get some nice pets.”

Norene, a calm, young dog who loves attention, and Polenta, her spunky and rambunctious colleague, started at the school in March and August, respectively. They are part of program run by Canine Companions, a nonprofit based in California that provides trauma support dogs free of charge. The dogs are the first to be matched with a school following a shooting on campus.

In September 2025, a 16-year-old student opened fire with a revolver at the school during lunch hour, wounding two students before shooting himself. The suspect later died. Evergreen High School Principal Skyler Artes sheltered in the main office with students and staff and remained at the school until the last person had left.

After the shooting “everybody was devastated, a lot of sorrow, a lot of grief, a lot of uncertainty about how to proceed,” Artes said

Some of the nonprofit’s dogs provided support at a family reunification site.

Artes decided to train with Canine Companions to be a support dog handler after seeing the positive impact the animals had on the students and staff.

Volunteers with Canine Companions continued to bring dogs to the school in the days following the shooting, and Artes decided support dogs should be a permanent presence at the school.

“The fact that they are calm, that they’re generally peaceful and attentive makes them good at providing that ongoing, consistent, stable source of support, affection and quiet when people need it most,” she said.

Even though the dogs are a relatively new presence at the school in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, they were crowned prince and princess at the homecoming football game last week and donned royal capes and crowns as they paraded through the football field.

“The second that I see them in the hallway, or I go out of my way to come see them, it just brightens my day, it makes it so much better,” said Maddie Cornwell, a se-

nior. “That kind of innocent joy and love that they have to share, they just give it to humans so easily and it just makes you so happy to see them play and run around.”

Artes is Norene’s handler, and Polenta is assigned to lead counselor Amy Wells, who is also a volleyball coach and brings Polenta to practices. Wells also completed the handler training at Canine Companions.

The organization starts training support dogs from the time they are puppies when they start learning dozens of tasks, from following simple commands like sitting and staying, to more refined skills, including how to respond to students or teachers going through a difficult moment. They also learn how to be a stable presence in areas of the school that could trigger trauma, said Paige Mazzoni, chief executive of Canine Companions.

“What’s really powerful about dogs in this type of work is that they have a lot of heart, they have high intelligence, they respond very well to people and to forming a partnership, and it’s really the power of the human-canine bond,” she said.

Quinn McEvers, a senior, said she makes it a point to see the dogs or pet them each school day because it always puts her in a good mood.

Having “these dogs in the school is amazing because when we have tests, when there’s a stressful moment, when the weather’s bad, when, honestly, anything puts our mood kind of down, the dogs are there,” McEvers said.



Fisher Helbraun, a junior at Evergreen High School, visits with a pair of support dogs named Polenta, center, and Norene at the school on Oct 5, in Evergreen, Colo. (AP)

Adult acne is real, but there are ways to treat it. Here’s what to know

NEW YORK, Oct 11, (AP): As a teenager, Gillian Mae-gan Montalbo’s pimples weren’t too bad - just a few bumps on her forehead and nose.

But as an adult in the workforce, the breakouts returned and intensified. The acne on her cheeks and chin made her hesitant to look her bosses in the eye.

“It really took a toll on my self-esteem and my self-confidence,” said Montalbo, a marketer and content creator who lives in the Philippines.

Pimples and acne are an uncomfortable hallmark of teenage years, but adults can have breakouts too. Acne can also happen on other parts of the body like the chest and shoulders. And then there’s bacne, the internet’s term for back breakouts.

The best treatments vary from person to person depending on what’s causing the acne and how it looks. And breakouts can leave behind dark marks and scars that take even longer to heal.

Pimples come and go, but if breakouts stick around and cause discoloration or changes in skin texture, it’s a good idea to see a dermatologist.

“We know how to treat acne. We know the cause of it. So don’t suffer alone,” said Dr. Crystal Aguh, a dermatologist and director of the Ethnic Skin Program at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Teenage acne tends to affect the forehead, nose and cheeks. Older adults and women in particular can experience hormonal acne that pops up along the jawline and chin, Aguh said. Taking steroids can also trigger acne for some people.

Pimples happen when tiny pores in the skin get clogged by oil, bacteria and dead skin cells. They can fade over the course of weeks to months, but if patches persist and spread, it could be a sign of acne, which dermatologists consider a medical condition.

“Essentially, you’re not getting a break from a breakout,” Aguh said.

Acne is caused by many factors including genetics, hormones, environment and even diet - like eating excessive amounts of dairy. The causes of facial and body acne are similar, although skin bacteria sometimes plays a larger role in body acne.

Breakouts can look like milder, painless white bumps or dark specks known as whiteheads and blackheads, or more painful red bumps and deeper cysts - a mark of cystic acne.

Don’t pick or pop your pimples, no matter how strong the urge or how satisfying it might be.

“Everyone wants to pick and squeeze. That will almost always make things worse,” said Dr. Lauren Fine, founder of Fine Dermatology in Chicago.

Picking can drive inflammation deeper into the skin and cause acne to spread. It also increases the risk of marks and scarring. For darker-skinned people, those marks take longer to go away because their skin produces



A woman washes her face as she prepares for work in Chicago, on Feb 10, 2023. (AP)

extra pigment when stressed, Aguh said.

Treatments for acne range from over-the-counter creams and lotions to prescription-strength medications. Dermatologists say it’s somewhat easier to treat acne on the face compared to the rest of the body because the face has more sweat glands and doesn’t dry out as easily. It’s also harder to apply some treatments like creams to hard-to-reach areas like the back, so doctors often prescribe oral medications.

For milder forms of face acne, dermatologists may recommend face washes or creams containing benzoyl peroxide, salicylic acid or retinoids like adapalene.

For more frequent breakouts, they might prescribe higher-strength regimens like antibiotics or medicines with tretinoin. Isotretinoin may be an option if those medicines don’t work, or for cases of severe cystic acne.

Treatments for adult hormonal acne, particularly in women, can differ from what’s done for teens. Some dermatologists recommend birth control, which can help stabilize hormones, or treatments like spironolactone.

Shots of cortisone can help treat active acne spots in a pinch, but they aren’t a long-term fix, Fine said.

Pimple patches containing a gel called hydrocolloid can absorb fluids from oozing pimples and stop you from picking at them. Aguh said they are suited only for mild forms of acne; Fine said the patches have given some of her patients discoloration and she doesn’t recommend them.

Experts say exfoliants and face washes containing glycolic acid can help discoloration fade. Over-the-counter products containing adapalene and retinol creams can also help.

For more serious scarring, dermatologists can recommend more aggressive treatments like lasers that probe deeper into the skin.

Thailand and Indonesia share Suhandinata Cup bronze

China beats Malaysia to retain world junior badminton team title

CAIRO, Oct. 11, (Xinhua): China successfully defended its title at the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Junior Team Championships, defeating Malaysia 2-1 in a dramatic final that saw both teams battle through three closely contested sets.

The Chinese team won the opening set 55-46 before Malaysia fought back to take the second 55-53. China then regained control in the deciding set, winning 55-45 to lift the Suhandinata Cup.

The final was closely contested, with China recovering from 43-50 to level the second set at 52-52 before Malaysia held on to force a decider. China built an early lead in the third set through women's and men's singles and maintained its advantage despite Malaysia's late challenge.

China's coach Guo Zhendong credited the team's balanced strength across all five disciplines and praised the players' composure under pressure.

"In the deciding third game, we had a clear advantage in the singles events and managed to build a substantial lead. Although Malaysia narrowed the gap by several points during the women's doubles, our players managed to withstand the pressure and ultimately defend our title," Guo said, adding that the experience of handling pressure in closely contested matches would benefit their future development.

Feng Yilang, an 18-year-old Chinese player who competed in mixed doubles, acknowledged feeling nervous during the opening two sets but said he became more confident as the final progressed.

"In the third game, I was able to relax more and play with greater confidence. My performance was better than in the first two games," Feng said.

His teammate Wei Yueyue, also 18, who competed in women's doubles, identified "team unity" as the key to China's victory.

"Whenever we face difficulties, there is always someone who steps up. That's what makes our team so united," she said.

Malaysia's team manager Vincent Chin praised his players' determination despite the defeat, saying they fought until the final set.

"We are happy that we got a silver medal in the team event, but we are looking for the gold medal in the individual event," Chin told Xinhua, expressing optimism about the upcoming individual championships.

Thailand and Indonesia shared the bronze medals after losing their semifinals to China and Malaysia, respectively.

Looking ahead to the individual championships, which begin Monday in Cairo, Guo said the Chinese team would review its performances and allow



Team China poses on the podium during the award ceremony after winning the final against Malaysia at the BWF World Junior Team Championships 2026 in Cairo, Egypt. (Xinhua)

the players time to recover before preparing for the different technical and tactical demands of the five disciplines.

"We will continue to give our best and strive for strong performances in the individual events," he said.

Messi nets brace after Argentina farewell as Miami secures victory

Union unbeaten run hits 13

MIAMI, Oct 11, (AP): Lionel Messi scored two goals to give him a league-leading 23 this season, and Inter Miami beat D.C. United 4-0.

Luis Suárez also scored twice and Germán Berterame had two assists for Inter Miami, which snapped a five-match winless skid. Miami had four draws and one loss before Saturday's outburst.

Four days after playing his farewell match that ended a 21-year tenure with the Argentine national team, Messi played the entire 90 minutes.

The win was Miami's first since a 7-1 rout of CF Montreal on Aug. 29.

Teenager Cavan Sullivan had assists on goals by Bruno Damiani and Milan Iloski to help the Philadelphia Union extend their club-record unbeaten streak to 13 with a 2-1 victory over Real Salt Lake.

Damiani gave Philadelphia (12-10-6) a 1-0 lead in the 31st minute that stood through halftime with his career-high ninth goal in his second season. Frankie Westfield joined the 17-year-old Sullivan with an assist.

Jorge Ruvalcaba had a goal and an assist, Julian Hall, Devin Padelford and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting each added a goal, and the New York Red Bulls beat San Diego FC 4-1.

Ronald Donkor had two goals for the Red Bulls (10-12-6). Ethan Horvath had three saves.

Kevin Denkey scored two goals after a scoreless first half and FC Cincinnati snapped a six-match winless streak with a 3-1 victory over Atlanta United.

Denkey scored in the 52nd minute to give Cincinnati (9-9-9) a 1-0 lead. Tom Barlow and David Doudera had assists.

Idan Toklomati scored the second of his two goals in the second minute



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi, center, drives forward past D.C. United midfielder Jared Stroud, left, and defender Keisuke Kurokawa (6) during the second half of an MLS soccer match, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026, in Miami. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)

of stoppage time to help Charlotte FC beat FC Dallas 3-2 on a rain-soaked.

Petar Musa scored for FC Dallas in the 64th minute, his franchise-record 19th goal in the regular season.

Dallas (13-7-8) had its six-game unbeaten streak snapped.

Iván Angulo scored the go-ahead goal in the 89th minute, Antoine Griezmann added a goal and an assist, and Maxime Crépeau had 12 saves to help Orlando City beat the Columbus Crew 3-2.

Angulo, on the counter-attack, pushed a pass wide to left side where Martín Ojeda tapped a first-touch

pass back to Angulo for a one-timer from the center to give Orlando City (11-13-4) a 3-2 lead.

Taha Habroune had a goal and an assist and Brais Méndez scored a goal for the Crew (8-15-5).

Nashville SC got goals from four different players to back rookie Brian Schwake, ending Austin FC's eight-match unbeaten streak with a 4-1 victory.

Seattle got goals from Hassani Dotson, Dejan Joveljić and Paul Arriola to back a clean sheet from Andrew Thomas and the Sounders extended their unbeaten run to nine with a 3-0 victory over the New Eng-

land Revolution.

Duncan McGuire scored in stoppage time for the Houston Dynamo on Saturday night in a 2-2 tie with Minnesota United.

Minnesota (7-12-9), which snapped a five-game losing streak, is winless in seven straight.

André Luiz scored two goals and became the first player in club history with seven goals in their first seven appearances for Sporting Kansas City in a 3-3 tie with the Portland Timbers.

Donavan Phillip scored a goal in his third consecutive game for the Colorado Rapids in a 1-1 tie with the San Jose Earthquakes.

Bridgeman, Mitchell share second

Brennan reigns in Japan for third PGA Tour crown

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Oct 11, (AP): Michael Brennan won the Baycurrent Classic for his second victory of the season and third on the PGA Tour, paring the final six holes for a 3-under 68 and a one-stroke margin over Jacob Bridgeman and Keith Mitchell.

"Unbelievable. It was an unbelievable week," Brennan said. "Japan was spectacular. The fans were amazing this week. It was so awesome to have my brother fly out here and be here for the weekend."

Tied for the third-round lead with Bridgeman and Zach Bauchou in the FedEx Cup Fall event, Brennan rebounded from a bogey on the 10th with birdies on Nos. 11 and 12 before the winning par run at hilly Yokohama Country Club.



Michael Brennan

"I was frustrated after 10, probably could have handled it a little bit better," Brennan said. "Definitely should have hit a better chip, but making a really nice roll on 11 and 12 was huge."

His best par save came on the par-3 16th when he hit a long shot from a greenside bunker to a foot. He finished at 16-under 268.

Brennan has won the three titles in 33 starts. The 24-year-old former Wake Forest player took the Wyndham Championship in August and finished the season 46th in the FedExCup standings. He won the Bank of Utah Championship last year.

"I just think you can get more comfortable in those situations," Brennan said. "I was very nervous today, especially coming down the stretch. Jacob and I had a great battle. He played really great coming down and that was really fun. We played a lot of golf in college together."

Bridgeman missed a chance to pull even on the par-4 17th when his 5-foot birdie putt slid by to the right. On the par-4 18th, he had a 55-foot birdie putt over a large ridge that he left 4 feet wide. He shot a 69.

"I was in defensive mode a lot," Bridgeman said. "I feel like I just kind of grinded my way to the end there. Was able to make some putts

at important times that I needed. That one on 17's going to sting a little bit."

Mitchell was two strokes ahead after playing a five-hole stretch in 5 under with three birdies and an eagle. He then played the final 10 in 2 over for a 68.

"The back nine plays a lot harder than the front," Mitchell said. "Gave myself some good looks on the final three holes and just, unfortunately, didn't convert them."

Defending champion Xander Schauffele went to the 18th a stroke back, then drove left into trees and closed with a double bogey. He settled for a 67 to tie for fourth at 13 under.

"I hit a lot of really good shots," Schauffele said. "I definitely played good enough golf to win this tournament."

Brian Harman (67) also was 13 under with Stephan Jaeger (70), Ryan Gerard (68) and Jordan Smith (70).

Jordan Spieth, making his first start of the FedEx Cup Fall, tied for 13th at 11 under after a 67. Japanese star Hideki Matsuyama, the 2021 winner, tied for 21st at 9 under after a 67.

Acuna fires River Plate to win over Estudiantes RC

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 11, (Xinhua): A first-half goal from Marcos Acuna gave River Plate a 1-0 home win over Estudiantes Rio Cuarto in Argentina's Clausura tournament on Saturday.

The hosts took the lead in the sixth minute when Acuna met Angel Correa's cross with a sliding finish at the far post.

The visitors controlled less than 30% of possession and failed to have a single shot on target as they stumbled to their eighth loss of the campaign.

River Plate is now ninth in the 15-team Zone B standings with 16

points, 10 ahead of last-placed Estudiantes Rio Cuarto.

Elsewhere, Norberto Briasco scored in each half as Barracas Central cruised to a 2-0 home win over Huracan.

The hosts went ahead in the ninth minute when Briasco latched onto Kevin Jappert's cross with a first-time effort into the far corner.

Briasco doubled the advantage just after the hour, pouncing on an errant clearance with a long-range volley that rebounded in off the underside of the bar.

Aces face offseason shake-up after semifinal sweep

LAS VEGAS, Oct 11, (AP): Anything short of a WNBA championship is considered a disappointment for the Aces, so changes almost certainly are coming after Las Vegas was swept out of the semifinals by Golden State.

Whether that change involves the Big Three is the Aces' biggest question entering the offseason because five-time All-Star guard Jackie Young is a free agent.

She averaged career highs in points per game (18.9) and assists (6.8) to go with a 4.4-rebounding average and shooting percentages of 48.8 from the floor and 38.3 from 3-point range.

"I think she had a career year this year," coach Becky Hammon said.

"Had some unbelievable performances throughout the season, so obviously it's a big priority that we retain her services. We'll see what those thoughts look like, but I know what it looks like from our end. Ultimately, it's going to come down to her decision."

If Young returns, she will rejoin a core that includes five-time MVP A'ja Wilson and six-time All-Star point guard Chelsea Gray that has been instrumental in winning three of the past four titles.

While Wilson clearly wants Young to return, she also wants to be mindful of not being overbearing while trying to persuade her to re-sign.

"I'm constantly in Jackie's ear," Wil-



Jackie Young

If Young leaves, the Aces could be aggressive in going after a big-name free agent such as Indiana's Kelsey Mitchell or Minnesota's Napheesa Collier.

Mitchell expressed frustration a week ago about playing in the glare that comes with having Caitlin Clark as a teammate. Clark made the case on Thursday for keeping Mitchell, which would again give the Fever one of the league's top backcourts.

Even if Young comes back, that doesn't mean the Aces will sit still.

"We're going to make some adjustments, we're going to make some moves, try to address our weaknesses," Hammon said shortly after Friday night's 87-77 overtime loss to the Valkyries. "That's not a question to answer right now. There's a lot of things coming through my head."

Swedish league match goes from 0-0 at halftime to 11-goal classic

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Oct 11, (AP): One of the wildest second halves of a game in soccer history hardly seemed likely with the score 0-0 at halftime between two midtable teams in the Swedish league.

When it was all over Saturday after an 11-goal half, Brommapojkarna won 6-5 at AIK, having blown a 5-1 lead before sealing victory with the last kick.

Mads Hansen scored the decisive goal in the ninth minute of stoppage time, just 90 seconds after AIK thought they had earned an unlikely point. Johan

Hove's shot in the 97th minute had leveled the score for the first time since it was 1-1 in the 55th.

The game between the 9th and 11th-placed teams in the 16-team Allsvenskan division is a rarity in Europe's top-tier leagues.

Borussia Dortmund once scored 10 second-half goals in a Bundesliga game won 11-1 against Arminia Bielefeld in November 1982. It was quite the fightback after the visitors scored first in the 16th.

In the Premier League in November 2009, Jermain Defoe scored a hat trick within seven min-

utes on his way to getting five of Tottenham's eight goals in the second half of a 9-1 win over Wigan.

Corinthians hired Clarence Seedorf on Sunday for the Netherlands playing great's first coaching job since 2019 - and a relegation fight in Brazil's top tier.

The Brazilian club said in social media posts that it gave the 50-year-old Seedorf a contract until the end of next year. Corinthians is 16th in the 20-team Brazilian league, one place above the relegation zone.

Seedorf replaces Fernando Diniz who was fired Wednesday after losing seven straight league games with a squad that includes Dutch forward Memphis Depay.

Seedorf last coached with the Cameroon national team more than seven years ago and previously coached at three clubs including his former team AC Milan.

Still the only player to have won the European Cup or Champions League with three different teams, Seedorf has had limited success as a coach.

Change Name

I, BASAPPA MALA (OLD NAME), H.NO. 5-27 RATANA, RATANA, TUHHALI (MANDALAM), KURNOL, ANDHRA PRADESH-518380, HEREBY SURNAME CHANGED MY NAME AS BASANNA BASAPPA, S/O B. LAKSHMANNA, AS PER RECORDS MY SPOUSE NAME KOTAKARI SUNITHAMMA.

Barcelona routs Getafe to equal best start in La Liga

Vinícius red-carded

BARCELONA, Spain, Oct 11, (AP): England forward Anthony Gordon scored his first goal for Barcelona as the Spanish league leader eased to a 3-0 win over Getafe and equaled its best start ever in La Liga.

Gordon had played well and contributed with a handful of assists since joining from Newcastle this summer, but had been denied a goal. He remedied that two minutes into the match against Getafe at Camp Nou where the left winger dribbled past two defenders and rifled a deflected shot past goalkeeper David Soria.

Gabriel Jesús made the most of his first start since he also joined Barcelona this summer by scoring in the 29th. Taking the place of injured top scorer Raphinha, the former Arsenal striker picked off an unwise pass by Zaid Romero inside his own box



Barcelona's Gerard Martin, right, challenges for the ball with Getafe's Ivan Azon during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Getafe in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

and fired home. Gabriel Jesús had already scored twice as a substitute. Lamine Yamal helped to round off the win in the 73rd when he curled a cross into the box for right back Jules Koundé to tap in.

Barcelona's eighth straight victory equaled its best ever start to La Liga in 2013-14 with Lionel Messi in his prime.

Hansi Flick's side has a six-point lead over rival Real Madrid, which beat Villarreal 1-0. Barcelona seeks a third straight domestic title.

Flick said before the game that Raphinha, who leads La Liga with 12 goals, would miss the Getafe game as well as the trip to Galatasaray in the Champions League next week. Raphinha is recovering from a muscle injury in his right leg that he sustained while with Brazil during the international break.

Barcelona is eyeing big matches against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League and against Madrid in La Liga this month.

Real Madrid forward Vinícius Júnior was sent off with a direct red card for pulling the hair of a Villarreal player in their La Liga game on Saturday.

Vinícius was celebrating after scoring for Madrid when referee Isidro Díaz de Mera was called by the video assistant to review the moments before his goal.

The referee waived off the goal and pulled out a red card for Vinícius for having tugged hard on the hair of Villarreal's Nathan Saliba when they were sprinting down the field.

Madrid hung on for a 1-0 victory despite playing with 10 men from the 73rd minute.

Vinícius asked for forgiveness from his team and fans on social media, without mentioning Saliba.

"Sorry to my team and my fans," Vinícius wrote on Instagram in Spanish.

Vinícius had gone on as a second-half substitute shortly before Yan Diameone put Madrid ahead. When he thought Vinícius had doubled the lead, Madrid manager Jose Mour-



Villarreal's Alex Freeman guards Real Madrid's Yan Diomande fight for the ball during the La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Villarreal in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

inho ran to join the celebrations with his players.

But moments later Vinícius was left livid by the referee's decision. He screamed at Díaz de Mera while his teammates tried to calm him down as he left the field.

"I don't think he meant to hurt anyone but it is a red card," Villarreal defender Juan Foyth said about the hair yank of Saliba.

Díaz de Mera wrote in his match report that after being shown the red card Vinícius "protested my decision, raising his voice, toward where I was standing in an aggressive manner, and being held back by teammates."

Madrid visits Barcelona in two rounds. So he could potentially miss the clasico if the disciplinary commission adds to a mandatory one-game suspension.

Mourinho did not appear at the mandatory post-game press conference.

Vinícius also became one of the leading voices against racism in Spain after he was repeatedly targeted by racist slurs by opposing fans during away games.

But he has also earned the reputation of a player who goads and trash talks opposing players, sometimes to the point where he could lose focus on the game, an attitude which

sometimes tested the patience of his coaches.

Diomande broke through for Madrid just when Villarreal was also pressing for goal, scoring in the 62nd minute.

The 19-year-old Ivory Coast winger has been under pressure to prove he is worth the reported 125 million euros (\$146 million) Madrid paid Leipzig in August. Mourinho has asked fans to be patient with the young player.

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia came off the bench to lead Paris Saint-Germain's 3-1 win over Le Mans, while Ousmane Dembélé and Nuno Mendes rested for Tuesday's visit to

City in the Champions League.

Lorient ended Paris FC's unbeaten start with a 1-0 win. The still unbeaten Monaco squandered a two-goal lead in a 2-2 draw with Toulouse, while Brest routed Angers 5-1.

Scott McTominay got his first minutes for Napoli since he underwent minor heart surgery last month.

The Scotland midfielder went on as a second-half substitute in a 3-0 win over promoted Frosinone that was fueled by a Kevin de Bruyne double.

Marcus Thuram was one of three Inter Milan players to score in the first half in a 3-0 win over Parma.

Zverev advances, Shelton beaten at Shanghai Masters

Olympic champion Zheng ends 2-yr title drought at China Open

BEIJING, Oct 11, (AP): Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen won her first title in two years by beating French Open champion Mirra Andreeva 7-5, 6-4 in the China Open final Sunday.

Zheng clinched with her first match point chance, serving an ace to Andreeva's backhand side, then fell to the court sobbing with emotion.

Zheng's ranking plummeted due to an elbow injury from a career-high No. 4 last year to No. 54 coming into her home tournament as a wild card this week.

A stellar 2024 saw Zheng reach the final of the Australian Open, win the Paris Olympics singles title at Roland Garros, then in October take a fifth career title on the WTA tour in Japan.

As a qualifier at the U.S. Open in August, Zheng showed her old form was back when she advanced to the quarterfinals, having twice rallied from 5-0 deficits in matches she won against Madison Keys and Iga Swiatek.

Despite the loss, Andreeva is set to rise to a career-high No. 3 ranking. Top-seeded Alexander Zverev let two match points slip in the second-set tiebreaker before winning 6-4, 6-7 (8), 6-3 against Quentin Halys at the ATP 1000 Shanghai Masters.

Zverev never gave up a break-point chance in a third-round match where the U.S. Open champion needed seven of his own just to break the 48th-ranked Frenchman's service in the opening game.

Earlier Sunday, U.S. Open fi-



Zheng Qinwen, of China, poses with the trophy after winning the women's singles final match against Mirra Andreeva, of Russia at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing. (AP)

nalist Ben Shelton was beaten 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3) by 21-year-old Frenchman Arthur Gea in the third round. The third-seeded Shelton, who won his first match in Shanghai on his 24th birthday, saw Gea convert his first match-point chance in the second-set tiebreaker.

Ninth-seeded Alex de Minaur beat Rei Sakamoto 7-6 (6), 6-4 and 26th-seeded Karen Khach-

anov defeated Adrian Mannarino 6-2, 6-4.

No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner withdrew from Shanghai this week when he announced he was taking the rest of 2026 off because of a right knee injury.

Zverev is closing in on finished the season as No. 1 for the first time and found himself playing an extra set Sunday.

Twice Halys faced match point while serving in the tiebreaker, saved both, then clinched the set with an overhead volley winner at the net. Zverev regained control of the match by breaking Halys' first service game of the deciding set.

In the round of 16, Zverev will play Alexander Bublik who rallied to beat Brandon Nakashima 6-7 (7), 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Podziemski receives 5-year extension from Warriors

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 11, (AP): Guard Brandin Podziemski signed a five-year rookie-scale contract extension with the Golden State Warriors worth \$110 million that takes him through the 2031-32 season, according to a person with direct knowledge of the agreement.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Saturday night because the team didn't disclose financial details in announcing the extension. Podziemski had 18 points with three 3-pointers, seven rebounds and four assists over 26 minutes in a 111-106 preseason win against the Sacramento Kings.

"For me it shows a sign of faith and trust on their end, wanting me here," Podziemski said of his new deal. "I think for me I just owe it right back to them. They're putting their trust and faith in me so I got to do the same and play that way each and every night."

Podziemski's deal includes a mutual option for the fifth season, meaning the sides could re-negotiate the fifth year or decide to go separate ways.

"I'm thrilled for Brandin and his family, really happy for us," Kerr said. "Obviously, everything came together and it's a win-win. We think Brandin is a hell of a young player, a big part of our future, and he secures his future financially. And it's a deal that makes a lot of sense based on our numbers. ... I think it's a good relief to get it done and go into the season where he can just focus on basketball. He should be very proud of

the work he's put in to get to this place and put himself in this position."

The 23-year-old Podziemski was the only Warriors player and one of 18 in the entire NBA to appear in all 82 games last season, averaging career highs of 13.8 points and 45.5% shooting from the field to go with 5.1 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 1.08 steals over 28.5 minutes.

"We're thrilled to get an extension done with Brandin prior to the deadline," Warriors general manager Mike Dunleavy said. "Brandin has continued to improve and expand his game since he entered the league as a mid-first round pick, and we think his upward trajectory will only continue. He's a durable, skilled, two-way player that makes our team better each time he takes the court."

Sacramento Kings center Maxime Raynaud was taken off the court in a wheelchair Saturday night after going down with a right knee injury suffered when he set a screen on Stephen Curry late in the first half of a 111-106 preseason loss to the Golden State Warriors.

Raynaud, a second-year pro who starred at Stanford, was on his back and clearly in pain as medical staff examined him on the floor at Chase Center. He eventually was helped up and moved into a wheelchair to exit the court for the locker room.

Kings general manager Scott Perry escorted the 7-foot-1 Raynaud off the court, and Sacramento owner Vivek Ranadive later came by to check on Raynaud outside the locker room.

Spain sinks USWNT 2-0 in matchup of No. 1 vs No. 2

WASHINGTON, Oct 11, (AP): For the first time in a while, the United States is not looking ahead to a Women's World Cup as defending champion. This month, the Americans are getting a close-up look at who currently holds the crown.

Patri Guijarro and Eva Navarro scored in the first 14 minutes, and Adriana Nanclares stopped a second-half penalty kick to lift Spain to a 2-0 victory over the U.S. on Saturday in a clash between the world's two top-ranked teams. It was the first of two meetings between reigning World Cup champion Spain and the reigning Olympic champion U.S.

"They're world champions for a reason," U.S. coach Emma Hayes said. "You're not going to just roll them over. But you can't give them a head start either."

The two teams have also combined to win the last three World Cups. They'll play again Tuesday night near Philadelphia.

There were enough key players on the field Saturday to make this a decent preview of next year's World Cup, but some big names were absent, including three-time Ballon d'Or winner Aitana Bonmati for top-ranked Spain and defenders Naomi Girma and Emily Sonnett for the United States.

Spain won this match not by passing circles around the U.S. or even by keeping the ball. Instead, it was a couple clinical strikes and strong goalkeeping that made the difference - and even a little physicality.

"Being physical in this kind of game is not negotiable," Spain coach Sonia Bermúdez said through a translator.

Guijarro scored in the third minute with a brilliant strike from well outside the penalty area, beating goalkeeper Claudia Dickey. The second goal was a more obvious defensive breakdown. Salma Paralluelo's cross from the left wing found Navarro unmarked to volley home for a 2-0 lead.

"Playing a team like Spain, the best in the world, is such a huge test for us," U.S. defender Emily Fox said. "They were very efficient in their attack, and they only needed two chances." The U.S. created its share of opportunities. Alyssa Thompson managed to round Nanclares, but a defender blocked her shot. Then Nanclares made a wonderful save, deflecting Sophia Wilson's long-distance effort off the crossbar.

The Americans had the better of the chances in the second half. Trinity Rodman started making more of an impact on the left wing, and she appeared to have assisted on a goal by Wilson, but it was disallowed for offside after a video review. VAR later gave the U.S. a penalty, but Lily Yohannes' shot was low and to the left, and Nanclares was able to make a diving save.

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NEWS



Köln's Imad Rondic celebrates after the German Bundesliga soccer match between 1. FC Köln and Borussia Mönchengladbach in Cologne, Germany. Köln won 2-1. (AP)

Sports

Sablic faces exit as Petrovic emerges as potential successor

Qadsia moves into 2nd as Shabab stuns Salmiya

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 11: Al-Arabi coach Goran Sablic is on the verge of leaving the club following a disappointing start to the Zain Premier League season, with Montenegrin coach Zeljko Petrovic emerging as a leading candidate to replace him.

Al-Arabi has managed just three points from their first four matches, drawing 1-1 with Kuwait Club and Kazma, playing out a 3-3 draw with Sulaibikhat and losing 2-1 to Jahra. The results have left the Green in 10th place in the standings.

Their struggles have also extended to continental competition. Al-Arabi missed out on the AFC Champions League Two after losing 4-1 to Indian side East Bengal in the playoff at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on August 12, forcing them to settle for a place in the AFC Challenge League.

Petrovic, who coached Qadsia in the 2024-25 season, is among the leading contenders to take charge. However, he failed to win silverware during his spell with the Yellow, who reached the Gulf Club Champions League final before losing to Iraq's Duhok.

Al-Arabi is also considering ap-



Bader Mutawa is chased by an opponent during the Zain Premier League match between Qadsia and Tadamon.

pointing Mohammed Abdulnabi as caretaker manager until a permanent replacement is secured.

The Green now faces an important continental assignment, travelling to Tajikistan tomorrow for the AFC Challenge League Group B

matches, scheduled for October 17-23. They will face Syria's Homs Al-Fida, hosts Istiklol and Lebanon's Nejmeh.

Qadsia moved into second place in the league after beating Tadamon 2-0 in their fourth-round encounter

at Tadamon's stadium.

Although its performance fell short of expectations, the Yellow secured all three points to move to nine, one behind leader Kuwait Club. The defeat left Tadamon bottom of the table after suffering its fourth successive loss.

Qadsia will now shift its focus to the AFC Challenge League, where it will host Group C matches from October 17-23. Its opponents are India's Goa, Bangladesh's Fortis and Tajikistan's Regar-TadAZ.

In another fourth-round match, Shabab produced a surprise 2-0 victory over host Salmiya. The result lifted the Ahmadi-based side to fourth place with seven points, while Salmiya slipped to fifth on six.

Kazma's delegation leaves today for Dammam, where it will face Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq in their opening Group C fixture of the Gulf Club Champions League. The group also includes the UAE's Ajman and Iraq's Erbil.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's Khalidiya arrived ahead of their AFC Champions League Two Group A encounter against Kuwait Club.

Kuwait Club lost 3-2 to the UAE's Al-Wahda in their opening match, while Khalidiya drew 0-0 with Uzbekistan's Nasaf.



Gabriel Martinelli celebrates after scoring the opener for Al-Hilal.

Al-Hilal edges Al-Ittihad to seize Saudi Pro League lead

RIYADH, Oct 11: Al-Hilal claimed a thrilling 3-2 victory over Al-Ittihad in the Saudi Clasico, taking all three points from the eighth-round showdown in the Saudi Pro League.

The win sent Al-Hilal to the top of the standings with 21 points, two clear of second-placed Al-Qadsiah and level with defending champion Al-Nassr. Al-Ittihad slipped to fourth on 17 points.

Gabriel Martinelli put Al-Hilal ahead in the 11th minute, but Youssef En-Nesyri restored parity for Al-Ittihad in the 22nd minute. Ollie Watkins regained the lead for the host in the 30th minute before Crysencio Summerville extended its advantage in the 64th minute.

Al-Ittihad mounted a late response, with Steven Bergwijn converting a penalty in the 89th minute, but Al-Hilal held on to secure a crucial victory.

According to Saudi newspaper Al-Riyadiyah, neither team had recorded a 3-2 victory in their previous 36 Saudi Pro League meetings since the competition began in the summer of 2008, making the scoreline a first in the history of the Clasico.

The defeat also ended Al-Ittihad's unbeaten run, making it the last team in the league to lose a match this season.

City silence Liverpool fans with commanding win

Hull holds Everton

LIVERPOOL, England, Oct 11, (AP): Manchester City players were jeered and taunted by Liverpool fans on Sunday in their first game since the club was found guilty of a raft of financial breaches.

But by the end it was the away section, decked out in blue and waving giant inflatable bananas, cheering loudly after a 3-0 win at Anfield in the Premier League.

It is not yet known what the future holds for City after an independent panel found the club artificially inflated its revenue by more than \$1 billion to help sign some of soccer's biggest stars and dominate the Premier League. But for now it is sitting pretty at the top of the standings with a 100% winning record and looking down on its rivals.

Second-half goals from Erling Haaland, Jeremy Doku and Rayan Cherki saw City take advantage of Liverpool going down to 10 men following a red card for Ryan Gravenberch around the hour mark.

City is the early pace-setter this season, three points ahead of defending champion Arsenal in second, with victory a welcome relief for the embattled club after the fallout from the biggest scandal in Premier League history.

After the final whistle, that relief was evident in the smiles on the faces of Haaland and coach Enzo Maresca as City's players and staff went to show their appreciation to their celebrating fans, which included Haaland's father Alfie.

City was accused of providing misleading information about its finances over a nine-year period from 2009-18 - a span in which it won three league titles and signed superstar players like Yaya Toure, Sergio Aguero and Kevin De Bruyne.

It has appealed, but potential sanctions could include a massive fine, points deductions or even expulsion from England's top flight.

In many ways a trip to Anfield to face fierce rival Liverpool in its first match since the verdicts was among the worst assignments City could have been handed. Yet such an emotionally charged game may have been the perfect way to ensure minds were only focused on the field.

A hostile reception was always expected from a team that proved one of City's biggest challengers in recent years.

"They should be stripped of everything they've won," Liverpool fan Sav Agathangelo said outside the stadium. "The moment has gone for me to say in the season when we finish second, we're champions."

"I would strip them of everything but I wouldn't necessarily award it to runners-up or anyone else."

City's team bus has been targeted by Liverpool fans in the past. On this occasion City largely avoided the home fans by taking an alternative route to the stadium.

Inside, however, there was quickly a taste of things to come as the City lineup was jeered and the boos were even louder by kickoff, with chants of "cheat, cheat" and taunts of "going down."

Yet by the time Cherki scored City's third, many Liverpool fans had seen enough, heading for the exit with still more than 10 minutes left to play.



Manchester City's Matheus Nunes, bottom, challenges for the ball with Liverpool's Bradley Barcola during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Manchester City in Liverpool, England. (AP)

Mohamed Bellouni came off the bench to maintain Hull's impressive start to the season by salvaging a 2-2 draw against Everton.

The newly promoted team has lost just once this season and went ahead shortly after halftime at the MKM Stadium through Joe Gelhardt.

Everton, which faces a potential sale after U.S. owner the Friedkin Group said it was looking for new investment, rallied through goals by Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall and Thierno Barry to take a 2-1 lead.

But Bellouni, who was a 64th-minute substitute, found the equalizer 10 minutes after coming on.

Oliver Glasner fell to a 3-1 defeat on his return to Crystal Palace with new club Nottingham Forest.

Glasner is a Palace hero after winning the FA Cup, Community Shield and UEFA Conference League as coach.

He left at the end of last season and took over at Forest.

Palace rallied after Dan Ndoye put Forest in front in the third minute at Selhurst Park.

Daichi Kamada and Jefferson Lerma both struck for the home team at the end of the first half and Jeremy Pino added a third after the break.

Antonelli closes in on F1 title

Verstappen continues late-season resurgence

SINGAPORE, Oct. 11, (Xinhua): Red Bull's Max Verstappen continued his late-season resurgence with a commanding victory at the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday, while Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli strengthened his grip on the 2026 Formula 1 world championship with third place.

Starting from pole position for the 50th time in his career, Verstappen led every lap around the Marina Bay Street Circuit to finish ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, with Antonelli completing the podium after a late charge through the field.

The victory followed Verstappen's triumph at the Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia last weekend and Saturday's Singapore Sprint, extending the Red Bull driver's winning streak to three races across the two weekends.

"It has taken a while [to win in Singapore], but I think this race was very good," said Verstappen, who had never previously won any race at the venue before Saturday's Sprint.

"The last few races have been really positive for us. It's just great to see, and we gave a lot of motivation to the team to deliver even more results."

"It's a really good group of people, I really enjoy

working with them, and hopefully we can have a bit more fun to the end of the year." More significantly for the championship, Antonelli extended his advantage over Mercedes teammate George Russell to 89 points with just 150 still available, leaving the Italian within touching distance of his maiden world title.

Russell, who had crashed out of Saturday's Sprint while leading, recovered from 19th and last on the grid to finish ninth, but now faces an increasingly improbable task to overhaul his teammate.

Verstappen's victory was built on a decisive defensive move at the start. Despite a sluggish getaway, the Dutchman moved across to cover Leclerc's challenge into the first corner and retained the lead, with Lewis Hamilton holding third ahead of Antonelli and the two McLarens of Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri.

Leclerc initially kept the pressure on, remaining within a second of Verstappen through the opening laps, but the Red Bull gradually pulled clear as Ferrari struggled to match its rival's pace.

Hamilton, the highest-placed driver to start on medium compound tyres, was the first frontrunner to stop, switching to softs on lap 19 in what ap-

peared to be an aggressive two-stop strategy.

Leclerc followed six laps later, emerging narrowly ahead of his teammate on medium tyres. Despite Hamilton having the faster compound and repeatedly requesting more pace, Ferrari kept the pair in position as they pursued different strategies.

Verstappen, meanwhile, extended his opening stint until lap 33 before switching from soft to medium tyres, retaining the lead comfortably as his rivals completed their stops.

A second virtual safety car on lap 39, caused by Lance Stroll stopping with a clutch problem, presented Ferrari with another strategic opportunity. Leclerc pitted for fresh soft tyres, as did Antonelli, but Hamilton made what would prove a costly decision to stay out on his increasingly worn set.

With a substantial tyre advantage, Leclerc swept past Hamilton for second on lap 46 and began reducing Verstappen's lead, although the gap remained too large to mount a serious challenge.

Verstappen had a worrying moment on lap 52 when he briefly ran wide at the final corner, but continued to maintain a comfortable advantage over the Ferrari.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates after winning the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix race in Singapore. (AP)