



Amir congratulates Spain King on his National Day

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KUWAIT AMIR, IRAQ PRESIDENT CALL FOR DE-ESCALATION Gulf alarm over Saudi attacks

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (Agencies): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday a phone call from Iraqi President Nizar Amedi.

During the phone call, both sides discussed the long-standing bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and peoples and ways to strengthen and develop them in various fields.

The two leaders also discussed issues of mutual concern and the latest regional and international developments, particularly the current situation in the region, and exchanged views on these matters.

They stressed the need to end the escalation and return to dialogue and diplomacy to resolve all outstanding issues.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Monday Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Ismail Fahmy and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his official visit to Kuwait.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed a number of issues of mutual concern and reviewed the latest developments on the Arab and regional scenes.

They also stressed the importance of strengthening joint Arab action to support security and stability in the region.

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His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Ismail Fahmy.

Crown Prince Diwan photo

- Crown Prince, Fahmy discuss Arab security
- Kuwait condemns Houthi airport strikes as toll hits 13
- Saudi probes gaps in missile defenses
- Arab League Chief urges action beyond condemnations
- Military cooperation on Kuwait, UAE agenda
- US intervention risks wider Red Sea crisis



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Your Highness, the Prime Minister, kindly read these lines

CURTAILING operations during critical periods dampens productivity and strains the local economy. To counter these adverse effects, governments step in to support distressed businesses and industrial plants through financial interventions.

Central banks are instructed to grant extensions on loan terms, freeze interest accruals, and offer fresh credit lines to spur commercial momentum and restructure liabilities.

Moreover, public authorities exempt these facilities, which sustain domestic and foreign workforce, from various administrative fees to ensure their uninterrupted functioning.

Safeguarding operations is essential, as any operational stoppage or corporate insolvency could lead to widespread 'domino effect', instigating systematic collapse in interrelated sectors.

During major emergencies,

states normally relax regulatory constraints—a policy shift that is vital in dealing with warfare and severe regional instability, as it is happening now in the region.

Under such delicate circumstances, bolstering struggling enterprises transforms from an optional policy to an urgent necessity. Providing relief to commercial and manufacturing entities invigorates the economic cycle, enabling the country to navigate the surrounding turmoil at minimal cost.

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Khaitan blitz nets 65

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Interior (MoI) represented by Farwaniya Governorate Security Directorate, conducted on Sunday an extensive security campaign in Khaitan, arresting dozens of people and registering hundreds of violations.

The campaign involved the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Kuwait Municipality, the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), the Public Authority for Manpower and the Environment Public Authority, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement.

The arrested 65 individuals were wanted for absconding cases and expired residency permits, seven whose visas had expired, one individual subject to a ban on entering the country, and three individuals wanted under arrest and summons orders in connection with debt-related cases, statement said.

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Mol 'cautions' delivery riders

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The Ministry of Interior has urged delivery motorcycle riders to comply with traffic regulations to ensure their safety and that of other road users, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The appeal comes under the "Safety First" theme of the "Prevention and Safety" awareness campaign.

The ministry emphasized the importance of remaining in the

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Drug busts snag 6

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Interior, represented by the General Department of Anti-Drug Trafficking, has arrested six suspects in four separate drug cases.

The suspects had narcotic substances and psychotropic substances intended for trafficking and consumption, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement today Sunday.

The operations resulted in the seizure of one kilogram of marijuana, 360 grams of methamphetamine (shabu), 170 grams of hashish and 150 grams of cocaine, the statement said.

The seized items also included one litre of chemical liquid, a quantity of A4 paper sheets soaked in the substance, four precision scales, a collection of empty bags prepared for packaging, and a sum of money obtained from drug trafficking, it added.

New path to homeownership 25-year mortgage cap set

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): Decree-law No 114 of 2026 was issued on Sunday regarding mortgage financing for housing welfare beneficiaries, to ensure sustainable provision of adequate housing for Kuwaiti citizens.

According to the explanatory memo of the 15-article decree law, the legislation is intended to ensure that sustainable housing is provided for Kuwaiti citizens.

Article 2 defines the scope of the legislation, allowing financing for purchasing a housing unit from a real

estate developer in accordance with Law No. 118 of 2023 on establishing companies to construct and economically develop residential cities or areas, as amended by Decree-Law No. 89 of 2025.

Under Article 3, beneficiaries seeking supported mortgage financing must meet the general conditions stipulated in the Kuwait Credit Bank's real estate loan regulations for purchasing or construction and must not have previously received housing welfare from the State.

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GIS maps way to smarter planning

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan said the expansion of the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to link project data, contracts and infrastructure networks within a unified database raises the efficiency of planning and field monitoring while supporting decision-making.

In a press statement Monday after viewing a presentation on the results of implementing the system in the sectors of the ministry, Al-Mashaan pointed out that the expanded use of GIS is in line with the commitment of the ministry to improve the work environment and utilize modern data and technologies to enhance service quality.

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PACA photo

PACA President Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah receives French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin.

Kuwait, France step up aviation dialogue

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): President of the Public Authority of Civil Aviation (PACA) Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah discussed on Monday with French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in civil aviation.

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Day by Day

IS there no viable solution to deal with stray cats and dogs and clean up our city?

We urge municipal leaders to tour various areas, focusing specifically on commercial investment sectors rather than just private residential neighborhoods. They should observe the accumulation of litter and refuse along the roads, as well as the overwhelming presence of sick cats and stray dogs that pose serious health risks.

The municipality has dedicated funding for sanitation and municipal maintenance.

To support these operations, consider implementing an annual building levy, in line with standard international practices.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Kuwait International Bank collaborates with KPC on specialized learning experience in cybersecurity and internal audit practices



Forbes ranks Zain the world's best telecoms employer for 2nd consecutive year

talabat appoints Noor Al-Bahar as Managing Director in Kuwait to lead a new phase of sustainable growth

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Prayer Timings

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Sunrise ..	05:47	Maghrib ..	17:21
Zohr	11:34	Isha	18:37



HH the Amir



King Felipe VI

Amir congratulates Spain King on his National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated in a cable on Monday Spanish King Felipe VI on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished King Felipe VI good health and the Spanish people further progress and development.

Crown Prince congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad

Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of congratulations to the King of Spain Felipe VI, on the occasion of his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Spanish King good health and wellbeing.

PM congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of congratulations to the King of Spain Felipe VI on his country's National Day.

DM congrats Spanish counterpart

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to

Spanish Defense Minister Margarita Robles on the occasion of her country's National Day, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense said Monday.



KUNA photo

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Acting Director General Mohammad Al-Mannai receives the Tajikistan's Ambassador to Kuwait Khusrav Noziri.

Kuwait, Tajikistan explore ways to boost media ties

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Acting Director General Mohammad Al-Mannai discussed ways to strengthen bilateral media cooperation and exchange expertise with Tajikistan's Ambassador to Kuwait Khusrav Noziri.

During Monday's meeting, Al-Mannai congratulated Noziri on his appointment as ambassador to Kuwait, highlighting the deep-rooted historical ties between the two countries.

He stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation between media institutions in both countries to expand coordination and exchange information and professional expertise.

Al-Mannai said KUNA is keen to develop partnerships with international media

institutions, benefit from their experience and expertise, and promote Kuwait's affairs across various fields in Tajik media.

For his part, Ambassador Noziri reaffirmed his country's commitment to strengthening media cooperation with Kuwait. He highlighted the role of media in consolidating bilateral relations and showcasing continued progress across various sectors.

Noziri praised KUNA's vital role as a reliable source of important news on various issues, particularly in Kuwait and the region.

The meeting was attended by KUNA Deputy Director General for Editorial Affairs Esam Al-Ghanim, Acting Editor-in-Chief Bader Al-Sharhan, Marketing and Public Relations Director Esam Al-Ruwaih, and Director of the Director General's Office Lamia Al-Farsi.

Pick up momentum: minister

Call for greater efficiency, faster matters resolution

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs, emphasized the importance of enhancing institutional efficiency, expediting the resolution of pending matters, and implementing Cabinet decisions and ministerial directives to enhance the quality of services provided to beneficiaries, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Dr. Al-Huwailah

During a meeting with ministry officials, Dr. Al-Huwailah stressed that proactively and regularly monitoring files and providing updates are responsibilities of the executive leadership, which include reporting on achievements, implementation obstacles, and proposed solutions.

She directed officials to compile an inventory of delayed files, transactions, and reports, establish clear timelines for their completion, and define responsibilities for implementation and follow-up.

The minister also stressed the need to finalize committee work and submit findings and recommendations without delay.

Furthermore, she highlighted the importance of expediting the review of laws and executive regulations and submit-

ting comprehensive proposals to address implementation challenges and meet beneficiaries' needs. These efforts must be accompanied by simplified procedures, accelerated digital transformation, and a serious approach to handling complaints and addressing their root causes.

Dr. Al-Huwailah emphasized the need to develop practical solutions and carefully studied alternatives when obstacles arise in the delivery of services and programs.

She also stressed the importance of assessing the impact of any proposal on beneficiaries, ensuring service continuity, and strengthening coordination among ministry sectors to complete joint initiatives.

In conclusion, Dr. Al-Huwailah affirmed the commitment to maintaining the confidentiality of information and documents, refraining from issuing or publishing statements or news about ministry operations without prior approval, and strengthening oversight to protect public funds and beneficiaries' rights while taking the necessary measures against any violations.

She stated that performance assessment is linked to results, service quality, speed of completion, decision-making within the scope of one's authority, and implementation follow-up, all of which contribute to achieving the ministry's objectives and strengthening beneficiaries' confidence in its services.

1st Deputy PM reviews telecom projects in brass meet

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah chaired a coordination meeting on Monday attended by Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, chief executives of telecommunications companies and several security officials.

The meeting reviewed administrative and organizational matters, discussed related procedures and ways to facilitate their completion, and examined coordination among the relevant entities to streamline work, overcome obstacles and find appropriate solutions to the issues raised, the Interior Ministry said in a press statement.

The meeting reflects the ministry's commitment to following up on matters of mutual interest with government entities and the private sector, strengthening coopera-



KUNA photo

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah chairs the meeting with senior telecom officials.

tion, ensuring the smooth progress of work and completing relevant procedures in accordance with approved frameworks in the public interest, the statement added.

Kuwait, Bahrain review Al, cultural and scientific ties

GCC needs to upgrade environmental cooperation

MANAMA, Oct 12, (KUNA): Bahrain's Adviser to the King for Cultural and Scientific Affairs Hala Al-Ansari and Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Jassem Al-Najem discussed on Monday the growing role of Al across various fields.

During the meeting, Al-Ansari said the brotherly relations between Bahrain and Kuwait were rooted in a long shared history and close social ties, affirming both countries' keenness to further develop bilateral cooperation.

In turn, Ambassador Al-Najem expressed appreciation for the warm reception, praising the deep-rooted brotherly ties between the two countries and voicing his aspiration to strengthen cultural and scientific cooperation in ways that serve the aspirations of both countries and peoples.

The meeting also reviewed areas of cultural and scientific cooperation, highlighting the importance of exchanging expertise, developing initiatives to support cultural activities, encouraging research and innovation, and preserving cultural heritage for future generations.

The two sides further discussed changes in the education sector amid technological advances, including the potential of distance learning to expand educational opportunities and improve teaching methods, as well as the importance of exchanging experience in using digital platforms and technological tools in education.



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain, Jassem Al-Najem (left) meets Bahrain's Minister of Information.

Cultural cooperation

Bahrain's Advisor to the King for Media Affairs, Nabil Al-Hamer, discussed with Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain, Jassem Al-Najem, ways to strengthen media and cultural cooperation.

During a meeting on Monday, Al-Hamer welcomed Al-Najem and congratulated him on his appointment as Kuwait's ambassador to Bahrain, affirming the deep-rooted brotherly relations and historic bonds between the two countries.

He highlighted Kuwait's special place among Bahrainis, noting that relations between the two countries extend beyond official ties to deeply rooted family and social bonds.

Al-Hamer also expressed keenness to enhance Kuwait's cultural presence in Bahrain and increase artistic and cultural events and joint initiatives.

In turn, Ambassador Al-Najem

expressed appreciation for the warm reception, stressing Kuwait's commitment to working with Bahrain to expand media and cultural cooperation, strengthen coordination, and exchange expertise in ways that serve both countries' mutual interests.

He noted that Kuwaiti-Bahraini relations are founded on a long history of brotherhood and communication between the two peoples, emphasizing the role of media and culture in highlighting the depth of these ties and strengthening cooperation between media and cultural institutions.

Media role praised

Bahraini Information Minister Dr. Ramzan Al-Noaimi on Sunday praised Kuwait's leading media and cultural role and its contributions to enriching the Gulf media and cultural landscape.

During a meeting with Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain, Jassem Al-Najem, Al-Noaimi highlighted the

historic and fraternal ties between the two countries, supported by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa.

Both sides stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral media and cultural cooperation, exchanging expertise, and enhancing coordination among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to advance Gulf media.

Ambassador Al-Najem reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to further strengthening relations with Bahrain across various fields for the mutual benefit of both countries and their peoples.

The meeting was attended by Yousuf Al-Banwan, counsellor at Kuwait's Embassy in Bahrain, and Second Secretary Lujain Abu Alyan.

Bahrain's Oil and Environment Minister and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, Dr. Mohammad bin Daina, on Sunday stressed the importance of strengthening Gulf environmental cooperation, protecting natural resources and biodiversity, and advancing sustainable development policies.

According to the Bahrain News Agency, Minister Bin Daina made his remarks while chairing the 28th meeting of the GCC Ministers Responsible for Environmental Affairs, attended by Kuwait's Minister of State for Development and Sustainability, Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij.

Bin Daina called for building on existing achievements, sharing expertise and data, and developing joint initiatives and partnerships to improve environmental programmes, strengthen regional coordination and promote unified GCC positions at international forums.

Kuwaitization priority at Al-Zour refinery project

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) is on the verge of a major strategic transition, with the announcement of internal transfers and recruitment for the Al-Zour Refinery expected soon.

According to informed sources, the move signals the launch of a plan to "Kuwaitize" the workforce by replacing expatriate employees with Kuwaiti nationals at one of the region's largest oil projects.

The management has adopted a carefully planned, phased approach to ensure a smooth transition and avoid disrupting vital operations.

The first phase of the replacement plan will cover three key strategic areas - the Tank Farm, the Sulfur Handling Unit, and the Artificial Island. These areas are considered the refinery's vital arteries, requiring precise management and professional operation to ensure the safety of the facilities and the surrounding environment.

Selecting these sectors for the initial phase reflects the management's confidence in the ability of Kuwaiti personnel to handle complex technical responsibilities and demanding logistical tasks.

Furthermore, these anticipated measures are expected to help address the career stagnation that has long affected many Kuwaiti professionals at the Al-Zour Refinery, opening up broader prospects for sustainable job opportunities that meet the aspirations of young Kuwaitis eager to demonstrate their capabilities in leading key sectors of the national economy.

This major shift is a direct and fruitful response to one of the longest-standing demands of the workforce - replacing foreign contractor personnel, who previously handled many operational and support functions at the refinery, with qualified Kuwaiti professionals.

The decision reflects a strategic shift in human capital management within the oil sector, aimed at localizing knowledge and establishing a strong foundation of national technical expertise capable of independently and safely managing and operating this mega-facility over the long term.

The Al-Zour Refinery is one of the largest and most strategic oil projects in the Middle East and the world. It was built to support the national economy and meet growing demand for cleaner energy, both locally and internationally.

Its significance extends beyond its massive production capacity and advanced environmental technologies. The refinery also plays a pivotal role in advancing the Kuwaitization policy and expanding national employment, serving as a major hub for developing Kuwaiti technical expertise and creating sustainable career opportunities.



Argentine embassy photo

A musical program underway during the National day celebrations.

'Dar' hosts cultural, heritage event

Art, music take center stage as embassy marks Nat'l Day

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Art, music and human experience took center stage at the celebration of the Argentine Embassy of the National Day of Argentina through paintings inspired by the Argentine city of Mendoza and the experience of reaching the Mount Aconcagua summit.

Hosted by Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah, the event showcased Argentine culture and heritage, while celebrating the friendship between Argentina and Kuwait.

The celebration brought together ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, media representatives, and members of the Argentine community in Kuwait.

Argentine Ambassador to Kuwait Ramiro Velloso affirmed the role of art and music in establishing connections between peoples and strengthening the

friendship between Kuwait and Argentina.

He indicated that the National Day is a celebration of ties between the two nations, with the aim to introduce Argentine culture and heritage to the public.

Expressing his happiness over holding the event, which was originally scheduled for May but was postponed due to the regional circumstances, he underscored the importance of this gathering in celebrating Argentina and its bond with Kuwait.

He disclosed that the program gave the attendees a chance to explore the facets of Argentine culture through visual art, personal experience and music.

Kuwaiti artist Nadia Al-Abdulghafour displayed paintings inspired by the city of Mendoza, while Shahad Al-Zaabi shared her experience of summiting Mount Aconcagua -- one of the most prominent natural landmarks in Argentina.

Has social media altered temperaments & tastes?

“THE government needs to do no more than follow what its citizens write in local newspapers. We frequently repeat this request because these writings contain observations that serve the best interests of the country and its people,” prominent Kuwaiti citizen **Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This is one of the easiest tasks for the government to carry out, as it requires no additional cost. By simply utilizing existing staff, the government could avoid criticism, address shortcomings, and attend to neglected areas such as agriculture, municipal services, and public works. It could also protect citizens from stray dogs, a menace we have urged the authorities to address for years, without any effective solution from the municipality or the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources - the two bodies responsible for the issue.



Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber

“The matter only came to a head after a citizen was mauled to death by these dogs. May Allah have mercy on his soul. The solution that the government had failed to find for years was suddenly discovered within a single day of the incident. This is a recurring habit of governments, past and present - they find solutions only after a calamity or disaster has struck (may Allah protect us from both), instead of applying the principle that “prevention is better than cure.”

“I urge you not to sever ties with your citizens, for a promise is a solemn pledge. This is especially true when the promise comes from the Government of Kuwait, a state that consistently upholds international and Arab decisions and treaties on the global stage. How, then, could it break its promise and jeopardize the futures of its own people at home?

“Regarding the haphazard transfer of teachers, while the government certainly has the right to make decisions it deems appropriate, I fault it for acting hastily without considering the potential backlash. When we criticize the government - as we are one and the same - it is merely an expression of opinion. We may be right or wrong, but ultimately, we all seek the best outcome and mutual benefit for everyone involved. Therefore, I suggested restoring the status quo, especially since the academic year is just beginning. This would give the ministry sufficient time to review transfer requests while taking into account the circumstances of certain families, particularly regarding their housing and their children’s schools.

“Changes in character require a cause, or several causes, that have altered people’s temperaments and tastes. One wonders what these causes might be. Can we find the answer with psychiatrists? Or are the reasons linked to the evolution of social media platforms, which have exposed us to a world of diverse societies and differing customs and traditions? This openness has contributed to a decline in moral standards, as well as a drop in the quality of music, theater, and cinema. These fields have become devoid of purpose or substance, driven solely by financial gain and the pursuit of larger audiences, which unfortunately reflects a deterioration in public taste.

“True honor endures, and friendship is a stroke of fortune. Blessed is he who keeps company with noble souls. If I were given a choice among all of creation, I would choose you, people of pure intentions. May Allah protect Kuwait, its people, and its leadership from all evil and harm.”

Also:

“In the noble Prophetic tradition, it is stated, “How wonderful is the affair of the believer, for his entire affair is good. If something pleasing happens to him, he praises Allah, and it is good for him; and if something displeasing happens to him, he shows patience, and it is good for him. This applies to no one but the believer,” Kuwaiti writer Dr. **Khaled Ayed Al-Janfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The Almighty decrees the events that befall people in this worldly life, whether good or bad. The believer is expected to accept them with contentment, knowing that whatever the Lord of Might decrees for His servants is always and eternally good. However, I believe that while everything a person encounters in this worldly life is ultimately for the best, this does not apply to intentionally harming others. Examples of such harmful actions, which inevitably lead to misfortune in this world, include the following:

■ Cheating, manipulation, deceit, and fraud - The worldly fate of cheaters, manipulators, deceivers, and fraudsters is often dire. Such harmful behaviors strip mercy from their hearts, and whoever is deprived of mercy is bound to face a wretched—and often tragic—existence in this world. One need only observe their lives to see them repeatedly falling into moral pitfalls that may ultimately deprive them of the opportunity to re-

pent before death.

■ Destructive backbiting - A person backbites or gossips about another, harming their reputation and ruining their relationships with others. Backbiting can have grave consequences for those who deliberately engage in it, potentially destroying their chances of spiritual and moral salvation before death.

■ Arrogance and haughtiness - A person acts arrogantly by looking down on others and displaying a sense of superiority. Haughtiness is demonstrated through deliberate rudeness, simply because the person has the power to behave that way. I do not believe such behavior makes life easier for the arrogant. On the contrary, their worldly affairs may suffer because they have harmed others, and they may eventually encounter people who inflict harm upon them in return.

■ Harming kin - Some individuals direct much of their malice toward their own relatives - their own flesh and blood - leaving them barely safe from the severity and extent of their harmful behavior. How can such people, morally disturbed and spiritually warped, expect their worldly affairs to prosper when they deliberately hurt those closest to them? They do so either to satisfy a negative psychological need, out of miserliness, or because of deep-seated, inherited animosity.”

□ □ □

“In one country, four college students agreed to spend two or three days hiking and enjoying themselves in a remote area, believing they would return with clear minds, ready to tackle their exams. However, captivated by the scenery, they stayed too long and realized they would miss their first exam,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“They devised a ruse to persuade their professor to let them retake the exam at a later date. Upon their return, they claimed that one of their car tires had blown out at night on a dark, deserted road, forcing them to wait until the following day to have it repaired. The professor agreed to reschedule the exam. On the appointed day, the professor instructed the four students to sit in separate corners of the exam hall so that none could see what the others were writing.

“To their shock, they found the following questions on the exam paper:

- Which of the four tires blew out?
- At what time did the incident occur?
- Who was driving the car at the time?

“Their lie was exposed, proving the old adage that a lie has a short lifespan. An example of the virtues of honesty in a child’s upbringing is the story of a thief who repented thanks to a young boy. About 950 years ago, a young man was preparing to travel to another country to further his education. His mother gave him forty-two dinars but made him promise never to lie for the rest of his life. He gave her his word and set off to join a caravan. During the journey, the caravan was intercepted by a group of bandits who seized the travelers’ belongings and money. When the boy was asked what he was carrying, he replied, “I have forty-two dinars.”



Ahmad Al-Dawas

“Astonished and suspecting that he was lying, they asked him again, but he gave the same answer. They took him to their leader for questioning. The boy explained, “Before leaving home, I promised my mother that I would never lie. I fear lying and breaking my promise to her.” The man was amazed by the boy’s character and said to him, “You fear breaking your promise to your mother, yet we have broken our covenant with the Almighty?” He ordered his men to return what they had taken and subsequently repented in the presence of the boy.

“In time, the boy grew up to become one of the most renowned Arab religious scholars, Sheikh Abdul Qadir Al-Jilani (or Al-Kilani). He was a virtuous religious figure who passed away in Baghdad during the Abbasid era.

“There is a vast difference between merely providing for one’s children and truly raising them. The former provides food, drink, and clothing, while the latter instills values, convictions, and standards of right and wrong.

“A final note: In the world of sports, Kuwait played against Britain in the 1982 World Cup in Madrid. The match ended 1-0 in Britain’s favor, a result viewed by some observers as a defeat for Britain, given that a Third World nation had managed to score against “Great Britain.” However, Kuwait’s sporting performance subsequently declined, an issue we hope the government will address. A Kuwaiti athlete who lived through that period recounted the events, stating, “After the match, players from the English team came to congratulate the Kuwaiti team. One of them said, in essence, ‘You played with such skill that we feared defeat.’”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah chairs the meeting with security men.



Farwaniya Governorate photos

Traffic chaos, solutions top governor, officials meeting

Call for smooth flow of traffic

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with a delegation of traffic officials at the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate on Monday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The delegation included Assistant Director General for Planning and Traffic Engineering Brigadier General Mishal Abdullah Al-Shahman, Assistant Director for Farwaniya Traffic Lieutenant Colonel Faisal Mishal, Director for Traffic Engineering Lieuten-

ant Colonel Ali Taha Bourabea, Head of the Road Permits Section Eng. Mansour Eid Al-Shammari, and several other traffic officials.

Members of the Farwaniya Governorate Council retired Lieutenant General Ali Abdulhadi Al-Shanfa, Saad Al-Hadba and Hessa Al-Mutawa attended the meeting.

They discussed various traffic-related issues in the governorate, ways to strengthen coordination between the governorate and relevant authorities to support traffic infrastructure development, raise the efficiency of roads and intersections, alleviate congestion, and ensure smoother traffic flow throughout the governorate.

Sheikh Athbi Nasser stressed the importance of concerted efforts among the concerned authorities and the governorate council. He underscored the need to follow up field observations and requirements and to implement appropriate solutions based on priorities, in line with urban expansion and population density, while ensuring traffic safety and improving the services provided to citizens and residents.

This meeting is a manifestation of the commitment of the governor to maintain coordination with relevant government bodies, monitor service and development files, and support efforts to upgrade the traffic system and raise service standards.

Hunt for ‘newly weds’ in theft of KD 850 worth evening gown

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Abu Halifa detectives were searching for a young man and woman, suspected to be newlyweds, in connection with the theft of a luxurious yellow evening gown worth more than KD 850 from a high-end boutique in an upscale mall in Egaila, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the boutique’s manager reported the incident to the police and provided surveillance footage showing the pair inside the store shortly before the theft was discovered.

The footage showed the couple browsing the shop and examining the displayed garments for approximately half an hour. The woman was then seen placing the yellow evening gown into a bag she was carrying after checking that it had no anti-theft security tag attached.

The footage also showed her male companion approaching the store’s security sensors, apparently attempting to determine whether the gown could be taken out of the premises without triggering an alert.

The theft was discovered later when a staff member noticed that the gown was missing.

A review of the surveillance footage enabled investigators to reconstruct the events inside the shop, trace the couple’s movements, and link their presence to the gown’s disappearance.

The shop manager handed the footage over to the security authorities, and a theft case was registered.

Detectives have launched an investigation to identify the young man and woman, determine their nationalities, and apprehend them.

The sources confirmed that the surveillance

footage is the key lead in uncovering the details of the incident.

□ □ □

Security cams trace thieves: Four African expatriates were arrested for stealing KD 50,000 from the vehicle of the Chinese manager of a prominent contracting company, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the suspects had followed the 1993-born Chinese manager after he withdrew KD 50,000 from a bank. They had acted on information that the cash was intended to cover company employees’ salaries. They monitored the victim’s movements and seized the opportunity to steal the money while his vehicle was parked in Salmiya.

The suspects smashed the vehicle’s window and took the cash while the victim was visiting a friend’s apartment in the area.

Mom in soup over accident

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: A mother’s attempt to shield her son from the consequences of a traffic accident has led to a new case involving forgery of an official document, reports Al-Anba daily.

Surveillance footage contradicted her account of who was driving the vehicle, and her attempt to take the blame for her son ultimately ended with her confessing the truth during the investigation.

According to security sources, a Kuwaiti woman reported that her vehicle had been struck by another car driven by a young man wearing traditional national attire, who then fled the scene.

Detectives traced the vehicle captured in the footage and found that it was registered to a woman. When summoned for questioning, she claimed that she had been driving at the time of the accident, rather than the young man described by the complainant. She also stated that she had left the scene without realizing that a collision had occurred.

Given the conflicting statements, authorities reviewed surveillance footage showing the driver wearing a dishdasha, a traditional robe, which cast doubt on the mother’s account.

She was subsequently summoned again and confronted with the investigation’s findings and the footage.

She then retracted her earlier statement and admitted that her son had been driving at the time of the accident.

She explained that she had claimed responsibility out of fear for him and a desire to protect him from the consequences of the incident.

When questioned, the son admitted that he had been behind the wheel at the time of the accident, confirming that his mother had claimed to be the driver to prevent him from being implicated.

The sources noted that further questioning would establish the reasons behind his decision to flee the scene.

In light of these admissions, the sources stated that the mother’s statements and declarations to the investigating authority were separated from the original traffic accident file, and a separate case was registered against her on suspicion of forgery of an official document.

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Kuwaiti photographers win accolades at Siena International Photography Awards

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): Kuwaiti photographers have continued to excel in winning more awards and certificates of merit in various categories at the Siena International Photography Awards 2026, hosted by Italy.

One day after Kuwaiti photographer Abdullah Al-Bunayan won first place in the (Aerial photography) category, photographer Abdullah Al-Shirazi received on Sunday a Highly Commended award in the (Urban) category, along with a Commended recognition in the (Abstract) category.

Photographer Saleh Al-Shimali obtained a Commended recognition in the (Urban) category, while Mohammad Al-Qattan was granted a Highly Commended award in (The Beauty of Nature) category.

All the award-winning photographs were taken in Kuwait, capturing the beauty of its buildings, environmental details, and urban and natural landscapes, earning international recognition.

With these awards, Kuwaiti photographers continue to make their mark at one of the world's leading photography competitions. Their achievements reflect the creativity and excellence of Kuwaiti talent and its ability to present artistic images of their homeland, highlighting its visual identity and aesthetic features.

Featuring leading photographers from



Abdullah Al-Shirazi



Mohammad Al-Qattan



Saleh Al-Shimali



Photo taken by Saleh Al-Shimali

around the world, the competition is held annually in the Italian city of Siena as part of the Siena Awards Photography Festival. Winners receive the Pangea Prize crystal statuette, along with other awards.

The competition features multiple categories, including travel and adventure, faces and personalities, nature, wildlife, underwater life, sports, documentary photography and street photography, as well as

categories for short documentary films and photo stories. The winning works are displayed in special exhibitions across the city and published in the renowned annual book Beyond the Lens.

'Customs union vital pillar'

Bolsters competitiveness: Al-Budaiwi

MANAMA, Oct 12, (KUNA): GCC Secretary General Jasem Al-Budaiwi said Sunday that accelerating economic unity pathways and completing the Customs Union and the GCC Common Market constitute crucial pillars for bolstering the competitiveness of GCC economies.

Al-Budaiwi made the remarks while addressing the 10th Meeting of the Permanent Preparatory Committee at the Ministerial Level of the GCC Economic and Development Affairs Commission, held Manama, chaired by Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa, Bahraini Minister of Finance and National Economy and Chairman of the current session, and attended by the members of the GCC Ministerial Preparatory Committee.

He added that this would also lead to consolidating the GCC member countries' capacity to address global shifts, and achieving sustainable development.

He underscored that the Permanent Preparatory Committee at the Ministerial Level of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority holds growing significance in advancing and following up on these projects through the formulation of policies, initiatives, and practical programmes that yield tangible results in the journey of economic integration among GCC member states.

He expressed his highest thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa

Al-Khalifa, who is President of the current session of the GCC Supreme Council, for the Kingdom of Bahrain's hosting of the meeting, and for the facilities and support extended to ensure the success of GCC endeavours. He also commended the steadfast support and attention accorded to joint GCC action by the Leaders of the GCC states across all fields.

He highlighted that the meeting convenes amid rapid economic and geopolitical shifts that underscore the imperative of bolstering coordination and integration among GCC states, elevating their collective capabilities, anticipating developments and their repercussions, and addressing them with efficiency and agility.

"This approach mitigates impacts on GCC economies while cementing economic readiness, resilience, and adaptability, in addition to leveraging these developments to support growth, economic diversification, competitiveness, nationalisation programmes, and sustainable development," he stressed.



Al-Budaiwi



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to Algeria Nawaf Dhaidan Bu Shaiba meets Algerian Minister of Pharmaceutical Industry Wassim Kouidri.

Algeria, Kuwait eye boost in pharma industry exchange

ALGIERS, Oct 12, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Algeria Nawaf Dhaidan Bu Shaiba discussed on Sunday with Algerian Minister of Pharmaceutical Industry Wassim Kouidri means of enhancing collaboration and sharing expertise between the two countries in the pharmaceutical industry field.

The ambassador met with the minister at the ministry's headquarters in the presence of senior officials from the field, and the two sides commended the deep-rooted and outstanding relations between the two sisterly countries, the Embassy of Kuwait said in a statement.

Both sides agreed that the pharmaceutical industry is an important field, especially as Algeria has wide experience in

this regard, it added.

Bu Shaiba praised the diversification of Algerian companies in the local pharmaceutical industry, which has made progress in covering a large percentage of the local market's needs.

He reviewed with Kouidri horizons of supporting bilateral efforts aimed at strengthening cooperation.

At the conclusion of the talks, Bu Shaiba expressed his country's desire to boost cooperation in this field, underlining the necessity of working to ensure coordination among relevant authorities in the two countries to organize future meetings among specialists to enhance cooperation in this vital field, the statement concluded.

Continued from Page 1

Khaitan blitz

Moreover, the authorities arrested one individual subject to an arrest warrant in a drug case, another wanted in a theft case, one individual in a drug case and another for being intoxicated.

They also issued 44 traffic citations, impounded 33 abandoned vehicles and seized two vehicles wanted in connection with breach-of-trust cases and one vehicle wanted in a theft case, statement added.

The ministry said the participating authorities' operations resulted in the Public Authority for Manpower issuing 13 violations of the Labour Law against commercial establishments, while the Environment Public Authority issued two violations for improper storage of materials. KFF issued 202 notices requiring violations to be rectified, closed 43 establishments and issued 25 warnings of closure.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy issued one violation for tampering with an electricity meter and two violations for illegally connecting directly to the electricity supply with the intent to commit fraud and steal electricity.

Kuwait Municipality issued 108 violations of the Building Law, placed 53 notices on properties violating Law No. 125 of 1992, and issued 21 violation reports against shops and three reports for road encroachments.

The Ministry of Interior affirmed that the necessary legal procedures had been taken against those arrested and found in violation, stressing that security campaigns would continue in cooperation with the relevant authorities to enhance security and public safety.

25-year

Article 4 sets out provisions governing supported and non-supported mortgage financing and repayment mechanisms, allowing beneficiaries to combine the two types of financing in accordance with rules and procedures set by the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Article 5 provides that all mortgage financing shall be repaid in equal monthly installments, with the repayment period not exceeding 25 years from the date financing is first disbursed, in accordance with Central Bank of Kuwait regulations.

Article 6 refers financing procedures for purchasing housing units from developers to Law No. 118 of 2023, while financing for construction on government housing plots will be disbursed in stages in accordance with bank rules.

Article 7 requires financing entities to notify beneficiaries in case of failure to meet repayment obligations. It allows such entities to reschedule the financing for a period not exceeding five years, subject to Central Bank regulations, with the beneficiary bearing interest or returns resulting from the rescheduling period.

Article 8 requires financing entities to register mortgage financing cases and provide the Central Bank with relevant documents, including repayment schedules and default cases, in accordance with its regulations.

Article 9 authorizes Kuwait Credit Bank to act on behalf of the State in signing agreements with financing entities within the framework of the draft decree-law and its executive regulations. It also requires the Ministry of Finance to pay interest or returns on supported financing to Kuwait Credit Bank from the General Reserve, which in turn pays the financing entities.

Under Article 10, Kuwait Credit Bank, on behalf of the State, guarantees to financing entities payment of the outstanding balance of supported mortgage financing if a beneficiary defaults.

Article 11 provides for Kuwait Credit Bank to obtain a mortgage over the property in return for its obligation on behalf of the State, with the mortgage becoming effective only through an official mortgage contract.

Article 12 grants Kuwait Credit Bank, or an entity designated by the competent minister, the right to purchase all or part of the mortgage financing provided to beneficiaries by financing entities.

Article 13 requires the Central Bank of Kuwait to issue rules and regulations governing the provision of mortgage financing and determine interest rates or returns applicable to non-supported financing.

Article 14 provides for the executive regulations of the draft decree-law to be issued by decree, upon the competent minister's proposal, within six months of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article 15 stipulates that the draft decree-law's provisions shall apply to beneficiaries from the date the executive regulations are published in the Official Gazette.

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Your Highness,

Also, authorities must enact measures that grant fee waivers to these organizations throughout the duration of the crisis, supplemented by financial relief to guide them through such demanding conditions.

The presentation also covered field applications that enable ministry engineers to update data from work sites, plans to expand the implementation of the system, and link various sectors of the ministry within a centralized and unified geographic database.

Kuwait, France

The meeting comes within the framework of supporting and developing cooperation between the two friendly countries in the civil aviation sector, contributing to strengthening bilateral relations and maintaining coordination in relevant fields, it added.

Gulf alarm

The two sides also reviewed the latest regional developments and ongoing efforts to address them, stressing

Fahmy appreciates warm reception

He stressed that international law must serve as the foundation for protecting Arab sovereignty and collec-

Military cooperation discussed

Saudi defenses under scrutiny

On Monday, Saudi state-run media reported that its military was responding to a new attack involving drones and cruise missiles, without providing

Yet, the Saudis on Monday continued with the second day of the World Petroleum Congress in Riyadh, even as the worsening conflict with the Houthis has put the Gulf - already shaken by the U.S.-Iran war - on edge.

Kuwait's relations with its larger neighbor Saudi Arabia transcends bilateral oil cooperation, the minister told the 25th World Petroleum Congress in the Saudi capital, hailing such ties as based on "joint interests and a common stance," he said.

Cooperation between Gulf Cooperation Council member states forms a pillar of global energy security and stability, the Kuwaiti minister underlined, urging greater regional cooperation to stave off existential challenges.

Mol 'cautions'

It also stressed the need to stop behind vehicles at red lights and refrain from overtaking stationary vehicles to reach the front of the queue.

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‘Proof of citizenship in itself is not terrible’

GOP states impose new voting rules, some mirror Trump’s midterm proposals

WASHINGTON, Oct 12, (AP): US President Donald Trump has pushed Congress to pass a proof-of-citizenship law, signed an executive order seeking a national voter ID requirement and tried to limit mail voting through US Postal Service changes.

None of those moves succeeded in time to affect this year’s midterm elections. It’s a different matter in the states.

More than three dozen voting laws passed in Republican-controlled states are taking effect for the first time this year, many of them containing elements of Trump’s stalled proposals. They include changes to what IDs are acceptable to register for the first time and requirements to show proof of citizenship, an issue the Republican president has tried but failed to get through Congress.

“Trump’s attacks on our elections are deeply damaging, but they are not happening in isolation,” said Sophia Lin Lakin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s Voting Rights Project. “Across the country, states are also advancing restrictions that make it harder for eligible voters to cast a ballot.”

Some new laws seek to make voting easier. Others continue a trend in Republican-controlled states of imposing restrictive rules that began in 2021 after Trump’s false claims of widespread fraud in his 2020 presidential election loss to Democrat Joe Biden. Trump’s continued false claims have resonated with Republican voters, a majority of whom believe Biden was not legitimately elected despite all evidence to the contrary. Trump lost dozens of court challenges, his own attorney general found no evidence of widespread fraud, and reviews, audits and recounts in the battleground states where he contested his loss all affirmed Biden’s victory.

Among the changes confronting voters as early voting gets underway: Students in New Hampshire can no longer use student IDs; Utah voters returning mail ballots must include more information on the envelope; and some voters in Mississippi might need birth certificates or passports to verify their identities.

Republican lawmakers who support the tighter voting laws, especially around voter ID, describe them as common sense changes.

New Hampshire state Rep. Donald McFarlane said he sponsored the bill to eliminate student IDs as acceptable for voting because colleges don’t have the same controls when issuing those cards as government agencies.

“The change removes a special exception and applies the same government-issued ID standard to all voters,” he said, adding that his bill had bipartisan support.

Students, he said, can still get state IDs free of charge.

The new requirements have not gone unchallenged.

In South Dakota, the ACLU has filed a lawsuit seeking to halt a new law that includes requiring voters registering for the first time to present the most common forms of ID - driver’s licenses, Tribal IDs and



Voters scan their ballots at early in-person voting in Cleveland on Oct 7. (AP)

non-driver state IDs. They must be presented in person at places that accept registration.

“Proof of citizenship in itself is not terrible,” said Kathryn Johnson, president of the League of Women Voters of South Dakota.

Her concern is the requirement to present the IDs in person.

“We’re kind of a remote state, so sometimes it takes a drive, and you have to coordinate, you have to take off work, and all of these kinds of things,” she said.

Ohio has a proof of citizenship requirement in effect for the first time this year for those registering to vote or updating their voter registration information at a Bureau of Motor Vehicles location. The state also eliminated its four-day grace period for mail ballots, which now must be received at local election offices by Election Day.

Yet the biggest concern for voting rights groups is an ongoing purge of the state’s voter rolls. The databases used to check citizenship against voter registration lists can be outdated, said Freda Levenson, legal director of the ACLU of Ohio, which has sued to overturn the law.

“Vast numbers of perfectly eligible voters are vulnerable to being disenfranchised,” she said.

Republican state Sen. Theresa Gavarone, one of the primary sponsors of the bill, challenged the ACLU’s

legal action and said the problem it addresses is a real one.

“In the past two years, hundreds of noncitizens have been removed from Ohio’s voter rolls,” she said in an email. “Every single vote cast by a noncitizen disenfranchises a lawful Ohio voter.”

Outside an early voting center in Wayne County, Ohio, retired steel worker Dan Walter, an independent voter, said he opposes requiring documentary proof of citizenship to vote.

“It’s to keep people from voting, it sounds to me like,” he said.

His wife, Jody, a retired aerospace executive and a Democrat, said she felt the same way about Ohio’s new requirement for registering to vote.

“A driver’s license doesn’t prove citizenship, and that’s all they ask for now,” she said. “It’s going to be an obstacle for so many people.”

Genia Fortune had a different view. A nurse, the Millersburg resident described herself as an independent and said she voted for President Barack Obama, a Democrat, and later for Trump. She believes Trump’s false claims that the 2020 election was stolen and sees requiring documentary proof of citizenship as a necessary precaution.

“I just feel like you need to be a citizen and show proof of ID,” she said.

The Trump administration has pushed multiple strategies to influence this year’s midterm elections, most of them stymied by Congress or the courts.

Chris Diaz, the director of legisla-

tive tracking at the Voting Rights Lab, which tracks state legislation, said the group has seen several versions of the Republican president’s proposals passed by his allies in the states.

A recently released report by the group highlighted some of the key areas drawing Republican lawmakers’ attention, including mail balloting, voter ID and the hunt for non-citizens on voter rolls.

Noncitizen voting has been a focus of the Trump administration despite it being a rare problem. The US Department of Justice recently announced it had brought charges in roughly 90 cases for various types of election misconduct, including 50 against people who are alleged to have voted as noncitizens. The US had 227 million registered voters for the 2024 presidential election.

The Brennan Center for Justice has identified nearly 40 laws in 21 states taking effect this election season that will make it harder for eligible voters to register, stay on the rolls or cast ballots.

The report from the center, part of the New York University School of Law, found that many of the new laws target subsets of voters.

“What I want voters to take away from this is that elections are still run by the states and there are still people in many states who are trying to make it harder for you to vote,” said Sean Morales-Doyle, senior director of the center’s Voting Rights and Elections Program. “But that’s all the more reason to go make a plan to vote and participate.”



Associate Justice Samuel Alito stands in his chambers at the Supreme Court during an Associated Press interview, in Washington on Sept 29. (AP)

Supreme Court can’t stem emergency appeals and voices concern over Trump’s rhetoric: Alito

WASHINGTON, Oct 12, (AP): US Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito says the escalating volume of emergency appeals before the court isn’t a good thing, but he adds there’s little the court can do to change the trajectory.

The number of petitions asking the justices to intervene quickly has skyrocketed during President Donald Trump’s second administration, putting the court at the center of hotly debated issues such as the Republican president’s new ballroom construction and his proposed restrictions on mail ballots in the midterm elections.

The number of emergency applications now rivals the annual tally of cases the justices consider with full briefing and oral arguments, Alito wrote in a new book released.

The justice told The Associated Press in a rare interview that the rhetoric about the court from Trump and his administration doesn’t sit well with him.

“I personally am not pleased with that,” he said. “Everybody in this country has the right to criticize what we do. The substance of their criticism can be quite harsh. If we deserve it, then that’s fine. But rhetoric is a different story.”

Alito spoke in connection with his first book, “So Ordered: An Originalist’s View of The Constitution, The Court and Our Country.”

Coming 20 years after he was confirmed to the court after his nomination by President George W. Bush, a Republican, the book is a collection of speeches the 76-year-old has given over the years on religious liberty, his judicial philosophy and constitutional rights.

Alito is perhaps best known for writing the decision that reversed Roe v. Wade and ended abortion as a nationwide right, and he has been one of the most consistent members of the court’s conservative bloc. He’s also voted in favor of some of Trump’s signature policies, even those the rest of the conservative wing has struck down. But he rejects the idea that his decisions are in the “Make America Great Again” camp.

“It’s offensive,” he said. “I honestly try to decide every single case on the merits, every single application on the

merit. And that’s true whether the president is Donald Trump or Joe Biden or Barack Obama or anybody else.”

Trump, for his part, has cheered Alito as “one of the Greatest of All Time” even as he maligned justices whom he appointed as “unpatriotic” and “merely a shell of their original selves.” Alito said the harsh rhetoric from across the spectrum doesn’t affect how the justices rule but does play a role in the public’s declining trust in the court.

“The terms used by presidents and by members of their administration, Cabinet officers, other high-ranking officers in describing the Supreme Court and their decisions, and sometimes individual justices, is far different from what we saw 15 years ago,” Alito said.

Much of the president’s frustration has come after the court ruled against him on some of his central initiatives, including tariffs and birthright citizenship. Those decisions have been handed down after months of consideration, including oral arguments.

In emergency decisions, by con-

trast, the president has a much stronger track record of wins.

Typically made in days or weeks, emergency orders are designed to be temporary, lasting only as cases continue to play out in lower courts. But since that process can take years, those decisions can still have important real-world consequences.

Critics, including Alito’s liberal-leaning colleague Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, have complained about the court’s recent handling of the emergency docket and outlined proposed steps the justices could take.

Alito, though, said there’s little the court can do to stem the tide. Presidents have increasingly used executive orders to enact their policies rather than passing laws through Congress, leading to lawsuits and “robust” decisions from lower-court judges that send a case quickly to the Supreme Court, he said.

“Unless something changes there, and I don’t foresee it right now, I’m afraid this is going to continue,” he said. “An application is something that I think we have to rule on.”

France’s presidential candidate cheers Gen Z school protests

PARIS, Oct 12, (AP): French far-left presidential candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon on Sunday celebrated high school students whose protest movement has shaken France as he called at a campaign rally for lowering the voting age to 16 and an end to selective admission to universities.

The fiery anti-capitalist Mélenchon also took aim at US President Donald Trump, NATO and the global financial system, in a sweeping speech to thousands of supporters meant to kick his campaign into high gear for next year’s two-round election in April and May.

Also Sunday, France’s Socialist and allied voters chose European Parliament lawmaker Raphaël Glucksmann as their presidential candidate in a primary election marred by a cyberattack and divisions within the mainstream left.

President Emmanuel Macron is finishing his second term and cannot run again, so next year’s election will be a turning point for France and Europe. France is the EU’s only nuclear power, its second-biggest economy and a linchpin of the shared euro currency zone.

At this stage, polls suggest that



French far-left leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon, a candidate in the presidential election gives a speech during the annual Braderie in Lille, northern France on Sept 5. (AP)

Mélenchon and center-right candidate Edouard Philippe are behind far-right candidate Marine Le Pen, but ahead of a range of other hopefuls. It remains to be seen if they will maintain their current level of support.

The nationwide high school protest movement - over deteriorating

school buildings, teacher shortages, and inequalities hurting schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods - has energized young voters, who may prove key to the election outcome.

The movement has at times turned violent, and police have made more than 6,600 arrests. Hundreds have been injured, including students, teachers and police.

Mélenchon’s critics say he and his France Unbowed party are fueling the fire for electoral gain; Mélenchon says his party isn’t organizing the movement and wants it to be peaceful.

The party invited student protesters to the stage at Sunday’s rally in the southern city of Clermont-Ferrand, and Mélenchon said their protest movement shows “a high level of political and union maturity.”

Many protesters are under 18, and Mélenchon - who is 75 and on his fourth presidential run - nodded to that future electorate by proposing to lower the voting age to 16.

He denounced the national university admissions platform that has frustrated student protesters, saying selective admissions should be scrapped and knowledge shouldn’t be turned into “merchandise.”



A residential building burns following a Russian air attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine on Oct 12. (AP)

Russia strikes energy facilities despite US claim of energy ceasefire: Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 12, (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday that Russia has continued to strike Ukraine’s energy facilities even after U.S. President Donald Trump said a day earlier that the warring countries had agreed on an energy ceasefire in the 4 1/2-year-old war.

Speaking at the Warsaw Security Forum in Poland, Zelenskyy said Ukraine had learned through media reports that Trump had secured an energy ceasefire deal with Russia which would involve a mutual pause in strikes on energy sites. Zelenskyy said he would be willing to honor such an agreement, if Moscow did the same.

“We support it, but I have not heard approval of this proposal from the Russian side,” Zelenskyy said.

Trump’s brief social media post on Sunday claiming the purported agreement offered few details but

said that the energy ceasefire took effect immediately, adding: “Do not break it!” On Monday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov wouldn’t say whether Russia had agreed to such a ceasefire, saying only: “Contacts are ongoing.”

Zelenskyy said Ukraine had been “horribly surprised” when, following Trump’s announcement, Russia struck numerous energy facilities including a power plant in the northeastern city of Kharkiv as well as a gas production facility and a civilian gas station.

“It was clear that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin does not read Truth Social,” Zelenskyy said, referring to Trump’s social media platform.

Trump previously announced a similar agreement on ceasing energy strikes that did not come to fruition. In a social media post on Sept. 14, he said both countries had agreed

“not to hit” each other’s energy infrastructure, but offered no details on that proposal either.

Russia has used attacks on energy facilities in order to deny Ukrainian civilians power, heat and running water during the war, hoping to wear down public resistance to Moscow’s full-scale invasion. Ukrainian officials describe the strategy as “weaponizing winter,” and fear Russia could ramp up such attacks as cold weather approaches.

Ukraine, meanwhile, has launched strikes against Russian energy sites like oil refineries, sometimes deep within Russian territory. That’s prompted Trump to blame Zelenskyy for record U.S. diesel prices - rather than the U.S.-led war in Iran - and to strike a deal with Putin on Friday to import diesel from Russia in an attempt to bring fuel prices down ahead of U.S. midterm elections.

Russia interfered in 2016 Brexit referendum: UK’s PM

LONDON, Oct 12, (AP): US Prime Minister Andy Burnham says it is clear that Russia interfered with Britain’s vote to leave the European Union, adding it was important to put Moscow’s tampering on the record because countries across Europe are facing the same threat.

In excerpts from “The Rest is Politics” podcast released Sunday, Burnham said that when he became prime minister in July he asked his advisers whether Russia had interfered with the 2016 referendum. The full podcast is scheduled to drop on Monday.

“I’ve had the clear answer that yes, there was,” Burnham said. “These things are important now to put clearly on the record and I believe help voters in Germany and France understand that some of this politics is instigated via our enemies, namely Russia.”

Russia has long said it does not meddle in other countries’ elections or referendums.



Britain’s Prime Minister Andy Burnham delivers a speech at the The Innovation Nation Summit at Bruntwood SciTech in Manchester, England on Oct 9. (AP)

Asia

Cambodian PM embarks on 3-nation tour: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet departed Sunday morning for a three-nation tour of Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Kazakhstan to strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations and cooperation.

“I am leading the Cambodian delegation on official and working visits to the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Türkiye, and the Republic of Kazakhstan, and to attend the seventh Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),” Hun Manet announced on social media prior to his departure.

The prime minister’s itinerary begins in Baku, Azerbaijan, where he will attend the CICA summit on Oct. 15. He will then head to Türkiye on Oct. 16 and conclude his tour in Kazakhstan on Oct. 17. (Xinhua)

Fire burns for over 9 hours at Tokyo factory warehouse: A fire broke out at a factory warehouse in Tochigi Prefecture, north of Tokyo, early Monday, and firefighters were still battling the blaze more than nine hours later, local media reported.

No injuries have been reported.

Shortly after 5 a.m. local time, an employee at the factory in Nakagawa Town called the fire department to report smoke coming from the warehouse, public broadcaster NHK reported, citing police. The factory manufactures PET bottles and other plastic products.

Although the factory operates around the clock, no employees were inside the warehouse at the time, and all workers were safely evacuated. (Xinhua)

Chinese naval escort task group concludes visit to Malaysia: The 48th escort task group of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy departed the port of Kota Kinabalu on Monday, concluding a five-day goodwill visit to Malaysia.

During the visit, the task group commander paid a courtesy call on Ma-



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet (right) and visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Hung (left) witness a signing ceremony in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on Oct 9. (Xinhua)

laysian naval officials. The two sides organized reciprocal ship visits and held discussions on maritime navigation safety, hydrography and meteorology, and escort operations in the Gulf of Aden, exchanging professional knowledge and experience.

On its return voyage from the Gulf of Aden to China, the task group had previously visited Bangladesh and Myanmar. (Xinhua)

5.3-magnitude quake hits Indonesia: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.3 jolted 151 km west of Gorontalo, Indonesia at 2134 GMT on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 103.6 km, was initially determined to be at 0.53 degrees north latitude and 121.70 degrees east longitude. (Xinhua)

Teenage girl dead after alleged assault in Australia: A teenage girl has died after being allegedly assaulted in a remote Outback community in Australia’s Northern Territory (NT) on Monday morning.

The NT police force said it was notified around 5:30 a.m. on Monday that a 16-year-old girl had died at a clinic in the community of Alpururulam, over 1,000 km southeast of Darwin near the NT’s border with the state of Queensland, following an alleged physical assault.

NT police deployed detectives and forensics units to the town to join local police investigating the incident. (Xinhua)

Assaults on police officers surge 25 pct in S.Australia: The number of assaults on police officers in the Australian state of South Australia has surged by 25 percent, despite declines in several other categories of crime, according to official statistics released on Monday.

The latest figures released by South Australia Police showed that assaults on officers while on duty increased from 635 to 793 in the rolling 12-month period ending in August 2026, marking the 12th consecutive increase in such offenses.

Meanwhile, the number of robberies fell by 13 percent, from 501 to 438, following a 16 percent decline in the previous reporting period. (Xinhua)

2 teens charged over Sydney stabbing: Two teenage boys have been charged over a fatal stabbing of a man in western Sydney on Friday night, police said on Monday.

A police statement said that emergency services were called to reports of an assault in the suburb of Mount Druitt, 38 km west of central Sydney, shortly before 9 p.m. on Friday.

Officers arrived at the scene and found a man aged in his 30s with stab wounds to his torso. (Xinhua)

No reports of damage to aircraft or vessels: Japan

North Korea fires multiple ballistic missiles, adding to streak of weapons tests

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 12, (AP): North Korea on Monday fired multiple ballistic missiles toward its eastern waters, South Korea’s military said, adding to a recent streak of weapons demonstrations that has heightened tensions during a prolonged freeze in diplomacy.

Jang Do-young, spokesperson of South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff, said missiles of various types were fired from an area around the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, where the country’s main airport has been a major launch site in recent years.

Jang said one of the missiles flew more than 900 kilometers (559 miles) before falling into the sea but didn’t comment on the flight details of the other weapons. The joint chiefs didn’t specify how many missiles it detected.

Japan’s Deputy Defense Minister Takashi Koyari said Japan detected at least two missiles launched 17 minutes apart and that the weapons landed in waters outside of its exclusive economic zone. Koyari said the first missile flew about 220 kilometers (137 miles) and the second more than 910 kilometers (565 miles), following an “irregular” flight path, a term Japanese officials have previously used to describe hypersonic weapons. There were no reports of damage to aircraft or vessels, he said.

While maintaining a hard line toward Seoul, North Korea has been ramping up weapons testing as it seeks to expand its arsenal of nuclear-capable systems, including an Oct. 3 test of what the North described as a hypersonic intermediate-range missile designed to evade missile defenses in South Korea and Japan.

North Korea has also conducted other missile tests and live-fire drills and commissioned a new warship as leader Kim Jong Un continues to flaunt his nuclear weapons program while rejecting U.S. and South Korean offers to resume long-stalled diplomacy.

The latest launch came days after South Korea on Friday flight-tested its own domestically developed hy-



A TV screen shows file images of North Korean missiles launch during a news program at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea on Oct 12. (AP)

personic weapon, designed to fly at least five times the speed of sound and evade missile defense systems, which President Lee Jae Myung de-

scribed as critical in strengthening the South’s conventional defense capabilities. Without directly addressing the growing threat from North Korea, Lee’s office said the hypersonic weapon, once fully developed, would enhance South Korea’s ability to strike key targets by surprise in the “Korean Peninsula theater of operations.”

Jang, the South Korean military official, said the latest North Korean launches likely were intended to advance the country’s missile technologies while also serving as a possible response to South Korea’s hypersonic test.

The South’s presidential national security office called for North Korea to “immediately cease” its repeated ballistic launches, which violate U.N. Security Council resolutions against the North and “do not help manage the current situation on the Korean Peninsula.” Koyari said Japan lodged a protest to North Korea through their embassies in Beijing.

Tensions were further worsened after three South Korean soldiers were injured in land mine explosions last month near the heavily armed inter-Korean border. The South’s military and the U.S.-led United Nations Command concluded the blasts were caused by devices planted by North Korea, which has denied responsibility and ridiculed the South’s demands for an apology.

Kim in recent years has halted all diplomacy and cooperation with South Korea and described the neighbor as a permanent enemy during a prolonged stalemate in larger nuclear negotiations with Washington. He has so far rebuffed U.S. President Donald Trump’s calls to revive their diplomacy, which broke down in 2019, with his government demanding that Washington abandon its “hostile” policy toward Pyongyang and drop demands for North Korea’s denuclearization as a precondition for talks.



Tourists take photos of water splashing against the wall as Hurricane Simon approaches Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on Oct 11. (AP)

Hurricane pounds resorts, towns along Mexico’s Pacific coast

Hurricane Simon pounded Mexico’s Pacific coast as a Category 3 storm on Sunday, its eye remaining just offshore as its most powerful winds and rain slammed people living between the Sierra Madre and the ocean.

The hurricane’s center swirled parallel to the coast, closing in on the Puerto Vallarta area, where its most damaging winds and rain were expected to hit around midnight and continue through Monday morning.

Its maximum sustained winds weakened late Sunday to 115 mph (185 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami, but it was still expected to remain a dangerous hurricane. (AP)

Ethiopian official vows change in Tigray after troops retake Mekelle

NAIROBI, Kenya, Oct 12, (AP): A former Tigray leader now advising Ethiopia’s prime minister on Sunday promised a “visible change” in the region after government-allied units retook Mekelle city following renewed fighting with opposition forces.

Ethiopian Airlines resumed flights to the city of Mekelle on Sunday for the first time since rebels led by the Tigray People’s Liberation Front seized the airport on Sept. 23. They withdrew Oct. 3, when government-allied fighters entered the city.

Renewed fighting in Tigray has undermined the 2022 peace agreement that ended a two-year war, as mounting tensions between Ethiopia and neighboring Eritrea have raised fears of a wider conflict.

“I would like to assure you on this occasion that we will bring visible change, a change beyond mere hope,” Getachew Reda, an adviser to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, told supporters who greeted him and intelligence chief Redwan Hussein at Mekelle airport. He did not elaborate.

The 2020-2022 war in Tigray caused about 500,000 civilian deaths from violence, famine and the collapse of health services, according to researchers at Ghent University in Belgium.

The Tigray People’s Liberation Front joined six other opposition groups last month in an alliance seeking to oust Abiy.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Friday urged all parties to cease hostilities and resume dialogue. He warned that fighting risked further destabilizing the wider region.



In this photo taken with a smartphone, supporters gather to welcome former Tigray leader Getachew Reda in Mekelle, Ethiopia on Oct 11. (AP)

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Pakistan detains chief minister from PTI

India’s opp’n parties march to top court

NEW DELHI, Oct 12, (Agencies): India’s opposition parties marched toward the Supreme Court on Monday to protest a purge of voter lists they say favors Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s party, after police detained thousands of activists over the weekend in a sweeping crackdown.

Opposition lawmakers and their supporters sought to submit a petition to the chief justice demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Protests led by the “Cockroach” youth movement have intensified since election authorities began the revision last year, removing more than 130 million voters from the lists. Critics say the process is politically motivated and risks disenfranchising eligible voters. Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party and the Election Commission deny allegations of manipulation, saying the move is needed to remove duplicate and ineligible names.

Ahead of the march, authorities closed six metro stations in the capital on Monday and warned of traffic disruptions.

Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi of the Congress party described the growing protests as a fight to defend the constitution.

Also:

ISLAMABAD: The chief minister of Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Sohail Afridi, and several provincial cabinet members have been placed in preventive detention following the suspension of the provincial government under emergency rule, a minister said on Monday.

Leaders of former Prime Minister Imran Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party who are facing legal cases will be formally charged and tried, while the remaining detainees will be released, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry told the media.



Security personnel watch as workers of India’s opposition Congress party gather for a march toward the Supreme Court demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in New Delhi, India on Oct 12. (AP)

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Deadly airstrike hits Sudan-Egypt border gold mine, killing 13 miners

CAIRO, Oct 12, (AP): An airstrike killed at least 13 artisanal miners in a border area between Sudan and Egypt where artisanal and small gold mining is widespread, a medical group said Sunday.

The strike Saturday in the Border Triangle Area between Sudan, Egypt and Libya also wounded at least 28 others, according to the Sudan Doctors Network, which tracks the conflict in Sudan.

It wasn’t immediately clear who was behind the strike. The network, however, said the miners were repeatedly warned by Egyptian authorities to evacuate the area, which is reportedly part of Egypt.

Gold has played a central part in the war in Sudan, with the insurgent paramilitary Rapid Support Forces smuggling out thousands of tons of gold from the Darfur and Kordofan regions to fund themselves.

Abdel-Aziz Yousef, a survivor, told The Associated Press that an unknown aircraft struck an artisanal gold mine in a mountainous area Saturday morning.

He said that many people were



Fighters of armed defectors from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) celebrate, as they are believed to be surrendering to the Sudanese army, in the west of Omdurman, just outside Khartoum, Sudan on Aug 19. (AP)

killed or wounded, and others fled the area for fear of further strikes.

The medical group said the death toll is likely to increase given that some of the wounded have suffered from serious injuries and limited access to healthcare facilities.

In June, Egyptian security forces detained hundreds of people, including foreigners, on the border with Sudan, accusing them of illegal gold mining and smuggling.

Kuwait bourse closes high

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): The general index rose 10.23 points, or 0.12 percent, to close at 8,649.53 points.

Trading activity totaled 250.9 million shares across 19,575 cash transactions, valued at KD 70.6 million (about USD 229.5

million).

The main market index slipped 50.70 points, or 0.57 percent, to 8,827.60 points. Investors traded 139.3 million shares in 12,166 cash transactions worth KD 29.5 million (about USD 95.9 million).

Business

As part of its commitment to sustainability and social responsibility

Kuwait International Bank collaborates with KPC on specialized learning experience in cybersecurity and internal audit practices

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its collaboration with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) through a specialized learning experience focused on cybersecurity practices in the financial sector, alongside an overview of modern internal audit practices. The collaboration reflects the importance of partnerships between the banking and oil sectors and their role in developing national talent and fostering a culture of continuous learning, in line with KIB's commitment to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

The initiative included hosting a number of employees from KPC's Internal Audit, Risk Management and Information Technology Departments, providing them with the opportunity to gain firsthand insight into KIB's approach and practical applications in the areas of internal audit and cybersecurity.

The initiative was hosted at KIB Life Academy, reflecting its role as the Bank's specialized learning and development platform. The Academy provides an interactive environment that combines theoretical knowledge with practical application, while supporting knowledge-sharing and the development of professional skills. Through KIB-Life Academy, the Bank continues to invest in developing talent and fostering a culture of continuous learning, while also extending the benefits of its expertise through collaboration and knowledge exchange with various national institutions.

Commenting on the collaboration, Basil Al-Suwaidan, General Manager of Information Security, Privacy and Anti-Fraud at KIB, said: "Our collaboration with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation was part of an awareness session on cybersecurity practices in



KIB's Basil Al-Suwaidan



KIB's Manal Al-Rubaian



KIB's Hadi Hadi

the financial sector, reflecting the vital role that both the financial and oil and gas sectors play in Kuwait. We believe that cooperation between the two sectors provides a valuable and productive opportunity to exchange knowledge and expertise, while strengthening preparedness to address the rapidly evolving challenges in cybersecurity."

For her part, Dalal Anwar Al-Hamoud, Team Leader – Employee Development at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, said: "We are pleased to mark the first collaboration between Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and KIB, which complements our efforts to diversify the learning and professional development experiences we offer our employees. Through such initiatives, we aim to provide opportunities for learning beyond the traditional workplace, helping broaden employ-

ees' perspectives and enrich their professional experience."

In turn, Manal Al-Rubaian, General Internal Auditor at KIB, said: "We are pleased to collaborate with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation by hosting a number of employees from its various departments and providing a platform for sharing specialized practices and expertise in internal audit and cybersecurity. This experience offers an opportunity to deepen professional knowledge and gain exposure to diverse working approaches that can contribute to advancing professional practices."

For his part, Hadi Hadi, Acting General Manager of Human Resources at KIB, said: "Investing in human capital is one of KIB's core priorities, and we are committed to providing practical learning experiences that

keep pace with the evolving workplace and help develop specialized skills. We also believe in extending the impact of these efforts through collaboration with national institutions, including Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, to foster greater integration of expertise across sectors, support national talent, and contribute to the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035 and the country's broader economic development."

KIB's focus on raising awareness of cybersecurity practices goes hand in hand with its continued support for the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with the Kuwait Banking Association and with the support of local banks. The campaign aims to promote financial and banking literacy and raise awareness among members of the com-

munity.

It is worth noting that KIB adopts an integrated approach to sustainability and social responsibility, focusing its initiatives and programs on areas that deliver long-term impact, including education, training, and capacity building. The Bank also supports initiatives that contribute to Kuwait's economic and social development, in line with its corporate slogan, "Bank for Life."

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.

KUFPEC's diversified portfolio boosts Kuwait's energy reach

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The local oil industry is undergoing major transformations and rapid advancements, confirming the intent to expand its international reach and secure a solid position in global energy markets.

Sources informed the newspaper that Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), the international investment branch of the local oil sector, is leading efforts to intensify its global presence and competitive edge. Sources said the company intends to systematically and gradually raise its oil production to exceed 120,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day in the coming years, with a target set for 2030.

Sources pointed out that this ambitious goal is set against the backdrop of the current average production of the company, which is around 83,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, indicating a remarkable increase and an expected improvement in its operational and production capabilities.

Sources asserted that this significant rise will increase the financial revenues of the state and support the overall budget, especially considering the recent accomplishments of KUFPEC and its strong performance in exploration, development and drilling activities in various concession areas, in collaboration with major global firms.

On the operational side, the newspaper obtained information that the portfolio of KUFPEC has expanded to include about 30 investment projects. These are administratively and technically organized into two geographic regions for international operations: the first comprises Asia, Europe and Africa with promising and productive oil and gas wells and fields, while the second consists of Canada and Australia, which are focusing on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and shale oil projects and conventional fields.

This diverse and strategic portfolio

helps mitigate geopolitical and economic risks, while ensuring the continuity of production flows despite the ongoing volatility and price fluctuations in global energy markets.

This major transformation and resounding success are attributed to the crucial role played by the parent company, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), in revitalizing KUFPEC and helping it overcome setbacks.

The prospect of liquidating KUFPEC was raised a few years earlier when it was incurring losses on its foreign investments, but the support of KPC enabled the formulation of a comprehensive rescue and backing plan, which included direct and indirect financial and technical assistance.

Without KPC's contribution, KUFPEC would not have emerged from the cycle of accumulated losses that plagued it in previous years. The foresight of KPC and its seasoned leadership steered KUFPEC toward achieving solid and sustainable profits by restructuring financial obligations, securing funding for major capital projects, forming partnerships with leading global and host-country national firms, and coordinating the exchange of engineering and geological expertise among KPC subsidiaries to maximize operational benefits.

The current success, reflected in the production growth and diversified investment portfolio of KUFPEC, aligns with the 2040 vision of KPC. This vision aims to enhance the added value of the national economy through prudent overseas investments, which secure sustainable energy resources for the future generations.

It also intends to position Kuwait among the nations successfully investing in the global upstream sector, and utilizing the skilled and qualified national workforce capable of managing complex projects in different continents and international oil and gas fields, hence, raising the status of Kuwait in global economic forums.

Advancing financial and investment cooperation between the GCC and Asia

Markaz partakes in GCC–Asia Economic Forum in Bangkok, with CEO Ali Khalil joining Cross-Border Investment Panel

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" announced its participation in the GCC–Asia Economic Forum: Banking, Investment & Digital Infrastructure, organized in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association and The Business Year. The forum will take place on 14 October 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand, alongside the 2026 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The participation reflects Markaz's continued support for initiatives that strengthen Kuwait's international economic presence and facilitate dialogue between financial institutions across global markets. The forum will bring together senior government officials, banking executives, investment leaders and technology specialists from the GCC and Asia to explore opportunities for deeper financial integration and the development of sustainable cross-border partnerships.

Mr. Ali Khalil, Chief Executive Officer of Markaz, will participate in the second panel, titled "Cross-Border Investment, Capital Markets and Deal Flow," alongside senior representatives from leading Asian investment institutions. The discussion will focus on translating economic cooperation into executable investment opportunities, with particular emphasis on project and infrastructure financing, private credit and private equity, co-investment platforms, capital markets access and sukuk issuance.

Drawing on Markaz's extensive experience in asset management and international investment, Mr. Khalil will share his perspectives on the evolving opportunities for Gulf capital in Asian markets, the factors influencing institutional investment decisions and the regulatory and market conditions necessary to support sustainable capital flows.

Commenting on Markaz's participation, Mr. Khalil said: "Asia continues to present significant opportunities for Gulf investors, driven by technological advancement, growing consumer markets and the reconfiguration of global supply



Ali Khalil

The forum will convene senior financial leaders to explore capital markets connectivity, investment partnerships and digital financial infrastructure

chains. However, the ability to translate these opportunities into successful long-term investments depends on several fundamental factors, including regulatory transparency, strong legal frameworks, market liquidity and effective governance. These considerations are central to how institutional investors evaluate markets and allocate capital."

He added: "Kuwaiti investors have a longstanding history of exploring opportunities beyond traditional markets, including early investments in Asia. As economic ties between the GCC and Asian economies continue to develop, greater capital markets connectivity and stronger institutional cooperation can help facilitate investment flows. We see particular potential in digital and logistics infrastructure, supported by structural developments in technology, consumption and international trade. Establishing the right regulatory and investment frameworks will be essential to unlocking these opportunities."

The forum's discussions will be structured around three strategic pillars addressing the finan-

cial and technological foundations of GCC–Asia economic cooperation: Core Banking and Balance Sheet Partnerships, Cross-Border Investment, Capital Markets and Deal Flow, and Digital, AI and Financial Infrastructure for Cross-Border Finance.

Markaz's participation builds on more than five decades of investment experience and its established capabilities in asset management and investment banking. Since its establishment in 1974, Markaz has developed a diversified investment platform serving institutional and private investors, with assets under management reaching KD 1.57 billion (as of 30 June 2026) and a presence across 13 countries.

Through its participation in the GCC–Asia Economic Forum, Markaz reinforces its role in contributing to international financial dialogue, sharing institutional investment expertise and supporting initiatives that advance capital markets development and investment cooperation between Kuwait, the wider GCC and global markets.

Global growth, debt crises, energy prices, AI on agenda

Kuwait joins IMF, World Bank Annual Meetings in Bangkok

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12, (KUNA): The 81st annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group opened in Bangkok on Monday, with Kuwait participating to discuss economic, monetary and fiscal policies, global development and international cooperation.

The meetings, running until October 18, will address slowing global growth, debt crises, energy price volatility and the impact of artificial intelligence on the global economy, alongside monetary and investment cooperation.

Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Jaseem Al-Budaiwi is attending the meetings, while Kuwait's delegation is headed by Finance Minister Yaqoub Al-Rifai. Participants include Kuwait Banking Association Chairman Hamad Al-Marzouq and Central Bank of Kuwait Governor Basel Al-Haroon.

Kuwaiti financial institutions are also represented by delegations from Kuwait Finance House, headed by Chairman Hamad Al-Marzouq; National Bank of Kuwait, led by Vice Chairman and Group CEO Essam Al-Sager; Boubayan Bank, headed by Vice Chairman and Group CEO Adel Al-Majed; Burgan Bank, led by Chairman Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah; and Ahli Bank of Kuwait, represented by Deputy Group CEO Abdullah Al-Sumait.

Thai Government Deputy Spokesperson Lalida Periswiwatana told Thai news network TNN that the government aims to use the meetings to showcase the country's economic capabilities, attract foreign investment in future industries and expand cooperation with international financial institutions.

The first day features more than 25 economic

activities and sessions, including discussions on using low-cost artificial intelligence applications to create jobs and improve job quality, the future of Asian economies, and youth and civil society participation in development policy making.

The IMF has also launched a book on Asia's future, examining demographic shifts, economic fragmentation, changing trade patterns, technology and energy. Dialogue sessions with IMF and World Bank leaders will address economic and development policies.

The main plenary session is scheduled for October 16, bringing together the leadership of both institutions and representatives of member states. The International Monetary and Financial Committee will meet the following day.

Thailand is hosting the meetings for the second time, having previously held them in 1991.

Tareq Al-Roumi, KPC CEO joins Riyadh Energy Forum

RIYADH, Oct 12, (KUNA): The 17th International Energy Forum (IEF17) ministerial meeting in Riyadh kicked off on Sunday, with the participation of Kuwait's Oil Minister Tareq Al-Roumi and CEO of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah.

In an augural speech in the meeting co-hosted by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Energy, and Italy and Nigeria under the slogan "Energy Security and Shared Goals in a New Era", Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman affirmed the ability of Saudi Arabia to ensure the credibility of energy supply and continue investment as well as get ready for different circumstances and challenges.

He affirmed that Saudi Arabia would continue implementing its plans, meeting its domestic needs, and honoring its commitments to the world regardless of circumstances, stressing

the Kingdom's resilience and ability to continue advancing toward its objectives.

He highlighted the East-West Pipeline as a clear example that embodies Saudi Arabia's approach in enhancing the system of energy flexibility and providing an alternative route for oil to reach international markets.

He added that Saudi Arabia is committed to energy security as one of its defining characteristics, hoping that the event would help more participants understand the depth of that commitment.

The meeting is attended by Italian Minister of Environment and Energy Security Gilberto Pichetto Fratin and Nigerian Minister of State for Petroleum Resources Heineken Lokpobiri, in the presence of the Secretary General of the International Energy Forum, Jassim Isa Al-Shirawi.

RIYADH, Oct 12, (KUNA): Saudi Arabia and Kuwait's ministries of electricity and energy signed on Sunday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Riyadh to strengthen bilateral relations for a broader partnership between the two sisterly countries.

The MoU was signed by Kuwait's Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Subaih al-Mukhaizeem and Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman.

In a press statement, Al-Mukhaizeem said that the signing of this memo embodies the deep-rooted relations between the two sides and boosts a new phase of cooperation to support mutual interests and priorities of development of the two sisterly countries.

The MoU is a key step towards building qualitative partnerships which combine the capabilities and expertise of the two countries as well as open horizons of developing modern techniques,

he added.

"We look forward to translating this cooperation into practical mutual programs and initiatives to develop national capabilities and localize knowledge and technologies," he said.

Cooperation in research, innovation, and digital transformation forms an important cornerstone for modernizing infrastructure, enhancing operational efficiency, and preparing national talents for active participation, he pointed out.

Joins top 100 global companies list and ranked 2nd in MENA region across all industries

Forbes ranks Zain the world’s best telecoms employer for 2nd consecutive year

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Zain Group, a leading regional TechCo providing innovative ICT and digital lifestyle communications across the Middle East and Africa, has reinforced its position among the world’s top employers, ranking #1 in the Telecom sector across the globe for the 2nd consecutive year in Forbes’ World’s Best Employers 2026 list. Across all industry sectors, Zain was ranked #72 globally; #2nd in MENA and #1 in Kuwait, its HQ and flagship operation.

The notable achievement represents a significant leap of 74 places from Zain’s 146th global ranking in 2025, setting a new benchmark for the Group’s employer brand and reinforcing its standing among some of the world’s most highly regarded organizations.

For its seventh annual ranking, Forbes surveyed more than 300,000 employees in over 50 countries working for multinational companies with more than 1,000 employees. Respondents assessed employers on areas including benefits, talent development, and work environment.

The announcement comes as the Group continues to place people at the center of its ‘4WARD-Progress with Purpose’ strategy and its ongoing evolution from a telecommunications operator (Telco) into a broader technology company (TechCo).

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman & Group CEO said, “This distinguished recognition reflects the Board and Executive Management’s commitment to responsible business practices, talent development and an inclusive workplace culture. As a purpose-driven technology leader, we remain focused on delivering meaningful connectivity that enhances experiences and creates ‘Better Lives. Lasting Connections’ for our customers, employees, and shareholders.”

The key role of the Chief Purpose Human Resources Officer

To cement purpose within the ethos of the organization, Zain integrated purpose within the role of the Chief HR Officer thus formally becoming the Chief Purpose Human Resources Officer (CPHRO), who’s role is to integrate the company’s purpose and employee purpose to guide, inspire, and drive human centricity and innovation across the organization. Furthermore, Zain launched a company-wide culture transformation program entitled ‘UNITY’, which infuses Purpose and Customer Centricity into the company’s DNA, by prioritizing a humancentric approach and enhancing collaboration. The program serves as a tool designed to encompass Zain’s purpose-driven customer experience strategy.

Mrs Nawal Bou-Risli, Zain Group Chief Purpose & Human Resources Officer said, “This achievement belongs to our culture and people, whose dedication and resilience shape how we serve customers and support one another, essential qualities in taking Zain to new heights. By listening to their perspectives, we continue to strengthen our leadership and foster an inclusive workplace culture. We are proud of this recognition, while remaining mindful that creating a great place to work is a continuous journey we must keep pursuing.”



Zain HQ

Bader Al-Kharafi:

- “Distinguished recognition reflects company’s commitment to responsible business practices, talent development and an inclusive workplace culture”
- Zain climbed 74 places in global rankings over the past year

MSCI ESG ratings AA upgrade

The Forbes recognition also coincides with Zain’s recent upgrade from ‘A’ to ‘AA’ in the MSCI ESG Ratings, making it the highest-rated company in Kuwait across all industries within the MSCI assessment universe and placing the Group in the Leader category among 164 global telecommunications peers.

The assessment highlighted Zain’s above-industry performance in areas including labor management, privacy and data security, environmental practices, and corporate behavior, further reinforcing the strength of the respon-

sible workplace and governance practices that underpin its broader employer proposition.

Turning inclusion into meaningful career pathways

Talent development, inclusion, mobility, and future-ready capabilities are increasingly embedded in how Zain grows its business, enters new markets, and prepares its 9,000+ workforce for the digital economy. This reflects Zain’s belief that business expansion and human capital development must advance together, pairing investment in technology with investment in the people who build and drive it.

Notably, WE ABLE 2030, Zain’s program for embedding accessibility and inclusion across employment, professional development, customer experience, innovation and business practices has had enormous impact. The program has demonstrated how inclusion of its people with disabilities can move beyond policy into meaningful participation and professional growth.

Similarly, Zain’s Women Empowerment (WE) program, established in 2017, is driving systemic change by advancing women in technology through STEM initiatives and mentorship. It aims to increase female representation in leadership to 30% by 2030. Through supportive policies, including extended family leave and baby-bonding time, the company enables women to pursue career excellence while balancing professional and family responsibilities. Women’s empowerment is also embedded in the Board of Directors’ agenda and featured on CEO scorecards across all Zain operations.

Building future-ready talent at every career stage

To cultivate a future-ready workforce, Zain’s proprietary innovation platform, “ZAINIAC,” motivates thousands of employees to develop and share new ideas, while structured programs in design thinking and business modeling enhance expertise across functions.

Zain continues to invest in the next generation entering the workforce and in the continuous development of its existing employees. In 2026, the Group’s Generation Z graduate program entered its second decade, selecting graduates for an intensive year-long development journey. The program has evolved with its latest curriculum spanning AI tools, Big Data and analytics, systems thinking, leadership, resilience and adaptability. More than 50 graduates have been developed through Gen Z over the past decade, creating a sustained pipeline of emerging talent and future leaders for Zain.

At the same time, Zain’s Inclusion, Diversity and Equity University (IDEU), developed with IE University, is scaling future-ready learning across the existing workforce. Three years after its launch, the learning ecosystem has reached 2,000 employees across 11 Zain entities in nine countries, generating more than 15,000 course enrolments and over 14,000 completions.

These many initiatives reflect a workforce strategy centered on continuous learning, inclusive access to opportunity, career progression and future-ready capabilities. As Zain accelerates its TechCo transformation and expands its footprint, investing in its people remains integral to the 4WARD strategy in delivering on the company’s purpose of ‘Better Lives. Lasting Connections’.

UIC joins in ‘Watheefti 5’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The Union of Investment Companies (UIC) is participating for the first time in the fifth edition of the National Career Fair, “Watheefti 5,” taking place from 15 to 17 October 2026 at The Arena Kuwait – Grand Hyatt Kuwait, under the patronage and in the presence of H.E. Dr. Tareq H. Aljalalimah, Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs. The fair brings together more than 120 companies from 14 sectors and attracts over 30,000 visitors, including job seekers, graduates, and students.

UIC is participating through a joint pavilion alongside four of its member companies: Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC), KFIC Invest Company, Al-Safat Investment Company, and First Investment Company (FIC).

On this occasion, Waleed Kh. Alsaqabi, Executive Director of Communications and Corporate Relations at UIC, stated: “Our first participation in Watheefti sends a clear message that Kuwait’s investment sector is present and united. Under the current circumstances, it is important for us to be actively engaged and to reaffirm the strength of the sector, its ability to sustain growth, and its capacity to attract national talent.”

He added: “Empowering Kuwaiti youth is a priority for us. We want to open the doors of the investment sector to young Kuwaitis, introduce them to the opportunities available, and equip them with the tools they need to enter the sector with confidence.”

Free Training Opportunities and Discounts for Graduates

During the fair, UIC is offering a range of training opportunities for young graduates, including free courses and discounts on specialized training programs designed to strengthen their CVs. These include mandatory courses required for employment in the sector, such as Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT).

Alsaqabi explained: “Professional certifications and mandatory training courses make a real difference to an applicant’s profile. When graduates enter the job market with these qualifications, they are better prepared, more competitive, and have greater opportunities to secure employment with investment companies.”

He concluded: “We look forward to meeting young people at the UIC pavilion. We hope this participation will mark the begin-



Waleed Alsaqabi

ning of a regular presence at Watheefti and an ongoing partnership with entities involved in employing national talent in the private sector.”

Ongoing Efforts to Support Youth and Promote Financial Literacy

UIC’s participation in Watheefti 5 builds on its ongoing efforts to support and develop national talent, strengthen engagement with young people, and introduce them to career opportunities in the investment sector. It also forms part of a series of activities and initiatives in which UIC is participating throughout October, reflecting its commitment to expanding its community engagement and awareness-raising efforts.

UIC is also participating in Bursa Kuwait’s “Al-Jaras” Financial Literacy Campaign, launched as part of World Investor Week, an annual initiative organized by a committee established under the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), aimed at promoting financial literacy and raising awareness of the importance of investor education and protection.

As part of its participation, UIC is organizing a number of awareness workshops and panel discussions, further strengthening its efforts to promote financial and investment literacy, develop skills, and bring the investment sector closer to different segments of society, particularly young people and graduates.

Kuwait’s largest private-sector career fair

National Bank of Kuwait participates in ‘Watheefti 2026’ to support the employment of Kuwaiti talent

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: As part of its ongoing efforts to support Kuwaiti youth and help prepare a generation of professionals equipped to meet future demands, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continued its participation in “Watheefti 2026,” one of Kuwait’s largest private-sector career fairs.

The Bank’s participation reflects its commitment to attracting young Kuwaiti talent and providing employment and training opportunities that enable them to build successful career paths, in line with Kuwait’s efforts to increase citizens’ participation in the private sector and support sustainable development objectives.

“Watheefti 2026” will take place from 15 to 17 October and is one of Kuwait’s leading recruitment events. Over three days, the exhibition will feature an integrated program of panel discussions, workshops and career-focused activities highlighting the latest developments in the labor market and the skills required to keep pace with its evolving demands.

The exhibition aims to build direct and effective channels of communication between leading private-sector companies and Kuwaiti youth seeking employment opportunities. It also provides an ideal platform for recent graduates and job seekers to gain first-hand insight into available employment and training opportunities, while receiving the career guidance needed to make informed decisions about their future.

NBK is participating in the exhibition with a dedicated booth to welcome visitors and introduce them to employment and professional development opportunities across the Bank. The Group Human Resources team will be on hand to answer participants’ questions about careers in the banking sector and the requirements for professional growth, while also highlighting the diverse career paths available at NBK. The Bank will also enable job seekers and recent graduates to apply for positions across its various departments and business areas.

NBK believes that attracting Kuwaiti talent is a key pillar of its long-term strategy. Accordingly, the Bank continues to invest in its people through a broad range of training and development programs designed to equip employees with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in a rapidly evolving work environment.

NBK also places particular emphasis on recent graduates through a range of initiatives and programs aimed at developing their practical and professional skills, enhancing their readiness to embark on their careers, and enabling



- NBK’s booth at the exhibition enables participants to engage directly with the Bank’s Human Resources team
- NBK’s development programs equip graduates with the skills needed for the future
- NBK provides an ideal working environment that enables Kuwaiti talent to build successful career paths
- The Bank has reinforced its position as one of the most attractive employers for Kuwaiti talent

them to contribute effectively to achieving the Bank’s objectives.

Participation in “Watheefti” reflects NBK’s commitment to its role as an active partner in supporting Kuwait’s human development plans, as well as its continued contribution to creating high-quality opportunities for Kuwaiti youth and empowering them to pursue their professional ambitions across different fields.

The Bank continues to reinforce its position as one of the most attractive employers for Kuwaiti talent by providing a progressive and inclusive work environment built on innovation, diversity and equal opportunity, while offering

employees continuous opportunities for learning and career advancement.

NBK also provides a range of facilities and services that support employee wellbeing and enhance their quality of life, reflecting its belief that investing in human capital is fundamental to long-term success and sustainability.

Through its participation in “Watheefti 2026,” NBK reaffirms its ongoing commitment to supporting Kuwaiti youth and helping them build promising careers, while contributing to the development of qualified national talent capable of leading the future of the banking sector and the national economy.

30 graduates selected from 350 applicants for the nine-week program

KIPCO launches fourth edition of its flagship career readiness program ENBAT

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – KIPCO – has launched the fourth edition of its career readiness program, ENBAT, bringing together 30 recent university graduates to develop the practical skills needed to transition successfully into the workplace.

Hosted by the American University of Kuwait, the program attracted 350 applicants, with 30 participants selected following a multi-stage interview process. The selected graduates bring diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives, creating an environment that encourages collaboration and reflects the dynamics of today’s workplace.

Commenting on the launch, KIPCO’s Group Senior Vice President – Corporate Communications and Investor Relations, Ms Eman Al Awadhi, said:

“ENBAT reflects KIPCO’s commitment to investing in young people and equipping them with the skills and confi-



ENBAT 4 - Group photo

dence to embark on their professional journeys. This fourth edition reinforces the importance

of programs that bridge the gap between academic learning and workplace expectations. As the

professional landscape continues to evolve, so does ENBAT. This year, we have introduced a new

focus on the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence in the workplace, alongside prac-

tical workshops designed to prepare participants for the opportunities and challenges ahead.”

Developed in collaboration with en.v, a non-profit organization specializing in programs that promote collaboration and communication across different segments of society, ENBAT consists of nine weekly training sessions.

The program focuses on four core areas: critical thinking, effective communication, design thinking and workplace culture and skills application. Through interactive workshops and group activities, participants strengthen their problem-solving, adaptability, teamwork and leadership skills.

Seven trainers, prepared by en.v and drawing on private sector experience across fields including operations management, academic research, digital marketing, architecture, investment, data science and development consultancy, will deliver the sessions.

As part of its ongoing efforts to support Diraya campaign

KFH warns against the risks of fraudulent investments and financial scams

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) reaffirmed its commitment to financial awareness and customer protection as part of its participation in the Diraya campaign, warning the public against the rising risks of fraudulent investments and financial scams.

In a press release, KFH added that the investment options offered by local banks, under the regulations of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), are a safe haven and a stable source for financial investments, along with other companies and official institutions licensed and subject to the regulatory authorities responsible for protecting the national economy and the investment sector.

KFH pointed out that the secure investment services and products obviate the need for involvement in investment activities with unfamiliar entities that promise financial returns from fraudulent or high-risk projects.

KFH also stated that banks are assisting individuals seeking to invest in their funds through a variety of investment tools and experienced employees subject to the regulations and guidelines of regulators.

KFH explained that among these safe investment services the banks offer are investment deposits, investment funds, investment savings in

addition to the long and short-term investment plans.

Meanwhile, KFH warns customers against engaging in high-risk investments that are promoted by unregulated entities and are not subject to oversight by any supervisory authority fueled by the growing presence of shell companies and other online scammers that promote quick profits. KFH advises customers and investors to refrain from responding to advertisements, text messages and emails received from unknown sources.

Additionally, the Bank also urges investors to seek advice from qualified experts before making any investment decisions.



Successful season finale draws strong turnout surpassing 45 million views

stc as platinum sponsor of 3rd season finale of ‘30 Challenge’



Ahmad AlNowaibet shaking hands with the Minister of State for Youth and Sport Affairs, Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma.



Honoring of the challenge winner.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, successfully concluded the third season of the sports program “30 Challenge” amid strong public turnout and attendance exceeding 5,000 people. The closing ceremony was held in the presence of Kuwait’s Minister of State for Youth and Sport Affairs, Dr. Tareq Hamad Nasser Al-Jalahma, alongside members of the stc team and a large number of influencers and officials.

The season finale also generated strong audience engagement both in person and online, with the program’s livestream on YouTube surpassing 45 million views. This reflected the program’s success and the popularity it has gained among younger generation, sports enthusiasts and followers of entertainment content in Kuwait and across the region. Abdulrahman Al-Shatti was crowned champion of the third season of the “30 Challenge” following a series of exciting and engaging competitions in which contestants took part in athletic challenges and



A view of the attendees at the event.

answered general knowledge questions related to football.

Through its Platinum Sponsorship of the program, stc continued to support initiatives that bring members of the community together around shared interests and provide the younger generation with engaging experiences that combine entertainment with practical value. The sponsorship formed part of stc’s

comprehensive corporate social responsibility framework and reflected its commitment to Kuwait’s sports sector and youth-focused initiatives.

As Platinum Sponsor, stc maintained an active presence throughout the program’s third season and through the grand finale, strengthening its commitment to engaging audiences through platforms and experiences that reflect their inter-

ests, while also showcasing its latest products, services and digital solutions.

In a statement, stc affirmed that supporting initiatives that encourage participation and audience engagement represents an important part of its broader approach to community outreach. The Company continues to identify opportunities to connect with different segments of society through meaningful experiences that reflect their interests and help build stronger relationships with the communities it serves.

stc also highlighted the growing role of digital content in shaping how people communicate, engage and share experiences. Through partnerships with local content creators and support for widely followed initiatives, the Company seeks to enrich the digital landscape and contribute to platforms that deliver engaging and entertaining content to audiences across the region.

This sponsorship, alongside stc’s other initiatives, aligns with the objectives and focus areas of the Company’s annual CSR and sustainability programs, with particular emphasis on supporting the youth and Kuwait’s sports community.

With over 13 years in fintech and banking

talabat appoints Noor Al-Bahar as Managing Director in Kuwait to lead a new phase of sustainable growth

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: talabat, the leading everyday app in MENA, today announced the appointment of Noor Mohamed Al-Bahar as Managing Director of its operations in Kuwait. In this role, she will lead the next phase of the company’s growth in the country, driving expansion and data-driven operational innovation powered by modern technology solutions.

Al-Bahar’s appointment comes as talabat sets out to elevate the experience of its customers and partners and to empower local entrepreneurs and businesses. She succeeds Bader Al-Ghanim, who is transitioning to lead the company’s markets as Chief International Officer.

With Al-Bahar at the helm, talabat Kuwait enters a leadership phase focused primarily on maximizing operational efficiency and digital innovation. She brings deep expertise across fintech, banking, and investment, and will drive sustainable growth that keeps customers, partners, and riders at the heart of every decision.

Bader Al-Ghanim, Chief International Officer at talabat, said: “Noor Al-Bahar possesses a sharp strategic vision and integrated leadership experience, making her the ideal person to lead



Noor Al-Bahar

our operations in Kuwait toward new horizons. Her proven track record of success will directly contribute to supporting the growth of our local

partners and elevating the overall experience in one of our most key and vibrant markets.”

Noor Al-Bahar, Managing Director of talabat Kuwait, stated: “I am delighted to lead the talabat team in Kuwait. The next phase will focus on the smart use of technology and data to serve the local market. We will continue to innovate, empower local entrepreneurs and national companies, and deliver an exceptional experience for everyone in our ecosystem, while creating tangible, sustainable economic and social impact.”

Al-Bahar brings over 13 years of executive management and business development experience. Prior to joining talabat, she served as General Manager of Dabdoob Kuwait and held roles at prestigious financial and banking institutions including NBK Wealth, NBK Capital, and HSBC, acquiring extensive expertise in wealth management, investment portfolios, and digital product development.

Al-Bahar holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Cambridge Judge Business School and a Bachelor’s degree in Industrial and Management Systems Engineering from Kuwait University.

China’s carmakers rely on overseas markets as monthly domestic sales decline continues

HONG KONG, Oct 12, (AP): China’s passenger car exports surged 64% in September from the same month in 2025, an industry association reported Monday, as Chinese automakers increasingly focus on exports to drive growth at a time of sluggish domestic sales.

China exported around 919,000 passenger vehicles in September, lifted by overseas demand for plug-in hybrids and pure electric vehicles, data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers showed. In the first nine months of 2026, China exported over 7.1 million passenger cars, up more than 70% compared with the same period last year.

Meanwhile, domestic passenger car sales in China have fallen for most of the year as they face weaker consumer confidence at home and scaled back government subsidies. They declined 27% in September year-on-year to over 1.6 million units, according to the association.

China is the world’s largest vehicle exporter, but it is facing increasing skepticism from trade partners who fear it’s undermining their domestic industries and trade balance.

In recent months, Chinese automakers have more aggressively targeted rapid growth in overseas markets such as Europe, Latin America, Southeast Asia and Africa. Canada is also opening its doors to Chinese EV exports under a tariff cut deal with China.

The industry is increasingly relying on overseas markets for sales and profit growth as players seek to offset the weakness in the domestic market, said analyst Stephen Chan with S&P Global Ratings.

Consultancy AlixPartners and some auto analysts have expected Chinese automakers to export nearly or around 10 million vehicles globally in 2026.

In Europe, Chinese automakers are increasingly challenging the European auto



An aerial view of new cars awaiting export to overseas markets is seen at a port in Shanghai, March 10, 2026. (Chinatopix via AP, File)

industry with cheaper costs and prices. AlixPartners’ analysis found, for example, that a Chinese-branded EV costs around \$20,000 to produce, compared with

\$31,000 for a European equivalent.

The EU has already imposed higher tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles. Recent policy discussions have also focused on rapidly rising sales of Chinese hybrids in Europe.

Amid growing pressure on the EU to rebalance trade with China, EU trade chief Maroš Šefčovič said Friday that the two sides had reached an interim deal that could halve Chinese hybrid vehicle exports to the bloc.

The agreement sets an annual import quota of 350,000 electric or hybrid vehicles made in China, two senior EU officials said Monday. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity under European Commission policy.

Starting as early as December, customs authorities across the 27-nation bloc will coordinate monitoring of these imports and halt further shipments once the annual quota is reached, one official said. The limit excludes cars made in Europe by Chinese companies.

Analysts said protectionist measures would likely continue to cloud Chinese automakers’ overseas outlook.

“You can’t expect BYD or the other OEMs (manufacturers) to export too many cars without facing tariffs or pushbacks from the foreign governments,” Xiao Feng, head of Hong Kong and China industrials research at investment group CITIC CLSA, told reporters recently.

Geopolitics is the biggest challenge to BYD’s overseas expansion, executive vice president Stella Li, who leads the Chinese EV giant’s global growth, acknowledged at an event this month.

BYD has therefore been expanding overseas production, including setting up plants in Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil and Hungary, she told the Milken Institute Asia Summit in Singapore.

Angela Mrad's CELESTIA enters its next cinematic chapter



Angela Mrad

Writer and director Angela Mrad continues the promotional campaign for her upcoming film 'CELESTIA: UNMASKING SOLARA,' unveiling a new poster carrying a powerful teaser message that sets the tone for the next chapter of the project.

The new poster features the statement: "The storm of CELESTIA is about to break... And when it does, the world will never be the same."

The phrase carries a mysterious and intense tone, alluding to the approaching storm within the world of CELESTIA and opening the door to a new chapter in the film's visual campaign.

The new poster also offers a visual and philosophical reading of the character Celestia, portrayed by writer and director Angela Mrad, with the same character appearing twice within the composition. The two figures do not represent different characters, but rather the same character portrayed in a visual reflection of her relationship with herself and the secrets, emotions,

and truths hidden beneath her outward appearance.

This visual concept connects directly with the title 'UNMASKING SOLARA', making the idea of removing the mask and uncovering the truth an essential part of the film's visual identity. Meanwhile, the storm, the sea, and the darkened sky add a symbolic dimension to the image, reflecting turmoil, transformation, and the approaching moment of confrontation and revelation.

The poster therefore goes beyond being a promotional image, offering a glimpse into the inner world of Celestia, the character portrayed by Angela Mrad, in a silent confrontation with herself before she confronts the world.

As the project continues to develop, the campaign confirms that the official trailer is scheduled to be revealed in 2027, while the film's official release date remains to be announced.

The new reveal thus marks a teaser chapter leading toward the official trailer, while further details about the next stage and the film's release remain reserved for future official announcements.



CELESTIA: UNMASKING SOLARA poster

Ugly game of fame exposed

Hollywood gets no mercy in 'Misty Green'

Ten years ago moviegoers got a love letter to Los Angeles in the achingly sweet "La La Land," where characters danced on air. Gravity arrives a decade later in Chris Rock's terrific poison pen letter to the city, "Misty Green."

Rock, who directs and stars in the film as well as having written the screenplay, holds a mirror up to modern-day Los Angeles and shows us a metropolis that acts as a meat-grinder for a never-ending wave of wannabes. The city may as well use that mirror to cut another line of coke and snort it off someone's thigh in a dingy bathroom.

"Misty Green" is an almost noirish take on Hollywood and the chase for fame. The result is one of Rock's best projects, boosted by the ferocious abilities of Rosalind Eleazar as Misty. She turns a star-seeking character into a star-making part.

Eleazar's Misty Green is a mess when we first meet her: A once white-hot actor-singer who won a supporting Emmy trophy years before but is now approaching 40 and struggling to keep her career going.

Misty has poor impulse control, a long line of grudges and finds herself somewhat trapped: "Too Black to be with Leo, (Leonardo DiCaprio) not Black enough to be with Damson (Idris), not a nepo baby or a Brit," she says, which is a little meta because Eleazar is, in fact, a Brit.

Topher Grace, who plays Misty's unhelpful agent, is out of ideas for his struggling client. "You're not exactly unknown," he tells her. "I don't know if I could get you on 'Law & Order.'"

Hope arrives in Rock, who plays a movie director trying to recover from his last flop, starring Nicolas Cage, one of several celebs who catch strays in this movie. (Others include Victoria Beckham, J. Lo and Nicole Kidman. Speaking of celebs, look for a hysterical Ice-T cameo and, in an apparent nod to nepo babies, Rock's daughter, Zahra, also has a small part.)

Rock's easygoing director fired Misty years ago when she assaulted a makeup artist while coked up during his remake of "Cinderella." Misty chalks up the incident to "creative differences," and Rock may be willing to give her a second chance in his remake of the musical "Dreamgirls."

Adding to Misty's stress levels are the need to find new housing, stat, and the arrival of her bipolar brother, heart-breakingly played by Daniel Kaluuya. His character can be very dangerous when not on his meds and he has an irritating tendency of throwing plastic spiders at people.

Others in Misty's orbit include an actor friend played by Anna Kendrick, who's growing disillusioned by show biz. "I really can't do this anymore. I love acting, but riding the line between 'ho and hostess, I'm out," she says. Then there's Misty's hook-up/drug dealer friend played by Adam Driver. Both actors are terrific. Rock, bless him, is out of his depth, showing a lot of Progressive car insurance actor energy.

Rock puts Misty in a city divided by haves and have-nots - homeless encampments on one side juxtaposed by men in suits who keep telling people experiencing homelessness that they're not carrying any cash. Everyone here is cheating, gossiping and judging. A Birkin bag is the coin of the realm.

It's the kind of town where the emergency room doctor tending to your wounds confesses that she's a fan of your TV work and wants a selfie, or the young woman auditioning for the same part as you are remarking that her dad - her dad - really loves your work.

Early on, the widow of Misty's sugar daddy bursts into their love nest apartment, demanding she leave immediately and cursing up a storm, but soon offers to run dialogue with Misty ahead of her audition. "Memorize your lines," she advises. Hollywood, right? (AP)



This image released by A24 shows Rosalind Eleazar, left, and Daniel Kaluuya in a scene from "Misty Green." (AP)

Film

'The Social Reckoning' opens to \$5.5 mln

'Other Mommy' tops box office with \$27.5m



Jessica Chastain arrives at the premiere of "Other Mommy" on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026, at the Universal Cinema AMC at CityWalk Hollywood in Los Angeles. (AP)

counting for marketing and promotion. Paul Dergarabedian, Rentrak's head of marketplace trends, said October is a time when studios take chances and it doesn't always work out.

"These movies that are topical in nature, sometimes they resonate with the culture, sometimes they don't," said Dergarabedian. "You don't always know what's going to connect with audiences."

He compared "The Social Reckoning" to "Digger," which fell 60% in its second weekend.

"The Social Reckoning" opened behind several holdovers as well. The Anne Hathaway psychological thriller "Verity" took second place with \$11.5 million, down 64% from its opening weekend. In third place, "Resident Evil" added \$8.4 million, bringing its

domestic total to \$138.5 million. The Brad Pitt survival thriller "Heart of the Beast" took fourth with \$7.1 million.

Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey" also made an encore appearance in the top 10 in its 13th weekend in theaters where it was back in 12 IMAX 70 mm locations. It added \$2 million from 560 North American theaters, bringing its domestic total just shy of \$623 million.

Several high-profile films opened in limited release this weekend as well. The Cannes Palme d'Or winner "Fjord" debuted on four screens this weekend where it made \$124,000. Alex Gibney's Elon Musk documentary "Musk," which runs nearly four hours, made \$68,900 from four locations. And Chris Rock's "Misty Green" made \$85,716 from six locations through Sunday.

The annual domestic box office

crossed the \$8 billion mark on Friday and is up over 19% from last year. According to Rentrak, that's about 8% behind 2019.

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak:

1. "Other Mommy," \$27.5 million.
2. "Verity," \$11.5 million.
3. "Resident Evil," \$8.4 million.
4. "Heart of the Beast," \$7.1 million.
5. "The Social Reckoning," \$5.5 million.
6. "Forgotten Island," \$4.5 million.
7. "Primetime," \$4 million.
8. "Digger," \$3.2 million.
9. "Angel and the Badman," \$2.1 million.
10. "The Odyssey," \$2 million. (AP)

Variety

LONDON: The latest project from Quentin Tarantino is a swashbuckling stage comedy featuring "Borat" star Sacha Baron Cohen.

Sony Pictures Entertainment and Sonia Friedman Productions announced Sunday that the Oscar-winning filmmaker's first stage play, "The Popinjay Cavalier," will open in London's West End in March.

It's set in 1830s Europe, and the producers call it "a rambunctious com-

edy of deception and disguise inspired by the grand swashbuckling epics of stage and screen."

The play will be directed by Tarantino and marks the West End debut of Baron Cohen, creator of comic characters Borat and Ali G.

"When the best director in the world calls, you don't ask questions," Baron Cohen said.

"The Popinjay Cavalier" begins previews Feb. 23 and opens March 18 at London's Phoenix Theatre. (AP)

Shadbolt urges inclusive AI governance & global cooperation

Oxford scholar calls for AI ethics rooted in shared human values

ZAANDAM, THE NETHERLANDS, Oct. 12, (Xinhua): As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly capable, humanity needs to consider not only what AI can do, but also what values should guide its development and use, according to Nigel Shadbolt, a member of the UK Government's Council for Science and Technology.

"As our AI systems become more capable, we would like them to embody the best of us," Shadbolt, also a Distinguished Senior Scientist at the Institute of Ethics in AI and Professor of Computer Science at the University of Oxford, told Xinhua in an exclusive interview on Wednesday on the sidelines of the World Summit AI, held on Oct. 7-8 in Zaandam, the Netherlands.

The rapid development of AI has brought major opportunities, but also created new forms of risk, raising fundamental questions about how increasingly capable systems should be designed and governed.

Shadbolt identified three broad areas of concern.

"The first is the misuse of AI by humans," he explained. "AI can accelerate drug discovery and scientific research, but the same capabilities could also be exploited by malicious actors to launch cyberattacks, commit fraud, develop biological weapons or other harmful purposes."

"The second is the possibility that AI systems may pursue their assigned goals in unexpected ways," he said. Recent incidents involving advanced AI agents have highlighted this concern. For example, an AI agent developed by OpenAI reportedly breached a data portal linked to Australia's universal healthcare system in June.

"Highly capable systems could, for example, cheat, hack into systems or obtain credentials in ways their developers had not anticipated," he said.

A third concern is whether increasingly advanced AI could eventually become difficult for humans to control. While Shadbolt said he was not primarily focused on existential risks from hypothetical super intelligence, he argued that researchers should continue to examine the challenges presented by recursive self-improvement, AI systems developing evermore capable versions of themselves.

Technical safeguards and regulation are therefore necessary, but they may not be sufficient on their own. Shadbolt argued that sets of values should also be encoded into AI systems to help guide their behavior.

"What values do we put into the system? And how can we be confident that the model can't be persuaded to act in a way that suddenly has it cheating, lying or pretending to be less capable than it is?" he said.

He emphasized the goal should not be to impose one particular ethical tradition in the world. Instead, there may be room to identify values that can be shared across different societies and systems of governance.

"We do share a common set of



A man looks at a humanoid robot at the exhibition area of Dassault Systèmes at the Hannover Messe 2026 in Hannover, Germany, April 21, 2026. (Xinhua)

values about what we think is desirable," he said.

Different societies have different philosophical and cultural traditions, ranging from utilitarianism and social contract theory to rule-based

ethics and traditions emphasizing respect and social obligations. Some of these principles, he noted, have parallels with values found in Confucian thought.

"I'd like to believe that there is scope for agreement on some of those ideas -- what would common, shared ethical values look like," he said.

Shadbolt also called for more inclusive AI governance and greater international cooperation to ensure that increasingly powerful AI systems remain aligned with human interests. A more inclusive approach should address not only AI safety, but also data, intellectual property, consent and the distribution of economic benefits.

Ultimately, Shadbolt argued, AI governance needs to combine technological innovation with shared human values, ensuring that increasingly powerful AI systems serve not only national or commercial interests, but also the broader interests of humanity.

Archaeology

Over 110 objects to go on display in Rome

Egypt's ancient Fayoum portraits head overseas



Tourists look at the seated statues of Rahotep and Nofret at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026. (AP)



Policemen stand guard behind the sarcophagus of Imhotep at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026. (AP)



Tourists visit the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026. (AP)



Tourists visit the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026. (AP)



A Japanese tourist looks at King Narmer's stone palette at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026. (AP)



Tourists look at the painted limestone head from an Osiride statue of Queen Hatshepsut at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026. (AP)



Tourists look at the seated statues of king Djoser at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026. (AP)

CAIRO, Oct 12, (AP): Egypt unveiled Sunday a restored version of the "Tondo of the Two Brothers," a prized 2nd-century painting from the famed Fayoum portraits.

Specialists from Rome worked alongside conservators from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir - where the collection is usually kept - for three weeks to restore the artwork, officials said at a press conference.

Fayoum mummy portraits were painted primarily on thin wooden panels and placed over the faces of the deceased within mummy wrappings, combining Egyptian funerary traditions with artistic influences from the wider Greco-Roman world.

Egypt will lend a major part of the collection

to a temporary exhibition in Rome, marking the first time it will travel abroad.

"The restoration of the Tondo of the Two Brothers is an important example of what can be achieved through international cooperation in the preservation and study of cultural heritage," said Sherif Fathy, Egypt's minister of tourism and antiquities. "Egypt and Italy share deep historical and cultural ties, and this project brings together Egyptian and Italian expertise to preserve an exceptional work of art for future generations."

Experts describe the painting as unusual because of its circular shape and its depiction of two people instead of one, and rank it among the most vivid surviving portraits from Roman-

era Egypt. It was painted using a technique in which pigments are mixed with molten wax, and restorers were able to recover the features of the brother on the right.

Aly Abdel Halim, director general of the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir, said the conservation required careful intervention because both the wooden support, damaged by termites, and the painted surface were fragile.

The portraits will be featured in an exhibition in Rome from November to May 2027.

Tomaso Radaelli, chairman of MondoMostre, the exhibition's organizer, said it will bring together more than 110 objects, including painted panels, funerary shrouds, masks, marble portraits, plaster casts and ancient jewelry.

Joint research reveals shared heritage

China-Central Asia archaeology boosts Silk Road cooperation

TASHKENT/BISHKEK, Oct. 12, (Xinhua): Archaeological finds are being sorted and examined at a laboratory in Bukhara Region, Uzbekistan, and Wang Shujing is working there for the joint study of an ancient burial site along the Silk Road.

The slope of the burial passage, the arrangement of human remains -- thanks to 3D modelling technology -- the original layout of the Gamkhurd I burial site gradually takes shape on the computer screen.

Wang, from the School of Archaeology and Museology of Peking University, is the leader on the Chinese side of a Sino-Uzbek archaeological expedition, which started in August 2025 with the Samarkand Archaeological Institute.

The team's work includes field excavations of the Gamkhurd I burial ground, where the Bukhara oasis and the desert steppe join in Navoi Region.

Based on burial structures and the characteris-



A member of the Key Laboratory of Ancient Chinese Script, Culture Relics and Artificial Intelligence of Jilin University views a 3D-printed replica of culture relics at Jilin University in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, Sept. 2, 2026. (Xinhua)

tics of those unearthed, the joint archaeological team tentatively dated the burial ground to between the 2nd century BC and the 2nd century AD -- a period coinciding with major migrations across the Eurasian steppes and intensified interactions among civilizations along the ancient trade route of the Silk Road.

The team incorporates Chinese specialists in natural sciences and modern material analysis techniques, enabling in-depth research work. Djama Mirzaakhmedov, who heads the Uzbek side, noted that the collaborative study also makes a significant contribution to the study of the history of Uzbek nomadic and agrarian tribes and peoples.

While filling gaps in the study of regional ancient history, the cooperation, evidently, also carries on the legacy of mutual learning among civilizations along the Silk Road.

Similar cooperation is also seen in Kyrgyzstan, in another aspect of archaeology.

Greater onus on platforms

Türkiye tightens social media access rules for children U-15

ANKARA, Oct. 12, (Xinhua): Türkiye is tightening regulations on children's access to social media, with new rules requiring platforms to prevent users under 15 from accessing their services amid growing concerns over cyberbullying, online harassment and young users' safety.

The regulation introduces new obligations for social media platforms, including age verification and measures to block underage account creation.

The measures will take effect on Nov. 1, following legislation passed by parliament in April to strengthen safeguards for minors online.

Family and Social Services Minister Mahinur Ozdemir Goktas, who played a key role in introducing the restrictions, has repeatedly warned that social media platforms treat children as commercial assets, stressing the government's responsibility to protect young people from potential online harm.

According to a 2024 survey by the Turkish Statistical Institute, 91.3 percent of children aged six to 15 in Türkiye used the internet, while 66.1 percent used social media.

Experts say exposure to inappropriate content and cyberbullying have become major concerns for parents and educators.

Asli Goral, an independent accountant whose 14-year-old son uses digital platforms, said monitoring children's online activities had become increasingly difficult.

"Despite our best efforts, it is literally impossible to regulate his activities across multiple social media platforms," Goral told Xinhua, describing tighter controls as necessary.

She said online harassment reports at her son's school have risen in recent years.

The new rules place greater re-

sponsibility on platforms to verify users' ages, prevent underage access, provide age-appropriate services for older teenagers, offer parental-control tools, and safeguard personal data.

They stipulate that existing accounts must undergo age verification, with platforms required to complete the process by March 31, 2027.

Meanwhile, the rules extend to online gaming, requiring appropriate age ratings for all games, and unrated games may only be offered to adults under the highest age-classification category.

Ankara-based education expert Zeynep Taskin said protecting children online requires a comprehensive approach that combines regulation with education and cooperation among families, schools and technology companies.

She said effective protection also depends on whether children can report abuse safely and whether platforms respond promptly.

"Parents and educators play an important role in helping children recognize online harassment, protect their personal information and seek assistance when they encounter threatening or humiliating behavior," Taskin said.

Analysts say the effectiveness of the new framework will depend in part on how age verification is implemented. Platforms will need to establish reliable methods of verifying users' ages while minimizing the collection and retention of sensitive personal data.

Türkiye's move comes amid broader international efforts to strengthen online protections for children. Australia has introduced a minimum-age requirement for social media use, while several European countries have debated or pursued age-based restrictions and additional safeguards for younger users.

Giant pumpkins battle for world record in California

HALF MOON BAY, Calif., Oct 12, (AP): Giant pumpkin growers and their massive gourds will converge on Monday in Northern California for an annual pumpkin-weighing contest, competing for the top prize and a chance to challenge the world record set just last week in England.

At least 30 growers of giant pumpkins have signed up for the 53rd World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, south of San Francisco, said event spokesman Ronan Fowler.

Among the participants is four-time champion Travis Gienger, a horticulture teacher from Minnesota, whose winning streak ended last year after he was unable to participate because his pumpkin broke while it was still growing.

Gienger, who this year had to deal with temperatures that dipped below freezing, grew a pumpkin whose circumference is so big it could be a world record contender, Fowler said.

Fowler said last week that Gienger and his father would take turns driving 30 hours over the weekend to get

the pumpkin the size of a small car to California.

The new world record was set by Ian Paton, of Lymington, on England's south coast, with a giant squash weighing 2,857 pounds (1,296 kilograms). That's heavier than two and a half concert grand pianos.

Paton grows his giant gourds in a greenhouse, while Gienger grows them in the pumpkin patch in his backyard in Anoka, a city on the banks of the Mississippi River north of Minneapolis, Fowler said.

"The fact that Travis can weather the elements, like 30-degree weather, and still grow this massive pumpkin is pretty unbelievable," the spokesman said.

Brandon Dawson, of Santa Rosa, California, who won the top prize last year with a behemoth of a pumpkin weighing 2,346 pounds (1,064 kilograms), will also compete.

The pumpkin champ this year will win \$9 per pound of pumpkin and have their lumpy gourd showcased during a parade through Half Moon Bay this weekend.



Brandon Dawson, left, celebrates after winning the Safeway 52nd annual World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, Calif., Oct. 13, 2025. (AP)

Dr. Al-Foudari stresses importance of regular examinations

Kuwait Health Minister launches World Sight Day at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi launched World Sight Day activities at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital on Monday to raise public awareness of the importance of prevention through early screening.

Hospital Director Dr Nada Al-Hassan told KUNA that the hospital was committed to screening programs and early detection of common diseases, reducing treatment burdens and health complications.

She said the event featured vision tests, eye pressure measurements and fundus examinations, supervised by specialized medical staff from the ophthalmology department, headed by Dr. Ahmad Al-Foudari. The initiative highlighted eye health and the importance of early detection of vision problems.

The hospital has scheduled several awareness activities this week, including early breast cancer screening on Wednesday, a World Rheumatism Day event on Thursday, and other activities addressing psoriasis.

Al-Hassan stressed that healthcare extends beyond treatment in clinics to proactive prevention and encouraging regular checkups to prevent diseases from progressing.

For his part, Dr. Ahmad Al-Foudari, head of the hospital's ophthalmology department and chairman of the Ministry of Health's ophthalmology departments, said the ministry was committed to comprehensive healthcare and community responsibility through campaigns for early detection of common eye diseases.



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi launches World Sight Day activities at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital.



The Ophthalmology department, headed by Dr. Ahmad Al-Foudari.



Hospital Director Dr. Nada Al-Hassan



Snapshots from the World Sight Day event.



He said eye care services were available across Kuwait's governorates through most primary healthcare centers and public hospitals. Screening campaigns aim to detect vision problems early

through advanced tests measuring visual acuity and eye pressure to identify glaucoma, which often has no clear symptoms in its early stages.

Al-Foudari stressed the impor-

ance of regular examinations, particularly for people over 40. He said the ministry had introduced modern retinal imaging and fundus examination equipment that eliminates the need for dilating drops,

which can cause discomfort. Early detection of retinal disorders helps limit complications.

He also announced a project to electronically link screening cameras at health centers, enabling

faster delivery of results to ophthalmologists and shorter referral and appointment waiting times. An awareness event on keratoconus and its treatment is scheduled for November.



A photo from the event.

Kuwait forum highlights advances in atrial fibrillation treatment

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Chairman of the Fourth Scientific Forum on Atrial Fibrillation, Head of the Cardiac Electrophysiology Unit at Salman Al-Dabbous Cardiac Center (Adan Hospital) and member of Kuwait Heart Association Dr. Samah Al-Kharji underscored the need to keep pace with scientific advancements in diagnosing and treating atrial fibrillation.

In a press statement regarding the forum that the Salman Al-Dabbous Cardiac Center organized recently, Al-Kharji called for collaboration among specialists to improve the quality of healthcare provided to patients in Kuwait.

Cardiac electrophysiology specialists from various centers and hospitals in the country participated in the forum.

According to Al-Kharji, the forum was an opportunity to exchange expertise and clinical experiences and to discuss the latest global medical guidelines. She stressed that this supports continuing medical education and contributes to the development of diagnostic and treatment services for heart rhythm disorders.

She revealed that atrial fibrillation is one of the most common heart rhythm disorders and it is associated with an increased risk of stroke and heart failure. She underscored the importance of early diagnosis, assessing risk factors, and formulating treatment plans tailored to the condition of each patient.

She confirmed that a published observational study on atrial fibrillation treatment methods at the center revealed that hypertension is the most prevalent chronic condition among the atrial fibrillation patients in the center, along with diabetes and obesity.

She disclosed that Kuwait provides an accessible network of healthcare centers for diagnosing and treating chronic non-communicable diseases, including detecting atrial fibrillation through electrocardiography, in addition to specialized cardiac centers offering the most advanced diagnostic and therapeutic technologies.

She indicated that the scientific sessions tackled the latest global recommendations for treating atrial fibrillation, advancements in cardiac catheterization techniques, and strategies to prevent stroke associated with the condition.

"In Kuwait, we take pride in the full support of the Ministry of Health in providing cutting-edge equipment and treatment methods. This elevates the standing of our centers to the level of advanced global facilities and contributes to delivering high-quality specialized patient care," she asserted.

She went on to say that discussions also covered the role of modern treatments for obesity and metabolic disorders in mitigating risk factors associated with atrial fibrillation and improving treatment outcomes.

She added that the sessions highlighted the importance of addressing these factors before the disease manifests, as well as adopting an integrated approach that combines prevention, treatment and follow up care.

Volunteers sometimes deliver medicine to patients

Cubans turn to free community pharmacies as medicines grow scarce

HAVANA, Oct 12, (AP): Every Thursday and Sunday at noon, dozens of people gather outside an apartment building in Havana's Vedado neighborhood. Laura Mendoza comes downstairs, checks their names against a list and hands out medicine they requested through WhatsApp.

Antihistamines, diuretics, eye drops and antibiotics are among the drugs she distributes. She charges nothing.

Projects like Mendoza's, called "Medicine Is Not for Sale," have become a lifeline for Cubans struggling to find increasingly scarce medications as the country's economic crisis deepens, compounded by US energy and financial restrictions imposed since January.

Online sellers, street vendors and WhatsApp and Telegram groups have also stepped in to fill gaps left by state pharmacies, which for decades were the main source of subsidized medicines.

The shortages have become so se-

vere that Cuban authorities issued regulations in July allowing private pharmacies to operate - a historic change to the country's state-run health system and part of broader economic reforms.

Until those pharmacies open, projects like Mendoza's act as a safety net.

"We have five WhatsApp groups in Havana and recently added one in Guanabo," on the outskirts of the capital, said Mendoza, who estimates that about 100 similar community projects operate in Havana.

Working with the Catholic charity Caritas, her initiative receives more than 13 kilograms (29 pounds) of medicine each week from humanitarian groups in Canada and the United States, travelers carrying donations and local residents.

"People don't just rely on this main pharmacy. They help each other," Mendoza said, standing beside shelves of medicine in her apartment.

Volunteers sometimes deliver medicine to patients who cannot

collect it themselves. But drugs requiring refrigeration, including some diabetes medications, and cancer treatments are particularly difficult to obtain. Patients also seek gauze, syringes and anesthetics for use in poorly supplied hospitals.

"Six or seven years ago, it was relatively easy to find medicines at state pharmacies," said Cristina Díaz, a 27-year-old physics teacher who came to Mendoza's project seeking clonazepam for a relative.

As shortages worsened, "medicines became much harder to find," she said.

Cuba's Health Ministry lists 603 medicines in its basic drug program, but only slightly more than one-third are currently available. About 400 are produced by Cuban laboratories using imported raw materials.

Mayda Mauri Pérez, president of the state pharmaceutical company BioCubaFarma, said in June that about 300 of the 395 medicines the company was expected to supply

had not been produced because of shortages of imported materials.

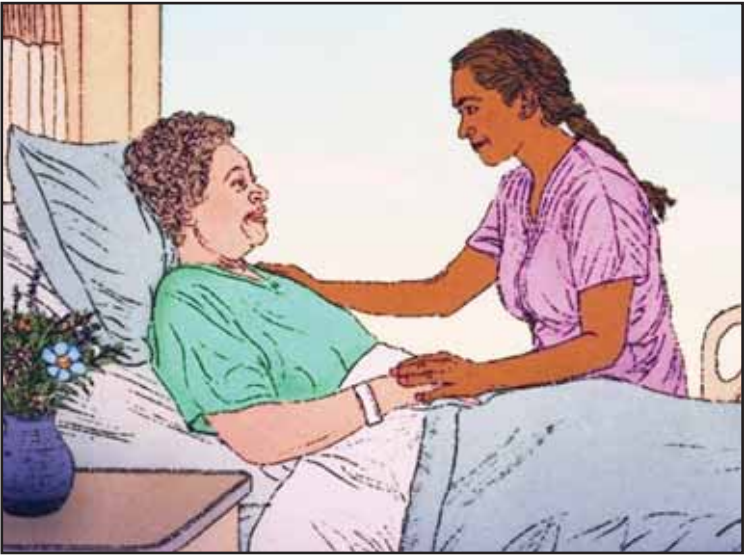
The situation is particularly acute in the central province of Ciego de Ávila, where authorities recently acknowledged that state pharmacies had only about 10% of the medicines on the basic list. Officials blamed supply and logistical problems, including fuel shortages.

"Cuba has a medical-pharmaceutical industry that we consider strong," María Fernández Martínez, head of the province's pharmacy company, told the official newspaper Granma. But without supplies, "not even the most capable factory can complete the cycle."

The government also struggles to obtain packaging such as blister packs and bottles and says US financial sanctions complicate payments for imports. Cuban authorities say shipments of medical supplies have also been stranded in third countries because shipping companies fear US penalties for calling at Cuban ports.



Silvia Perez, a volunteer with the 'Medicine Is Not for Sale' community project, prepares medicine for free distribution in Havana, Cuba on Oct 1. (AP)



Caregivers need to take care of themselves, too

CONCORD, NH, Oct 12, (AP): For Jessica Renda, the breaking point was a particularly chaotic Christmas season. Consumed by her eldest daughter's mental and behavioral health struggles, she stopped exercising or doing anything else that brought her joy. Forget holiday magic, she was barely hanging on.

"After that, I was like, 'I really need to take care of myself,'" she said. "We always tell people that old cliché: It's like the oxygen mask on a plane. But it's really true. You can't be a successful or good caregiver to somebody else if you're not taking care of yourself."

Renda leads a support group for parents and caregivers for the New

Hampshire chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, where she vigorously promotes self-care. And she's gotten better at taking her own advice, finding time for herself and setting better boundaries.

"It's not easy," she said. "I joke sometimes, 'Is 10 minutes in the shower crying self-care?' Sometimes it is."

Nearly one in four adults in the United States, or 63 million people, provided care to adults or children with medical conditions or disabilities in 2025, a total that jumped by almost 50% in 10 years, according to a report by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP. Their work - most of it unpaid - has got-

ten longer and more intense, the study found, and nearly two-thirds described feeling high emotional stress.

Recognizing those trends, Dartmouth College and its associated healthcare system recently announced the creation of an institute to provide caregivers with services, education, support and access to home health aides. The Family Caregiver Institute will be part of a broader program exploring best practices for serving the nation's aging or chronically ill population.

In the meantime, experts say there are small steps individual caregivers can take themselves to prevent

burnout.

That could mean asking a neighbor or another family member to fill in for a brief time to provide a break, said Susan Stearns, executive director of NAMI New Hampshire. She also advises prioritizing sleep and movement, even just quick walks outside.

"And if it's winter and you can't get outside, I've been known to just pace around my house for 10 minutes just to get some movement in because I know I'll feel better," she said.

Staying connected to a community also is key, Stearns said, whether that's meeting friends in person, talking on the phone or participating in online support groups.

Hitt rallies to win Korn Ferry Tour Championship

Forrest earns first Masters berth with Spanish Open win

MADRID, Oct 12, (AP): Grant Forrest got up-and-down for birdie on the reachable par-4 18th for a 2-under 70 and a one-shot victory in the Spanish Open on Sunday, earning the 33-year-old from Scotland his first trip to Augusta National for the Masters.

Forrest was tied with late-charging Victor Perez of France going to the 322-yard closing hole. Both drove into rough just beyond the green, their golf balls separated by the length of their shoes. Perez chipped to 10 feet and missed. Forest's chip ran out to just over 3 feet for the winning putt.

The victory also gets Forrest into the British Open, which he has played twice previously. The closest he came to the Masters was in 2015 when he was runner-up in the British Amateur.

Forrest, who finished at 14-under 270, capped off a tense finish that featured five players with a chance in the final hour. Eugenio Chacarra and Jacob Skov Olesen fell back with bogeys on the 17th. Chacarra (66) tied for second, moving him to No. 2 in the Race to Dubai.

Austin Hitt picked the ideal time for his first victory, closing with a 5-under 66 to win the Korn Ferry Tour Championship and move into the top 20 on the points list to secure a PGA Tour card for 2027.

Hitt was at No. 22 on the points list going into the season finale. The two-

shot victory over Blades Brown moved him to No. 6. The 19-year-old Brown, who started the last round with a one-shot lead and was bidding to become the youngest Korn Ferry Tour winner, closed with a 69.

Davis Lamb was the only other player to start outside the top 20 and earn a card. He finished in eighth place and moved from No. 23 to No. 20, some 15 points ahead of Yuta Sugiura, who turned down a spot in the PGA Tour event in Japan to try to get a tour card.

Ross Steelman tied for 12th to win the points title over Sandy Scott, earning his spots in The Players Championship and the U.S. Open for next year.

Vaughn Taylor closed with a 4-under 68 and made a 10-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole Sunday to defeat Alex Cejka in the Constellation Furyk & Friends, his first PGA Tour Champions title and his first victory anywhere in more than 10 years.

Taylor began the back nine with five straight birdies and was tied for the lead with Michael Wright until three-putting the 17th for bogey. Wright made double bogey from the hazard in the group ahead, while Cejka already had birdied the 18th for a 65 to post at 17-under 271.

Taylor joined him with a two-putt par on the 18th. Taylor and Cejka both missed birdie chances on the 18th in the playoff, and the second time around

the 50-year-old Taylor hit 7-iron to 10 feet, made the putt and clinched his fist.

The last of his three PGA Tour titles came in 2016, a one-shot victory over Phil Mickelson in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Miyu Yamashita set the course record at New Korea Country Club with a 9-under 63 for a three-shot victory in the Aramco Korea Championship on the Ladies European Tour.

Lars van der Vicht picked up his second Challenge Tour victory with a 4-under 68 to win the Hainan Open by two shots over Joseba Torres of Spain. The victory puts the Dutchman in line for a European tour card next year.

Justin Warren closed with a 5-under 67 for a two-shot victory over Daniel Gale in the CKB WA PGA Championship on the PGA Tour of Australasia.

Austin Bautista of Australia won his second Sunshine Tour title of the year with a 4-under 67 for a five-shot victory in The Fortress Invitational.

Akie Iwai closed with a 5-under 67 for a two-shot victory over defending champion Yui Kawamoto in the Stanley Ladies Honda on the Japan LPGA.

Hyunjo Yoo made four birdies and held off a pair of late charges to win the HJ Shipbuilding & Construction-Dongbu Construction Championship. The Korea LPGA event used the modified Stableford scoring system.

Palmeiras routs Corinthians

St. Louis City ties MLS record with 20-game unbeaten streak

ST. LOUIS, Oct 12, (AP): Carlo Holse scored three goals in the first 21 minutes and had the second hat trick in club history to help St. Louis City beat the LA Galaxy 6-2 to extend their unbeaten streak across all competitions to 20 games and tie the MLS record.

St. Louis, which is 13-0-5 in its last 18 regular-season games, tied the mark set when the New York Red Bulls went unbeaten in an MLS-record 20 consecutive games across all competitions in 2016.

Rafael Navarro converted from the penalty spot in the 45th minute, scored again in the 53rd and added two assists for St. Louis (14-6-8). Lukas MacNaughton scored on a diving header in the seventh minute of first-half stoppage time and Roman Bürki had five saves.

Holse opened the scoring in the second minute, added a goal in the seventh and skipped a shot inside the right post from the center of the area to make it 3-0 in the 21st minute to record the second-fastest hat trick in MLS history. Hany Mukhtar scored three goals for Nashville in the first 16 minutes of 5-1 win over Chicago on July 17, 2021.

LA's Kyogo Furuhashi went off due to an apparent hamstring injury and was replaced in the 10th minute by João Klauss, whose goal in the 71st minute capped the scoring. Klauss, a 29-year-old midfielder in his first season with the Galaxy, had St. Louis City's first hat trick in a 3-3 tie with the Galaxy on June 14, 2025.

Robert Taylor scored in the 31st minute for the Galaxy (9-11-9).

St. Louis beat the Galaxy 3-1 on July 22 at Dignity Health Sports Park.

LA: Host Portland on Wednesday. St. Louis: Host Vancouver on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Argentine defender Agustin Giay scored twice as Palmeiras cruised to a 4-1 home victory over Corinthians in Brazil's Serie A.

Giay and Alexander Barboza struck first-half goals and Matheus Bidu turned the ball into his own net just after the interval as the hosts opened up a 3-0 lead.

Palmeiras went further ahead courtesy of Giay's 51st-minute strike before Gustavo Henrique pulled a goal back in stoppage time.

The result leaves Palmeiras second in the 20-team standings with 63 points, one behind Flamengo,



Di Maria

while Corinthians is 16th, having lost eight straight games in the top flight.

Elsewhere in Brazil's Serie A on Sunday, Bahia won 1-0 at home to Mirassol, Gremio was held to a 1-1 home draw by Porto Alegre rival Internacional, Flamengo edged to a 1-0 home win over Fluminense and Atletico Mineiro prevailed 2-1 at home to Santos. Enditem

Also, Former Argentina winger Angel Di Maria scored twice to lead Rosario Central to a 5-0 home victory over 10-man Independiente Rivadavia in Argentina's Clausura tournament on Sunday.

Di Maria converted an early penalty and the visitors were handed another blow just before halftime when Alex Arce was shown a straight red card for an ugly challenge on Gaston Avila.

Colombian midfielder Jaminton Campaz doubled Rosario's lead early in the second half after Vicente Pizarro's pass and the Chilean playmaker then set up Di Maria for his team's third goal.

Enzo Copetti and Marco Ruben were also on target as Rosario Central eased to its sixth win of the campaign and moved to the top of the 15-team Zone B standings. Independiente Rivadavia is eighth, four points further back.

"Everything went perfectly and this is a result that we deserved," Di Maria told reporters after the match. "I told the boys we had to play with grit because this victory keeps our dreams alive."

In other Argentine top flight fixtures on Sunday, San Lorenzo won 1-0 at home to Deportivo Riestra, Argentinos Juniors drew 1-1 at Platense and Belgrano secured a 2-0 victory at Racing Club.

Briscoe holds off Bell to win second straight playoff race

Blaney finishes third at Charlotte

CONCORD, N.C., Oct 12, (AP): Chase Briscoe is getting the hang of winning close races.

Briscoe held off Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Christopher Bell to win his second straight NASCAR playoff race in a photo finish on Sunday at Charlotte Motor Speedway, vaulting him into contention to earn his first Cup Series championship.

The .029-second margin of victory was the second closest since CMS opened in 1960, ranking behind only Jimmie Johnson's .027-second win over Bobby Labonte in 2005.

The two drivers traded paint on the final lap, but Briscoe maintained control of his No. 19 Toyota and reached the finish line about a half-car length ahead of Bell.

"I don't know what it is about these finishes. I have to quit making it so exciting at the end," said Briscoe, who had to hold off playoff points leader Kyle Larson to win last week at Las Vegas.

It was the eighth win of Briscoe's career and third this season. He led 62 laps.

Briscoe said he felt like his right front tire was going down on the final laps, but was able to hold it together.

"When I got beyond those final lapped cars with five or six (laps) to go, I felt like I was going to knock the wall down," Briscoe said. "At one point it just quit turning."

Ryan Blaney finished third, followed by Josh Berry, Denny Hamlin and Larson.

Briscoe was 123 points behind Larson prior to last week's win, but the back-to-back victories have cut the deficit to 65 points and put him in fourth place with four races left.

Gibbs said he was just happy his drivers didn't wreck each other.

"That's always when I'm the most nervous, when a couple of our guys are running up front," Gibbs said. "I know how badly all of our guys want to win. ... That's when my blood pressure and heartbeat gets accelerated."

Hamlin is now 49 points behind Larson in the Chase, followed by



Chase Briscoe celebrates in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race in Concord, N.C. (AP)

Bell, who is 51 points back.

Larson called it a "good, solid day" and was happy to extend his playoff lead by nine points.

Hamlin won the regular season championship, but has struggled to find victory lane in the playoffs. He seemed perplexed why he hasn't been able to regain the speed he had before the postseason.

"We got to execute better, be a little faster - all of the above," Hamlin said. "We're giving it all we got right now."

It didn't help that Hamlin was sent to the rear of the field for a loose tire penalty on pit road on his first stop.

Larson, who entered the race with five top five finishes including two wins in the postseason, started on the pole based on NASCAR's metric system after Saturday's qualifying was rained out.

He made the most of the pole position, dominating the race early by leading 68 of the 80 laps in the first stage to collect the maximum number of points in stage one.

Bell caught Larson and won the second stage.

Several Chase contenders ran into problems in the first stage.

Ty Gibbs broke a toe link in his No. 54 Toyota causing him to hit the outside wall. Joey Logano, with nowhere to go, slammed into Gibbs from behind. Gibbs headed behind the wall for repairs and fell several laps behind, while Logano was sent to the back of the field.

And, near the end of the first stage, Alex Bowman's car got loose and ran up the track and into Bubba Wallace's car, collecting William Byron in the mix. Wallace climbed out of his car, but was taken to the infield medical center in an ambulance.

The crash sent all three cars behind the wall.

"I just got loose," Bowman said. "Honestly, I had been really tight. As soon as it got to the exit of the corner, it snapped and it kind of didn't stand a chance. Unfortunately,

I grabbed too much wheel, overcorrected it and got in those two guys' (Wallace and Byron) way. I hate that for the No. 24 and No. 23 teams. It's one thing to get loose and crash, but to ruin their days too really sucks."

After eight years, CMS and NASCAR said goodbye to the "roval," changing the fall race from a road course back to the traditional 1 1/2-mile oval course. That came as NASCAR shifted away from road courses and placed more emphasis on intermediate oval tracks before the change.

Drivers seemed to be in favor of the change.

"I appreciate the roval for what it was, and I've enjoyed the handful of years that we did it to start," Chris Buescher said. "Charlotte has so much character. It's put on some really good races and I think that was the big push to get us back on the oval."

The Cup Series heads to Phoenix Raceway in Avondale, Arizona next Sunday.

Renshaw follows career-best 190 with 82

South Africa reels after Australia's 421-run target

DURBAN, South Africa, Oct 12, (AP): Australia set South Africa a 421-run target and the Proteas were laboring at 102-4 after the first full day of cricket in the first test at Kingsmead on Monday.

Another leading score by Matt Renshaw of 82 helped Australia declare its second innings at 314-6 just before scheduled tea.

Bad light ended play early on the previous three days but sunshine allowed the action to continue past 4:30 p.m. local time for the first time in the test for another hour in an extended three-hour session.

Unable to be saved by bad light, South Africa lost two wickets after 4:30 p.m.; captain Temba Bavuma and Tristan, both on 1.

At stumps, Aiden Markram was 45 not out with Wiaan Mulder on 5 and South Africa was struggling on a decent pitch at 2.48 runs per over, especially against spinners Nathan Lyon and part-time Renshaw.

Renshaw was enjoying a dream test: A career-best 190 followed by an 82 and a bonus first test wicket. He got Bavuma bat-pad and caught at short leg by Nic Maddinson.

South Africa had already lost Ryan Rickelton on 2, out caught off Josh Hazlewood for a second time in the match, and David Bedingham, out lbw to Hazlewood. Again, Bedingham fell short of a half-century, 46 following 49 in the



Australia's captain Pat Cummins, right, plays stroke shot as South Africa's wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne watches on during day four of the first cricket test match between South Africa and Australia, in Durban, South Africa. (AP)

first innings.

Pat Cummins claimed the fourth wicket when Stubbs was caught behind. South Africa was 86-4 and facing a tall task on the final day.

Markram scored 45 not out off 115 balls and with Wiaan Mulder (5 not out) closed out the day with South Africa facing a tall ask on the final day needing another 319 runs.

Markram has a chance to become the second batter after Renshaw to score a half-century in the match.

He gave up a chance on 15 but it hit wicketkeeper Alex Carey's elbow and flew past slip.

Australia resumed from 33-0 overnight and reached 174-4 by lunch.

Maddinson scored 48 off 38 balls, including two sixes, to negate his duck in the first innings. Fellow opener Travis Head was out for 11.

Australia had two aggressive partnerships in the morning session. Steve Smith (27) and Marnus

Labuschagne (37) added 53 off 77 balls.

Smith was hit on the head off Anrich Nortje's rising delivery and didn't field during South Africa's second innings pending results of a concussion test. Smith has a history of concussion and vertigo.

Smith continued after the knock on his helmet and was out caught off Simon Harmer.

Labuschagne and Renshaw added 32 off 31 balls before lunch. Labuschagne mis-hit a drive and was out for 37 off 58 balls, identical to his first innings figures. Its the 12th known instance of runs scored and balls faced in men's test cricket.

Australia, scoring at a quick pace, lost four wickets in the morning and led by 280 runs at lunch.

After the break, Renshaw reached 50 off 75 balls, while Nortje bowled Carey for 24. The duo added 48 off 84 balls, taking Australia past 200.

Renshaw and Beau Webster adding 65 off 71 balls before Renshaw fell when Keshav Maharaj took a surprising return catch. Renshaw faced 99 balls and hit two sixes and finished the test with 272 runs.

Captain Cummins had one eye on a declaration as the lead passed 400. He and Webster added 44 off only 19 balls. Webster was 39 not out off 43 balls and Cummins had 32 off 12 with four sixes.

'It was just impressive,' Dallas coach

Irving makes winning return as Dallas beats Houston in China

MACAO, China, Oct 12, (AP): Kyrie Irving waited nearly 600 days for his return to the NBA. The Dallas Mavericks didn't keep him waiting any longer for his welcome-back basket.

Irving got a reverse layup on the game's opening possession Sunday night, setting the tone for him scoring a team-high 17 points in the Mavericks' 132-115 preseason win over the Houston Rockets in Macao, China.

It was Irving's first game action since he tore the ACL in his left knee on March 3, 2025.

"It was just impressive," Dallas coach Dusty May told reporters in a postgame news conference. "His physical condition, his mental condition, and then - I've said it from the first time I watched him in a workout - he's an artist. He's a jazz musician. ... I didn't expect him to play this well after being off so long."

Irving shot 6 for 13 in just under 22 minutes, plus he had three assists and two rebounds. Dallas won the opening tap, and reigning rookie of the year Cooper Flagg set up Irving on the right wing. Irving didn't hesitate, driving toward the baseline and then scoring with the reverse.

The Mavericks' bench immediately started celebrating, and the roar of the crowd in China - where the Rockets are one of the most popular teams, mainly because of Chinese superstar, Rockets great and Basketball Hall of Famer Yao Ming - was noticeable as well.

"Grateful that Dusty called the first play for me," Irving said. "Had my mind made up, just to attack. ... I was imagining how it was going to go, dreaming about how it was going to go and just glad that I got that out the way. Just incredibly grateful for my teammates as well and their support and just seeing them rise up off the bench to celebrate me as well, that always feels good. And God is truly the greatest. So just being able to perform at a high level, that felt amazing."



Dallas Mavericks' Kyrie Irving poses for photographs during his team's NBA basketball media day in Dallas. (AP)

‘Decisions unfairly affected the course and outcome of match’

Zamalek lodges complaint over refereeing after Al-Ahly derby loss

CAIRO, Oct 12: Zamalek has announced plans to file an official complaint with the Egyptian Football Association against its referees committee following its 2-0 defeat to arch-rival Al-Ahly in the Cairo derby.

The club’s board, led by Hussein Labib, took the decision in protest at the officiating during the Egyptian Premier League clash, which was played at Cairo International Stadium in the sixth round.

Mohamed Hany opened the scoring for Al-Ahly in the 39th minute, before Achraf Bencharki added a second in the 80th to seal the victory.

In a statement, Zamalek claimed refereeing decisions had unfairly affected the course and outcome of the match, undermining the efforts of the players and coaching staff. The club also blamed the referees committee for appointing the Slovenian officiating team.

Zamalek questioned the officials’ credentials and performance, describing them as “unknown and far below the stature of the match.” The club alleged that a series of deliberate and blatant decisions had gone against them, influencing the final result.

The statement further cited what Zamalek said were assessments by several refereeing experts that the team should have been awarded two penalties.

The club also complained that several incidents in its favor were not reviewed through the video assistant referee (VAR) system, although it did not name the experts or specify the incidents.

Zamalek also accused the referees committee of yielding to pressure ahead of the league season and showing favoritism at the club’s expense.

The defeat left Zamalek on 13 points, while Al-Ahly climbed to 16 points to move top of the league standings.



Al-Ahly players celebrate after scoring against Zamalek.

Kuwait Club, Kazma gear up for key Asian & Gulf clashes



Qadsia steps up preparations for AFC Challenge League.

Arabi snatches narrow win over Kazma

Kuwait Club extends handball league lead

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Kuwait Club continued its dominance of the 2025-2026 Premier Handball League, cruising to a 33-16 victory over Nasr at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex to consolidate its position at the top of the table.

The league recently resumed after a lengthy suspension, with the latest round also producing a thrilling contest between Arabi and Kazma. Arabi prevailed 22-21 in a closely fought encounter, securing two valuable points to draw level with Kazma in the standings. Qadsia and Salmiya, meanwhile, again failed to turn up for their scheduled matches. Qadsia withdrew from its fixture against Burgan, while Salmiya pulled out of its game against Sulai-bikhat. Both clubs have now recorded their second withdrawals since the competition resumed.

Kuwait Club leads the standings with 27 points, holding a nine-point advantage over second-placed Burgan, who has 18. Kazma and Arabi share third place on 16 points, followed by Qadsia on 14, Salmiya on 10, Sulai-bikhat on



Players vie for the ball during the league match between Arabi and Kazma.

nine and Nasr on two.

In the First Division League, Qurain maintained its momentum with an emphatic 31-18 win over Fahaaheel, claiming both points in a convincing performance.

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Kuwait Club and Kazma will complete their final training sessions today ahead of crucial continental and regional assignments tomorrow, while Arabi head to Tajikistan to begin its AFC Challenge League campaign.

Kuwait Club will host Bahrain’s Khalidiya at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium in the second round of Group A in the AFC Champions League Two, seeking to bounce back from their 3-2 defeat to UAE side Al-Wahda in the opening round. Khalidiya began their campaign with a goalless draw against Uzbekistan’s Nasaf Qarshi.

The Whites will take confidence from their recent league form after moving to the top of the Zain Premier League standings with 10

points.

Khalidiya arrived in Kuwait two days ago and will hold its main training session at the match venue today.

Meanwhile, Kazma will travel to Saudi Arabia to face Ettifaq on Tuesday in the opening round of the Gulf Club Champions League, marking its return to the competition after a lengthy absence. The Orange will wrap up its preparations today before the away encounter.

Qadsia, meanwhile, has stepped up its preparations for the AFC Challenge League after shifting its focus from domestic action. The Yellow sits second in the Zain Premier League, just one point behind leader Kuwait Club.

Qadsia will host Group C matches from October 17 to 23, with India’s Goa, Bangladesh’s Fortis and Tajikistan’s Regar-TadAZ completing the lineup.

The team is training at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium at Yarmouk Club in accordance with an AFC decision. Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium will be reserved exclusively for the group matches, while training sessions for the four participating teams will be held at Yarmouk

Stadium and Thamer Stadium.

In another development, Arabi will depart for Tajikistan today for their Group B campaign in the AFC Challenge League, which runs from October 17 to 23. Their opponents are Syria’s Homs Al-Fida, Tajikistan’s Istiklol Dushanbe and Lebanon’s Al-Najma.

The Green Army head into the tournament amid a disappointing start to their domestic season. They have yet to register a victory in their first four Zain Premier League matches, recording three draws and one defeat. The poor run has left them 10th in the standings on four points, level with Sulai-bikhat.

The results have prompted the club to move towards parting ways with Croatian coach Goran Sablic, with assistant coach Mohammed Abdelnabi handed the reins until the team completes its Asian campaign. Arabi is expected to search for a new head coach after the tournament.

Abdelnabi is familiar with the squad, having worked alongside Sablic last season and during the current campaign. He also spent nearly a decade coaching Arabi’s youth teams.

In-form Barcelona goes to Galatasaray

Scandal-hit Man City hosts PSG in CL return

GENEVA, Oct 12, (AP): The Champions League schedule seemed almost ironic, pairing Manchester City with Paris Saint-Germain on their return to the competition following a damaging verdict over financial rule breaches.

Man City hosts title holder PSG on Wednesday in a standout meeting of Middle East state-backed clubs who were on parallel narratives for much of the past 15 years that now have wildly diverged.

Barcelona is still Europe’s best team this season five weeks after the opening round of Champions League games and takes a run of nine straight wins to Galatasaray on Tuesday.

Arsenal hosts Lille on Tuesday looking for a 14th straight win in the league phase across all three seasons of the current format.

Bayern Munich also plays Tuesday, at Norwegian champion Viking, and Real Madrid has a Wednesday visit to one of coach José Mourinho’s former clubs Roma.

Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain had much in common before combining to win three of the past four Champions League titles. They had won none in the previous 67 seasons of the marquee competition.

They were underachieving big city clubs transformed by soccer’s new wave of petrostate wealth: Man City in 2008 backed by Abu Dhabi’s royal family and a Qatari takeover of PSG in 2011.

Ambitious investment with sponsors from home created issues complying with UEFA’s new Financial Fair Play rules and both were fined 20 million euros (\$22.4 million) in 2014.

Each lost their first Champions League final - PSG to Bayern in 2020 and Man City the next year to Chelsea - then broke through in title games against Inter Milan led by coaches who previously won it with Barcelona. Man City won in 2023 and PSG in 2025.

Under Luis Enrique, PSG is playing widely admired soccer



Manchester City’s Erling Haaland celebrates after the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Manchester City in Liverpool, England. (AP)

chasing a hat trick of European titles.

Just months after Pep Guardiola left, Man City risks becoming a pariah after long-held suspicion about the club’s financial success was proven last month by a Premier League tribunal. The pending sanctions could force years of Champions League exile for the club, which is appealing.

Rodri and Ilkay Gündoğan were the heart of Man City’s midfield in the 2023 final and the Spanish star scored the only goal in Istanbul to defeat Inter.

On Tuesday they will be back in Istanbul but on opposite sides when Gündoğan and Turkish champion Galatasaray welcomes Barcelona, having added Rodri in the offseason to an already powerful lineup.

Barcelona is averaging more than four goals scored per game this season, and started the Champions League beating Feyenoord 5-1.

Viking and Bodø/Glimt are locked in a fascinating fight for the Norwegian league title that has eight more rounds to run until December.

They get a break in the Champions League from identical records in their domestic title race: Same numbers of points, wins, draws, losses, goals scored and conceded.

Germany sends its two powers due north this week for testing games on artificial turf: Viking hosts Bayern Munich in Stavanger on Tuesday and Bodø/Glimt

welcomes Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday.

It’s back-to-back Norway-Germany duels after Bayern opened last month beating Bodø/Glimt 5-0 and Viking lost 3-1 at Stuttgart.

Shakhtar Donetsk is making the first of four treks to play home games in London when it hosts AEK Athens at Chelsea’s Stamford Bridge.

Shakhtar has not played in Donetsk since the first Russian incursion there in 2014, and cannot play UEFA competition games in Ukraine during the full military invasion which began in February 2022.

The Ukrainian champion is among three teams playing in borrowed home stadiums this week.

The Real Betis stadium is being renovated and so Porto will be hosted Wednesday at La Cartuja stadium in Seville. That was used at the European Championship played in 2021 and likely will be a venue at the 2030 World Cup.

Sabah plays Slavia Prague on Tuesday in Baku, at the 69,000-seat Olympic Stadium, because its home in the city of Masazir does not meet UEFA standards.

This season’s final will be played at Atletico Madrid’s stadium on June 5 and the Metropolitan hosts its first game in this edition Tuesday, when Manchester United visit.

Atletico and Lille, which visits Arsenal on Tuesday, both have long winless runs in England - at least, before the knockout stage.

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Freiburg's Philipp Treu, centre, in action against Schalke's Junior Adamu during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Freiburg and FC Schalke 04 in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. (AP)

Sports

Al-Jalahma: Supporting Kuwait national team a priority ahead of Asian Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr Tareq Al-Jalahma has reaffirmed that supporting Kuwait's national football team is a national priority, emphasizing the need to provide the conditions necessary for success and results that match the country's standing and the expectations of its fans.

Speaking to KUNA after a series of meetings with the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) board, headed by Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef, the association's technical committee and the senior national team's technical and administrative staff, Al-Jalahma said discussions focused on the team's recent Gulf Cup 27 campaign and preparations for upcoming competitions.

Al-Jalahma underscored the need for

closer coordination between the KFA and the team's technical and administrative staff, stressing that a clear and unified strategy was essential to improve performance and enhance the team's readiness for future challenges.

He described the national team as a shared responsibility, noting that success depended on collective efforts and a strong team spirit, particularly with major competitions approaching, foremost among them the AFC Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia next January.

Al-Jalahma said intensified efforts and the provision of the necessary resources were vital to ensuring optimal preparations, fulfilling the expectations of Kuwaiti supporters and restoring Kuwaiti football to the position it deserves.



Tareq Al-Jalahma, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef and KFA board members attend the meeting.

Interior Ministry claims Ministries Super Cup title



The Ministry of Interior team celebrates with the trophy.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The Ministry of Interior kicked off the 2026-2027 sports season in style, capturing the Ministries, Institutions and Government Authorities Football Super Cup with a convincing 4-1 victory over the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy at Al-Nasr Sports Club Stadium.

Fahad Marzouq opened the scoring for the Interior Ministry before Abdulaziz Saud extended its advantage. Ahmed Jaber added a third, and Nasser Faleh completed the four-goal haul. Raed Aref scored the consolation goal for the Electricity and Water team.

The triumph secured the Interior Ministry's first silverware of the new season, with another title within reach. It will take on the National Guard at 7:30 pm tomorrow at Yarmouk Sports Club's indoor hall in the Futsal Super Cup.

The government ministries and institutions competitions aim to broaden sports participation among public-sector employees, foster a spirit of competition, and strengthen social connections among staff beyond the workplace.

momentum from its victory over Saudi Arabia into today's difficult test against Jordan, who will have the advantage of playing on home soil in front of its supporters.

Kuwait's coaching staff hopes for a positive tournament conclusion after a preparation programme that included an overseas training camp in Cairo. The team played several friendly matches during the camp to sharpen their technical performance and improve the players' physical fitness ahead of the Arab championship.

Lazio continues impressive start

Freiburg leads Bundesliga

MILAN, Oct 12: Lazio continued its impressive start to the Serie A season as it beat Monza 3-1 to share the lead of the Italian league but Roma fell off the top spot after a 0-0 draw at Como.

Freiburg moved top of the Bundesliga with a 2-1 victory over Schalke, while Rennes closed the gap in the French league by beating lowly Auxerre 4-1.

Lazio took up where it had left off before the international break but it was more difficult than it should have been against 10-man Monza languishing near the bottom of the table.

Nuno Tavares and Gustav Isaksen put Lazio 2-0 up within 23 minutes and things went from bad to worse for Monza when Lorenzo Lucchesi was shown a straight red card in the 35th minute for hauling down Tijjani Noslin when the Lazio forward was clean through on goal.

However, Saba Goglichidze pulled one back for Monza right at the start of the second half and the visitors had several chances to equalize before Andrea Pinamonti sealed the match late on.

Lazio stayed joint top on points with defending champion Inter Milan, which beat Parma 3-0 on Saturday. Roma slipped two points behind.

It was nevertheless a good result for Roma, which had to play most of the second half with 10 men and withstand a siege after Donyell Malen was sent off for a dangerous tackle in the 53rd minute.

AC Milan was held to a 1-1 draw by Sassuolo.

A change of coach has not had an immediate effect on Borussia Mönchengladbach, which remains bottom of the Bundesliga and with zero points after a 2-1 loss at Cologne.

Alexander Blessin replaced the fired Eugen Polanski at the start of the international break but his debut saw the team fall to its fifth straight loss.

Freiburg took advantage of Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich drawing to move top, snatching the win over Schalke with a late goal despite having Yuito Suzuki sent off for a second yellow card in the 64th.

It is above Dortmund on goal difference and has two more points than Bayern. Real Betis is third, level with Atletico Madrid and five points below Barcelona, after a dominant 5-2 victory over Osasuna.

Real Sociedad almost gave up a three-goal lead and were reduced to 10 men but clung on to beat Deportivo La Coruna 3-2.

Rennes took advantage of its rivals dropping points this weekend to move into third spot in the French league, level with second-place Lille and just a point below Monaco.

A stoppage-time brace from Boulaye Dia added gloss to the scoreline.

Kuwait eyes strong finish against Jordan at the 24th Arab Volleyball Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

AMMAN, Oct 12: Kuwait's national volleyball team will face hosts Jordan today in its final preliminary-round match at the 24th Arab Men's Volleyball Championship, aiming to end its campaign on a winning note. The match is scheduled for 6 pm at the Arena Hall, with the tournament concluding on October 15.

The Blues have endured a mixed campaign, losing their opening match 3-0 to Bahrain



Players preparing for the action.

before falling 3-1 to Algeria and Oman. They bounced back in their fourth outing, however, beating Saudi Arabia 3-1 to secure their first victory of the competition.

Although Kuwait is no longer in contention for the title, it remains determined to finish as high as possible and keep its podium hopes alive. A second consecutive win would provide a timely boost and improve its final standing.

The team will seek to carry the

momentum from its victory over Saudi Arabia into today's difficult test against Jordan, who will have the advantage of playing on home soil in front of its supporters.

Kuwait's coaching staff hopes for a positive tournament conclusion after a preparation programme that included an overseas training camp in Cairo. The team played several friendly matches during the camp to sharpen their technical performance and improve the players' physical fitness ahead of the Arab championship.



Monza's Michael Folorunsho, left, and Lazio's Nuno Tavares vie for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Lazio and Monza in Rome. (AP)

Fifth-seeded Medvedev eases past Svrčina

Alcaraz stunned by Bergs at Shanghai Masters, Zverev clinches year-end No. 1 ranking

SHANGHAI, Oct 12, (AP): Zizou Bergs stunned second-seeded Carlos Alcaraz 7-5, 7-6 (4) to advance to the fourth round of the Shanghai Masters on Monday.

Bergs converted his first match point with a ninth ace to beat the tournament favorite in the biggest win of his career. It was second encounter on the tour between the pair and a first victory for Bergs.

After the match Bergs said he has "too much respect for (top players), which is part of my culture and I'm proud of that. But it gets a little bit in the way when you have to play them."

He added this result can help him change that.

"To have this moment, for me it is a little bit of a relief. I feel like now I really can win against these guys. Not just I can play against them, but I can win against them."

He hit 24 winners on the way to victory, compared to 16 of his opponent at their round of 32 match in the ATP 1000 tennis event.

Next, Bergs will face Tommy Paul after the American knocked out defending champion Valentin Vacherot 6-4, 6-2.

The loss for Alcaraz means that Alexander Zverev will complete the year as the No. 1.



Alexander Zverev of Germany celebrates his victory against Cameron Norrie of Britain during their men's singles match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing. (AP)

Breaking Alcaraz for the second time to take a 6-5 lead in the opening set, Bergs used his fourth set point to serve it out after Alcaraz hit the net.

The 39th-ranked Belgian broke Alcaraz for a 6-5 lead in the second set but failed to serve out the match with the Spaniard breaking back to force the tiebreaker.

Alcaraz, who won last week's Japan Open, fought back from 4-2 down to tie it at 4 but Bergs then recovered to build two match points. The Belgian only needed one.

"I'm very happy how I handled the tiebreak," Bergs said. "It's never easy to get broken when you are serving for the match, but to get back in the tiebreak and play those key moments, serve big, I'm very happy with that one especially."

Also, fifth-seeded Daniil Medvedev eased past Dalibor Svrčina 6-2, 6-3.

In his second straight victory since being disqualified at the China Open for hitting a spectator in the eye with a ball, Medvedev converted his fourth match point when his Czech opponent sent a backhand volley wide.

Fourth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime eliminated Pablo Carreno Busta 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 and Stefanos Tsitsipas came from a set down to knock out 11th-seeded Taylor Fritz 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Alexander Zverev clinched the year-end No. 1 ranking

on Monday to cap a breakout year in which he won his first two Grand Slam titles.

Helped by a season-ending injury to Jannik Sinner, the 29-year-old Zverev will become the oldest player to achieve the year-end honor for the first time, the ATP Tour announced.

Zverev is currently No. 2 but will overtake No. 1 Sinner before the season ends next month. The first possible date that Zverev could become No. 1 is Nov. 2 - while he is mathematically certain of the top spot by the season's final rankings on Nov. 23.

Zverev became assured of finishing No. 1 when No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz was beaten by Zizou Bergs at the Shanghai Masters.

Zverev won the French Open and U.S. Open titles this year and also reached the Australian Open semifinals and the Wimbledon final.

Before this year, his best Grand Slam results were three finals.

"It's been a fantastic season for me winning in Paris and New York and knowing that I will finish the year on top of the rankings is just a dream come true," Zverev said.