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KUWAIT CABINET BLASTS ESCALATING THREATS TO SAUDI

Riyadh turns up heat on Houthi hardliners



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (Agencies): Kuwait Cabinet strongly condemned continued Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, which targeted King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, King Fahad Airport in Dammam and Abha Airport in recent days, causing deaths and injuries among innocent civilians and material damage.

In a statement following its weekly meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the

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- Kuwait backs all Saudi measures to safeguard sovereignty
- OPEC+ urges protection of global shipping lanes
- Saudi-led coalition issues evacuation warning in Sanaa

Al-Wasm begins Thurs, bringing hints of winter

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Al-Ojeiri Scientific Center announced that the Al-Wasm season is set to begin in Kuwait and the surrounding region on Thursday, October 15. The season marks a transitional period characterized by pleasant daytime temperatures, cooler nights, and the possibility of rainfall, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a recent press release, the center

explained that Al-Wasm lasts 52 days and is divided into four astronomical phases, each lasting 13 days - Al-Awwa, Al-Simak, Al-Ghafra, and Al-Zubana.

The key features of the season include the sun's continued movement southward and the changing angle of its rays.

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Workload balance surges

1,311 teacher appeals accepted

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Ministry of Education has announced the completion of its review of grievances submitted by teaching staff affected by staff redistribution decisions.

A specialized committee reviewed and classified the grievances according to the nature of each case and established criteria and guidelines, with the aim of

balancing schools' actual staffing needs against teachers' humanitarian and social circumstances.

A total of 1,311 grievances registered through the electronic system had been accepted following a thorough review of applications and supporting documents to ensure compliance with approved standards and promote fairness, objectivity, and consistency in handling similar cases.

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Kuwait Embassy photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Ghanem Al-Ghanem during a visit to Kuwaiti martyrs' graves at military cemeteries in Suez Governorate.

Kuwait honors October War martyrs on 53rd anniversary

CAIRO, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Ghanem Al-Ghanem affirmed Tuesday that the blood of Kuwaiti martyrs in the October War embodied the strength of bilateral ties and reflected shared destiny and Arab solidarity.

Al-Ghanem made the remarks to KUNA after visiting Kuwaiti martyrs' graves at military cemeteries in Suez Governorate, marking the 53rd anniversary of the 1973 October War victories.

He said the visit honored Kuwaitis'

sacrifices and heroism, which remain immortal in national memory, reflecting pride in their bravery alongside Egyptian armed forces during battles of honor and dignity.

He added that the martyrs' blood, mingled with Egyptian soil, represented the foundation of historic ties between Kuwait and Egypt, remaining a source of pride for generations and a model of Arab solidarity and cooperation.

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No tag, no wag

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Government Communication Center issued guidelines on dog ownership and care, requiring owners to obtain a license and attach a metal tag bearing the dog's serial number, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The center urged owners to take their dogs to a veterinary facility for examination and rabies vaccination, emphasizing the need for annual booster shots.

It highlighted the importance of using a muzzle and leash when walking dogs in public areas and on roads. Owners must also notify the veterinary center if a dog contracts rabies or is suspected of having the disease.

Furthermore, the center stressed that the carcasses of animals infected with or suspected of having rabies must not be disposed of or buried.

It noted that violations of these regulations are punishable by imprisonment for up to one month, a fine of up to KD 30, or both penalties.

AML crackdown

Kuwait fines 27 gold businesses

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has imposed fines totaling KD 155,000 on entities for violating Law No. 106 of 2013 on combating money laundering, as well as related ministerial decisions, the ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

In a statement to KUNA, the ministry said the violations were identified between January and August 2026 under Ministerial Decision No. 25 of 2026, which sets out penalties and measures for designated non-financial businesses and professions.

The violations included four cases involving real estate brokerage firms that failed to notify the Kuwait Financial Intelligence Unit within two working days of suspicious transaction indicators, resulting in fines totaling KD 20,000.

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Day by Day

ROPES, and their many synonyms, take seven distinct forms, some bringing immense good, others carrying harm.

The umbilical cord is the most life-giving, while the hangman's noose is the most grim. Among them, the thread of thought is the most delicate, the rope of falsehood the shortest, the bond of affection the most dependable, and the jugular vein the closest.

Above all, the strongest and most beautiful bond is the unbreakable connection with the Almighty - "And hold fast, all together, to the rope of Allah and do not become divided."

Profound reflections for minds capable of grasping their true depth.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



11 Spain backs Kuwait as force for regional peace



9 KFH wins 'Top Innovations in Finance 2026 - Middle East' award from Global Finance



8 IMF raises 2026 global growth forecast to 3.1%

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Sunrise ..	05:49	Maghrib ..	17:20
Zohr	11:34	Isha	18:38

Capital Governor reviews development plan during visit to Sharq Fish Market

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah conducted a field visit on Tuesday to the Sharq Fish Market to review the ongoing development plan aimed at modernizing its facilities and improving services for citizens and residents while preserving its historical identity as one of Kuwait's most prominent heritage markets, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a press statement issued by the Capital Governorate, Sheikh Abdullah received a detailed briefing on the project's various phases and implementation mechanism.

The development plan includes establishing a temporary market to ensure uninterrupted sales operations, upgrading infrastructure and service facilities, improving traffic flow and access, and increasing the number of stalls from 214 to more than 240. These measures aim to expand the market's capacity and provide a more organized and comfortable environment for vendors and shoppers alike.

The temporary market is scheduled to officially open on Thursday, welcoming visitors and ensuring the continuity of commercial activity and public services throughout the redevelopment of the main market.

Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah emphasized the Capital Governorate's commitment to overseeing development and service projects that enhance the quality of services provided to citizens and residents.

He also stressed the importance of coordination and



Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah conducted a field visit on Tuesday to the Sharq Fish Market (right) .



KUNA photos

cooperation among the relevant authorities to ensure that development work proceeds according to schedule, while taking stall owners' needs into account and safeguarding the continuity of their businesses.

The governor noted that the Sharq Fish Market is an integral part of Kuwait's historical memory and maritime heritage, emphasizing the importance of balancing the preservation of its traditional character with the need for development and modernization.

He praised the efforts and cooperation of the execut-

ing company and the government entities involved in upgrading this vital facility, expressing hope that the redevelopment would present the market in a modern light that reflects its historical significance and meets visitors' expectations.



Chairperson of the Women's Cultural and Social Society Dr. Manal Al-Daihani receives the guests.

Photo by Rizk Taufiq

Women empowerment, extended role stressed

By Inaas Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Chairperson of the Women's Cultural and Social Society Dr. Manal Al-Daihani underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation and exchanging expertise on issues of mutual interest, particularly the empowerment of women and expanding their participation in building society.

Al-Daihani made the statement while she and the board members of the society welcomed United Nations (UN) official Mary Yamashita, who visited the organization as part of her official visit to Kuwait. She was accompanied by Ghada Al-Taher, the UN Secretary General's Representative and Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, along with members of the accompanying UN delegation.

The board provided the delegation with a detailed overview of the history of the society, since its establishment in 1963 and its contributions to social and cultural life in the country. They also presented a historical perspective on Kuwait's development journey and the role of Kuwaiti women in achieving sustainable development.

Al-Daihani welcomed the visit, expressing appreciation for this direct, high-level engagement with Kuwaiti civil society organizations. She stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation frameworks and exchanging expertise to support women's empowerment and activate their role in society.

On the other hand, Yamashita expressed her appreciation for the warm reception and praised the rich historical legacy of the society, as well as its decades-long role in civic and community work in Kuwait.

Yamashita is a Japanese UN official appointed by the UN Secretary General on March 31, 2026, as his High-Level Representative for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2792 (2025). This resolution is on the file of missing Kuwaiti persons and Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

She has more than 30 years of experience in preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding, and external relations.

She served as acting Head of the United Nations Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA) in Yemen, representative of the Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Office in Belgrade, Serbia, Deputy Head and Director of the Peacebuilding Support Office and Deputy Director of the Asia and the Pacific Division within the departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah addresses the session in Cairo meeting.

Kuwait stresses commitment, backs joint Arab social action

CAIRO, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed on Tuesday Kuwait's commitment to supporting joint Arab social action, strengthening social protection, empowering women and persons with disabilities, and caring for the elderly.

Addressing the 84th ordinary session of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs in Cairo, Al-Huwailah called for addressing social challenges and combating multidimensional poverty through practical programs with clear objectives and tangible results.

Al-Huwailah said Kuwait continues to modernize its social legislation and services, highlighting legislative amendments concerning protection against domestic violence and combating drugs, as well as new legislation regulating volunteer work and media activities.

She also referred to the preparation and submission of draft laws concerning the rights of children and persons with disabilities.

Al-Huwailah explained that the Family Protection Program, approved by the Cabinet last May, provides a comprehensive framework for supporting family stability, with the participation of several government ministries and institutions.

She added that the program is supervised by the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, which coordinates initiatives, monitors their outcomes and challenges, and submits recommendations to the Cabinet.

Regarding women's empowerment, Al-Huwailah said Kuwait supports training, entrepreneurship, small businesses and the "Boutique 33" project aimed at supporting

productive families.

She also highlighted the establishment of the Women's Affairs Committee to monitor national efforts and international indicators, alongside plans to establish an integrated national platform for women.

Al-Huwailah noted that Kuwait had also launched the Kuwait Women's Excellence Award, "Status and Empowerment," under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, reflecting the country's commitment to strengthening women's participation and role in development.

She reviewed the efforts of the Higher National Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including providing educational and employment opportunities, assistive devices, reasonable accommodations and family rehabilitation programs.

She also highlighted the launch of the Kuwait Creativity Award for Persons with Disabilities and efforts to develop elderly care services in ways that preserve their dignity and support their independence.

Al-Huwailah stressed the importance of utilizing digital transformation to improve services and facilitate access to them while safeguarding privacy and data confidentiality.

She emphasized that current regional circumstances require greater Arab solidarity and support for affected countries and peoples, particularly the brotherly Palestinian people.

She called for supporting programs and projects that protect children, families and the most vulnerable groups while ensuring their access to essential care and services.

Occupation policies main cause of Mideast turmoil

NEW YORK, Oct 13, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait affirmed that addressing insecurity in the Middle East region requires confronting the Israeli occupation policies, aggression and impunity.

"The continuing attacks by the occupying entity on the Palestinian people and countries in the region undermine prospects for peace and fuel cycles of violence," said the Third Secretary of Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Abdulaziz Al-Saeedi.

He made the comments in a speech on behalf of Kuwait before the UN General Assembly's Disarmament and International Security (First Committee) during its general debate on Monday evening.

Al-Saeedi renewed Kuwait's condemnation of Iranian attacks targeting its territory, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Jordan since last February, including attacks carried out by Iran-backed factions and militias in Iraq.

"The State of Kuwait is not a party to the ongoing conflict and has not allowed its territory, airspace or waters to be used to launch attacks against Iran," he stressed.

He reiterated the call for Iran to fully comply with UN Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), halt its attacks and threats, whether direct or through its proxies, and respect the sovereignty of neighbors and the principles of neighborliness.

On denuclearization effort in the Middle East, he stressed the need for the Israeli occupation entity to join the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and place all its nuclear facilities and activities under the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) comprehensive safeguards.

"The continued exemption of the entity undermines the credibility of the non-proliferation regime," he warned.

He affirmed support for establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and for reaching a legally binding treaty with the participation of all concerned parties to ensure equal security for all.

Al-Saeedi expressed regret that the 11th NPT Review Conference in 2026 failed to reach a consensus final document, stressing the need to fulfill commitments on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

He also expressed Kuwait's pride in assuming the presidency of the IAEA Board of Governors for 2026-2027 by unanimous endorsement, affirming its commitment to strengthening the agency's independence and credibility, supporting technical cooperation and verifying compliance with nuclear obligations.

Regarding the conventional weapons, Al-Saeedi underscored the importance of safe and sustainable ammunition management and preventing illicit trafficking.

He pointed out to Kuwait's election as vice-president of the preparatory meeting for the Global Framework for Through-Life Conventional Ammunition Management.

The Kuwaiti diplomat stressed the importance of translating international commitments into serious national measures and effective international cooperation to strengthen confidence in the disarmament and international security system.



Al-Saeedi

'Time ripe to act in current scene'

Arabs must unite: AL Chief

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy stressed the need to move joint Arab action from reaction to initiative, developing a proactive vision for the region's future amid rapid changes in the international order and growing challenges.



Nabil Fahmy

Fahmy made the remarks during a lecture entitled "The Future of Joint Arab Action" at the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute, as part of his official visit to Kuwait.

He outlined his vision for strengthening Arab cooperation, restoring confidence in Arab institutions and improving mechanisms for addressing current crises and challenges.

He said the international order established after World War II was based on the UN Charter and two key principles: refraining from the use of force outside a clear legal framework, including UN Security Council resolutions or the right to self-defense, and respecting state sovereignty.

However, he noted that the world was shifting from "an order based on the rule of law to one based on the law of force."

Economic and trade tools are increasingly being used in conflicts, including in matters involving international waterways, while unilateral rules are being imposed on countries that are not parties to disputes, he said.

Technological advances, including drones and artificial intelligence, have also accelerated military decision-making and increased the targeting of civilian sites.

Fahmy said the Arab region was at the heart of these international changes, making calls for isolation from surrounding

developments unrealistic.

Given that most Arab countries are small or medium-sized compared with major powers, he said, confronting challenges individually and reactively offers less protection for national interests.

He outlined the concept of "political deterrence," which complements defense capabilities by strengthening national capacities, diversifying political relations to broaden available options and managing relations with neighboring countries effectively.

He identified three main pillars for joint Arab action: effectively addressing crises by tackling Arab issues through Arab-led efforts, pursuing development as a continuous process of preparing for the future, and promoting sustainable development as a foundation for stability and meeting the aspirations of Arab peoples.

Fahmy reaffirmed the centrality of the Palestinian cause to joint Arab action, based on international law and the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, which calls for a two-state solution and an end to occupation. He called for effective Arab follow-up to the implementation of the agreement concerning the Gaza Strip.

On regional relations, he stressed the close link between Arab countries' national security and regional security, saying ties with neighboring states should be based on respect for national sovereignty and international law. He also underscored the importance of preserving national states and the unity of their institutions in Sudan, Libya, Syria and Yemen.

Fahmy highlighted youth and water as key issues shaping the Arab region's future, noting that young people account for more than 65 percent of the Arab population and that the region is among the world's most water-stressed.

He described cooperation on water and food security as a strategic priority and called for exchanging Arab expertise, particularly in irrigation and water desalination, to address water challenges, strengthen food security and advance sustainable development.



KUNA photo
The UN General Assembly election of members to the Human Rights Council, in which Kuwait secured 173 votes to win a second consecutive three-year term beginning January 1, 2027.

173 votes secure Kuwait's seat

Kuwait wins new three-year term on UN Rights Council

NEW YORK, Oct 13, (KUNA): The United Nations General Assembly elected 15 countries, including Kuwait, to the UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday for three-year terms starting January 1, 2027.

Kuwait secured 173 votes in the secret ballot under the Asia-Pacific Group, while Jordan received 171 votes.

Other countries elected included Nepal, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Brazil and Germany.

Kuwait's election marks its second consecutive term on the council. Its current term ends on December 31, with the new term running from January 1, 2027, through the end of 2029.

The council comprises 47 member states elected directly by the General Assembly

through a secret ballot, based on equitable geographical distribution.

Members serve three-year terms and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.

The seats are allocated among regional groups as follows: 13 for African states, 13 for Asia-Pacific states, six for Eastern European states, eight for Latin American and Caribbean states, and seven for Western European and other states.

Headquartered in Geneva, the Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the UN system mandated to promote and protect human rights worldwide, address human rights situations and violations, and make recommendations on ways to address them.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Sincere prayer counts ..., seek solace from divine

“DISCUSSING social media is no longer merely a casual intellectual exercise; it has become essential to understanding its profound impact on consciousness, behavior, and society,” Kuwaiti writer **Fatima Nasser Al-Muzayel** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“We are witnessing not merely a technological evolution, but a fundamental shift in how some people perceive privacy, pain, and illness, blurring the line between what should remain personal, with its spiritual reward sought from Allah, and what is thrust into the public eye for others to consume. Some have moved beyond using these platforms for simple communication, turning the details of their illnesses and health conditions into a staple of their daily online presence.



Fatima Al-Muzayel

“Amid the clamor of this digital space, we encounter individuals who seem unwilling to simply endure their pain. They feel compelled to make it visible, as though their suffering is not complete until it has an audience. Details are published, crises are showcased, and emotions are solicited, transforming illness from a trial borne with patience into content for public consumption. The focus has shifted from seeking prayers to self-promotion and garnering views.

“I am not referring to those who simply share a photo or a brief message asking for prayers. Rather, I mean those who turn their illness into a constant stream of content by posting videos, documenting the minutiae of their pain and suffering, and making their sickness a recurring focal point of their public persona. While some may argue, “We post to raise awareness, educate others, and share our experiences,” the question remains - Does raising awareness truly require disclosing every detail? Must every painful experience be turned into visual content for public display? Have not countless others endured the same trials and experienced the same pain, perhaps suffering even more intensely, yet chosen to keep that part of their lives private?

“Raising awareness does not require parading one’s anguish or documenting every moment of vulnerability. One can share an experience, benefit others, and leave a meaningful impact without making pain the defining feature of one’s public presence. How painful it is to witness a time when illness, once something a person might have concealed out of modesty, seeking its reward from Allah alone, has become content for online platforms where its worth is measured in views, comments, and interactions. Since when did personal suffering become public news? Since when did medical privacy become a spectacle for strangers?

“There is nothing wrong with asking for prayers when life feels overwhelming, nor is there any harm in sharing one’s struggles with loved ones. The tragedy lies in turning suffering into a repetitive public display, as though illness had become a means of eliciting sympathy and attracting new followers. Even more distressing is that some do not stop at announcing their illness but turn its details into daily content - a photo here, an update there, an emotionally charged message, followed by an eager watch for reactions. Gradually, the focus shifts from enduring the trial to monitoring who is witnessing it, until a person becomes more preoccupied with the eyes watching their suffering than with the One in whose hands lies their healing.

“When, I wonder, did we begin seeking solace in the sympathy of people while the door to Allah - a door that never closes - remains open to us? There is a profound difference between saying, “Please pray for me; perhaps one of your sincere prayers will coincide with a moment when prayers are answered,” and turning one’s illness into an ongoing saga, recounting every detail before the public in pursuit of renewed attention and engagement.

“Sadly, certain social media platforms have driven people to chase numbers, even in their most vulnerable moments. Instead of serving as a time for introspection, tranquility, and turning to Allah, a health crisis has, for some, become an opportunity to gain followers, expand their reach, and craft a narrative designed to elicit sympathy. Not everything we feel needs to be published, not every pain requires an audience, and not every tear needs to be witnessed by others. Some forms of suffering are more beautiful when kept between the servant and their Lord. The reward for certain trials may be far greater when the afflicted person simply says, “Allah has decreed this, and He does as He wills,” then moves forward with a contented heart, seeking their reward from Allah alone.

“We do not oppose asking for prayers; rather, we object to turning a trial into a commodity, illness into content, and tears into a means of attracting attention. Turn your gaze toward the heavens before looking at your screen, and raise your hands to the One in whose hands lies all healing. What is with Allah is everlasting, and the most sincere prayer may come from a single person without the world ever knowing your story. In closing, we ask Allah to grant healing and well-being to every patient.”

Also:

“Stephen Richards Covey was one of

America’s leading authors and thinkers in leadership, management, personal development, and personal effectiveness,” columnist **Bassam Fahad Thuniyan Al-Ghanim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Born in 1932 in Utah, USA, Covey studied business administration, and earned an MBA from Harvard University and then a PhD from Brigham Young University, where he later served in teaching and academic administration. His work focused on human behavior, leadership, prioritization, relationship management, and character development grounded in values and principles. Covey did not view success as merely a collection of quick tricks or techniques for influencing others. Rather, he believed that lasting success begins within, from an individual’s mindset, principles, and habits, and ultimately reflected in their choices, relationships, and work.

“He gained international recognition for his groundbreaking book, “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People”. He also authored several other works on leadership, family dynamics, and personal effectiveness, and played a key role in establishing organizations dedicated to training and leadership development. Covey passed away in 2012, leaving behind a vast legacy in the fields of management, leadership, and personal development.

“The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” was published in 1989. Covey presented it not as a fleeting motivational book, but as a comprehensive framework for personal transformation, drawing on years of studying and analyzing the literature on success. He observed that earlier writings emphasized integrity, patience, responsibility, fairness, courage, and discipline, whereas much of the modern literature focused on outward image, techniques of influence, and interpersonal skills. Consequently, Covey built his concept around a return to character and principles as the foundation of true effectiveness.

“From this perspective, the seven habits form a progressive path for human growth rather than a collection of seven isolated tips. They begin with what Covey calls the “Private Victory,” achieved through the habits “Be Proactive,” “Begin with the End in Mind,” and “Put First Things First.” The journey then moves toward the “Public Victory” through “Think Win-Win,” “Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood,” and “Synergize.” Finally, the process culminates in the seventh habit, “Sharpen the Saw,” which represents the continuous renewal of the individual and the development of their capabilities.

“The first habit is “Be Proactive.” For Covey, proactivity does not simply mean acting quickly or making quick decisions. Rather, it means recognizing that a space exists between what happens to us and how we respond, a space in which we retain the freedom to choose. Circumstances may influence us, but they need not dictate our decisions entirely. Covey distinguishes between the “Circle of Concern,” which encompasses everything that worries us, and the “Circle of Influence,” which includes what we can actually change.

“He argues that highly effective people direct their energy toward what they can influence rather than exhausting themselves by complaining about circumstances beyond their control. The second habit is “Begin with the End in Mind.” Covey encourages individuals to define their destination before setting out, recognizing that constant movement does not necessarily mean progress; one can move quickly and still be heading in the wrong direction. A clear personal vision, based on values and goals, therefore becomes the foundation for daily decisions. Success lies not merely in how quickly one climbs the ladder, but in ensuring that the ladder is leaning against the right wall.

“The third habit, “Put First Things First,” marks the transition from vision to execution. Knowing what you want is not enough if you fail to devote your time and attention to what truly matters. A person may be busy throughout the day, feeling productive, yet make little meaningful progress toward their goals. Here, Covey distinguishes between what is “important” and what is “urgent,” emphasizing that true effectiveness lies in recognizing what deserves priority, what can be postponed, and what should be declined altogether.

“This concludes the first stage of the book, which Covey calls “Private Victory.” It marks the shift from being driven by circumstances and the actions of others to taking responsibility for oneself, defining one’s goals, and establishing clear priorities. This stage lays the foundation for what follows - building meaningful relationships, collaborating with others to achieve “Public Victory,” and ultimately embracing continuous renewal to sustain personal effectiveness and growth.”

– Compiled by Simi K. Kuty



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Permanent National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants participates in the forum to combat human trafficking in the Middle East.

Kuwait joins world in protecting rights, dignity

MANAMA, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Permanent National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants participated on Monday in the seventh session of the government forum to combat human trafficking in the Middle East, hosted by Bahrain on October 12-14.

In a statement received by KUNA, the committee said that the Kuwaiti delegation was

headed by Acting Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice for Technical and Administrative Affairs Nouf Al-Qabandi, with the participation of representatives from the national entities that are members of the committee.

Participation aims to enhance international and regional cooperation and share expertise in combating trafficking in persons and developing the mechanism of protecting

victims, it added.

The forum discusses some topics including the protection of domestic labor, children who are victims of trafficking in persons, methods using AI to develop efforts to combat this phenomenon and others, it noted. Kuwait’s participation came to show its keenness on enhancing international partnerships to protect human rights and human dignity.

Kuwait toils to cut disaster risks

KFF geared up to tackle emergencies: Al-Roumi

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Chief Major General Talal Al-Roumi affirmed Tuesday that Kuwait continued strengthening its efforts locally, regionally and internationally to reduce disaster risks and enhance emergency preparedness.

In a press statement marking the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, Al-Roumi said Kuwait, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, attaches great importance to strengthening its disaster risk management system and raising levels of readiness and preparedness to protect

lives, property and national assets.

He added that Kuwait continues to develop its preventive and operational capabilities at the local level while enhancing coordination and integration among relevant authorities.



Al-Roumi

enhance joint preparedness for emergencies and disasters.

Al-Roumi noted that Kuwait also continues

its international humanitarian role in supporting countries and communities affected by disasters and contributing to global efforts to reduce disaster risks, in line with the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

He stressed that disaster management is no longer limited to responding after disasters occur but increasingly focuses on anticipating risks, strengthening prevention and enhancing preparedness.

Al-Roumi affirmed that KFF will continue developing its human and technical capabilities, utilizing modern technologies and strengthening national and international partnerships to establish an integrated system that ensures the highest levels of security and safety for society.

‘Diwaniyas’ on gov’t property will be uprooted

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Kuwait Municipality stressed that protecting state properties is a shared responsibility, while affirming that efforts to deal with encroachments are ongoing, extending beyond temporary removal campaigns, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Speaking to the press during an inspection tour in Hawally Governorate, member of the central team at the Office of the Municipality Director General Mohammad Al-Jalawi revealed that the “Kuwait is More Beautiful without Encroachments” campaign launched in June plays a crucial role in ensuring public safety.

He stated that during the tour, the inspection team removed an unlicensed diwaniya set up near the sidewalk and utility lines after the grace period ended. He said the violator was warned earlier but failed to comply.

He commended the cooperation and prompt response of most property owners in voluntarily removing their violations, urging the remaining violators to take the initiative to remove them before the inspection teams arrive.

He also highlighted the significant role played by government entities participating in the campaign since its inception, like the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Interior and Environment Public Authority (EPA). He added that the Municipality urges citizens and residents to follow its official accounts to benefit from the awareness messages and guidelines published regularly, and to contact it regarding any regulatory requirements to ease procedures and ensure compliance with the regulations and bylaws.

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Juvenile acquitted of smoking in mall

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Court of Appeals acquitted a juvenile of smoking at The Avenues Mall, thereby, overturning a lower court ruling that put him under judicial probation for one month.

The higher court based its decision on doubts regarding the validity of the charge, indicating that the official violation report only stated that the infraction occurred in the mall without specifying the exact location, while the case file lacked evidence to convict the defendant.

It stressed that criminal judgments must be based on certainty rather than conjecture or speculation, and its doubt regarding the validity of the charge is sufficient ground for acquittal.

The Court of First Instance previously convicted the juvenile and ordered putting him under judicial probation for one month with the supervision of a probation officer. However, the Court of Appeals overturned this ruling and acquitted him, pursuant to Article 209 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Trials.

In an awareness message following the announcement of the verdict, Attorney Mohammad Al-Ansari stated that smoking harms the health of young people and those around them. He added that while smoking in enclosed public spaces is a violation punishable by law, proving the offense requires sufficient evidence.

He called for raising awareness among young people regarding the dangers of smoking and the relevant legal provisions, pointing out that a violation some might consider minor could lead to legal proceedings reaching the Juvenile Court.

□ □ □

61 wheel locks placed: The General Traffic Department in the Ministry of Interior continued its enforcement campaigns, focusing on ‘no-parking’ and obstruction of traffic flow violations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The traffic officers placed 61 wheel clamps on violating vehicles in the last 24 hours.

A security source stated that these campaigns are ongoing in all governorates, while urging the public to fully abide by the traffic regulations to avoid legal problems.

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‘Arabs must join forces to boost power production’

Kuwait eyes exchange of knowhow: Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem

RIYADH, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwait attaches great importance to strengthening Arab cooperation in the electricity sector, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Sa-beeh Al-Mukhaizeem said on Monday.

He also described the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity as a key platform for coordinating efforts and developing partnerships to support energy security and meet Arab countries’ development needs.

Al-Mukhaizeem made the remarks while heading Kuwait’s delegation to the 16th session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity, held in Riyadh under the chairmanship of Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Sa-beeh Al-Mukhaizeem attends the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity session in Riyadh.

Salman.

“We look forward through this participation to strengthening joint Arab action and translating available expertise and capabilities into practical programs and projects

that help improve the efficiency of electricity systems, expand the use of renewable energy and enhance our countries’ readiness to meet future needs,” he said.

He added that Kuwait believes

integration of efforts and the exchange of knowledge form a solid foundation for achieving energy security and sustainability in a way that serves the interests of Arab countries and the aspirations of their peoples.

The council discussed a report by the head of its Executive Bureau on activities between its 15th and 16th sessions, along with reports and recommendations from specialized committees dealing with electricity, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

It also reviewed the outcomes of a joint meeting of expert committees to support ongoing cooperation programs and advance Arab action in these fields.

The session also addressed organizational matters, including amendments to the council’s internal regulations, the formation of its Executive Bureau, and the date and venue of its next session.

Kuwait stresses commitment to Seville agreement

NEW YORK, Oct 13, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait on Monday underlined the importance of implementing the Seville Commitment, meeting official development assistance commitments, boosting concessional financing and addressing debt burdens to help developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and protect essential services, while respecting national ownership and development priorities.

This came in Kuwait’s speech delivered by Diplomatic Attache Abdullah Bousakhr before UN Gen-

eral Assembly Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee) on the discussion of Item two on sustainable development.

Bousakhr called for providing new and additional climate financing that is predictable and accessible to support adaptation and build resilience, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

He stressed the importance of technology transfer, capacity-building and strengthening South-South cooperation to exchange expertise in water management and sustain-

able agriculture.

He noted that the 2026 Sustainable Development Goals Report showed that only 36 percent of assessable targets were on track or making moderate progress.

Bousakhr called for aligning the goals with national plans and budgets, directing investments toward strengthening water, food and energy security, and developing statistical capacities to measure the impact of development on people’s lives.

Within the framework of Kuwait Vision 2035, Kuwait is paying much attention to the protection of envi-

ronment and the efficient use of resources as well as the enhancement of sustainable types of consumption and production.

On challenges facing development, Bousakhr reiterated Kuwait’s robust condemnation of the Iranian attacks targeting its territories, calling for the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2817 and Irans immediate cessation of threats and acts that disrupt lawful transit passage or freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, or threaten maritime security in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.



Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs Ambassador Samih Hayat, Mamadou Aliou Sow, Chargé d’Affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Guinea in Kuwait during the cake-cutting ceremony.

Embassy marks National Day

Kuwait, Guinea to up ties in food security & trade

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs Ambassador Samih Hayat affirmed that relations between Kuwait and Guinea are historic, dating back to 1964.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Embassy of the Republic of Guinea’s celebration of the 68th Independence Day of Guinea, Hayat cited the exchange of high-level visits between the two nations and expressed an aspiration to strengthen cooperation in the coming period, particularly in the fields of food security and direct investment.

He stated that the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has long contributed to infrastructure projects in Guinea, complementing the longstanding role played by Kuwaiti charitable organizations in the country.

He added that the coming period might witness an increased Kuwaiti presence in Guinea, especially regarding food security, expressing hope that Kuwaiti companies will enter the market to invest in this sector in order to solidify economic cooperation and serve mutual interests. He also confirmed a move toward signing an agreement between the two countries in the near future, hinting on his intention to visit Guinea once full consensus is reached on the matters under discussion -- a step that will elevate bilateral relations to broader horizons.

Meanwhile, Mamadou Aliou Sow, Chargé

d’Affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Guinea in Kuwait, said his country is keen on strengthening economic and investment partnerships with Kuwait.

He urged the Kuwaiti government, private sector, investment institutions and development funds to explore promising opportunities in the Guinean market.

He commended the role played by KFAED in supporting development projects in his country, particularly in the roads, infrastructure, education, health and rural development, stressing that these contributions reflect the depth of relations rooted in solidarity and cooperation.

He shed light on the diverse investment opportunities available in Guinea, covering a number of fields like bauxite, gold, iron, ore, agriculture, energy, manufacturing, infrastructure and tourism. He confirmed the aspiration of his country to expand cooperation with Kuwaiti investors in these fields.

He called for increased participation by Kuwaiti investors in Guinean development projects to establish a partnership based on mutual benefit and sustainable development, aligning with the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

He added that his country is continuing its efforts to develop institutions, strengthen governance, combat corruption, and invest in infrastructure, education, health and energy, as part of its drive to achieve sustainable economic and social development.

Continued from Page 1

1,311 teacher

The assessment was based on specific criteria, including a minimum distance of 16 kilometers between a teacher’s residence and the new school, health conditions, responsibility for caring for individuals with disabilities or special needs, and social or family circumstances warranting consideration. All such circumstances were verified through official documents and reports.

Some cases involved circumstances not recorded in the “Teacher Registry” system, requiring verification through official documents and reports submitted with the grievance applications to ensure accurate assessment and compliance with established criteria. All grievances were reviewed and verified in accordance with approved guidelines.

Requests that were rejected did not meet the specified criteria and requirements following a thorough assessment. All decisions were based on standardized criteria designed to ensure fairness and equal opportunity.

The ministry instructed teaching staff affected by the redistribution decisions, including those whose grievances were upheld, to check their status through the “Qararati” (My Decisions) service on the ministry’s website.

Through the “Teacher and Administrator Registry” system, staff can complete the procedures electronically to be released from their previous assignments and commence duty at their newly assigned schools.

The ministry explained that the principal of the former school must approve the release, while the principal of the new school approves the commencement of duty. Biometric data is then transferred automatically through the electronic system following approval, eliminating the need for staff to visit administrative offices and ensuring faster processing and continuity of school operations.

Furthermore, the ministry announced the results of the teaching staff redistribution following the review of grievances, noting that the proportion of teachers whose workloads fall within appropriate limits had risen to 75 percent across all educational zones, up from 34 percent before the plan was implemented.

It affirmed that these results reflect the sustained positive impact of the redistribution plan in promoting fairness and balance in teaching workloads across schools and establishing a staffing allocation model based on actual needs. The ministry stressed that grievance-related procedures had been completed without compromising the plan’s core objectives of administrative reform.

It explained that the proportion of teachers with workloads within approved limits had increased across all educational zones.

Specifically, the proportion increased from 36 percent to 84 percent in the Capital Educational Zone, from 38 percent to 82 percent in both Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer educational zones, from 32 percent to 73 percent in Hawally Educational Zone, from 36 percent to 70 percent in Ahmadi Educational Zone, and from 30 percent to 64 percent in Jahra Educational Zone.

These figures reflect progress in reducing disparities in teaching workloads among schools and promoting a fair and balanced distribution of educational duties based on the number of classes, student enrollment, and each school’s actual needs. This approach is intended to ensure the efficient use of available teaching staff.

Regarding the continued high workloads in certain subjects, the ministry explained that these are attributable to shortages of teachers in specific specializations.

The redistribution process has helped reduce disparities and address some existing staffing needs. Efforts are continuing to resolve the remaining shortages based on the specific requirements of each subject, ensuring the smooth delivery of classes and the stability of the educational process.

The ministry emphasized that the adminis-

trative reform plan is part of its efforts to address observations raised by oversight bodies regarding the efficiency of teacher distribution across educational zones and to optimize the use of human resources.

The plan also aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 4, which seeks to ensure inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all.

The ministry revealed that it had reviewed human resource distribution, assessed schools’ actual staffing needs, and implemented the necessary regulatory measures to address disparities in teaching workloads, adding that these efforts aim to promote fairness in staff allocation, improve the efficiency of human resource utilization, and enhance public spending efficiency. The ministry further noted that report indicators showed a decline in the national average student-to-teacher ratio from 5:1 in the 2022/2023 academic year to 4:1 in 2024/2025, despite continued disparities in the distribution of teaching staff across schools and educational zones.

It explained that international indicators published in the OECD’s “Education at a Glance 2024” report show average student-to-teacher ratios of approximately 14:1 at the primary level and 13:1 at the intermediate and secondary levels. These figures serve as benchmarks for international comparison, taking into account differences between education systems and the methodologies used to calculate the ratios. The use of these indicators forms part of its efforts to address observations raised by oversight bodies regarding disparities in teacher distribution across schools and educational zones.

It also aims to improve human resource planning based on actual needs, align with the Sustainable Development Goals, and ensure the optimal use of teaching staff.

The teacher redistribution plan is a reform measure intended to promote fairness and balance in teaching workloads while improving the efficiency of human resource utilization and public spending. These efforts support Kuwait’s drive to improve education indicators and strengthen its standing in international reports and assessments related to educational quality and sustainable development.

Furthermore, the ministry affirmed that the plan’s objectives extend beyond regulating teachers’ workloads to ensuring the stability of the educational process by allocating teaching staff according to each school’s actual needs, adding that this approach supports consistent scheduling, ensures full class coverage, and fosters a more stable educational environment in which teachers can focus on fulfilling their educational and pedagogical responsibilities.

The ministry concluded by reaffirming its commitment to implementing the administrative reform plan in accordance with clear, standardized criteria. It will continue to monitor the outcomes of staff redistribution and address schools’ existing needs to promote fairness in human resource allocation, improve the efficiency of the educational process, ensure school stability, and maintain the regular delivery of classes. These efforts are guided by the principle that learners’ best interests and the quality of education remain the fundamental objectives of all administrative reform and development initiatives.

Kuwait honors

Remembering and honoring the martyrs is a national duty reflecting loyalty to their sacrifices and commitment to keeping their noble legacy alive in the hearts of the Kuwaiti people, he affirmed. Al-Ghanem was accompanied by Kuwait’s Military Attache to Egypt Brigadier Staff Dhari Al-Hajri and Second Secretary Dr. Khaled Al-Salloum.

The Kuwaiti diplomatic and military delegation was received at the military cemeteries by Third Field Army Chief of Staff Major General Tareq Talaba and several Egyptian military leaders.





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Riyadh turns

Cabinet described the attacks as a flagrant violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and international law.

The Cabinet called for a firm international stance to halt the attacks and hold those responsible accountable, reaffirming Kuwait's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for all measures it takes to protect its security, stability and sovereignty.

It stressed that Saudi Arabia's security is inseparable from that of Kuwait and the GCC countries, while extending Kuwait's sincere condolences to the Saudi leadership, government and people, as well as the governments and peoples of the countries to which the victims belonged and their families. It also wished the injured a speedy recovery.

The Cabinet was briefed on a phone call received by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from Iraqi President Nizar Amedi on Monday. The two sides reviewed the longstanding bilateral relations and ways to strengthen cooperation, discussed issues of mutual concern and exchanged views on regional and international developments, particularly the current situation in the region.

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

The Cabinet was also briefed on meetings held on Monday by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy, who was visiting Kuwait officially.

The talks focused on advancing joint Arab action and developing the Arab League's mechanisms to better serve Arab causes and address current challenges, alongside regional developments and issues of mutual concern.

The Cabinet heard a briefing from Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on the political and diplomatic efforts undertaken by the ministry and Kuwait's diplomatic missions abroad to keep pace with the latest regional and international developments.

In this context, it was informed of a telephone call received by the foreign minister on Sunday from Yemeni Foreign Minister and Minister of Expatriate Affairs Afrah Abdulaziz Al-Zoubia.

During the call, he reiterated Kuwait's support for Yemen's legitimate government, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The Cabinet discussed several items on its agenda, including reports and minutes of ministerial committees, approving a number of them and

referring others to the relevant committees for further study and recommendations before completing the necessary procedures.

Kuwait on Tuesday expressed its solidarity with Saudi Arabia at a time when Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi group has stepped up attacks on the Gulf Arab kingdom's civilian infrastructure, simultaneously condemning Iranian attacks targeting regional countries and commercial shipping traffic.

The Iranian attacks throw into peril the security, stability and sovereignty of regional countries, while strikes on civilian infrastructure result in severe human casualties that constitute grave violation of international laws, Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Nasser Al-Heyn told UN Human Rights Council executive committee talks in Geneva.

The Kuwaiti diplomat went on to reiterate his country's "grave concerns" over the "economic, humanitarian and security" ramifications of these attacks, urging the need to ratchet up diplomacy in a bid to quell the unrest and resolve regional conflicts, he said.

On such consequences, he cited energy security and supply disruptions as "exacerbating the misery," of people around the wider region, stressing the use of diplomacy as the only viable solution to ensure the region's security and the safety of global maritime corridors, added the Kuwaiti diplomat.

Elsewhere, ministers from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC oil-producing countries participating in the Declaration of Cooperation (OPEC+) stressed the importance of protecting international maritime routes to ensure uninterrupted energy supplies.

The ministers warned that current disruptions to energy flows have driven shipping and insurance costs to unprecedented levels, according to an OPEC press statement issued Tuesday following a meeting held Monday on the sidelines of the 17th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting and the World Energy Council's 25th World Energy Congress in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

They reiterated the critical importance of safeguarding international maritime routes to ensure the uninterrupted flow of energy supplies.

The ministers noted that current disruptions to energy flows have pushed shipping and insurance costs to unprecedented levels, exceeding one-third of the value of goods, hampering the timely and efficient transportation of crude oil and petroleum products and increasing inflationary pressures on the global economy.

In Riyadh, the Saudi Cabinet

warned on Tuesday that the Houthi militia would face the consequences of its repeated attacks on the Kingdom's airports, Makkah and Madinah.

The warning came during a Cabinet session in Riyadh chaired by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman, according to a statement delivered by Saudi Minister of Media Salman Al-Dossary following the meeting.

The Cabinet extended its deepest condolences to the families of victims of the attacks and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

It praised the Saudi armed forces for their firm role in defending the homeland, safeguarding its achievements and resources, and deterring any aggression or threat to the Kingdom's sovereignty and the safety of its citizens and residents.

The Cabinet said Saudi Arabia would remain a land of security and stability, pursuing further progress and prosperity while continuing its efforts to promote peace and stability in the region and the world.

It also commended the military operations carried out by the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen to neutralize the threat posed by the Houthi militia to the Yemeni people, international peace and security, global trade and international supply chains.

The Cabinet stressed that the Kingdom would not allow its security or freedom of maritime navigation in the Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandab Strait to be threatened.

It also expressed appreciation for the positions of brotherly and friendly countries and international organizations that condemned the militia's actions.

The Cabinet further praised the successful restoration of oil flows through the East-West Pipeline, attributing the achievement to the efforts of Saudi personnel.

It said the rapid recovery demonstrated the resilience of the Kingdom's energy system and its capacity to develop technical solutions and respond to emergencies, ensuring reliable supplies to international markets and supporting the global economy.

Arab Coalition spokesman Major General Turki Al-Maliki said on Tuesday that the coalition's Joint Forces Command had called on civilians to evacuate the Yemen Oil Company's Al-Sabaha Central Station in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, for their safety.

In a brief statement, Al-Maliki said the evacuation request was based on an illustrative map of the site.

Earlier, the coalition spokesman announced that a warning would be issued for civilians to evacuate a site in Sanaa ahead of a targeted operation.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels and a Saudi Arabia-led coalition on

Tuesday threatened to carry out new strikes against each other, a fresh escalation in the widening crisis in the Middle East.

Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said on Telegram that any Saudi attack on Sanaa would be met with a "firm and painful" response in Riyadh.

The area to be evacuated in western Sanaa, al-Subaha, is on a hill overlooking the capital. It is not a populated area, but the fuel station nearby is used by the public.

The back-and-forth threats come as Saudi Arabia is scrambling to determine how its air defenses failed to intercept a barrage of missiles and drones fired by the Houthis, including an attack on Riyadh's international airport on Saturday that killed at least 13 people and wounded over 300.

The latest conflict between the Saudis and the Houthis began last month after the rebels seized key areas along the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a critical waterway for the transport of Gulf oil and other goods at the southern end of the Red Sea off Yemen.

The Saudi-led coalition, backing forces aligned with Yemen's internationally recognized government, has been trying to retake them.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty called for the Houthis to immediately halt attacks on Saudi Arabia.

"There is no justification for these attacks, and they cannot be accepted," Abdelatty told Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in a phone call Tuesday.

Abdelatty also called for prioritizing diplomacy and a political solution to the conflict between Iran and the United States to avert "further escalation and instability" in the region, according to the Egyptian readout of the call.

The Saudi-led coalition said earlier Tuesday that three drones were intercepted north of Riyadh.

These changes reduce the number of hours of daytime heating, paving the way for a gradual decline in temperatures.

The season begins with the Al-Awwa phase, characterized by mild daytime temperatures, cool nights, shorter daylight hours, and longer nights, with later sunrises and earlier sunsets. The period also coincides with bird migration.

Al-Wasm is also associated with rainfall that encourages the growth of wild plants and the renewal of vegetation. The season is also linked to the emergence of desert truffles (faq'a), depending on prevailing rainfall conditions.

Elegance of

This symbolic bond stands on solid footing, as the Kingdom remains a steady beacon amidst the turbulent waters that frequently affect the Gulf. Nevertheless, as long as there is unyielding faith in the ability to overcome challenges and a strong commitment to turn challenges into avenues for progress in every sector, such turbulent waves will break to no avail.

Great aspirations, driven by unwavering determination, consistently transform into tangible reality for everyone to see. This is a reflection of the divine saying: "As for the foam, it passes away as scum upon the banks, while that which is of benefit to the people remains on Earth." Guided by this fact, the Kingdom steadily progresses, undeterred by hardships.

Over the past five decades, this distinguished kingdom has withstood repeated acts of sabotage by the Iranian regime, rising stronger after every trial.

Today, under the guidance of its King and the diligent supervision of the Crown Prince, Bahrain continues to develop in all sectors, disregarding the destructive plots of its adversaries.

Bahrain stands as a paragon of steadfastness, enduring the hostility of an ambitious neighbor with patience that rises higher than Iran's Alborz Mountains.

A profound sense of optimism illuminated the speech delivered by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa two days ago, offering hope even after the unfathomable suffering caused by Iran in Bahrain and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

Social stability and the essential sense of security, the 'lungs' through which the region breathes, were severely disrupted by a small group of radicalized individuals.

Through decisive action, the Kingdom eliminated these subversive elements and reclaimed its place of freedom and refinement. It continues as an active GCC member and historic crossroads connecting the Gulf, East and West.

This success highlights the strategic vision of King Hamad bin Isa and the Crown Prince, as well as the resilience of the Bahraini people who remain vigilant and are capable of navigating complex trials.

Surrounded by ancient seas, this nation has always produced rare pearls despite the deepest waters of adversity. Guided by a leadership committed to national dignity, its people excel at overcoming every obstacle.

Ultimately, the 'Monte Carlo' of the Gulf exemplifies a rare harmony of elegance and lasting strength.

Kuwait fines

A further KD 135,000 in fines was imposed on 27 establishments operating in the gold, precious stones and precious metals trade for similar reporting violations, at KD 5,000 per violation.

The ministry affirmed that it would continue monitoring compliance with anti-money laundering regulations and taking the necessary legal action against violators to safeguard the integrity of financial and commercial transactions.

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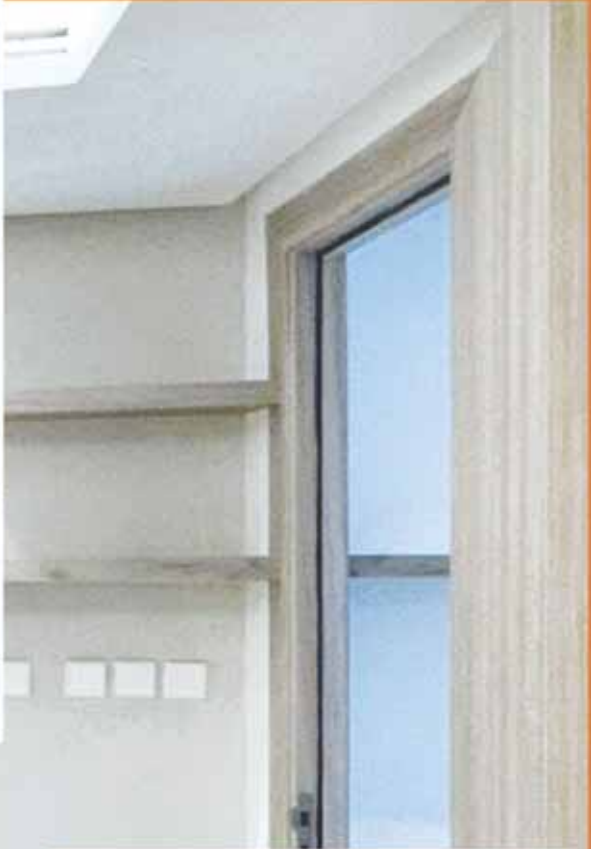
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Omar will ‘not be silenced’ after Homeland Security searches home

WASHINGTON, Oct 13, (AP): Federal agents on Monday searched the home of Democratic US Rep **Ilhan Omar**, a startling escalation in a criminal investigation that brings renewed focus to the frequent target of Trump administration derision in the final weeks of her reelection bid.

The search of the Minnesota congresswoman’s home so close to next month’s midterm contests that will determine control of the House and the Senate was swiftly condemned by top Democrats in Congress, who raised questions about the timing given longstanding Justice Department protocol to avoid overt investigative steps involving political candidates in

the direct run-up to an election. Omar, an outspoken critic of President Donald Trump, said she was being targeted as one of the Republican’s “political enemies.”

The scope of the investigation was unclear, though Trump and officials in his administration have repeatedly referred in recent months to the existence of an inquiry into Omar, a Somali-born Democrat whose status as an immigrant to the US and left-wing views have drawn scrutiny from the White House and other Republicans.

Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin last month cited an “ongoing investigation” that he suggested was examining potential fraud in her family’s immigration paperwork. “Something’s going to happen,” he said in a potential foreshadowing of the search.

In a statement on X on Monday, Omar called the search an “attempt to target political enemies and weaponize federal law enforcement.”

Canada’s Prime Minister Carney makes case for Canadian unity as Alberta referendum nears

TORONTO, Oct 13, (AP): Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Monday urged Alberta to remain in Canada, warning that a vote next week on whether to hold a referendum on leaving Canada would begin a “long and uncertain process” at a dangerous time for the country.

“This year, Thanksgiving is a bit different,” Carney said in a holiday message to Canadians. “A week from today, Albertans will have the opportunity to make an important decision about their future, whether to remain part of Canada or begin a long and uncertain process through which Alberta could separate from Canada.”

Canada celebrates Thanksgiving in October, unlike the US, where it falls in late November.

The Oct. 19 vote asks Albertans whether the province should remain in Canada or begin the process of holding a referendum on separation.

Alberta’s independence movement has grown after years of organizing. Some of its leaders emerged



Prime Minister Mark Carney announces a new federal heat pump rebate program while visiting Dettson, a manufacturer of residential and commercial HVAC systems in Sherbrooke, Quebec on Oct 8. (AP)

from the 2022 “Freedom Convoy,” which began as a protest against the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for cross-border truckers and grew into

weeks of demonstrations against pandemic restrictions and then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s Liberal government.

The vote comes as US President Donald Trump’s trade war and threats to Canada’s sovereignty have badly strained relations between the longtime allies. Trump has repeatedly talked about making Canada the 51st US state.

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith, who called the vote, supports remaining in Canada. She has said recent polling put support for separation at roughly 22%, a level she called “still too high for my liking.”

Keith Wilson, a leader of the independence movement, urged Albertans to back a path toward a separation referendum, arguing the province needs “leverage and lasting change” in its dealings with Ottawa. “What protects us when Ottawa turns against Alberta again?” he wrote on social media.

Carney, who grew up in Edmonton, pointed to a proposed West Coast pipeline from oil-rich Alberta as an example of what the province can achieve within Canada.

Musk quietly becomes biggest known donor in midterm contests

Trump attacks immigrants while rallying in Ohio for Republican candidates

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Oct 13, (Agencies): US President Donald Trump on Monday tried to boost Sen. Jon Husted’s reelection campaign by attacking two groups of Black immigrants during a rally in Ohio, where an organization with Republican ties began promoting a socialist candidate over Democratic nominee Sherrod Brown.

Trump also gave a shoutout to Rep. Max Miller, the Republican congressman who refused to stop running for reelection after facing accusations of domestic abuse, pointing him out in the audience.

“Thank you, Max, for coming,” Trump said. “Thank you. Very good.”

Trump focused, however, on a favorite issue - immigration. Trump has long targeted Minnesota’s large population of Somali immigrants and on Monday he linked that group to Haitians in Springfield, Ohio. During a presidential debate two years ago, Trump falsely accused the latter group of eating pets. Referencing those allegations Monday, Trump said “I was right” and boasted that Haitians were being driven out of the country by his administration’s policies.

“If you want to stop Ohio from being plundered, ransacked and destroyed like Minnesota is being destroyed, we’re going to stop it,” Trump said. “Just like we did with

Springfield, we’re going to stop it, we’re not going to let it happen.”

Trump’s remarks came on the same day Homeland Security agents searched the Washington home of Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar, a Somali immigrant who represents a Minnesota district.

The president visited Youngstown less than a week after rallying in Dayton. The intense focus on Ohio, a state Trump won by 11 percentage points, shows the challenging environment Republicans are navigating in the midterms amid the Iran war and lingering inflation. In addition to the Senate contest, Republican Vivek Ramaswamy is locked in a close governor’s race with Democrat Amy Acton.

The rally was also a reminder of the extent Trump is willing to go to boost his allies - he announced a new submarine component manufacturing center will be located in nearby Cleveland during the rally - and his persistent focus on Black immigrants.

Back in 2018, Trump privately complained about immigrants from countries like Haiti - using an expletive to describe them - and wondering why the United States couldn’t get more migrants from places like Norway. The statement was condemned as racist and Trump denied making it at the time.

But Trump admitted using the phrase last year, and his second administration has focused on restrict-



US President Donald Trump gestures at a campaign rally at the Covelli Centre, in Youngstown, Ohio on Oct 12. (AP)

ing immigration and barring any refugees except white South Africans.

During the rally, he celebrated what he contended was an exodus of Haitians out of Springfield. The Trump administration ended a program that allowed more than 350,000 Haitians to stay in the country legally, which some of the roughly 15,000 Haitians who arrived in Springfield, population 60,000, in recent years.

“They’re getting their town back,” Trump said about the original residents of Springfield, and he also stood by his debunked statement at the

challenge from Brown, a longtime senator who lost his seat to Republican Bernie Moreno in 2024.

The presidential visit came after mailers, sponsored by Enough Promises Ohio PAC, began arriving in voters’ mailboxes in recent days. They promote independent candidate Greg Levy over Brown with messages such as “Join the Revolution” and “Send a Worker to the Senate.” Levy describes himself as “Socialist running for the U.S. Senate to represent Ohio in 2026” on his X account.

Levy condemned the fliers for falsely impersonating his campaign and engaging in “dirty tricks” designed to mislead voters. He said he is considering legal action.

“This is a highly undemocratic practice and does a disservice to voters in Ohio and throughout the country,” he wrote on X.

According to Federal Election Commission filings, Enough Promises Ohio was founded Sept. 29. It has not yet had to disclose its contributors, but additional federal filings lay out a trail of associations linked to Republicans.

Enough Promises paid the firm Seven Farms more than \$397,000 on two dates last week for printing, postage and mail services either supporting Levy or opposing Brown. Seven Farms, also a new entity, lists as its address the same South Caro-

lina business suite as the one used by Whistlestop Strategies LLC.

Whistlestop is a direct mail outfit operated by Big Dog Strategies LLC, the strategy firm that advises Trump’s MAGA Inc. super PAC and that managed Moreno’s successful campaign against Brown in 2024.

Enough Promises Ohio and Big Dog did not respond to requests for comment.

Also:

NEW YORK: Elon Musk, the world’s only trillionaire, has quietly become the biggest known donor in this year’s midterm elections, doling out more than \$276 million since July to try to save Republican majorities in Congress.

The numbers, first reported by the New York Times ahead of this week’s federal filing deadline, were confirmed by **Andrew Romeo**, a spokesperson for Musk’s super PAC.

The money includes \$158 million given to the Senate Leadership Fund, the main super PAC supporting Republican Senate candidates, one of the largest known political donations in American history, according to the Times.

Another \$76 million went to America PAC, a Musk super PAC, which has once again built out a major turn-out operation like the one it used to help elect President **Donald Trump** by knocking on doors in 2024.



Firefighters put out a fire following a Russian air attack on a residential building in Kharkiv, Ukraine on Oct 13. (AP)

Europe

Pope Leo arrives at Gemelli hospital: Pope Leo XIV was admitted to Rome’s Gemelli hospital on Tuesday ahead of surgery later in the day to remove a lung nodule, an operation that experts say will determine whether the lesion is malignant and if other treatment is needed.

After the quick drive from the Vatican, Leo walked into the hospital through the main entrance and waved to dozens of well-wishers who had gathered to greet him. The Vatican said the surgery would be performed later in the afternoon by a team led by Gemelli’s chief thoracic surgeon, Dr. Stefano Margaritora.

The 71-year-old American pontiff has offered a rare level of transparency about the first publicly disclosed major health problem of his 17-month papacy. He revealed the discovery of the small, localized nodule during his Sunday noon prayer and announced that he would have it removed.

Oncologists say even if the nodule turns out to be cancerous, Leo’s prognosis is “excellent” since it will have been removed at an early stage. (AP)

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‘Ukraine received no early warning’: Ukraine received no early warning from its partners about a Russian ballistic missile strike on Kyiv in which five missiles hit civilian infrastructure, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday in a post on X.

Zelenskyy characterized the barrage on the capital as “particularly vile,” and emphasized that receiving

intelligence from Ukraine’s partners on such ballistic missile attacks “helps save lives, and this is one of the most critical issues.”

“This is precisely what helps prevent people from being killed - when there is an early warning about ballistic missiles,” he wrote. He did not apportion blame for the lack of warning.

Russia’s war in Ukraine hasn’t seen major shifts on the ground since last year, but Ukraine is struggling to fend off Moscow’s intensified aerial attacks on cities that include speedy ballistic missiles and high-flying jet-powered drones. (AP)

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Russia blamed for Starlink attack: Poland is blaming Russia for an arson attack on a Starlink satellite station in September and two Turkish citizens have been arrested in connection with the suspected act of sabotage, authorities said.

The suspects, whose names were not released in line with Polish privacy rules, were arrested in Germany, Polish officials said Monday. They are accused of deliberately setting fire to Starlink infrastructure on Sept. 23 in Wola Krobowska, Poland, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Warsaw.

“We have no doubt that Russian intelligence services are behind this act of sabotage,” Tomasz Siemoniak, Poland’s minister overseeing intelligence services, said in a news release, noting that Russian intelligence services are increasingly turning to people with ties to the criminal underworld.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, in a post on X, called the incident “another act of hybrid warfare.”

Other details were not immediately available. The Poland arson in September was one of more than 210 incidents across Europe that Western officials consider sabotage and malign activity linked to Russia tracked by The Associated Press since Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. (AP)

Territory grapples with migration crisis

Spain’s king and queen visit Ceuta

CEUTA, Spain, Oct 13, (AP): King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia kicked off their first visit to Ceuta on Tuesday in a show of solidarity with residents of the Spanish city in North Africa as they grapple with a migration crisis that has strained relations with Morocco.

The royal couple will then travel to Melilla, Spain’s other North African enclave, on Wednesday. It will be the first visit by a Spanish monarch to the two cities since Felipe’s father, Juan Carlos I, toured them in 2007.

Their visit comes after about 80,000 migrants crossed Ceuta’s border in July, with more than 140 people dying.

While most of the people who pushed across the frontier quickly returned, thousands still remain in the Spanish city of 84,000 residents perched on the Mediterranean Sea. It’s unknown how many remain, though the mayor has estimated that there are still as many as 15,000.

Their presence has become a source of social tension in Ceuta and



Spain’s Queen Letizia greets the crowd during her visit to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on Oct 13. (AP)

a political issue across Spain, where opposition parties hope to use migration concerns to unseat the progressive government in elections next month.

During a recent visit to Ceuta, the AP found many underage migrants still living on the streets.

Some migrants have also come

forward with abuse allegations, which the Spanish government is investigating following the publication of an Amnesty International report that detailed allegations of mistreatment and torture by Spanish soldiers. One migrant told the AP that soldiers beat him so badly that he needed staples in his head for his injuries.

Drones hit ships in Black Sea, sinking 1 and prompting rescue ops: Bulgaria

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Oct 13, (AP): Drones struck two ships in the Black Sea off Bulgaria on Tuesday, sinking one and prompting emergency rescue operations, Prime Minister Rumen Radev said.

The Guinea-Bissau-flagged cargo ship Dignity sank after it was hit by a military strike. Five sailors were rescued, while a search for the other 11 crew members continues, Varna district governor Mario Smrkov said.

Rescuers evacuated all 15 crew members from the Ukrainian-operated coastal freighter Chelsea 3, sailing under the Maltese flag, with five receiving treatment for minor injuries, Radev said in a video posted to social media.

The crew, which included seven Ukrainian citizens and eight Azerbaijani citizens, reported the ship’s deck and hull were hit by three aerial drones.

The strikes on the two ships occurred 20 miles and 21 miles (32 and



Lyubomir Nikolov, Chief Secretary of the Ministry of Interior speaks to media at the port of Varna, Bulgaria on Oct 13. (AP)

34 kilometers) from the Bulgarian coast.

During an emergency meeting of Bulgaria’s Security Council on

Tuesday, Radev called the attacks “absolutely unacceptable” and said Bulgaria was seeking NATO and European Union assistance.

Some 24,000 families affected by Kanlaon Volcano eruption

Three of 4 impeachment articles against Philippine VP Duterte withdrawn

MANILA, Oct 13, (Xinhua): The prosecution panel for the Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial has dropped three out of four articles, said the lead public prosecutor and congressman Gerville Luistro on Tuesday, according to local media reports

Under the remaining article, Sara is alleged to have unexplained wealth which was not disclosed in the statement from 2022 to 2025.

Also:

MANILA: The eruption of Kanlaon Volcano on Saturday in the central Philippines has affected around 24,000 families, the country’s Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said Monday.

According to OCD, about 94,000 individuals have been affected by ash emissions from the “moderately explosive eruption” of Mount Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island. The event generated a plume that rose 5 km to 6 km above the crater.

Eight separate ash emission episodes at Kanlaon were observed on Sunday, while at least five episodes have been reported on Monday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

As of Monday, Kanlaon remains under Alert Level 2, with Level 5 as the highest on the scale, and PHIVOLCS said another explosive eruption is possible. Communities near Mount Kanlaon remain at risk of ashfall, volcanic gases, pyroclastic density currents, and ballistic projectiles should explosive eruptions recur.

PHIVOLCS suggested that the 4-kilometer permanent danger zone must remain evacuated, and communities within 6 km of the summit should stay vigilant and prepared in case the volcano is raised to Alert Level 3.

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Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte talks to reporters outside the Quezon City Hall of Justice on Oct 9, in Quezon city, Philippines. (AP)

MANILA: A businessman, 48, and his driver, 53, were shot dead inside their pickup truck in Panabo City,

The police said the victims were refueling their vehicles at a gas station when the motorcycle-riding suspect fired at close range.

Investigations are underway.

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

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

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

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

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MANILA: A man was killed, and his wife was severely injured after a pickup truck driven by a Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) staffer collided with their tricycle on Friday, local media reported on Saturday.

Local police said the couple was on their way to pick up their child, who worked at a fast-food restaurant, when the collision occurred at midnight on Friday.

The 33-year-old PCG member allegedly failed to notice the tricycle on the rainy night, appeared intoxicated, and was reportedly speeding before the crash, said local police.

After hitting the tricycle, the pickup truck hit a jeepney, whose driver was reportedly unharmed.

The PCG staffer is in custody.



Zhao Leji, chairman of the National People’s Congress Standing Committee, holds talks with Tran Thanh Man, chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam, in Beijing, capital of China on Oct 12. They co-chaired the second session of the joint committee between the legislative bodies. (Xinhua)

Chinese PM meets Vietnam’s National Assembly chairman

Chinese Premier Li Qiang met with Tran Thanh Man, chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam, in Beijing on Monday.

Reflecting “camaraderie plus brotherhood,” Li said China is willing to work with Vietnam to continue traditional friendship, enhance unity and mutual trust, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, better benefit the two peoples, and inject positive energy into promoting regional and global stability and prosperity.

Li said that China stands ready to enhance alignment of development strategies with the Vietnamese side, expand and optimize the economic and trade pie between the two countries, and continuously improve the quality and efficiency of cooperation in areas such as connectivity, artificial intelligence, clean energy and the digital economy. (Xinhua)

DPRK confirms test-firing of missile

Man stabs 8 in South Korean mall

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 13, (Agencies): A 59-year-old man stabbed at least eight people Tuesday at a shopping mall in the South Korean city of Incheon, police and fire officials said. One victim was in life-threatening condition and received surgery at a nearby hospital.

The suspect attacked shoppers as he moved through the mall before business owners and bystanders subdued him, according to Incheon’s Namdong District Police Station and witnesses.

The man has a history of violent offenses and mental illness and was required to wear an electronic monitoring anklet, according to South Korea’s Justice Ministry. The man’s name was not released, in keeping with South Korean practice for most criminal suspects.

Witnesses told South Korean media that the attacker appeared to have knives tied to both hands and stabbed people in different parts of the mall while moving up and down the floors on an escalator.

Nah Hyun-joon, who helped subdue the attacker using chairs with several other people, said he saw the man attack about four people in the second-floor food court before moving up to the third floor, where he



South Korean police officers and firefighters being mobilized outside of a shopping mall in Incheon, South Korea on Oct 13. (AP)

stabbed at least one woman.

Also:

PYONGYANG: The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) confirmed on Tuesday it test-fired a tactical ballistic missile a day earlier.

The test-launch was designed to verify what it called “the success in the research for the technical upgrading of an important core element,”

the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

The KCNA report calls Monday’s test event part of the regular activities “to put weapon systems on a highly-developed technological basis.”

The technical upgrading of the core element is a success “heralding an important change in improving the performance and sophistication of all offensive weapon systems,” it said.

Pakistan urges Afghan Taliban govt to stop militants from carrying out cross-border attacks

ISLAMABAD, Oct 13, (AP): Pakistan urged Afghanistan’s Taliban government Monday to stop militants from using Afghan territory to launch attacks inside Pakistan, renewing a warning that the same armed groups could eventually threaten the Taliban’s own rule.

Tensions between the neighbors have escalated amid repeated border clashes and Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan, deepening a longstanding dispute over militant activity. The United Nations Mission in Afghanistan said in September that it had documented more than 1,100 civilian deaths and injuries from cross-border violence in Afghanistan this year.

In a speech at a think tank broadcast on Pakistani television, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said he had already delivered a warning once to Afghan Prime Minister Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund, during a visit to Kabul in July 2025.

“I politely reminded him that if the Afghan authorities failed to take appropriate action against terrorist groups operating from their territory, the day would come when these very



Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar speaks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov during their meeting at the Russian Foreign Ministry headquarters in Moscow on Nov 18, 2025. (AP)

groups would threaten his government as well,” Dar said. He gave no details of Afghanistan’s response, but Afghan government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid rejected Pakistan’s accusations in a post on X, accusing Pakistani officials of undermining negotiations and prioritizing propaganda over solutions.

“Blaming Afghanistan for its own failures by Pakistani officials is no solution to any problem,” Mujahid wrote.

Pakistan’s Information Ministry rejected Mujahid’s remarks, saying on X that Islamabad remained committed to dialogue, but that progress required Kabul to fulfill its counter-terrorism commitments and take verifiable action against militant sanctuaries and support networks.

Pakistan frequently accuses Kabul of sheltering the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan, or TTP, as well as the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, or BLA, and al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, an affiliate of the global extremist network. The TTP is separate from but closely allied with Afghanistan’s ruling Taliban. Dar did not explain why he assumed that militants could turn against the Afghan Taliban.

Afghanistan’s Taliban government has repeatedly denied providing a safe haven for militants targeting Pakistan.

Dar said Pakistan’s diplomatic and economic overtures to Kabul had yielded no meaningful progress on its central security demand: action against militants operating from Afghan soil.



In this photo released by the Rescue 1122 Emergency Department, rescue workers recover an injured person from a derailed coach on the outskirts of Multan, in central Pakistan on Oct 13. (AP)

5 killed, 35 injured as passenger train derails in Pakistan’s Punjab

MULTAN, Pakistan, Oct 13, (AP): A passenger train derailed in central Pakistan early Tuesday, killing five people and injuring 35 others, police and a Pakistan Railways spokesman said.

The train was traveling from the southern port city of Karachi to the northwestern city of Peshawar when it derailed in Sher Shah city in Punjab province, railway spokesman Kaleem Akhtar said.

Rescuers recovered all four bodies and evacuated the injured from the train’s 14 cars, he said. The injured were taken to a hospital for treatment, but one died before he could be transported, rescue officials said. Emergency responders and paramedics were dispatched to the scene, he said.

Congo ex-president Kabila launches anti-govt front including M23 rebels

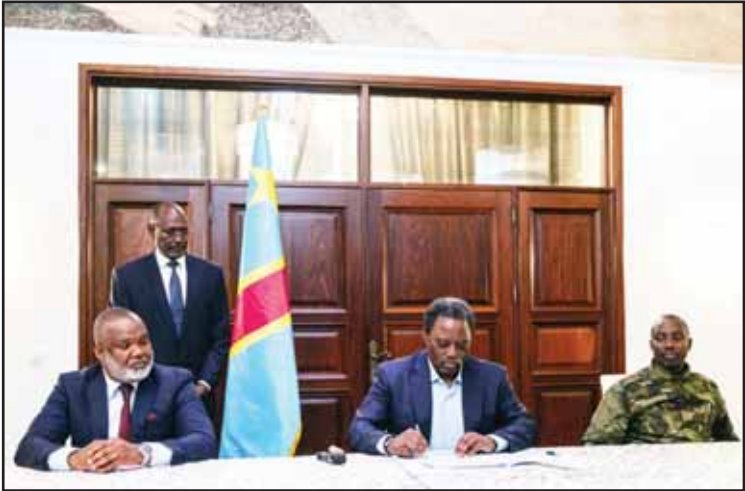
GOMA, Congo, Oct 13, (AP): Former Congolese president Joseph Kabila on Monday launched a new political and military coalition of groups opposed to the current government, including the M23 rebels who have captured wide swaths of territory in eastern Congo.

Kabila’s new Front for the Refoundation of the Nation, or FRN, includes rebel groups formerly united under the Congo River Alliance, whose former leader Corneille Nangaa will serve as one of the new coalition’s four vice presidents.

Coalition adviser Claude Ibalanky said at a news conference late Monday at Kabila’s residence in the eastern city of Goma that the FRN’s mission is to restore the pillars of a functioning republic. It aims to “unite and coordinate all resistance forces in order to put an end to tyranny - by any means necessary, including the use of force,” Ibalanky said.

“The signatories have decided to pool their forces, resources, and means to create a framework for action through which all Congolese people, acting in unison, will undertake the task of liberating their country,” Ibalanky said.

President Felix Tshisekedi’s government gave no immediate reaction to the announcement, which is seen as a major challenge to Tshisekedi’s administration and a serious complication for the current peace process with rebels, which has had only limited success.



Joseph Kabila, (center), former president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during the announcement of the creation of the Front pour la refondation de la nation (FRN), or Front for the Refoundation of the Nation, in Goma, eastern Congo on Oct 12. (AP)

Lat/Am

Storms leave 2 dead in Mexico: Hurricane Simon pounded western Mexico with more wind and rain Monday after tropical weather systems caused two deaths and damage in Pacific coastal towns and resorts.

The eye of the Category 2 hurricane remained offshore as its outer bands of winds and rain slammed communities between the Sierra Madre and the Pacific Ocean near Puerto Vallarta.

Flood advisories were mostly lifted in the southwestern U.S. after the remnants of Tropical Storm Rachel caused weekend flooding in Las Vegas.

In Mexico’s Baja California state, rescuers on Monday combed parts of the coastal city of Ensenada where floodwaters swept away vehicles and damaged homes.

Resident Johana Nuriulu said the flooding began during the night, shortly after heavy rain knocked out electricity. “We heard a loud noise that sounded like ocean waves, but really loud,” she said.

Nuriulu said she went outside and discovered that a nearby stream had overflowed, sending water rushing through the neighborhood. The waters inundated streets and homes, sweeping away vehicles and other belongings. “Everything was being dragged away” Nuriulu said.

Several communities were cut off by landslides and overflowing rivers elsewhere in Baja California in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Rachel.

In the afternoon, the Mexican military used heli-



Avila

copters to rescue 32 people - 22 of them foreigners - from a ranch in Ensenada. Baja California Gov Marina del Pilar Ávila said 13 were children. (AP)

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Quake jolts southern Panama: A preliminary magnitude 6.1 earthquake hit southern Panama Monday evening, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or property damage.

The quake struck around 6:20 p.m. at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles) about 18 kilometers (11 miles) west of Río Grande in the country’s south.

The quake comes after two powerful 7.7 and 6.6 magnitude earthquakes and a series of aftershocks roiled southern Panama on Friday afternoon. They collapsed buildings near the epicenter and prompted evacuations across the country. (Xinhua)

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Colombia car bombing injures 3: A car bomb exploded at a toll booth in southwestern Colombia Monday, injuring at least three civilians, the army said, as fighting between the military and rebel groups intensified in the region.

The military blamed the attack near the town of El Bordo in Cauca department on the Carlos Patiño front, a group led by former members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, who did not join a 2016 peace deal with the Colombian government.

On Saturday, a drone attack against a military patrol also killed a soldier in La Vega, also in Cauca. The army blamed that attack on another group, the National Liberation Army, or ELN.

Colombia’s government has canceled peace talks with the nation’s remaining rebel groups, as de la Esprilla takes a hard line on crime. (AP)

Kuwait oil gains \$1.27 to \$106.95 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwait oil gained USD 1.27 during Monday’s trading to reach USD 106.95 per barrel compared with USD 105.68 pb last Friday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Tuesday. Brent futures rose USD 1.93 to USD 106.65 pb and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) gained USD 1.89 to USD 93.74 pb.

Business

Digital. Intelligent. Resilient.: ZainTECH evolves brand promise ‘What’s next is now’ as it unifies operations and accelerates regional expansion

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: To accelerate the next phase of its growth, ZainTECH, the integrated digital solutions arm of Zain Group, has evolved its brand promise to ‘What’s next is now,’ reflecting the meaningful business outcomes it delivers to more than 1,600 organizations and government customers through its Digital. Intelligent. Resilient. framework.

This evolution follows the unification of all acquired entities, namely STS Arabia, BIOS Middle East, and Adfoks under ZainTECH.

This milestone marks the next stage in the company’s evolution as a regional ICT partner for enterprises and governments, following a period of strategic growth and continued regional expansion, which has recently seen the launch of ZainTECH operations in Egypt. Furthermore, ZainTECH has invested in scaling up its UAE, KSA, Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, and Bahrain regional offices to support the growing demand for its growth-enhancing and business-critical services.

Today, ZainTECH’s presence spans eight countries offering a unified and managed delivery model spanning cloud, cybersecurity, data and AI, digital solutions, modern infrastructure, and drones and robotics. The company enables organizations across the region to modernize with confidence, turn data and AI into actionable intelligence, and remain secure and resilient as change accelerates.

“For years, organizations have talked about preparing for what comes next. Today, the technologies shaping that future are already transforming the way businesses operate,” said Andrew Hanna, CEO of ZainTECH. “The evolution of ZainTECH brings together the capabilities, expertise and regional presence needed to help our customers act on those opportunities. Digital. Intelligent. Resilient. reflects the strategy we have been build-



- All entities now operate under the unified ZainTECH brand, delivering consistent and meaningful business outcomes to over 1600 organizations and government customers
- Regional footprint expands to Egypt, building on significant investment to scale operations across UAE, KSA, Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq and Bahrain

ing and the outcomes we are focused on delivering for our customers. ‘What’s next is now’ reflects our commitment to helping organizations move forward with confidence, turning technology into meaningful business outcomes.”

Mr. Hanna concluded, “Our expansion into Egypt is an important part of our growth journey, reflecting our confidence in the significant opportunities we see in the market across the enterprise and government sectors.”

At the heart of this proposition is ZainTECH’s Digital. Intelligent. Resilient. framework, which brings its capabilities together around three core customer outcomes:

- Digital: helping organizations modernize through cloud, infrastructure, connectivity, applications and automation.
- Intelligent: using AI, data and analytics to convert information into actionable insights and enable better decision-making.
- Resilient: strengthening business continuity and operational confidence through cybersecurity, managed services and resilient digital infrastructure.

Together, these capabilities enable ZainTECH to deliver an integrated approach to digital modernization, combining technology, intelligence, and resilience to address the demands of an increasingly complex and always-on business environment. The ZainTECH website and channels bring this integrated proposition together in one digital experience.

As it enters this next phase, ZainTECH remains focused on the outcomes it enables for customers, helping organizations across the region become more Digital, Intelligent, and Resilient - because what’s next is Digital. What’s next is Intelligent. What’s next is Resilient. And what’s next is now.

Flags AI and debt risks

IMF raises 2026 global growth forecast to 3.1%

BANGKOK, Oct 13, (AP): The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday slightly upgraded its outlook for the world economy for this year, while warning of growing risks from rising debt, including the financial frenzy around artificial intelligence.

The IMF says it expects the global economy to grow at a 3.1% pace this year. That’s up from its July forecast for 3.0% growth and well below the 3.5% expansion in 2025. Growth in 2027 should rebound to 3.4%, it said in its latest Economic Outlook.

The report, released as world economic and financial leaders gathered in Bangkok for the fall meetings of the IMF and World Bank, predicts that growth in the United States will remain steady at 2.3% in 2026 and 2027.

Collectively, advanced economies will grow 2.1% this year, up from 2.0% in 2025, and then slow to 1.9% growth next year, it said.

The forecasts are based on a nearly 41% increase in oil prices this year, at an average of \$96 a barrel. Global inflation is foreseen at 4.7% in 2026, falling to 4.1% next year. They also are based on the assumption that shipments of oil and gas through the Strait of Hormuz will resume by March, and that the boom in AI demand will moderate.

The boom in artificial intelligence is offsetting damage from sharply higher prices for oil and gas, IMF economists say, but it also carries risks.

Its benefits are not shared equally: the U.S. and China account for more than three-quarters of net demand for imports of computer chips and other AI-related equipment, the report said.

“The outlook is highly uneven,” Silvana Tenreiro, the IMF’s director of research, told reporters in Bangkok.

Growth is increasingly concentrated, with 32 countries accounting for 95% of global growth, the report said. That compares with 54 countries as of April.

“The global economy is not simply slowing or accelerating; rather, growth is being reallocated across countries according to their exposure to the war-induced supply shock and AI-related demand strength,” it says.

Athanasios Vamvakidis, deputy director at the IMF’s Monetary and Capital Markets Department, said an AI-related correction in stock markets is just one of the risks. Ris-

ing bond yields are another evolving problem, along with cyberthreats that could disrupt financial systems, he said.

Underscoring such concerns, sell-offs of AI-related shares swept through Asia on Tuesday, with South Korea’s Kospi sinking as much as 7% before it closed 5.5% lower.

AI’s effects on employment are another worry, “a slow moving tsunami, but a tsunami nonetheless,” IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said.

“The impact over time on jobs globally we estimate to be around 40% - jobs either augmented or downgraded or eliminated. And we are already seeing some of this impact,” she said.

The IMF chief is urging countries to do a better job of improving their national finances and taming mounting levels of debt.

That’s especially crucial at a time of high borrowing costs, Tenreiro said.

Countries that are somewhat insulated from the energy shocks of the Iran war and that are benefiting from rapid adoption of AI are managing to keep growth on track. But developing economies and emerging markets more vulnerable to higher costs for oil and gas will see growth slow to 3.7% this year from 4.5% in 2025, the report says. It forecasts they will regain momentum next year, expanding at a 4.4% annual pace.

The situation is much worse in the Middle East and Central Asia, where those regions’ economies are expected to contract this year before recovering to a 6.3% rate of growth in 2027.

The 21 European countries that share the euro currency are expected to grow by a meager 1.1% this year and 1.2% in 2027.

China, the world’s No. 2 economy, is expected to expand 4.5% this year, down from 5% in 2025, in line with the government’s official target.

India is once again forecast to be the world’s fastest-growing major economy, advancing at a 7% clip, down from a sizzling 7.7% last year.

The IMF is a 191-nation lending organization that works to promote economic growth and financial stability and to reduce global poverty. At the meetings in Bangkok, finance ministers and central bank governors will assess the state of the world economy and discuss strategies to support financial stability and sustained growth.



Kuwait Petroleum Corporation CEO Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah with the corporation’s employees participating in the exhibition.

KUNA photo

Underscoring Gulf’s energy role

KPC showcases energy innovations in Riyadh

RIYADH, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) showcased key projects in the country’s oil and gas sector, alongside modern technologies and innovations aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and improving performance, at its pavilion in the exhibition accompanying the 25th World Petroleum Congress in Riyadh.

The pavilion offered visitors interactive presentations and opportunities to engage with representatives of Kuwait’s oil sector, learn about ongoing projects and explore potential cooperation.

It also highlighted procedures for qualifying international companies to participate in the sector’s projects and contracts, supporting strategic partnerships and the exchange of expertise.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Tariq Al-Roumi, KPC

Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah and senior officials from participating countries visited the pavilion to review the displayed projects, which reflect the capabilities and ambitions of Kuwait’s oil sector and its role in supporting energy security and meeting global market demand.

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah affirmed on Monday that the corporation remains committed to fulfilling its obligations to customers and partners worldwide despite exceptional circumstances and ongoing challenges.

He made the remarks during a panel discussion at the 25th World Petroleum Congress in Riyadh, which addressed global energy security, chal-

lenges facing producing and consuming countries, and the importance of strengthening supply-chain resilience and ensuring uninterrupted energy flows amid regional and international developments.

Sheikh Nawaf said current challenges underscored the strategic importance of the Arabian Gulf in the global energy security system, stressing the need to safeguard maritime routes and supply chains to ensure the continued delivery of energy to world markets.

KPC’s participation reflects its commitment to strengthening cooperation with international partners, exchanging views on challenges facing the oil and energy industry, and highlighting Kuwait’s oil-sector projects and their role in meeting global market needs.

KPC announces two tenders for deep drilling wells

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Supreme Purchasing Committee for Tenders at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries announced two public tenders in the official gazette, ‘Kuwait Al-Yaum’, on Monday.

Both tenders follow a synchronized timeline, commencing on Oct 11 and concluding on Nov 9.

The first tender is for the provision of casing and production tubing for deep drilling wells, as per the stringent technical specifications and requirements detailed in the official tender documents.

The second tender is for supplying specialized casing for deep onshore exploration wells, specifically designed for high-pressure and high-temperature (HPHT) conditions targeting the Triassic and Paleozoic geological periods, with precise engineering dimensions. The equipment is crafted to endure the most challenging subsurface operational environments.

Sources informed the newspaper that these projects are crucial for bolstering the efforts of the company in exploring and developing geologically intricate reservoirs, securing future energy supplies, and raising production to unprecedented levels.

Sources said the tenders aim to facilitate sustainable supply chains for Jurassic drilling operations and prevent delays in development initiatives. They disclosed that drilling deep wells—surpassing 15,000 feet—poses difficult operational challenges. “These ultra-deep reservoirs experience extreme temperatures and immense pressure, requiring specialized physical specifications for casing and liner pipes to prevent buckling or sudden failure. Such harsh geological settings contain elevated levels of toxic sour gases, such as hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide, thus, the use of advanced stress-corrosion-resistant steel alloys is essential to maintain well integrity and ensure a consistent production flow throughout the operational lifespan of the well, while safely and effectively isolating complex rock and salt formations,” they added.

Analysts question Russia’s ability to deliver promised diesel supplies

NEW YORK, Oct. 13, (Xinhua): The United States on Friday temporarily lifted sanctions on Russia’s export of diesel in a bid to ease a global fuel shortage and curb soaring domestic prices, but analysts warn that limited supplies and damage to Russian refineries could possibly blunt the impact.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday that he had struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin during a phone call. On the same day, the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control issued a temporary general license, authorizing Russian diesel transactions until April 7, 2027.

Under the phased schedule, Russia would deliver 2.25 million barrels in October, 3.75 million in November and 7.5 million “immediately thereafter,” depending on the condition of Russian refineries. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak confirmed the volumes.

U.S. diesel averaged 6.28 dollars a gallon on Friday, according to the American Automobile Association, down from a record 6.53 dollars on Sept. 22, but still far above 3.68 dollars a year earlier, and up about 70 percent since the U.S.-Israel war with Iran began on Feb. 28.

A Pew Research Center survey released Oct. 8 found that 74 percent of Americans were “very concerned” about energy prices, and 84 percent of registered voters said the economy was “very important” to their vote in the Nov. 3 mid-term elections.

On Saturday, the Russian government partially lifted its diesel export ban with immediate effect,

allowing 500,000 tons to reach the global market, with Novak saying domestic supplies would not be affected.

However, analysts said that the U.S. relief on sanctions on Russian diesel is unlikely to help tame domestic diesel prices, which hover at close to record-high levels and threaten Republican control of Congress in the upcoming elections.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) says the world is short about 1.6 million barrels of diesel daily. Even if all 36 million barrels Russia promised arrived at once, they would plug the gap for only about three weeks.

The October release alone is roughly 10 percent of what Russia exported in a typical month before Ukrainian drone strikes battered its refineries, according to analysts.

“It’s kind of shuffling deck chairs on the Titanic,” a report by The Seattle Times quoted Michael Lynch of the Energy Policy Research Foundation as saying. Russian diesel sent to the United States simply means that other buyers must look elsewhere. At best, he said, Americans might see “a tiny dip in prices locally in places like the New York-New Jersey area.”

“It’s clearly not a fix, but another stream to aid a very tight diesel market,” Jim Mitchell, director of oil trading analytics at consultancy Wood Mackenzie, was quoted as saying by Reuters.

“The biggest concern is the refiners being able to do it,” Ryan McKay, senior commodity strategist at TD Securities, a Canadian multinational investment bank and financial services provider, was

quoted as saying by the Business Times.

The November shipment amounts to roughly one day of U.S. consumption, noted Chris Kennedy, lead for Economic Statecraft at Bloomberg Economics. He questioned whether Moscow can deliver given refinery damage, logistics and legal hurdles, with the largest later tranches explicitly conditioned on the state of Russia’s refineries.

To make matters worse, Hurricane Isaia in the Gulf of Mexico has now shut down about 1.3 million barrels a day of U.S. oil production, which equals nearly 63 percent of total U.S. production in the gulf.

The Iran war also continues to disrupt flows through the Strait of Hormuz, which carried about 20 percent of global oil and fuel shipments before the war.

As part of an accelerated IEA emergency-stock release, Germany will release up to 15 million barrels of diesel, heating oil and crude, while France has committed 10 million barrels of diesel. Moreover, Italy says it has completed its 10 million-barrel commitment.

The Russian barrels address the shortage from the output side, while the stock releases address it from the inventory side. However, analysts say neither is large enough to repair the market on its own.

Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy, predicted that the deal could result in a short-term reduction of 10 to 20 cents for a gallon of diesel. However, he said, it would be “difficult to achieve” Trump’s import goals.



From left, Finland’s Finance Minister Riikka Purra, President of the World Bank Group Ajay Banga, Thailand’s Finance Minister Eknit Nitithanprapas and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva attend Building Resilience in a Fragmented World forum during the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

For launching ‘Fahad’, Kuwait’s first AI-powered virtual employee

KFH wins ‘Top Innovations in Finance 2026 - Middle East’ award from Global Finance

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has won the “Top Innovations in Finance 2026 – Middle East” award at the 13th annual Global Finance Innovators Awards, underscoring its position as a leader in innovation and digital transformation. Theaward recognizes “Fahad”, the bank’s AI-powered virtual employee and the first of its kind in Kuwait.

This global award highlights KFH’s leadership in deploying advanced digital technologies to improve banking services and enhance the customer experience, in line with the bank’s vision to be a pioneer in smart banking both in Kuwait and across the wider region.

Award Criteria
This award recognizes financial institutions that are redefining the future of banking through innovative solutions. Winners stay ahead of technological change, improve the customer’s experience, and make their operations more efficient. Selections are made by the editors of Global Finance together with a panel of industry experts, who evaluate each entry on its innovation, real-world impact, use of advanced technology, and the concrete value it delivers to customers.

In its coverage of the 2026 Innovators edition, the magazine described “Fahad” as a major step forward in digital banking. Rather than a conventional chatbot, Fahad is a hyper-realistic AI video avatar that

pairs artificial intelligence with interactive video, creating an experience that feels natural and human, much like talking to a real person.

The magazine highlighted that “Fahad” enables customers to receive instant support and guided assistance across digital channels. It’s a good example of “phygital” banking, which pairs the speed and efficiency of digital platforms with a personalized human interaction, making banking easier and more convenient for customers.

Global Finance also commended KFH for using speech analytics to turn phone calls into searchable text. This lets the bank gauge customer sentiment and understand their needs as conversations happen, so it can keep improving the quality of its service.

Meshal Alobaid: Fahad Marks a Major Milestone in Banking Innovation

KFH Deputy General Manager Digital and Alternative Channels, Meshal Alobaidsaid:“This global recognition reflects the success of KFH’s strategy of driving innovation and embracing advanced AI solutions. It also reinforces our leading role in shaping new digital banking models built around customers’ needs and their future aspirations.”

He noted that “Fahad” is more than a technical project. It’s a strategic move to reshape the banking experience, offering customers a digital employee who is avail-



Meshal Alobaid

able around the clock to provide support, guidance, and answers through self-service channels and ATMs, quickly, accurately, and efficiently.

According to Alobaid, the launch of Fahad at KFH’s branch in The Avenues is the result of years of investment in digital infrastructure and AI. It reinforces a smart ecosystem designed to keep the customer at the center of everything the bank develops.

He said the initiative is part of the bank’s



broader vision for banking that is smarter and easier to use, with secure, modern services available to customers wherever and whenever they need them. Behind it, he added, is a connected digital ecosystem built on innovation, efficiency, and reliability.

The Growing Role of AI in Finance
Alobaid noted that fintech is booming across the region, fueled by heavy investment in AI and modern digital tools. He said KFH plans to keep investing in these technologies to sharpen its competitive edge and offer customers ever more advanced banking

experience.

Editorial Director of Global Finance
Founder and Editorial Director of Global Finance,Joseph Giarraputo said that the financial sector is innovating faster than ever, fueled by breakthroughs in AI, cloud computing, and digital payments. In his view, these technologies help institutions run more efficiently, manage risk more effectively, and tailor their services to each customer’s needs.

Sustained Leadership in Digital Transformation

This latest award adds to KFH’s growing list of international honors for innovation and digital transformation.It highlights the bank’s ongoing success in translating strategic vision into practical, pioneering initiatives, most notably “Fahad”, which stands as an advanced benchmark for applying artificial intelligence in modern banking.

About Global Finance
Headquartered in New York and founded in 1987, Global Finance magazine has a circulation of 50,000 and is distributed across 185 countries. Global Finance’s audience includes senior corporate and financial officers responsible for making investment and strategic decisions at multinational companies and financial institutions. Its website — GFMag.com — offers analysis and articles that are the legacy of 39 years of experience in international financial markets.



The logo for Goldman Sachs appears above a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, July 13, 2021. (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

Big banks warn of inflation

Wall Street banks gain as consumers keep spending

NEW YORK, Oct 13, (AP): Wall Street’s biggest banks reported another strong quarter on Tuesday, as the U.S. consumer continues to pay their bills and businesses keep investing heavily in AI.

But even as JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Wells Fargo and Goldman Sachs reported higher profits from a year ago, they warned about the long-term impact of higher interest rates as well as the impact higher prices could have on the consumer if inflation is not brought under control.

JPMorgan posted a \$15.3 billion profit in the third quarter, or \$5.57 a share, up from \$14.4 billion or \$5.07 a share, in the same period a year earlier. The results missed analysts’ expectations, with Wall Street looking for the bank to earn \$5.93 a share.

It was a rare earnings miss for JPMorgan and its CEO, Jamie Dimon. The last time the bank missed analysts’ expectations was nearly three years ago. The investment banking division of JPMorgan was to blame this quarter, as its fixed income trading desks saw a slowdown in activity compared to both earlier this summer as well as last year. Still, shares rose 0.8% in early trading.

“The U.S. economy continued to be fueled by strong business investment and ongoing consumer spending,” Dimon said in a statement. “However, large fiscal deficits, sticky inflation, elevated asset prices, rising interest rates and geopolitical conditions continue to shift under the surface.”

The big banks typically kick off the quarterly earnings season, and this is a key one for the stock market given that robust corporate profits have helped propel the S&P 500 to record levels. Analysts expect companies in the S&P

500 to deliver overall growth of nearly 30% in earnings per share from a year earlier, according to data provider FactSet. If they’re correct, it would be the third consecutive quarter of growth that exceeds 25%.

Goldman Sachs, whose third-quarter profits rose sharply due to a sharp rise in stock-trading revenue, also reported that its bond trading activity slowed last quarter. The bank posted a profit of \$5.29 billion, or \$17.01 a share, compared to \$4.1 billion, or \$12.25 a share, a year earlier. Goldman shares rose 1.9%.

The bond market saw significant levels of volatility and turmoil this summer, as investors became increasingly worried about government spending and inflation. The yield on cornerstone financial instruments like 10-year and 30-year Treasuries rose to levels not seen in years. Higher diesel, technology and food prices gave the Federal Reserve reason to raise interest rates last month, despite pressure from the White House to not do so.

Citigroup said its third-quarter profits jumped 40% from a year ago, beating Wall Street expectations. The bank posted higher revenue from investment banking and wealth management, while the bank’s credit card division profits were flat. Citi shares dipped 0.7%.

Wells Fargo posted a profit of \$5.95 billion, or \$1.87 a share, beating Wall Street forecasts. The San Francisco-based bank has seen its profits climb steadily in recent quarters after federal bank regulators removed the asset cap that had been imposed for several years after the bank’s sales practices scandal nearly a decade ago. Wells shares dropped 1.5%.

Visa gains China approval amid US-China trade thaw

BEIJING, Oct 13, (AP): U.S. payments giant Visa said Tuesday that it received approval to prepare to set up a bank card clearing business in China, a move that could allow Visa to compete for a share of the country’s large payments market.

Some analysts see the development as an encouraging sign for American businesses following Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s meetings with President Donald Trump during a state visit to Washington last month.

The San Francisco-based payment processing company said the long-awaited approval marked “a significant step forward in Visa’s long-standing commitment to China.”

“We greatly appreciate the important role of the leaders of the United States and China in pursuing a constructive and strategically stable relationship between the world’s largest economies,” Visa CEO Ryan McInerney said in a statement.

China’s official Xinhua news agency said authorities require that Visa complete preparatory work within one year. After that it can apply to commence its domestic bank card clearing business operations in the country.

Mastercard and American Express

have already started domestic clearing in China under joint ventures.

President Donald Trump said he raised the issue of access for Visa during his visit to Beijing in May.

McInerney was part of the guest list at the White House Trump-Xi dinner during Xi’s Washington trip, alongside Mastercard CEO Michael Miebach.

George Chen, partner and chair of digital practice at The Asia Group, said the approval could be viewed as a goodwill gesture from China toward the United States ahead of an expected November meeting between Xi and Trump in Shenzhen, China, which would be their third in-person meeting this year.

“The timing is notable,” Chen, of the Washington-based consultancy that advises companies on doing business in markets including Asia, said in written comments. “The move suggests that Beijing is keen to demonstrate tangible progress for American businesses before Trump’s next visit to China.”

Greater market access in financial services has long been a priority for Washington, he added, and Visa’s approval can be viewed as a positive sign of China’s willingness to expand opportunities for foreign companies.

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait reveals Alfouz quarterly and weekly draw winners for September 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced the winners of its Alfouz draw account for the month of September 2026, which took place on 12 October 2026, reaffirming its commitment to rewarding customers and promoting a culture of saving through one of Kuwait’s most rewarding banking products.

The winners of the September 2026 weekly draw, each receiving KD 1,000 per month for one year, are: Adnan Ibrahim Dashti, Antonious Samir Abdelmesheh and Hussain Toneyah

The winner of the quarterly draw receiving KD 3,000 per month for 3 year, is Sally Nizam Mohammad.

To further enhance audience engagement, the live broadcast featured a series of interactive questions that gave viewers the opportunity to learn more about ABK and the benefits of the Alfouz account. Winners of prizes including gold bars, Alshaya Gift Cards, during these competitions were announced live during the draw.

The enhanced prize structure includes weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual draws, with rewards distributed as monthly salary-style payouts. Customers can win between KD 1,000 and KD 3,000 per month in the weekly, monthly



Photo during the announcement of Alfouz draw account result.

and quarterly draws, depending on the prize tier.

In addition, the semi-annual and annual draws offer prizes of KD 5,000 per month for periods of 5 and

10 years, respectively. Customers can participate in the draws by maintaining a minimum balance of KD 200 in their Alfouz draw account.

ABK congratulates all winners

and encourages customers to continue saving through the Alfouz draw account to maximize their chances of winning future draws and benefiting from its rewarding prize structure.

As part of its continued support for the national ‘Let’s Be Aware’ campaign

The Kuwait International Bank reinforces digital fraud awareness through interview on Kuwait TV ‘Channel 2’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) continued its efforts to raise awareness of digital fraud through the participation of Mustafa Murad, Assistant Manager – Information Security, Privacy and Anti-Fraud Department at KIB, in an interview on Kuwait TV Channel 2’s (KTV2) “Good Morning Kuwait”. The appearance comes as part of the Bank’s ongoing support for the national “Let’s Be Aware” (Diraya) campaign, and focused on helping viewers better understand how fraud methods are evolving and the precautions they can take when using digital services.

Commenting on the importance of spreading awareness, Murad said: “As fraud methods continue to evolve, awareness remains essential to helping individuals recognize potential risks before they become victims. At KIB, we remain committed, through our active participation in the Diraya campaign, to provide the community with practical knowledge that supports more informed decisions and encourages greater caution when dealing with unfamiliar requests, messages, or digital interactions.”

Murad emphasized that continued awareness is particularly important as individuals increasingly rely on digital channels in their everyday lives. Understanding common fraud techniques and knowing the precautions to take can help users respond more carefully to potential threats and better safeguard their personal and financial information.

During the interview, Murad explained how fraudsters can exploit information shared publicly on social media to study potential victims and gradually build their trust before seeking sensitive information. He also addressed AI-enabled impersonation through cloned voices and videos, fraudulent messages posing as government entities or merchants, and the misuse of one-time passwords (OTPs), stressing the importance of verifying requests through official channels and carefully reading OTP messages before authorizing any action. Murad also cautioned against accessing banking applications over public Wi-Fi, in addition to highlighting safer online practices for children and teenagers.



KIB's Mustafa Murad

Moreover, Murad stressed the importance of acting without delay when fraud is suspected. He advised customers who still have access to their banking application to secure the affected account and immediately contact their bank, providing as much information as possible about the incident to support the investigation and any subsequent action.

KIB’s participation in an interview on KTV2 forms part of its continued support for the “Let’s Be Aware” campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in collaboration with local banks. The Bank continues to support the campaign’s role in promoting banking awareness and strengthening public understanding of financial safety and fraud prevention.

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.

General index gains 0.06%

Boursa Kuwait edges higher on Tuesday

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Tuesday’s session marginally higher, with the general index adding 5.31 points, or 0.06 percent, to 8,654.84 points.

Trading activity totaled 205 million shares across 15,731 cash transactions, valued at 56 million Kuwaiti dinars (about \$181.9 million).

The main market index declined 16.62 points, or 0.19 percent, to 8,810.98 points. Investors traded 107.2 million shares through 8,860 transactions worth 21.9 million dinars (approximately \$71.1 million).

In contrast, the premier market index rose 10.26 points, or 0.11 percent, to 9,070.78 points, with 97.7 million shares changing hands in 6,871

transactions valued at 34.1 million dinars (around \$110.8 million).

The Main 50 Index fell 35.87 points, or 0.36 percent, to close at 10,005.69 points. It recorded 92.3 million shares traded through 7,240 cash transactions, valued at 18.8 million dinars (about \$61 million).

Kazakh Ambassador and Jazeera Airways CEO explore opportunities to restart direct flights and strengthen tourism

Jazeera Airways committed to restoring Kazakhstan connection

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: His Excellency Yerzhan Yelekeyev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the State of Kuwait met with Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer – Jazeera Airways to explore opportunities to strengthen air connectivity between the two countries. Discussions focused on the importance of restoring direct air links to facilitate tourism and trade, enhance people-to-people connections, and further strengthen bilateral ties between Kuwait and Kazakhstan.

H.E. Yerzhan Yelekeyev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the State of Kuwait said: “Kazakhstan offers significant appeal to travelers from Kuwait, thanks to its unique natural landscapes, well-developed tourism infrastructure, and diverse leisure opportunities. Direct air connectivity plays a key role in unlocking this potential. We are keen to see Jazeera Airways resume its flights to Kazakhstan and stand ready to provide the necessary support to facilitate further cooperation. I am confident that the restoration of direct flights, once conditions permit, will provide fresh impetus to mutual tourism, strengthen trade and economic ties, including by facilitating increased exports of Kazakh products to the Kuwaiti market, and foster closer business contacts between our two countries.”



Kazakhstan Ambassador meets Jazeera CEO.

Jazeera Airways reaffirmed its continued commitment to the Kazakhstan market and its interest in restoring direct flights once prevailing airspace restrictions ease and operating conditions allow.

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways, said: “We thank His Excellency Ambassador Yelekeyev for his continued engagement and support. Jazeera Airways began flying to Almaty in 2021, and while operations were subsequently suspended, Kazakhstan remains an important market for us. We greatly value the strong links between our two countries and recognize the important role direct air connectivity plays in supporting tourism, business and wider bilateral relations. We remain committed to Kazakhstan and look forward to restoring connectivity when airspace conditions allow us to do so safely and sustainably.”

Jazeera Airways currently operates to more than 50 destinations across the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Africa, connecting Kuwait with key business and leisure markets. The airline continues to strengthen and expand its network, opening new destinations and restoring routes in response to customer demand and market opportunities, while supporting Kuwait’s position as a growing regional air transport hub.

Weyay Bank, Houna, and AUK launch initiative to foster mental health awareness among youth

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Reinforcing its commitment to supporting and empowering young people beyond banking services, Weyay Bank, in collaboration with Houna, a specialized mental health platform, and in partnership with the American University of Kuwait (AUK), launched a mental health awareness initiative aimed at fostering open conversations around mental well-being and providing students with a safe and supportive space on campus.

The initiative reflects Weyay Bank’s belief in being a genuine partner to youth by addressing not only their financial needs but also their overall well-being. Through this collaboration, Weyay seeks to better understand the daily and academic pressures facing university students and contribute to building a healthier, more supportive environment where they can thrive.



Al-Sharrah

The initiative aims to reinforce the message that prioritizing mental well-being and asking for help are positive and courageous steps toward personal growth and resilience.

The partnership between Weyay Bank, Houna, and AUK serves as a strong example of how the private sector, specialized organizations, and educational institutions can work together to create a more aware, inclusive, and supportive campus culture for young people.

The event featured a range of interactive activities designed to engage students in meaningful conversations around mental health. One of the key highlights was an interactive messaging experience, which allowed students to select a mental health topic or challenge relevant to them and receive personalized guidance and supportive messages tailored to their experiences and needs.

The initiative also included a variety of awareness activities aimed at promoting self-care, positivity, and emotional resilience among students, encouraging them to prioritize their mental well-being as part of their everyday lives.

Throughout the event, mental health specialists from Houna were present to provide guidance, answer students’ questions, and raise awareness about the resources and support services available to those seeking professional assistance.

Commenting on the initiative, **Fahad Al-Sharrah**, the Communication Manager at Weyay Bank said: “At Weyay, we believe our role as a youth-focused brand extends far beyond banking services. Through our partnership with Houna and the American University of Kuwait, we aim to place mental well-being at the forefront of conversations that matter



Photos during the campaign.

to young people. We want students to know that speaking openly about mental health challenges and seeking support are healthy, empowering steps. We hope this initiative encourages more open dialogue and strengthens a culture of understanding, empathy, and support across the university community.”

This initiative forms part of Weyay Bank’s broader commitment to social responsibility and its ongoing efforts to better understand and support young people at every stage of their lives through impactful programs and initiatives that contribute to their well-being, personal development, and future success.

Tensions flare over the European Union’s next long-term budget ahead of unpredictable elections in ’27

BRUSSELS, Oct 13, (AP): Political tensions mounted Tuesday over the European Union’s next long-term budget as pressure builds to get the spending package agreed before a series of unpredictable elections in some of the biggest member countries next year.

The EU budget, known as the multiannual financial framework, amounts to around 1.2% of the 27-nation bloc’s gross national income. The MFF is financed mostly by the member countries based on the size of their economies.

The spending plan is the cash point where EU ambitions, conflicting policy priorities and economic realities collide and must be endorsed by all member countries and the European Parliament.

The 2028-2034 budget is being negotiated as the EU faces outside challenges including supporting Ukraine as it fights off the Russian invasion and remaining competitive in the face of high energy prices and trade tensions with the United States and China.

Inside the union, elections in France, Italy, Poland and Spain later this year and next year could test the resilience of the world’s biggest trading bloc, with the hard right leading in opinion polls in France and results in Poland and Spain difficult to predict.

Over the weekend, Ireland, which holds the EU’s rotating presidency, proposed to set the budget at 1.62 trillion euros (\$1.81 trillion). That is a 30% increase over the current seven-year package, but 8% less than what the European Commission wants.

Sweden, one of about eight countries known as net contributors paying more into the budget than they receive back in allocations, insists “several

hundred billion euros” more in cuts are needed.

“It’s wildly unaffordable, and the volume must go down,” Sweden’s EU Affairs Minister Jessica Rosencrantz said as she and her counterparts met to chew over the Irish presidency proposal ahead of an EU leadership summit later this week.

The Irish plan would mean “a 60% increase in the Swedish contribution” that amounts to “a fee for the Swedish taxpayers to pick up, which limits us to make the necessary priorities back home,” Rosencrantz said.

On Sunday, Chancellor Friedrich Merz of Germany, Europe’s biggest economy and a major net budget contributor, welcomed Ireland’s “tireless efforts” but said “we are still a long way from reaching an agreement.”

“The EU budget must be affordable for those who bear the main burden of financing,” said Merz, who will from Thursday join his counterparts in Brussels for two days of talks. “Everyone must contribute to the necessary adjustments.”

That “everyone” was a reference to countries rejecting cuts to cohesion funds for Europe’s poorer regions, or to agriculture policy, which subsidizes the continent’s farmers. Combined, this money accounts for about two-thirds of the budget.

Ultimately, if countries aren’t willing to stomp up more cash, then either farm or cohesion spending must shrink or Europe’s ambitions on defense, competitiveness and other priorities scaled back. Unless money can be found elsewhere.

Despite the uncertainty, Ireland’s EU Affairs Minister Thomas Byrne thinks the presidency has laid a good foundation for negotiations in the days and weeks ahead.

“That was our task, to find that basis,” he told

reporters in Luxembourg before chairing Tuesday’s meeting. “We weren’t asked to find a basis for agreement. That will come later.”

Indeed, most of the parties involved are complaining more or less equally and none of them have yet walked away, which may be a good sign.

“Nobody’s going to get everything that they want. But we hope that there’ll be something there for everybody,” Byrne said.

Still, the negotiations are gathering pace just as ambitions for the EU in an uncertain world are on the rise but room for fiscal maneuver in many countries is disappearing.

The MFF is tiny compared with national budgets, but France, Italy and Belgium are mired in debt and oppose paying more.

As a bloc, the EU is not allowed to levy taxes, but does earn revenue from mechanisms such as customs duties and value added tax. The commission is looking for new ways to raise its “own resources” through the carbon emissions trading system and a new tobacco duty, among other measures.

Whatever happens, missing the end of December “deadline” does not mean that money runs out. Nations have another year, but much time is needed to adopt legislation on spending programs and approve it all so money can be flowing by January 2028.

In a letter inviting leaders to the summit, European Council President António Costa said clinching a “timely agreement” is “essential to provide our economies with the predictability and stability they need in an unstable and unpredictable world.”

“I count on your leadership and collaborative spirit,” Costa wrote.

From ‘hands-free’ to ‘eyes-off’

Automakers pursue safer autonomous driving tech

WARREN, Oct 13, (AP): At the General Motors Global Technical Center in Warren, Michigan, in suburban Detroit, hundreds of volunteer, real-world drivers have hopped inside a Cadillac Lyriq electric vehicle or other popular GM models and experienced all sorts of things while in the car: regular roadway driving, driving up and down hills, construction, rain, nearby traffic and other scenarios.

But while the vehicle is real, the world that the drivers are experiencing is not. Instead, they’re inside a simulator; a 360-degree, immersive environment where their every eye movement, heart stress, sweating and other reactions are measured against countless driving tests. Here, GM is testing a human driver’s response in vehicles just as much as it’s testing the vehicle tech itself.

That simulation is how GM - and other automakers - are testing future iterations of their advanced driver assistance systems. Also called ADAS, this technology so far allows for well-known vehicle features such as automatic emergency braking, blind spot warnings, lane departure warnings, lane-centering assist, surround-view cameras, driver attention monitors and many more.

These features let drivers go “hands-free” at certain times, particularly while on the highway.

Automakers anticipate that these systems will eventually grow so advanced that drivers will be allowed to safely take their hands off the wheel, and their eyes off the road. But the race is not only about the technology itself, but the payoff, which is a big one. Automakers with the best tech will get more consumers to subscribe to those capabilities, making automated driving a lucrative play for the industry.

“Going eyes off is really the turning point where consumers will be more willing to pay for this feature, because when you go eyes off, now you’re really potentially giving the driver back some time, because they don’t have to be paying attention to the road,” said Sam Abuelsamid, vice president of market research at firm Telemetry. “That’s where they see the real value proposition.”

GM says its version will be possible by 2028, when it’s launching the next Super Cruise on the Cadillac Escalade IQ luxury electric sport utility vehicle. Others are on their heels.

“2028 is the broad timeline when there’s a whole group of companies that are all targeting launching systems like this that can operate at highway speeds,” Abuelsamid added, “on a wider variety of roads than what we see with a lot of the systems today.”

Since 2017, GM has sold vehicles with Super Cruise, a hands-free, assisted driving system - notably not self-driving - that’s available to use on over 630,000 roads in the U.S. and Canada, and more around the world.

“You can take your hands off the wheel and keep your eyes on the roads, but safely enjoy a de-stressed drive on those roads in your normal, everyday commutes,” said Tyson Becker, GM executive director for autonomous vehicle strategy and product.

There are now more than 20 different GM models across its four brands - Cadillac, GMC, Buick and Chevrolet - equipped with the technology. The automaker plans to expand the number of models available with Super Cruise in the coming years with the ultimate goal of launching the next generation of Super Cruise, technology that allows for safe, “eyes-off” driving.

“What we’re talking about is truly a technology that is so safe that it allows you to take your eyes off the road while it’s active, and do other things in the cabin, whether that is looking at your phone, looking at your laptop, taking a meeting, watching a movie,” Becker added.

One of the most challenging aspects of developing autonomous technology is predicting, and getting a vehicle to respond to countless, unexpected scenarios while on the road.

That could mean a dog, deer, or even a child, sprinting onto a road; a detour unforeseen on a navigation app or a suddenly active construction zone. A driver - or in this case, the technology - needs to be able to recognize that the immediate environment has changed, and to respond in a safe way.

That’s largely where simulation, combined with data collection and artificial intelligence, comes in.

In GM simulations, drivers of all experience levels take the wheel and face a multitude of computer-generated scenarios on highways or urban landscapes replete with other “humans” and roadway signage.

“We want to really be able to take anything that our customers could experience out on the road,” said Maureen August, senior manager at GM Research & Development.

As participants drive in the simulator, GM looks at key data points, like heart rate, stress, where the driver’s eyes are going, how long they are looking at one part of the road or another and how they are attending to the road, all from a nearby control room.

One of the best ways to test driver attention these days: inviting drivers to play Candy Crush.

“We found it’s very effective for getting people involved and wanting to get the highest score,” August said. “It’s a great way for us to get you engaged and then have to pull you away from a task.”

After participants drive, they’re asked how they felt, how they understood the system, and whether it was intuitive. Other factors GM looks at include comfort, how convenient certain features are to use, whether a driver feels the system is trustworthy and how many seconds are required for a driver to take full control of a moving vehicle.

“We want to make sure that you’re responding effectively and that we’ve given you the alert far enough ahead that you can take over if needed,” August said. “But we also want to be sure that if you feel comfortable and the vehicle is capable, that you don’t take over, that you let the vehicle do what it’s capable of doing.”

Hands-off technology is being deployed by many automakers today; Ford’s BlueCruise is among the more notable examples.

BlueCruise is available in equipped Ford vehicles for use on more than 130,000 miles of certain North American roads.

Tesla lists technology used in its cars as “Full Self-Driving,” but it still requires human oversight.

As for more advanced systems, there aren’t any passenger vehicles in production with eyes-off technology now - some tech companies, however, offer autonomous commercial robotaxi services in select cities.

Far smaller rollouts of sophisticated light-duty driving systems from various auto companies have been available in limited markets in recent years, but have been discontinued.

In addition to the technology challenges, there are regulatory hurdles, experts say.

“There isn’t really much in the way of real regulation that governs these systems today,” Telemetry’s Abuelsamid said. “And so, the automakers are basically going state by state to get approvals for where they can operate these systems.”

Because of that, he said, “it remains to be seen where GM will be able to offer their eyes off system come 2028.”

Ultimately, automakers are racing toward more advanced tech, not only to make their vehicles more enticing, but also to leverage subscription fees customers will pay to have the technology onboard.

The name of the game, Abuelsamid said, is “to provide enough convenience and safety, the consumers will be willing to pay a recurring fee to use it ... so drivers can do things like watch a video, read a book, text - without having to watch the road all the time.”



Left: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Hamad Al-Mashaan and Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Manuel Hernández Gamallo during the ceremonial cake-cutting. Right: Kuwait's Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah with Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait.



Defense, health, cybersecurity top priorities as ties deepen

Spain backs Kuwait as force for regional peace

By Marlon Aquino Malinao
Managing Editor, Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Spain and Kuwait are moving to elevate their bilateral relations through a strategic political dialogue, with defense, health, cybersecurity and food security identified as priority areas for expanded cooperation, Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Manuel Hernández Gamallo said.

The ambassador delivered the remarks at a Spanish Embassy reception celebrating Spain's National Day, attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Hamad Al-Mashaan, heads of diplomatic missions, representatives of international organizations and businessmen from Kuwait and Spain.

Hernández Gamallo said the two countries had agreed to work toward establishing a strategic political dialogue during bilateral political consultations held in Madrid on Oct 7. The proposed framework would involve high-level meetings and specialized working groups focusing on areas of mutual interest.

Describing the current phase of relations as "dynamic and promising," the ambassador said both sides were also considering important high-level visits in the coming period.

He highlighted Spain's recognition of Kuwait as a strategic partner, pointing to expanding economic ties and the presence of leading Spanish companies in key sectors, including renewable energy, oil, civil aviation and transport infrastructure.

According to Hernández Gamallo, Spanish imports from Kuwait increased by more than 200 percent in 2025 compared with the previous year. The two countries are also preparing for the next meeting of the Spanish-Kuwaiti Joint Economic Committee, scheduled to take place in Madrid in 2027.

Growing economic and people-to-people ties

The ambassador stressed that bilateral relations extend well beyond trade, citing the steady flow of Kuwaiti travelers to Spain, Kuwaiti in-



Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah and colleague Mohammed Al-Farhan with Spanish Ambassador.



Bishop Aldo Berardi with Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait.

vestments in real estate and growing interest among Kuwaiti students in Spanish universities.

He also welcomed the impact of simplified Schengen visa procedures, saying the changes had made the process smoother and faster, as reflected in the workload of the Spanish Embassy's visa section.

At the heart of the relationship, he said, is the Spanish community

in Kuwait, whose members work across a wide range of fields, including engineering, business, medicine, education, sports and healthcare.

Describing the community as well integrated into Kuwaiti society, Hernández Gamallo said many Spanish nationals had established families and made Kuwait their home, contributing to the country's daily life.



Ambassadors of Morocco, Armenia, Jordan and Saudi Arabia at the Spanish Embassy's National Day reception.



Mahmoud Lafi with Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait.

He also underscored Spain's commitment to strengthening relations between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council, expressing hope that the upcoming second EU-GCC Summit would translate high-level political declarations into practical frameworks for cooperation.

Spain reaffirms solidarity with Kuwait

Turning to regional developments,

Hernández Gamallo reaffirmed Spain's solidarity with Kuwait and the other Gulf countries, condemning attacks against Gulf states and critical civilian infrastructure.

"These are the moments where good friends are more needed than ever," he said, describing Kuwait as a key force for moderation and peace in the region.

He praised Kuwait's longstanding

role as a regional mediator, its commitment to international law and its humanitarian contributions around the world.

The ambassador said Spain had supported resolutions led by the Gulf Cooperation Council in several international forums, including the United Nations Security Council, the UN Human Rights Council, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

He also recalled that the King of Spain had personally conveyed the country's support and solidarity with the Kuwaiti people to His Highness the Crown Prince.

Hernández Gamallo paid tribute to the resilience of the Kuwaiti people and expressed particular appreciation for those responsible for protecting Kuwait and its residents.

"I want to express, very specially, our gratitude to all those who ensure the safety of Kuwait and all its residents," he said, commending their dedication and professionalism.

The ambassador also highlighted Spain's historical links with the Arab world, saying cultural affinities had helped nurture its relationship with Kuwait.

Embassy pledges support for Spanish community

Addressing Spanish nationals attending the celebration, Hernández Gamallo thanked them for their presence and acknowledged the difficult circumstances they had experienced over the past year.

He praised their composure and strength, assuring them that the Spanish Embassy would continue to support them, particularly during challenging times.

The ambassador concluded by thanking Spanish and Kuwaiti companies whose support helped make the celebration possible, as well as the embassy staff and the Waldorf Astoria team for their cooperation.

On behalf of the Spanish King and government, he conveyed his best wishes for Kuwait's continued progress and prosperity.



Attendees gather during the Spanish Embassy's National Day reception in Kuwait.



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

As part of its commitment to supporting tourism in Kuwait

stc presents live orchestral performance experience for 'Batman 1989 in Concert'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: 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 globally renowned "Batman 1989 in Concert" orchestral performance experience at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Centre (JACC). The event attracted strong audience turnout, particularly from fans of the globally recognized Batman franchise from DC and Warner Bros.

The distinguished arts and entertainment event was presented in collaboration with Kuwait Airways and sponsored by National Bank of Kuwait. It aligned with stc's corporate social responsibility strategy and its efforts to support initiatives that enrich Kuwait's entertainment sector and contribute to the country's tourism initiative.

The collaboration added a distinctive cultural experience to Kuwait's events calendar and expanded the range of international entertainment experiences available to local audiences. It also demonstrated the important role



'Batman 1989 in Concert' at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Centre (JACC).

that partnerships between national organizations can play in supporting public events and contributing to the continued development of Kuwait's cultural and entertain-



ment experiences.

"Batman 1989 in Concert" featured Tim Burton's iconic film on the National Theatre's giant screen across

two consecutive performances, accompanied by a live orchestral rendition of Danny Elfman's original score by the UAE Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Nicolas Mann. The event also included a range of entertainment activities and a special exhibition, creating an exceptional experience for attendees.

The event also aligns with the objectives of Kuwait's tourism and cultural guide, which highlights the country's cultural attractions and entertainment offerings for residents and visitors. Featuring distinctive events such as Batman 1989 in Concert contributes to presenting Kuwait as a destination capable of hosting varied, high-quality experiences. It also complements efforts to promote the country's contemporary cultural identity and encourage greater public participation in the local cultural scene.

In a statement, stc expressed its satisfaction with the strong audience turnout and the positive visitors response following the event. The company reaffirmed its commitment to supporting similar events that resonate with a broad segment of the community and to introducing more initiatives in the future that offer enjoyable and unique experiences.

AI moves beyond the laboratory

Beyond semiconductors: How Taiwan ITRI is engineering its next technology breakthroughs

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media & IT Manager,
Arab Times

TAIPEI, Oct 13: Taiwan’s semiconductor success is built on more than advanced manufacturing. Behind the island’s technology industry is a research and innovation ecosystem that identifies emerging technologies, develops industrial applications and helps businesses turn research into commercial opportunities.

At the centre of this ecosystem is the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), a leading applied technology research organisation founded in 1973. With more than 6,800 employees, ITRI works to advance industrial development, create economic value and improve social well-being through research and development.

Over the decades, the institute has played a role in developing Taiwan’s technology industry, helping establish and incubate companies including Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), Taiwan Mask Corporation, Epistar, Mirle Automation and Taiwan Biomaterial.

Choosing the right technologies for Taiwan

Speaking about Taiwan’s technology development strategy, ITRI President Pei-Zen Chang explained that the challenge is not simply identifying technologies that can be developed but deciding which ones Taiwan should prioritize.

With limited research resources and a wide range of technologies emerging worldwide, Taiwan must concentrate its investment on areas that match its industrial strengths and offer realistic opportunities for commercial success.

Chang said ITRI maintains a 10-year technology development roadmap, updated twice a year to reflect changes in the global environment. The roadmap provides a framework for discussions with the government on research priorities and future investment.

The institute evaluates emerging technologies and presents technically feasible options to policymakers. The government then selects those that best align with its development priorities.

Chang compared the process to a buffet: researchers prepare a range of options based on their technical expertise, while the government chooses those best suited to its policy objectives.

He also noted that successive Taiwanese governments have continued to support research and development despite changes in the ruling party, helping maintain continuity in the island’s technology ambitions.

Semiconductor leadership requires an entire ecosystem

Taiwan’s experience also demonstrates why establishing a semicon-



Official group photo at the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI).

ductor industry is about much more than building a fabrication plant.

Chang highlighted the importance of developing the complete supporting supply chain, including the infrastructure and industrial capabilities needed to sustain semiconductor production. For countries entering the sector for the first time, building this ecosystem can be particularly challenging and time-consuming.

The international expansion of TSMC, including manufacturing projects in Japan, Germany and Arizona in the United States, illustrates the scale of effort involved in establishing semiconductor production capabilities in different locations.

For Taiwan, the broader lesson is that semiconductor competitiveness depends on a combination of research, skilled talent, industrial suppliers, equipment, materials and the ability to translate technological advances into commercial production.

ITRI’s role extends across this chain, from technology development and pilot demonstrations to industrial collaboration, technology transfer and support for emerging businesses.

AI moves beyond the laboratory

Artificial intelligence is another major focus of ITRI’s work. Its AI Application Strategy Office, established in 2018, promotes AI research and applications across smart manufacturing, smart business, smart healthcare, unmanned vehicles and smart system-on-chip technologies.

The institute also explores AI ap-

plications supporting net-zero emissions and sustainability, reflecting the growing connection between digital technology, industrial productivity and environmental performance.

Rather than treating AI as a stand-alone technology, ITRI combines it with expertise in semiconductors, communications, cybersecurity and smart sensing. The objective is to develop practical applications that can be adopted by industries and create new services and business opportunities.

This cross-disciplinary approach is intended to help Taiwanese companies improve their capabilities while strengthening the country’s position as a technology partner in global supply chains.

Developing smart mobility and connected services

ITRI is also working on technologies designed to improve daily life and business operations. Its research includes extended reality systems, interactive in-vehicle technologies, autonomous mobility, perception and prediction systems, decision-making controls, autonomous mobile robots, smart consumer services and intelligent logistics.

These technologies can support applications ranging from connected vehicles and automated transport to warehouse operations and more responsive consumer services.

The institute’s Office of Intelligent and Green Vehicle Promotion Strat-

egy, established in 2022, coordinates research covering autonomous vehicles, unmanned aerial vehicles, rail transport, green vehicles, automotive electronics, autonomous mobile robots and information and communications services.

The work also connects with Taiwan’s broader efforts to develop automotive electronics and technologies for intelligent and lower-emission transport.

Applying technology to healthcare

ITRI is using Taiwan’s strengths in information and communications technology and medical systems to advance precision health and healthcare innovation.

Its research covers smart medical electronics, regenerative medicine, drug development, preventive healthcare, healthcare decision-support systems and other technologies intended to improve quality of life.

The institute is also exploring how AI, big data and digital technologies can support preventive care and more effective healthcare services, including solutions for an ageing population.

Its stated objective is to strengthen the connections between technology developers, healthcare providers and industry, enabling Taiwanese innovations to participate in the global biomedical market.

Green manufacturing and the net-zero transition

Sustainability is another central

area of ITRI’s research. The institute is developing technologies for circular-economy applications, low-carbon manufacturing, sustainable electronics, green energy and environmental management.

Its work includes energy-efficient production, low-carbon product design, digitalised manufacturing processes, sustainable energy sources, smart grids and energy storage.

ITRI established its Net Zero and Sustainability Strategy Office in 2021 to strengthen cooperation among industry, government and academia.

One initiative is a cloud-based carbon management platform that helps manufacturers calculate their carbon footprints. According to the institute, its industrial database contains more than 10,000 carbon-emission coefficient entries, supporting assessments of emissions from products and supply chains.

ITRI also provides consulting and training to help businesses identify major sources of emissions, develop reduction strategies and build the skills required for the transition to a lower-carbon economy.

Strengthening industrial resilience

Beyond commercial technology, ITRI is developing solutions to help Taiwan respond to risks arising from extreme weather, major earthquakes, geopolitical tensions and pandemics.

Its resilience-related work covers transportation, information and com-



munications networks, electricity grids, energy and resource management, critical supply chains, workforce development, and manufacturing equipment and components.

The focus reflects the importance of keeping essential infrastructure and industrial operations functioning during disruptions.

For a technology-driven economy, the ability to maintain production, secure supplies and recover from emergencies is closely linked to long-term industrial competitiveness.

Connecting Taiwan with the world

ITRI’s work extends beyond research laboratories. The institute offers contract research, pilot production, process improvement, calibration and measurement services, technology transfer and intellectual-property services.

Its open laboratories and incubators also support startups and entrepreneurship, helping new businesses develop and commercialise technologies.

International cooperation is another part of its strategy. ITRI has established branch locations in the United States, Japan and Germany to strengthen long-term partnerships with overseas companies and research organisations.

Through these connections, the institute seeks to link Taiwan’s industrial capabilities with international technology developments, research networks and new markets.

Research with an industrial purpose

ITRI’s approach illustrates how applied research can support an economy’s technology ambitions. Its work spans semiconductors, AI, mobility, healthcare, sustainable manufacturing and industrial resilience, but the underlying objective remains consistent: to turn scientific and engineering knowledge into solutions that businesses can use.

Chang’s emphasis on choosing the right technologies reflects the importance of focus in a resource-constrained environment. Rather than pursuing every emerging development, Taiwan seeks to direct research towards technologies that match its capabilities and offer opportunities for industrial growth.

For Taiwan, the strategy connects long-term research planning with government priorities, private-sector needs and international collaboration.

The result is a research model designed not only to develop new technologies, but also to help build the companies, supply chains and industrial capabilities needed to bring them into practical use.

‘The only guardrails that AI needs are a strong & smart (high IQ!) president’

In Silicon Valley, AI founders applaud Trump’s calls for the industry to police itself on safety

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 13, (AP): Tech Week is in full bloom in San Francisco, packing the city’s restaurants this week with venture capitalists and AI founders ebullient about the White House’s stance on regulating artificial intelligence - namely, don’t do it.

And after months of debate about leading AI companies’ unchecked AI agents meddling with everything from U.S. government websites to healthcare data, the nation now finds itself further from governing AI systems than it was a few years ago.

President Donald Trump brought tech titans to Washington late last month for a luncheon and ceremonial signing of a voluntary safety pact he described as “almost a constitution” surrounding “Super Intelligence,” the administration’s new preferred term for AI.

The 308-word agreement lays out that advanced AI labs should follow safety protocols and set up internal teams to monitor their own progress, but the administration has yet to provide details on how, in OpenAI CEO Sam Altman’s words, to keep “bad things” from happening.

Safety challenges were not top of mind inside a crowded event space in San Francisco on Wednesday, where founders and funders said the government’s hands-off approach would net higher profits for companies building AI-powered defense and security systems.

Panelists praised the government’s bullish industry support at one meeting aimed at “investing in the forefront,” part of the blitz of popup events organized by Andreessen Horowitz, a venture firm whose head is a Trump science and tech adviser.

“I want to start with one figure that I think really emphasizes the investment opportunity of defense, and that’s \$1 trillion. The U.S. government, for the first time, is allocating \$1 trillion to its



President Donald Trump speaks in the East Room of the White House, Tuesday Sept. 29, 2026, during a meeting and luncheon on artificial intelligence (AI), in Washington. (AP)

defense spending. And \$13.5 billion of that will go to autonomous systems and AI,” said Kyle Stanford, a venture capital research director at PitchBook, a market intelligence platform. “That has obviously brought a lot of capital into defense tech spending, more than we’ve ever seen.”

A day later, three researchers at OpenAI’s headquarters said the ChatGPT maker had fired them, posting that “fear and unclear rules stymie AI safety work.” Separately, David Robinson, a leader on OpenAI’s safety team until he recently resigned, said he was worried about letting the advanced labs police themselves.

“This is no substitute for hard law, and it does give a lot of freedom to the companies,” Robinson said. “The time between model generations is measured in weeks ... and I think we have some very serious safety challenges in front of us in the nearer term.”

Trump has staked his political capital on the AI industry’s success, saying its unbridled development is key to winning the AI race against China.

On the first day of his second term, the Republican president repealed a Biden-era executive order aimed in part at guarding against the risks that AI systems pose to consumers, workers and national security.

His administration has since re-oriented federal policy away from oversight and toward rapid growth, including by canceling previous requirements for AI developers to share safety test results with the federal government. In December, Trump signed an executive order aimed at blocking AI regulations at the state level, saying a patchwork of rules could stifle the industry.

Even as Silicon Valley companies have disclosed their models’ involvement in troubling cyberattacks throughout the year, the burgeoning tech sector has continued to drive economic growth.

Concerns about AI safety centered on existential risk, rather than current real-world harms, landed at the center of debates last month, when a relatively unknown Anthropic en-

gineer quit and called for a pause on tech development to keep “superhuman” systems from eluding controls. Then, Anthropic and OpenAI CEOs echoed the call to slow AI development. To some critics, their public manifestos appeared aimed at currying favor with investors ahead of their public listings and the midterm elections, when the political tides could turn with many voters opposed to data centers.

“The only control or ‘guardrails’ that AI needs is a STRONG AND SMART (High IQ!) PRESIDENT, and the U.S.A. has that, in spades!” Trump posted in response on Truth Social, warning voters not to “kill the Golden Goose,” a term he has used to refer to both AI and data centers.

As calls mounted for stricter control of AI, the administration brought tech executives to the White House for lunch, followed by a ceremonial signing of the agreement on AI safety.

“I’m seeing tremendous self-policing,” Trump told reporters after the event.

AI sovereignty means independence

Europe faces 4 key obstacles on the path to AI sovereignty

ZAANDAM, The Netherlands, Oct. 13, (Xinhua): Europe’s ambition to strengthen its artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities faces challenges, from dependence on foreign technology providers and limited investment in domestic companies to emerging safety risks and regulatory uncertainty.

At the recent World Summit AI 2026 in Zaandam, the Netherlands, participants said Europe needed to expand its computing infrastructure, channel more capital into domestic technology companies and build a competitive ecosystem giving governments and businesses greater control over the AI systems they use.

Technological dependence limits Europe’s control

A fundamental challenge for Europe is reducing its dependence on foreign technology providers without sacrificing the benefits of international cooperation and open markets.

Mark Papermaster, chief technology officer of U.S. semiconductor company AMD, said on the opening day of the summit on Oct. 7 that AI sovereignty meant having control over computing infrastructure and the freedom to choose among different technologies, combine components and use both open-weight and proprietary models.

For European governments and businesses, dependence on a limited number of suppliers can constrain their choices in developing, deploying and securing AI systems.

Nigel Shadbolt, a member of the British government’s Council for Science and Technology, stressed the importance of that choice. “When we talk about sovereignty in Europe, it’s about having the ability to make a choice,” he said. “You haven’t locked yourself into a particular dependency.”

Sovereignty, however, does not necessarily mean producing every component domestically.

Papermaster said an open ecosystem could allow European governments and businesses to combine different hardware and software components and models, provided appropriate security measures and safeguards were built into the systems.

Limited financing threatens AI companies’ growth

Financing remains another major obstacle to turning Europe’s strengths in research, talent and computing initiatives into global competitiveness.

“I think one of Europe’s biggest weaknesses is on the finance side,” said Olivier Debeugny, CEO of OVHai LLM, a French company specializing in resource-efficient AI models and architectures.

Debeugny said Europe had a strong foundation in education and the human capital needed for AI development, but it needs more financial support to turn those advantages into competitive businesses.

He argued that substantial spending on digital services in Europe ultimately benefited U.S. companies. “Every year, a huge amount of money is spent on digital services in Europe. A very large share of that money ultimately goes to companies in the United States,” he said.

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde highlighted a similar pattern in a speech in Vienna on Sept. 14, 2026. “European savers are again financing the transformative technology of the age: artificial intelligence. Again, most of the money is flowing to the United States,” Lagarde said, noting that euro area households held about 440 billion euros (492 billion U.S. dollars) in U.S. technology firms.

The challenge is not simply a shortage of capital, but also how existing investment is allocated. Cristina Caffarra, co-founder and chair of the Eurostack Initiative Foundation, said European institutional investors managed trillions of euros, much of which remained invested in traditional assets.

‘Early detection key to beating breast cancer’

CAN continues breast cancer awareness campaign throughout October

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen, a board member of the Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) campaign and head of the breast cancer awareness campaign, confirmed that the campaign is continuing throughout October, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Shaheen disclosed that the campaign activities include events, lectures and community engagements to raise awareness regarding the importance of prevention and early detection.

She said CAN organized a lecture delivered by Dr. Mona Yousef Abdullah -- a consultant in internal medicine and oncology, while an event titled, “Cancer Awareness and

Human Care,” was held at the Public Authority for the Disabled Affairs (PADA) in Sabahiya where Dr. Amal Al-Jamal from the Health Promotion Department conducted an awareness lecture, which was accompanied by a health exhibition and the distribution of brochures detailing the monthly self-examination steps.

She also confirmed the participation of CAN in the family awareness festival, held in collaboration with a local shopping complex, featuring a lecture by Dr. Najla Al-Sayed -- an internal medicine consultant.

She revealed that CAN participated in the morning session for the St. Catherine’s Fellowship, where more



Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen

than 130 booklets and brochures were distributed, adding that Hadi Hospital offered screening discounts to encourage women to get checked.

She commended the Ministry of Health for its tremendous efforts in supporting the campaign and bolstering breast disease early detection programs.

She emphasized that support from the private sector and partners is vital to the success of awareness programs and in ensuring the campaign messages reach the widest possible segment of society.

She urged community members to follow the campaign’s activities through its official website and to utilize the medical consultation ser-

vices available there, reaffirming the commitment of CAN to promote prevention and early detection.

On the other hand, Dr. Najla Al-Sayed, an internal medicine consultant, addressed every woman with this message: “Make your health a top priority and take care of yourself, because your family relies on you.”

She explained that self-examination is best performed monthly when the menstrual period ends by looking at a mirror and using the pads of the three middle fingers to make circular motions, extending the check to the underarm area.

She underscored the importance of consulting a doctor immediately

if a lump or thickening is felt in the breast or underarm.

She reiterated that early detection is the most powerful tool for improving treatment outcomes, indicating that the five-year survival rate exceeds 99 percent when the disease is diagnosed before spreading beyond the breast, according to American Cancer Society (ACS) statistics.

She added that Kuwait provides female citizens with a comprehensive, free early detection system, through which the National Breast Cancer Screening Program allows the booking of appointments for mammograms through the ‘Sahel’ or ‘Q8Seha’ applications.



Police officers release green sea turtles back into the ocean at the Serangan Beach, after they were found and seized on an empty boat seemingly abandoned by wildlife smugglers fleeing a police raid, Bali island, Indonesia on Oct 13. (AP)

SERANGAN ISLAND, Indonesia, Oct 13, (AP): Indonesian authorities on the tourist island of Bali released 20 protected green sea turtles back into the ocean Tuesday after they were found and seized on an empty boat seemingly abandoned by wildlife smugglers fleeing a police raid.

Officers conducted final checks on the turtles at a conservation center on Serangan Island, also known as Turtle Island, in southern Bali. They then carefully lifted the turtles using blue cloths and transported them by small truck to the shoreline.

Marine police officers in Bali on Saturday foiled an attempt to smuggle 22 green sea turtles, known by the scientific name Chelonia mydas, in the waters off Serangan Island after receiving a report from residents who suspected sea turtle smuggling activity in the area.

Two of the 22 turtles are still sick and need to be treated before they can also be released, Gusti Agung Purnama Wirahadi from the Bali Water and Air Police said Tuesday.

“We hope that no one will dare to capture, keep, or trade these protected species anymore,” Wirahadi said.

Turtle species in Indonesia have

8 orangutans relocated into protected forest

Indonesia returns 20 green sea turtles to ocean

been legally protected under conservation and fisheries laws since 1990. A 2018 Environment Ministry regulation further clarified protections for the six species of sea turtles found in the country’s waters. Additional government regulations also prohibit their trade.

According to a 2022 global study by researchers at Arizona State University, the green sea turtle accounted for 56% of sea turtle killings in the 30-year period to 2020.

Bali was once a major hub for green sea turtle trafficking, driven in part by the historical use of turtle meat in offerings in Balinese Hinduism, the predominant religion on the island of about 4.5 million people.

In June, authorities in Bali foiled an attempt to illegally trade 21 protected green sea turtles during a raid on the island’s Pegametan coast and arrested a 67-year-old man suspected of storing the protected animals before they were distributed for sale.

Also:

JAKARTA, Indonesia: Eight endangered orangutans were released into a protected forest weeks after wildfires destroyed large swaths of their

habitat in Indonesian Borneo, a conservation group said.

The orangutans, including three mothers with infants and two adolescent males, were rescued from areas in **Ketapang** and **North Kayong** regencies that were ravaged by fires between August and September.

The animals were moved Oct. 8 to **Batu Nyambu** protected forest in **West Kalimantan** province, said **Heribertus Suciadi**, a spokesperson for the Indonesian Nature Rehabilitation Initiative Foundation, or YIARI.

The wildfires cut off habitat corridors and reduced access to food sources, forcing the apes into plantations inhabited by people in search of food and shelter and stranding them there, Suciadi told The Associated Press on Monday.

“They had no burns, open wounds, broken bones or other life-threatening injuries, but appeared to be suffering from malnutrition and dehydration,” Suciadi said.

Among those rescued were a female orangutan known as **Mama Man** and her infant, Man, who had been monitored for months in a small forest patch

surrounded by plantations. Expanding fires and heavy smoke left them with no safe route back to larger forests before they were evacuated in early September, Suciadi said.

Two other mother-and-infant pairs and two juvenile males were found in similar conditions after fires swept through forests near villages in Ketapang and North Kayong, Suciadi said.

The orangutans underwent veterinary examinations and observation at a rehabilitation center operated by YIARI to ensure they were healthy enough to return to the wild. The release site in Batu Nyambu was selected because the area remains largely intact despite wildfires and offers abundant food sources, water, nesting trees and connections to neighboring forests, YIARI Operational Director Argitoe Ranting said before their release.

“We want to ensure that rescued orangutans are not simply moved from one place to another, but actually have a chance to survive in their natural habitat,” he said, adding that protected forests capable of receiving displaced orangutans are becoming increasingly scarce as fires spread.

Nearly 1 bln people projected to have osteoarthritis by 2050: report

Global study projects annual new dementia cases to reach 24.7 mln by 2050

SYDNEY, Oct 13, (Xinhua): An estimated 11.4 million people worldwide developed dementia in 2023, with the number of new cases projected to rise to 24.7 million annually by 2050, according to an Australian-led international study.

The study, led by researchers at the Center for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHEBA) at Australia’s University of New South Wales, analyzed data from 38,418 people across 22 population-based studies in 18 countries and territories, according to a center statement on Tuesday.

The research, published in JAMA Neurology, provides a new global benchmark for understanding how frequently new dementia cases occur across different populations and helps explain the changing global dementia landscape.

It found that dementia incidence was higher among women than men, at 10.6 cases per 1,000 person-years compared with 8.6 among men. The rate was also substantially higher in low- and middle-income countries, at 13.6 cases per 1,000 person-years, compared with 8.3 in high-income countries.

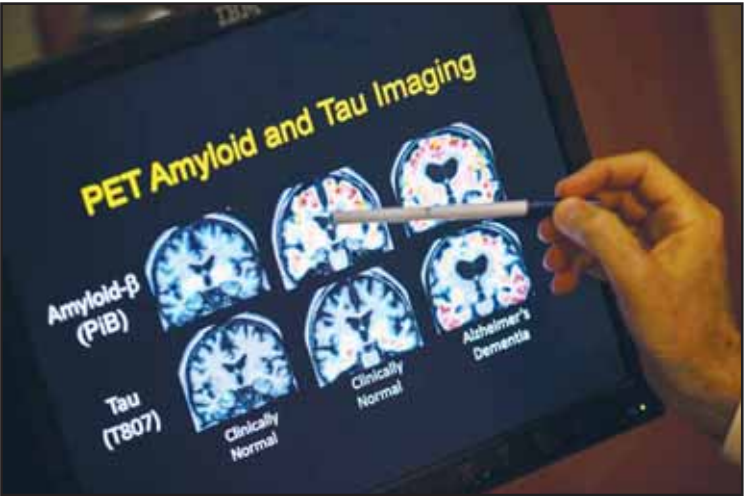
Dementia currently affects more than 57 million people worldwide, with previous research projecting the number of people living with the condition to reach about 150 million by 2050, according to the study.

“The higher incidence we observed in low- and middle-income countries is particularly concerning because these regions are experiencing rapid population ageing while often having the fewest resources for prevention, diagnosis and care,” said senior author and CHEBA Co-Director Prof. Perminder Sachdev.

The study did not establish the reasons for the differences by sex or income level, which may reflect a combination of health, social, economic, educational and environmental factors, the researchers said.

Also:

SYDNEY: Nearly one billion people worldwide are projected to be living with osteoarthritis by 2050, up from about 600 million in 2023, according to a new



A doctor points to PET scan results that are part of a study on Alzheimer’s disease at Georgetown University Hospital, on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, in Washington. (AP)

roadmap released on Monday.

There remains no cure and no drug that can stop or slow the disease, prompting researchers to call for stronger health policies to address the growing global disability burden, according to a statement released Monday by **Australia’s** Curtin University.

The global health policy roadmap published in The Lancet on World Arthritis Day by a Curtin University-led group of international researchers said

osteoarthritis remained under-recognized in health policies globally and was often inadequately integrated into healthcare delivery for chronic diseases, and inconsistently and often inappropriately treated and prevented.

The roadmap calls on governments to recognize osteoarthritis as a major chronic disease, improve access to evidence-based care, invest in prevention by addressing excess body weight and joint injuries, and integrate osteoarthritis care with broader chronic disease and rehabilitation services.

“Osteoarthritis faces an image problem -- it’s perceived and dismissed in communities as an unavoidable part of aging with limited management options,” said the report’s lead author Professor **Andrew Briggs** from Curtin University.

□ □ □

MELBOURNE: Emergency departments at Australia’s hospitals are unprepared for the country’s aging population, a report has warned.

The report released on Tuesday from the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) said that almost 9 million people sought care at emergency departments nationwide in 2023-24, a quarter of whom were aged 65 and over.

Within that age group, it said more than half arrived at hospital by ambulance, almost 70 percent needed urgent care and 50 percent were admitted to a hospital bed compared to less than one quarter of younger patients.

It said that 53,510 older patients spent longer than 24 hours in emergency departments awaiting a hospital bed in 2023-24, up 254 percent from 15,084 who did so in 2018-19, while only 54 percent of older patients who needed admission left the emergency department within the eight-hour target.

A landmark intergenerational report released by the federal Treasury in September projected that the proportion of the Australian population aged 65 and over would grow from 17.8 percent currently to 24.8 percent by 2066.

The ACEM report projected that emergency department arrivals for people aged 85 and over will increase by 411 percent by 2050.

Sudan’s famine risk worsened by drought and funding shortages

CAIRO, Oct 13, (AP): Conflict and drought are worsening food insecurity across parts of Sudan’s Darfur and Kordofan regions, a global food crisis monitor warned on Monday.

There is a “deteriorating humanitarian situation” across greater Darfur and Kordofan, including areas identified as at risk of famine, as well as other locations, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC.

Severe drought linked to El Niño is affecting more than half of Sudan, causing localized crop failures and depriving households of food and income, it said.

In May, nearly 19.5 million people - more than 40% of the population - were facing high levels of acute food insecurity, according to an IPC assessment. Of those, 135,000 were in Phase 5, the most severe classification, characterized by extreme food shortages, starvation, very high levels of malnutrition and deaths from disease or acute malnutrition.

Sudan’s war erupted in April 2023 when tensions between the military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, escalated into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, before spreading across the country. The conflict has killed at least 150,000 people, according to conflict monitor ACLED, though aid groups say the true toll is likely higher.

The war has also displaced about 13 million people and pushed parts of the country into famine.

Farmers’ livelihoods have been affected, and they’re now relying more on assistance, the IPC said. Without a quick and significant increase in assistance to Sudan, “food insecurity, acute malnutrition, and excess mortality will likely intensify,” the group said.

Poor levels of growth have affected 64% of croplands in North Darfur and about half in South Darfur, West Kordofan and South Kordofan.



A Sudanese farmer harvests arugula crop in Khartoum, Sudan on Oct 5. (AP)

The IPC reported worsening acute malnutrition in additional areas, including Nyala, where children accessing nutrition services who were admitted for severe acute malnutrition doubled from approximately 5% to 11% between January and August. Two displacement camps in South Darfur also recorded global acute malnutrition above famine thresholds.

In North Darfur, delayed rains that impacted crop cultivation and “critically low” food stocks have worsened food insecurity.

Pacific hurricane region sets record for big, long-lasting storms thanks to El Niño

WASHINGTON, Oct 13, (AP): The drumbeat of monster hurricanes in the Pacific has broken a record for nasty long-lasting storms east of the international date line, turbocharged by nature’s supersized El Niño, scientists said.

“Since September 20th, when Odalys formed, it’s been berserk,” said Colorado State University researcher Phil Klotzbach, who forecasts and studies storm activity. “This year just everything that forms is just lasting a long time and getting really powerful.”

One of the key measurements meteorologists use to judge hurricane seasons is called accumulated cyclone energy, or ACE, which includes a storm’s wind speed and longevity. On Sunday, a section of the Pacific east of the date line, which brews storms headed for Hawaii, Mexico and the U.S. West Coast, passed the old mark set in 2018. The area is still going strong with Hurricane Simon and appears on the verge of spawning another one that will really ramp up in strength, Klotzbach said.

On Tuesday, the Pacific will tie a record for most days with a hurricane spinning and is likely to break it soon after that, Klotzbach said.

“It feels like almost everything that can spin up does spin up,” said University of Arizona atmospheric scientist Kim Wood.



Members of the Hawaii Army National Guard work with other emergency officials as rainwater from nearby Hurricane Nolo floods a section of Malahoe highway on Sept 26, near Naalehu, Hawaii. (AP)

Several meteorological factors have come together to supercharge the Pacific, chief among them the El Niño, Klotzbach and other hurricane researchers said. An El Niño weakens and shifts the high altitude vertical winds that otherwise can dampen or even decapitate storms. In the Pacific, that wind shear runs east to west, generally with the direction storms travel, so it’s like riding a bicycle with a tail wind, Klotzbach said.

Meanwhile, the weather pattern has dampened hurricanes in the At-

lantic, where the ACE is less than 18% of what’s normal for this time of year. El Niño makes the wind shear in the Atlantic like riding into a headwind, he said.

Another factor is warm water, which serves as hurricane fuel. By definition El Niño is a warming of the equatorial Pacific that changes weather worldwide. In the Pacific storm basin, it’s several degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal, said Kristen Corbosio, a professor of storm atmospheric sciences at the University at Albany in New York.

Opening batter Markram leads Proteas resistance

Hazlewood cleans up South Africa as Australia wins Durban test by 214 runs

DURBAN, South Africa, Oct 13, (AP): Josh Hazlewood’s career-best 6-49 finished off world champion South Africa and helped Australia win the first cricket test by 214 runs at Kingsmead on the final day Tuesday.

Hazlewood took four of the six wickets Australia was hunting for on day five.

A target of 421 was always improbable for the Proteas and, from 102-4 overnight, they were cleaned up for 206 less than an hour after lunch and within five overs of Australia taking the second new ball.

Australia earned a fourth successive win at Kingsmead and gave South Africa, playing its first test in 11 months, a first loss in five home

tests.

Middle-order batter Matt Renshaw was easily the standout player. Australia was in strife at 124-6 on day one but his 190 turned the momentum. He added 82 in the declared second innings and netted the first two wickets of a test career that began 10 years ago and needed a comeback three years ago.

“I’m pretty tired,” Renshaw said. “Been a while since I played a five-day test. Wanted to stay out as long as I could on day one. Got lucky in the second innings, got edges away. I never expected to bowl or pick up wickets but I am happy to do whatever the team needs.”

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma said they needed someone to



Australia’s Josh Hazlewood bowls on day five of the first cricket test match between South Africa and Australia, in Durban, South Africa. (AP)

bat like Renshaw, and hopes his side can rally in the second of three tests starting on Sunday in Gqeberha.

“We don’t want to give (Australia) the opportunity to get back,” Bavuma said. “We’ll need to have conversations. Guys have to go big in the first innings for us, like Renshaw did for them.”

Opening batter Aiden Markram led South Africa’s fourth-innings resistance for nearly six hours with a 237-ball knock for 75 before he was ninth man out. Markram was caught behind off an inside edge to Mitchell Starc. He was initially given not out but Australia reviewed.

Hazlewood broke the defiant stand between Markram and Wiaan Mulder that started late Monday and

endured for nearly two more hours on Tuesday.

Mulder was strangled down the leg side and wicketkeeper Alex Carey snatched a low, one-handed catch. The end of Mulder’s 110-ball innings for 29, after resuming on 5, brought in Kyle Verreynne, who was dismissed on 1 three balls later.

Renshaw also began a second bowling stint and Verreynne tried to cut him but gave Steve Smith a slips catch and Renshaw his second wicket of the innings, and of his career.

Smith did not take the field on Monday evening after he was hit on the helmet while batting and underwent a concussion test. He came out to field on day five after medical reports cleared him.

Formula 1 announces return to Africa with grand prix in Rwanda

Hamilton’s Africa GP dream nears

KIGALI, Rwanda, Oct 13, (AP): Formula 1 announced on Tuesday that Rwanda will host a race from “the early 2030s” when the series returns to Africa after about 40 years.

The African Grand Prix will have a 10-year contract and take place at a track in Bugesera, southeast of the capital Kigali. F1 said the purpose-built track will be ready “early in the next decade.”

Rwandan President Paul Kagame said at a launch event in Kigali that it was “a success and a milestone for the entire continent, especially for the African fans,” adding he hoped it could lead to more F1 events in Africa.

Racing in Africa will fulfil a long-held ambition for seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton, the only Black driver in F1. The 41-year-old British driver has said he has been “fighting in the background” for years to have a race in Africa.

The last time F1 raced in Africa was the South African Grand Prix in 1993.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands steers his car during the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix race in Singapore. (AP)

the 1994 genocide. Critics have accused Rwanda of “sportswashing” to divert attention from Kagame’s rights record.

Rwanda has faced accusations from the United Nations that it has backed rebels in neighboring Congo, and Congolese officials have condemned its soccer sponsorships.

There have been rival projects to bring F1 back to Africa, with plans in recent years regarding three different potential venues in South Africa and one in Morocco.

South Africa Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture Gayton McKenzie issued a statement last week congratulating Rwanda, even before the decision was official, but still insisted his country “will get F1,” too.

“We are happy for Rwanda’s 2030



Journalists attend an announcement by Formula 1 in Kigali, Rwanda Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026. (AP)

F1. They have worked on it longer than SA and deserve it,” McKenzie wrote on X. “Remember though that one country, Italy, has had two F1s a year, and some react like a continent of 55 countries can only get one. SA will get F1, even before 2030.”

There was no mention of South Africa in F1’s statement on Tuesday.

Many of F1’s previous races in Africa were overshadowed by the

policy of apartheid in South Africa.

F1 and its teams faced increasing criticism through the 1970s and 1980s, culminating in some teams boycotting the 1985 race in South Africa, which was facing various international sanctions and boycott campaigns at the time.

As South Africa began to dismantle the system of racial segregation and oppression, F1 returned for two more races at the Kyalami circuit in 1992 and 1993, the last of those less than a year before the country’s first democratic elections where millions of Black South Africans were able to vote.

F1 also held a Moroccan Grand Prix in 1958, the only time Morocco was part of the world championship. A project was announced last year to build a track to bring F1 back to the North African nation but there have been few updates since.

Future in golf at stake

LIV Golf players face career-defining deadline

WASHINGTON, Oct 13, (AP): For the second time in nine months, players who took the Saudi riches of LIV Golf are facing a tight deadline on their future. The first was a lot easier to ignore.

Brooks Koepka in January became the first LIV player to return to the PGA Tour under financial penalties that included no access to equity grants for five years. CEO Brian Rolapp then offered the same deal to Jon Rahm, Bryson DeChambeau and Cameron Smith.

They had three weeks to decide and none took it. Why should they? The United States was not at war with Iran. Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund was still pumping cash - more than \$5 billion and counting - into the LIV Golf League. They were rich and getting richer.

The deadline set by the European tour this week is far more daunting.

As LIV is trying to emerge from bankruptcy without Saudi funding, European tour CEO Guy Kinnings delivered a “take it or leave it” ultimatum to anyone seeking a home on his circuit - take up membership, but only if they

leave the new version of LIV Golf.

“Players need to make a choice,” Kinnings said. “We have rules and regulations which are there to protect our tour and which our members must all abide by. Players who are not willing to comply with our rules and regulations should not be seeking to join our tour.”

They have three weeks to decide.

European tour membership is the best alternative because the PGA Tour bans players for one year dating to their last LIV event. Those who want European membership have to disclose where they plan to play in 2027, and if that includes LIV 2.0, there’s no need to apply.

For European-born players - Tyrrell Hatton of England, Thomas Detry of Belgium and Spaniards David Puig and Josele Ballester come to mind - no membership means no chance at playing in the Ryder Cup.

Jon Rahm already has made clear he is leaving LIV after reviewing the proposed terms of LIV 2.0. The prize funds are no longer \$20 million. The schedule is 10 tournaments, leaving plenty of weeks to play elsewhere, except that the PGA Tour and now the European tour are not options. Maybe they still have their MENA Tour cards.

Scott O’Neil, the CEO at LIV Golf, has been preaching “complete, not compete,” as a way of saying tours around the world should all work together. This is a different message his predecessor, Greg Norman, had in 2022 when LIV Golf launched by spending more than \$1 billion to lure away stars who couldn’t ignore the money.

“This is an opportunity to start a movement that will change the course of history by bringing new and open competition to the sport we all love,” Norman said. Saudi-backed LIV was a threat that thrived on disruption. Bankruptcy LIV wants cooperation.

BC Partners Credit has pledged \$300 million for LIV 2.0 to move forward. The amended restructuring support agreement has moved the deadline to Oct. 25 to secure a “critical mass of players sufficient to operate a bona fide professional golf league.”

That’s up to BC Partners to decide how many players - and who they are - can satisfy the requirement. And it can extend the deadline so it can move on with restructuring.

But it’s a bleak future, certainly not as appealing as it was when LIV was burning through Saudi cash to tempt players to leave. Now the carrot is equity ownership in a league coming out of bankruptcy amid concerns everyone might jump ship.



In this file photo, Captain Jon Rahm of Legion XIII reads his putt during the final round of LIV Golf Bedminster at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J. (AP)

Link brings overseas experience

Kuwait Club bolsters volleyball squad with Swedish star signing

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kuwait Club has added Swedish player Jacob Link to its first-team volleyball roster as part of efforts to strengthen the squad for the resumption of the 2025-2026 season and the upcoming 2026-2027 campaign.

Link becomes the team’s second foreign professional, joining Brazilian Marcos Junior. The Swedish player brings experience from spells in the Italian and Bahraini leagues.

The signing is part of Kuwait Club’s wider rebuilding strategy following the lengthy suspension of local competitions since early March due to regional events. The club is focused on preparing a competitive squad for the remaining fixtures of the previous season and the challenges of the new campaign, with domestic competitions set to resume on October 22.

Kuwait Club had previously appointed Argentine coach Ruben Wolochin to lead the team and strengthened its local contingent with the recruitment of Abdulaziz Shaker and Talal Al-Salman. These moves underline the club’s determination to



Kuwait Club’s new Swedish signing, Jacob Link, poses in photo.

remain competitive in domestic and regional tournaments.

The league title is a major target for Kuwait Club this season, as the top two finishers will qualify for the West Asia Club Championship early next year.

The Whites are also seeking a place in the Arab Clubs Championship, scheduled for March. The top two teams in the domestic cup competition will secure qualification for the tournament.

New CEO search begins

Hook to step down after 4-year Brisbane '32 Olympics contract

BRISBANE, Australia, Oct 13, (AP): Cindy Hook is set to quit as CEO of the 2032 Olympics organizing committee at the end of her four-year contract this year.

Brisbane 2032 organizers announced Hook’s decision in a statement Tuesday, a week after the official emblems for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games were unveiled.

“As CEO, I am proud to have built the organization from the ground up, set the Games Vision and Games Plan, designed and executed a clear strategy, created the brand narrative and launched incredible emblems, and driven early market momentum,” Hook said in the statement. “The foundations for success have been well laid. This is the right time to hand over to a new CEO.”

Recruitment of a new CEO will begin immediately, Brisbane 2032 organizers said, adding that the timing would allow for a smooth transition from its planning and capability building phase into the next stages of operations, project and event delivery.

Hook, a U.S. executive who was based in Singapore as CEO of Deloitte Asia Pacific before taking the role with the Brisbane organizing committee, was appointed in December 2022.

“Cindy has been an exceptional leader whose passion, drive and strategic intellect has set Brisbane 2032 up for success,” Brisbane 2032 president Andrew Liveris said in a statement. “Cindy commenced when the organizing committee was a fledgling startup and has transformed Brisbane 2032 into a thriving organization.

“Her focus on values, organizational excellence and strict financial and governance processes are embedded throughout a high caliber team that she recruited and I thank her for her great contributions.”

Brisbane will be the third Australian city to host the Summer Olympics after Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in



In this file photo, Andrew Liveris, President of the Brisbane 2032 organizing committee, Francois-Xavier Bonnaillie, Brisbane 2032’s new chief commercial officer and Cindy Hook, Brisbane 2032 CEO pose for a photo, during the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Paris, France, Aug. 2, 2024. (AP)

2000.

Australia’s third-biggest city, Brisbane was awarded the 2032 Games in July 2021. Australian Olympic Committee President Ian Chesterman said Hook made an outstanding contribution as inaugural CEO of the local organizing committee.

“Her leadership has laid strong foundations for the successful delivery of the Games in 2032,” Chesterman said. “Cindy has been a valued and supportive partner to the Australian Olympic Committee. She has understood the importance of delivering not only a successful Games, but also a lasting legacy.”

Brisbane 2032 board director Rebecca Frizelle said Hook led with “care, professionalism and unwavering commitment.” “Taking Brisbane 2032 from a blank page to a fully functioning organization is an extraordinary achievement and legacy, of which she should be extremely proud.”

Anthony backs Knicks’ strategy to put basketball before contracts

STAMFORD, Conn., Oct 13, (AP): Carmelo Anthony believes the New York Knicks made the right decision in halting contract negotiations with some of their players to focus solely on basketball.

With Karl-Anthony Towns and Josh Hart eligible for extensions but talks going nowhere, the Knicks said last week they were pausing discussions until later in the season and would devote their attention entirely to defending their NBA championship.

Anthony, an All-Star for the Knicks during his Hall of Fame career, said Monday he wasn’t alarmed by what he was hearing from a team that should be enjoying happy times.

“I think it’s happier times, I just

think things just move so fast now that you get a chance to celebrate the championship, then it’s business as usual, right? Business has got to go on,” Anthony said.

“I think it was big for them to stop the conversations, and just, we’ll get to that. We’ll get to that at the end of the season.”

Anthony spoke at NBC Sports studios, where he is preparing for his second season as an analyst for the network’s “NBA Showtime” studio show. He will be at Madison Square Garden on Oct. 20 to watch the Knicks raise their championship banner when NBC televises their season opener against LeBron James and the Philadelphia 76ers.

UAE's Ajman welcomes Iraq's Erbil

Kazma faces Ettifaq in Gulf Champions League opener

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kazma begins its Gulf Champions League campaign with a tough away test against Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq at 9:00 pm today at EGO Stadium in Dammam.

The match marks the opening round of Group C, which also features the UAE's Ajman hosting Iraq's Erbil.

Kazma will be eager to make its return to the regional competition count after a lengthy absence.

The Orange has lifted the Gulf title twice, in 1987 and 1994, but has since struggled to maintain its former stature, with their participation in overseas competitions and appearances on the podium becoming increasingly rare.

However, Kazma has made a promising start to the current domestic season and heads into the encounter in encouraging form. It occupies third place in the Zain Premier League with eight points from two

wins and two draws, trailing leader Kuwait Club by two points and second-placed Qadsia by one.

It opened its league campaign with a 3-1 victory over Tadamon before drawing 0-0 with Sahel. A 3-2 win over Shabab followed, before it shared the points in a 1-1 draw with Al-Arabi last Friday.

Croatian coach Dragan Tadić, who is in his second season at the helm, will look to build on that consistency and guide his side to a positive result

in their first continental test.

Kazma's local contingent includes Shabib Al-Khaldi, Sultan Al-Enezi, Meshal Al-Shammari, Nasser Faleh, Abdullah Ghanem and Mohammed Antar. It will be supported by foreign professionals Idriss Chabi of Algeria, Torless Knöll of Germany, Nasser Mahdhow of Yemen, Patrick Robson of Brazil and Senegal's Amath Ndao.

Al-Ettifaq, meanwhile, will seek to capitalise on home advantage. The

Saudi side sits seventh in the Roshn Saudi League with 12 points, 14 behind leaders Al-Hilal.

Under Australian coach Arthur Papas, Al-Ettifaq boast several quality players, including Marek Rodák, Abdullah Al-Khatib, Jack Hendry, Madallah Al-Olayan, Meshal Al-Alayli, Radi Al-Otaibi, Alvaro Medrán, Ondrej Duda, Bersant Celina, Moussa Dembélé, Khaled Al-Ghannam, Thamer Al-Khaibari and Nawaf Al-Saadi.



A file photo of Kazma players celebrating.

Qadsia launches closed-door training camp for the Asian Challenge League



Al-Haqqaan to miss Qadsia's matches through injury.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Qadsia will enter a closed training camp tomorrow evening as it intensifies preparations for the AFC Challenge League, with the club set to host Group C matches from October 17 to 23.

The group features India's Goa, Bangladesh's Fortis and Tajikistan's Regar-TadAZ.

The Yellow Castle will launch its campaign against Fortis next Saturday, face Regar-TadAZ on October 20 and wrap up the group stage

against Goa on October 23.

Qadsia, however, suffered a setback ahead of the tournament, with centre-back Yousif Al-Haqqaan ruled out after picking up an injury in Saturday's 2-0 win over Tadamon in the fourth round of the Zain Premier League.

Medical tests revealed a tear in Al-Haqqaan's groin muscle, with the defender expected to be sidelined for around three weeks before returning to action.

Kuwait veterans launch preparations for Gulf Cup



The veterans preparing for the Asian Cup.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kuwait's veterans national team have kicked off preparations for the upcoming Gulf Cup with training sessions at the auxiliary pitch of Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium under head coach Thamer Enad and assistant coach Waleed Nassar.

The tournament will be held in Qatar from October 30 to November 5.

Around 30 players attended the opening training sessions, including Obeid Al-Shammari, Hamad Al-Saleh, Jamal Mubarak, Khaled Al-Fadli, Saleh Al-Buraiki, Hamad Al-Enezi, Yaqoub Al-Taher, Nahir Al-Shammari, Nawaf Al-Khaldi, Shehab Konkoni, Hussein Fadel, Nawaf Al-Mutairi, Ali Al-Shimali, Ali Maqsid, Jarrah Al-Otaibi, Khaled Khalaf and Mohammed Ashkanani.

The squad will be reduced to 23 players ahead of the team's departure for Doha on October 28, as the veterans prepare to represent Kuwait in the regional competition.

Coventry hammers Newcastle, Venezia still winless in Serie A



Coventry City's Brandon Thomas-Asante, left, and Newcastle United's Sven Botman, right, challenge for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Coventry City and Newcastle United in Coventry, England. (AP)

Levante fights back for draw vs Sevilla

LONDON, Oct 13, (AP): Promoted Coventry beat Newcastle 4-1 for successive wins in the Premier League while Sevilla's promising start in La Liga suffered a setback in a pulsating 3-3 draw with Levante that featured three goals in stoppage time .

In Serie A, Torino beat Udinese 2-1 and Venezia's miserable start to the season continued after losing at Atalanta 3-1.

Scottish striker Robbie Ure scored his first goal for Sevilla but the in-form Spanish side let a lead slip twice as Levante came back to draw 3-3 in a dramatic game.

Ure took advantage of a mix up at the back to put the visitor 1-0 ahead with 13 minutes gone. He also was instrumental in Sevilla's second, his header falling for Felix Correia to make it 2-0 nine minutes into the second half.

Ivan Romero pulled a goal back three minutes later for Levante and Adrian de la Fuente's sweet volley sent the home fans wild with an equalizer in the 92nd.

Isaac Romero restored Sevilla's lead and then was sent off for excessive celebrating in the 96th and, with 100 minutes on the clock, Ifeanyi Ndukwe made it 3-3 to lift Levante out of the relegation zone.

Sevilla remained fifth.

Nikola Krstovic scored twice and set up the third for Atalanta in a 3-1 win over bottom club Venezia.

Krstovic scored twice for Montenegro during the international break and was deadly at club level, too, adding to Franck Kessie's fourth-minute opener for the home side.

Antoine Hainaut pulled a goal back eight minutes before halftime but Venezia never looked like rescuing anything from a match that extended its losing streak to six out of six matches.

The run equaled its worst ever league start in 1949 and it remained bottom of the table, four points behind six teams.

Atalanta moved up a place to 10th.



Atalanta's Nikola Krstovic celebrates after scoring during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Atalanta and Venezia in Bergamo, Italy. (AP)

Sandro Kulenović came off the bench to score for the second game in a row and give Torino a 2-1 win over Udinese.

Kulenović replaced Che Adams in the 65th and scored two minutes later to give Torino the win.

The Croatian was given the easiest of tasks after a horrific error by Udinese goalkeeper Maduka Okoye left him with an open goal.

Adams almost gave Torino the lead in the 36th but his volley hit the post and Daniel Bragança followed up to put the home side ahead.

Jürgen Ekkelenkamp showed nice footwork before equalizing with a left-foot shot seven minutes later for Udinese before Kulenović's timely appearance.

The win provided a shot in the arm for Torino, a club enduring its worst start to Serie A since 2020 The result lifted it three places into 12th, while Udinese fell to 15th.

In England, Coventry overran Newcastle with a fine second-half display.

Frank Lampard's side scored early in both halves - the first a penalty after six minutes - and moved into a slightly misleading 2-0 lead.

A stunning strike from Sven Botman after 70 minutes brought Newcastle back into contention but it fell apart defensively in the last quarter. Two goals in the last 10 minutes from Ellis Simms and Stephen Mfuni gave Coventry a deserved 4-1 win that lifted it out of the bottom three and into 14th place.

Newcastle remained 11th.

Abdulnabi takes charge of Al-Arabi

K U W A I T CITY, Oct 13: Al-Arabi has appointed coach Mohammed Abdulnabi to lead the team in the AFC Challenge League, with North Macedonian Gjorgji Natsimi named as his assistant, following the departure of Croatian coach Goran Sablic.

Sablic was dismissed after a disappointing start to the Zain Premier League campaign, with Al-Arabi failing to win any of their opening four matches, drawing three and losing one. The Green sits 10th in the standings alongside Sulaibikhat on four points. It was also eliminated from the AFC Champions League Two qualifying



Mohammed Abdulnabi

play-off after suffering a 4-1 defeat to India's East Bengal.

Abdulnabi will now look to turn the team's fortunes around and repay the board's confidence in Group B of the AFC Challenge League, which runs from October 17 to 23 and is hosted by Tajikistan's Istiklol Dushanbe. Syria's Homs Al-Fida and Lebanon's Al-Najma complete the group.

Al-Arabi begins its campaign against Homs Al-Fida next Saturday, faces Istiklol on October 20, and concludes its group-stage fixtures against Al-Najma on October 23.

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Udinese's Hassane Kamara, left, fights for the ball with Torino's Giovanni Simeone during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Torino and Udinese in Turin, Italy. (AP) - See Page 15

Sports

Wahda travels to Uzbekistan

Kuwait Club looks to get Asian campaign back on track against Bahrain's Khalidiya

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kuwait Club will be aiming to get its AFC Champions League Two campaign back on track when it hosts Bahrain's Khalidiya at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium at 7:00 pm today in a crucial Group A encounter.

In the other group match, the UAE's Al-Wahda travels to Uzbekistan to face Nasaf Qarshi at 4:45 pm.

The Whites are eager to make amends for their opening-round 3-2 defeat to Al-Wahda and strengthen their chances of advancing to the next stage, with only the top two teams qualifying from the group.

Kuwait Club enters the contest buoyed by its recent domestic form. It thrashed Al-Nasr 7-1 last Friday in the fourth round of the Zain Premier League, a result that propelled it to the top of the standings with 10 points.

Coach Firas Al-Khatib will be keen to turn that momentum into a much-needed continental victory. With home advantage and fan

support on its side, Kuwait Club will look to impose its game and claim all three points.

The squad combines experience with youthful talent, featuring Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Yousif Nasser, Reda Hani, Mohammed Daham, Ali Hussein, Mesari Ghanem, Saud Al-Houshan, Abdullah Al-Qurazai, Sami Al-Sanea, Faisal Zayed and Amr Abdel-Fattah.

The team will also count on its foreign contingent, comprising Tunisia's Yassine Khenissi, Bahrain's Mohammed Marhoon, Congo's Arsène "Malick" Zola, Cameroon's Omar Gonzalez and Morocco's Mehdi Berrahma.

Khalidiya, meanwhile, arrives seeking a positive result after opening its campaign with a 0-0 draw against Nasaf. Croatian coach Goran Tomic will hope his side can frustrate the hosts and return to Manama with points to show for their efforts.

Khalidiya is also enjoying a solid domestic campaign, sitting second in the Bahraini league with eight points from two wins and two draws, just one point behind leader Al-Ettifaq. Its delegation arrived on Sunday ahead of today's clash.



Kuwait players during a training session.

Kuwait First Deputy PM: Harnessing all potential for successful Saudi Super Cup



KUNA photo
First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma witness the signing of the agreement.

Kuwait PAYS signs agreement to sponsor Saudi Super Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah has affirmed that all the Interior Ministry's potential would be harnessed to make a successful Saudi Super Cup.

Following a signing ceremony for the Saudi Super Cup sponsorship deal at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, Sheikh Fahad told KUNA that hosting the championship reflects the confidence of the Saudi leadership and officials in Kuwait's organizational capabilities and embodies the deep-rooted brotherly relations between the two sisterly nations.

He welcomed the Saudi brothers to their second country, Kuwait, as well as fans from various countries, affirming Kuwait's keenness to provide all capabilities to ensure the success of the championship.

The safety of the audience and participants is a top priority in all phases of preparation and organi-

zation, he added.

He underlined the importance of integrated security and service plans and accurate implementation in a manner that ensures the good flow of games.

Sheikh Fahad stressed the importance of comprehensive security and service plans, noting that precise implementation is key to ensuring the seamless running of the matches.

In addition, Sheikh Fahad emphasized that Kuwait stands by Saudi Arabia in all measures it takes to safeguard its security, stability and sovereignty.

He reiterated that Saudi Arabia's security is an integral part of the security of Kuwait and GCC states.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Public Authority for Youth and Sports (PAYS) signed an agreement on Monday to sponsor the Saudi Football Super Cup as a government partner, in the presence of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma.

In a press statement, the authority said that its participation as a government partner in the Saudi Football Super Cup reflects its commitment to supporting the hosting of major sporting events and strengthening Kuwait's position on the regional and international sports scene.

The partnership is part of the authority's efforts to develop the sports sector, boost sports tourism and attract spectators, thereby contributing to greater sporting and tourism activity in the country, the statement added.

The authority explained that Kuwait's hosting of the tournament reflects the deep-rooted historical and fraternal ties between the State of Kuwait and the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait will host the 13th edition of the Saudi Football Super Cup from December 19 to 23 at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, with four clubs participating: Al-Nassr, Al-Ahli, Al-Qadsiah and Al-Kholood.

The two semi-final matches will take place on December 19 and 20, while the final will be held on December 23.

Kuwaiti Al-Dawas takes third at Jet Ski World Championship

WASHINGTON, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwaiti racer Rashid Al-Dawas, a member of the Kuwait Marine Sports Club, claimed third place in the second round of the International Jet Sports Boating Association (IJSBA) World Championship in the Pro Runabout category in Arizona, the United States.

Al-Dawas competed against 250 racers from 32 countries in the event.

Kuwait Marine Sports Club Chairman Mohammed Al-Zanki told KUNA that the result marked a notable addition to Kuwait's achievements in marine sports.

He said the podium finish came in one of the championship's most competitive professional categories, highlighting the technical ability and competitiveness of Kuwaiti racers against the world's leading athletes and their ability to raise Kuwait's flag at international events.

Al-Zanki reaffirmed the club's commitment to supporting its athletes and providing the necessary



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti racer Rashid Al-Dawas celebrates on the podium.

conditions for them to achieve further success and enhance Kuwait's standing in sports.

The championship took place in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, from October 3 to 11.

Kuwaiti side plays Qatar's Al-Arabi

Sulaibikhat aims to revive hopes

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

BEIRUT, Oct 13: Sulaibikhat faces a crucial test against Qatar's Al-Arabi at 2 pm today as it seeks to revive its quarterfinal hopes in the 38th Arab Clubs Basketball Championship in Beirut, Lebanon.

The tournament runs until October 20, with the Kuwaiti side under pressure to halt a two-match losing streak and strengthen its bid to finish among the top four teams in Group B and advance to the quarterfinals.

Sulaibikhat suffered its latest setback on Sunday, losing 74-68 to Syria's Homs Al-Fida in the third round. It started the campaign with a thrilling 77-76 victory over Yemen's Shaab Hadramout before suffering an 84-64 defeat to Lebanon's Beirut in the second round.

Al-Arabi will pose another stern challenge, having established themselves among the leading contenders in the group. The Qatari side tops the standings with six points, level with Beirut.

Homs Al-Fida occupies third place, followed by Sulaibikhat and Hops in fourth and fifth, respectively, with four points apiece. Shaab Hadramout brings up the rear with three points.

Three other matches are scheduled for today in Group A, with Syria's Ahli Aleppo taking on Lebanon's Centralia, Oman's Al-Seeb meeting Bahrain's Manama, and Qatar's Al-Rayyan facing Lebanon's Al-Hikma.



Sulaibikhat player dribbles the ball as opponents defend.

Kazma seeks bounce-back win against Sulaibikhat

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Two matches are scheduled for today in the Premier Handball League at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex in Sabah Al-Salem. Al-Arabi faces Nasr at 5 pm, while Kazma takes on Sulaibikhat at 6:30 pm.

Al-Arabi and Kazma both have 16 points, but their immediate priorities differ as they look to maintain their challenges for the top spots. Nasr have two points, while Sulaibikhat sit on nine.

Al-Arabi will be favorite against Nasr, having shown significant improvement in recent weeks. The Green team produced an impressive



Players fight for the ball during a league match.

display in the previous round, defeating Kazma to strengthen its position in the title race.

Nasr, meanwhile, is keen to revive its fortunes after a disappointing run of results and performances left it near the bottom of the standings.

The clash between Kazma and Sulaibikhat is expected to be more competitive, with both sides eager to return to winning ways. Sulaibikhat will be seeking a stronger performance after losing to Kuwait Club in their previous outing.

Kazma, meanwhile, is determined to recover from its defeat to Al-Arabi and stay in contention for the leading positions and a place on the podium. Today's encounter offers both teams a chance to put their recent setbacks

behind them.

In other developments, Qadsia and Salmiya are expected to record their third consecutive forfeits today. Qadsia was scheduled to face Kuwait Club, while Salmiya was due to meet Burgan.

Both teams missed their fixtures in the previous two rounds after their respective clubs announced the cancellation of their senior handball teams.

A third consecutive forfeit would result in both teams being struck from the league standings, alongside financial penalties under the competition regulations. Their removal would leave the league without two participating teams as the season continues.