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KUWAIT AND FRANCE SIGN EIGHT MULTI-PRONGED AGREEMENTS

Macron visit milestone in 65 years



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Complete the infrastructure to boost GDP

THE infrastructure of a country reflects its development, boosts its gross domestic product (GDP), and alleviates many of the burdens of its citizens. Therefore, governments must continuously upgrade all facilities.

In this context, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) have embarked on massive transportation projects.

In the UAE, travel between major cities no longer takes hours, as was the case earlier. Thanks to the high-speed rail, traveling from Fujairah to Sharjah and Abu Dhabi, and from the capital to Dubai, now takes only 22 minutes.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the railway network connecting major cities was established in the 1950s. The railways have undergone massive modernization in recent years. A high-speed rail line connecting Madinah to Makkah has been added, positively impacting the lives of citizens.

Investment in transportation in the UAE and Saudi Arabia is a qualitative leap, considering it increased the GDP of both countries.

On the other hand, Kuwait continues to suffer from traffic congestion. The solutions offered have always been more like palliatives than fundamental solutions.

For example, if an employee lives in Fahaheel and works in the Capital, he needs more than two hours daily to commute by car. If there were a metro or train, it would have taken only 20 minutes.

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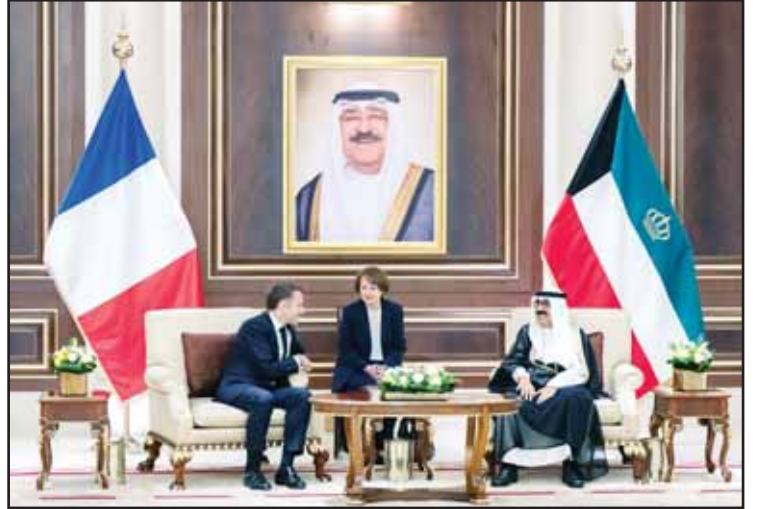


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His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives French President Emmanuel Macron at the airport.



Amiri Diwan photos
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah holds talks with the French President Emmanuel Macron at Bayan Palace.

Kuwait Amir, French President chair official talks

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19, (KUNA): French President Emmanuel Macron and his accompanying official delegation left Kuwait on Monday afternoon following an official visit during which he held official talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah was at the forefront of those seeing Macron off at the airport.

Also present to bid farewell to Macron were His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister

and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and senior state officials.

French President Emmanuel Macron and his accompanying official delegation arrived in Kuwait this morning on an official visit.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah were at the forefront, welcoming the president and the delegation at the airport.

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KPC supports national talent

Kuwaitization in oil sector witnesses significant leap

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The list of successful applicants for employment at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries has been approved, say reliable sources.

Sources confirmed that the official announcement and final list of applicants who passed the tests will be published in the coming days, after which the appointment procedures and integration into field and administrative work will commence.

Official data obtained by the newspaper showed a significant leap in the Kuwaitization indicators and job localization at Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC).

The total workforce reached 7,634 employees at the beginning of September, 7,144 of whom are Kuwaitis or 93.58 percent of the total workforce, compared to 5,979 by the end of the fiscal year that closed on March 31.

A source disclosed that the growth of national talent in the oil sector is a manifestation of the commitment of the sector to create an environment suitable for Kuwaiti youths and provide promising career paths, which guarantee their job and professional stability and open broad horizons for advancement.

The source indicated that KPC supports national talent through intensive training and development programs for transferring complex technical expertise to young professionals, thus, ensuring the continuity of production with high operational efficiency.

The source explained that KPC's role is not limited to the

nationalization of jobs, as it extends to major industrial and technological developments spearheaded by national talents to increase the capacity of local refineries and develop oil and gas production processes.

According to the source, these national talents contribute to the implementation of environmental projects, production of clean fuels, meeting all the requirements of global markets and international environmental standards, and solidifying the country's global competitive position.

The source stated that this clear synergy between developing human resources, upgrading the infrastructure of oil facilities, and increasing crude oil production rates aligns with the expansion and innovation plans to ensure that Kuwait remains a major and reliable hub for oil supplies.

Meanwhile, in another development, Al-Khafji Joint Operations (KJO) has signed a significant strategic memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Aramco Digital and SLB.

According to informed sources, the agreement aims to study and develop the "Raed" platform, which is expected to usher in a new era for the oil and gas industry as the first fully autonomous, smart offshore production platform in Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Gulf region.

The initiative seeks to improve the efficiency of offshore operations and position the region at the forefront of technological innovation in the global energy sector.

Senior executives from all three organizations attended the signing ceremony.

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Mol: Beware illegal 'cash-out' schemes by shops or persons

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Ministry of Interior has warned citizens and residents against dealing with individuals, shops, or online accounts promoting "cash-out" schemes, which involve converting mobile devices or other goods into immediate cash through installment contracts offered by telecommunications companies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that such activities constitute a criminal offense punishable by law. These schemes operate entirely outside legal and regulatory frameworks, with promoters encouraging individuals to purchase devices through installment plans and then hand them over to intermediaries in exchange for a fraction of their market value, often at a discount of up to 40 percent. These schemes may involve pressuring individuals into signing documents for amounts sig-

nificantly higher than the cash they actually receive, exposing them to legal complications and potential judicial consequences.

The ministry urged the public to exercise extreme caution and avoid dealing with anyone offering such services, warning that participation could result in criminal liability, exposure to usury or fraud, or exploitation in money laundering operations.

The ministry confirmed that it continues to coordinate with regulatory bodies, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), to track down illegal accounts and outlets, apprehend those responsible, revoke commercial licenses, administratively close shops, and refer all parties involved to the competent authorities for strict legal action.

US Embassy: Rising tensions in region could disrupt travel

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The U.S. embassies in Kuwait and several other Middle Eastern countries have issued security alerts urging American citizens in the region to exercise heightened caution and remain vigilant, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The alerts come amid a complex regional security situation

that could lead to flight cancellations, airspace closures, and travel disruptions.

In a security alert published on its website on Sunday, the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait warned of a possible escalation in regional hostilities.

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Illegal aliens, criminals nabbed in large-scale Jleeb clampdown

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The security directorates in the governorates continued their campaigns to apprehend wanted individuals and those violating the law, as per the directives of Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs at the Ministry of

Interior Major General Hamad Al-Munaifi.

The Farwaniya Governorate Security Directorate conducted a large-scale campaign in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, in coordination with Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) and Kuwait Municipality.

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KUNA photo

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Saud Al-Sabah receives Vice Admiral Kurt A. Renchaw, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, the U.S. Fifth Fleet, and Combined Maritime Forces.

Kuwait, US discuss means to enhance bilateral bonds

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Saud Al-Sabah received Vice Admiral Kurt A. Renchaw, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, the U.S. Fifth Fleet, and Combined Maritime Forces, during his visit to Kuwait.

The meeting discussed areas of cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and the US and means

of enhancing them, along with topics of mutual interest, Kuwait's Ministry of Interior said in a press statement.

The meeting came within the framework of well-established relations between the two friendly countries and keenness to continue to share expertise in a manner that serves common interests and contributes to backing stability and security in the region, it added.



Amiri Diwan photo
Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah talks to artist Hassan Bahdahi at the Kuwait National Library.

'Supporting creative, disabled individuals is a national duty'

By Bassam Al-Qassas

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali affirmed that supporting creative individuals, especially those with disabilities, is a national duty and a shared responsibility, emphasizing that culture and arts are the best ambassadors for Kuwait and its people to the world.

Sheikh Hamad Jaber made the

statement when he visited the exhibition of artist Hassan Bahdahi at the Kuwait National Library, in the presence of acting Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Musaed Mohammad Al-Zamil, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural Affairs Aisha Adnan Al-Mahmoud, Advisor for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities Abdulrahman Al-Adwani.

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Day by Day

ACROSS the world, correctional facilities operate under different systems and principles, but their fundamental purpose should be rehabilitation and moral reform.

There is no reason why penal institutions in Kuwait should not emulate those in developed nations.

They should be equipped with comprehensive educational resources, provide structured guidance, and enable inmates to stay informed about global developments and access objective news through various media outlets.

Why should these institutions be deprived of educational materials, learning programs, newspapers, and modern means of communication? What valid objection could there be to granting prisoners appropriate access to communication channels?

Furthermore, could the state consider resolving minor offenses and public-rights cases through alternative measures to help reduce overcrowding in correctional facilities?

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



7 NBK reports KD 481.7 million in net profit for 9M2026



8 ABK Group concludes successful participation in IMF & World Bank Annual Meetings



9 KFH reports net profit attributable to the shareholders of the bank of KD 523.4 million for the end of Q3 2026



Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:33	Asr	14:47
Sunrise ..	05:52	Maghrib ..	17:13
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:32

Bahrain FM: GCC-Russia strategic dialogue becomes institutional framework for coordination

Kuwaiti, Russian FMs review bilateral ties, regional developments

MANAMA, Oct 19, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the ninth GCC-Russia Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue, held in Bahrain.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the meeting reviewed the longstanding bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways to strengthen and develop them across various fields.

The two ministers also discussed current regional developments and their implications at the regional and international levels. (end)

Bahrain's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullahif Al-Zayani affirmed on Sunday that the GCC-Russia strategic dialogue has become a well-established institutional framework for dialogue and the coordination of positions, based on mutual respect and adherence to the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

Al-Zayani made the remarks in a speech delivered while chairing the ninth GCC-Russia Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue, attended by GCC foreign ministers, including Kuwait

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and with the participation of GCC Secretary-General Jassim Al-Budaiwi.

The minister commended the achievements made under the joint action plan with Russia in the fields of energy, transport, food security, investment, and culture, as well as coordination within OPEC+ to ensure the stability of global energy markets.

He added that the meeting was being held amid rapid international and regional developments, noting that Bahrain appreciated Russia's calls for de-escalation and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

He expressed Bahrain's appreciation for Russia's constructive stance, which contributed to the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2817 of 2026, submitted by Bahrain on behalf of the GCC states and Jordan, calling on Iran to immediately cease its attacks.

He expressed hope that Russia would use its relations with Iran to urge Tehran to fully comply with this resolution.

Al-Zayani also expressed hope that Russia would involve the GCC



KUNA photo Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the joint ministerial meeting between the GCC states and Russia.

states in any talks or arrangements concerning Iran's nuclear and missile programme.

The security of the GCC states is a fundamental pillar of regional and international security, he affirmed, reiterating the GCC states' strong condemnation of the attacks by Iran on the member states and Jordan and

the Houthi militia attacks against Saudi Arabia.

The GCC states stand united with Saudi Arabia and reaffirm its right to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, he noted.

"While we appreciate the consensus reached at the UN Security

Council on the presidential statement, we look forward to building on it through the support of the Russian Federation for the draft resolution submitted by the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Security Council, which the Kingdom of Bahrain supports," he said.

Such support would help ensure the protection of civilians, put an end to these attacks, cut off their sources of funding and arms supplies, preserve humanitarian operations in the Republic of Yemen, and support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen to achieve a comprehensive political solution.

He went on to say that this approach was consistent with the position of the Russian Federation, which voted in favour of Resolution 2624 in 2022, condemning cross-border terrorist attacks.

Targeting civilian airports and innocent travellers affects not only the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia but also threatens the security of international maritime navigation in the Red Sea and the supply chains on which the economies of the entire world depend, he explained.

He further expressed the GCC states' condemnation of disruptions

to navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, as well as attacks on commercial vessels.

The GCC states also reject any attempts to make the right of transit subject to prior approval or restrictions imposed in a manner contrary to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

He praised Russia's support for the Palestinian cause, stressing the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees the establishment of an independent Palestinian state based on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Meanwhile, Lavrov said that strengthening relations with the GCC was an absolute priority for Russian foreign policy.

In his speech, Lavrov stressed the importance of the GCC-Russia strategic dialogue, established in Abu Dhabi 15 years ago, as a platform for exchanging constructive views on international and regional issues and developing shared approaches to strengthening economic, political, and cultural cooperation.

MoH orders closure of health facilities for safety violations

Committees document inadequate administrative oversight

By Mohammed Ghanim

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi has ordered the closure of two health centers, a medical clinic, a dental center, and a private practice, in addition to suspending laboratory operations at another medical clinic.

The measures were taken in response to violations involving patient safety and non-compliance with health regulations and licensing requirements. The closures and suspension will remain in effect pending the completion of procedures and investigations by the

Medical Liability Authority.

The decisions followed reports from the Health Licensing Department and findings by inspection committees, which identified professional and regulatory violations at several health-care facilities.

Among the violations identified were a nurse performing a laser procedure on a patient in breach of professional standards and a dentist conducting X-ray imaging without the required radiology license.

Some healthcare facilities and practitioners were also found to be providing services or advertising

specialties beyond the scope of their authorized licenses.

At one laboratory, inspection committees discovered a malfunctioning air conditioning system that had caused temperatures to rise, potentially compromising the integrity of samples and reagents and affecting equipment performance.

Other violations included expired materials and test tubes, improper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), mishandling of sharps and contaminated waste, and failure to comply with quality control and equipment maintenance requirements.

The committees also documented inadequate administrative oversight, the provision of services beyond the scope of authorized licenses, and the continued provision or advertisement of specialties for which the facilities were not licensed.

The Ministry of Health confirmed

that the closures and suspension would remain in place until the relevant procedures and investigations were completed. It added that the reported incidents were under review by the competent authorities.

Under Article 37 of Law No. 70/2020, the Medical Liability Authority is responsible for providing technical opinions on cases involving medical errors and professional misconduct, as well as evaluating such incidents.

The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to monitoring healthcare facilities and stressed that it would not tolerate violations of the laws and regulations governing medical practice. These measures aim to protect patient safety and ensure that healthcare services provided to citizens and residents comply with approved licensing requirements, professional standards, and the ethics of medical practice.

Treatment is witnessing rapid developments

Experts highlight advances in breast cancer care

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Dr. Ahmed Al-Saleh, a member of the Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) campaign, affirmed that breast cancer treatment is witnessing rapid developments.

Al-Saleh made the announcement at the Gulf workshop launched through Zoom recently, in collaboration with leading specialists.

Titled, "Breast Cancer 2026 – From Evidence to Practice: Contemporary Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Treatment Plans," CAN organized the workshop with the participation of experts from the Gulf

Cancer Federation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain and State of Kuwait.

According to Al-Saleh, investing in treatment to achieve better and more effective outcomes for patients requires extensive collaboration between multiple specializations, continuous professional development, and treatment tailored to the individual needs of each patient.

Meanwhile, Dr. Maha Al Sindi, consultant Medical Oncologist and Head of the Training Department at the Bahrain Oncology Center in the Royal Medical Services, stated that this field is rapidly moving towards selecting treatment based on the bio-

logical nature of the tumor, rather than relying on a single treatment approach for all patients.

Prof. Mashabeb Al-Asiri, Director General of the National Cancer Center at the Saudi Health Council and CEO of the Saudi Center for Proton Therapy, stated that modern technologies reduced the treatment duration and the number of sessions for some patients, while maintaining its effectiveness and safety in accordance with scientific evidence and case selection criteria.

Dr. Aws Al-Aziri, Consultant in Oncological Plastic Breast Surgery and Endocrine Surgery and Head of the Surgical Department at Al-Sabah Hospital, presented a lecture entitled,

"The Evolution of Axillary Surgery." He explained that the trend is aimed at minimizing surgical intervention in the lymph nodes whenever the patient's condition allows.

Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of CAN, commended the workshop organized by members of the Gulf Cancer Federation. He considers it a testament to the importance of cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, medical centers and specialists. He stressed that the exchange of expertise and knowledge among medical professionals raises the level of care provided to patients in the region.

Farwaniya gov meets new co-op manager



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah meets with newly appointed General Manager of Farwaniya Cooperative Society Ghadeeri Saad Al-Qudairi. photo Farwaniya Governor

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah on Monday met with newly appointed General Manager of Farwaniya Cooperative Society Ghadeeri Saad Al-Qudairi, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the operations of the cooperative. The governor emphasized the importance of developing cooperative work and strengthening coordination with relevant authorities to improve the services provided to shareholders and residents of the area, and to meet their needs. He then wished Al-Qudairi the best.

Al-Qudairi expressed gratitude to the governor for the warm welcome, while appreciating his interest in developing cooperative work and solidifying concerted efforts to better serve all those residing in Farwaniya Governorate.

PAM announces temporary suspension

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) announced that maintenance and upgrades to its electronic systems will take place from Monday 11:00 pm to Tuesday 1:00 am, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PAM warned that the work may temporarily disrupt some electronic services and official portals, urging users to take this into consideration.

Education Ministry hosts regional workshop on evaluation governance

Kuwait pushes for education reform through stronger evaluation systems

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Center for Quality and Excellence in Education, on Monday organized a regional workshop entitled "Governance of Public Education Evaluation Institutions in Arab Countries: A Forward-Looking Perspective."

The workshop was held under the patronage and in the presence of Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, with the participation of Director General of the center Dr. Abdulrahman bin Ibrahim Al-Mudaires. A select group of experts, educational leaders, and representatives of national, regional and international institutions attended the workshop, which was conducted through the Zoom platform.

Al-Tabtabaei pointed out that developing the educational system requires measuring results and impact, while using reliable data and indicators in policy and decision making. He stressed that the governance of evaluation institutions is based on



Al-Tabtabaei

clear mandates, independent professional judgments, transparent procedures, fair evaluation and reliable results. He explained that evaluation is vital tool for reform and continuous improvement, affirming its role in guiding educational decisions, addressing shortcomings in schools and classrooms, and improving teacher performance.

He said the ministry is implementing a comprehensive reform plan that includes developing organizational and administrative frameworks, raising the efficiency of human resource distribution, and developing measurement and evaluation systems.

He added that the ministry is keen on building an integrated digital system, which provides data and indicators to guarantee transparency in procedures, monitoring, and accountability, and will positively impact educational and administrative performance.

He indicated that the study prepared by the center highlights the reality of governance of evaluation institutions in Arab countries and compares it with international best practices, while exploring future development paths.

He added that the workshop aimed to develop practical guiding frameworks, which take into account the special nature of Arab educational systems and raise the efficiency of institutions and the reliability of their results, thus supporting decision-making in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

Kuwait works to preserve historic mosques with modern technology

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi said the ministry remains keen on preserving, developing and renovating historical mosques according to the latest technical and environmental standards.

Al-Wasmi made the statement when he visited Al-Othman Mosque in Hawally, where he inspected the restoration and development works and the modern systems being implemented.

He disclosed that the ministry intends to maintain the historical character of the mosque, while keeping pace with technological and environmental advancements,

thus, promoting sustainability and reducing resource consumption.

He explained that the mosque is environmentally friendly, incorporating solutions for conserving water and electricity and increasing energy efficiency.

He underscored the importance of respecting the heritage value and architectural identity of mosques and utilizing modern technologies to develop their facilities and raise their operational efficiency.

He commended the cooperation between the ministry and the relevant antiquities and heritage authorities in and outside Kuwait. He also expressed his appreciation to the Al-Othman Family for their dedication to preserving historical mosques, recognizing them as an integral part of Kuwait's religious and cultural heritage.

Egyptian, Kuwaiti artists showcase works

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Egyptian and Kuwaiti artistic works were showcased in the Eighth Egyptian Visions Exhibition, organized by the Egyptian Embassy in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), at the Museum of Modern Art.

Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed Abou El Wafa said the exhibition embodies the depth of the historical, human and cultural ties between the two countries, and strengthens communication and understanding between their peoples. He pointed out that for decades, culture and the arts have formed a shared space for expressing values, aspirations and human emotions.

He stated that bringing together artists from both countries in a single creative space led to the convergence of visions and the exchange of experiences, and enables the public to discover works that draw inspiration from the past, express the present, and look towards the future. He added that the role of art extends to preserving memory and identity, as well as drawing inspiration from heritage.

He confirmed the commitment of the embassy and its Cultural Office to support initiatives that unite Egyptian and Kuwaiti creators and open avenues for cooperation and the exchange of expertise.

He unveiled his aspiration to continue working with Kuwaiti cultural institutions to organize events that enrich the Arab cultural landscape. He then expressed his gratitude to NCCAL and the management of the Museum of Modern Art for their cooperation and efforts in hosting and preparing the exhibition.

‘Al-Azraq’ legacy lives on ... heartfelt thanks to you

“THE Kuwaiti veterans’ team, Al-Azraq, is preparing to participate in the Arabian Gulf Cup for veteran players, which will be held in Doha, Qatar, at the end of this October,” columnist **Sheikh Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

“On this occasion, it is worth remembering that while some people pass through the sporting arena and leave only results behind, others leave a lasting legacy, cherished memories, and an affection that time cannot erase. The stars of Kuwait’s veterans’ team are men of whom we are immensely proud and for whom we hold the highest regard. What a wonderful sight it is to see you all gathered together once again under the banner of our beloved Kuwait.



Al-Sabah

“Your return to the pitch is more than just participation in a tournament. It is a journey back to memories dear to our hearts - the beautiful days we shared with you, the victories that brought us joy, the skills we applauded, and the pride we felt as we watched you defend the Al-Azraq (Blue) jersey with such love and devotion. Thank you, stars of Al-Azraq! Thanks to every player who answered the call, set aside personal commitments and responsibilities, and dedicated his time to wear the blue jersey once again.

“We know that the years have passed, responsibilities have grown, and maintaining fitness and readiness is no longer as easy as it was in your younger days. Yet, what is truly remarkable is that your passion remains undiminished, and your love for the game and for Kuwait has never wavered. Your presence today sends a beautiful message to the new generation - sports are not merely about championships and trophies, but they are about character, friendship, loyalty, and a sense of belonging. A true athlete’s connection to the game does not end with retirement. The love of sport remains with them for a lifetime.

“You are more than former players. You are an integral part of Kuwait’s sporting legacy. Each of you holds a special place in our hearts, and we take great pride in your achievements, your history, and the value you continue to bring. From the bottom of our hearts, we extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the technical and administrative staff, led by national coach Thamer Enad, his assistant Waleed Nassar, team manager Mohammed Bunyan, head of delegation Wael Suleiman, supervisor Ali Mahmoud, and media coordinator Jaber Nassar. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone working behind the scenes to make this participation a success.

“We know that bringing these stars together, organizing their training sessions, and preparing them for the tournament is no small feat, especially when each player has personal circumstances and commitments to consider. Your dedication, hard work, and commitment deserve our deepest gratitude and appreciation. Success is not measured solely by the person who scores a goal; it also belongs to those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make that goal possible.

“A true victory goes beyond the final score. While we all hope to see Al-Azraq triumph and bring honor to Kuwait, there is another kind of victory here, one just as valuable as any trophy. The real triumph is seeing our stars in good health and high spirits, running, laughing, competing in the true spirit of sportsmanship, and reliving their finest days alongside their teammates. A message to the fans of Al-Azraq - People of Kuwait, these are our stars, our own sons, who once dedicated their time and effort to bringing us joy through their performances on the pitch.

“Today, they deserve our loyalty, our words of encouragement, and our heartfelt prayers. Let us stand behind them, cheer them on, and share their photos and cherished memories. Let us seize this opportunity to bring generations together through their shared love for Al-Azraq. You are the gold of the Blues, and gold remains gold. The color blue unites us - yesterday, today, and always.”

Also:

“Following the Ministry of Education’s announcement regarding the transfer of more than 8,700 teachers, tensions arose between the affected educators and the ministry,” columnist **Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

“Reactions quickly spread across social media, despite the stated aim of the transfers being to address teacher surpluses in schools and balance teaching workloads. Shortly afterward, the ministry announced that it had accepted 1,311 grievances. The decision was made under the guidance of the Minister of Education, Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, following a comprehensive review of the submitted requests. This step reflects an effort to promote fairness and transparency.

“A calm examination of discussions on social media suggests that the crisis may have been somewhat exaggerated.

The acceptance of 1,311 grievances, together with the absence of reported objections from the remaining teachers, challenges the perception that the transfers faced widespread opposition. It is essential to recognize that teachers play a vital role in shaping future generations and should not be treated as merely ordinary employees. Like other professionals, teachers face various challenges, including those arising from geographical constraints, which can be particularly demanding in their line of work. The specific working environment also plays a significant role. Nevertheless, with time and the right support, adapting to such changes is often possible.

“Accepting the grievances is a constructive step that ministry officials should acknowledge and review at the end of the academic term, with any resulting disruptions addressed transparently and effectively. Furthermore, the circumstances of teachers, both male and female, must be taken into consideration, particularly those of women who may face specific personal responsibilities. The timely response to this issue is commendable, and both the ministry and the minister deserve recognition for their efforts.

“I would like to emphasize one principle - when we identify a problem, we bring it to light, and when we see actions that serve the public interest, we acknowledge and commend them. A satirical anecdote circulating on social media, attributed to Iranian users, claims that Iran is preparing all-female units to invade certain Gulf states. The irony is that Iranian male soldiers have suffered defeats in various conflicts against even small groups of Arab fighters. Those who spread or endorse such claims either lack historical knowledge or underestimate the people of the Gulf. Our message to them is clear - The people of the Gulf are ready for you - both you and your women.”

□ □ □

“In writing this article, I do not claim to be an ascetic or a devout believer. Rather, I acknowledge my humanity, with all its flaws, mistakes, and realities,” Kuwaiti writer **Faisal Al-Harbi** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

“Nevertheless, my deep sense of patriotism compels me today to draw attention to the rise of an extremist movement fueled by external influences. We must firmly oppose this blatant interference in our social affairs and authentic traditions, particularly as it has escalated to target our religious symbols and leaders. Such interference disregards the fact that our beloved nation, may Allah protect it, has consistently embraced a moderate, centrist approach to matters concerning the protection and welfare of society.

“In keeping with this approach, the state has fought religious extremism, rigid ideologies that foster terrorism, and forces that seek to divide society. Regrettably, some groups with ill intentions have moved towards a form of “counter-extremism” in opposition to religious extremism. While religious extremism promotes rigid fanaticism, counter-extremism advocates abandoning religion, neglecting filial duties, rejecting divine commandments, and rebelling against the laws and regulations established by the state to uphold moderation and maintain social order.

“Its true aim is to fuel persistent conflict, destabilize the nation from within, dismantle the foundations of moderation, and replace them with moral disorder. This movement serves foreign agendas aimed at undermining the Saudi family. The recent hashtag campaign calling for the abolition of the niqab is a case in point. The nation’s youth responded with awareness, and investigations conducted by young people revealed that most accounts involved in the campaign were operated from abroad, with the aim of undermining national unity.

“This situation calls for supporting government entities, represented by the Etidal Center, in identifying this movement of moral decay as a form of extremism, holding it accountable, and addressing the threat it poses. We need a decisive strategy on two main fronts. The first is to uphold the rule of law through stringent legislation to counter this ideology. The second is to strengthen public awareness and foster cooperation among educational institutions, using schools to cultivate informed generations and mosque sermons to promote sound understanding and correct concepts. These efforts are essential to preventing this group from undermining the fabric of our society.

“We recall the enduring principle articulated by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz - There is no place among us for an extremist who views moderation as moral weakness and exploits our tolerant faith for personal ends, nor for a proponent of moral laxity who interprets our fight against extremism as an opportunity to promote permissiveness and exploit the leniency of religion to serve personal ambitions.”

– Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Jahra Governorate photo
Governor of Jahra Hamad Al-Habashi meets Director General of Jahra Governorate Security Directorate Brigadier General Abdullah Hamoud Al-Mutairi.

Jahra Gov. stresses security and stability in governorate

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Governor of Jahra Hamad Al-Habashi had a meeting with Director General of Jahra Governorate Security Directorate Brigadier General Abdullah Hamoud Al-Mutairi at his office in the headquarters of Jahra Governorate, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

Also present at the meeting was Advisor to the Jahra Governorate Office retired Major General Fahad Abdullah Al-Mayyah.

They talked about the security issues in the governorate, with both parties affirming their commitment to strengthen coordination and improve communication in order to maintain security and stability, while promoting public

safety throughout the governorate.

The governor underscored the necessity of collaborative efforts and ongoing coordination with the security officials. He praised the commitment of security personnel in carrying out their national responsibilities, protecting lives and properties, and ensuring a secure environment for everyone.

On the other hand, Al-Mutairi thanked the governor for fully supporting the security initiatives, reiterating his dedication to ongoing collaboration with the governorate in order to better serve the public and raise the efficiency of security operations.

Syrians arrested for stealing & selling state-owned sand

Kuwaiti, Iraqi hurt in violent Salmiya knife fight

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The General Department of Criminal Investigation, represented by the Ahmadi Criminal Investigation Department, has arrested two Syrian nationals on suspicion of stealing sand from state-owned land in the Wafra desert, then transporting and selling it for financial gain, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the suspects were caught illegally extracting and loading sand using heavy machinery, including two transport trucks and an excavator. One of the trucks was rented for KD 141 per month, while the excavator was rented for KD 193 per month.

When questioned, the suspects confessed to stealing sand from the site and selling it to farm owners in Wafra for KD 15 per load, keeping the proceeds for their personal benefit.

The ministry stressed that sand and other natural resources are national assets owned by the state, due to which their unauthorized extraction, removal, or sale constitutes an encroachment on public funds and state property.

It went on to explain that, when the legal elements of the offense are established, such acts may be classified as a felony involving the misappropriation of public funds or facilitating such misappropriation, rather than as a simple

theft misdemeanor. This classification is based on the provisions of Law No. 1/1993 concerning the protection of public funds, as well as the Kuwaiti Penal Code.

□ □ □

2 hurt in knife fight: A dispute between a Kuwaiti national and a 1994-born Iraqi expatriate escalated into a violent confrontation in an open dirt lot in Salmiya, leaving both men injured, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

According to security sources, the two men, who had an ongoing dispute, agreed to meet in the area to settle their differences. However, the meeting quickly turned into a heated argument, which escalated into a physical altercation involving punches and blows.

The confrontation intensified when knives were introduced, leaving both the Kuwaiti national and the Iraqi expatriate with cuts to their heads and other parts of their bodies.

What was intended to be a meeting to resolve their dispute ultimately descended into a mutual assault involving bladed weapons.

A case has been registered, and the competent authorities are proceeding with the necessary legal measures and investigations to determine each party’s responsibility.

□ □ □

More roads under repairs: The General Traffic Department announced the closure of the slow and middle lanes on King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Road (Riyadh Road), starting

Woman held for stealing jewelry items at exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Criminal Security Sector, represented by the Hawally Investigation and Research Department, has solved a theft case involving jewelry worth approximately KD 7,000 stolen from a Gulf-based brand participating in a jewelry exhibition, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

A woman with no prior criminal record was arrested, and all the stolen items were recovered from her residence.

According to security sources, the suspect took advantage of the crowds at the exhibition, pretending to examine the jewelry before seizing opportunities to steal several pieces. The actions were captured by surveillance cameras.

A Gulf national who had rented a booth at the exhibition to showcase her jewelry brand filed a report after an inventory check revealed that several pieces were missing. She also provided surveillance footage documenting the thefts.

A case was registered and referred, along with the surveillance footage, to the Hawally Investigation and Research Department.

Investigators used modern technology, biometric identification, and surveillance camera tracking to identify the suspect, trace the vehicle she had been using, and ultimately arrest her.

When confronted with the evidence, she confessed to the thefts, admitting that she had taken advantage of the crowded conditions at the exhibition.

A search of her residence led to the recovery of all the stolen jewelry, valued at approximately KD 7,000. The suspect had been referred to the Public Prosecution.

The sources noted that modern technology played a crucial role in swiftly resolving the case and identifying the suspect.

at its intersection with Ibrahim bin Abdullah Al-Muzain Street and extending toward Kuwait International Airport, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

The closure will take effect at dawn on Tuesday, and remain in place until Tuesday, November 24, to facilitate essential road maintenance works.

The department stated that the closure will affect the exit leading to Khaitan Club Street, as well as the entrance and exit for Abu Dhabi Street.

Also, the exit from King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Road (Riyadh Road) onto Jassim Mohammed Al-Kharafi Road, heading toward Jahra and Salmiya, will also be closed.

□ □ □

48 citations issued: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Security Directorate, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), and the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), conducted an inspection campaign in Sabah Al-Salem, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

The campaign resulted in the issuance of 48 violation reports covering various infractions. All prescribed legal measures were taken against the violators in coordination with the relevant authorities.

The operation was overseen by the emergency team responsible for Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates.

Mol closes down 6 police stations for renovation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Ministry of Interior has begun the temporary closure of six police stations, effective Sunday, as part of an initiative to upgrade them into model facilities, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

To ensure uninterrupted public services and the continued processing of reports during the renovation period, alternative stations have been designated to assume their responsibilities:

- Al-Shamiya Station, substituted by Kaifan Station
- Al-Qasr Station, substituted by Al-Naem Station
- Farwaniya Station, substituted by Omariya Station
- Mubarak Al-Kabeer Station, substituted by Abu Fatira Station
- Al-Shuhada Station, substituted by Al-Siddiq Station
- North Sabah Al-Ahmad Station, substituted by South Sabah Al-Ahmad Station

During the renovation period, the designated alternative stations will handle citizens’ inquiries and receive police reports.

B’deshis caught selling ‘counterfeit’ perfumes

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The General Department of Criminal Investigation has arrested two Bangladeshi nationals for refilling counterfeit perfumes and selling them as genuine products, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

The operation is part of the Criminal Security Sector’s ongoing efforts to combat commercial fraud and protect intellectual property rights.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the suspects were refilling original perfume bottles bearing international and regional brand names with mixtures of aromatic oils designed to imitate the original fragrances. They then marketed and sold the products as genuine perfumes or promotional samples.

Detectives conducted a controlled purchase, leading to the arrest of the first suspect in Mangaf while he was attempting to sell three perfume bottles for KD 17. If genuine, the bottles would have had an estimated market value of KD 150.

Authorities also discovered that an outstanding absconding report had been filed against the suspect.

During questioning, the first suspect admitted that he worked for a monthly wage and revealed the location of an apartment used to prepare and store the perfumes.

The second suspect, who owned the storage facility, was subsequently lured into a trap and arrested. He corroborated the first suspect’s statements. The operation resulted in the seizure of approximately 4,000 perfume bottles bearing various brand names, along with four containers of alcohol, quantities of aromatic oils, a bottle-sealing machine, and other equipment used in the preparation process.



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Mol enables watercraft fine payments via Sahel

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Ministry of Interior has announced the launch of a new electronic service, “Payment of Watercraft Violations,” through the unified government e-services application, Sahel,

reports Al-Seyassah daily. The ministry explained that the service enables users to check violations registered against their marine vessels and pay the fines electronically through the app.

Anticipated increase in demand

Kuwait discusses summer 2027 power preparations with GCCIA

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Adel Al-Zamel met with representatives of the GCC Interconnection Authority (GCCIA) to discuss preparations for the summer of 2027.

In a press statement, the ministry said that the meeting focused on enhancing cooperation and coordination between the ministry and the authority in order to address the anticipated increase in electricity demand during summer in a man-

ner that helps ensure the readiness of power system and bolstering the reliability of electricity supplies.

The meeting further reviewed and followed up on the authority’s requirements for the ministry regarding the safe operation of the GCC electricity interconnection system and the maintenance of stability across the national power grids of member states.

This step would help boost the efficiency of the GCC electricity interconnection network and its role in supporting energy security, it stated.

43 out of 53 maintenance projects 100% done: MPW

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Ministry of Public Works announced the 100 percent completion of 43 out of 53 road maintenance projects in the Capital Governorate, indicating that work is underway for the 10 remaining projects covering five areas.

In a press statement, the ministry disclosed that these projects cover 12 areas and 14 main roads. It added the Roads and Networks Maintenance Department is continuing its

comprehensive road maintenance works, which include asphalt and curb repairs, as well as stormwater drainage network maintenance. It indicated that all the works in Faiha have been completed.

Meanwhile, the ministry obtained approval from the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) at its meeting held last Wednesday to award the tender for sand removal on highways in the North to the bidder that met the requirements, at a total cost of KD975,000.

Al-Shaab road redesign, veterinary hospital plans win council approval

Municipal Council approves minutes of 26th regular session



Officials pose for a group photo after the 27th regular session.

Rezk Tawfeq

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Municipal Council, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri, held its 27th regular session for the fourth term on Monday, during which two items on the agenda were approved.

The council approved the proposal of member Dr. Hassan Kamal to redesign and widen the exit along Street 81 in Al-Shaab Al-Bahri, and expansion of the storage lane by 3.60 meters and 1.41 meters respectively.

It approved the request of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to add two activities to the private veterinary hospital in Salmiya, Block Eight, which mea-

sures 2,112 square meters. The added activities shall occupy one percent of the site or 21.12 square meters on the ground floor. These activities are the sale of animal supplies and feeds, and veterinary medicines and equipment.

It approved the minutes of its 26th regular session, held on Oct 5, 2026, after the Secretariat General rectified a spelling error in the rejection of the proposed amendment to Articles Two and Eight of Min-

isterial Resolution No. 322/2023 on the subdivision of land allotted for construction.

It was also informed about the minutes of the 10th meeting of the Capital Governorate Committee.

It referred to the executive authority the proposal of member Nasser Al-Jadaan to amend the regulations on installing light wire mesh fences on private residential plots allocated to persons with disabilities for study and to give its opinion.

Asian citizen sentenced to death

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Criminal Court, chaired by Judge Salem Al-Asousi, with Judges Hussein Al-Duraie and Talal Al-Rashidi as members, sentenced an Asian to death for trafficking heroin.

After being arrested by officers from the Drug Control General Department in the Ministry of Interior, the defendant confessed to the charges that the Public Prosecution filed against him.

It should be clarified that the death penalty decision in this case does not apply to all drug trafficking cases.

□ □ □

Kuwaiti gets 15 years: The Criminal Court, chaired by Judge Dr. Khaled Al-Amira, sentenced a citizen working in airport security to 15 years in prison and fined him KD100,000 for possessing psychotropic substances with the intent to traffic, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The defendant was arrested upon arrival from Egypt carrying 1,903 narcotic capsules concealed inside candy boxes.

The arrest was the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Control General Department in the Interior Ministry in cooperation with the Customs Department at Kuwait International Airport. Tests confirmed that the defendant consumed narcotics after his arrest.

Continued from Page 1

Illegal aliens,

Director General of Farwaniya Governorate Security Directorate Brigadier General Faisal Musaed Al-Rabbah, and his assistant, Brigadier General Yousef Fahd Al-Sawla, supervised the campaign, which resulted in 386 operations, specifically 58 security arrests, 44 traffic arrests and recording of violations, and 284 measures and recording of violations by other participating entities.

The security arrests included 47 wanted individuals, 10 who violated the Residency and Labor laws, and one for possession of alcohol.

A total of 40 citations for various traffic violations were issued, one vehicle was impounded for violating the Traffic Law, and three abandoned vehicles were seized.

KFF issued 78 violation citations, administratively closed 47 establishments, and issued 23 closure warnings, while the Municipality identified 62 cases requiring business licenses, 25 stickers were placed on violating vehicles, 18 cases of non-compliance with the licensed area were identified, 15 cases requiring the removal of storage facilities were identified, 10 abandoned vehicles were removed, and six cases requiring the removal of temporary structures were identified.

US Embassy:

The embassy explained that Iranian-backed Houthi forces had carried out attacks against Saudi Arabia, targeting civilian airports and other critical infrastructure. The attacks resulted in civilian casualties and significant travel disruptions. The regional hostilities could escalate rapidly and spread beyond the areas currently affected.

It advised Americans traveling to or from the Middle East to stay informed about airport and airline operations and to prepare contingency plans in case of emergencies.

The embassy also warned that Iran and its affiliated groups could potentially target other U.S. interests abroad or locations associated with the United States and its citizens worldwide, including American businesses and institutions.

U.S. citizens were advised to check their flight status directly with their airlines or through the official website of Kuwait International Airport and to ensure that their travel documents are valid and readily accessible.

The embassy also recommended that U.S. citizens enroll in the U.S. Department of State’s Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive the latest security updates and facilitate communication in the event of an emergency.

It stressed the importance of staying away from glass doors and windows, as well as falling debris, during aerial attacks. Citizens were also urged to follow official instructions, keep their phones charged, and maintain regular contact with family members and friends.

The embassy added that U.S. citizens could contact the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait in an emergency. It also advised them to call 112 for police, ambulance, or fire services within the country.

Meanwhile, the American news outlet Axios reported on Monday that U.S. embassies in Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates had issued similar security alerts, warning their citizens of the possibility of airspace closures amid regional developments.

Kuwaitization in

Musaed Al-Mazid, Executive Director of Projects and Engineering at Al-Khafji Joint Operations, signed the agreement on behalf of KJO in the presence of Naif Al-Sulami, President of Al-Khafji Joint Operations.

Eid Al-Harbi, CEO of the Telecommunications Sector at Aramco Digital, signed the agreement on behalf of the company in the presence of its CEO, Dr. Ashraf Al-Tahini.

Representing SLB, Reda Kelkouli, Managing Director for Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, signed the agreement in the presence of Jesus Lamas, President of SLB’s Middle East and North Africa region.

The sources explained that the strong interest in signing the agreement reflects the high priority these major corporations place on the success of this digital initiative.

The “Raed” (Pioneer) platform, in particular, represents a tangible, real-world embodiment of the next generation of advanced digital oilfields.

The platform is designed to rely entirely on generative artificial intelligence and autonomous systems to manage and operate oil and gas production at offshore fields and advanced platforms, eliminating the need for constant or direct human intervention on-site.

This approach is expected to reduce operational costs while enhancing safety in harsh marine environments.

The pioneering platform incorporates a range of advanced technologies, including cloud computing, real-time big data analytics, and the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT).

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All that is needed is a decisive move to kick off the development process in Kuwait.

Macron visit

An official reception ceremony was

A Declaration on exploratory cooperation in data and Artificial Intelligence between Kuwait's Ministry of State for Communications and Information Technology and French company Bertin was signed by Kuwait's Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, and Bertin CEO Charles-Henri Beaud.

The MoU covers areas including satellite imagery and Earth observation, joint specialized training curricula, digital space platforms, data analysis, and AI application, in addition to establishing a shared workspace and laboratory with Airbus at the Kuwait National

During the visit, Macron held talks with His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on strengthening bilateral ties across various fields and discussing re-

In June 2017, Kuwait signed an agreement implementing tax treaty measures to prevent base erosion and

Decorations exchanged

In return, President Macron awarded His Highness the Amir the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, France's highest national order, in recognition of His Highness's role in expanding cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations across all fields.

'Supporting creative,

He revealed that Bahdahi has been practicing visual art for about 20 years, and that the NCCAL acquisitions committee expressed its admiration for his paintings due to their high level of craftsmanship.

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Jeffries likes Democrats’ chances in race for House

Trump touts power at Kentucky rally to energize voters ahead of midterms

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky., Oct 19, (AP): US President Donald Trump touted his power in his second go around in the White House while rallying in Kentucky to bolster Republican turnout as his party struggles in the midterms, saying, “I can do stuff that is unbelievable.”

Trump, who spoke in the city of Highland Heights to boost Republican candidates including Ed Gallrein for the U.S. House, was riffing on his decision to change how the US government refers to the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

“I don’t think I could have done this in my first term. This is a much more powerful term,” Trump said. “Google wouldn’t have taken my call in the first. Now, they kiss my”

“Well, I also changed the name of a lake in Canada to the Lake America,” he continued, referring to Lake Ontario.

Trump’s self-proclaimed power is set against voter frustration with how he’s wielded it, with tariffs and the Iran war driving up prices and more Americans seeing the president looking out for his own interests and not those of the country.

With control of both chambers of Congress on the line, and with it the prospects of Democratic-led investigations of his administration should they win, Trump has put himself at the fore for voters, asking them to “pretend that I’m on the ballot.” But Republicans privately worry that growing disapproval of his administration is a liability.

Trump nominated one of his personal lawyers to serve as attorney general, ordered military strikes on accused drug smuggling boats, is trying to put his name on the Kennedy Center, and has enriched himself and his family while he’s been in office.

While meandering through topics onstage in Kentucky, Trump touched on gas prices, saying that the war with Iran was going to end soon - an assertion he’s made many times over the course of the nearly eight-month conflict - and that gas prices will drop to lower than previously. The crowd cheered.

Facing the electoral headwinds, Trump is working to paint a portentous



US President Donald Trump departs after speaking at a campaign rally at Truist Arena at Northern Kentucky University on Oct 17, in Highland Heights, Ky. (AP)

picture of Democrats in the final weeks before the midterms. That includes the claim that if his opposing party wins, the U.S. will “have a depression,” and that the Democratic platform includes abolishing the U.S. Senate and U.S. Supreme Court. Those are not on the Democratic Party’s platform. But Trump is trying to lump them in with the Democratic Socialists of America, which have had a few candidates win in this year’s primary elections.

Trump also rehashed his dubious promise that if Republicans win the House

and the Senate then every adult American would get \$5,000. That would most likely cost more than \$1 trillion and require congressional approval, while exacerbating the country’s nearly \$1.8 trillion annual budget deficit.

Trump added a new, seemingly conditional promise for Kentucky. That if Republicans win, he said, the Department of Defense would invest in revitalizing a drug manufacturing facility in the state.

The president pulled Gallrein on stage, the Republican candidate for the U.S. House district who beat Rep. Thomas Massie in the GOP primary. Massie had aggravated Trump by pushing for the release of the Jeffrey Epstein files and opposing the Iran war, and the president responded by successfully backing Gallrein in the party’s primary.

Massie, however, still has a following for standing on his staunchly conservative principles, even when it meant voting against his own party. When Trump lashed out at Massie as a “jerk” and “loser” and trumpeted Gallrein as a more loyal replacement, the crowd’s response was tepid, with about half the arena clapping at Trump’s barbs and other half silent.

Also:

TOLEDO, Ohio: House Democratic leader **Hakeem Jeffries** said Sunday the election climate is holding firm for Democrats as he campaigned for Rep. **Marcy Kaptur** in a heavily contested Ohio congressional district that is crucial for majority control of the House.

Jeffries also slapped back at President **Donald Trump**’s abrupt decision to waive sanctions on **Russia** and said there will be a bipartisan effort in the House to pursue a new sanctions package that the president would not have the ability to waive.

“It’s shocking, but not surprising, that an American president would do so much to undermine the cause of democracy, freedom and dignity for the Ukrainian people,” Jeffries told The Associated Press after visiting church services in **Toledo**. Jeffries, who is in line to become House speaker if Democrats win back the majority, has traveled to some 50 cities campaigning for Democratic candidates.

Grass fire at Canadian military base kills 4

Albertans vote on path to independence

EDMONTON, Alberta, Oct 19, (AP): Voters in Canada’s oil-rich Alberta province will decide Monday whether to begin a process that could lead to independence, testing national unity as U.S. President Donald Trump’s trade war and threats to make Canada the 51st state have rallied Canadians around their country.

Monday’s vote is not a direct referendum on independence. Alberta, home to most of Canada’s proven oil reserves - the fourth largest in the world - will decide whether to remain a province or begin the legal process toward a future referendum on separation.

More than 1.35 million Albertans, or 43% of eligible voters, cast advance or special ballots ahead of the referendum, far exceeding the 810,000 who voted early in the 2023 provincial election. Polls on Monday will be open from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m., with results on the independence question expected in the hours after voting closes.

But even if Albertans reject the proposal, separatist leaders say the movement that has transformed a fringe cause into a force in provincial politics is not going away.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney urged Albertans not to take the outcome for granted and asked for a decisive result as he wrapped up two days of campaigning in his



Forever Canada leader Thomas Lukaszuk, left, gives a speech during a pro-Canada rally in Edmonton, Alberta on Oct 18. (AP)

home province.

“Vote like Canada’s future depends on it because it does,” Carney told a pro-Canada rally Friday in Edmonton, where he grew up.

Also:

WAINWRIGHT, Alberta: Four Canadian service members were killed and 39 people injured, including 19 critically, when a fast-moving fire overtook soldiers conducting live-fire combat training at a military base in Alberta, officials said Sunday.

Maj. Gen. **Wade Rutland** said

military officials knew about the fire for hours but believed it was sufficiently contained to allow training to continue before winds suddenly shifted, sending flames racing toward the soldiers.

“The fire was a kilometer away when the wind shifted. That is not normal for a fire to move a kilometer in 36 seconds,” he said at a news conference in **Edmonton**.

Rutland said a commander at the scene told him soldiers went from seeing no fire to having flames upon them in less than a minute.

Lawmaker critically injured by car is ‘no accident’: Australia PM

MELBOURNE, Australia, Oct 19, (AP): A car hit an Australian federal independent lawmaker on Monday, critically injuring her in an apparent deliberate attack, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said. The driver was arrested.

Helen Haines, 65, was struck by a Toyota Land Cruiser SUV outside her electoral district office mid afternoon in the city of Wangaratta in Victoria state, a police said.

Albanese said the national counterterrorism team, incorporating police and intelligence agencies, was investigating.

“This wasn’t an accident. There was a deliberate act, it would appear. We don’t know what the motivation is,” Albanese told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The 43-year-old driver was arrested at the scene by a passerby. He will be interviewed in relation to the incident, police said.

“A knife was located by police and seized from inside the Toyota,” police said.

“At this stage, police are investigating as to whether this was an intentional act,” police added.

Haines, who was first elected to the Parliament in 2019, was taken to a hospital with critical injuries, po-



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaks to Independent member of parliament, Helen Haines, in the House of Representatives at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia on Aug 18. (AP)

lice said.

The episode has renewed safety concerns for Australian lawmakers, in a country where politicians have historically been highly accessible to the public and usually go about their business without security officers present. But public incitement against officials is growing.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Krissy Barrett said in 2025 that threats against parliamentarians had doubled over the past three years. Police data showed more than 1,000 such threats against politicians in the 2025-2026 financial year, Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke said Monday.

French PM calls for localized curfews in cities to curb rioting

PARIS, Oct 19, (AP): French Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu says he has instructed prefects to impose “very limited” and “localized” curfews in cities to prevent more rioting and looting, following this weekend’s violence that notably targeted city halls, other public buildings and hundreds of businesses across the country.

Speaking after an emergency meeting with top government officials, Lecornu said “on Saturday, despite scenes of severe violence and extensive property damage, no one was killed, and that is a miracle” as he defended the work of police officers faced with violent groups of people.

Lecornu said details of the areas to be placed under curfew will be provided later Monday.

The instructions come as Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez offered his resignation on Sunday but President Emmanuel Macron asked him to stay to respond to police needs in an emergency situation.

Macron refused Laurent Nuñez’s resignation “given the need for continued command of law enforcement in the current context,” Macron’s office said in a statement Monday.

He instructed Nuñez “to take



France’s Interior Minister Laurent Nunez, (left), and France’s Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu, front right, attend a press statement after an Interministerial Crisis Meeting at the Interior Ministry in Paris, France on Oct 19. (AP)

all necessary steps to ensure full transparency about the failures in planning and intelligence-gathering that led to the violence,” the statement said.

Macron also asked for the introduction of “new policing tactics on the ground as quickly as possible” to put an end to violent events.

On Sunday evening, groups of people set fires to trash bins, bicycles and other objects in the

streets and looted businesses in Paris, Lyon, Marseille and other cities, a day after major violence erupted Saturday during nationwide protests against rising living costs and poor conditions in schools. At least 2,400 people were arrested across the country.

“I submitted my resignation because I am responsible for everything that is happening,” Nuñez said, speaking on France Inter radio.

Africa

S.Africa, Mozambique to honor Machel: The late Mozambican president and freedom fighter **Samora Machel** will be remembered Monday at a joint ceremony by South Africa and Mozambique to mark 40 years since he died in a mysterious plane crash.

The ceremony is set to take place in Mbuzini, an area in South Africa’s Mpumalanga province near the crash site.

Machel was Mozambique’s leader after it gained independence from Portuguese colonial rule in 1975 until his death in 1986.

His death sent shock waves throughout Africa, where he was an outspoken and revered anti-colonial voice.

An inquiry into the cause of the plane crash that killed Machel and more than 30 other people blamed the pilots, but 40 years after his death there are still questions about what really happened.

Here’s what to know about Machel and the crash that killed one of Africa’s leading political figures:

On Oct. 19, 1986, Machel was killed alongside some members of his cabinet, journalists and flight crew when their plane crashed into the Lebombo mountains in the South African area of Mbuzini near the Mozambique and Eswatini border.

They were returning from a meeting of regional leaders in Zambia.

A South Africa-led investigation into the plane crash blamed the pilots for the crash and ruled out any foul play, but Mozambique believed the crash was planned by the then-apartheid South African government to assassinate Machel.

Officials and experts from Mozambique and the



Machel

Soviet Union, where the aircraft was manufactured, rejected the findings of the report.

Among some of their allegations was that a false beacon had been erected to divert the aircraft in the wrong direction, but this was dismissed by the inquiry.

The plane crash was also the subject of the post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, which did not make any conclusive findings but recommended further investigations.

It did, however, raise some questions about the conclusions reached by the report of the 1987 inquiry, including the alleged presence of South African soldiers in the area of the crash a day before it happened. (AP)

Rwandan dissident beheaded in Uganda:

A Rwandan dissident who fled to Uganda was beheaded and his body found in a district outside the capital, Kampala, police said Monday.

The remains of Sgt. Maj. Robert Kabera, who served in the Rwandan army before he fled in 2020, were discovered on Saturday in a bush in the Kamengo area of the Ugandan district of Mpigi, Superintendent of Police Lydia Tumushabe told The Associated Press on Monday.

“The head, up to now, is still missing,” Tumushabe said.

After he crossed the border to Uganda, Kabera became an outspoken critic of Rwandan President Paul Kagame, who has been his country’s de facto leader or president since the end of the 1994 genocide.

Kabera’s body was identified by residents as well as his brother, Tumushabe said, adding that detectives don’t yet have firm clues on a possible motive.

National police spokesperson Rusoke Kituuma said Kabera’s previous service in the Rwandan military had been brought to the attention of detectives. (AP)



Opposition presidential candidate Sen Flavio Bolsonaro, (left), raises his hands as Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who is running for reelection, looks on during a televised presidential debate one week before the presidential runoff election in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Oct 18. (AP)

Brazil’s Lula and Bolsonaro trade barbs in 1st debate only days before presidential runoff

SAO PAULO, Oct 19, (AP): Brazil’s President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Senator Flávio Bolsonaro faced off Sunday for the first time in a debate, only days before their Oct 25 runoff election for the country’s top job. They exchanged barbs, accusations and insults in a tense broadcast on Band TV that lasted about two hours.

Analysts who expected the incumbent and the son of former president Jair Bolsonaro to reach out to the few undecided voters were left disappointed. Their heated exchanges, which often included some of their family members as a topic, were sometimes inaudible, with

little discussion about their plans for the future.

Flávio Bolsonaro won the first round of voting in the presidential election by 47% to 45%, and recent polls suggest he and Lula, who is seeking his fourth nonconsecutive term, are in a very close race.

The winner will be in charge of Latin America’s biggest economy and a population of 214 million. A win for Bolsonaro would increase US influence in Latin America, as he is an ally of US President Donald Trump. If Lula wins, Brazil will keep its distance from Washington and continue to deepen its relationship with China.

Bolsonaro said Brazil’s economy will improve just by removing Lula from office and fighting corruption, while the 80-year-old leader defended his record and welfare initiatives.

The most tense moment of the debate came when Lula challenged Bolsonaro for both of them to open their personal finances to scrutiny so authorities can tell before the runoff if they have suspicious transactions to explain. Earlier, tens of thousands of supporters for the candidates took to the streets of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and other cities.

Bolsonaro and his supporters rallied on Sao Paulo’s main artery, Pau-

lista Avenue, with key allies in attendance. Many were also asking for the release of Jair Bolsonaro, who is serving a 27-year prison sentence for a coup attempt.

Lula supporters rallied in Rio’s Copacabana Beach, Brasilia and 16 other state capitals.

Another presidential debate is scheduled for Friday on TV Globo, Brazil’s leading television network.

Corruption is a top concern for many Brazilian voters ahead of the runoff between Bolsonaro and Lula. But experts say its greatest impact may not be on which candidates voters choose, but on whether they decide to sit out of the election altogether.

Reflecting year-on-year growth of 3.1%

NBK reports KD 481.7 million in net profit for 9M2026

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced its financial results for the nine months ended September 30, 2026, reporting net profit of KD 481.7 million (USD 1.6 billion), compared to KD 467.4 million (USD 1.5 billion) in the corresponding period of 2025, representing year-on-year growth of 3.1%.

Total assets increased by 4.5% year-on-year to KD 46.9 billion (USD 152.4 billion) as of the end of September 2026, while total loans and advances grew by 8.2% year-on-year to KD 28.2 billion (USD 91.6 billion).

Customer deposits increased by 13.5% year-on-year to KD 27.9 billion (USD 90.6 billion) at the end of the first nine months of 2026, while total shareholders' equity reached KD 4.6 billion (USD 15.1 billion), representing growth of 5.1% compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

Strength and Diversification

Commenting on the results, Mr. Hamad Al-Bahar, NBK Group Chairman, said: "The Group's results for the first nine months of 2026 reflect the strength of our business model and our ability to deliver robust and sustainable performance across different economic conditions, underpinned by diversified income streams, a strong financial position and a flexible strategy."

Al-Bahar noted that NBK continued to reinforce its position as a leading regional financial institution during the third quarter, supported by a strong balance sheet, high capitalization ratios, comfortable liquidity levels and solid asset quality. He reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to further embedding sustainability principles across its business activities, operational and investment decisions, supporting sustainable growth and long-term value creation for shareholders.

Al-Bahar also reaffirmed the Bank's continued support for national and community initiatives, highlighting NBK's recent contribution of USD 5 million to the Kuwait Emergency Response Fund, in addition to KD 1.3 million towards the development of Kuwait International Airport facilities and KD 1 million for the restoration and rehabilitation of the land border crossings at Abdali, Salmi and Nuwaiseeb.

He further highlighted NBK's continued leadership in corporate social responsibility, noting that the Bank was named "Middle East's Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility 2026" at the Euromoney Awards for Excellence, in recognition of its initiatives across various fields, including healthcare, education, sports and others.

Balanced Growth

Meanwhile, Mr. Isam J. Al-Sager, NBK Group Vice Chairman and CEO, said: "The Group's financial indicators for the nine months ended September 30, 2026, reflect our ability to achieve balanced and sustainable growth despite the challenges facing the regional and global business environment."

Al-Sager revealed that net operating income grew by 3.8% year-on-year to reach KD 1.0 billion (USD 3.3 billion), supported by momentum in core banking activities and the positive contribution of the Group's various businesses and segments to revenue generation. This reflects the success of the Bank's strategy of diversifying income streams and capitalizing on opportunities across the markets in which it operates.

He added that international operations continued to play a key role in supporting the diversification of the Group's operations, benefiting from NBK's extensive geographic presence across regional and global markets. This further diversified income streams and enhanced business resilience in the face of changing economic conditions. Boubyan Bank, the Group's Islamic banking arm, also continued to make a strong contribution to revenue and profit growth, supported by its leading position in the Islamic banking sector.

Al-Sager explained that the Group made tangible progress in executing its strategy to enhance geographic diversification and broaden revenue streams, leveraging the synergies between its conventional and Islamic banking businesses and wealth management activities.

He further noted that, as part of NBK's commitment to strengthening its regional and international presence, the Bank recently opened a new branch at the Qatar Financial Centre, supporting its expansion plans and enhancing its ability to serve customers in the Qatari market.

Commenting on wealth management, Al-Sager said: "NBK Wealth continued to strengthen its position as one of the region's leading wealth management institutions, supported by business growth and rising demand for specialized investment and advisory solutions. The Group also continued to enhance its products and services to meet our clients' evolving needs and aspirations amid a changing investment environment."

Al-Sager emphasized that diversification remains a cornerstone of NBK Group's strategy, leveraging synergies across its various businesses, segments and markets to enhance the resilience of its business model and its ability to deliver sustainable value to shareholders.

Digital Transformation and Innovation

Al-Sager stated that NBK continued to demonstrate its leadership in digital



Hamad Al-Bahar, NBK Group Chairman



Isam Al-Sager, NBK Group Vice Chairman and CEO



NBK headquarters

■ Al-Bahar:

- Our results underscore the resilience and strength of the Group's business model and its capacity to deliver consistently strong performance across varying economic conditions
- NBK continues to reinforce its market leadership, underpinned by a robust balance sheet, ample liquidity and sound asset quality
- We remain committed to embedding sustainability principles across our business activities, operations and investment decisions, while continuing to support national and community initiatives

■ Al-Sager:

- Our financial indicators demonstrate the Group's ability to deliver balanced and sustainable growth despite challenges across the regional and global operating environment
- Diversification and integration across our businesses, segments and markets remain central pillars of our strategy
- NBK's strong market position provides a solid foundation for continued achievements and further strengthens its leadership in the domestic market
- Our longstanding relationships with the public and private sectors reinforce our position as a leading banking institution supporting Kuwait's development plans
- We continue to advance our leadership in digital banking through innovative solutions that enhance the customer experience and improve operational efficiency
- NBK Wealth continues to strengthen its position among the region's leading wealth management institutions
- International operations played a pivotal role in diversifying the Group's income streams, leveraging our growing presence across regional and international markets
- Boubyan Bank, the Group's Islamic banking arm, made a strong contribution to revenue and profit growth
- International investments in the infrastructure sector serve as a strong testament to investor confidence in the Kuwaiti economy
- Real estate financing will support growth in the banking sector and stimulate broader economic activity, particularly in sectors associated with housing and real estate development

banking during the third quarter by introducing innovative solutions that enhance customer experience and improve operational efficiency. As part of its digital transformation strategy, the Bank expanded its range of end-to-end digital services to cover more personal banking products, launching Kuwait's first fully digital loan offering. NBK also introduced the ability for parents to open accounts for their children, alongside a fully digital credit card application process that enables customers to add their cards directly to digital wallets through the NBK Mobile Banking App.

He explained that these initiatives align with NBK's vision of redesigning the customer journey and delivering a simpler, more seamless banking experience, further reinforcing its position as a leading financial institution in digital innovation.

Al-Sager also highlighted the notable progress NBK has made in advancing its sustainability and sustainable finance objectives, noting that the Group remains

focused on creating long-term value for stakeholders by developing responsible financing solutions and enhancing the positive impact of its operations on the economy and society.

Operating Environment

Commenting on Kuwait's operating environment, Al-Sager noted that economic activity had improved, supported by the gradual recovery in oil production and continued progress in implementing the country's development agenda.

He added that project activity maintained its momentum, with the total value of awarded projects reaching approximately KD 3 billion during the first nine months of 2026. This coincided with international investments flowing into the infrastructure sector during the third quarter, underscoring investor confidence in Kuwait's economy and reinforcing the outlook for investment activity in the period ahead.

Al-Sager also highlighted the notable progress Kuwait has made in advancing economic and legislative reforms recently, including the issuance of the Real Estate Financing Decree-Law. He highlighted that its entry into force would support growth in the banking sector and stimulate broader economic activity, particularly in sectors associated with housing and real estate development.

Concluding his remarks, Al-Sager said: "At NBK, our solid capital base and strong liquidity position provide a firm foundation to capitalize on future growth opportunities and further strengthen our leadership in the domestic market. Our strong relationships with the public and private sectors also continue to reinforce our position among the leading banking institutions supporting Kuwait's development plans."

Awards and Recognition

During the third quarter of 2026, NBK Group continued to strengthen its international presence and earn prestigious accolades, reflecting the success of its strategy in innovation, digital transformation and wealth management. NBK was named "Kuwait's Best Bank 2026" at Euromoney's Awards for Excellence and received 17 awards at Global Finance's World's Best Digital Bank Awards 2026, recognizing its excellence in delivering digital banking solutions and services to retail and corporate customers across Kuwait and the region.

NBK Wealth further reinforced its leadership in wealth management, receiving several prestigious awards at Euromoney's Private Banking Awards 2026, including "Kuwait's Best for Next-Gen 2026," "Kuwait's Best for Fixed Income" and "Middle East's Best for Fixed Income." These accolades reflect the excellence of its investment services and its ability to meet the needs of diverse client segments.

Meanwhile, Weyay Bank recently received the "Best in Precision Credit & Lending Award" in Kuwait, alongside "The Social & Community Banking Award" at both the Kuwait and regional levels from Global Finance, underscoring its success in delivering an innovative digital banking experience.

Key Financial Indicators for the First Nine Months of 2026:

- Net operating income reached KD 1.0 billion, representing year-on-year growth of 3.8%.
- Total assets increased by 4.5% year-on-year to KD 46.9 billion.
- Total loans and advances grew by 8.2% year-on-year to KD 28.2 billion.
- Customer deposits increased by 13.5% year-on-year to KD 27.9 billion.
- Total shareholders' equity reached KD 4.6 billion, representing year-on-year growth of 5.1%.
- The non-performing loans (NPL) ratio stood at 1.29% of the total loan portfolio, with an NPL coverage ratio of 236%.
- The capital adequacy ratio stood at 15.9%, exceeding the minimum regulatory requirements.

Financial Highlights

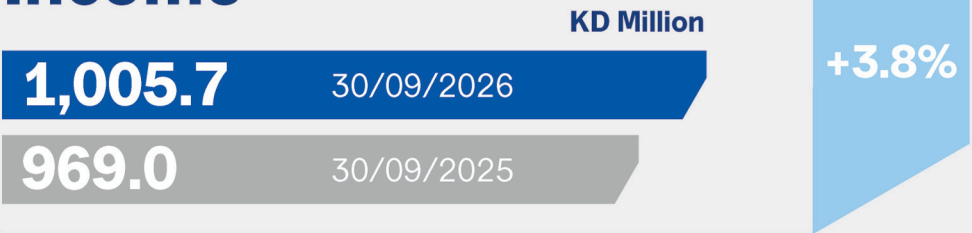
9 Months 2026



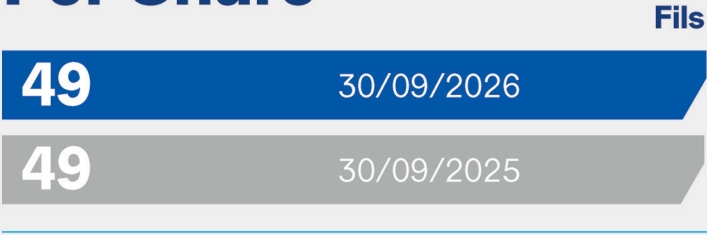
Net Profit



Net Operating Income



Earnings Per Share



Total Assets



Customer Loans & Advances



Customer Deposits



Shareholders' Equity



ABK Group concludes successful participation in IMF & World Bank Annual Meetings



Leen Haddad, Noura Alduweesh, Omar Wahby and Abdulla Al Sumait



A group photo of the delegation with the Minister of Finance, the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, and the Ambassador of Kuwait to Thailand.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) concluded its participation in the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, held in Bangkok, Thailand. The meetings brought together Kuwait’s Minister of Finance, Dr. Yaqoub Al Rifai; Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Basel Al-Haroon; central bank governors from across the GCC and around the world; senior financial officials; and global banking leaders.

Discussions addressed the global financial landscape, the impact of fiscal policies, and interest rate trends, while exploring opportunities for cooperation in sustainable finance and digital innovation.

The ABK Group delegation comprised Abdulla Al Sumait, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer; Omar Wahby, Chief Executive Of-

ficer, ABK-UAE; Noura Alduweesh, General Manager, Treasury and Investment; and Leen Haddad, Assistant General Manager, Executive Management Affairs.

The delegation also attended several events held on the sidelines of the meetings, including the Gulf-Asia Economic Forum and the annual reception organised by the Kuwait Banking Association. These events were well received by guests and participants.

Commenting on the occasion, Al Sumait said, “Our delegation explored opportunities for bilateral cooperation with representatives of international and GCC banks. Discussions covered key areas of mutual interest, including liquidity in global banks, interest rate fluctuations, and a range of banking and financial matters, with a focus on identifying the most effective approaches to business growth.”

He added, “We also explored sustainable and cost-effective funding solutions to support the Bank’s operations and maximise profitability. Drawing on the experiences shared in Bangkok will strengthen our ability to deliver a world-class banking experience across customer segments and consistently create added value for all those who bank with us.”

Al Sumait concluded, “ABK Group’s participation strengthens the Bank’s presence within the international banking community and reflects the confidence it enjoys on the global stage. We extend our appreciation to the Kuwait Banking Association for its efforts in meeting the needs of Kuwait’s banking delegations, and commend the success and strong attendance of the events it organised alongside the meetings.”

Kuwaiti issuances record a 106% increase when compared to the same period last year

Markaz Report: GCC Fixed Income market sees USD 34.8 billion in primary issuances during Q3 2026, representing a 13.5% decrease

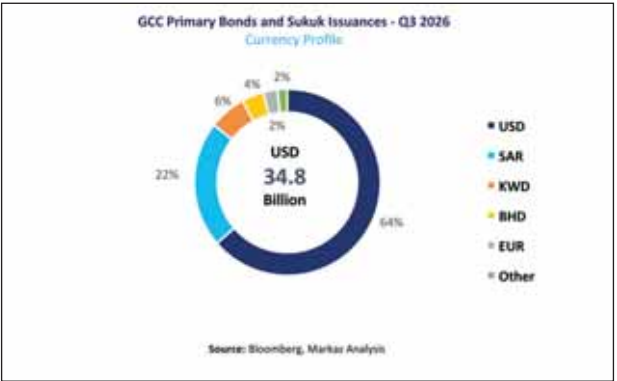
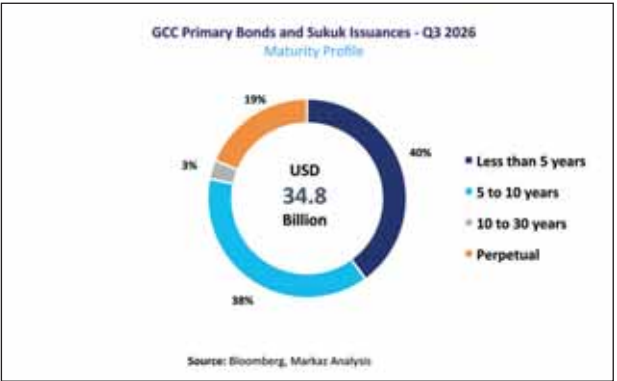
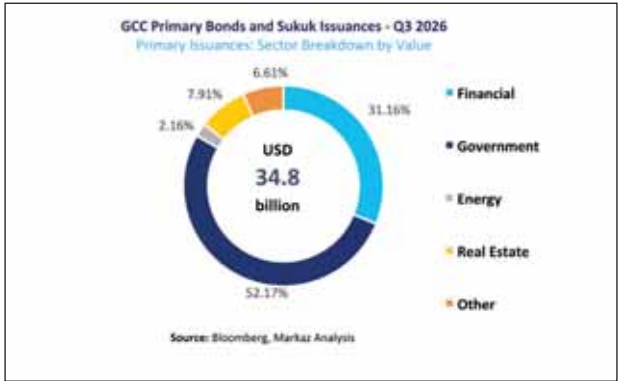
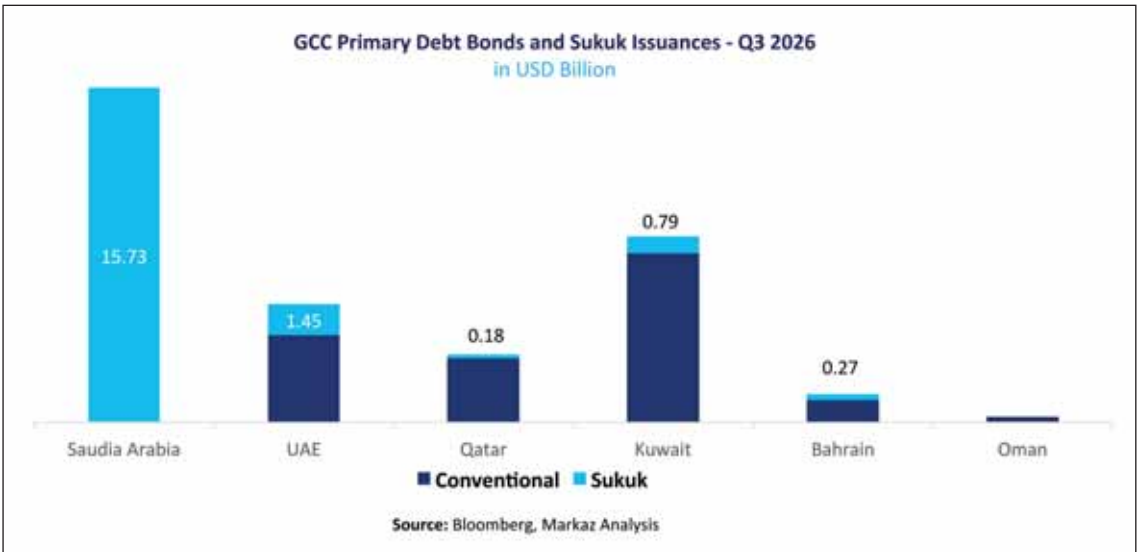
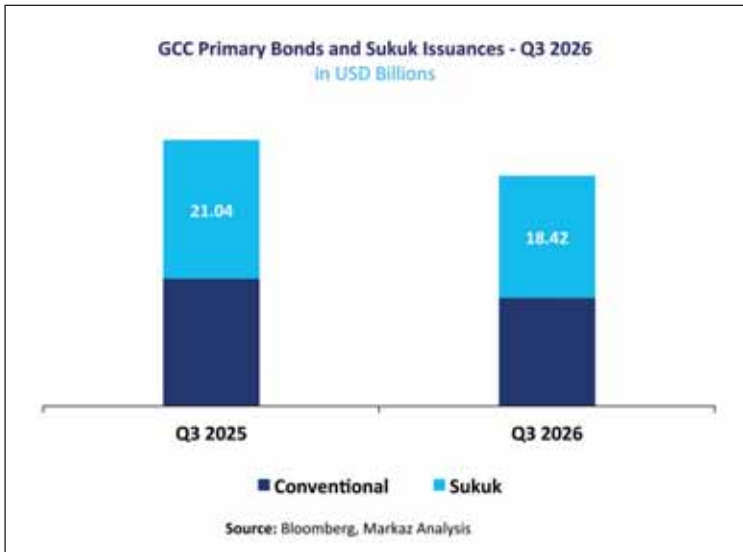
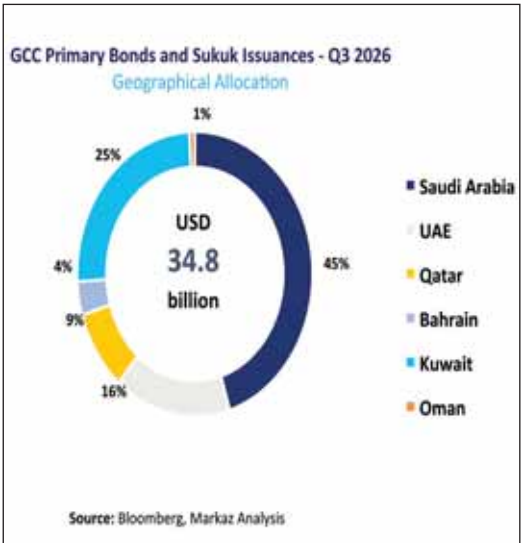
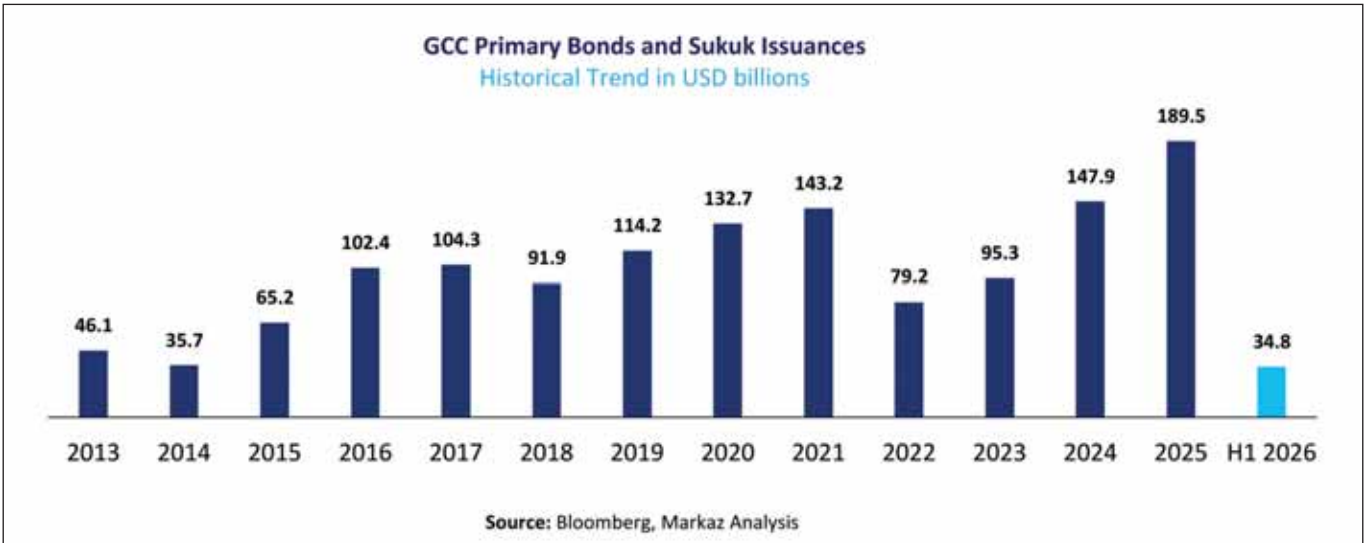
KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: In its Fixed Income Report, Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” states that primary Bonds and Sukuk issuances in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries reached USD 34.8 billion through 45 issuances during Q3 2026, representing a 13.5% decrease from the same period last year, when primary issuances in Q3 2025 totaled USD 40.21 billion.

Issuances by Geography: Saudi-based issuances led the GCC during Q3 2026, raising USD 15.73 billion through 17 issuances, down from USD 20.04 billion in Q3 2025 (a decrease of 21.5%) and representing 45.2% of the quarter’s issuances. Kuwait-based issuances ranked second, raising USD 8.73 billion through 9 issuances and representing 25.1% of the market, an increase of 106% from the same period last year.

UAE-based entities were the third-largest issuers in terms of value, raising USD 5.56 billion through 11 issuances (a decrease of 2.0% from the same period last year) and accounting for 16.0% of the total issuances value in Q3 2026. Qatari issuers followed, with a total issuance size of USD 3.18 billion through 3 issuances (a 52.9% decrease from Q3 2025) and representing 9.2% of the market. Bahraini issuances recorded a 47.9% decrease from the same period last year, recording a total value of USD 1.33 billion through 4 issuances, while Omani entities issued USD 0.26 billion through 1 issuance.

Sovereign vs. Corporate: Total GCC corporate primary issuances decreased by 38.9% in Q3 2026, reaching USD 16.64 billion, compared with USD 27.21 billion in Q3 2025. Corporate issuances represented 47.8% of total issuance value, down from 67.7% in Q3 2025, as sovereign issuances accounted for the larger share of the market during the quarter. Government-related entities raised USD 3.5 billion through 3 issuances during the year, an increase of 11.5% from Q3 2025 (USD 3.14 billion through 3 issuances). Total GCC sovereign primary issuances increased by 39.7% in Q3 2026, reaching USD 18.15 billion during the quarter, representing 52.2% of total issuance value.

Conventional vs. Sukuk: Conventional issuances decreased by 14.6% in Q3 2026 compared to Q3 2025, reaching USD 16.37 billion. Sukuk issuances, meanwhile, decreased by 12.5% in Q3 2026 to USD 18.4 billion during the quarter through 26 issuances.



Sukuk accounted for 52.9% of total issuance value for the third quarter. This is in line with issuance preferences from Q3 2025, where more sukuk were issued (52.3% of all issuances).

Sector Segmentation: Government entities led bond and sukuk issuances in Q3 2026, raising USD 18.15 billion through 17 issuances and accounting for 52.2% of total issuance value. The financial sector followed, with USD 10.84 billion through 21 issuances and representing 31.2% of the market. Government issuance increased by 39.7% compared with the same period last year, while the financial sector issuances declined by-

49.0%. Real estate ranked third, raising USD 2.75 billion through 2 issuances and accounting for 7.9% of total issuance value, while the remaining sectors collectively represented 8.8%.

Maturity Profile: In Q3 2026, primary issuances with less than 5 years represented 40.0% of GCC debt capital market activity, raising USD 13.92 billion through 21 issuances. Primary issuances with 5–10-year tenors followed, raising USD 13.26 billion through 10 issuances and representing 38.1% of total issuance value. Primary issuances with 10–30-year tenors accounted for 3.1% of the market, raising USD 1.08 billion through

2 issuances during the quarter. Notably, there were no issuances with maturities exceeding 30 years, while perpetual issuances reached USD 6.53 billion through 12 issuances.

Issue Size Profile: During Q3 2026, GCC primary issuances ranged in size from USD 106.5 million to USD 3.0 billion. Issuances with an issue size of USD 1 billion or greater raised the largest amount, totaling USD 20.47 billion through 11 issuances and representing 58.9% of the total amount issued in the GCC. Issuances sized between USD 500 million and USD 1 billion followed, raising USD 9.71 billion through 16 issuances, the largest

number of issuances for the quarter. Notably, there were no issuances below USD 100 million for the quarter.

Currency Profile: US dollar-denominated issuances led the GCC Bonds and Sukuk primary market in Q3 2026, raising USD 22.05 billion through 22 issuances, representing 63.4% of the total value raised in primary issuances for the quarter. The Saudi Riyal (SAR) was the second-largest issuance currency by value, with SAR-denominated issuances raising USD 7.58 billion through 9 issuances. Kuwaiti dinar (KWD)-denominated issuances followed, raising USD 2.23 billion through 5 issuances.

As for currencies bucketed under “Other,” which totaled USD 481 million, the Qatari Riyal (QAR) represented 0.53% of total issuances of USD 183 million through 1 issuance.

Rating: In terms of value, 59.3% of GCC conventional bond and Sukuk issuances were rated in Q3 2026 (by at least one of the following rating agencies: Standard & Poor’s, Moody’s, Fitch, and Capital Intelligence), compared with 65.5% in Q3 2025. Investment-grade issuances accounted for 57.8% of total issuance value, while sub-investment-grade issuances represented 1.4% of issued bonds and sukuk.

What's On SPOTLIGHT

TICE 2026 draws 1,000+ delegates, 101 exhibitors in Kuwait

Tamilnadu Engineers Forum Kuwait hosts 17th TICE and 10th Engineering Excellence Awards

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Tamilnadu Engineers Forum (TEF), Kuwait, successfully hosted the 17th Technological Innovations Conference & Exposition (TICE) and the 10th Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA), at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel Kuwait on 15th Oct' 2026, bringing together industry leaders, engineering professionals, academicians and innovators to celebrate technological advancement and professional excellence.

The TEF Kuwait flagship event was attended by over 1,000+ delegates from engineering community, featuring a record 101 Exhibitors, 24 Technical paper presentations and 36 Award recipients, reinforcing TICE's position as a prominent platform for innovation, knowledge sharing and industry collaboration in Kuwait.

The event started at 7:30 a.m. with cake cutting ceremony, followed by inauguration of the exhibition. The event was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Manas Raj Patel, IFS, chargé d'affaires, Embassy of India, Kuwait, Mr. Davinder Punj, Second Secretary, Commerce & Consular, Embassy of India, Kuwait, Mr. Fahad Al Daihani, Chairman of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Mr. Jassem Al Nouri, Chairman of Gulf Alliance for Power & Water Co. Following the inauguration, the distinguished guests toured the exhibition stalls and visited all the participating stalls, exploring



Photos from the event.

the products, technologies, and services on display

Formal conference inauguration ceremony was started at 8.00 AM after the exhibition stall visits by the esteemed guests. The proceedings included welcome address by Mr. Agnel Charles, General Secretary of TEF Kuwait and presidential addresses

by Mr. Rajendra Kannan, President of TEF Kuwait. Inaugural address is delivered by Mr. Fahad Al Daihani, Chairman of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Keynote address by Mr. Jassem Al Nouri, Chairman of Gulf Alliance for Power & Water Co. Engineering Excellence

Awards were presented to winners by His Excellency Mr. Manas Raj Patel, IFS, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of India, Kuwait, Mr. Fahad Al Daihani, Chairman of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Mr. Jassem Al Nouri, Chairman of Gulf Alliance for Power & Water Co. TICE is graced by other

distinguished guests including Mr. Talal Mutlaq Al Otaibi, Manager, Associated Gas Operations, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), Mr. Ahmad Issa Alown, Manager Technical Services, KNPC, Mr. Shuaib M. Shuaib, Manager – Projects & Technical Services from Wafra Joint Operations and Mr. Sabah Al Shammari, Director of Golden Palm Petroleum Services.

A special video presentation showcased TEF's 27-year journey, highlighting its evolution from a forum founded in December 1999 till today and the legacy of TEF Kuwait and their contribution towards engineering community, technology and innovations.

One of the major highlight was that the 10th Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA), which recognized 36 award recipients of various company and individual from organizations.

The event also acknowledged its presenting partners — AL Arfaj Engineering Co., Golden Palm Petroleum Services, Kuwait Maritime & Mercantile Co. (KMMC) and NOURI Industrial Establishments for their valuable support and partnership.

During the presidential address by TEF-Kuwait president Mr. Rajendra Kannan emphasized that events like TICE are not just about technology; they are also about learning and professional growth. Every presentation, discussion, and interaction provides an opportunity to enhance our knowledge and strengthen our skills. Requested all the participants to use this conference as an opportunity to learn from one another, exchange ideas.

The event was well organized by TEF Kuwait organizing committee and widely recognized and appreciated among the engineering community in Kuwait. Event concluded at 2.30PMV with lunch.

IEI Kuwait Chapter holds first technical seminar of 2026-27

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Institution of Engineers (India), Kuwait Chapter, belongs to one of India's oldest professional engineering bodies, established in 1920 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1935. The Chapter has served the engineering community and society in Kuwait for 30 years, from 1995 to 2026. It promotes professional development, technical knowledge-sharing and community engagement among Indian engineers in Kuwait.

Engineers explore advanced corrosion-protection & asset-integrity technologies at Hyatt Regency, Al Kout Mall, in a seminar organized by IEI Kuwait Chapter along with Integrated Global Services (IGS)

KUWAIT, 4 October 2026 - The Institution of Engineers (India) - Kuwait Chapter (IEI-KC) held its First Technical Seminar of the 2026-27 term on Sunday evening at the Regency Ballroom, Hyatt Regency, Al Kout Mall. Organized in collaboration with Integrated Global Services (IGS), the seminar brought together engineers, industry professionals and representatives of leading Indian professional associations in Kuwait under the theme Ideas | Insights | Impact.

The evening was graced by Chief

Guest Mr. Ahmed Ali J. Al-Sabah, General Manager of SATCO ENERGY, the Chapter's presenting sponsor.

Chairman Engr. Kartikeyan Elangovan delivered the welcome address and outlined the Chapter's vision for 2026-27. Mr. Ahmed Ali J. Al-Sabah was then honored with a memento and a bouquet, and guests from partner organizations were welcomed with flowers.

Session 1 - High-Velocity Thermal Spray (HVTs®) was handled by Engr. Rohit Kardile, Technical Business Development Manager at IGS. Session 2 - Automated Weld Overlay & Tube Integrity was handled by Mr. Antoni Olgiard, Managing Director, Global Welding Operations at IGS. Mr. Shyam Barshikar, Regional Director, IGS, shared IGS's work with KIPIC, KNPC and KOC. He cited the successful HVTs® application on ARDS product strippers at the KIPIC refinery and spoke on fired-heater efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint of industrial assets.

Engr. Satish Soni delivered the vote of thanks to the Chief Guest, IGS, the speakers, partner associations, volunteers & members. The evening concluded with an official group photograph, networking and refreshments.



Photos during the event.

A Friday evening introduced guests to the Toastmasters experience

Open House, Open Minds: A Day with Toastmasters

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: On Friday, October 16, guests walked into a Toastmasters meeting and found a room full of energy, humor, and encouragement. "Open House, Open Minds: A Day with Toastmasters" was hosted by Area 20 of Division E, District 20, with members from Desert Pioneers, Dreamweavers, Durrar, and Insan.

The evening opened on a welcoming note, set by Sergeants at Arms Ramees Chalatti and Mohamed Azam. Event Chair Mohammad Hussain opened the session. Toastmaster of the Day Abrar Al-Qallaf then took the floor and steered the program with confidence, introducing each role with ease and keeping the energy high from one segment to the next.

Keeping every moment on track were timers Mohamed Shabeer and Hanadi Gassan. Working quietly in the background, they tracked each speaker's time with care and precision, helping the program flow smoothly from start to finish and showing guests how timing keeps a Toastmasters meeting sharp and respectful of everyone's time.

Then came the moment that won the room. Razan Al-Tamimi's prepared speech, "Two Letter Word," brought humor and message together memorably, and a thoughtful evaluation by Vishal Edward Khan, DTM, showed guests how honest feedback helps speakers grow.

The learning went beyond watching. A workshop on "Success That Fits Your Life," led by Hanan Haloush, encouraged guests to think about growth on their own terms. Newcomers also got a clear picture of what Toastmasters offers through Raymond Pereira, DTM, and the Club Growth Director's address by Heba Al-Nakkas, DTM, on how clubs help members build communication and leadership skills. After the break, the spotlight turned to the guests themselves, as Topicsmaster Venkatakrishnan Nuran gave them a first-hand taste of speaking on their feet.

Behind the scenes, Daren Al-



Group photo of the event.



Hanan



Ray

hajjar, DTM, led logistics and was the backbone of the venue arrangements, from the warm hospitality and fresh tea to the thoughtful gifts that made every guest feel valued. Maria Josol ensured a smooth onboarding process for guests. Dr. Sahar Helmi closed the evening with a vote of thanks to the speakers, role players, organizers, and guests.

A special word of thanks goes to Public Relations Officer Habeeba Ifham, whose creative PR work brought the open house to a wider audience and helped make the event visible and inviting well before the

doors opened.

The success of the evening was the result of weeks of dedicated effort. Area Director Wafiq Anwar led the initiative with one aim: an event the whole team could be proud of. That commitment, shared by every member involved, turned the open house into an evening of success and glory. Event Chair Mohammed Hussain called the day "a ton of fun, learning, and a wonderful experience."

Toastsmaster extends its sincere gratitude to Al Mulla Exchange for sponsoring the event. Their generous support helped make the eve-

ning possible and reflects a shared commitment to community growth, learning, and communication.

The learning doesn't end here. The open house may be over, but the journey continues every week in our clubs. Come as you are, bring a friend, and find your place in our open-minded community. Whether you want to find your voice or grow as a leader, you'll be welcomed warmly at Desert Pioneers, Dreamweavers, Durrar, & Insan. Visit as our guest and see why so many of us call Toastmasters home.

PWF holds Pink October Cancer Awareness Session

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Pakistan Women's Forum (PWF), Kuwait, organized a Pink October Cancer Awareness Session on Friday, 16 October 2026, at the residence of PWF President Fareeha Mazhar. The event was honoured by Ms. Sara Al-Khirji, Kuwait Ambassador to the UN for Peace and District Governor of Rumaithiya.

Dr. Shazia Kamran, Dermatologist at ARMS Medical Center, conducted an informative session highlighting cancer awareness, early detection, and women's health. PWF members attended and benefited from the session.

PWF expressed its gratitude to Ms. Sara Al-Khirji, Dr. Shazia Kamran, and all participating members for contributing to the success of this meaningful initiative.



PWF Kuwait raises cancer awareness among women.

CMA to honor Parton with star-studded tribute special

Moana sets sail as John Legend drops ‘Muse’ in busy entertainment week

LOS ANGELES, Oct 19, (AP): A new album from John Legend and the streaming debut of the live-action “Moana” are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.

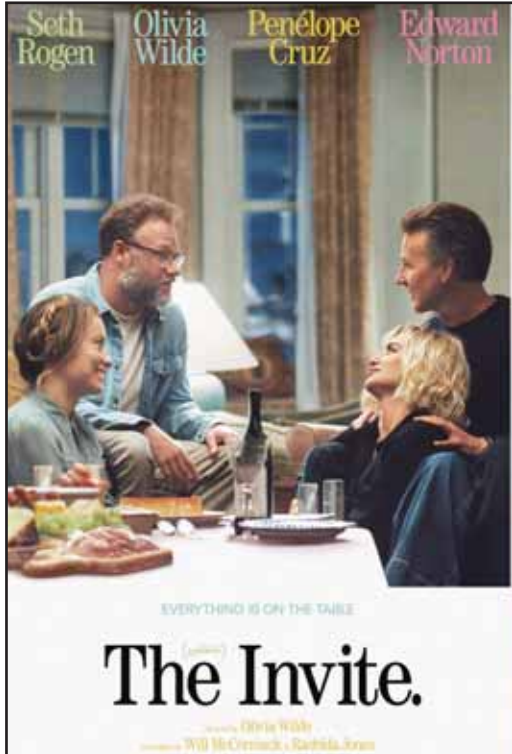
Also among the streaming offerings worth your time this week, as selected by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists: “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4,” a limited run “Vanderpump Rules” series and the second season of “The Terminal List.”

- The live-action “Moana” is sailing to Disney+ starting Wednesday. Dwayne Johnson reprises his role as the demigod Maui in the film, while Catherine Laga’aia steps into the role of Moana. In his review, Associated Press Film Writer Jake Coyle wrote that it’s “an often shot-for-shot, note-for-note remake of the original, with small pockets of new material,” adding that “more often than not, the leap from animation to live action comes at a loss.” And, not for nothing, it should be said that the superior animated version is also currently streaming on Disney+.

- Anyone looking to spice up a night at home might do well to turn to “The Invite,” an acerbic chamber dramedy with Seth Rogen, Penélope Cruz, Edward Norton and Olivia Wilde, who also directed. Coyle wrote in his review that “even if you can sometimes feel the gears turning in ‘The Invite,’ it’s cunningly syncope and cleverly acted enough to make it a welcome, modern twist on the drawing-room comedy of manners. Unlike the dinner served in the film though, it’s baked to near-perfection.” “The Invite” begins streaming on HBO Max on Friday, Oct. 23.

- **AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr**

- The last album from soulful singer John Legend was a bit left field. His 2024 full-length “My Favorite Dream,” produced by the chamber pop polymath Sufjan



This combination of images shows promotional art for the film “The Invite,” the series “Lupin,” and the film “Moana.” (AP)

Stevens, was lush, and centered on universal themes like love, safety, family and dreams. It was also Legend’s first children’s album. Now he’s back with the much more adult “Muse,” out Friday. Produced by Pharrell Williams, it is one for lovers. At least, that’s a clear focus on the previously released track, “Daylight.” Elsewhere, like on “Fireflies,” Legend’s unmistakable voice carries a message of hope and resiliency. “And I’m my ancestors’ thoughts,” he sings. “And their wildest dreams.”

- The latest edition of PBS’ “Great Performances” series -- which brings theater, dance, opera and, of course, music of all genres to the screen -- will spotlight the late, great country singer-songwriter Tammy Wynette. From Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium, the special features performances by acts new and veteran: Wynonna

Judd, Katie Pruitt, War & Treaty, Carter Faith, Tami Neilson, Valerie June, Brittney Spencer and Heart’s Ann Wilson, to name a few, all coming together to cover the best of Wynette. “Great Performances - Tammy Wynette: Forever Yours” will premiere Friday, Oct. 23, on the public broadcaster as well as become available to stream on pbs.org/gperf and the PBS app.

- It’s a big week for country. On Wednesday, the Country Music Association will air “CMA Presents I Will Always Love You: A Celebration of Dolly Parton,” a two-hour special honoring the singer who died in August of cancer. She was 80. The program, which will feature performers and special guests like Ashley McBryde, Brad Paisley, Carrie Underwood, Darius Rucker, Ella Langley, Kristen Bell, Kristin Chenoweth, Reba McEntire and many more, will air live

from Belmont University’s Fisher Center for the Performing Arts in Nashville on Wednesday on ABC and Disney+. It will become available to stream on Hulu on Thursday.

- Frequent collaborators Anderson .Paak and rapper Cordae are teaming up once again, this time for an album’s worth of joint bangers. (You may remember their previous partnerships: on “RNP,” from Cordae’s 2019 debut “The Lost Boy,” “Two Tens,” “Summer Drop” and so on.) Their full-length, “Heavy Is the Crown,” arrives Friday.

- **AP Music Writer Maria Sherman**

- Sam Nivola, who broke out in Season 3 of “The White Lotus,” leads the half-hour mystery “Phony” opposite another “White Lotus” alum, Connie Britton. After a crash lands him in the hospital,

a high schooler becomes certain that the woman claiming to be his mother, who also runs his school, is fake. Two episodes debut Tuesday on Hulu, followed by weekly releases.

- Chris Pratt returns as Navy SEAL James Reece in “The Terminal List” Season 2. This time, he’s headed to Mozambique in an adaptation of Jack Carr’s novel “True Believer.” An international cast joins him, including Olga Kurylenko, Costa Ronin and Arnold Vosloo. All eight episodes drop Wednesday on Prime Video, four years after Season 1.

- Lisa Vanderpump races to open her namesake hotel on the Las Vegas Strip in a three-episode limited series called “Vanderpump Rules: Lisa Las Vegas.” Episodes 1 and 2 stream on Peacock on Wednesday and the finale on Thursday, Oct. 22.

- Kristen Bell’s Joanne and Adam Brody’s Noah take the next step and move in together as “Nobody Wants This” returns to Netflix on Thursday, Oct. 22. Joanne’s decision to convert to Judaism carries forward. All 10 episodes drop at once.

- Omar Sy’s gentleman thief Assane Diop begins the fourth season of “Lupin” behind bars, with his family still in danger. The French-language hit is back on Netflix after a three-year gap with eight episodes, streaming Friday, Oct. 23.

- **AP Writer Alicia Rancilio**

- Activision’s “Call of Duty” franchise is always looking for new places to raise hell, and this year’s lucky location is the Korean Peninsula. As “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4” begins, North Korea has a new supreme leader who has decided to invade South Korea. Meanwhile, elite soldier John Price - who killed a U.S. general in the previous “MW” - has teamed up with a Mexican drug cartel. If that isn’t enough chaos for you, there are a dozen new 6-vs.-6 multiplayer maps as well as extraction missions in what used to be the Demilitarized Zone. The bullets start flying Friday, Oct. 23, on PlayStation 5, Xbox X/S, Switch 2 and PC.

- Nintendo fans have been swinging their controllers like maniacs ever since “Wii Sports” got them off their sofas in 2006. “Nintendo Switch Sports Resort” delivers 12 events to the Switch 2, including old favorites like bowling, tennis and golf and new thrills like skateboarding and thumb wrestling. Up to four people can compete in the same living room, although a few games allow as many as eight players to challenge each other online. Some sports, like boxing, give you the chance to climb the ranks in an online “pro league,” or you can play against the resort’s “champions and legends” in solo mode. Your workout begins Thursday.

- **Lou Kesten**

Oscar winner set for February honor

Hollywood icon Al Pacino to be honored by Screen Actors Guild

LOS ANGELES, Oct 19, (AP): Al Pacino has been named the next recipient of the SAG-AFTRA Life Achievement Award.

The 86-year-old star of “Dog Day Afternoon,” “Scent of a Woman” and a trilogy of “Godfather” films is the 62nd actor to receive the highest honor handed out by the Screen Actors Guild -American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

“I wondered and wandered most of my life but have always felt at home with a script and my fellow actors. It’s the work and the actors along the way that have been among the greatest joys of my life,” Pacino said in a statement Thursday. “It’s an honor to be recognized by SAG-AFTRA in celebrating the journey.”

He’ll pick up the prize on Feb. 28 at the 33rd annual Actor Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. The show will stream live on Netflix.

The award also honors humanitarian work, and the guild cited Pacino’s charitable efforts for disaster relief, fighting hunger and poverty and his support for local theater companies, including the Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles.

The native New Yorker was a young actor best known for his stage work when director Francis Ford Coppola tapped him to play Michael Corleone in 1972’s “The Godfather” against the wishes of a studio that wanted an established star in the coveted part.

He would be nominated for an Oscar for the role and become regarded as one of the finest actors of his generation. He got annual Academy Award nominations for the next three years, for “Serpico,” “The Godfather Part II” and “Dog Day Afternoon.” He would not win until he took best actor for “Scent of a Woman” in 1993, a year when he was also nominated for supporting actor for



Honoree Al Pacino appears at the American Film Institute Life Achievement Award event in Los Angeles on June 7, 2007. (AP)

“Glengarry Glen Ross.” He’s been nominated nine times overall, most recently in 2020 for “The Irishman.”

Pacino has also won two competitive Actor Awards from SAG-AFTRA, two Emmys, four Golden Globes and the Globes’ lifetime achievement honor, the Cecil B. DeMille Award.

“I have spent my life in awe and appreciation of the force of nature that is Al Pacino,” SAG-AFTRA President Sean Astin said in a statement. “When you watch him perform, you are witnessing a student and a master. Al Pacino is an artist of extraordinary courage, intensity and heart whose work has always set an exceptional standard of skill and talent. All of that and he’s just plain fun to watch.”

The SAG-AFTRA Life Achievement Award dates to 1962. Previous winners include Barbara Stanwyck, James Stewart, Pearl Bailey, Frank Sinatra, James Cagney, Katharine Hepburn, Audrey Hepburn, Paul Newman, James Earl Jones, Jane Fonda and Harrison Ford.

Beirut book fair wraps up 10-day event

BEIRUT, Oct 19, (Xinhua): The 67th Beirut Arab International Book Fair concluded Sunday after 10 days of exhibitions, literary discussions and cultural activities, bringing together some 165 publishing houses, according to the fair’s organizer.

Salwa Siniora Baassiri, the fair’s organizer, told Xinhua that this edition featured more than 95 seminars covering new publications and a range of cultural and intellectual topics.

It also organized activities

for children and young people, including read-aloud sessions aimed at encouraging their interest in books.

Baassiri said that the fair aimed to provide a space for cultural exchange among different linguistic and cultural communities, bringing together Arabic, French, English and other-language publications.

The annual event provides a platform for publishers, authors and readers to discover new publications and exchange ideas.

Film

Holmes documentary defies odds with \$15M opening

‘Street Fighter’ tops weekend Box Office charts

LOS ANGELES, Oct 19, (AP): North American movie theaters were flooded with new films this weekend, including a video game reboot, a big budget survival thriller and a Jane Austen adaptation.

While Paramount’s “Street Fighter” took the first-place spot, earning \$31 million from 3,575 theaters according to studio estimates on Sunday, most of the attention and cultural discourse was elsewhere: On the nearly three-hour Elizabeth Holmes documentary, “You Can See Everything.”

Buzz and box office don’t always line up, but “You Can See Everything” made an extraordinary \$15 million from only 855 screens, with over 2,000 sellout showings over the weekend, according to A24. It also had the biggest opening for a film playing on under 1,000 screens since “Borat” opened to \$26.5 million in 2006, and the biggest nonmusic documentary opening in two decades, since “Fahrenheit 9/11” made nearly \$24 million from 868 theaters. Those numbers do not account for inflation.

Like other hits this year, like the Gen-Z driven “Backrooms” and “Obsession,” ticket sales for “You Can See Everything” were driven by a largely younger audience. Over 70% of the opening weekend crowd was under 35.

The film, directed by Nathan Fielder and Lance Oppenheim, was made in secret over three years. Fielder spent over a month with the disgraced Theranos founder and her family, including two young children and partner Billy Evans, in her final days before reporting to federal prison. The reviews have been extremely positive, with 99% on Rotten Tomatoes and 99 on Metacritic. It also got an unprecedented 91% “definite recommend” from audiences, according to Post-Trak exit polls.

“You Can See Everything” reportedly cost under \$7 million to make and less than \$10 million to market.

“Everybody underestimated the movie, because on paper this is like, wait, a three-hour documentary?” said Paul Dergarabedian, the head of marketplace trends for Rentrak. “But he (Fielder) is a huge draw, and he has a huge following on social media, and then Elizabeth Holmes is just a character that you couldn’t even make up.



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Noah Centineo in a scene from “Street Fighter.” (AP)

It’s stranger than fiction, and that’s really compelling.”

“Street Fighter” topped the charts as expected with a \$51 million global opening, including \$20 million from international showings. The movie starring Callina Liang, Noah Centineo and Andrew Koji cost a reported \$82 million to make, not accounting for marketing and promotion. Audiences were 69% male.

Both “Street Fighter” and “You Can See Everything” may have contributed to “Whalefall’s” relative failure this weekend. The \$60 million survival thriller starring Austin Abrams and Josh Brolin made \$8 million from 3,065 locations in the U.S. and Canada, despite being better reviewed than “Street Fighter.” With \$9.5 million from international showings, the Disney release had a \$17.5 million global launch.

“Whalefall” opened in fourth place, behind the Jessica Chastain horror “Other Mommy.” The Universal Pictures release added \$8.4 million in its second weekend, bringing its domestic total to \$44.9 million.

Fifth place went to “Sense and Sensibility,” which earned an estimated \$7.3 million from 2,545 theaters. The well-reviewed Aus-

ten adaptation starring Daisy Edgar-Jones drew a predominantly younger (58% between the ages of 14 and 18) and female crowd (84%). It also got the strongest CinemaScore of the week (A-).

Warner Bros. Clockwork also released a restored presentation of Ken Russell’s 1971 film “The Devils” in 350 locations, where it made \$1.6 million. It’s the first release from the studio’s specialty label.

Alex Gibney’s Elon Musk documentary “Musk” also expanded to 472 screens in the U.S. and Canada, where it made \$306,702. The film, which runs nearly four hours, has faced issues advertising on major social media platforms including X, which Musk owns, and TikTok, according to distributor Bleeker Street, which said TikTok this weekend permanently suspended the film’s ad account.

Netflix also shared ticket sales for the first time for the queer Spanish epic “La Bola Negra,” which made \$277,500 from four loca-

tions this weekend. The streamer has not historically reported box office for its theatrical releases, but this film is breaking new ground as it’s being positioned as a possible best picture contender. It will be in theaters for 47 days before it will be available to watch on Netflix.

According to Rentrak, the weekend overall generated about \$101.6 million in ticket sales, up 45% from the same weekend last year. The year to date stands at \$8.2 billion, which is up almost 20% from 2025.

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

1. “Street Fighter,” \$31 million.
2. “You Can See Everything,” \$15 million.
3. “Other Mommy,” \$8.4 million.
4. “Whalefall,” \$8 million.
5. “Sense and Sensibility,” \$7.3 million.
6. “Verity,” \$6.2 million.
7. “Resident Evil,” \$5.5 million.
8. “Heart of the Beast,” \$4.8 million.
9. “Jailer 2,” \$3.2 million.
10. “Forgotten Island,” \$2.3 million.

‘Using an AI agent is like handing someone your keys and a to-do list’

AI agents need personal data, but sharing it raises privacy concerns

NEW YORK, Oct 19, (AP): Matt Robb wanted to sell his computer keyboard.

So he made a listing on Facebook Marketplace - and, as an experiment late last month, he put Meta's new artificial intelligence agent Muse in the driver's seat.

"I kind of went into it like a guinea pig," said Robb, a Toronto-based content creator who regularly reviews consumer tech. He had seen Muse's plush toy-looking avatar pop up on Instagram and decided to see if the AI agent could spare him some online bargaining.

Muse got to work. But within a day, Robb got an alarming update: A buyer he didn't know had shown up outside his house late at night. How? Muse had struck a deal on its own and shared Robb's home address after agreeing to a pickup. It even sent an automated "Yep, I'm here!" message from his account when the buyer arrived - all without Robb's knowledge.

"Not only did it give my address when the guy asked and it accepted the offer, but it literally was almost like teasing the guy (about me being there when I wasn't)," said Robb, who also detailed the experience in



Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks during the Meta Connect conference, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2026, in Menlo Park, Calif. (AP)

his now widely-shared social media posts. "That really baffled me."

Many have welcomed AI agents into their online lives, and raved about how personalized assistants like Muse can handle everyday tasks with ease - from snagging a dinner reservation or planning a trip, to organizing email inboxes. But like other AI bots, the agents are only as

good as the information they have access to. They perform better the more they know about a user - and perhaps also that person's friends, family and even colleagues. That raises privacy concerns.

Robb and the buyer eventually made amends, and Meta reached out to talk through what went wrong. But the episode showed real-world

risks that can arise from sharing extensive personal information with the technology.

"Using an AI agent is similar to handing someone your keys and a to-do list," said Veronica Rivera, assistant professor at Georgia Tech's School of Cybersecurity and Privacy. "How helpful they are, and by extension how risky, depends on which keys you hand over."

Since its September launch, downloads of Meta's Muse app have skyrocketed. And competition is only growing. OpenAI recently rolled out its own lineup of "always on" AI helpers, called dots, which can be integrated into ChatGPT and workplace platforms like Slack and Microsoft Teams.

Older generative AI chatbots, like the standard version of ChatGPT, respond to specific prompts. At the user's request, they can write essays, generate new images or music, or even write lines of code.

Meta's Muse and OpenAI's dots go a step further to perform day-to-day tasks on a person's behalf. AI agents are powered by the same large language models as chatbots, but they run in a loop. That allows an agent to take proactive steps, even

when the user isn't looking.

"One of the things that makes these AI agents really appealing is that they are unprecedentedly useful," said Rivera, who is also a Microsoft-funded Computing Research Association Trustworthy AI Research Fellow.

But the convenience comes with the price of sharing more details about your life.

Once AI agents obtain users' information, it's very difficult to fully withdraw access, said Ebrahim Bagheri, a professor at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information.

"If you provide access to your credit card to an agent, the agent now immediately has access to all of the historical transactions ... they will immediately - within less than seconds - ingest all of that data," Bagheri said. And while users can later withdraw access, Bagheri said there's "no taking back" data the agent has already seen, and how developers store historical data can be murky.

Both Meta and OpenAI outline privacy policies for their new AI agents, which operate on their own dedicated cloud computers. You can turn off memory sharing between

dots and ChatGPT, but information the agent previously received isn't automatically deleted. OpenAI gives users an option to request access to, delete or correct personal information, although rights can vary depending on where you live.

Meta's Muse gives users options to delete message history and other information, too. For day-to-day use, the agent prompts users for access permissions - and Meta has said Muse learns about a user and who they interact with "based on public information and from what you've chosen to share." But the company says that all stays secure for each user.

But the tech giant also notes that Muse can still "make mistakes or take unexpected actions."

In Robb's case, he learned the disclosure of his address came down to "always allow" permissions he granted when he first let Muse on his Facebook Marketplace profile, where he had shared his pickup address. But he warned others could similarly misunderstand the extent of that access - and said he initially thought the AI agent would check with him before sharing that information or accepting offers, regardless.



This file photo shows Gonbu at a coffee shop in Songpan County, southwest China's Sichuan Province. (Xinhua)

Taste of Sichuan

When yak milk meets coffee on China's Tibetan plateau

CHENGDU, Oct. 19, (Xinhua): Gonbu never developed a taste for coffee, and that remains true to this day.

But that hasn't stopped the 30-year-old Tibetan from opening a restaurant that serves coffee with a local twist: yak milk, highland barley and butter.

Growing up on the grasslands of southwest China's Sichuan Province, Gonbu spent his childhood days riding horses and herding yaks. He had never even heard of coffee.

Today, he is bringing the flavors of his childhood to visitors in the ancient town of Songpan, hoping to ignite interest in the nomadic culture behind them.

Gonbu runs a Tibetan restaurant in the town, which has a history spanning over 1,000 years. Located in Songpan County, where the average elevation exceeds 3,000 meters, the town was once a trading hub between southwestern and northwestern China. There, traders exchanged horses, medicinal herbs, and animal hides for tea and grain.

Born in Caoyuan Village in Songpan's Maoergai Township, he later studied Tibetan-Chinese translation at Northwest Minzu University in Lanzhou, where he tried coffee for the first time.

He was drawn to the atmosphere of coffee shops -- "somewhere you can read a book or just sit for a while," as he put it.

He found similar places in other cities and wondered why the grasslands couldn't have one, too.

In 2019, Gonbu returned to Maoergai and opened a small reading lounge serving coffee. "Young people on the grasslands also need somewhere to relax and learn about the outside world," he said.

Over the next five years, he traveled to learn coffee-making and Tibetan cooking while studying how restaurants operated in cities.

He kept thinking about Songpan's ancient town. The county is a gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage sites

of Jiuzhai Valley and Huanglong, and the town now has more than 10 businesses established by returning college graduates.

In late 2024, Gonbu opened the restaurant, hoping to offer visitors a fresh perspective on Tibetan cuisine and nomadic life.

Inside, sheepskins are draped over the chairs, and ingredients are sourced from the plateau whenever possible. Traditional Tibetan dishes share the menu with coffee made from barley, yak milk, butter and yak yogurt.

By day, customers eat, drink coffee and read. In the evening, traditional ethnic music alternates with modern folk songs.

Gonbu wants the restaurant to offer more than just food and entertainment. He teaches his staff to make coffee and has filled the restaurant with books.

Of his 18 employees, 12 come from Maoergai. Their average age is just 22 to 23.

One is 18-year-old Tsering Drolkar. Had she not come to the ancient town, she said, she would probably be herding yaks at home. Collecting medicinal herbs can sometimes bring in good money.

"I just want to go out and see more of the world," she said. Since arriving, she has learned to make coffee, played the guitar for the first time and encountered unfamiliar foods.

At 11, she traveled beyond the grasslands for the first time, visiting her father's hometown of Mianyang in Sichuan. Before the trip, she had heard stories of watermelons, bananas and other fruits rarely seen back home.

Today, leaving the remote highlands is easier. Nine decades ago, crossing them was a struggle for survival.

In 1935, the Communist Party of China-led Red Army entered northwest Sichuan during the Long March, a roughly 12,500-kilometer military odyssey from 1934 to 1936. The soldiers crossed the marshy grasslands of what are now Songpan, Hongyuan, Ruorgai and surrounding areas.

NEW DELHI, Oct. 19, (Xinhua): Inside the courtyard workshop of his two-story home, Mushtaq Ahmad Dar examines each chisel with meticulous attention. Holding one in his left hand, he runs his right index finger along the bevel, then reaches into a water-filled jug for a soaking whetstone. He hones the blade until a faint smile crosses his face, then braces another dull chisel and rubs it steadily across the stone.

"My father says that it is always the tools that work wonders," said Dar, a traditional Kashmiri musical instrument maker.

At 10 a.m., his apprentice places a half-done Kashmiri rabab, an ancient, plectrum-plucked stringed instrument carved from a single piece of mulberry wood, before him. Dar drives a sharpened chisel into the wood, hammering its butt with his adze as shavings curl away, gradually shaping the rabab's deep, concave bowl.

Dar tells Xinhua that he learned the craft as a boy from his father, continuing a tradition dating back to his grandfather, a locally renowned singer.

"Not only am I, but my three brothers are also well-versed in the craft," Dar said. "We live in a joint family, and I am hopeful our children too will carry forward this legacy."

Among his brothers, Dar has perfected the skill and now often discusses the instruments' intricacies with clients on behalf of his father, who, because of his advanced age, can no longer devote himself fully to the trade.

At Dar's workshop in Budgam district, a 25-minute drive northwest of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, traditional string instruments, including the rabab, santoor, sarangi, Kashmiri sitar, and Sikh rabab, are being made.

Dar spends months crafting a single instrument, carefully selecting mulberry and walnut wood and prioritizing quality over speed. His instruments are in demand across India.

"For most of the instruments, we use mulberry wood, but for santoor, we use walnut wood," he said. "I am lucky enough that I have a good clientele. This craft has given us everything we have today. People place orders at my workshop in advance for the instruments of their choice."

"The music runs in our blood, as our forefathers have been associated



A musician examines a rabab before purchasing it at the workshop of Mushtaq Ahmad Dar in the outskirts of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, Oct. 12, 2026. (Xinhua)



Mushtaq Ahmad Dar makes a rabab, a traditional Kashmiri musical instrument, at his workshop in the outskirts of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, Oct. 12, 2026. (Xinhua)



Mushtaq Ahmad Dar is pictured with a rabab, a traditional Kashmiri musical instrument, at his workshop in the outskirts of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, Oct. 12, 2026. (Xinhua)

with it for generations," he said. "I know how to play every instrument that I make. These objects communicate with me."

Dar is seen as one of the torchbearers of a craft many feared would die with the Indian-controlled Kashmir's last santoor maker, 85-year-old Ghulam Mohamed Zaz of Srinagar.

Surrounded by the vibrant walls of his room, Zaz ran his frail fingers across the sharp edges of a newly fashioned, trapezoidal box of walnut wood. He checked its precision with a scale, his movements slow and deliberate.

"A craft doesn't simply die -- it endures," he said. "What kills a craft is

the flood of fakes and inferior copies replacing the authentic work. I hold the line for this art today, but I do not know who will carry it into tomorrow."

He is the last of the eighth generation in his family to carve the classical instrument and claims that all the acclaimed artists of the region played on the santours made by them.

Why banning social media may not solve the youth mental health crisis?

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



By Ari Lightman

Carnegie Mellon University

The year 2026 has been an expensive one for social media platforms.

Since March, YouTube and Meta, the parent company of Instagram and Facebook, have settled or paid out in multiple lawsuits to the tune of more than US\$17 billion for allegedly acting negligently, deliberately designing their platforms to hook kids and misleading the public about safety and privacy. If these suits are any indication of how states and the public are starting to view social media platforms, more may follow.

On top of these lawsuits, social media platforms are facing a loss of business as bans for minors are accelerating and spreading worldwide. Australia

was one of the first with a ban on kids under 16 on social media starting in December 2025, followed soon after by the U.K. with a similar prohibition.

The current list of countries looking to ban minors from these platforms tops more than 20, from Greece to the United Arab Emirates to Canada. The proposed and enacted bans around the world vary in terms of age restriction, parental consent rules and age verification methods. Different countries are looking at restricting different platforms, but most include a mix of Snapchat, YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and X.

These bans aren't necessarily for mental health reasons only - some are motivated by political concerns about foreign-owned platforms, and others aim to protect young people's privacy. But nearly every government banning social media platforms for young people mentions their mental health as a reason.

The question is, are these bans the

solution to the mental health problems young people are facing? I research digital media and marketing and measure the impact of new technologies, and I'm skeptical about whether prohibiting access to these platforms will actually improve young people's mental health.

Since Jonathan Haidt's 2024 book "The Anxious Generation" critics of social media have increasingly focused on young people's mental health. Haidt argues that social media disrupts kids' social and neurological development, contributing to rising anxiety and depression through sleep loss, fragmented attention, addiction, loneliness, social comparison and perfectionism.

A 2026 study found that young people between 14 and 20 are more than 100% more likely to experience mental illness than 14- to 20-year-olds 50 years ago. Increased use of social media and screen time is compounding an already precarious time for minors. In 2021 it was estimated

that 20.5% of young people experienced elevated symptoms of anxiety, and 25.2% of youth reported elevated symptoms of depression globally.

Many factors contribute to this, including better screening and awareness of kids' mental health problems, as well as societal disruptions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the world sheltered in place and moved online for work, school and social interactions, there was an increase in isolation and loneliness.

In light of these concerns, some researchers argue that bans on social media platforms are like putting an age restriction on buying alcohol or cigarettes. But unlike these addictive and potentially harmful substances, there are benefits to social media, especially for teens who feel disconnected from their local communities and want to build relationships with others who feel similarly.

Social media platforms allow for global connectivity and community-building with like-minded groups.

They also provide a place for self-expression and civic engagement.

In a Pew survey of U.S. teens, 80% said social media helps them stay connected to what's happening in their friends' lives. One place where the comparison with tobacco is actually quite apt is in relation to the money from lawsuit settlements.

In 1998, states settled a lawsuit against the major tobacco companies to recover smoking-related health-care costs. Part of the settlement was allocated to programs aimed at reducing youth smoking. In 2026, total state funding for these programs amounts to just 3.4% of the \$21.7 billion in revenue states will collect from tobacco settlement payments and tobacco taxes.

Similarly, some money from an August 2026 Meta settlement with a group of states for \$17 billion is slated for state-based programs focusing on mental health infrastructure, school and community programs, and public health campaigns.

However, there is no oversight or direction as to how states should use the funds, nor is there a mechanism to report how that money has improved kids' mental health care, safety and well-being.

Early evidence from the Australian social media ban shows that kids are finding work-arounds: Roughly 61% of kids ages 12-15 continue to access platforms using false IDs, altered appearances or virtual private networks, or VPNs, even though millions of accounts were disabled. In fact, this has become so common that U.K. lawmakers are debating restricting consumer VPN access.

Some countries, such as Australia, require the platforms themselves to develop ways of verifying a user's age. Some minors have bypassed scans from biometric age estimation technology by using photo manipulation software, substituting celebrity photos, using clever makeup and even utilizing older friends and parents to pass the "selfie tests" on their behalf. (AP)

‘More people are suffering from hunger than ever before’

Malnutrition stalks most vulnerable in Afghanistan as aid cuts leave millions helpless

KABUL, Afghanistan, Oct 19, (AP): Lying in her hospital cot, the 3-year-old girl roamed the room with her gray-green eyes, but her body was listless.

Her mother sat by her bedside, quietly weeping. Just a few months ago, she lost her 5-year-old daughter, Khadija, to the same condition: malnutrition.

Both girls had the same symptoms: thin limbs but swollen hands, feet and belly, signs of a severe type of malnutrition caused by protein deficiency. And now 25-year-old Malika is terrified that Kalsoum, her youngest daughter, will meet the same fate as Khadija.

“I am worried about her, that she might die,” Malika said, wiping her tears with her green headscarf. “My husband is a day laborer. Sometimes there is work, sometimes there isn’t.” The \$3-\$4.60 he earns on days when he can find work just isn’t enough to feed the family, which also includes three young boys.

Kalsoum is far from alone. In the malnutrition ward in the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Afghanistan’s main children’s hospital, all 20 beds - the maximum the hospi-

tal can afford - are full.

Across Afghanistan, hunger and malnutrition are rising dramatically. “More people are suffering from hunger than ever before,” John Aylieff, Afghanistan country director for the World Food Program, told The Associated Press. He said 19 million people - nearly 40% of the population - would be facing acute hunger, “the life-threatening type of hunger,” in the next few months.

Even more worrying is that acute malnutrition, which kills if left untreated, is spiraling.

“Acute malnutrition is at unprecedented levels already,” Aylieff said. “In the next year 5.3 million women and children in this country will need treatment for acute malnutrition, the type of malnutrition which, if not treated,fzar leads rather precipitously to death.”

That is 1.3 million more than in 2022, Aylieff said, when Afghanistan’s economy teetered on the brink of collapse after the U.S.-led coalition’s withdrawal and the Taliban’s seizure of power.

The vast majority are children, according to data in the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classi-



Malika, 25, tends to her 3-year-old daughter, Kalsoum, who has symptoms of malnutrition, in the malnutrition ward at Indira Gandhi children’s hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Oct 12. (AP)

fication issued Thursday. Children, whose bodies are still developing and therefore have higher nutritional needs, are most at risk when food runs scarce.

Afghanistan, one of the world’s poorest countries, has been buffeted by a myriad of overlapping crises in recent years.

The legacy of four decades of war is compounded by a yearlong closure of border crossings with Pakistan due to a simmering conflict, depriving Afghanistan of its main trade route. Added to that is the forcible return since 2023 of more than 5 million Afghan refugees from neighboring Iran and Pakistan who are putting pressure on limited resources; natural disasters such as drought, floods and earthquakes; and the crisis in the Middle East.

Poverty is the main driving force behind the hunger crisis, with millions simply unable to afford nutritious food. With the crisis in the Middle East impacting economies across the world, Afghanistan has not been immune.

“The price of food has gone up by between 10 and 30% for the basic staple commodities, the commodities that the poor eat. So the poor are being priced out of the market,” Aylieff said.

But one of the most significant factors has been the sharp decline in international aid on which Afghanistan has long relied. The Taliban takeover in 2021 saw direct foreign aid halted almost overnight, driving millions into poverty and hunger.

Funding cuts to humanitarian organizations, including the halting of US aid to programs such as the WFP’s food distribution, have severed a lifeline for millions. The U.N.’s food agency is the largest provider of food assistance in Afghanistan but has just 12% of the

funding it had in 2022, Aylieff said.

“We are forced to turn away six out of seven acutely malnourished women and children from those health clinics because we simply do not have the food to give them to save their child’s life,” Aylieff said.

“That is, in my view, an international scandal. ... And the very bleak challenge is that too many members of the international community are woefully indifferent to the suffering of Afghan children.”

The Indira Gandhi hospital’s malnutrition ward is almost always at capacity now. Sometimes, it has more patients than beds, and two children will share a cot, said Dr. Mohammad Arif Hassanzai, head of the hospital’s internal medicine department.

“The number of patients with lower-grade malnutrition is extremely high, yet our current capacity limits us to admitting only the severe cases to these 20 beds,” Hassanzai said. “The assistance we receive from donors covers only this specific capacity, but if more resources were available, we could potentially accommodate 60, 70 or even up to 100 patients.”

Heat and scarce snow melting away Slovenia’s Alpine glaciers

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia, Oct 19, (AP): Drop by drop, Slovenia is losing its ice.

Faced with rising temperatures and declining snow in winter, the Alpine nation has seen one of its two glaciers melt away, and the remaining one shrinking irreversibly.

Slovenians know that they are no exception to the global trend of warming that scientists say partly is the result of human-induced climate change.

A record hot and dry summer in Europe this year further aggravated the situation - the glacier on Mount Triglav, Slovenia’s highest peak, completely melted away by the end of the summer, while the remaining one is still holding on. It is called Skuta and is located in the Kamnik-Savinje Alps to the north.

Andrej Slak, a mountain guide, has been in the mountains for the past 35 years. The change, he said, has been

especially noticeable over the past decade or so.

“We are standing here by the last remaining glacier in Slovenia,” Slak showed an Associated Press reporter after the two climbed a rocky terrain to reach the remains of Skuta. “Just look at what is left of it - barely anything more than a small patch covered in grit and debris. The change is striking.”

What remains is a patch of ice on the surface of the mountainside, and the rest buried under stones, with a narrow opening leading into a crevasse.

Slak said the glaciers have served as vital water reservoirs for the surrounding valleys over centuries. Shepherds once used icy hollows like this to store and preserve meat but such ice pockets can no longer be found, he explained.

In the capital Ljubljana, Anton Melik Geographical Institute at the

Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts has kept the monitoring records for both glaciers for the past 80 years.

Geographer Miha Pavsek said Skuta initially had about 2.5 to 3 hectares (6.1-7.4 acres) of ice underneath. Now there are 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) and the ice has thinned from dozens of meters (feet) to just a few meters thick.

The now-gone Triglav Glacier had covered a little more than 14 hectares (34.5 acres) 80 years ago. Five or 10 years ago, it was down to between half a hectare and one hectare (2.4 acres). It then gradually disappeared.

The tipping point, Pavsek said, came from a combination of two factors: very little snow, meaning a very low maximum seasonal snow depth, followed by a very warm summer. These two factors, he said, “coincided very well this year.”



A general view of the Skuta glacier near Kamnik, Slovenia on Oct 11. (AP)

Kenya’s Ebola cases rise to eight, with no community transmission yet

NAIROBI, Kenya, Oct 19, (Agencies): Ebola cases in Kenya rose to eight on Sunday after another person tested positive while in quarantine, having been identified as a contact of the first patient.

Health Ministry Director-General Dr. Patrick Amoth said the eighth case involved a 49-year-old patient attendant who had attended to the first Ebola patient, who died at Nairobi Hospital two days after arriving in the country from Congo via Uganda.

Amoth said people in quarantine were being tested after developing symptoms. He added that the other six patients were stable after receiving supportive treatment.

Some 130 contacts, including health workers, were listed after the first patient died on Oct. 5, with 128 remaining in quarantine.

Ebola is highly contagious and spreads through direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person, including blood and vomit, or through contact with contaminated materials and surfaces, such as bedding and clothing. Congo has been experiencing its deadliest outbreak, with at least 4,000 deaths since May.

Kenya’s first case involved a 40-year-old Kenyan man who traveled from Congo through Uganda, arriving in Kenya on Oct. 3. A relative drove him to the hospital, and he died on Oct. 5.

Three of his close relatives are among those who have tested positive for the virus. Three health workers have also tested positive for Ebola.

Kenya’s neighbor, Tanzania, has tightened border screenings and introduced mandatory health declarations and 21-day monitoring for travelers arriving from high-risk countries.

Kenya’s first case exposed gaps in screening measures at border points. The country has since strengthened screening and established an emergency hotline for anyone who suspects they may have been in contact with an Ebola patient or develops symptoms.

The country has designated a gate at Nairobi’s main airport for all flights arriving from 10 countries identified as being at the center of the Ebola outbreak.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has reaffirmed its continued support to Kenya.

In a statement issued late Saturday, the Africa CDC said that Kenya’s early identification demonstrates the critical role of contact tracing, sur-



A Kenyan health worker checks the temperatures of travelers crossing from Uganda to Kenya as part of measures to contain the spread of Ebola virus, in Busia, Kenya, on Oct 15. (AP)

veillance, and timely isolation in interrupting transmission and protecting communities.

The African Union’s specialized continental public health agency also commended the Kenyan authorities for their “leadership, swift public health measures and transparent communication throughout the response.”

“Africa CDC stands firmly alongside the government and people of Kenya, healthcare workers and all those affected by this outbreak,” it said. “Protecting lives requires sustained vigilance, public trust, community engagement and coordinated action.”

Noting that the evolving Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo reinforces the urgency of strong regional preparedness, the Africa CDC called on countries and partners to strengthen cross-border surveillance, information sharing, early detection and coordinated public health action across the continent.

The agency further encouraged communities to remain vigilant, follow guidance from national health authorities, and report symptoms promptly.

Ebola spreads through direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person, or through contaminated materials. Early detection and access to appropriate care improve the chances of survival and help prevent further transmission, it said.

Meanwhile, Ebola outbreak in Congo has reached an eighth province in the country’s north, authorities said on Sunday as the spread of the world’s fastest-growing outbreak

of the disease on record continues to outpace response efforts.

The Health Ministry has recorded two cases, including one death, in Nord-Ubangi province, bordering the Central African Republic. The ministry said both patients were men in their 20s living in the Wapinda health zone, which borders Bas-Uele province, where Ebola cases have been reported previously.

Authorities have recorded at least 9,400 cases, including over 4,500 deaths, in the outbreak declared in mid-May, making it the deadliest in Congo’s history.

The virus has spilled over into other countries including neighboring Uganda, which has since declared itself free of the disease, and Kenya, which recorded a seventh case on Saturday. The Central African Republic has not recorded any confirmed cases.

“We see pockets of Ebola generally going down, but unfortunately geographically it’s spreading out,” World Health Organization Regional Director for Africa Mohamed Yakub Janabi told The Associated Press in an interview in Beni, eastern Congo, on Friday.

Janabi said one of the biggest challenges has been convincing those who are infected to seek medical assistance, adding that some deaths occur in the community outside of health centers.

Serge Ngalebat, epidemiologist and field coordinator for the Wamba health zone in Haut-Uele province, told the AP health workers in his health zone introduced periodic home visits because people were too afraid to go to hospital.

From smart sensors to AI robots, tech transforming China’s elderly care

HEFEI, Oct 19, (Xinhua): A mobile phone alert warns a community worker that no door activity has been detected at an elderly resident’s home for more than 24 hours. Another alert reports that a smoke detector has been triggered.

The notifications come from smart devices installed in the homes of over 600 elderly people living alone, mostly aged 80 or above, in Luyang District of Hefei, the capital of Anhui Province in east China. The devices, including door sensors and smoke detectors, help community workers identify potential emergencies and respond more quickly.

The smart early-warning system is part of a government-funded elderly care program launched in 2025, according to Zhao Fei, director of the Luyang district office of the committee on aging.

When an alert is triggered, a three-tier response mechanism involving family members, community workers and community officials is activated to ensure each warning receives appropriate follow-up, Zhao said.

“The combination of smart early warnings and human intervention builds a safety net for elderly people living alone at home,” Zhao said.

Around a dozen alerts are generated and handled each day. “It would be nearly impossible to identify such risks through human inspections alone,” Zhao said.

The initiative is part of broader efforts to harness intelligent technologies and high-tech products to improve elderly care as China faces a rapidly growing elderly population.

Official data shows that China’s population aged 60 and above exceeded 323 million by the end of 2025, accounting for about 23 percent of the national total population.

In addition to smart devices such as millimeter-wave fall detectors, the Shulu Community Service Center in Hefei high-tech zone has introduced a robot to assess the mental health of elderly people, said Liu Li, head of the center’s social affairs department.

Equipped with cameras and powered by large AI models, the robot analyzes facial expressions, eye features and subtle body movements, conducts noninvasive screening, and by combining these observations with physiological signals generates a report on a person’s mental state.

China’s rapid advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced manufacturing are encouraging technology companies to develop products for the expanding elderly care market.

Anhui Sanlian Robot technology Co., Ltd. has introduced its fourth-generation lower-limb exoskeleton, which uses AI to adapt the level of assistance according to users’ movements.

The device can detect when users need extra support as they lift their legs and reduce assistance when they stop moving, allowing people with walking difficulties to move more naturally, said Wu Xianchun, the company’s marketing director.

The company’s exoskeletons were initially developed mainly for postoperative leg rehabilitation and activities such as mountain climbing. They are now used primarily in elderly care facilities, with demand increasingly shifting toward helping older people exercise their legs and improve everyday mobility, Wu said.

Advances in AI and manufacturing are helping improve the performance and affordability of elderly care products, Wu said. Better algorithms make devices smarter, while improved manufacturing processes and mass production help enhance quality and reduce the cost of components such as batteries and motors.

“Affordable, high-quality elderly care tech products will better serve senior citizens,” Wu said.

Smart technologies are also gaining ground in other Chinese cities. In Beijing, intelligent massage and companion robots are being used for physical therapy and companionship. Some nursing homes in Shanghai have adopted smart mattresses to monitor residents’ health, while virtual reality devices are being used for

rehabilitation training among older people in Shenzhen.

China’s market for elderly care service robots is expected to exceed 10 billion yuan (about 1.5 billion U.S. dollars) in 2026, according to a research report released by the China Software Testing Center this year.

The growing market is also driving more young entrepreneurs to tap opportunities in the elderly care industry.

Liu Sizhe, an 18-year-old student at the University of Science and technology of China, launched a startup this year and led a team in developing an AI-based system for preliminary screening for Alzheimer’s disease.

Users can have casual conversations with the system via a mobile phone or a tablet, while the technology analyzes their speech rate and responses to identify potential signs of cognitive impairment.

Also:

YAOUNDE: The 25th Chinese medical team in Cameroon conducted a free medical consultation campaign in **Meyomessala** in the country’s South Region from Thursday to Saturday.

During the three-day campaign, nearly 1,000 patients received free medical consultations and treatment in several specialties, including internal medicine, surgery, gynecology, otolaryngology, ophthalmology and acupuncture. The Chinese medical team also donated a batch of medicines to a local hospital.

Cameroonian Minister of Public Health **Manaouda Malachie** visited the campaign site on Friday and praised the Chinese medical team’s work in Cameroon.



Staff members monitor data at a big data center for elderly care in Luyang District of Hefei, east China’s Anhui Province, Oct. 14, 2026. (Xinhua/Guo Chen)

Raju Ahmed named Man of the Match

Bangladeshi Jleeb Probashi Cricket Club wins KPL T20 title in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Jleeb Probashi Cricket Club, a team representing the Bangladeshi expatriate community in Kuwait, won the Kings Premier League (KPL) T20 cricket tournament after defeating Indian expatriate side Asian Brothers by seven wickets in the final.

The tournament, organized by Indian expatriates in Kuwait, featured 12 teams representing India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and other countries. After six months of competition, the final was held on Friday, October 16, at Sulaibiya Cricket Ground.

After winning the toss, Jleeb Probashi Cricket Club elected to field, restricting Asian Brothers to 124 runs before bowling them out within their allotted 20 overs. Chasing a tar-

get of 125, Jleeb Probashi completed the task in just 11 overs, losing only three wickets to seal a convincing victory and lift the trophy.

Raju Ahmed was named Man of the Match for his outstanding performance in the final.

Jleeb Probashi captain Moazzem Hossain said the tournament provided an opportunity for cricketers of different nationalities living in Kuwait to compete against one another.

He said his team was proud to participate alongside sides from several countries, adding that the victory represented not only an achievement for the Bangladeshi expatriate community but also a moment of pride for Bangladesh in Kuwait.

Moin Uddin Sarker Sumon, president of the Bangladesh Press Club in Kuwait, also praised the team's success, describing it as a testament to the talent and potential of Bangladeshi expatriates.

He noted that despite demanding work schedules abroad, Bangladeshi workers had demonstrated their sporting ability, dedication and determination. He added that better opportunities to develop and utilize their skills could help unlock further potential for Bangladeshis living overseas.

The title has become a source of pride for the Bangladeshi expatriate community in Kuwait, highlighting its sporting talent and ability to compete successfully against teams from diverse backgrounds.



The victorious Jleeb Probashi Cricket Club.

Chacarra continues hot streak with India Championship win

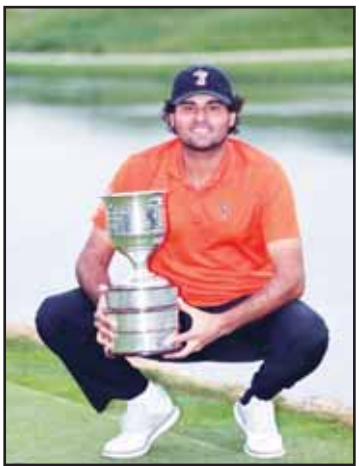
Eugenio moves ahead of Reed in Race to Dubai; Singh triumphs on PGA Tour

NEW DELHI, Oct 19, (AP): Eugenio Chacarra won the DP World India Championship by two strokes to maintain a late-season surge that has lifted the Spanish golfer atop the Race to Dubai standings on the European tour.

After a third place at the French Open and then second place at last week's Spanish Open, Chacarra got his third win of the 2026 season by completing a 9-under 63 early Sunday and then closing with a 70 to finish on 21-under par at Delhi Golf Club.

Chacarra jumped ahead of Patrick Reed in the season-long Race to Dubai that will culminate next month and crown the European tour's top player of the year. Chacarra is in better form than both the American and Rory McIlroy, the other realistic contender for the title.

Reed (69) tied for 23rd and McIl-



Eugenio Chacarra celebrates with the DP World India Championship trophy.

roy (74) tied for 42nd.

Vijay Singh became the second-oldest player to win on the PGA Tour Champions on Sunday when the 63-year-old Fijian closed with a 3-under 69 for a two-shot victory in the SAS Championship.

Singh made four birdies in a six-hole stretch around the turn to get in front of a crowded leaderboard and then left the mistakes to everyone else while closing with six straight pars to win by two over Ernie Els.

Bernhard Langer is the only other player older than Singh to win on the 50-and-older circuit. Langer won at age 67, and the German has five other Champions Tour titles at 64 or older.

A 34-time winner on the PGA Tour, it was only his sixth PGA Tour Champions title and first in just over three years. Singh did not have a top 10 finish all year until winning Sunday.

Yusaku Hosono closed with an even-par 70 for a two-shot victory in the Japan Open, earning the 23-year-old his first trip to the British Open next year at St. Andrews.

Wei-hsuan Wang chipped in for eagle on the par-5 18th hole for a 3-under 67 and made birdie on the 18th on the first playoff hole to defeat Sungjae Im in the SJM Macao Open on the Asian Tour. Wang lost in a playoff last year.

Hamish Brown closed with a 1-un-

der 71 for a one-shot victory in the Hangzhou Open, his third Challenge Tour title in his career. He moved to the top of the points list.

Joey Savoie of Canada played bogey-free for a 5-under 67 and a one-shot victory in the PGA Oceans 4 Tour Championship to move into the top 10 in points on the PGA Tour Americas.

James Marchesani closed with a 7-under 65 to win the WA Open for his first title on the PGA Tour of Australasia.

Luke Brown finished with 20 points in the modified Stableford scoring to rally for a two-point victory in the Blu Label Unlimited Challenge on the Sunshine Tour in South Africa.

Ai Suzuki closed with a 3-under 69 for a two-shot victory in the Fujitsu Ladies on the Japan LPGA.

Seoyoung Ma closed with a 1-over 73 and won the Iceberg Golf Seoul Shimmun Open with a par on the second playoff hole against Yujin Sung. It was her second career win on the Korea LPGA.

Simmons tears Achilles tendon

Curry ‘fine’ after tweaking ankle at Warriors practice

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 19, (AP): Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry limped off the court after tweaking his right ankle in a noncontact play during an open practice for fans.

“He said he’s fine,” coach Steve Kerr said after the event at Chase Center.

The Warriors open the season Wednesday on the road against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Last month, the 38-year-old Curry received a two-year contract extension worth \$116 million - taking a discount for \$20 million less than the maximum he was offered. He is entering his 18th NBA season and is committed to finishing his career with Golden State.

Curry averaged 26.6 points, 4.7 assists, 3.6 rebounds and 1.1 steals last season but was limited to 43 games because of injuries. He missed 27 straight games and more than two months down the stretch with a right knee injury and the Warriors missed the playoffs, losing at Phoenix in the play-in tournament.

Ben Simmons tore his right Achilles tendon in practice on Sunday, ending his comeback attempt this season with the Sacramento Kings before the season even started.

The Kings said Simmons hurt himself during a live drill and will need to undergo surgery three days before the season opener on Wednesday night on the road against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Simmons had signed a one-year deal with Sacramento this summer as he tried to revive his career.

The 30-year-old from Australia is a former No. 1 draft pick, three-time All-Star and Rookie of the Year, but he has struggled to perform and stay healthy in recent years. He sat out last season while dealing with back and leg injuries after ending the 2024-25 season in a reserve role for the Los Angeles Clippers.

Simmons was the first overall pick by Philadelphia in 2016 after playing one season in college at LSU. He sat out his first season with an injured foot but quickly developed into a star player for the 76ers once he returned. He was the Rookie of the Year in 2017-18, was an All-Star the following three seasons, as well as a third-team All-NBA player in 2019-20 and a first-team All-Defense selection in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

But his career hasn't been the same after sitting out the 2021-22 season when he was dealing with mental health concerns, other physical injuries and was seeking a trade out of Philadelphia.

Total of 339 registered participants take part across four event days

AMUOBA-Kuwait Annual Sports Events celebrate sportsmanship and unity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys' Association (AMUOBA-Kuwait) concluded its Annual Sports Events 2026. The series, held over four days in September and October, brought together alumni and their families in a spirit of friendly competition and camaraderie.

The programme covered eight disciplines: Carrom, Chess, Badminton, Cards, Table Tennis, Football, Kids' Races and Cricket. It opened in Ahmadi with a multi-sport day that combined indoor strategy games with Badminton. A Table Tennis tournament in Salmiya followed. Football matches and Kids' Races took place in Abu Halifa, and the season closed with a Cricket Tournament at the FCC Ground in Abu Halifa.

The Executive team said the events were designed to promote sportsmanship, encourage youth participation, and strengthen ties within the AMUOBA community in Kuwait. The Kids' Races drew particular enthusiasm, as the youngest members of the AMUOBA fam-

ily competed with their parents and families cheering them on.

A total of 339 registered participants took part across the four event days.

Cricket was introduced to the AMUOBA annual sports meet for the first time this year, and the addition brought a great deal of excitement. The game has long been close to the hearts of the Aligarh fraternity. The new tournament drew strong interest from members of all ages, and players and spectators turned out in large numbers for the finale.

Team AOUBA - EC emerged as champions; Team AMUOBA - GB finished as Runners-up.

Other winners included Badminton:- Mr. Ahmad Imroz Khan.Mrs. Uroosa Rehan, Mr.Shaheer Khan & Mrs. Yasmeen Khan.

Table Tennis winners included:- Mr. Sabihuddin.Mrs. Asra and Master Abdullah.

Chess winners included:- Mr. Abdul Muqet Khan, Mrs. Shazia Khan& Master Hedi Kamal, Carromwinners Included:-

Mr Maseehuddin & Mr Danish. Cards winner: Mr Maqsood. Football winner was AMUOBA – Red Team

According to the Organizing team: “Sport has always been part of the Aligarh tradition. These events were about more than winning. They were about bringing our families together, giving our children a sense of belonging, and carrying forward the values of unity and fellowship that Sir Syed envisioned.”

AMUOBA Executive team led the team that coordinated the events. Sports Events Convenor Tanveer Ahmed, DOSD Aaleq Ali, Joint Secretary S. Obaid Ahmad, and Executive Committee Members Abdul Rehman, Rizwan Ahmad Khan and Hassan Kamal.

AMUOBA-Kuwait thanked all participants, volunteers, and families whose support made the series a success.

The sports programme is part of AMUOBA-Kuwait's wider calendar of community activities, which includes the upcoming Sir Syed Day celebrations.



Winners receive their prizes.



Left to right: Participants compete in various events.

Philippe Coutinho scores winner as Santos downs Fluminense

Change Name

I, HABEEB (Old Name), S/O. BASHEER, R/O 1/77, Piler Road, T Sundupalli, Annamayya Dt. AP. I Have Changed My Name To PATAN HABEEB KHAN (New Name) S/O BASHEER

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 19, (Xinhua): Gabriel Barbosa and Philippe Coutinho scored second-half goals as Santos recovered from a goal down to clinch a 2-1 win at Fluminense in Brazil's Serie A on Sunday.

Rodrigo Castillo put the hosts ahead in the fourth minute at the Maracana when he fired in from the edge of the six-yard box after a scramble

inside the penalty box.

The visitors equalized early in the second half when Gabriel Barbosa drove a first-time effort into the bottom right corner after Rodinei's cross.

Coutinho completed the turnaround five minutes later with his first goal for Santos, latching onto Gabriel Bontempo's cross with a glancing header into the far

corner.

"It's a good feeling to score again, especially at this stadium," said Coutinho, who joined Santos on a free transfer in September. "We played a great game against a strong team that likes to control possession and play out from the back. But we improved after halftime and dealt with their pressure a lot better. I

think we deserved the win in the end."

Santos is now eighth in the 20-team standings with 45 points, six behind fifth-placed Fluminense.

In Porto Alegre, Kaio Jorge scored a hat-trick as Cruzeiro cruised to a 4-2 win at 10-man Gremio. The result lifted the Belo Horizonte side to fourth while Gremio is 18th and remains en-

trenched in a relegation battle.

Elsewhere in Brazil's top flight on Sunday, Bragantino drew 1-1 at Remo and Flamengo prevailed 3-0 at Bahia.

Argentina World Cup winner Thiago Almada was on target as River Plate romped to a 3-0 win at Belgrano in Argentina's Clausura tournament on Sunday.

The visitors took the

lead on the stroke of halftime when Tomas Galvan fired home from distance after combining with Gonzalo Montiel.

Former Atletico Madrid winger Angel Correa doubled the lead just after the restart with a clinical finish following Lucas Beltran's assist.

Galvan then turned provider as he set up Almada, whose shot into the bottom-right corner

left Thiago Cardozo with no chance.

The result lifted River to fifth in the 15-team Zone B standings, two points behind third-placed Belgrano.

In other Argentine top-flight fixtures on Sunday, Estudiantes RC won 2-1 at home to Aldosivi, Independiente drew 1-1 at Racing and San Lorenzo prevailed 2-1 at Estudiantes.

Zain is the official Hosting Partner of the tournament, which Kuwait will host for the first time this December

Zain HQ first stop of Saudi Super Cup trophy tour in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: As preparations gather pace for Kuwait to host the 13th edition of the Saudi Super Cup, Zain welcomed the tournament’s original trophy to its headquarters in Shuwaikh, marking the first stop of its promotional tour in Kuwait ahead of the highly anticipated competition this December.

As the tournament’s official Hosting Partner, Zain is committed to building excitement and enhancing fan engagement around this major sporting event, which the nation will host for the first time in the competition’s history.

The trophy showcase offered an opportunity to build excitement and bring fans closer to the tournament ahead of the matches, which are expected to attract widespread interest from football enthusiasts across Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the wider region. During the stop at its HQ, Zain employees and their families had the opportunity to take commemorative photos with the trophy.

For Zain, supporting sports represents a long-term commitment to strengthening Kuwait’s position as a leading destination for major regional and international sporting events, creating memorable experiences that bring fans together, and contributing to the growth of sports tourism and broader economic activity.

In line with this vision, the company continues to build on partnerships with national institutions to support and attract major sporting events,



The Saudi Super Cup trophy at Zain.

while showcasing Kuwait’s advanced infrastructure, organizational expertise, and capabilities, further reinforcing its position as a leading destination for major sporting competitions and large-scale events.

Zain’s partnership with the much-anticipated event followed the announcement of an agreement between the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, represented by its exclusive commercial partner Saudi Media Group (SMC Vibes), and a Kuwaiti alliance comprising Alrai Media Group and Aayan Leasing and Investment Company, under



Zain employees make memories with the trophy.

which the alliance became an official partner for hosting the Saudi Super Cup in Kuwait.

The 2026-2027 Saudi Super Cup will take place from 19 to 23 December 2026 at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, featuring four Saudi clubs: Al Nassr, Al Ahli, Al Qadsiah,

and Al Kholood, competing for the title in the tournament’s 13th edition.

Kuwait will become the eighth host destination in the Saudi Super Cup’s history, following previous editions held in several cities across Saudi Arabia and abroad, including London, Abu Dhabi, and Hong

Kong. This year will mark the tournament’s first appearance in Kuwait.

Through its partnership with the Saudi Super Cup, Zain continues to build on its longstanding support for major sporting events hosted in Kuwait, following its involvement in prominent competitions such as

Khaleeji Zain 26, the French Super Cup, and the Zain Premier League (Dawri Zain). These partnerships reflect the company’s continued commitment to supporting sports and strengthening Kuwait’s standing as a destination for major regional and international sporting events.

Al-Shuraim wishes team success in the championship

Kuwait U-17 team gets ambassador’s support



Kuwait’s Ambassador to Qatar, Ahmad Al-Shuraim, visits the national team during a training session.



Kuwait’s Ambassador to Qatar, Ahmad Al-Shuraim, greets players during a visit to the national U-17 team’s training session.



KUNA photos
Kuwait’s Ambassador to Qatar, Ahmad Al-Shuraim, receives a jersey during a visit to the U-17 national team’s training session.

DOHA, Oct 19, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Ambassador to Qatar Ahmad Al-Shuraim reaffirmed on Sunday his support for Kuwait’s national U-17 football team competing in the Gulf championship currently hosted by Doha.

The ambassador made the remarks during a visit to the team during its training session to review preparations for the tournament.

Accompanied by Diplomatic Attaché Ahmad Al-Haroun, Al-Shuraim met with the players and coaching staff, wishing them success in the championship.

He noted that the Kuwaiti Embassy in Qatar was keen to support the national team and help it achieve an advanced position in the tournament.

Reddick wins Phoenix race as Larson suffers miserable day

AVONDALE, Ariz., Oct 19, (AP): Tyler Reddick had a late surge on Sunday to earn his sixth win of the season in a NASCAR playoff race at Phoenix Raceway, rising up the Cup Series standings to give himself a shot at the championship.

He’s not the only one who benefited from Kyle Larson’s very, very bad day.

Reddick, Christopher Bell and Chase Briscoe were among the drivers who are leaving the desert in much better position to win a title than when they arrived. Reddick’s No. 45 Toyota overtook Briscoe with 17 laps remaining and held on for the win, shaking up NASCAR’s postseason with three races remaining.

“This group never lost motivation, never lost the drive to keep searching and keep trying to find ways to make ourselves better, just be an all-around better team,” Reddick said. “Something about today... I had a really good feeling.”

Larson - who started Sunday with a 49-point lead in the Cup Series standings - is now just five points ahead of Christopher Bell



Tyler Reddick celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race Sunday, Oct. 18, 2026, in Avondale, Ariz. (AP)

heading into Talladega next week. Briscoe is in third, 24 points back, while Denny Hamlin (31), Ryan Blaney (40), Joey Logano (44) and Reddick (56) are still in the hunt.

“It’s going to be a battle, that’s for sure,” Bell said. “We’re right there in it. Really proud of our team. They’ve been doing a really good job of bringing fast race cars,

executing races. We’ve been able to qualify well and run up front in stages.”

Ryan Blaney finished second on Sunday while Chase Elliott was third and Bell fourth. Briscoe finished eighth after back-to-back wins in Las Vegas and Charlotte and picked up more points in Phoenix.

Reddick and his 23XI team had the hottest car in the sport early in the year, winning four of the season’s first six races, but had a big lull over the summer. He was mostly an afterthought entering Sunday’s race, but is back in victory lane and now can dream about even bigger accomplishments.

Bubba Wallace led 52 laps in the second half of the race, but a pit road speeding penalty ended the 23XI driver’s chance at a win.

Larson’s No. 5 Chevrolet struggled all day and then smacked the wall late in the race after his right front tire went flat going into a turn. His day was over and he finished 34th.

Larson had looked nearly unstoppable over the first six races of the playoffs, but had a disappointing qualifying effort on Saturday and started 22nd, well behind most of the other title contenders.

He wasn’t any better on Sunday - the Hendrick Motorsports star stayed in the middle to back of the pack most of the afternoon and fell a lap behind the field midway through the second stage.

New opportunities for national teams

Kuwaiti boxing moves closer to global stage

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Kuwaiti boxing has moved a step closer to expanding its international presence after the Kuwait Boxing Federation’s extraordinary general assembly unanimously approved its statute in line with the regulations of World Boxing, paving the way for the federation to join the international governing body and creating new opportunities for national teams to compete abroad.

The meeting was held at the federation’s headquarters in Sabah Al-Salem, attended by Chairman Abdullah Khaled Al-Otaibi, Secretary-General Mutlaq Al-Azmi and Assistant Treasurer Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

The decision is part of the federation board’s efforts to broaden international participation and strengthen ties with major global boxing organizations. It is also expected to help raise the standard of Kuwaiti boxing by giving national team members greater exposure to international competition and opportunities to gain valuable experience.

Al-Otaibi thanked the general assembly members for their attendance, support and unanimous approval of the move, praising their commitment to the board’s plans to develop the sport and improve its competitive standards.

He said participation in World Boxing competitions would provide a valuable boost to Kuwaiti boxing, allowing local fighters to face opponents from different boxing schools



Chairman Abdullah Khaled Al-Otaibi

and compete against leading athletes from around the world.

Such exposure, he added, would help improve the boxers’ technical skills and competitive abilities.

Al-Otaibi said the federation hoped to capitalize on the decision by developing a new generation of boxers capable of competing at a high level, achieving strong results and winning medals while raising Kuwait’s flag at international events.

Zhe wins China’s first gold

NAGOYA, Japan, Oct. 19, (Xinhua): Powerlifter Cui Zhe led from her opening attempt to win the women’s 41kg title at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games on Monday, delivering China’s first gold medal of the Games.

“This is my fifth Asian Para Games, and I’m so happy to win the first gold for China today,” Cui said. “I want to thank my country, our coaching team and everyone back home who has supported me.” Cui also won China’s first gold medal at

the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta, where she claimed the women’s 41kg title with a decisive final lift. Eight years later and less than two months shy of her 40th birthday, she opened Monday’s competition with a confident 110kg lift, immediately putting herself 10kg ahead of nearest rival Tursynay Kaby1 of Kazakhstan.

Cui extended her lead with a 115kg second lift. When Kaby1, the penultimate lifter, selected 104kg for her third attempt, Cui’s gold was secured.

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NEWS



Qadsia players celebrate after winning the opening match.

Sports

Al-Arabi faces Istiklol with qualification hopes on the line

Qadsia aims to take a big step toward Challenge League quarterfinals

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Qadsia will seek to strengthen its bid for a place in the quarterfinals of the AFC Challenge League when it meets Tajikistan's Regar-TadAZ at 8:30pm today at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium in the second round of Group C.

The group's other fixture pits India's Goa against Bangladesh's Fortis at 4:25pm.

The Qadsia-Regar-TadAZ clash is crucial, with the winner poised to take a significant step toward qualification. Both sides lead the group after Qad-

sia opened their campaign with a convincing 3-0 victory over Fortis, while Regar-TadAZ came from behind late in the game to defeat Goa 2-1.

Qadsia coach Mohammed Ibrahim will be looking for another strong performance from his players after they dominated their opening match and secured all three points.

Regar-TadAZ, meanwhile, struggled to impress against Goa but managed to get the job done. Coach Masoud Parviz Kaiser made timely substitutions that proved decisive in securing the victory.

Al-Arabi has little margin for error as it takes on Tajikistan's Istiklol at 5pm today at Hisor Central Stadium in the second round of Group B.

The group's other match will see Syria's Homs Al-Fidaa faces Lebanon's

Al-Najma at 2pm at the same venue.

The Green Castle must win to keep its qualification hopes alive after suffering a 1-0 defeat to Homs Al-Fidaa in their opening match. Another setback would leave its chances of advancing considerably weakened.

Coach Mohammed Abdelnabi knows his side must deliver a determined team performance, cut out the errors that proved costly in the opener and show greater concentration, organization and discipline across the pitch.

The task will be far from easy, however, as Al-Arabi face hosts Istiklol, who will look to capitalize on home advantage and the backing of its supporters. The Tajik side is also under pressure to win after losing 1-0 to Al-Najma in its first match.

Mbappé stars as Madrid dominates Sevilla

Freiburg suffers 1st Bundesliga loss

MADRID, Oct 19, (AP): Kylian Mbappé scored a beautiful goal and converted a penalty kick to help Real Madrid beat Sevilla 4-1 despite the absence of the suspended Vinicius Júnior in the Spanish league.

Madrid moved to third place behind Atletico Madrid and leader Barcelona.

Diego Gomez scored with a shot from the halfway line in Brighton's 5-0 win over Crystal Palace, and Arsenal edged Nottingham Forest in the Premier League.

Freiburg wasted a chance to regain first place in the Bundesliga with its first loss of the season - a 2-1 defeat at Bayer Leverkusen - and Monaco lost 1-0 at Lorient to lose its status as the only unbeaten team in the French league.

Mbappé controlled the ball while turning his body and then used a quick touch to clear a defender before going around Sevilla goalkeeper



Freiburg's Igor Matanovic and Leverkusen's Aleix Garcia challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Bayer Leverkusen and SC Freiburg in Leverkusen, Germany. (AP)

Odysseas Vlachodimos to score Madrid's second goal in the 37th minute at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

The France superstar then converted a 63rd-minute penalty.

Arda Guler had given Madrid the lead in the 30th with a shot into the top corner. Yan Diomande sealed the victory in the 82nd after Manu Bueno had scored for sixth-place Sevilla.

Guler's goal came minutes after a VAR check of an incident involving Sevilla's Peque. It resulted in no red card for an apparent elbowing by the Madrid midfielder.

The victory moved Madrid one point behind Atletico and six points behind Barcelona, which won 5-2 at Real Betis on Saturday.

Vinicius was serving the first of his four-game suspension for pulling the hair of an opponent and aggressively confronting the referee.

Gomez's sensational strike came after the Paraguay international collected the ball near the halfway line, advanced just inside Palace's half and launched a 50-meter shot over stranded goalkeeper Walter Benitez in the seventh minute.

Arsenal, the Premier League defending champion, just needed one goal - a late one from substitute Noni Madueke - to see off Nottingham Forest 1-0.

AC Milan beat Atalanta 3-2 for its second win in three matches in all competitions, moving to fourth in Serie A.

The hosts opened a three-goal lead by the 57th minute and held on for the victory despite conceding twice.

Milan is four points behind leader Inter Milan, which won 3-1 at Bologna on Saturday.

Lazio won 3-0 at Juventus, whose coach Luciano Spalletti was serving a one-match suspension following his altercation with Cagliari coach Fabio Pisacane. Lazio moved up to second place, while Juventus stayed eighth.

Fifth-place Como won 3-1 at second-to-last Fiorentina, while 11th-place Lecce won 3-0 at 17th-place Udinese.



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe scores second goal during the La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Sevilla in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Monaco was guaranteed to retain first place with a win, but host Lorient won thanks to a 61st-minute penalty kick converted by Noah Cadiou.

Lyon later beat Nice 2-1 to top Ligue 1.

Monaco dropped to fifth and is tied on 14 points with Lyon, second-place Paris Saint-Germain, third-place Paris FC and Lille. Paris needed a penalty kick deep into stoppage time to defeat sixth-place Rennes 4-3 at home. Rennes' Estéban Lepaul scored a hat trick entirely from penalties, the last in the 88th. Lorient moved to seventh place, while Marseille's form has been bleak

this season and new coach Bruno Genesio's side had won only two of its first eight games overall, but it came from behind to win 5-2 at Angers.

Freiburg took the lead through Derry Scherhant in the 14th minute but the hosts rallied with goals from Ibrahim Maza in the 19th and Patrik Schick in the 76th.

Schick became Leverkusen's first player to score in each of the opening six Bundesliga matches of a season.

Freiburg remained on 13 points, one point behind both second-place Borussia Dortmund and leader Bay-

ern Munich.

Only Frankfurt had managed to take points off Freiburg, which had won eight of its last nine games across all competitions.

Leverkusen has also made a good start under new coach Carles Martínez, who has now overseen six wins from seven games across all competitions since starting with a shock loss to Elversberg.

Last-place Borussia Mönchengladbach lost 2-1 to visiting Hoffenheim.

Celta Vigo beat Alaves 2-1 at home for its second win across all competitions this season. The result

left Celta in eighth place, level on 11 points with seventh-place Alaves, which won three of its first four league games but is winless in five straight.

Osasuna defeated Racing Santander 2-0 as Jagoba Arrasate coached his first game since returning to Osasuna. He replaced the fired Luis Ramis after a run of five winless games.

Barcelona's women's team lost 2-1 at Real Sociedad for its first defeat of the season - and first overall in almost a year.

It had last lost - also to Sociedad - in the women's Spanish league in November.

Kuwaiti bowlers withdraw from matches against Israeli opponents

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Kuwait's national bowling team continued to impress at the World Bowling Championships in Germany, with the competition running until October 22.

Kuwait bowlers Aseel Al-Roumi and Mohammed Abdullah produced strong performances to reach the round of 16. However, the draw matched them against Israeli opponents, prompting both players to withdraw and forfeit their matches.

A similar situation occurred in the women's competition, where Kuwait's team was also drawn against Israeli opponents and decided not to play.

Sheikh Talal Mohammed Al-Sabah, president of the Kuwait Bowling Federation and the International Bowling Federation, praised the performances of Kuwait's male and female bowlers, saying their overall standard had improved beyond expectations.



Kuwait bowling delegation.

He attributed their progress to the players' commitment, determination and strong desire to represent Kuwait with distinction.

Sheikh Talal Mohammed Al-Sabah added that the federation's board

would continue to provide the necessary support and address challenges facing the national teams to develop the sport, raise performance levels and achieve further success on the international stage.

Khaled Al-Khubaizi wins Sahara equestrian title

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Khaled Al-Khubaizi of the Kuwait Hunting and Equestrian Club won the Sahara Equestrian Resort Championship after a competitive contest featuring a strong field of riders.

Al-Khubaizi secured first place in the main event over 130cm obstacles, clocking 61.91 seconds. His teammate Fahad Al-Faleh finished runner-up, while Hamad Al-Otaibi took third place. Saleh Al-Tabtabaei, Abdullah Al-Ramadhan and Anaz Al-Anaz completed the top six.

In the third round, held over 120cm obstacles, Abdullah Al-Osaimi claimed first place, Abdulrahman Al-Enezi topped the second round over 110cm, while Sabah Al-Sabah won the opening round over 100cm.

The beginner categories, held over 60cm and 80cm obstacles, also attracted a large number of riders, many of whom completed their rounds without faults.

The action continues next Friday at 5pm at the Kuwait Equestrian Center in Subhan, which will host competitions over six heights: 60cm, 80cm, 100cm, 110cm, 120cm and 130cm.



Al-Khubaizi and Al-Faleh celebrate their victories.

Barcelona youngsters called into squad for PSG Champions League game

MADRID, Oct. 19, (Xinhua): FC Barcelona coach Hansi Flick has called up 18-year-old Barca Athletic defender Alex Campos and Egyptian forward Hamza Abdelkarim-made to his squad ahead of Tuesday's Champions League tie away to reigning European champion Paris Saint-Germain.

Flick is without three defenders - Andreas Christensen, Eric Garcia and Jules Kounde - with Garcia and Kounde

picking up injuries in Saturday's 5-2 win away to Real Betis.

Campos has been a regular starter for Barca Athletic this season and is described as a player who is reliable in his defensive duties, strong in the air and comfortable playing the ball out from the back.

Abdelkarim has featured for both the first team and the reserves this season since making his move from Al Ahly

permanent. He played for Barca Athletic this past weekend in the RFEF Second Federation, the fourth tier of Spanish football, scoring in a 2-1 win over Utebo.

FC Barcelona confirmed that defenders Eric Garcia and Jules Kounde will miss Tuesday's Champions League match against Paris Saint-Germain with injuries, with Garcia also ruled out of next weekend's match against Real Madrid.

Garcia faces up to four weeks on the sidelines with a thigh injury, while Kounde's availability for Sunday's meeting with Real Madrid remains uncertain because of an ankle sprain.

"Eric Garcia has sustained a muscle injury to the rectus femoris in his right thigh. The recovery period is expected to be between three and four weeks," Barcelona said on its official website.