



Scan the QR code to access the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel



Editors-in-chief convene to tackle media sector affairs Page 5



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE United Nations Security Council recently convened — as requested jointly by Saudi Arabia, France, Britain, the United States, Turkiye and Pakistan — to discuss vital developments in Yemen. During the meeting, the members strongly de-

nounced the war crimes perpetrated by Iran-backed Houthi militias and called for their formal classification as a terrorist entity. Even if the Security Council officially labeled the Houthis as a terrorist organization years ago, global enforcement has yet to be substantive. Open smuggling channels allow Iran to continuously supply these factions with weaponry. At the same time, reports indicate that Asian suppliers, particularly Chinese firms, continue to furnish the group with advanced military technologies. Neutralizing this threat entails far more than rubber-stamping the international decrees that ultimately remain unexecuted—a pattern seen for decades while aggressive actors in the region, including Israel, Iran, Hezbollah and the Houthis, broaden their operations.

While certain countries find it challenging to navigate a neutral middle ground, the ongoing Iranian-Houthi disruption of vital maritime corridors and the resulting pressure on oil markets and the global economy necessitate a pragmatic strategy. Dealing with these realities requires full accountability for the consequences of relentless terrorist pressure on Saudi Arabia—the planet's leading oil producer and exporter. In a recent telephone conversation between Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Abbas Araghchi and Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Tehran sought to insert itself into the ongoing crisis. However, Riyadh conveyed a firm and unambiguous message -- negotiations must be conducted directly with the legitimate Yemeni government. The diplo-

matic overture was a calculated move to signal that Iran maintains strong control over Sana'a. It is now evident that Tehran is attempting to use terrorist strikes against Riyadh, along with the political support of prominent global powers, to exert pressure on the international community. In practice, however, this strategy is counterproductive and undermines Iran's economic well-being.

Continued on Page 5

Follow me on:
@Ahmedaljarallah
Ahmed aljarallah
ahmed@aljarallah.com

Scan QR code to visit the website:
aljarallah.com

KUWAIT BOOSTS FOOD SECURITY AMID REGIONAL TENSIONS



MoH photo
Ministry of Health Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah.

Kuwait health official makes global top tier

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Ministry of Health Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah ranked first among researchers in the field of surgery in Kuwait on the Stanford-Elsevier list of the world's top two percent scientists and researchers. According to the 2026 report, Sheikh Dr. Salman Al-Sabah ranked 765th out of 146,713 researchers in the surgery field globally, putting him within the top 0.52 percent in his field. The Stanford-Elsevier list of the world's top two percent scientists is a scientific database compiled by a research team under the leadership of Prof. John Ioannidis of Stanford University and published through the Elsevier data repository, utilizing Scopus data.

Continued on Page 5

Saudi oil giant hit as Gulf conflict widens

Hormuz mine strike raises global trade alarm

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (Agencies): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired a meeting on Wednesday to discuss measures aimed at strengthening supply chains and exports.

The meeting reviewed procedures and plans to ensure the uninterrupted flow of

energy supplies and essential commodities and strengthen the food security system. It also discussed strategic options for diversifying transportation and export routes and developing alternative logistics solutions under various circumstances. The meeting was attended by several ministers, senior state officials and representatives of relevant authorities.

Continued on Page 5



PM Diwan photo
HH the PM chairs a meeting to discuss measures aimed at strengthening supply chains and exports.

Taps may feel pinch

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy announced scheduled maintenance on the water network at the Doha Water Distribution Complex, reports Al-Seyassah daily. The maintenance work will begin at 9:00 pm on Thursday, October 15, and is expected to last 10 hours. According to the ministry, the work will result in reduced freshwater pressure in Ardiya, Sabah Al-Nasser, Firdous, and Ishbiliya. Customers experiencing water outages are encouraged to contact the unified call center at 152.

Day by Day

THE core of the Iranian-Persian persona is defined by layers of hidden intent - addressing you on a single topic while harboring a second thought, keeping a third in mind, a fourth tucked away in secret, and a fifth fallback strategy prepared should all else prove ineffective. This captures the authentic Persian character, validating the historical observation that "The Iranian is a person of ever-shifting natures." ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Other Voices

Saudi Arabia's security is our security

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

THE continued attacks by the Houthis on Saudi Arabia are deeply concerning, not only for the Kingdom but for all of us in the Gulf. Saudi Arabia is more than a neighbouring country to Kuwait. Our people share a long history, strong family ties and a friendship that has stood through difficult times. Any threat to the Kingdom's security is naturally a concern for Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf. There can be no justification for launching missiles and drones towards Saudi territory, particularly when such attacks place innocent people and civilian facilities at risk. Political differences and the ongoing conflict in Yemen cannot be used as excuses for threatening the lives of people who have nothing to do with the fighting.



Al-Hajeri

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait, Britain seek greater aviation expertise exchange



PACA photo
PACA Director with UK's Ambassador to Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Director of the Public Authority of Civil Aviation (PACA) Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah discussed on Wednesday with the United Kingdom's Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rashid ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in civil aviation. In a statement to KUNA, PACA said the meeting covered issues of mutual interest, opportunities to enhance air

Continued on Page 5

Filipino gets 5 years over Shaab robbery

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Khaled Rashad, imposed a five-year jail sentence with hard labor, followed by deportation, on a Filipino convicted of armed robbery at a money exchange center in Shaab using a toy firearm, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The defendant broke into the employees area, brandished an imitation handgun to coerce the staff, and hit an employee on the face with the weapon's handle. He subsequently looted the vault and fled with KD7,434.090 in assorted currencies.

A police investigation culminated in his apprehension. Upon arrest, the officers recovered foreign banknotes—including Saudi Riyals, Egyptian Pounds, US Dollars, Turkish Liras and Philippine Pesos, along with KD286.

No markings, no parking pass

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Bouhassan, Assistant Director of the Traffic Awareness Department, announced intensified efforts to enforce regulations against parking in restricted areas and on sidewalks. He stressed that the absence of curb markings does not mean parking is permitted alongside them, emphasizing that vehicles must be parked only in designated spaces and that violators may face vehicle towing or wheel clamping. Lieutenant Colonel Bouhassan explained that

improper parking and driving on sidewalks disrupt traffic flow and can lead to congestion and accidents. Road maintenance work and improper overtaking at intersections also contribute to increased traffic congestion.

He indicated that vehicle owners can authorize another person to drive their vehicle through the "Sahel" app, specifying the duration of the authorization.

Lieutenant Colonel Bouhassan stressed that any traffic violations committed by the authorized driver during that period will be attributed to the vehicle owner.

Continued on Page 5

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Abdul-Nasser: The loudest blank-firing pistol in Arab history

He involved Egypt in the Yemen War and detained Mohamed Naguib.

He wasted the gold reserves supporting the pound and lost 85 percent of the land.

He created the Constitutional Court to manipulate laws for his benefit.

One hundred thousand lives were lost in Sinai and military equipment became obsolete.

She abandoned the house in disrepair with the children playing in the dirt outside.

He discovered his wife on the bed, engrossed in a novel.

She stated, "I did not follow my usual routine today."

"If it weren't for the two horns I admired, I wouldn't have met my end."

"I do not wish for this child to be part of my son's life."

"Perhaps, you will not survive childbirth and the father will wed a virtuous woman."



Fajr	04:30	Asr	14:51
Sunrise ..	05:49	Maghrib ..	17:19
Zohr	11:34	Isha	18:37

‘Kuwait’s re-election to UN Human Rights Council represents diplomatic feat’

NEW YORK, Oct 14, (KUNA): Kuwait’s re-election to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the 2027-2029 term represents a diplomatic achievement, a renewal of international confidence in the country, and recognition of its foreign policy approach based on moderation, balance, dialogue, respect for international law, and adherence to the principles of the UN Charter, Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai, affirmed.

Al-Bannai made the statement to KUNA early Wednesday following Kuwait’s re-election with 173 votes, extending his congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti government and people on this diplomatic achievement.

Kuwait can build on its previous experience on the Council and continue its role in supporting multilateral action, enhancing cooperation, and serving humanitarian causes, Al-Bannai noted.

He affirmed that this achievement was made by the directives and continued support of the political leadership.

During its membership, Kuwait will work

to honor its commitments and benefit from its experience in a manner that contributes to strengthening international cooperation and achieving tangible progress in protecting human rights and human dignity, he said.

He added that Kuwait would continue its approach of paying special attention to the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities, and supporting development efforts and national capacity-building, as well as strengthening the protection of civilians in armed conflicts and ensuring that humanitarian aid reaches those in need.

He reiterated that the Palestinian issue would remain at the top of Kuwait’s priorities and concerns, reflecting its principled and unwavering humanitarian position in defending the legitimate rights of Palestinians, foremost among them the right to self-determination, and rejecting violations against them.

Al-Bannai underlined the need to respect international law and international humanitarian law, as well as to ensure accountability for grave human rights violations.

The credibility of the Human Rights Council is measured by its ability to shoulder its responsibilities objectively and impartially, free from politicization and double standards, ensuring that human rights violations are addressed ac-

cording to equal standards, he explained.

He further affirmed that protecting human rights, preserving international peace and security, and achieving sustainable development are interconnected and complementary goals.

He added that international cooperation, respect for state sovereignty, and fulfilling international obligations are essential pillars for achieving these goals.

Kuwait’s re-election was the fruit of coordinated national and diplomatic efforts involving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Kuwait’s diplomatic missions through effective engagement with member states and highlighting the country’s priorities and commitments, which contributed to securing broad international support for Kuwait’s candidacy, he pointed out.

Al-Bannai also expressed his hope that Kuwait’s membership for this term would make a meaningful and effective contribution to the Council’s work.

He stressed the importance of translating broad international confidence in Kuwait into concrete action and tangible contributions that would strengthen the Council’s ability to fulfill its mandate, uphold the values of justice and human dignity, and safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination.



KUNA photo
Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai and his team at the United Nations meeting.

Need to curb terror-funding as attacks on Saudi intensify

Mitigate AI use in terrorist purposes: Kuman

TUNIS, Oct 14, (KUNA): The 29th Arab Conference of Officials Responsible for Counterterrorism kicked off Wednesday at the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council in Tunis, with representatives from Arab interior ministries, including Kuwait.

In his opening remarks, Secretary-General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council Mohammad Kuman strongly condemned the terrorist acts committed by the Houthi group against civilians, civilian facilities and religious holy sites, describing them as a blatant violation of international law and international humanitarian law and a complete disregard for religious teachings.

Kuman expressed the council’s full solidarity with Yemen and Saudi Arabia and its support for measures taken by both countries



KUNA photo
Secretary-General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council Mohammad Kuman.

to confront the group, which has been listed for several years on the Arab blacklist of individuals and entities involved in planning, carrying out and financing terrorist acts.

He stressed the importance of the conference, which comes at a sensitive time marked by numerous tensions, highlighting the significance of the issues on its agenda, particularly terrorist financing.

Kuman explained that targeting the financial resources of terrorist organizations significantly undermines their operational capabilities, including recruitment, weapons and equipment procurement, and logistical support.

He said the conference would discuss two main agenda items, the first focusing on patterns and methods of terrorist financing and effective ways to combat them,

based on information available to member states.

The discussions aim to facilitate the exchange of experiences and expertise and examine financing methods, particularly the use of digital currencies, as well as effective measures to counter them.

The second item addresses preventing, detecting and disrupting the use of modern and emerging financial technologies for terrorist purposes, providing a framework to confront the growing exploitation of financial technologies in crime and terrorism.

The conference will also examine the use of artificial intelligence in terrorism and ways to mitigate its risks amid growing concerns about AI potentially getting out of control, launching cyber attacks or facilitating the design of biological weapons.

Another topic on the agenda is extremism leading to terrorism, with discussions focusing on the significant role extremism plays in fueling terrorist activities.

Al-Baghli charity honors winners

Teachers, parents role vital in upbringing

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Al-Baghli Award for the Dutiful Son (Al-Baghli Charity) honored the winners of the competitions for students in public schools for the 2025/2026 academic year in a ceremony held recently at the Millennium Central Downtown Kuwait Hotel under the patronage of Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei.

Chairman of the charity Ibrahim Al-Baghli disclosed that the award, which was established in 2007, promotes filial piety, loyalty and generosity, while encouraging a sense of responsibility among students towards their families, communities and country.

He confirmed the charity’s commitment, as a voluntary civil society organization, to supporting social, humanitarian and volunteer activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

He stated that these competitions support the educational programs and objectives of the ministry for the development of students’ personalities through purposeful activities.

He congratulated the winners, praised the active participation of the parents, and expressed appreciation for the efforts of teachers, media, Chairman of the award’s Supreme Committee Ali Hassan and various teams.

He underscored the importance of the attention that the political leadership devotes to youth issues, as well as the efforts made to care for, empower and serve the elderly.

He is hoping for the continuation of initiatives that promote filial piety, social solidarity,



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
A winner is presented with award and a certificate of appreciation.

and service to the nation and community.

On the other hand, Mariam Al-Enezi, Director General of the General Administration for Educational Support Services at the ministry who spoke on behalf of the minister, affirmed the importance of the award in promoting filial piety and kindness toward the elderly, while commending the role of the charity in supporting educational and community initiatives.

Al-Enezi indicated that education is not limited to the acquisition of knowledge and skills, as it includes instilling ethics, compassion and

loyalty. She said filial piety is a way of life that begins within the family and extends to the school, community and nation.

She added that human development is at the core of the mission of the ministry, and that schools mold a balanced personality integrating academic achievement, human values and responsible behavior.

She stressed that the well-being of society begins with the integrity of its individuals, and that a system of values safeguards human dignity, family cohesion and social stability.

Rectify historical imbalances: Al-Bannai

Kuwait urges UNSC reform, seeks equal role for Africa

NEW YORK, Oct 14, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai, emphasized the imperative of accelerating UN Security Council reform to achieve equitable geographical representation, rectify historical imbalances, and enhance the Council’s effectiveness in maintaining international peace and security.

According to a press statement issued by the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the UN, Ambassador Al-Bannai delivered the remarks in his capacity as Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on Security Council Reform during the 14th ministerial meeting of the African Union’s Committee of Ten (C-10), held in Tripoli, Libya.

The meeting was co-hosted by Sierra Leone and Libya, alongside IGN Co-Chair Ambassador Lise Gregoire-van Haaren, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the UN.

Ambassador Al-Bannai underscored the urgent need to address the historical injustice against Africa regarding its lack of permanent membership and under-representation in the non-permanent category.

He voiced support for the African position outlined in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration, which demands at least two permanent seats with full privileges, including veto rights if maintained, and five non-permanent seats allocated to the continent.

Highlighting potential compromise tracks,

Al-Bannai noted the emergence of a “fixed regional seats” model proposing six to seven additional seats distributed regionally.

Occupying states would be elected by the General Assembly for extended, renewable terms, bringing total Council membership to 21 or 22 while incorporating periodic performance reviews.

While acknowledging ongoing fundamental divisions among UN member states regarding expansion parameters, Ambassador Al-Bannai stressed that the Pact for the Future has revitalized political momentum.

He urged all negotiating parties to demonstrate flexibility and build consensus to ensure a responsive, legitimate, and effective Security Council.



KUNA photo
Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the meeting.

Border security tops talks agenda

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired on Tuesday a meeting of the Border Committee

at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters.

The meeting discussed topics listed on the agenda, the ministry said in a brief statement.



KUNA photo
Kuwait News Agency Acting Director General Mohammad Al-Mannai meets the Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Tara Scheurwater.

‘KUNA keen to build cooperation bridges with the Canadian media’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Acting Director General Mohammad Al-Mannai discussed on Wednesday with Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Tara Scheurwater ways to strengthen media cooperation and exchange expertise in journalism and training to support bilateral relations.

During his reception of the Canadian Ambassador at KUNA headquarters, Al-Mannai welcomed her visit, highlighting the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and Canada and their continued development across various fields.

He stressed the important role of media in strengthening relations between countries, highlighting areas of mutual cooperation and promoting communication and understanding among peoples.

Al-Mannai affirmed KUNA’s keenness to build bridges of cooperation with Canadian media institutions and expand partnerships through exchanging professional expertise and experiences and benefiting from rapid developments in the media industry.

He also expressed his aspiration to enhance cooperation in training and media capacity-building to advance journalistic work and keep pace with developments in the sector.

For her part, the Canadian Ambassador congratulated KUNA on its 50th anniversary, praising its role in

reporting news and covering events, as well as the professionalism demonstrated in fulfilling its media mission.

Scheurwater commended KUNA’s coverage of celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Canada, noting that such media coverage helps highlight the depth of historical ties between the two countries and their development over the past decades.

She emphasized the importance of highlighting bilateral cooperation and relations between Kuwait and Canada, particularly in trade and investment, reaffirming the commitment to further developing these ties and expanding cooperation in ways that serve the mutual interests of both countries and their peoples.

The Ambassador also expressed her aspiration to strengthen cooperation between media institutions in both countries, particularly in the media sector, to facilitate the exchange of expertise and information and raise awareness of the various aspects of Kuwaiti-Canadian relations.

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

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



Abdul-Nasser: The loudest blank-firing pistol in Arab history

AN Egyptian once said, “Abdul-Nasser was the loudest blank-firing pistol in Arab history.”

He faced defeat at Fallujah in 1948, and again in 1956 and 1967. He dragged Egypt into the Yemen War and lost Sinai. He imprisoned Mohamed Naguib for advocating the return to civilian rule, and dismantled parliamentary institutions and political parties, effectively ending democracy.

He lamented, “He wasted the gold reserves supporting the Egyptian pound and devastated the economy.”

He lost 85 percent of the territory once under the Egyptian Crown—a time the Egyptians could travel freely without visa, unlike today.

He also created the Constitutional Court to manipulate laws to his advantage. He inherited an Egypt that lent to great powers and left it indebted to the lowest nations.

While Italians and Greeks once worked for Egyptians, we became laborers for the world. Moreover, the advanced degrees of our graduates lost their value—a stark contrast to when Egyptian universities were among the top 50 in the world.

While the children of gardeners, cotton gin workers, barbers and ordinary citizens once assumed high positions through merit and education—free from nepotism, he established a system of corruption, favoring loyalty and obedience over knowledge and integrity.

History will remember that Abdel Nasser gained control of a nation known as the Kingdom of Egypt and Sudan, which included the Gaza Strip in its governance. Nonetheless, he passed it on to his successor, devoid of Sudan and Gaza, and lacking a significant portion of its land, the Sinai Peninsula.

He engaged in conflicts in the Congo and Yemen, while promoting the ideals of nationalism and socialism from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf.

He urged every Egyptian, “Hold your head high, my brother,” yet the oppressed citizen hesitated to raise his head, fearing detention camps and the threat of censorship.

- He involved Egypt in the Yemen War and detained Mohamed Naguib.
- He wasted the gold reserves supporting the pound and lost 85 percent of the land.
- He created the Constitutional Court to manipulate laws for his benefit.
- One hundred thousand lives were lost in Sinai and military equipment became obsolete.
- She abandoned the house in disrepair with the children playing in the dirt outside.
- He discovered his wife on the bed, engrossed in a novel.
- She stated, “I did not follow my usual routine today.”
- “If it weren’t for the two horns I admired, I wouldn’t have met my end.”
- “I do not wish for this child to be part of my son’s life.”
- “Perhaps, you will not survive childbirth and the father will wed a virtuous woman.”

Obedience and loyalty overshadowed knowledge and competence, values deteriorated, productivity fell sharply, and the outcry of the masses drowned out everything.

Abdul-Nasser spent two decades amidst empty media celebrations and unsuccessful propaganda-driven socialist initiatives.

Eventually, he faced a crushing defeat, an economic disaster, countless lives lost in the sands of Sinai, and military equipment reduced to scrap... This was Jamal Abdul-Nasser—the figurehead of the misled and regressive populace.

The wife, the husband and the children

The husband came home from work to discover his three children outside, joyfully playing in the mud, still wearing the pajamas they had on since morning. In the backyard, remnants of food containers and crumpled wrapping paper were strewn about.

The front door was wide open, revealing an interior in complete disarray — a lamp lay shattered, a small rug was crumpled against the wall, the television blared loudly, and toys and clothes were scattered in the living room floor.

In the kitchen, the sink overflowed with dirty dishes, remnants of breakfast lingered on the table, and the refrigerator door hung ajar.

Worried about his wife, the man hurried up the stairs, carefully stepping over toys and piles of clothing as he searched for her, anxious that something might have gone wrong.

As he passed by the bathroom, he noticed a puddle of water outside the door. He peeked inside and saw wet towels, toilet paper scattered on the floor, and a mirror smeared with toothpaste.

He dashed into the bedroom to find his wife lounging on the bed, engrossed in a novel. She looked up with a warm smile and asked how his day had been.

In disbelief, he replied, “What on earth happened to the house today? The children are a mess!”

The wife smiled again and said, “My dear, every

day when you come home from work, you ask me—with a hint of disapproval—‘What important thing do you actually do all day?’ Isn’t that right, darling?”

“Yes,” he replied.

“Well,” she said, “today I didn’t do what I usually do.”

The stag’s admiration for his antlers was his undoing

A stag came to a stream to satisfy his thirst. Noticing his reflection in the water, he admired his antlers—so grand and beautifully shaped.

Yet, when he glanced at his legs, he thought, “Alas, my legs are unattractive and thin.”

Out of nowhere, a lion leaped to attack him.

The stag dashed across the open field, sprinting through the grasslands, but when he entered the woods, his antlers got caught in the branches, giving the lion a chance to seize him.

As his end approached, the stag lamented, “How foolish I was! Those legs I deemed ugly and spindly were capable of saving me. Had it not been for the antlers I so admired, I would not be facing my doom.”

In life, we often fall for superficial beauty while overlooking the importance of simplicity and true usefulness.

The woman and her stepson

A woman approached a lawyer and said, “I married a man who has a one-year-old child whose mother passed away during childbirth. Now that I am expecting, I worry about my child sharing a life with his half-brother. Is there any legal way to require the father to put the child in an orphanage?”

The lawyer responded, “I advise you to take your time, you could face complications during childbirth, and the father might then find a kind-hearted woman who would care for both children.”

Embrace life with an open heart, for what you resist today may turn out to be a blessing that protects you tomorrow.



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah meets PAFN officials.

Intensify inspection to ensure food safety for people – Gov.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah had a meeting with a delegation from the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) at the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate on Tuesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The delegation consisted of acting Director General of PAFN Abeer Al-Rammah, Director General for Inspection and Control Affairs Dr. Saud Al-Humaidi Al-Jalal, Director of Farwaniya Governorate Inspection Department Talal Mubarak Al-Daihani, and Director of the Engineering Services Department Eng. Amal Dirgham Al-Matrouk.

They discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between the governorate and the authority in intensifying food

inspection and monitoring, ensuring compliance with health regulations, and guaranteeing food safety in markets and food establishments.

The governor stressed the importance of intensifying inspection campaigns, raising the efficiency of regulatory procedures, and developing engineering services related to the operations of PAFIN with the aim of protecting public health and improving services for citizens and residents.

Meanwhile, the delegation members expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the governor for his warm reception, praising his commitment to strengthen cooperation in the interest of the public and ensuring the safety of all those residing in the governorate.

773 kg spoiled fish seized

Kuwaiti falls victim to phone scam

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Ahmadi Security Directorate conducted a security campaign targeting the fish market at the Kuwait Complex and the dhow harbor (Naq’at Al-Lanjat), in cooperation with several government agencies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the campaign was carried out in coordination with the General Department of Coast Guard, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, the Public Authority for Manpower, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Environment Public Authority, and the Environmental Police, as part of ongoing efforts to apprehend violators and ensure compliance with the law.

The campaign resulted in the confiscation of 773 kilograms of spoiled fish, and a violation report was issued against the person responsible.

Also, two individuals were arrested for public intoxication, while two others were detained for violating residency laws due to expired visas.

The Ministry of Interior emphasized that such security campaigns would

continue in coordination with the relevant authorities to protect public health, apprehend violators, and ensure compliance with the law.

□ □ □

Victim of phone scam: A 1959-born Kuwaiti citizen lost KD 10,995 after falling victim to a phone scam in which an unidentified caller impersonated a Cybercrime Department officer and claimed the victim’s bank account had been compromised, reports Al-Anba daily. According to security sources, the victim reported receiving a call from an unidentified individual, suspected to be of Arab nationality, who spoke in the Kuwaiti dialect and introduced himself as a detective specializing in cybercrime.

The caller told the citizen that his bank account had been breached and offered to arrange for a new bank card to protect his funds from theft.

Although the victim initially insisted that his account had not been compromised, the caller persisted, claiming to have obtained his banking details and assuring him that he would take the necessary steps to secure the account. The caller proceeded to recite the citizen’s account details to verify their accuracy. The fact that the information was correct strengthened the victim’s trust in the caller



KUNA photo
A KFF inspector seals one of the establishments found in violation of rules and regulations.

KFF shuts down 25 shops for violating regulations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced on Tuesday the administrative closure of 25 establishments for violating applicable regulations.

In a press statement, the KFF said the measures were taken during an inspection campaign in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, supervised by Acting Deputy Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force for Civil Protection Brigadier Omar Abdulaziz.

The campaign is part of the force’s ongoing efforts to strengthen safety measures and fire prevention, the statement added.

Police enters Wafra farm, nabs drifters, seizes cars

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Traffic officers apprehended reckless drivers who hid their vehicles at a farm in Wafra and referred them to the Central Prison, while their vehicles were destroyed. In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior disclosed that the Security Control Department in the area conducted surveillance and monitoring operations, during which the officers spotted two vehicles entering a farm to conceal them.

Investigations revealed that the vehicles are wanted by the authorities, as they were used in reckless driving violations shown in video clips. The officers coordinated with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAFR) to enter the farm and seize the vehicles.

During interrogation, the motorists admitted the violations. Citations were issued for reckless driving, endangering others, driving a vehicle that emits disturbing noise, displaying unauthorized stickers and writings, and driving a vehicle without license plates.

Man held, forced to remove graffiti written on school wall

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The General Traffic Department, represented by the Security Oversight Department, apprehended an individual for writing graffiti on a school wall in Ali Sabah Al-Salem, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrest comes as part of the Ministry of Interior’s efforts to protect public property and respond to reports received.

In an official statement, the ministry explained that the arrest followed a complaint submitted through the dedicated traffic complaint WhatsApp number, accompanied by a video showing the individual writing on the school wall.

Investigations led to the identification and arrest of the suspect. During questioning, he admitted to the act and was referred to the competent authorities

ties for the necessary legal action.

Acting on the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, the individual’s family was summoned.

He was required to repair the damage, and he subsequently removed the graffiti and repainted the wall with his family’s assistance, restoring it to its original condition.

The Ministry of Interior emphasized the importance of preserving public facilities and refraining from vandalism or acts that damage public property.

It stressed that the necessary measures would be taken against anyone who damages public property and urged the public to report such incidents through official channels.

MUGHAL MAHAL

مفـل محـل

Since 1985

Elsewhere, rarity costs more.
Here, it costs less,
until the last voucher.

DINE FOR
KD 10

PAY ONLY
KD 8.750

DINE FOR
KD 20

PAY ONLY
KD 16.950

DINE FOR
KD 30

PAY ONLY
KD 23.950

www.mughalmahal.com

1800 188

@mughalmahalkuwait

Kuwait launches ‘Teach Me Islam’ service via Sahel app

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): The Ministry of Islamic Affairs launched on Tuesday the “Teach Me Islam” service via the “Sahel” app to help expatriates learn about Islam and its principles through accessible digital services.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi told KUNA that the service reflects the Ministry’s commitment to using modern technology to promote Islamic teachings and make religious knowledge more accessible and effective for all segments of society.

Al-Wasmi added that the Min-

istry seeks to promote Islamic awareness and values of mercy, tolerance, and moderation through its initiatives.

He stressed the importance of utilizing government platforms and innovative digital solutions to expand access to religious services and promote Islamic teachings and humanitarian values in line with modern needs.

Al-Wasmi said the initiative aims to modernize the Ministry’s outreach tools, expand services to diverse communities interested in Islam, and enhance engagement through advanced technologies.

Training for Microsoft Teams to begin from Oct 25 – MoE

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Ministry of Education’s General Department for Development and Training announced the opening of registration for the “Microsoft Teams Updates” training program, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The program aims to enhance the digital skills of educational staff and familiarize participants with the application’s latest updates and features.

The ministry explained that the initiative seeks to introduce participants to the latest tools and capabilities available in Microsoft Teams, helping improve the digital work environment, streamline the management of classes and meetings, and make better use of available technologies to support the educational process.

The program targets teachers and department heads during the evening session, while technical supervisors

in Islamic Studies, French, Mathematics, English, and Arabic will attend the morning session. Training for both groups is scheduled to begin on October 25, 2026.

The ministry emphasized the importance of participation, noting that the program provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen digital skills, keep pace with technological advancements, and use modern tools to improve educational practices and operational efficiency across the education sector.

Eligible staff are encouraged to register through the “Taa” training and professional development platform, accessible via the Ministry of Education’s website, and benefit from the programs offered by the General Department for Development and Training. These initiatives support continuous professional development and help the educational system keep pace with digital transformation.

KFAED, GCF sign MoU to help nations fight climate change

‘Global contributions vital to tackle phenomenon’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed on Tuesday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to strengthen cooperation in supporting developing countries in addressing climate change challenges and coordinating efforts in development areas of mutual interest.

The MoU was signed by KFAED Acting Director General Rasheed Al-Bader and GCF Executive Director Mafalda Du-



KUNA photo KFAED Acting Director General Rasheed Al-Bader and GCF Executive Director Mafalda Duarte during signing of the MoU.

arte on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF), currently being held in Bangkok, Thailand.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Bader affirmed that addressing the impacts of climate change has become an essential component of development

efforts in developing countries.

He noted that cooperation with GCF would enable both institutions to utilize their expertise and resources to support projects aimed at strengthening developing countries’ ability to address climate-related challenges.

Al-Bader explained that the MoU includes identifying projects eligible for joint support at early stages, exploring co-financing opportunities, providing technical assistance, coordinating operations and exchanging information and expertise.

He added that cooperation would particularly focus on climate-resilient infrastructure, water security, renewable energy, energy transition and disaster risk management.

Al-Bader expressed the Fund’s aspiration to translate the MoU into carefully planned development projects based on the priorities of beneficiary countries.

Need to enhance stamp quality: MoC

Bid to boost identity, preserve heritage

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Ministry of Communications signed Wednesday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kuwait Philatelic and Numismatic Society to enhance the quality of postal stamp issues, highlight national identity and preserve the country’s historical and cultural heritage.

The MoU was signed by Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications Meshal Al-Zaid and Chairman of the Kuwait Philatelic and Numismatic Society Dr. Adel Al-Abdulrazzaq.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Zaid said the agreement comes as part of the ministry’s efforts to strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations and specialized institutions and benefit from national expertise in developing postal

stamp issues.

He pointed out that the MoU aims to enhance technical cooperation and exchange expertise and specialized consultations in designing and issuing postage stamps, while ensuring that designs comply with internationally recognized standards, reflecting Kuwait’s cultural standing and strengthening the presence of its postal issues regionally and internationally.

Al-Zaid noted that the ministry considers postage stamps a national record documenting Kuwait’s history, achievements and significant occasions, as well as a cultural medium reflecting the country’s civilization and authentic heritage.

He added that the agreement would help enrich stamp designs and benefit from spe-

cialized technical expertise, while the ministry retains its authority to approve designs and issue stamps.

Al-Zaid said the initiative aligns with the ministry’s efforts to develop the postal sector and improve the quality of its services, stressing its commitment to expanding cooperation with specialized national institutions to advance postal operations and enhance the cultural and documentary value of Kuwaiti stamps.

For his part, Dr. Al-Abdulrazzaq told KUNA that signing the MoU represents an important step toward utilizing specialized technical expertise to support and develop postal stamp issues and strengthen institutional cooperation in preserving the history and cultural value of stamps.

Focus on updating data of ‘bedoun’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Central Agency for Remedying Illegal Residents Status (CARIRS) held a joint coordination meeting with the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) to raise service efficiency and enhancing data integration between the two entities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, CARIRS revealed that the meeting focused on mechanisms for organizing and updating the data of illegal residents within PAI’s systems. It added that the initiative aims to improve data

accuracy and integration among government entities, while supporting the development of electronic procedures and enhancing the quality and efficiency of service delivery.

Assistant Secretary General for Executive Affairs at CARIRS Brigadier Sulaiman Al-Hussainan presided over the meeting, with Assistant Secretary General for Technical and Information Affairs Abdullah Al-Farhan in attendance.

Director of the Integrated Service Center Talal Al-Enezi headed the PAI delegation.

Other Voices

Truth of the Zionist ship ...

By Ahmad alsarraf

WHENEVER an unusual or unexpected incident occurs, some people are quick to embrace conspiracy theories, while others dismiss them outright, ruling out the possibility that governments could be involved in acts of violence, particularly when such acts result in the deaths of their own citizens.

History contains well-known events that raise serious questions about Zionism and its ideology. Yet its supporters often avoid confronting its darker chapters, particularly allegations that the Zionist movement resorted to violence against Jews themselves, including killing them, burning their homes, and massacring them to drive them from their homelands and livelihoods and encourage their immigration to Israel.

The Farhud in Iraq, along with similar episodes in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Russia, and later the Soviet Union, forms part of a complex and painful history. There are claims that such incidents were deliberately orchestrated to instill fear among Jewish communities and compel them to immigrate to Israel.

Israeli sources were among the first to acknowledge these events. One of the most tragic and well-documented episodes was the Patria disaster, a human catastrophe that exposed the harsh realities of the conflict surrounding Zionist ideology.

In November 1940, several ships carrying approximately 3,000 Jewish refugees fleeing Europe arrived at the port of Haifa in Palestine.

The British Mandate authorities refused to allow the passengers to



alsarraf

disembark, enforcing the restrictions imposed on Jewish immigration to Palestine under the 1939 White Paper.

After prolonged delays and considerable suffering, the British authorities decided to transfer the refugees aboard the French ocean liner SS Patria for deportation to Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean.

To prevent the ship from sailing and compel the British authorities to keep the refugees in Palestine, the Haganah, an armed Zionist militia, planted a bomb on the ship’s hull in an attempt to disable it and prevent its departure.

The explosion was devastating, causing the ship to sink in less than 16 minutes. More than 260 people lost their lives, most of them Jewish refugees trapped below deck, along with several British crew members. Dozens of others were injured.

In the aftermath of this tragedy, mounting public pressure, widespread outrage, and the urgent humanitarian needs of the survivors prompted the British government to allow the refugees to disembark and remain in Palestine on humanitarian grounds rather than deport them to Mauritius.

For years, the Zionist movement promoted the narrative that the Jewish refugees themselves had blown up the ship in a desperate act of mass suicide to protest British treatment.

However, in 1957, the Haganah’s responsibility for the incident came to light when Munia Mardor, a member of the organization, published his memoirs, revealing details of the operation and confirming the Haganah’s involvement, even though Mardor had not been a passenger aboard the ship.

The history of the Zionist movement contains episodes that know no bounds. However, some still express a desire to shake hands with Benjamin Netanyahu.

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw





albander
البندر
Hotel and Resort
فندق ومنتجع

WEEKDAYS (Saturday-Wednesday)	Price
One night stay in a Queen Bed Cabana for 2 persons with inclusive of Breakfast	BD 38.115 / Net
One night stay in a Two Bedroom Chalet for 4 persons inclusive of Breakfast	BD 85.124 / Net
WEEKENDS (Thursday-Friday)	Price
One night stay in a Queen Bed Cabana for 2 persons with inclusive of Breakfast	BD 46 / Net
One night stay in a Two Bedroom Chalet for 4 persons inclusive of Breakfast	BD 102.148 / Net

Terms & conditions apply

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | 350 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort

Common voice for Kuwait's press

Editors-in-chief convene to tackle media sector affairs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The editors-in-chief of daily newspapers convened informally on Wednesday at the Al-Jarida newspaper headquarters to deliberate on media topics, local press sector issues and current professional challenges, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Participants in the meeting, which was chaired by Al-Jarida Editor-in-Chief Nasser Al-Otaibi, included Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Al-Qabas Editor-in-Chief Walid Al-Nisf, Dawood Al-Marzouq who represented the editor-in-chief of Al-Anba, Rabia Hussein Makki Juma who represented the editor-in-chief of An-Nahar, and President of the Kuwait Journalists As-

sociation Adnan Al-Rashed.

Participants shared insights on enhancing collaboration among national press institutions and adapting media discourse to keep pace with rapid digital advancements and ongoing regional developments. They underscored the significance of maintaining national and professional accountability when addressing public interest issues.

They agreed on the importance of holding such periodic meetings to align efforts and unify positions on critical media and national matters, thereby, serving public good and upholding the esteemed status of the Kuwaiti press.



Arab Times and Al-Seyassah Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah flanked by fellow Editors-in-Chief Walid Al-Nisf, Nasser Al-Otaibi, Dawood Al-Marzouq, and Rabia Hussein Makki Juma, along with colleagues Adnan Al-Rashed and Dhairan Aba Al-Khalil.

Continued from Page 1

Saudi Arabia's

It is unfortunate that after so many years of conflict, the Houthis continue to choose actions that create further tension in the region. Yemen has already suffered enough. Its people have endured years of hardship, and many families are still struggling with the consequences of a war that has gone on for far too long. Continuing to attack neighbouring countries will do nothing to improve their situation.

As a Kuwaiti, the relationship between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia carries particular importance. We have not forgotten the Kingdom's support during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, when Saudi Arabia welcomed Kuwaitis and stood firmly alongside our country. That support remains part of our shared history and is something that will always be appreciated.

Saudi Arabia has every right to protect its territory, its citizens and residents, and its national interests. The Kingdom has made considerable efforts towards regional stability, and these attacks only make an already difficult situation more complicated. No country should have to face repeated threats to its security.

Condemning the actions of the Houthis does not mean overlooking the suffering of the Yemeni people. They deserve peace, stability and the opportunity to rebuild their country. However, peace cannot be achieved while attacks against neighbouring countries continue.

The Houthis must understand that such actions will not bring them closer to a political solution. Instead, they risk further isolating Yemen and prolonging the suffering of its people.

For Kuwait, standing alongside

Saudi Arabia is more than a diplomatic position. It reflects the close relationship between our countries and the importance we place on one another's security.

The people of Saudi Arabia deserve to live in peace, without the fear of missiles or drones threatening their daily lives. Their safety matters to us, and the Kingdom can always count on the solidarity of its brothers in Kuwait and across the Gulf.

Arab nations

The doctrine of targeting the United States by inflicting harm on its regional partners ultimately falls apart, given that the resulting fallout affects global stability in general.

Consequently, addressing the Houthi threat and restoring peace to Yemen are essential prerequisites to achieve worldwide security.

The current global climate demands a fundamental realignment of political postures to prevent the destabilization of the international order, superseding focus on short-term advantages or narrow pursuits.

In light of these dynamics, Russia's stance has started going toward a more pragmatic assessment of regional affairs, whereas China's perspective has yet to fully solidify—verbal disapproval alone falls short, while Iran and Houthi forces maintain pressure on the region.

As a result, the international community stands precariously on the edge of a precipice, where any miscalculation might trigger deeper economic distress and exacerbate an already fragile global landscape.

As indicated earlier, neutralizing the

remaining Houthi forces is critical, as it could dismantle a primary conduit sustaining Iran's expanding global network of terrorism.

The event at the Fairford Air Base in Britain vividly illustrates the destabilizing conduct of the regime in Tehran, yet the question remains whether or not the key international powers have really grasped the gravity of this threat.

Saudi oil

In other news, offices belonging to senior executives with Saudi oil giant Aramco were hit in an overnight Houthi strike on the company's headquarters, two regional officials said Wednesday, in the latest demonstration of the Iran-backed rebels' ability to attack high-profile targets even after issuing warnings that they would do so.

The officials said the top three floors in a building used by top executives were damaged. One official said the office of the Aramco chief executive was among those hit. There were no casualties. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter with the media.

The sight of smoke rising from some of Saudi Arabia's most sensitive facilities in recent days has rattled the region and global markets while increasing questions for U.S. President Donald Trump, who has said he is evaluating whether the U.S. should join Saudi strikes against the Houthis in the latest front in the Iran war.

The Saudi energy ministry reported a "limited fire" at the Aramco administrative building Tuesday night.

An official source at the ministry stated in a press release that the incident resulted in a limited fire within the facility,

confirming that no injuries or fatalities were recorded.

The source added that competent emergency teams and security authorities immediately responded to the site and implemented all necessary containment protocols.

On Wednesday, Saudi civil defense said debris from an interception in the capital, Riyadh, injured a foreigner from an Arab country. The state-run SPA news agency published images showing a vehicle with a large cylindrical object lodged in the front and a building damaged.

The Saudi-led military coalition fighting the Houthis said it intercepted cruise and ballistic missiles and drones targeting Riyadh, a ballistic missile targeting Dhahran, and a cruise missile targeting Al-Kharj, home to Prince Sultan Air Base and the state-owned Military Industries Corporation.

The Houthis called the attacks retaliation for "treacherous Saudi aggression" against the rebel-held Yemeni capital of Sanaa and other areas, as the kingdom backs the forces of neighboring Yemen's internationally recognized government in a major military offensive launched a week and a half ago. The rebel-run Health Ministry reported two dead in attacks in Yemen on Tuesday and blamed the Saudis.

The Houthis have repeatedly targeted Saudi airports, military facilities and oil infrastructure. Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport has been targeted multiple times in the past week with strikes that have killed at least 18 people and hurt over 300 more, greatly affecting aviation across the kingdom.

The escalation has highlighted Saudi Arabia's struggle to intercept Houthi missiles and drones. The kingdom has pressed allies like the United States for more military support. Regional offi-

cials say Saudi Arabia, the world's top purchaser of U.S. weapons, is running low on interceptors.

The Saudis are trying to intercept daily attacks across a territory about three times the size of Texas. Experts have said trying to intercept all of the missiles and drones is impossible. The Houthis have a large arsenal capable of striking targets well over 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) away. Some warheads change direction during flight.

The fighting between the Saudis and Houthis erupted this year when the rebels blamed the Saudis for a strike on the airport in Sanaa. That revived anger over a Saudi blockade of the Houthis, who in turn declared a blockade against the kingdom.

The Saudi-led coalition also is striking oil targets. Earlier Wednesday, the Houthi-run Health Ministry said two people were killed in an airstrike Tuesday in the Ras Isa port area in Hodeida province. The strike hit a facility of the state oil company, the ministry said. The Saudi-led coalition also attacked an oil facility in Sanaa.

Elsewhere, a cargo ship has sunk after hitting a naval mine in the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps navy said. It was the first time Iran has reported a ship sinking after hitting a mine during the war.

There were few details, including about the fate of the crew. State television quoted a Guard statement saying the ship was traveling on what it called an illegal and dangerous route when it hit the mine Wednesday morning. The Associated Press couldn't independently verify the images.

The unidentified ship, which was shown tilted in the water and spewing a thick plume of smoke, was carrying 2,500 containers, the broadcast said.

No markings,

In conclusion, he urged parents to educate their children and domestic drivers about traffic laws and the importance of respecting the rights of other road users.

Kuwait health

It evaluates the researchers' scientific impact using a set of indicators, such as citation counts, h-index, extent of research participation and author positioning, rather than relying solely on the number of published papers.

The classification has two tracks – one looks into research output within an entire scientific career, while the second focuses on results recorded in a year.

The 2026 report was published on Oct 7 and the list was based on data and scientific citations recorded in 2025.

This high rank affirms the strong presence of Kuwaiti researchers in international scientific forums, as well as the extent and level of engagement achieved by Kuwaiti medical researchers in the global academic community.

Kuwait, Britain

transport cooperation, and the exchange of technical and operational expertise.

The meeting came within the framework of strengthening bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and broadening cooperation in the civil aviation sector, the statement added.

Hala Industrial Co.

شركة هلا الصناعية

Decoration works, wood products and cupboards are available

Contact us now

You can get all what you need at Hala Industrial

Subhan Industrial - Block 10 - Street 5 - Plot 151 - Tel: 60660817 - 66448545 - 50446599

Hala_Industrial

hala@halakw.com

Obama to campaign with Ohio Democrats

Battle lines shift in House races as GOP retreats from front-line districts

DES MOINES, Iowa, Oct 14, (AP): Republicans were retreating Tuesday from a handful of battleground US House races while Democrats were racing to raise money to boost candidates who seemed like long shots earlier this year.

The Congressional Leadership Fund, the leading House Republican super PAC, canceled spending in four races from the Midwest to the East Coast and increased its investment in 16 other races from Texas to Pennsylvania.

Meanwhile, Democrats' House campaign committee is eyeing openings in Republican-held districts and hoping to raise millions of dollars in the next week to fuel a late round of advertising that they say could net at least a half dozen more seats.

The shifting money in the final three weeks of midterm campaigns points to an increasingly defensive posture by Republicans, who have already trimmed their expectations in U.S. Senate races, and new aggression from Democrats, who are trying to capitalize on President Donald Trump's weak approval ratings.

"A lot of seats are in the competitive range, and only really two are - maybe three - are possible Republican pickups," said David McIntosh, president of the conservative Club For Growth, noting voter dissatisfaction with the economy and Republican dissatisfaction with Congress' inability to pass Trump's SAVE Act regarding voter registration. "It looked like Republicans were weak, and so you've seen a lot of drop-off in enthusiasm."

"You can tell now where people are competing based on where they're putting the money," said Stu Sandler, a Republican strategist working on House and statewide races this year.

The Congressional Leadership Fund is no longer spending on advertising in Iowa's 1st District, where three-term Republican Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks is defending her seat against Democrat Christina Bohannon, according to two Republican campaign officials familiar with the group's plans.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to share private strategy conversations.

Bohannon is running for her third time against Miller-Meeks. Last time, the race was decided by only 799 votes, making it the second-closest in the country. It's an eastern Iowa district where congressional cuts to Medicaid have been linked to hospital service closures and high diesel prices have been a challenge for farmers.

Likewise, the officials said the group won't keep spending in New Jersey's 7th District, where second-term Republican Rep. Tom Kean is facing off against Democrat Rebecca Bennett. Kean has been under scrutiny for his



Former US President Barack Obama speaks during a campaign rally, Oct 24, 2024, in Clarkston, Ga. (AP)

four-month absence from Congress, which he left unexplained until disclosing a mental health crisis upon his return. Kean, who won by 5.4 percentage points two years ago, has also faced questions over his support for Trump's tariffs and the Iran war.

These races, as well as one in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area and one in east-central Michigan, have accounted for \$13.3 million in Congressional Leadership Fund spending, more than 12% of its total through Oct. 13.

The group is reinforcing its spending in a series of districts where Trump beat Democrat Kamala Harris by narrow margins in 2024.

Sandler said his party needs to turn out voters who usually participate in presidential elections but often stay home in the midterms.

"One thing you can't say is that they've been under-resourced," he said. "Republican resources are at a high. They've never been this well-funded in the midterm."

As House Republicans have retrenched, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee believes at least a dozen more races could be within striking distance. However, they need more money to take advantage.

The committee launched a \$17 million fundraising drive, with a deadline of Oct. 22, to pump advertising onto the air in districts that were once seen as out of reach.

"It's not that we need the money to win in the districts where we have been running to get to 218 seats," said Courtney Rice, the committee's communication director. "We're talking about the next level."

One is Ohio's 10th, a Dayton-area district represented by 12-term Republican Rep. Mike Turner. Democrats see Turner as beatable despite the former Dayton mayor's durability and 18 percentage-point victory two years ago. Trump carried the district by six percentage points in 2024.

Turner didn't begin advertising until late September, according to AdImpact, later than most competitive House incumbents, and the National Republican Congressional Committee started spending there this week.

If the Democratic committee reaches its goal, it would also start spending in the Miami area, suburban St. Louis, Missouri and the Little Rock, Arkansas, area. They would be able to buy ads in coordination with the campaigns at the lower rate available to candidates, due to a June Supreme Court decision, squeezing more ad time from those dollars.

Senate Republicans are pouring millions more into Nebraska to protect Sen. Pete Ricketts, the latest sign of how dramatically their spending priorities have shifted from battleground states toward defending seats they once expected to hold comfortably.

Also:

COLUMBUS, Ohio: Former US president Barack Obama is heading to Ohio to shore up support for Democratic candidates in the Senate and governor's races, both of which have been highly competitive and brought a flood of campaign cash into the state.

Obama is set to campaign in Cleveland on Oct. 24 with three-term former Sen. Sherrod Brown, who is looking to oust Republican Sen. Jon Husted from the seat formerly held by Vice President JD Vance.

He's also set to appear with Dr. Amy Acton, the Democratic nominee for governor, who has been focusing her campaign on parts of the state that have been voting Republican in recent elections. She and tech billionaire and former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy are vying to succeed term-limited Republican Gov. Mike DeWine.

A former swing state, Ohio has emerged as a battleground for control of the Senate, with Vance and President Donald Trump visiting recently. As Trump stumped for Husted on Monday, much of his focus was on one of his signature issues: immigration.

WH cuts refugees' deadline to contest status termination, raising fears

MIAMI, Oct 14, (AP): The Trump administration is cutting the time refugees have to contest the termination of their status, a move critics say could put tens of thousands of people who fled persecution and wars in their home countries on a path to deportation.

The new policy, which goes into effect Wednesday, reduces from 30 to 10 the number of days refugees have to challenge the revocation of their status. It is part of a broader effort by the Trump administration to restrict and transform a program that has served for decades as a pathway for refugees.

The goal of the new policy, according to the document, is to "mitigate potential risks" associated with people who were admitted as refugees but were not eligible for refugee status.

The policy does not say exactly how many people could be affected, but it specifically refers to refugees admitted during President Joe Biden's administration, when it says there was an "alarming erosion of the integrity" of the refugee program. Refugee advocates dispute



US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau greets Afrikaner refugees from South Africa on May 12, 2025, at Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Va. (AP)

that claim.

The Trump administration is already reviewing the cases of at least 185,000 refugees admitted during the Biden administration who still have pending green card applications.

Welcoming refugees has been a

matter of bipartisan consensus in the United States since Congress passed the Refugee Act with overwhelming support in 1980. That law made refugee applications some of the most rigorously scrutinized within the immigration system.

America

WH press sec makes brief appearance: Katie Zacharia, the new White House press secretary, faced reporters for the first time on Tuesday for a very brief turn at the lectern, taking a handful of questions before abruptly wrapping it up.

Zacharia, a conservative commentator who most recently worked for President Donald Trump's social media company, was named to the job on Friday, succeeding Karoline Leavitt, who left in August and is taking a job with Fox News Channel.

Zacharia told reporters her goal is to "amplify" what Trump is doing and that the president is "his own best spokesperson."

She quickly proved that Tuesday, appearing for only 14 minutes and taking questions from just three outlets before telling reporters they could ask the president their questions on the South Lawn when he departs on a campaign trip. (AP)

Six Flags closes 9 N.American coasters: Witnesses watched in horror as a man riding a roller coaster at Six Flags Over Georgia was ejected from his seat, almost seeming to hover above the car before hitting several people and falling to his death.

The nightmarish death prompted Six Flags to temporarily close nine similar coasters across North America.

Police and a state agency that oversees ride inspections are investigating, but many questions remained Tuesday, including how the man fell out and whether there were problems with his restraints.

The man, a school employee from Atlanta, was killed Monday while riding Goliath, the park's tallest roller coaster with a first hill of 200 feet (61 meters).



White House press secretary Katie Zacharia speaks with reporters in the James Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House on Oct 13 in Washington. (AP)

"It looked like he was hovering because the car was moving underneath him," said Nick Mendenhall, who had just ridden Goliath with his son and was watching the coaster cars passing overhead. The man fell headfirst back into the coaster, Mendenhall said, then was ejected from the ride on its final turn. (AP)

US halts prosecution of ex-CIA analyst: The US Justice Department has agreed not to prosecute a former CIA analyst who in 2024 was accused of serving as a secret agent for South Korea's intelligence service, according to court documents filed Tuesday.

Federal prosecutors said Sue Mi Terry had shared nonpublic government information, facilitated access for South Korean officials to U.S. officials and accepted luxury gifts in exchange for advocating South Korean government positions during media appearances. (AP)

Pope Leo spent 'tranquil night' in hospital after cancer op – Vatican

ROME, Oct 14, (AP): Pope Leo XIV spent a tranquil night in Rome's Gemelli hospital following an operation to remove the lower lobe of his right lung and a confirmed cancer diagnosis, the Vatican said in a statement Wednesday.

The Vatican said more information would be provided later in the day.

Tests confirmed a diagnosis of lung adenocarcinoma, the Vatican said late Tuesday in a medical bulletin after the surgery. It said the diagnosis had been suspected by pre-operative tests and was confirmed during surgery.

The medical bulletin made no mention of treatment going forward, and the Vatican said doctors were not currently speaking of chemotherapy or other therapies pending the results of other tests. The Vatican press office noted the medical statement spoke of the "radical" removal of the lobe as an indication that doctors removed all suspect tissue in hopes of removing any lingering traces of the cancer.

Leo's lymph nodes also would have been removed and tested, to determine if the cancer had spread, and there was no word yet on those



Pope Leo XIV arrives at the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic in Rome on Oct. 13. (AP)

test results.

"Adenocarcinoma is the most common (type of lung cancer), also with the most favorable prognosis," said Dr. Stephen Liu, a lung cancer expert at Georgetown's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. "While we know the diagnosis, we now need to know the stage."

"We now need to know how big it is, how many spots in the lung are in-

involved. Is it just one nodule, or more than one, and the lymph nodes, are they cancerous?" Liu said.

If the cancer has spread, more tests will be needed to determine what kind of therapy to pursue, he said. Options include chemotherapy, a combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy or targeted therapy, which involves oral pills for specific cancers.

Until that happens, it will remain unclear what the implications are for the pope's long-term health; several experts told the AP an individual's underlying health and fitness will be key determinants.

The 71-year-old was in the operating room for about three hours, the Vatican statement said on Tuesday. The surgery itself lasted approximately 90 minutes.

"The surgery was successful, and there were no complications," the statement said, adding that the pope later returned to his room.

The right lung has three sections or lobes while the left has two. After one lobe is removed, the remainder of the lung can gradually compensate, especially in otherwise healthy and physically active people.



Victoria Deineko, her husband levhen Deineko and their daughter Mia look at a multi-story residential building damaged in a Russian missile strike in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Oct 13. (AP)

'Russia keeps striking Ukraine energy sites despite Trump's ceasefire push'

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 14, (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy voiced outrage Wednesday over Russia's continuing aerial bombardment of Ukraine's energy infrastructure in apparent defiance of US President Donald Trump's demand for a ceasefire.

Moscow's forces pounded Ukraine's power grid, as well as oil and gas facilities, for the third straight night, Zelenskyy said, after Trump claimed that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to an "energy ceasefire" 4 1/2 years after Moscow's forces invaded.

Zelenskyy, meanwhile, has agreed to halt Ukraine's monthslong campaign targeting Russian oil refineries that caused fuel shortages for Russians. Ukraine's last reported hit on an oil refinery was last Friday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Wednesday that details of the energy ceasefire are still being

decided. "The work in that direction is continuing," he told reporters.

Trump's efforts to stop the fighting have made no progress.

Ukrainian officials say they are pushing back Russian forces in eastern Ukraine, which Russia's bigger army has been trying to capture for years. Ukraine has liberated 277 square kilometers (107 square miles) in the operation that started in the summer, Ukraine's Third Army Corps commander Brig. Gen. Andrii Biletskyi said Wednesday.

It was not possible to independently verify the claim, and Russian officials did not comment.

Ukrainian officials fear U.S. support for the war effort is falling away after Trump struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to import Russian diesel despite international efforts to sanction Russia for its invasion and isolate Putin.

Ukrainian officials said the deal

would help Russia continue its invasion, while European leaders fear Moscow's wider ambitions on the continent and accuse Russia of sabotage as part of a hybrid war on the continent.

Zelenskyy arrived in London on Wednesday for talks with British Prime Minister Andy Burnham as Kyiv and its European supporters race to shore up Ukrainian defenses. The Ukrainian leader could go to Brussels to attend a European Union summit later this week after his London trip.

"We ask America and EVERYONE in the world who does not turn a blind eye to reality to respond — and to respond forcefully" to Russia's ongoing aerial barrages, Zelenskyy said in a social media post Wednesday.

"Russia has squandered the opportunity for de-escalation and has clearly chosen to continue its insane war of annihilation," he said.

Europe

Swedish parliament to vote on new PM: The Swedish parliament is set to vote Thursday on Social Democratic Party leader **Magdalena Andersson's** nomination as prime minister (PM), parliamentary speaker Andreas Norlen announced Tuesday. Negotiations to form a new government have been deadlocked since last month's general election.

Norlen said at a press conference that he would nominate Andersson to lead a single-party Social Democratic government, despite the lack of an agreement among the four parties that together secured a narrow parliamentary majority in the election.

Earlier Tuesday, Andersson told journalists after meeting Norlen that although progress had been



Andersson

made in coalition negotiations, conditions were still not in place to form a government capable of securing sufficient parliamentary support. (Xinhua)

Trump's ambassador to Greece resigns: The White House asked for US Ambassador to Greece Kimberly Guilfoyle's resignation on Tuesday as she faced accusations of improper conduct, and she announced within two hours that she was quitting, ending days of talk and speculation about her professional fate. Guilfoyle insisted that she would "vigorously defend" herself.

President Donald Trump's administration had said earlier Tuesday it had asked Guilfoyle to leave her post after she faced severe criticism over allegations she engaged in improper and possibly illegal conduct before and during her tenure in Athens.

That revelation came in response to a question to freshly minted White House press secretary Katie Zacharia at her first media briefing Tuesday morning. Zacharia said Guilfoyle "has been a wonderful asset to the team, and we wish her well." (AP)

Japanese farm minister resigns over controversies, says media

TOKYO, Oct 14, (Xinhua): Embattled Japanese farm minister Kazuo Yana has decided to resign, Kyodo News reported Wednesday.

Yana has come under fire for controversies over his past remarks and conduct, including suggesting that road budgets had been sharply cut for local municipalities whose mayors did not support him in the February general election.

Yana joined the cabinet for the first time when Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi reshuffled her cabinet on Sept. 17, and is stepping down after less than a month in office.

He was also among the ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers disciplined over a high-profile political slush fund scandal that came to light in late 2023 and dealt the party a heavy blow.

Kyodo News said the resignation marks a setback for Takaichi, who is set to mark a year in office later this month.

Also:

TOKYO: Japan has made representations to Russia over the de-



An entrance of the Lefortovo prison is seen in Moscow on March 30, 2023. (AP)

attention of a Japanese correspondent on suspicion of espionage and will summon the Russian ambassador to Japan on Wednesday afternoon, Kyodo News reported.

Japanese Foreign Minister **Toshimitsu Motegi** said at a House of Representatives Budget Committee session on Wednesday that the Embassy of Japan in Russia and other bodies are working to ascertain the facts with the Russian side, adding that Japan has asked Russia to give the detained individual humanitarian consideration.

Motegi said Japan will clarify the circumstances leading to the detention and the health condition of the detained correspondent, and will take necessary actions.

Malaysian court dismisses former leader’s bid to delay graft sentence

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Oct 14, (AP): Former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak on Wednesday lost a bid to delay the enforcement of a 15-year jail sentence for corruption.

Najib, 73, has been imprisoned since August 2022 in a corruption case linked to the multibillion-dollar looting of the IMDB state investment fund that outraged the nation and caused the downfall of his long-ruling party.

Last year he was convicted and sentenced to another 15 years and fined 11.4 billion ringgit (\$2.8 billion) in a second, bigger graft trial tied to the IMDB fund. He was found guilty of abuse of power and money laundering related to over \$700 million channeled into his bank accounts from the fund. That sentence was due to take effect after he completes his current sentence in August 2028.

The High Court on Wednesday dismissed his application to postpone the enforcement of his second sentence, saying there was no merit.

Najib’s lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah said they would challenge the decision in a higher court.

Najib set up the IMDB development fund shortly after taking office



Former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak arrives at the Kuala Lumpur High Court complex while being escorted by prison officers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Oct 14. (AP)

in 2009. Investigators say at least \$4.5 billion was stolen from the fund and laundered by Najib’s associates through layers of bank accounts in the U.S. and other countries.

After his government was ousted in a historic election in 2018, Najib was taken to court to face multiple graft charges over the 1MDB scandal.

He was originally sentenced to 12 years in prison and fined 210 million ringgit (\$51.5 million) in 2020 for abuse of power, criminal breach of trust and money laundering involving 42 million ringgit (\$10.3 million) channeled into his bank accounts from SRC International, a former unit of 1MDB.

Bid to boost bilateral trade, enhance logistical efficiency gradually

New bridge linking China, North Korea to open more than a decade late

BEIJING, Oct 14, (AP): A new bridge linking China and North Korea is set to open Thursday after more than a decade of delay in the latest sign of closer ties between the two countries.

The official Chinese news agency Xinhua reported Wednesday that both sides will hold a ceremony for the launch of the New Yalu River Bridge. The four-lane, 3-kilometer (1.8-mile) bridge will connect the northeastern Chinese city of Dandong to the North Korean city of Sinuiju.

The bridge initially was expected to enter use in 2014 after China apparently completed construction of access roads, customs facilities and other related infrastructure on its side. But the date passed with no sign of an opening and without North Korea doing corresponding works on its side.

At that time, it prompted an unusually sharp report in the Global Times, a newspaper affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party, which quoted Dandong residents expressing frustration over delays in what they had hoped would be an economic boon for their border city.

A lack of substantial work on the North Korean side prompted speculation that North Korea was wary of an increase in economic dependence or was unhappy with China voting for United Nations resolutions toughening international sanctions on the North over its nuclear program. Some observers said North Korea and China also differed over the location of the bridge.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Wednesday the new bridge will further promote economic, trade and “people-to-people exchanges.”

“China and the DPRK are friendly neighbors linked by rivers and mountains,” said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning. She added the bridge is an important “project for connectivity” between the two countries.

The new link is expected to lessen the burden on an existing yet aging bridge on the Dandong-Sinuiju route, which handles more than 70% of official trade between the two countries. The old bridge built in 1937 carries a railway line as well as cars and trucks, but vehicle traffic can move only one way at a time.



A new bridge connecting North Korea and China, seen from the North Korean side of the Yalu River border, on Sept 2, 2014, where it touches down in rice fields in Sinuiju, North Korea. (AP)

The South Korean government said last year there were at least 17 active road and rail links across the porous North Korea-China border, which stretches more than 1,400 kilometers (870 miles).

The new bridge’s opening will likely boost bilateral trade and enhance logistical efficiency gradually. But in the short term, trade won’t likely result in a sharp increase in Chinese exports to North Korea as Beijing would take

Pyongyang’s interests into consideration to some extent, according to a recent report by Gyubeom Kim, an expert at Seoul’s state-run Institute for National Security Strategy.

North Korea’s export of processed goods, food products, cosmetics and alcoholic beverages to China could increase, Kim said.

The bridge’s opening comes about a month after North Korea and Russia opened a 1-kilometer (0.6-mile) road bridge over the Tumen River as part of their efforts to cement relations.

Experts say Chinese officials likely felt uneasy about the opening of the North Korea-Russia bridge, which the Russian government said would allow daily passage of up to 300 vehicles through a newly built border crossing point.

The North Korea-China bridge is much bigger and likely capable of carrying round-the-clock, two-way traffic including containers and heavy cargo trucks, according to Jeong Eun-i, an analyst from South Korea’s Institute for National Unification.

China has long been North Korea’s biggest trading partner and economic pipeline. But in past years, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has prioritized Moscow, sending thousands of troops and conventional weapons to support Russian President Vladimir Putin’s war in Ukraine, apparently in exchange for military and economic assistance.

Kim has recently drawn closer to China with the apparent intent to improve the economy and build a front against the United States. China, for its part, wants to restore its unique influence over North Korea. Last year, about 98% of North Korea’s external trade was with China.

The bridge’s opening has been anticipated since Chinese President Xi Jinping traveled to Pyongyang in June for a meeting with Kim. During their summit, Xi expressed Beijing’s willingness to expand bilateral cooperation in trade, agriculture, construction and technology, while Kim described ties with China as a top strategic priority.



Workers and activists of various opposition parties march toward the Supreme Court demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in New Delhi, India on Oct 12. (AP)

Indian police accused of suppressing press freedom during youth protests

NEW DELHI, Oct 14, (Agencies): Journalists and press freedom groups have accused Indian police of obstructing reporters covering youth protests in New Delhi over the weekend, saying dozens were detained and assaulted while doing their jobs.

Several press freedom groups said more than thirty journalists were temporarily detained during the police crackdown, which came as authorities sought to prevent mostly young Indians from gathering to protest a controversial revision of voter lists. They said the police action raised concerns about press freedom in India.

“These incidents are deeply troubling and a blot on India’s democratic traditions,” the Committee to Protect Journalists group said. It urged Indian authorities to protect journalists and hold officers accountable.

Delhi Police said some protesters had posed as journalists and interfered with police work. But police were seen dragging away and detaining journalists covering the demonstrations, including several wearing press credentials.

Lawyers later approached India’s

Supreme Court on Sunday, seeking protection for journalists carrying out their duties. The court ruled in their favor.

Protests have intensified over the ongoing voter list revision, which has removed more than 130 million names from electoral rolls since last year. Critics say the exercise is politically motivated and could disenfranchise millions more. Protesters, including opposition parties, demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The Election Commission and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s administration say the revision is intended to remove duplicate and ineligible entries.

Ryan Thomas, a 26-year-old journalist with The Caravan magazine, said police beat him and briefly detained him while he covered Saturday’s demonstrations.

He said he was following protesters to document their detentions when officers surrounded him and dragged him onto a bus, despite him wearing his press card. Officers hit him on the head, neck and shoulder, tried to take his camera and ordered him to delete his video footage, he

said.

Jahnvi Sen, managing editor of The Wire news website, said she was briefly detained with two colleagues. They were released after other reporters gathered and began photographing the incident, she said.

Sen said the number of journalists detained was unusual, even as pressure on the press under Modi has become more common. She said police appeared determined to stop images of their response to the protests from spreading.

“It was not that they couldn’t see” the press cards, she said. “It was because they didn’t want those visuals (of protests) going out.”

The Press Club of India, the country’s largest journalist group, called the police behavior “a blatant attack on the freedom of press.”

India ranks 157th out of 180 countries in the press freedom index published by Reporters Without Borders, down from 133rd a decade ago. Critics blame the decline on Modi’s government, which has been in power for 12 years, saying it has increasingly restricted critical reporting and dissent. The government has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Colombia gives police greater power to break up street rallies

BOGOTA, Colombia, Oct 14, (AP): Colombia’s government on Tuesday modified a set of guidelines that dictate how police should react to street protests, giving officers greater leeway to break up demonstrations in which protesters are vandalizing public property or disrupting access to essential services through actions like roadblocks.

The modifications made by the government of conservative President Abelardo de la Esparilla have been criticized by activists and opposition politicians, who are concerned that the new guidelines can be broadly interpreted by officers and could lead to more cases of police violence.

The new guidelines were published late Tuesday, just hours before de la Esparilla’s government faces its first major protest. On Wednesday, opposition parties, trade unions, Indigenous groups and social movements are expected to mobilize in several cities to protest de la Esparilla’s economic and security policies.

In a nationally televised address Monday night, de la Esparilla said the right to protest will continue to be guaranteed, adding that “law en-



Colombian President Abelardo De La Esparilla speaks during a bilateral agreements signing ceremony with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Barranquilla, Colombia, on Sept 8. (AP)

forcement will not get in the way of people marching peacefully.”

But the conservative leader, who was sworn into office in August, said that the rights of those who do not protest should also be respected and roadblocks that stop people from go-

ing to work and disrupt commerce will no longer be acceptable. Those actions could be considered acts of aggression under the new guidelines, which call on police and protesters to establish “humanitarian corridors” during demonstrations.

Africa

4 killed in South Africa shooting: A gunman fired on a group of mourners leaving a memorial service for a local politician in South Africa, killing at least four people and injuring three others, police said Wednesday.

At least one of those wounded in the shooting late Tuesday in Katlehong township was a child, according to police, who said the suspect was in custody after turning himself in.

Police initially said two men died at the scene southeast of Johannesburg, but authorities raised the death toll to four after two more people died in a hospital on Wednesday.

The shooting is being investigated by a political killings task team, the South African Police Service said in a statement. Some of the victims were members of the youth league of the African National Congress party, the largest party in South Africa’s Parliament, according to local media reports, which said the memorial service was for a woman who served as a local ANC leader and died in what was suspected to be a politically motivated shooting earlier this month.

Police did not immediately confirm the identity of



Ramaphosa

the victims and only said they had attended a memorial for a “member of a political party.”

South Africa has high rates of gun crime, including shootings related to local political rivalries. The president of South Africa is **Cyril Ramaphosa**. (AP)

40 suspected terrorists dead in Nigeria: More than 40 suspected terrorists, including a senior commander of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), were killed in an airstrike by Nigerian troops in the country’s northeastern Borno State on the weekend, the military said Monday.

In a statement, Mohammed Goni, spokesperson for the military’s Operation Hadin Kai, said the precision airstrike targeted an ISWAP enclave in Badu village, Guzamala Local Government Area, on Saturday.

The suspected terrorists were regrouping to launch coordinated attacks on troops in the area when the military launched the airstrike, following intelligence gathering and aerial surveillance, Goni said.

Citing preliminary human intelligence and battle damage assessments, he said more than 40 suspected terrorists, including a man identified as a prominent ISWAP commander, were killed in the operation.

The suspected terrorists belonged to ISWAP’s Murabitun unit, a specialized mobile fighting force responsible for conducting patrols, coordinating attacks and sustaining terrorist activities in the area, Goni added. (Xinhua)

Kuwait oil drops to \$106.07 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Kuwait oil slightly dropped 88 cents during Tuesday's trading to reach USD 106.07 per barrel compared with USD 106.95 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday.

Brent futures also dropped 96 cents to USD 105.69 pb while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) edged 40 cents higher to US 94.14 pb.

Business

Event to connect local creatives with leading businesses and brands this Nov

Zain supports the growth of Kuwait's creative economy at inaugural Creativity Festival

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Zain Kuwait is sponsoring the inaugural Creativity Festival, taking place at the Museum of Modern Art from 5 to 7 November 2026. The partnership underscores the company's commitment to nurturing local talent and advancing Kuwait's creative industries by creating opportunities for artists, designers, and content creators to connect and collaborate with leading businesses and brands.

The announcement was made during a press conference held at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) at the company's HQ in Shuwaikh. The event was attended by Hamad Al-Musaibeeh, Director of Corporate Relations and Communications at Zain Kuwait; Mishary Al-Mutawa, Co-Founder of the Creativity Festival; Sara Al-Rabeea, the Festival's Executive Director; and Sara Khalaf, Head of Exhibitions at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

Bringing together key players from across Kuwait's creative community, the festival will serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, professional networking, and meaningful collaboration. It will also create opportunities for businesses to discover and engage with homegrown talent, helping raise the profile of Kuwaiti creatives and expand their opportunities within the creative industry.

Zain's support underscores its belief in the value of investing in local creative talent and fostering an environment where young people can transform their ideas and abilities into meaningful opportunities for growth. This comes at a time when the creative industries and



Hamad Al-Musaibeeh, Mishary Al-Mutawa, Sara Al-Rabeea, and Sara Khalaf during the press conference.

digital content landscape are evolving rapidly, opening new avenues for innovation, entrepreneurship, and professional development.

The festival also aims to strengthen connections be-

tween the creative community and the business sector, bridging the gap between local talent and organizations seeking fresh ideas and innovative solutions. By encouraging businesses to tap into Kuwait's creative

expertise across art, design, and content creation, the event seeks to support the development of a more connected and competitive creative industry with the potential to thrive locally and regionally.

Zain places particular emphasis on initiatives that give the next generation of creatives a platform to showcase their potential, develop their skills, and build valuable professional networks. The company recognizes that empowering talent goes beyond celebrating individual achievements. It also means creating an environment where creativity can flourish, helping young people turn their passions into sustainable careers and successful ventures.

The festival's objectives closely align with Zain's vision of supporting Kuwait's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem while strengthening collaboration between the private sector and local talent. Such partnerships play an important role in developing the creative industries, celebrating Kuwait's unique identity through authentic local voices and ideas, and empowering a new generation of creatives to help shape the future of the creative economy.

Through this step, Zain continues to champion initiatives that invest in young talent and celebrate local creativity, building lasting connections between creative potential and professional opportunities. The company firmly believes that Kuwait's creative future will be shaped by its homegrown talent, and that strong partnerships between creatives and businesses are essential to building a more vibrant, diverse, and sustainable creative community.

Tech Academy's 2nd edition

Gulf Bank showcases careers at 'Watheefti'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Gulf Bank invites graduates, experienced professionals, and everyone exploring their next career move to meet its Human Resources team at Watheefti, taking place at The Arena Kuwait at 360 Mall from October 15 to 17. Visitors can discover career opportunities at the Bank, learn about its workplace culture and development programs, and receive practical advice on writing their CVs and preparing for interviews.

For Gulf Bank, building a rewarding career begins with an environment where people feel valued and supported. The Bank's annual employee engagement surveys reflect high levels of engagement, reinforcing its commitment to a culture that encourages people to contribute, develop their capabilities, and grow within the organization. Its approach combines opportunities for career progression with meaningful learning experiences and practical exposure to an evolving industry.

Hamed Al-Tamimi, Chief Human Resources Officer at Gulf Bank, said: "Choosing an employer is an important decision. People want to know how they can develop, what they will learn, and whether they can see a future for themselves in the organization. At Gulf Bank, we invest in our people and work to create an environment where they feel valued, supported, and able to build a lasting career."

He added: "Watheefti is an opportunity to have these conversations directly. We invite anyone looking for a job or considering a career in banking to visit our booth and meet our HR team. Alongside introducing the opportunities available at Gulf Bank, our colleagues can offer practical tips on presenting your experience in a CV and approaching a job interview with greater confidence."

Kuwait's banking sector offers a strong foundation for long-term careers. Its financial resilience, strong regulatory oversight, and investment in digital services make it an important contributor to the country's economic development. As the sector evolves, it creates opportunities to gain valuable experience across banking and technology, develop specialist skills, and contribute to services that people and businesses rely on every day.

At Gulf Bank, career development is supported through training, guidance, and practical learning. This investment helps employees build the capabilities to take on new responsibilities and pursue long-term professional growth, while supporting the Bank's commitment to developing national talent.

As part of its participation in Watheefti, Gulf Bank is launching the second edition of its Technology Academy, a specialized initiative for recent graduates in technology-related disciplines. The Academy aims to attract and develop young Kuwaiti talent through practical learning in key technical fields, helping participants gain experience relevant to



Hamed Al-Tamimi:

- We want people to join a workplace where they feel valued and have the opportunity to build a lasting career

digital transformation and the future of banking.

Al-Tamimi said: "Investing in young people is an investment in Kuwait's future. Through the Technology Academy, we are helping young Kuwaiti graduates develop their technical capabilities and gain practical experience in an industry where technology is shaping how we serve our customers. Our ambition is to prepare talent that can contribute to the continued development of the financial and banking sector."

The Bank's commitment to development begins before recruitment. Through partnerships with universities and academic institutions in Kuwait, Gulf Bank helps students gain practical experience and strengthen their readiness for the workplace. Its strategic partnership with INJAZ Kuwait, spanning more than two decades, has supported thousands of students in developing personal and professional skills, improving their financial literacy, and exploring future career paths.

Gulf Bank also continues to support the Diraya financial awareness campaign, helping young people make informed financial decisions and build more stable financial futures.

Whether visitors are preparing for their first role or considering a new direction, Gulf Bank welcomes them to its booth at Watheefti from October 15 to 17. Meet the HR team, bring your questions, and explore how a career at Gulf Bank can support your ambitions for learning, growth, and long-term professional stability.

About Gulf Bank

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

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

For more information, please visit the Bank's website: www.gulfbank.com.

ABK participates in the annual 'Watheefti' career fair

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced its participation in the Watheefti career fair, taking place starting today to 17 October 2026 at The Arena, 360 Mall. The participation reflects the Bank's ongoing commitment to investing in young professionals, nurturing talent, and attracting skilled individuals to its various divisions.

The Bank's booth features a video showcasing the key events and activities organised annually for employees to strengthen loyalty, foster innovation, and promote work-life balance.

Through its participation, ABK aims to attract talented individuals seeking to build a promising career in the banking sector. The Human Resources team will guide visitors and provide comprehensive information on available career opportunities and professional development pathways at the Bank.

Commenting on the occasion, Afrah Alarbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, stated that the Bank's participation reflects its firm



Afrah Alarbash, GM of Human Resources at ABK

commitment to exploring the capabilities of fresh graduates and experienced professionals. This aligns with its approach to providing a stimulating work environment that encourages creativity and innovation, while developing comprehensive programmes that sharpen skills and support employees' professional growth.

"Our participation in the fair provides a valuable opportunity to keep



pace with the latest changes and trends in the job market and banking sector. Direct engagement with talented individuals also allows us to understand the aspirations of the next generation and their professional needs. These insights help us refine our plans, build a work environment that responds to evolving expectations, and adopt best practices that strengthen our competitiveness as an employer of choice in Kuwait's banking sector," she added.

Alarbash explained that career fairs serve as a starting point for graduates and young people embarking on their professional journeys. They connect candidates with employers, introduce them to various sectors and leading companies in the local market, and provide opportu-

nities to apply for roles that match their qualifications, capabilities, and future ambitions.

She added that ABK remains committed to participating in career fairs throughout the year to highlight the benefits it offers employees. She noted that the Bank continually invests in developing its workforce through training programmes and awareness workshops designed to enhance employees' capabilities, keep them informed of the latest developments in the banking industry, and improve productivity.

"We look forward to welcoming young talent to the Bank's booth as they take their first steps towards a professional future. Our annual participation in the Wateefti career fair reflects our commitment to our national responsibility and to enabling passionate individuals to join the banking sector. Through our presence, we aim to go beyond traditional recruitment by offering a comprehensive perspective on how to keep pace with the rapid changes shaping the banking industry," Alarbash concluded.

Main 50 falls 2.43%

Kuwait bourse sees KD 69.9 million turnover

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Wednesday's session lower, with the general index declining 121.24 points, or 1.40 percent, to close at 8,533.60 points.

Trading activity saw 295.9 million shares change hands across 21,741 cash transactions, valued at KD 69.9 million, equivalent to approximately USD 215.2 million.

The main market index dropped 132.69 points, or 1.51 percent, to 8,678.29 points. Some 152.5 million shares were traded through 9,591 cash transactions

worth KD 24 million, or about USD 73.9 million.

The premier market index fell 125.09 points, or 1.38 percent, to 8,945.69 points, with 143.4 million shares traded in 12,150 cash transactions valued at KD 45.9 million, approximately USD 141.3 million.

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index declined 243.62 points, or 2.43 percent, to 9,762.07 points. Trading in this index involved 130 million shares through 7,636 cash transactions, valued at KD 20.9 million, or roughly USD 64.3 million.

Global South pays price of high rates

IMF urges action on rising global debt

BANGKOK, Oct 14, (AP): The U.S. and other wealthy nations need to urgently tackle mounting global debt levels that are weighing most heavily on low-income countries and straining the global financial system, the head of the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and other U.S. leaders recognize that the federal deficit and national debt are too high. But economic growth alone would not be enough to address the country's more than \$40 trillion in national debt, she said.

Meanwhile, rising bond yields, reflecting higher premiums demanded by investors for taking on greater risk, have been disrupting financial markets.

"We believe that growth, of course, helps, but it cannot deliver fast enough the necessary adjustments," Georgieva said at the autumn meeting of the IMF and World Bank in Bangkok.

"There is no magic," she said, adding that other measures would be needed. "You have to go in a direction of tightening, bringing it down, bringing the deficit down."

Rising debt levels and global inflation, partly resulting from high energy costs due to the Iran war, have pushed interest rates to multidecade highs, adding to the burdens of the world's poorest nations.

Efforts to bring debt under control with what Georgieva and other experts call "fiscal consolidation" have suffered setbacks from heavy spending during the COVID-19 pandemic and since.

"Fiscal risks are rising, and a prop-



A person rows a boat beside a logo displayed at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center ahead of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank group in Bangkok, Thailand, Friday, Oct. 9, 2026. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

er reaction is largely absent in many countries," said Rodrigo Valdes, director of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department. "And in major advanced economies, the effect of fiscal discipline does not stop at the border. It travels to the rest of the world."

"Among the world's poorest countries, interest payments have reached historic highs relative to revenue, and declining amounts of aid are creating gaps that some countries have been unable to finance," the IMF's latest Fiscal Monitor said.

That is forcing countries to make hard choices between supporting their most vulnerable people and meeting their debt repayment obligations.

"The Global South is paying the price for rising interest rates in wealthier countries," U.K. Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband said at an event on the sidelines of the IMF meetings.

"We need a new deal on debt, a deal that supports countries to repay over longer time horizons and, crucially, refinancing with better rates to give developing countries precious fiscal space," he said.

The median developing country pays three times as much in interest as developed countries, said Alexander De Croo, former Belgian prime minister and administrator of the United Nations Development Pro-

gramme (UNDP).

On average, nearly 10% of government spending goes toward debt repayments. High fuel and fertilizer prices, the effects of the El Niño weather phenomenon and rising borrowing costs have left many low-income countries with little room to recover.

"I mean, we don't see really a light at the end of the tunnel," De Croo told The Associated Press.

Creating jobs is another top priority, particularly as the growing use of artificial intelligence threatens to make many traditional occupations obsolete. More than 1.2 billion young people are expected to enter the global workforce over the next decade or so, while forecasts suggest only 400 million net new jobs will be created.

The UNDP this week announced its "Jobs for Prosperity" initiative to bring together governments, development banks - such as the World Bank - and private businesses to encourage investment in sectors such as tourism, healthcare and food processing.

The initiative and related efforts will help countries attract investment by strengthening governance and policies and developing pipelines of "investible projects," De Croo said. "These are things that are feasible. It's been proven that you can do it in many places of the world," he added.

Separately, the IMF, Bank of Thailand and World Bank Group announced a "Bangkok Blueprint" on Wednesday to combat cybercrime, financial fraud and online scams.

The announcement came a day after cyberattacks caused refrigeration systems to overheat at hundreds of stores in France.

GCC-Asia partnership to boost investment

RIYADH, Oct 14, (KUNA): Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said on Wednesday that the economic partnership between GCC countries and Asian nations represents a strategic pillar for strengthening economic and investment cooperation, expanding financial and banking integration, and developing digital infrastructure.

Al-Budaiwi made the remarks during the opening of the Gulf-Asian Economic Forum in Bangkok, Thailand, held under the theme “Banking, Investment and Digital Infrastructure,” organized by the Kuwait Banking Association and the Asian Bankers Association on the sidelines of the 2026 annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group.

He stressed that such cooperation contributes to achieving sustainable development and shared prosperity.

Al-Budaiwi said the global economy is witnessing rapid transformations, with geopolitical developments increasingly intertwined with changes in trade, investment and technology, underscoring the importance of building reliable economic partnerships capable of addressing challenges, ensuring sustainable financing and trade, and creating broader opportunities for economic growth.

He noted that GCC economies have demonstrated resilience in addressing economic and financial challenges, supported by sound economic and fiscal policies, strong financial reserves and robust banking sectors, alongside efforts to diversify their economies, develop infrastructure and deepen Gulf economic integration.

Al-Budaiwi affirmed that the longstanding historical and trade relations between GCC countries and Asian nations provide a solid foundation for building long-term economic and investment partnerships.

He pointed out that combining Gulf financial and investment capabilities with Asia’s industrial and technological potential and markets creates opportunities for joint projects that promote knowledge transfer, technology localization and greater economic added value.

He added that economic diversification programs across GCC countries offer growing opportunities for Asian companies and institutions to participate in major development projects, while Asian markets provide Gulf institutions with opportunities to expand their investments and international partnerships.

Outlining future areas of cooperation, Al-Budaiwi identified three main pillars for strengthening economic partnerships between the two sides.

The first focuses on logistics and infrastructure through enhancing connectivity between ports and economic hubs and developing transportation and storage networks to facilitate trade and improve the efficiency and resilience of supply chains.

The second centers on digital infrastructure and artificial intelligence by expanding joint investments in data centers, cloud services and advanced technological applications, alongside exchanging expertise and knowledge to boost productivity, improve service efficiency and support digital transformation in both economies.

The third pillar involves strengthening financial and banking cooperation by expanding trade and project financing, developing joint investment platforms, enhancing connectivity between capital markets and facilitating cross-border payments.

He stressed that providing reliable and efficient financing is essential to transforming economic opportunities into viable investment projects.

Al-Budaiwi also highlighted several economic and financial indicators reflecting the strength of GCC economies, citing the latest figures issued by the GCC Statistical Center.

He said Gulf sovereign wealth fund assets are estimated at approximately USD 5.2 trillion, while the market capitalization of GCC financial markets reached around USD four trillion by the end of June 2026.

He added that total assets of commercial banks operating in GCC countries reached approximately USD 4.1 trillion by the end of June 2026, while net foreign assets held by GCC central banks stood at around USD 829 billion during the same period.

Al-Budaiwi emphasized that these indicators demonstrate the financial and economic strength of GCC countries and their capacity to finance long-term investments, support business growth and establish economic partnerships with sustainable impact.

He underscored the importance of advancing the Gulf-Asian partnership from exploring opportunities to implementing joint projects and investments by strengthening communication among economic and financial institutions, identifying priority opportunities and establishing practical steps for their development.

He also highlighted the pivotal role of the private sector in supporting innovation and transforming economic initiatives into tangible development projects.

Al-Budaiwi stressed the importance of strengthening Gulf eco-

nomic integration and expanding international partnerships to reinforce economic stability and achieve sustainable growth.

According to a statement by the GCC General Secretariat, his remarks came during his participation in a meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors from the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, held on the sidelines of the 2026 annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank Group in Bangkok, Thailand.

Al-Budaiwi said recent geopolitical developments have directly and indirectly affected the economies of numerous countries through disruptions to energy production, maritime transportation, trade and supply chains.

He emphasized that these developments have demonstrated the close connection between the economic stability of GCC countries and that of the global economy.

He added that disruptions to vital energy and trade corridors have consequences extending beyond the region to international markets and economies, underscoring the need to strengthen regional and international cooperation to ensure stable supply chains and trade flows.

Al-Budaiwi pointed out that GCC economies possess strong fundamentals to continue recovering and achieving growth in 2027 and beyond, supported by economic diversification efforts and strategic investments.

He stressed the importance of maintaining prudent fiscal policies, strengthening financial sector resilience and preserving adequate financial reserves to address future economic risks and fluctuations.

He noted that the coming period requires balancing responses to current economic challenges with maintaining long-term fiscal sustainability, while strengthening the ability of Gulf economies to respond efficiently and flexibly to future disruptions.

Such efforts, he added, would ensure continued growth and safeguard the economic and development achievements of GCC countries.

Al-Budaiwi emphasized the importance of developing economic and financial frameworks and policies, accelerating economic diversification and deepening integration among GCC countries to strengthen their competitiveness and ability to address global economic changes.

He highlighted promising opportunities in strategic sectors, including advanced industries, digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence and human capital development, alongside empowering the private sector and increasing its participation in global value chains as key drivers of future economic growth.

He added that deepening Gulf economic integration, expanding trade and investment opportunities, strengthening logistics connectivity and diversifying export markets and supply routes represent strategic priorities for improving the efficiency, resilience and competitiveness of GCC economies regionally and internationally.

Al-Budaiwi noted that the experiences and challenges witnessed across the region in recent months have demonstrated that building more resilient and sustainable economies requires not only strong national fundamentals but also deeper regional integration, diversified international economic partnerships and reliable trade and logistics networks connecting GCC economies with the world.

Al-Budaiwi concluded by reaffirming GCC countries’ commitment to continuing cooperation with regional and international partners and transforming current economic challenges into opportunities that support a more diversified, prosperous and sustainable Gulf economic future.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said on that growing economic relations between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and China reflect deep mutual interests and promising opportunities, with financial and banking cooperation serving as a key pillar of this partnership.

Al-Budaiwi stressed that such cooperation facilitates trade and investment, strengthens connectivity between financial markets and supports monetary and financial stability.

According to a statement by the GCC General Secretariat, his remarks came during a joint meeting of GCC central bank governors with Governor of the People’s Bank of China Pan Gongsheng, held in Bangkok, Thailand, and chaired by Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain Khalid Humaidan, on the sidelines of the 2026 International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank meetings.

Al-Budaiwi pointed out that rapid global transformations and growing geopolitical, economic and technological challenges underscore the importance of strengthening cooperation among financial and monetary institutions and developing more efficient and resilient financial systems to maintain economic stability, enhance the ability to address challenges and capitalize on future opportunities.

Cooperation gains momentum under Vision 2035 and 2040 Kuwait, Oman aim to expand bilateral trade

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Deputy Director General Emad Al-Zaid said Wednesday that integration between New Kuwait Vision 2035 and Oman Vision 2040 offers a strategic opportunity to strengthen bilateral cooperation in logistics, industry, energy, modern technologies and the digital economy.

Speaking during a meeting with an Omani economic delegation hosted by KCCI, Al-Zaid said Kuwaiti-Omani relations represent a Gulf model of understanding, cooperation and mutual respect, built on strong historical ties and a shared vision of economic integration to achieve sustainable development.

He added that relations between the two countries are entering a new phase of strategic partnership under the guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman, contributing to expanding cooperation and advancing the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Al-Zaid revealed that Kuwaiti investments in Oman grew by 4.6 percent during the first quarter of 2026, reaching approximately USD 3.76 billion, reinforcing Kuwait’s position as one of Oman’s leading investment partners.

He noted that the Kuwait-Oman Business Forum for Trade and Investment, hosted by KCCI on May 13, 2024, during Sultan Haitham bin Tariq’s visit to Kuwait, reflected the depth of economic relations between the two countries.

Al-Zaid stressed that available economic opportunities between Kuwait and Oman remain greater than the current level of cooperation, adding that both countries possess the potential to double bilateral trade and joint investments in the coming years.

He emphasized the importance of strengthening economic, trade and investment partnerships with Oman and expanding private sector cooperation, particularly in logistics, ports, free economic zones and supply chains.

He affirmed KCCI’s commitment to



KUNA photo
Deputy Director General Emad Al-Zaid, and Economic Advisor at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry Badr bin Saif Al-Awfi

supporting initiatives that promote cooperation between the private sectors of both countries and encourage joint ventures.

Al-Zaid said rapid transformations in international trade and supply chains require diversifying transportation routes and enhancing their resilience to ensure sustainable and efficient trade flows.

He also highlighted the importance of investing in logistics infrastructure and economic gateways to strengthen the competitiveness of Gulf economies.

He pointed out that Oman has successfully developed an advanced logistics system, benefiting from its strategic geographical location and investments in ports, infrastructure and economic zones, positioning itself as a regional logistics hub connecting Gulf markets with Asia, Africa and the wider world.

For his part, Economic Advisor at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry Badr bin Saif Al-Awfi stressed the importance of transforming available trade and investment opportunities into practical and sustainable partner-

ships and projects that strengthen economic integration between the Kuwaiti and Omani private sectors.

Al-Awfi said the longstanding fraternal and historical relations between the two countries provide a solid foundation for developing economic cooperation, emphasizing the need for economic, trade and investment relations to match the advanced level of political ties.

He added that the meeting provides a practical platform for expanding cooperation in trade, transportation, logistics and supply chains, while exploring new partnership opportunities between Kuwaiti and Omani companies.

Al-Awfi explained that the logistics sector plays an increasingly important role in strengthening economic competitiveness, facilitating international trade and attracting investment, particularly amid challenges facing global supply chains and the growing need to diversify trade routes.

He noted that Oman possesses strategic advantages, including its geographical location overlooking the Gulf of

Kuwait Insurance secures shareholder approval for expansion

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Kuwait Insurance Company S.A.K.P announced the holding of its Extraordinary General Assembly on Monday, October 12, 2026, with an attendance rate of 77.253%, where the shareholders approved all the items on the agenda, foremost of which is the addition of the “Reinsurance” activity to the company’s purposes, and the amendment of its trade name to comply with the nature of the new activity in accordance with the legal provisions and regulatory instructions issued by the Insurance Regulatory Unit.

These strategic steps come within the framework of the company’s keenness to expand its scope of business, enhance its competitive position in the market, and meet all regulatory requirements issued by the regulatory authorities.

In a statement following the EGM meeting, Mr. Sami Sharif, Chief Ex-



Kuwait Insurance shareholders approve reinsurance business.

ecutive Officer, said: “The addition of the reinsurance business repre-

sents a significant turning point in the company’s journey as it will al-

Partnership aimed at empowering local coffee entrepreneurs

talabat partners with KIB Business Center for Brew & Build through its talabat grow program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: As part of its ongoing efforts to empower local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), talabat, the leading everyday app in Middle East & North Africa (MENA), collaborated with KIB Business Center as the official Event Partner for the exclusive Brew & Build gathering through talabat grow, its flagship capability-building initiative. The partnership reflects talabat’s continued investment in equipping local entrepreneurs with practical knowledge, industry expertise, and data-driven insights to drive sustainable business growth.

The event brought together Kuwait’s leading specialty coffee business owners to explore market data, analysis, and consumer trends designed to accelerate growth within the local food and beverage (F&B) ecosystem. It promoted a data-driven approach to decision-making by highlighting precise consumer insights and specialized analyses of consumer behavior, complementing entrepreneurs’ practical experience and helping them make more informed decisions. By equipping SME coffee roasters and owners with new market insights, the collaborative initiative demonstrated how private-sector collaboration can fast-track the scaling potential of homegrown culinary concepts.

“At talabat, we firmly believe that our success is closely tied to the success of the local business community. In an effort to invest in the sustainable development of Kuwait’s local economy, we are deeply invested in providing SMEs with the tools, support, and guidance they need to grow and thrive,” commented Abdullah Al-Mansour, Director of Corporate Affairs at talabat Kuwait. “Through talabat grow, we were proud to contribute to the success of KIB Business Center’s Brew & Build event. By sharing market-specific consumer behavior data, we aim to transform how coffee entrepreneurs develop their businesses, enhance the efficiency of their operations, supply chains and delivery strategies, and strengthen customer engagement.”

On his part, Hamad Al Oufan, KIB Business Center Manager, said: “As Kuwait’s all-in-one hub for fostering entrepreneurial success, we were delighted to witness such enthusiastic participation from industry leaders such as talabat. Their continued commitment to guiding Kuwait’s up-and-coming local businesses and fostering a culture of knowledge transfer helps pave the way for a stronger national economy and contributes to building a future led by local talent and expertise.”

Representing talabat at Brew & Build was the coffee expert Meshari Al-Yaqout, Founder of Brew-ever Academy and CEO of Kuwait Gastronomy and Culinary Arts (KGCA). Reflecting on his participation in the event, he said: “The specialty cof-



Abdullah Al-Mansour, Director of Corporate Affairs at talabat Kuwait, and Hamad Al Oufan, Manager of KIB Business Center, in a group photo with team members from both sides.

- Private event bringing together Kuwait’s leading specialty coffee business owners to explore key market trends and consumer behavior insights supporting the growth of the sector
- Showcased how private-sector collaboration can support the expansion of promising local businesses
- Representing talabat at the event was coffee expert Meshari Al-Yaqout, Founder of Brew-ever Academy and CEO of KGCA

fee landscape in Kuwait is incredibly sophisticated, but passion alone is no longer enough to sustain a business in such a saturated market. The ‘Brew & Build’ event demonstrated how craft mastery contributes to building a clear competitive position in the market by sharing valuable market insights that guide local roasters to develop highly resilient, data-backed operational models.”

During the event, talabat unveiled vital localized data that provided deep visibility into the current shifts within Kuwait’s highly competitive specialty coffee domain. These insights captured a snapshot of the market’s recent trends and developments, while also identifying peak ordering times and days

for local coffee roasters, allowing owners to optimize staff scheduling and fleet readiness.

Last but not least, the data-backed conversation-soutlined average consumer spending shifts and popular regional coffee trends, giving roasters the raw intelligence needed to refine their menu structures.

The Brew & Build event underscores talabat’s ongoing dedication to building a partnership-based growth and development model, supporting initiatives that aim to equip Kuwaiti entrepreneurs across various industries with the digital infrastructure, specialized knowledge, and data required to build the future of Kuwait’s economy.

Oman and the Arabian Sea, its network of ports, economic and free zones, advanced infrastructure, and transportation, shipping, storage, distribution and re-export services.

He said these advantages offer promising opportunities for Kuwaiti companies to enter the Omani market, expand the reach of their products and benefit from the capabilities of Suwaiq, Salalah and Duqm ports, among others, in cargo handling and re-exporting goods to regional markets.

Al-Awfi affirmed that Omani ports are ready to serve Kuwaiti businesses and companies in import, export and re-export operations.

He stressed the importance of establishing direct partnerships between Kuwaiti exporters and importers and distributors in Oman to improve cost efficiency and delivery schedules.

Al-Awfi also emphasized the importance of utilizing the GCC Economic Agreement to strengthen Gulf economic integration and develop sustainable partnerships that extend beyond current circumstances and challenges.

He called on business owners and companies in both countries to take advantage of the meeting to engage in direct discussions, identify potential partners and establish trade and investment relations based on mutual interests and benefits.

The meeting featured several presentations addressing logistics options amid regional developments, including a presentation titled “The Green Corridor” by the Royal Oman Police and another on “Special Economic Zones and Free Zones” by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones.

Other presentations included “Asyad Services and Their Role in Connecting Regional and Global Markets” by Asyad Group, and “Sehar Port: A Strategic Gateway for Enhancing Trade and Logistics Connectivity Between Oman and Regional Markets” by Sehar Port and Freezone.

Special event with Czech Embassy showcases Prague and the Czechia as exciting winter holiday destinations

Czech Tourism and Jazeera Airways celebrate first-ever winter flights to Prague

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Embassy of the Czechia in Kuwait and Czech Tourism in collaboration with Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost carrier, hosted a special event to celebrate the launch of its first-ever winter flights from Kuwait to Prague. The event brought together representatives from the travel and tourism industry, travel trade partners and invited guests to showcase the Czechia's diverse winter tourism offerings and strengthen tourism ties between the two countries.

Jazeera Airways will operate twice-weekly direct flights between Kuwait and Prague from 17 December 2026 to 7 February 2027, offering travellers a convenient and affordable opportunity to experience the magic of a European winter. Timed to coincide with the festive season and school holidays, the flights provide direct access to Prague's winter markets, historic landmarks, cultural attractions and picturesque winter landscapes.

The event was addressed by His Excellency Juraj Chmiel, Ambassador of the Czechia to Kuwait, Barbara Andelová, International Marketing – Middle East and India, CzechTourism, and Paul Carroll, Chief Commercial Officer, Jazeera Airways.

His Excellency Juraj Chmiel, Ambassador of the Czechia to Kuwait said: "We warmly welcome Jazeera Airways' decision to introduce direct winter flights to Prague, marking another important milestone in strengthening the ties between Czechia and Kuwait. Our two countries enjoy a longstanding relationship built on friendship, mutual respect and growing co-operation. Direct air connectivity plays an important role in bringing our people closer together, encouraging tourism and creating new opportunities for cultural and economic exchange. Winter is a particularly magical time to visit Czechia, and we look forward to welcoming more travellers from Kuwait to experience our coun-



Czech Tourism and Jazeera Airways celebrate first-ever winter flights to Prague.

try's rich heritage, festive traditions and warm hospitality."

Barbara Andelová, International Marketing – Middle East and India, CzechTourism highlighted the growing potential for tourism between Kuwait and Czechia and the opportunities presented by direct first ever winter connectivity saying, "Czechia is a destination for every season, and winter reveals a truly special side of our country. Beyond Prague's enchanting winter markets, historic streets and festive atmosphere, visitors can discover beautiful snow-covered landscapes, charming towns, mountain resorts, wellness retreats

and a wealth of cultural experiences. The introduction of direct winter flights by Jazeera Airways is an exciting opportunity to showcase this diversity to travellers from Kuwait and the wider region. We are delighted to collaborate with Jazeera Airways and our tourism partners to inspire more visitors to explore Czechia and discover memorable experiences beyond the capital."

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways, said: "Prague has been a popular destination on our European network, and we are delighted to introduce winter flights for the very

first time. Czechia offers a completely different experience during the winter months, from its enchanting winter markets and festive atmosphere to its rich culture, beautiful countryside and winter activities. By extending our Prague operations into the winter season, we are giving our customers more opportunities to explore this exciting destination while supporting stronger tourism flows between Kuwait and Czechia. Our collaboration with the Czech Embassy and CzechTourism is an important part of building awareness and inspiring more travellers to discover everything the destination has to offer."

Barathan added: "It is encouraging to see Kuwait's sporting and cultural calendar grow, with events such as the Gulf Bank Marathon where we are supporting as the official airline partner, Super Cup, concerts and more bringing fresh energy to our winter season. These events give residents across the GCC and visitors from further afield wonderful reasons to experience Kuwait's beautiful winter weather, exceptional cuisine and warm hospitality. Large-scale events also create real economic value, bringing visitors into our hotels, restaurants, malls and airports, supporting local businesses and showcasing what Kuwait has to offer."

"This winter, Jazeera Airways is also adding more direct flights between Kuwait and Europe. Today, we showcased Prague in collaboration with Czech Tourism and the Embassy of Czechia in Kuwait, opening opportunities for travel in both directions. Through our partnership with Visit Kuwait, we are also supporting efforts to showcase Kuwait as a destination and encourage more visitors to discover what the country has to offer. At Jazeera Airways, we are proud to connect people to Kuwait and support its growth as a vibrant destination. There is so much to experience, and winter is the perfect time to discover it."

Guests also had the opportunity to engage with CzechTourism's invitees coming from Czechia including Next Mile DMC, The Julius Prague, Hotel Thermal Karlovy Vary, Altoa medical Tourism, Fashion Arena Prague Outlet, learn more about the destination's hospitality and travel offerings, and explore potential opportunities for collaboration. Adding to the excitement of the event, a special draw offered guests a chance to win some exciting prizes, bringing a taste of Czech hospitality and the spirit of travel to the celebration.

From Prague's iconic architecture, historic castles and vibrant cultural scene to scenic mountain resorts, spa towns, winter sports and unique culinary experiences, the presentations highlighted the Czechia's appeal to families, couples and leisure travellers seeking memorable winter holidays.

With its first-ever winter Prague service, Jazeera Airways continues to expand travel choices for customers and strengthen its European network, offering affordable direct connectivity from Kuwait to popular international destinations.

Flights to Prague are available for booking through www.jazeera-airways.com, the Jazeera Airways mobile app.

IEA forecasts oil demand recovery in 2027

High-tech goods drive growth

Oil prices rise amid Iran war uncertainty

China's export growth fastest since February

WASHINGTON, Oct 14, (AP): The International Energy Agency is lowering its world oil demand forecast for the year, noting that the war in Iran is leading to escalating fuel prices, limited oil supplies and a deteriorating economic outlook.

The agency's report on Wednesday said that global oil demand is predicted to drop 2.5 million barrels a day year-over-year in the fourth quarter and fall 2.6 million barrels a day on average this year. Diesel is expected to account for 25% of the drop.

The IEA foresees a partial recovery of 2 million barrels a day next year, but that still puts global oil use 0.6% below 2025 levels.

Global production climbed 2.5 million barrels a day month-over-month to 102.3 million barrels a day in September, driven by Gulf producers. OPEC+ gains of 2.1 million barrels a day were led by Saudi Arabia, while the United Arab Emirates drove non-OPEC+ increases.

Oil supply is expected to drop by 5.8 million barrels a day to 100.7 million barrels a day this year before climbing by 7.7 million barrels a day next year. The agency said that renewed Gulf attacks "leave the recovery fragile."

While gas prices in the U.S. have moved lower in recent weeks, they remain higher than a month ago. Gas prices averaged \$4.33 per gallon on Wednesday, according to AAA, up slightly from a month ago.

Brent crude, the international standard, gained 0.6% to \$106.37 a barrel Wednesday morning. Benchmark U.S. crude rose 1.2% to \$95.30 a barrel.

Brent has been pinballing between \$96 and nearly \$110 over the last month on uncertainty about when the war with Iran will allow the global energy industry to return to normal.

On Friday, President Donald Trump announced that he had struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to immediately supply the U.S.

more than 300,000 tons of diesel. That would be followed by an additional 500,000 tons in November, then 4 million more tons at some point after that. But energy policy experts say that the new pact is unlikely to make a dent in painfully high prices at the pump or elsewhere.

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

Trump's announcement came a week after the Group of Seven wealthy democracies said that they plan to release 100 million barrels of oil and fuel products in the coming weeks, starting with "substantial" amounts of diesel.

The release follows on from a March announcement that IEA member countries would release 426 million barrels of oil and products to stabilize the oil market. European Union countries committed about 92 million barrels, a promise weighted toward refined products made from crude such as diesel.

HONG KONG, Oct 14, (AP): China's exports surged 36.3% in September from a year earlier, its customs agency said Wednesday, bringing it on track to exceed last year's record trade surplus as pressure ramped up from its trading partners, including the European Union, to rebalance trade.

The exports data, which was better than what economists had expected, accelerated from the 25% growth in August. High-tech goods such as semiconductors and autos have helped fuel its rising shipments overseas.

September's export growth pace was the fastest since February, according to FactSet data.

Imports climbed 31% in September year-on-year, also accelerating from August's 28.2% rise. Still, China recorded a \$133.5 billion trade surplus last month, widening from \$119.1 billion in August.

For the first nine months, China's trade surplus reached \$938 billion, with expectations growing that it could surpass last year's full-year \$1.2 trillion record.

Strong exports have helped drive China's overall economic growth this year, at a time when domestic consumption and investment remained sluggish, weighed on by a yearslong real estate sector downturn.

However, China's export resilience is now faced with mounting challenges, said Ecaterina Bigos, a senior market strategist at BNP Paribas Asset Management.

"While U.S.-China trade tensions have eased somewhat, the EU's push to rebalance directly targets high-value exports," she said.

The U.S. has launched an ongoing probe against China and other trading partners this year on their excess industrial capacity, although Washington and Beijing last month reached an agreement to extend their trade truce and cut tariffs on \$60 billion worth of goods.

The 27-nation EU has particularly been struggling to rebalance a trade deficit exceeding \$1.1 billion a day with China. EU trade chief Maroš Šefcovic, following his visit to Beijing where he met his Chinese counterpart Wang Wentao last week, said a deal has been reached with Beijing, including halving Chinese hybrid car imports into the EU over the next few years.

Many of China's trading partners are facing weak growth prospects and are fearful of their manufacturing industries being overrun by exports from China, said Eswar

Prasad, a professor of economics and trade policy at Cornell University.

Policymakers have also pointed to a weakened yuan, China's currency, versus the U.S. dollar and other currencies contributing to Chinese exports being cheaper overseas when compared with goods from other countries, adding to trade imbalances.

China has said it has "no need or intent" to gain competitive advantages through currency devaluation and that its trade growth has been driven by its industrial competitiveness in the global market.

Between January and September, China's semiconductor exports soared 108.1% year-on-year in terms of value, customs data showed. Its exports of automatic data processing equipment and parts jumped 54.6%, while auto exports rose 54.3%, driven by an increased global demand for Chinese electric vehicles and hybrids.

China's trade surplus and its high-tech export model depend on open markets, Bigos said, and while diversifying its exports into markets such as Southeast Asia and Latin America can help, it cannot fully substitute for Western demand.

The country's reliance on high-tech exports, meanwhile, could face challenges as some U.S. technology industry leaders called for a global slowdown in the development of artificial intelligence over safety reasons.

"A slowdown in the global AI investment cycle could pose a greater threat to China's export growth than trade restrictions imposed by other countries," said Max Zenglein, Asia Pacific senior economist at The Conference Board.

Chinese leaders have set an annual economic expansion target of 4.5%-5% for 2026. It is set to release its July-September quarterly economic growth figures next week.

This week, the International Monetary Fund lowered its forecast for China's 2026 economic growth to 4.5%, down 0.1 percentage point from its previous projection, as it warned that the country's robust exports were unable to fully offset domestic weaknesses.

While Chinese officials have highlighted the need to bolster domestic demand, analysts believe that has yet to become a priority for this year even after authorities recently rolled out new measures to help lift its economy, including subsidies for homebuyers' mortgage interest payments.

Seminar focuses on cleaner oil industries

OAPEC, Saudi Arabia discuss downstream carbon reduction

RIYADH, Oct 14, (KUNA): The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), in cooperation with Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Energy, launched the third seminar on pathways to reducing carbon emissions in downstream oil industries.

The two-day event, running on October 14-15 at Riyadh Front Exhibition and Conference Center, is being held on the sidelines of the 25th World Petroleum Congress.

In his opening address, OAPEC Secretary-General Khaled Al-Otaibi said the seminar reflected the organization's commitment to supporting technical dialogue and strengthening regional cooperation.

He highlighted the importance of balanced policies, effective technologies and sustainable invest-

ment in meeting growing demand for petroleum products, improving efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.

Al-Otaibi stressed that downstream oil industries would remain central to OAPEC's work because of their added value, contribution to industrial development and role in enhancing the competitiveness of Arab economies.

He also expressed appreciation to Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud for hosting and sponsoring the seminar, commending his support for constructive dialogue, knowledge-sharing and cooperation to advance the energy sector.

In turn, Saudi Deputy Minister of Energy for

Sustainability and Climate Change Khaled Al-Muhaideb underscored the importance of regional cooperation and adopting pathways suited to each country's national circumstances.

He highlighted the role of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), artificial intelligence, and a circular carbon economy approach in improving efficiency and managing emissions while considering energy security and affordability.

The seminar brings together representatives from government bodies, companies, academic and research institutions, and regional and international organizations to exchange expertise and explore practical solutions to reduce carbon emissions in downstream oil industries.

Trump touts Greenland's oil and mineral wealth

WASHINGTON, Oct 14, (AP): U.S. President Donald Trump said "massive" oil, gas and mineral exploration is set to begin in "our new and beautiful Greenland" early Wednesday.

It wasn't immediately clear what exploration or developments the U.S. president was referring to in his post, and Greenland is a self-governing territory of Denmark, rather than a part of the United States.

Trump posted on his Truth Social platform following a campaign event Tuesday in Wasilla, Alaska, to stump for Republican U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan as he seeks his third term to represent the state in an election against Democratic former U.S. congresswoman Mary Peltola.

Rising energy prices - a direct result of Trump's war in Iran - are creating serious and sustained financial hardships for America's working class ahead of the midterm elections next month. Trump's comments Wednesday are likely aimed at addressing voters' concerns before they head to the polls.

But despite Trump's optimism, resource exploration and extraction in Greenland has stymied companies for decades thanks to the island's harsh climate, lack of key infrastructure and difficult geology. Previous efforts to extract so-called rare earth minerals, as well as oil and gas, have never progressed beyond the exploratory stage.

Trump's comments about the Arctic island come less than a month after he signed an agree-

ment with the leaders of Denmark and Greenland to strengthen security in the Arctic and North Atlantic following months of tensions with NATO allies over the U.S. president's repeated demands to take control of the semiautonomous Danish territory. It does not grant the U.S. any special exploration rights, but does place some limits on investments by non-NATO countries in strategic sectors.

The deal also paved the way for more U.S. bases in Greenland and eased tensions over Trump's repeated calls for Greenland to become part of the United States. The agreement would still apply if Greenland eventually chooses independence.

Trump has expressed his desire to acquire Greenland since as long ago as 2019 and, during his second term, issued threats to seize the territory from Denmark, a NATO ally.

Representatives of the leaders of Denmark and Greenland did not immediately return requests for comment Wednesday.

Greenland has large deposits of the rare earth minerals that are needed to make everything from computers and smartphones to the batteries, solar and wind technologies that will power the transition away from fossil fuels. China currently dominates the world's supply of these critical minerals and the Trump administration is seeking to break Beijing's chokehold on them.

The U.S. Geological Survey has also identified

major potential offshore deposits of oil and natural gas.

But tapping these resources could be prohibitively difficult: the rare earth minerals are encased in rock, and the offshore oil and natural gas deposits are covered by Arctic ice.

Trump's Truth Social post also touted Greenland's strategic location, saying that "from a Security Purpose in the Defense and Offense of both the United States of America, and Europe," the island is "second to none."

"Any future attack on the United States will have to come across Greenland, where our Defense will routinely knock down drones, missiles, or any other form of weapon not yet even conceived," he wrote. "It gives us time, location, and sightline, like nowhere else in the World!"

The United States was prominent in Greenland for decades but, since 1945, the U.S. military presence in Greenland has decreased from thousands of soldiers on 17 bases and installations to roughly 200 soldiers on the remote Pituffik Space Base in the northwest. The base supports missile warning, missile defense and space surveillance operations for the U.S. and NATO.

Trump said last month that the U.S. would "immediately begin the process of developing a large military presence in the appropriate locations," including "building two very major military bases."

From dough to delight: Audiences in Kuwait discover art of jiaozi

Where Kuwait meets China, one folded dumpling at a time

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager, Arab Times

The China Cultural Center in Kuwait, in cooperation with Great Wall Restaurant, hosted “The Taste of China: Jiaozi (Dumpling) Experience” on Oct 13, at the center’s basement floor.

The event introduced participants to the cultural significance of Chinese dumplings through an interactive experience featuring traditional Chinese seasonings, colorful dumpling-making techniques and the preparation of dipping sauces.

Many Kuwaitis attended the event, where staff from Great Wall Restaurant demonstrated the traditional art of dumpling-making, guiding participants through every step, from rolling and shaping the dough to adding fillings and folding the dumplings.



Some photos during ‘The Taste of China: Jiaozi (Dumpling) Experience’ at the China Cultural Center in Kuwait.

Young and old, women and men, enthusiastically participated in the hands-on activity, experiencing Chinese culinary traditions firsthand.



The event also provided an opportunity to promote cultural understanding and strengthen people-to-people ties through food.

Chinese dumplings, known as jiaozi, are among the most cherished foods in Chinese culinary culture, with a history stretching back approximately 1,800 years. According to popular legend, they originated during the Eastern Han Dynasty and are associated with the physician Zhang Zhongjing, who is said to have prepared a warming mixture of meat and medicinal herbs wrapped in dough to help people suffering from frostbite during winter.

Over the centuries, dumplings have evolved into a popular dish enjoyed around the world. They hold particular significance during Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations and family reunions. Their crescent shape resembles ancient Chinese gold and silver ingots, symbolizing wealth, prosperity and good fortune for the coming year.



The French Agamemnon Orchestra takes audiences on a journey through Renaissance and Baroque music.

French Agamemnon Orchestra blends perfume, poetry and music in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): From the fragrance of flowers to the language of melody, the French Agamemnon Orchestra explored the connection between perfume and music in its concert, “The Perfumes,” held on Tuesday at the Drama Theatre of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, blending poetry and aromatic scents.

In his opening speech, Mohammed bin Redha, Director of External Cultural Relations at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), said the concert was organized by NCCAL’s General Secretariat in cooperation with the French Embassy in Kuwait.

He explained that it marked the first in a series of cultural and artistic events under the International Cooperation Project for Cultural Exchange.

Included in the development plan for the 2026/2027 fiscal year, the project aims to strengthen international cultural partnerships, facilitate the exchange of creative experiences and expertise, and host high-quality events that enrich Kuwait’s cultural landscape.

Through this project, NCCAL seeks to expand cooperation with international cultural and artistic institutions and introduce audiences to innovative creative experiences, thereby strengthening Kuwait’s position as a meeting point for cultures and a platform for intercultural dialogue and human creativity.

“The Perfumes,” presented by the French Baroque ensemble, the Agamemnon Orchestra, combines Baroque musical masterpieces with olfactory artistry to create a multisensory experience that engages both hearing and smell.

Each musical piece is paired with a distinctive fragrance, creating an artistic dialogue between melodies and scents that stirs emotions and enriches the imagination.

Bin Redha emphasized that 65 years of Kuwaiti-French relations represent a model of friendship and cooperation based on mutual respect and shared interests.

He highlighted the role of culture, the arts, and heritage in strengthening communication and understanding between the two friendly nations, expressing hope for further joint initiatives and programs that reflect the depth of their longstanding ties.

Meanwhile, French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin said in his speech that “The Perfumes” celebrates the convergence of European musical heritage and the ancient traditions of perfumery in the Arabian Peninsula.

He explained that this artistic fusion resonates with Kuwait’s longstanding tradition of openness to the world and its rich history of maritime trade and cultural exchange.

Perfume is an integral part of life in Kuwait, deeply rooted in hospitality, memory, and national identity. Its presence is evident in places such as Al-Mubarakiya Market, in the aroma of incense, and in diwanias, the traditional Kuwaiti gathering places. Presenting the show in Kuwait carries special significance given the close connection between perfumes, local culture, and the country’s traditions of welcoming guests.

He indicated that the performance brings together the senses of hearing and smell in an artistic dialogue, al-



Mohammed bin Redha, Director of External Cultural Relations at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL)



French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin



A section of the audience.

lowing music and fragrances to complement one another.

The ambassador noted that the French Agamemnon Ensemble takes audiences on a journey through Renaissance and Baroque music as part of a project dedicated to rediscovering early music and breathing new life into it through contemporary forms of artistic expression.

The concert featured musical works from the 17th century, inspired by the relationship between music and fragrance. Flowers and perfumes served

as sources of inspiration for composers during the Renaissance and Baroque periods, who sought to evoke their scents through melodies.

The Agamemnon Orchestra was founded by a group of young musicians passionate about Baroque vocal music and Italian musical traditions.

The ensemble’s performances are distinguished by an innovative approach to sound and performance, designed to bring audiences closer to the music and deepen their understanding of its historical context.

Passion, perseverance into 65 works of art

Bahdahi’s art celebrates Kuwait’s soul

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Hassan Bahdahi, a talented Kuwaiti visual artist with an intellectual disability, has channelled his passion for art into an impressive collection of 65 paintings.

Through his brushwork, vibrant colors, and unwavering determination, he reflects Kuwait’s history while telling stories of its rich customs and traditions.

His work embodies the belief that “creativity knows no disability” and demonstrates how talent can overcome challenges.

This remarkable achievement was celebrated with the opening of his first art exhibition, titled “In the Heart of Kuwaiti Heritage.”

Organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) at the Kuwait National Library, the three-day exhibition features a diverse collection of artworks that capture the essence of Kuwaiti identity and its cultural and social heritage.

In an interview with the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Tuesday, Bahdahi explained that the exhibition represents the culmination of years of artistic exploration and dedication. The collection features 65 paintings inspired by Kuwait’s landscapes and social traditions, with each artwork telling a distinct story reflecting life in the country.

The exhibited works are divided into five artistic themes, covering the marine environment, desert landscapes, architecture, the experiences of people with disabilities, and other aspects of Kuwaiti heritage.

The paintings were created using a range of techniques and materials, including oil paints, oil pastels, and soft pastels.

Bahdahi’s artistic journey began in 2007 with initial sketches and spontaneous attempts at drawing.

Over time, his talent flourished through specialized art courses and self-directed learning, helping him refine his skills and master various artistic techniques, particularly perspective, proportion, and portraiture.

He emphasized that his intellectual disability had not hindered his artistic aspirations; rather, it had motivated him to develop his skills and pursue his dream of holding a solo exhibition to showcase his creations.

Bahdahi expressed his joy at holding his first solo exhibition, made possible by the support of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, which provided him with a platform to share his work with the public and celebrate his artistic journey.



Sheikha Sheikh Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah with artist Hassan Bahdahi.



Photos from the exhibition.

KUNA photos

Obituary

Star of two screen classics

‘North by Northwest’ star Eva Marie Saint dies at 102



Actress Eva Marie Saint attends the 20th Annual Art Directors Guild Excellence In Production Design Awards held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016, in Beverly Hills, Calif. (AP)

LOS ANGELES, Oct 14, (AP): Eva Marie Saint, the pale, willowy actor who won an Academy Award for her first movie, “On the Waterfront,” and starred opposite Cary Grant in the Alfred Hitchcock thriller “North by Northwest,” has died. She was 102.

Saint, whose acting work lasted well into her 90s, died at her home in Los Angeles on Tuesday, confirmed family representative Jeff Sanderson.

Saint had one of the most spectacular debuts in Hollywood history, as the love interest of Marlon Brando’s tormented Terry Malloy in “On the Waterfront,” and her first trip to the Academy Awards was memorable too. Pregnant with her first child, Saint accepted her Oscar from Frank Sinatra and smilingly murmured a unique winner’s speech: “I think I may have the baby right here.” (Her son, Darrell, was born two days later.)

The award for the 1954 classic made her an instant star, but she soon astonished Hollywood with a firm independence that would mark her career. She refused offers of studio contracts and declined chances to follow up on her great success, explaining that she was taking time off to become acquainted with her new son. (A daughter, Laurette, was born in 1958.)

In her first decade in Hollywood, Saint appeared in a mere seven films. She declined such top-level productions as “The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit” with Gregory Peck, “Summer and Smoke” with Laurence Harvey and “The Rainmaker” with Burt Lancaster. She credited her husband, TV and stage director Jeffrey Hayden, with persuading her to star in Hitchcock’s “North by Northwest,” the classic 1959 thriller in which Saint plays a spy who seduces Grant, but ends up falling for him.

“I vividly remember him saying, ‘Honey, I think you should find a quiet spot. I’ll take care of the children and I want you to really think about this and reread this script,’” she told Vanity Fair in 2014. “He was so right. And that’s what husbands are for.”

Instead of being put off by her selectivity, studios continued offering her starring roles in such films as “Exodus” (with Newman), “Raintree County” (Elizabeth Taylor, Montgomery Clift) and “All Fall Down,” with Warren Beatty.

She turned more to television in the 1970s and enjoyed renewed popularity in the 1980s as the mother of Cybill Shepherd in the hit sitcom “Moonlighting” and as Tom Hanks’ mother in the film comedy “Nothing in Common.” She won an Emmy for the 1990 miniseries “People Like Us,” and had roles in such 21st century movies as “Because of Winn-Dixie,” “Superman Returns” and “Winter’s Tale,” adapted from Mark Helprin’s novel of the same name. In 2021, she played Marisa Tomei’s aunt in the brief audio play “The Bus Ride,” part of “The Pack Podcast.”

Saint was married to Hayden for 65 years, until his death in 2016.

When Saint emerged in the public consciousness, many believed her theatrical-sounding name must have been invented. She was born with it on July 4, 1924, in Newark, New Jersey. The family moved to Delmar, a small town near Albany, New York, where her father was a Goodrich Rubber Co. manager. Eva’s goal was to become a third-grade teacher like her mother, but at Bowling Green State University in Ohio she tried out for a play and won the leading role.

After graduation, she lived with her parents and began hunting for acting jobs in Manhattan. After a fruitless year, she landed a two-line role as a telephone operator on a radio drama and soon was working steadily on soap operas and nighttime dramas, appearing for two years as Claudia on “One Man’s Family.” Network television was booming in the early 1950s, and her looks and dramatic sense made her a favorite with casting people and producers.

Food

Award-winning baker Ford gives old bread new life

Best way to turn day-old bread into bread pudding

NEW YORK, Oct 14, (AP): Many cultures have their own versions of bread pudding, created as a way to eliminate the waste of old bread. This version is from my cookbook, “Pan y Dulce.”

“Old bread” does not necessarily mean that it has gone bad or is moldy. I’m simply referring to bread that is a day or two old and has gotten dry, which makes it the perfect vehicle to soak up the sweet milk and egg mixture and create a very moist texture once it comes out of the oven. You can feel free to use dairy-free alternatives like almond, soy, oat, or coconut milk instead of the whole milk and heavy cream.

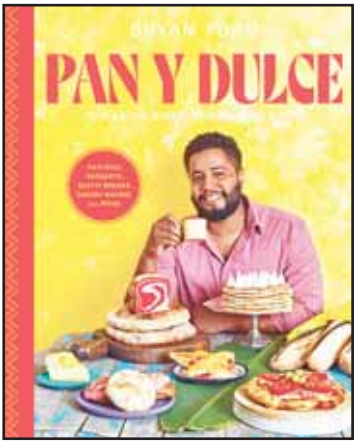
As a professional baker, I am hopelessly devoted to the practice of measuring my ingredients by weight. While this does require a cheap digital kitchen scale, the practice will give you an instant upgrade from baking volumetrically, by which I mean using measuring cups and tablespoons. But because I realize that not all home bakers are with me yet, I have included conversions by volume.

- Makes 8 Servings
- 300 grams (10 ½ ounces) day-old bread or pan dulce, cubed and shredded
- 400 grams (1-2/3 cup) whole milk
- 5 large eggs
- 100 grams (1/2 cup packed) brown sugar
- 2 grams (1 teaspoon) ground cinnamon
- 1 gram (1 teaspoon) ground nutmeg
- 100 grams (2/3 cup) raisins
- 75 grams (3/4 cup) shredded coconut, plus more for topping
- 50 grams (1/3 cup) semi-sweet chocolate chips



This image released by Voracious shows a recipe for pudín de pan from the cookbook “Pan y Dulce” by Bryan Ford. (AP)

- 100 grams (1/2 cup) granulated sugar
- 50 grams (3 ½ tablespoons) unsalted butter
- 40 grams (3 tablespoons) heavy cream
- 5 grams (1 teaspoon) vanilla extract
- Dark rum al gusto
- Cube up the old bread or pan dulce. I like to then take each cube and shred it as finely as possible.
- In a large bowl, add the milk, eggs, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg and whisk together until it’s blended well. Add the cubed bread into this mixture and incorporate until all the bread is moist. There should be more moisture than bread, which is good because the bread will begin to absorb it. If it feels too dry, make adjustments accordingly.
- Add the raisins and shredded coconut into the mixture and mix again until they are evenly distributed. Cover the mixture and put in



This image released by Voracious shows the cookbook “Pan y Dulce” by Bryan Ford. (AP)

the fridge overnight (8 to 12 hours), or transfer to a baking pan and let it sit for at least 30 minutes before baking.

Moore’s ‘The Debut’ turns housewife into actor

‘Wildwood’ premieres at London Film Festival

LONDON, Oct 14, (AP): Hot on the heels of Cannes and Venice, it’s London’s turn to shine and roll out the red carpet for this year’s crop of buzzy films and international stars.

On Sunday that meant the new stop-motion animated fantasy film from Laika, “Wildwood” got its long-awaited world premiere.

The 70th London Film Festival, which opened Oct. 7, features a mix of award hopefuls and world premieres over 12 days of screenings and events.

16 years in the making, Laika stop-motion animation “Wildwood,” is one of the most anticipated titles to be shown at London Film Festival. Based on Colin Meloy’s novel, it follows two 12-year-old classmates Prue and Curtis, (voiced by Peyton Elizabeth Lee and Jacob Tremblay) who get lost in a magical forest searching for Prue’s baby brother, who’s been abducted by crows.

Lee and Tremblay were joined on the red carpet by co-star Carey Mulligan, director Travis Knight and writer Meloy, who didn’t think he’d ever see his book on the big screen.

He was still working on it when Laika optioned it back in 2010. “It’s kind of wild to see that it’s actually happening now,” Meloy admitted at the world premiere.

Knight claims the key to working on such a long project is enjoying the process and finding joy in every step. But building an entire world in your hands can also be daunting.

“Stop motion is the worst, hardest, most difficult way to make a movie, but it’s also the most joyous thing, because it is the most human way to a movie and that’s why I think the movie’s so special,” explained Knight.

Mulligan, who voices Alexandra, the film’s main protagonist, said it was amazing to be involved in that level of artistry, adding that “the



Travis Knight, from left, Peyton Elizabeth Lee, Carey Mulligan and Jacob Tremblay pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere for the film “Wildwood” as part of the London film festival in London, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026. (AP)

craftsmanship that’s gone into every frame of this is kind of another level”

Tremblay was also excited to be a part of it, having grown up with Laika’s films. He recorded his part back in 2021 and now, five years later, says it’s incredible to see all the hard work that went into it.

“My mind is blown,” said Tremblay. “I’m really happy to be here today to get to celebrate this with everyone.”

“Wildwood” has Laika’s trademark spooky and creepy feel, plus some dark themes that, although scary, Meloy thinks are good to explore with kids.

The best stories, particularly for

children, he claims, are the ones that put children in danger.

“We as kids want to see that and be able to explore that in the safety of stories...You could get a vision of that danger but not be in danger yourself,” says Meloy.

Theater is in the spotlight as Simon Stone’s “Elsinore,” a biographical drama on actor Ian Charleson’s final performance, starring Andrew Scott and Olivia Colman, opened the festival Wednesday.

Scott said it was “incredibly cool” to have the film open the festival on London’s Southbank, “because where the screening takes place tonight is literally 30 seconds away from the National Theater where

the movie is set. So that is very, very special and all the gang will be there.”

Meanwhile, Jesse Eisenberg’s musical comedy “The Debut” closes proceedings on Oct. 18. The film stars Julianne Moore as a housewife whose casting in a community theater production turns her into a method actor.

Two animated films are debuting at the festival.

Another animation, Brad Bird’s neo noir animation “Ray Gunn,” which follows the adventures of a small-time detective voiced by Sam Rockwell and a pop singer played by Scarlett Johansson, had its premiere at the festival this weekend.

RJ Mitte, ‘Breaking Bad’ actor & disability rights champion dies

LOS ANGELES, Oct 14, (AP): Actor and disability rights advocate RJ Mitte, who brought a lifetime of experience with cerebral palsy to fictional family struggles in an essential role on “Breaking Bad,” died Monday at age 34, authorities and his representatives said.

Cameron County Justice of the Peace Cyndi Hinojosa told The Associated Press she declared Mitte dead at about 1:30 p.m. at what she believed was his home in Brownsville, Texas. She said she was unable to provide a cause, but an autopsy will be performed.

Mitte played Walter White Jr., the son of Bryan Cranston’s chemistry teacher-turned-meth dealer Walter White on nearly every episode of the five seasons of the AMC show, which recently ranked as the best of the 21st century in a New York Times poll.

Cranston said he is in “deep despair” for the loss of his “sweet son.”

“I met him when he was only 14 years old when he was cast as Walter White Jr., a part he played with such joy and enthusiasm,” Cranston said in a Facebook post Monday night. “Born with Cerebral Palsy, he never - ever - allowed that challenge to be an excuse for anything. He met the demanding shooting schedule head on with great determination.”

Mitte told the AP in 2014 that his disability and the surrounding struggles with physical therapy, family problems and exorbitant medical bills - all key subjects on the show - made him better at his job.

“You develop a different mentality and you develop a different look at how the world sees you and how you see the world,” he said. “You’re able to use that. And I think it’s an asset instead of something that would hinder.”

Mitte was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi.

He landed small guest roles on sitcoms after moving to Los Angeles to act in 2006 before landing the role on “Breaking Bad” in 2007. The show



RJ Mitte arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of “El Camino: A Breaking Bad Movie” at the Regency Village Theatre on Oct. 7, 2019 in Westwood, Calif. (AP)

ran from 2008 to 2013.

“That kid was pretty raw when we started shooting the pilot,” Cranston said in his post, “but little by little we watched him grow into a really fine actor.”

Cranston added, “I loved him, and thoroughly enjoyed being with him throughout the years on the series, and after the spotlight on Breaking Bad dimmed.”

In a statement announcing his death, Mitte’s representatives said he “brought authenticity to the role and built a platform on disability awareness and inclusion.” The statement said he used “his platform to challenge stereotypes and promote greater representation.”

Mitte’s later credits included the ABC Family series “Switched at Birth” and the superhero satire series “Guardians of Justice.”

He was also a producer of several independent films.

As an advocate, he served as an ambassador for United Cerebral Palsy and Shriners Children’s. He was also president of his own Mitte Foundation supporting philanthropic and community initiatives around disabilities.

Event aims to strengthen integration among medical specialties: Dr. Al-Kandari

Jaber Hospital holds awareness event to promote early breast cancer detection

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital held an awareness event on Wednesday titled “Specialties Unite... For Her” to promote early breast cancer detection, coinciding with Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The event, held at the hospital’s main lecture hall, was organized by the Council of Radiology and Radiation Therapy Departments in coordination with the National Breast Disease Early Detection Program.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Health said the event was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Services Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Dr. Al-Munther Al-Hasawi.

The ministry noted that Al-Mutairi chairs the Breast Disease Early Detection Committee, under which the National Breast Disease Early Detection Program operates.

According to the statement, Chairperson of the Council of Radiology and Radiation Therapy Departments Dr. Buthaina Al-Kandari affirmed that the event aims to strengthen integration among medical specialties and healthcare teams involved in early breast cancer detection.

She explained that coordination between radiology and radiation therapy services, the national program and primary healthcare centers helps ensure women have access to screening and assessment services through integrated healthcare pathways.

Al-Kandari added that raising awareness of the importance of early detection encourages women to undergo screening, learn about avail-



Some of the attendees at the breast cancer awareness event titled ‘Specialties Unite ... For Her’.



Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Services Affairs Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and Head of the Radiology and Radiation Therapy Departments Council Dr. Buthaina Al-Kandari.

able services and visit healthcare centers when necessary.

She stressed the importance of continued coordination among relevant institutions and healthcare professionals to enhance the quality of care provided.

The ministry added that the event was attended by Jaber Hospital Director Dr. Nada Al-Hassan, Director of the Department of Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases Dr. Wafaa Al-Kandari, and Ministry of Health Spokesperson Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad.

Several hospital and department directors, heads of technical and administrative departments, and medical and healthcare professionals from hospitals and primary healthcare centers also attended the event.



Some of the attendees at the breast cancer awareness event titled ‘Specialties Unite ... For Her’

KUNA photos



Tubes to collect blood samples are organized inside a mobile lab to test rapidly for Ebola virus in Butembo, Congo on Sept 30. (AP)

Congo confirmed Ebola cases exceed 9,000 as containment efforts falter

BUNIA, Congo, Oct 14, (Agencies): Confirmed cases in Congo’s Ebola outbreak have surpassed 9,000, with more than 4,300 deaths, as health authorities struggle to contain an outbreak spreading across seven provinces, according to government figures released Tuesday.

The Health Ministry reported 9,066 confirmed cases and 4,381 deaths, with the death toll approaching half the number of confirmed cases.

The rising death toll has alarmed health workers and authorities, with a large share of recorded deaths occurring outside treatment centers. The latest report recorded 88 new cases and warned that “community transmission remains a concern.”

The outbreak has created new hot spots as it spreads to more communities, with 65 health zones across seven provinces now affected.

Officials say the confirmed cases account for only a third of all cases, with many going undetected. The outbreak involves the rare Bundibugyo virus, for which there is no approved vaccine or treatment.

Efforts to contain the virus have been impaired by several factors, including

fighting between government forces and rebel groups, which has created one of the world’s direst humanitarian crises, widespread disregard for health precautions, intense population movements and shortages of medical supplies and treatment centers.

The outbreak has surpassed Congo’s 16 previous outbreaks in scale and is on track to top the 2014-2016 West Africa regional outbreak that killed 11,000 people.

“I feel that the government is overwhelmed by events. But there is nothing else to say. The government needs to fully shoulder its responsibilities to ensure the effectiveness of the response against Ebola,” said Samuel Buju, a resident of Bunia, the provincial capital of Ituri, one of the outbreak’s hot spots.

Last week, Kenya became the second country after Uganda to report an Ebola case imported from Congo, deepening concerns about the virus spreading across borders.

Kenya received a cash grant from China totaling 2 million US dollars to support its ebola response and drought relief.

Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Guo Haiyan, National Treasury Principal Secretary Chris Kiptoo and Public Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni attended the handover ceremony at the National Treasury in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, where the two sides signed a handover certificate.

Responding to a request from the Kenyan government, the Chinese government provided a cash grant of 1 million US dollars to boost ebola virus disease preparedness infrastructure in counties identified as very high-risk and high-risk.

The remaining 1 million US dollars will be used to support the Kenyan government’s response to the impact of drought.

Guo emphasized that the latest grant from China embodies the friendly sentiments held by the Chinese government and people toward the government and people of the Republic of Kenya.

The envoy expressed China’s continued willingness to strengthen development cooperation with Kenya under the frameworks of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the Global Development Initiative (GDI).

Indonesian villagers struggle for water as El Niño intensifies peatland fires

PENYELADI, Indonesia, Oct 14, (AP): After three months with no rain, Sriwati, a shopkeeper and mother of three children living in Penyeladi village on the tropical island of Borneo, can no longer depend on the river for her needs.

Experts say communities like Sriwati’s are facing a severe water crisis as this year’s super El Niño, combined with decades of degradation of the island’s ecologically vital peatlands - ancient wetlands that are critical for carbon storage, water regulation and pollution control - has created the perfect storm exacerbating human-caused climate change.

The Kapuas, Indonesia’s longest river that over 3 million people rely on, has extremely receded in the area near her home. All that’s left is a shallow stream of muddy water that’s not safe to drink or wash the rice she cooks to feed her children. She now has to buy water, adding to her monthly expenses.

“The water shortage affects us, especially when it comes to drinking water,” Sriwati, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, told The Associated Press from her small, concrete home.

El Niño is part of a natural climate cycle of warming ocean temperatures, but this year’s is expected to reach new extremes of drought, heat waves, flooding and other climate-related disruptions across the globe.

Meteorologists forecast it could exceed a record El Niño that began in 1997 and helped trigger billions of dollars in damage from heat waves, floods, droughts, tornadoes and wildfires.

In Borneo, experts say that because vast peatlands have been destroyed by land conversion, the effects of El Niño are already being more acutely felt.

“In Kalimantan, something like 60% of the peatland areas have

been drained to make way for palm oil plantations and for pulp and paper concessions,” said Amanda Hurowitz, a senior director at international environmental organization Mighty Earth, using the name for the Indonesia-controlled part of Borneo.

“That means the water is not where it should be. There are all these canals, and because the canals are blocked, the water table goes low,” she continued. “Because it’s so dry, the water has just disappeared.”

In a written statement to the AP, Indonesia’s Ministry of Forestry acknowledged the negative impact of drained peatlands, while insisting that specific causes and liabilities must be determined by evidence rather than attributed automatically to El Niño or the presence of businesses.

They added that the government aims to prevent future peatland degradation through ecosystem restoration and strict enforcement of concession holders’ obligations.

“The government’s long-term agenda focuses on preserving and

restoring peatland hydrological functions, improving landscape and water management, strengthening fire prevention, and ensuring that all parties managing land fulfill their responsibilities,” they said.

Experts say the hot, dry conditions caused by El Niño coupled with peatland degradation have contributed to the enormous fires spreading across Borneo.

Dried peat is highly flammable, allowing fires to easily spread in drained areas. Because the fires often spread underground, they’re difficult to extinguish and can easily reoccur, according to the Borneo Nature Foundation.

The dwindling water supply in the area has slowed down firefighting efforts, while Japan has deployed firefighting assistance to the island.

Toxic thick haze blankets the sky. The smoke has drifted as far as the Philippines, more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) away, and breached Malaysia’s emergency-level threshold for air pollution, forcing authorities to declare an emergency last week in a town in Sarawak state on Borneo.



Soldiers spray water to put out wildfires burning in peatland forest in Kubu Raya, West Kalimantan, Indonesia on Sept 12. (AP)

France to miss target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in 2026

PARIS, Oct 14, (Xinhua): France’s greenhouse gas emissions are projected to fall by 2.8 percent in 2026 from the previous year, but this reduction would remain less than that required to meet the country’s climate goals, according to a report released Tuesday.

The Interprofessional Technical Center for Studies on Air Pollution (Citepa), an independent body responsible for monitoring the country’s emissions, said in its latest barometer that France’s greenhouse gas emissions, excluding carbon sinks, totaled an estimated 179.7 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) in the first half of 2026. This was down 4.1 percent from the same period in 2025.

The decline was mainly driven by the buildings and transport sectors, where emissions fell by 12.0 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively, according to Citepa.

However, the downward trend is expected to slow in the second half of the year, with emissions projected to fall by 1.3 percent year on year, the report said.

For the whole of 2026, France’s greenhouse gas emissions are projected to reach 349.4 million tons of CO2e. This represents a reduction of 2.8 percent, slightly below the 3.1 percent decline envisaged for 2026 under France’s third National Low-Carbon Strategy (SNBC 3). It would also remain well below the average annual rate of emission cuts needed to meet the country’s climate targets by 2030.

Citepa said France’s emissions reductions will need to accelerate in the coming years to comply with its carbon budgets and meet its climate targets for 2030. Under the SNBC 3 roadmap, annual emissions cuts are expected to accelerate to 5.7 percent in 2027 and 6.1 percent in 2028 from the previous year.

Also:

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia is taking concrete steps to cut greenhouse gas emissions by more than 70 percent by 2035, aiming to address the adverse effects of frequent extreme weather events that threaten livelihoods, the country’s Minister of Water and Energy **Habtamu Itfa** has said.

The minister made the remarks on Monday while addressing the 65th plenary session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is underway in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

“Ethiopia has committed to a highly ambitious 70.3 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035,” Itfa told the IPCC, a United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change.

Faced with mounting environmental challenges, the East African country is currently implementing coordinated initiatives to achieve its ambitious climate action target, primarily through renewable energy expansion, large-scale tree planting, and landscape restoration, he noted.

“Ethiopia is living on the frontlines of the global cli-

mate crisis. Irrespective of natural variations, anthropogenic climate change has severely disrupted our natural balance,” Itfa said. “We are increasingly subjected to shifting and shortening rainy seasons, which bring both devastating floods and landslides, as well as frequent, extensive droughts.”

He noted that Ethiopia is currently “aggressively expanding” its renewable energy matrix by harnessing hydro, wind, and solar power, while also extending the clean energy grid to neighboring countries to support Africa’s transition to green energy.

Itfa also highlighted the country’s flagship Green Legacy Initiative for significantly expanding forest cover and restoring degraded landscapes by enabling the planting of more than 66 billion tree seedlings nationwide since its inception in 2019, ultimately increasing the national forest cover from 17.2 percent to 23.6 percent.

□ □ □

NAIROBI: Coffee plants grow among taller trees on a farm in Murang’a County, central Kenya, where the leafy canopy provides shade and helps retain soil moisture. In the fields, farmers are replacing some synthetic fertilizers with organic alternatives to improve soil health and reduce production costs.

These practices are part of efforts by local smallholder farmers to adapt to changing climatic conditions and rising agricultural costs.

Kenyan entrepreneur Godfrey Noel is exploring how digital technology and climate finance can help make such changes more accessible to farmers.

In September, Noel and his team won gold at the final of the Global AgrilInno Challenge 2026 in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province, with their AgriKonnekt project, which seeks to connect smallholder farmers in East Africa through digital agricultural services.

The project provides measurement, reporting and verification services to cooperatives, farmer organizations and financial institutions. By collecting and verifying data on farming practices, the team aims to assess their environmental benefits and help link those benefits to climate finance.

For Noel, the challenge is not simply encouraging farmers to adopt more sustainable practices, but also ensuring they have the resources to do so.

Noel noted that smallholder farmers face mounting pressure from unpredictable rainfall, extreme weather events, rising input costs and deteriorating soil conditions, all of which can undermine agricultural productivity and household incomes.

“Climate finance has a lot of money, but to get that money into agriculture, you have to demonstrate the environmental benefits of these practices and show that the data is credible and verifiable,” Noel said.

Swiatek beats Frech to reach Wuhan Open last 16

Maryland suspends tennis team over racist imagery

WUHAN, China, Oct 14, (AP): Iga Swiatek advanced to the round of 16 at the Wuhan Open with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Magdalena Frech on Wednesday.

The six-time major winner started slowly against her Polish compatriot, dropping an early service game and falling behind 2-0 before winning six straight games to take the first set.

She continued momentum by winning four straight games to start the second set before Frech made it 4-1.

Swiatek is seeded No. 7 in the WTA's 1,000-level event. She reached the quarterfinals of the recent China Open in Beijing.

Swiatek next faces either Ashlyn Krueger or Lanlana Tararudee. She's in the same quarter as top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka, who faced Ann Li later Wednesday in a match to reach the final 16.

In other second-round matches, No. 5 Elina Svitolina had a 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 win over Liudmila Samsonova and No. 170-ranked Sonay Kartal upset No. 9-seed Belinda Bencic 6-0, 7-5.

Meanwhile, the University of Maryland says it suspended its club tennis team after learning of racist imagery in material sent to other tennis clubs.

"On Saturday, UMD Recreation and Wellness (Rec-Well) staff learned that members of the Maryland Club Tennis student organization distributed programming material with a graphic containing racist imagery targeting people who are Black or African American," the school said. "They emailed this information to other university tennis clubs in the region about this weekend's fall tournament at College Park."

The school said the team has been suspended and the matter has been referred to university police.

"The University of Maryland is horrified and expresses its regret and sincere apology for the harm that this has caused," the school said. "In addition to UMD club tennis apologizing and forfeiting its matches, UMD's director of Recreation and Wellness issued an apology to the club presidents of all the participating teams. This matter has been referred to the University of Maryland Police Department and the Office of Student Conduct."



Iga Swiatek, of Poland, returns a ball to Elise Mertens, of Belgium during the quarterfinals of the women's singles match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing. (AP)

FIFA to increase soccer development funding under new \$6.35 billion plan

SAO PAULO, Oct 14, (AP): FIFA will propose to its members a \$6.35 billion development fund for the next four-year cycle, including a boosted amount of \$25 million for each national association, two people with knowledge of the plan and a letter reviewed by The Associated Press confirmed Tuesday.

Soccer's world governing body planned to use the financial success of the latest World Cup to enhance investment in the sport's development across 211 FIFA member associations, confederations and other stakeholders. Originally, each association was to receive \$10 million for the four-year period.

FIFA planned to distribute more than \$3.5 billion from its financial reserves which were boosted with the success

of its 48-team World Cup, said two officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the proposal had not been announced.

FIFA estimates approximately \$15 billion in revenue in the 2022-26 cycle, including the men's World Cup hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, significantly above projections, both people told AP.

The proposal comes as European soccer leaders seek a candidate to try to oust Gianni Infantino as FIFA president. Infantino's divisive World Cup private investment plan - that was scrapped within days of being revealed in July - prompted UEFA to act.

Infantino, who became FIFA president in 2016, is seeking reelection next year.

Putellas makes 150th appearance for Spain

Swanson scores first goal since Olympic gold as US holds Spain



In this file photo, United States forward Mallory Swanson (9) plays against Iceland defenders Emilia Ásgeirsdóttir (5) and Gudny Arnadóttir (20) during an international friendly women's soccer match in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

CHESTER, Pa., Oct 14, (AP): Mallory Swanson scored her first goal since the gold medal match at the 2024 Olympics in the 86th minute to pull the United States into a 2-2 draw with Spain on Tuesday night.

Ashley Sanchez also scored early in the second half for the United States after first-half goals from Alexia Putellas and Salma Paralluelo gave Spain a 2-0 lead.

"I mean, this mentality of this team has always been you stay with it," said Swanson, who subbed into the game in the second half. "That's what this crest means."

It was the second of two friendly matches against Spain, the 2023 Women's World Cup winners. Patri Guijarro and Eva Navarro scored in the first 14 minutes to lift Spain to a 2-0 victory in the first match on Saturday in Washington D.C.

Spain, ranked No. 1 in the world, has already qualified for the World Cup next summer in Brazil. The United States was using the matches as preparation for World Cup qualifying later this year.

Putellas, the two-time Ballon d'Or winner, was making her 150th appearance for Spain. She put Spain in front in the 27th minute with her 43rd international goal, a tap-in at the far post off a feed from Clara Pinedo.

Some five minutes later, U.S. goalkeeper Phallon Tullis-Joyce misplayed the ball up the field and Spain pounced. Putellas sent the ball forward to Paralluelo, whose blast hit

the crossbar and fell into the goal to make it 2-0.

It was the first time the United States has given up two first-half goals to an opponent in consecutive matches since 2011.

The U.S. pulled back a goal early in the second when Sanchez found a gap and scored to the far post. Sanchez was making her first start in for the United States since Oct. 30, 2024, against Argentina.

Sanchez has been on a tear for the North Carolina Courage in the National Women's Soccer League, scoring a league-leading 20 goals in 27 games.

In the final minutes, Michelle Cooper took a long ball from Kate Del Fava and sent it over to Swanson for the volley. Swanson's last goal gave the United States a 1-0 victory over Brazil at the Paris Games. She spent 2025 on maternity leave for the birth of her daughter.

"I think one of our big things in the game plan was just like finding those spaces in the box and being clinical in the box, and you could see that," Swanson said.

Lily Yohannes nearly scored for the United States in stoppage time, but Misa Rodríguez made a diving save.

"Obviously we always want to win, that's the type of team that we are and I think if we had 20 more minutes we definitely probably would have won," Sanchez said. "But it was good just to get a tie against a team like that and come back from 2-nil down."

'I want to play well for the next 10 years'

McIlroy arrives in India with new style & fresh hope to Dubai finale

NEW DELHI, Oct 14, (AP): Since completing the career Grand Slam, Rory McIlroy has been constantly looking for new ways to inject some freshness and spark into his golf.

Turns out two of his longtime Ryder Cup teammates are providing some inspiration.

For this week's DP World India Championship, McIlroy has brought along a new look - baggy golf pants.

After all, Tommy Fleetwood has been wearing them for a while.

"I have watched and I have admired Tommy Fleetwood over the past year," McIlroy said, with a smile, on Wednesday's DP World Locker Room show about his style that has generated plenty of chatter in New Delhi this week.

"And in my everyday life, when I don't have to wear what is my golf uniform, I wear a lot of wide-legged pants. It is the in-thing, the fashionable thing."

But how, McIlroy was asked, do they feel to play golf in?

"These hit a little low, maybe a little short ... I understand they are maybe not as well-fitting as they need to be," he said, "but they are a work in progress."

Also in the works for the Northern Irishman is a replica of what he calls his "performance trailer" that he uses in the United States to aid his fitness and recovery during and between PGA Tour events, in an effort to gain an edge over rivals.

Now, he wants one for when he plays on the European tour, too.

McIlroy said that idea came from tennis great Novak Djokovic but also fellow golfer Justin Rose.

"I decided to pull the trigger on it when Justin won in Memphis last year," McIlroy said. "He's 45 years old,

playing great, contending in major championships, and at that time I was 36. I was like, I want to play really well for the next 10 years - I feel like I need to do something like this."

McIlroy hopes to have that up and running by the summer of 2027 - by which time, who knows, he might have a record-tying eighth Order of Merit title that crowns the year's No. 1 player on the European tour.

There are four events remaining in this season's Race to Dubai and McIlroy will play in three of them, starting in India.

He is third in the standings, behind Patrick Reed and Eugenio Chacarra, but there's little between the three players and plenty of points on offer in the season-ending events in India, South Korea, Abu Dhabi and finally Dubai.



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland on the 2nd tee on day four of the PGA Championship at Wentworth Golf Club in Virginia Water, England. (AP)

'I just wanted a new challenge'

Antetokounmpo & Heat could be perfect title-chasing pairing

MIAMI, Oct 14, (AP): Giannis Antetokounmpo ran off the floor about an hour into the first Miami Heat training camp session of the season. He had already sweated through his practice uniform and wanted to change into a fresh one.

Someone let him into an adjacent room, and he found a place to change.

"Much better," Antetokounmpo said. With that, he sprinted back to practice.

Change, he believes, can be good. After 13 seasons with the Milwaukee Bucks - with 10 All-Star selections, nine All-NBA picks, two Most Valuable Player awards

and one NBA title during that span - the 6-foot-11 Greek forward is starting anew with the Heat, who have a lot in common with Antetokounmpo. Both have been to the top of the NBA mountain, and now, both are counting on the other to help them reach that height again.

But why now? Put simply, Antetokounmpo just wanted a fresh uniform.

"I feel like I was in my comfort zone for many years and I just wanted just a new challenge," Antetokounmpo told The Associated Press. "And I feel that with where I am in my career, Miami is

the organization that will bring the best out of me. It's an organization that loves to compete. Every single game, every single minute. And I'm the same. I'm the same person, so hopefully this - me being here - allows me to compete, allows me to help my team win games and get to the ultimate goal, which is winning the championship."

The Heat gave up a ton to make the deal happen. The full trade, finalized in July, brought Antetokounmpo and Bobby Portis Jr. to Miami in exchange for Tyler Herro, Kasparas Jakucionis, Jaime Jaquez Jr., Kel'el Ware, three

first-round picks, a first-round pick swap and a second-round pick. Miami won't finish paying off the trade, in terms of the draft capital, until 2033.

And then there's the not-so-small matter of Antetokounmpo's next contract, one that could be worth as much as \$275 million over four seasons if he ends up with a max extension sometime in the coming months.

It is a ransom. But if this goes as Miami hopes, the price could seem like a bargain.

"I feel lucky to be his teammate, especially at this stage of my career," said new Heat guard

Klay Thompson, a four-time champion from his time with Golden State. "I couldn't ask for a better opportunity. I've played against Giannis for many years, but now to be able to build chemistry with him and watch him hopefully have another MVP-like season is just a joy for me. And Heat fans should be ecstatic because when your best player is one of your hardest workers, it's contagious and it's just great to be a part of."

He has averaged 24.1 points and 9.9 rebounds per game in his career, something only eight other players - Kareem Abdul-

Jabbar, Elgin Baylor, Larry Bird, Wilt Chamberlain, Anthony Davis, Joel Embiid, Karl Malone and Bob Pettit - either have done or are doing (since Davis and Embiid are still active).

Change Name
I, TABASUEM SHANUR SHAIKH PATAN HOLDER OF INDIAN PASSPORT NO W4663799 issued AT KUWAIT ON 18/10/2022 HAVING PERMEANT ADDRESS HOUSE NUMBER 166 KHAMAMOL NEAR OLD ITI CURCHOREM QUEPEM SOUTH GOA PIN 403706 GOA INDIA, here by declare that hence forth my name will be read as GIVEN NAME: TABASUEM BASIR SURNAME :PATHAN

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to the ORG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1. Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR o n R.A. 10172), a notice is hereby served to the public that ROSALIE URPILLA VALDEZ has filed with this office a petition for correction in the gender from FEMALE to MALE in the birth certificate of ISSA URPILLA VALDEZ, who was born on JANUARY 7, 2022 at State of Kuwait and whose parents are ORLANDO P. VALDEZ and ROSALIE U. VALDEZ. Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice.

Kazakhstan honors Al-Musallam with Order of Friendship

ASTANA, Oct 14: Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has conferred the Order of Dostyk (Friendship), Second Class, on Kuwaiti sports leader Hussein Al-Musallam, president of World Aquatics, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to fostering international friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding among peoples.

The award acknowledges Al-Musallam's prominent role in international sports and his continued efforts to strengthen sporting ties and cooperation among nations through his leadership of World Aquatics.

The Order of Dostyk is one



Al-Musallam hosted by Kazakh President Tokayev.

of Kazakhstan's highest official honors, bestowed on prominent figures for their contributions to strengthening the country's international relations, promoting cooperation and fostering

friendship among peoples.

The distinction adds to the recognition of Kuwaiti sports administrators holding influential positions in international organizations, highlighting Kuwait's growing presence in global sports governance. As president of World Aquatics, Al-Musallam leads one of the world's major international sports federations.

With an extensive career in sports administration at continental and international levels, Al-Musallam has played a significant role in managing, developing and promoting aquatic sports and expanding their global reach.

Barcelona, Arsenal win; Bayern stunned & misery for Man Utd



Barcelona's Marc Bernal, center, fights for the ball with Galatasaray's Eren Elmali during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Galatasaray and Barcelona in Istanbul, Turkey. (AP)

Azerbaijani outsider Sabah claims first win in league phase

LONDON, Oct 14, (AP): Barcelona survived a scare against Galatasaray in the Champions League. But Bayern Munich was stunned by a late equalizer from Viking in a 3-3 draw in Norway.

Arsenal rolled over Lille and it was more misery for Manchester United.

Barcelona's 100% start to the season was under threat down 1-0 to Galatasaray in Istanbul, but the Spanish champion rallied to a 4-1 win.

Bayern was in even more trouble against Viking, trailing 2-0 at half-time before Harry Kane turned the game around with two goals after the break. Luis Diaz looked to have completed the comeback, but a red card for Michael Olise and a 90th minute goal from Herman Haugen provided another twist.

Arsenal cruised to a 3-0 win at home over Lille and Atletico Madrid piled more pressure on United coach Michael Carrick with a 2-0 win at the Metropolitano.

Inter Milan fell to a surprise 4-3 home loss to Club Brugge, and Villarreal beat Napoli 3-1.

It's 10 straight wins for Barcelona after it maintained its perfect record in all competitions despite early trouble in Turkey.

Aleksey Batrakov gave Galatasaray the lead before his team had a second goal ruled out for a tight offside. Joao Cancelo's goal leveled the score just before halftime and it was all Barcelona after that with goals from Fermin Lopez, Anthony Gordon and Karim Adeyemi.

"In the second half, we dominated the game," Barcelona coach Hansi

Flick said. "We have to play like this, control the game, move the ball. This is our quality. This is our strength, and we have to show our level."

A bizarre sending-off for Olise paved the way for Norwegian team Viking to rescue a draw in its first Champions League home game since 1992.

Shortly after Bayern went ahead 3-2, Olise picked up two yellow cards in quick succession - the second for tossing the ball at opponent Zlatko Tripic while the referee was still booking him for his first foul.

Tripic then provided the cross that allowed Haugen to head in the equalizer in the 90th minute.

"We were dominant, but at the moment it feels like every chance for the opposition leads to a goal," Bayern coach Vincent Kompany said.

Lisandro Martinez hit out at Manchester United's hierarchy after the club extended its winless run to five games.

Michael Carrick's team has won

just two games in all competitions this term and fell to a fourth loss after goals from Pablo Barrios in the first minute and Ademola Lookman in the second half.

Speaking afterward, Martinez was critical of United's off-season recruitment.

"I have to control myself a lot. But sometimes it's a reflection in the mirror of how is our club at the moment," the Argentina defender told Amazon Prime. "We did a fantastic season last season. And now we expect more from the top, from up, to bring more players to compete because many teams bring many players as well, and today also Atletico they have an amazing team and they deserved to win today."

"I expect more from our technical director. I would have to be honest, as the players, we have to do more, but it's just important when you make a strong squad to be ready for this kind of night."

In London, Bukayo Saka stepped off the bench to score a goal in Ar-

senal's 3-0 win over Lille.

The England forward came on after 65 minutes at the Emirates and within two minutes set up at goal for Eberechi Eze. Four minutes later he was on the score sheet himself.

Jurrien Timber had given Arsenal the lead in the 64th.

Nicolo Tresoldi is emerging as one of the brightest prospects in Europe and he enhanced his reputation with a hat trick in Brugge's seven-goal thriller against Inter.

The Italian-born Germany under-21 international opened the scoring with a first-half penalty and completed his hat trick with two more after the break.

Lautaro Martinez scored twice for Inter.

"It was my dream as a kid to play here," he told broadcaster Proximus Belgium. "I was here in the stands as a kid watching Milan and tonight I played against Inter. It can't get any better. I was shaking before the penalty, but it was the perfect moment."

There was also defeat for Napoli at Villarreal despite going ahead early on through Amir Rrahmani.

Azerbaijani outsider Sabah claimed its first win in the league phase of the competition by beating Slavia Prague 2-0.

Second-half goals from Kaheem Parris and Joy-Lance Mickels secured the historic win in Baku. The club was only founded nine years ago.

Sporting Lisbon also sealed a 2-0 win at Lens through goals from Luis Suarez and Issa Doumbia.

Brajan Gruda's first Champions League goal lifted Leipzig to a 1-0 win over PSV Eindhoven to rebound after a heavy opening loss to newcomer Como. Leipzig keeper Maarten Vandevoordt earlier saved a penalty from PSV's Ivan Perisic.



Arsenal's Ezri Konsa, left, and Lille's Ayase Ueda jump for the ball during the UEFA Champions League soccer match between Arsenal and Lille in London. (AP)

Swansea reports alleged racial abuse toward Ji-sung

LONDON, Oct 14, (AP): A match between Millwall and Swansea in England's second-tier Championship was paused following an allegation that racist abuse was directed at South Korea winger Ji-sung Eom.

The incident took place in the second half of Tuesday's game at Millwall's home stadium, The Den, reportedly while Eom - a substitute for Swansea - was warming up near the touchline.

The match referee spoke to both coaches in a delay that lasted around seven minutes, according to the BBC, before there was an an-

nouncement over the loudspeakers that there had been alleged racist chanting.

Following the game, Swansea - which won 1-0 - published a statement saying the club had "reported an alleged incident of racist abuse aimed at Ji-sung Eom."

"As a club we condemn racism and discrimination in all forms," the statement read, "and there is no place for such behavior in football or in society."

Swansea said it was thankful "for the swift and decisive manner in which the match officials, Millwall Football Club and the police

dealt with the incident."

"We will now follow all protocols and processes and provide whatever assistance we can to all parties as the incident is investigated," the statement continued. "We stand with Ji-sung, and he has our unstinting love and support."

In a post on X, Millwall said it was aware of an "alleged, individual incident of discriminatory abuse" toward a Swansea player.

"The club operates a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of discriminatory abuse," Millwall wrote. "Any individual found to

have engaged in such behavior will face the strongest possible action."

Millwall said the incident was the subject of an ongoing police investigation supported by the club.

Swansea coach Vitor Matos said on the BBC that Eom was "not happy with the situation."

"But he knows we will stay with him and follow the situation as long as we can," Matos said.

"Millwall did the right thing by announcing there is no place for this sort of thing. I'm happy with how it was handled, but really sad that it happened. Now it is about evaluating the situation."

National Guard wins Futsal Super Cup



Players fight for the ball during the final.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Kuwait's National Guard team lifted the Futsal Super Cup after edging the Ministry of Interior side in a closely fought final at Yarmouk Club's indoor hall.

The match ended 1-1 in regulation time before the National Guard prevailed 3-2 on penalties to secure the title in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

The final was attended by Bashar Abdullah Al-Salem, acting director-general of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports.

The authority reaffirmed its commitment to supporting sporting events that bring together employees of government institutions, promoting sportsmanship, teamwork and healthy competition.

Regulator chief vows to quit

'There will be no political pressure in Man City case'

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 14, (AP): The chair of English soccer's regulatory body said he would resign if there were any political interference over potential sanctions for Manchester City.

City has been found guilty of widespread breaches of the Premier League's financial rules which could result in punishments including a massive fine, points deductions or even expulsion from England's top flight.

Separately, the Independent Football Regulator has the powers to force club owners to sell and can withhold a license to operate if they are deemed unfit.

An independent panel found the United Arab Emirates-backed City had artificially inflated its revenue by more than \$1 billion over nearly a decade, circumventing fair-play rules.

Football regulator chair David Kogan said it was still awaiting the outcome of City's appeal against the verdict.

The UAE is a big investor in the U.K. Asked about the regulator's ability to remain independent given wider relations between the governments, Kogan said "any form of political interference on the way we operate is going to result in my resigning from this role and I stand by that completely."

"We've come under absolutely no political pressure whatsoever on this or any other topic. And I don't expect to in the future," he said.

Kogan's comments came after U.K. Prime Minister Andy Burnham said he would be "really concerned" to lose City's current ownership. Burnham also said he would not get "directly involved in the process."

City is accused of providing misleading information about its finances over a nine-year period from 2009-18. During that time, it won three titles and signed some of the world's best players. It went on to enjoy a period of unprecedented dominance of English soccer.

The guilty verdict represents the biggest scandal in Premier League history and raises questions over the future of the club, which is owned by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates and a member of Abu Dhabi's royal family.

The Independent Football Regulatory was established by the British government last year to set governance standards in English soccer.

Part of that includes the issuing of li-

censes for clubs to be able to operate, which will begin from November.

Kogan suggested the guilty verdict would not impact the issuing of a license to City because its appeal is ongoing.

"A verdict once it's gone through an appeal process will certainly be something that we would clearly be taking into account when looking at awarding a license or looking at the owners, directors and senior executives," he said.

Kogan was speaking in Manchester for the publication of the regulator's "State of the Game" report into English soccer.

The report states that despite the success of English soccer - which includes the Premier League, the world's richest and most popular league - 94% of clubs throughout the pyramid are loss-making and more than a quarter of clubs would be unable to survive more than 30 days if owners pulled funding.

It states a major problem is teams spending excessively to try to keep up with rivals.

"At the heart of English football's success is a massive contradiction. While some of our clubs are among the richest and most competitive in the world, others are standing on the edge of financial disaster," Kogan said. "This lack of resilience can no longer be ignored."

English soccer has revenues of nine billion pounds (\$11.92 billion) according to the report. Despite that, many clubs are "technically insolvent and increasingly reliant on owners," it states.

Seventeen clubs "would be loss making even if their players played for free," the regulator's CEO Richard Monks said. "Owners in many football clubs will inject the money two or three days before payday and not keep any cash in the club. This is not how most businesses are run, and it's a major issue which we will require football to address."

The regulator has been involved in negotiations between the Premier League and the English Football League regarding what are known as solidarity payments to help develop England's lower leagues. That includes parachute payments to teams relegated from the top flight.

The regulator is proposing a change to those payments to be more evenly spread among teams. It is part of a suite of proposals, including measures for clubs to improve management of financial risk.

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559

NEWS



Former player Ali Marwi takes part in the draw as Acting Director-General of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports Bashar Abdullah looks on.

Sports

‘Saudi Super Cup hosting reflects Kuwait’s sporting stature’



Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tariq Al-Jalahma and Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud were among the prominent attendees.



Saudi Super Cup teams' star players featured on screen. KUNA photos

Draw pits Al-Qadsiah against Al-Ahli, Al-Nassr faces Al-Kholood

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tariq Al-Jalahma said Kuwait’s hosting of the Saudi Super Cup will be a valuable addition to the country’s sporting calendar and reflect confidence in its organizational capabilities.

Speaking to KUNA on the sidelines of the tournament’s draw ceremony, Al-Jalahma said hosting the competition forms part of Kuwait’s efforts to establish itself as a regional destination for major sporting events, promote sports tourism and attract fans from Kuwait and abroad.

He said the initiative would contribute positively to sporting, economic and tourism activities.

Al-Jalahma stressed that the government places great importance on providing the resources and facilities needed to ensure the tournament’s success.

He added that coordination between government bodies and the private sector reflects an effective partnership in organizing major sporting events and delivering a tournament that showcases the standing of both Kuwaiti and Saudi football.

Hosting the widely followed competition also offers an opportunity to highlight Kuwait’s sports facilities and the organizational and administrative expertise of its national professionals, he said.

Al-Jalahma reaffirmed Kuwait’s commitment to attracting more sporting tournaments and events that support the development of the sports sector and strengthen its presence regionally and internationally.



Tournament Director Khaled Al-Sayer delivers his speech.

He also praised the longstanding historical and fraternal ties between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia under the leadership of both countries, noting that hosting the Saudi Super Cup reflects the strength of these relations and the growing cooperation and integration between the two nations in sports.

The draw for the 13th edition of the Saudi Super Cup on Wednesday set up a semifinal clash between Al-Qadsiah and Al-Ahli, while Al-Nassr will face Al-Kholood at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium in Kuwait.

The draw ceremony was held in Kuwait in the presence of Minister



Saudi Super Cup trophy.

of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tariq Al-Jalahma, Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud, representatives of the participating Saudi clubs, and several officials.

The semifinals will begin on December 19, with Al-Qadsiah taking on Al-Ahli, followed by

Al-Nassr’s meeting with Al-Kholood the next day. The final is scheduled for December 23.

Tournament Director Khaled Al-Sayer, representing the organizing Al-Rai and Aayan groups, said Kuwait’s hosting of the tournament was made possible by the support and directives of

the country’s political leadership, which places great importance on youth and sports.

He said the event reflected the longstanding fraternal ties between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Al-Sayer thanked the Saudi Arabian Football Federation for placing its confidence in Kuwait’s ability to host the competition. He also expressed appreciation to government bodies for their cooperation and efforts in supporting the organization of the tournament.

He stressed that the organizing committee was committed to providing football fans with a distinctive sporting experience that reflects the tournament’s stature and showcases Kuwait’s capacity to stage major sporting events.

The ceremony included a video presentation tracing the Saudi Super Cup’s history and major milestones since its inception, as well as a presentation introducing the clubs competing in this edition.

The draw was conducted by Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports Bashar Abdullah, a former professional player for Saudi Arabia’s Al-Hilal, and retired Kuwaiti footballer Ali Marwi, who previously played professionally for Saudi Arabia’s Al-Ahli.

Launched in 2013, the Saudi Super Cup has been won five times by Al-Hilal, the competition’s most successful club. Al-Nassr and Al-Ahli have claimed two titles each, while Al-Ittihad, Al-Fateh and Al-Shabab have won the trophy once apiece.

Al-Ahli is the defending champion after winning the previous edition in Hong Kong, while Abderrazak Hamdallah remains the tournament’s all-time leading scorer with seven goals.

Qadsia finalizes preparations

Al-Arabi prepares for Challenge League campaign in Tajikistan

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Al-Arabi began training at Hisor Central Stadium in Tajikistan’s capital, Dushanbe, as it gears up for its AFC Challenge League Group B campaign.

The Kuwaiti side will compete against Tajikistan’s Istiklol, Syria’s Homs Al-Fida and Lebanon’s Al-Najma in the group stage.

Al-Arabi opens its campaign against Homs Al-Fida on Saturday before facing Istiklol next Tuesday. It will wrap up its group-stage matches against Al-Najma on October 23.

Coach Mohammed Abdulnabi has named a 23-man squad for the tournament, with Yousif Majeed, Hussein Ashkanani, Abdulrahman Ajaj and Hussein Kankouni among those left out.

Abdulnabi has taken charge of the team following the departure of Croatian coach Goran Sablic, who was dismissed last Saturday after a disappointing run of results this season.

Al-Arabi has managed just three points from four matches in the Zain Premier League. It drew 1-1 with Kuwait Club, 3-3 with Sulaybiqhat and 1-1 with Kazma before losing 2-1

to Jahra. Its continental campaign also suffered a setback in August, when it lost 4-1 to India’s East Bengal in the AFC Champions League Two playoff and missed out on the tournament.

Bangladesh’s Fortis was the first team to arrive, reaching Kuwait on Monday ahead of its Group C opener against Qadsia on Saturday in the AFC Challenge League.

India’s Goa and Tajikistan’s Regar-TadAZ are expected to arrive ahead of their meeting on Saturday in the group’s other opening fixture. The second round of matches will take place next Tuesday, with the group stage concluding on October 23.

Qadsia’s organizing committees have completed preparations to welcome the four participating teams and the Asian Football Confederation delegation. Arrangements covering transportation, accommodation, and training facilities have been finalized, while Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium is ready to host the group’s matches.

The teams are scheduled to train at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium at Yarmouk Club and Thamir Stadium at Salmiya Club.

Kuwait settles for fifth place at Arab Volleyball Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

AMMAN, Oct 14: Kuwait’s men’s national volleyball team finished fifth at the 24th Arab Men’s Volleyball Championship, which concluded in Amman, Jordan. Host Jordan ended the tournament in sixth and last.

Kuwait closed its campaign with a 3-1 defeat to Jordan in its final preliminary-round match, bringing its participation to an end in fifth position.

Kuwait’s participation formed part of the Volleyball Association’s strategy to rebuild the national team by blending experienced players with emerging talent and preparing them gradually for future international competitions. The plan also prioritizes the youth and junior teams as the association seeks to develop the game, re-



Players vie for the ball during Kuwait match against Jordan.

store Kuwait’s former standing and return to challenging for top places and titles on the international stage.

Although Kuwait produced inconsistent performances against strong opposition, the tournament provided valuable experience for the technical staff and players. Giving

younger members of the squad exposure to international competition was among the main benefits, with the association hoping the current group can form the core of a stronger team in the years ahead.

The association now aims to build on the experience gained in Amman, address weaknesses and reinforce the team’s strengths ahead of its upcoming commitments.

The Kuwait delegation is scheduled to return home today from Amman, with players set to rejoin their respective clubs as preparations begin for the resumption of the 2025-2026 domestic season on October 22 following the break.

Once the current season’s competitions are completed, clubs will shift their focus to the 2026-2027 campaign, hoping to usher in a strong new chapter for domestic volleyball.