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Amir, Crown Prince receive new senior judiciary officials



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with senior judicial officials.



Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives senior judicial officials.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Tuesday senior judicial officials who took the constitutional oath before His Highness on the occasion of assuming their new posts.

The officials were Supreme Council of the Judiciary President and Court of Cassation President First Counselor Hani Mohammad Al-Hamdan, Court of Cassation Vice President First Counselor

Dhirar Abdullah Al-Waqyan, and Court of Appeal President First Counselor Tareq Abdulatif Al-Jaber. Minister of Justice Nasser Yousef Al-Sumait attended the meeting.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Tuesday at Bayan Palace senior judicial officials who took the legal oath before His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on

the occasion of assuming their new posts.

The officials were Supreme Council of the Judiciary President and Court of Cassation President First Counselor Hani Mohammad Al-Hamdan, Court of Cassation Vice President First Counselor Dhirar Abdullah Al-Waqyan, and Court of Appeal President First Counselor Tareq Abdulatif Al-Jaber. Minister of Justice Nasser Yousef Al-Sumait attended the meeting.

Amiri Decree-Law amends five articles concerning notarization

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: Decree-Law No. 122/2026 has been issued, amending certain provisions of Law No. 10/2020 concerning notarization, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The amendment aims to simplify procedures, enhance electronic coordination between the relevant authorities, and strengthen the reliability of official records and instruments while preserving existing legal statuses.

The explanatory memorandum accompanying the law, which amends five articles, explains that practical implementation has highlighted the need to further develop notarization procedures along two main lines. The first is to streamline the authentication of corporate contracts and related documents, eliminating procedural duplication between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The second concerns the specific nature of personal status matters, such as marriage, divorce,

reconciliation (resumption of marital relations), and breastfeeding-related prohibitions. It introduces more detailed procedural provisions to safeguard rights and regulate the evidentiary process without changing the substantive legal rules already established under personal status laws.

Article 1 of the Decree-Law replaces Article 9 bis of Law No. 10/2020. The first paragraph stipulates that the parties concerned, or their authorized representatives, must appear before the notary either in person, through an automated electronic system, or via video link using modern electronic communication tools approved by the Ministry of Justice.

This requirement aims to prevent the use of insecure platforms or applications that could facilitate tampering, identity theft, or disputes over the validity of a party's appearance or the authenticity of their expressed intent.

Continued on Page 5

Deals bind Kuwait, France

Cabinet endorses Gulf-Russia ties expansion



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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20, (KUNA): The Cabinet reviewed Tuesday the results of French President Emmanuel Macron's official visit to Kuwait on Monday and the talks held between His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the French President.

The cabinet held its weekly meeting, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, with Foreign Minister and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah briefing the media afterward.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister and senior officials from both countries attended the talks between the two countries.

The talks reviewed longstanding bilateral relations and explored ways to

strengthen cooperation in economic, commercial and investment fields, expand their partnership and serve mutual interests.

The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international developments.

The visit culminated in the signing of eight cooperation agreements covering several sectors.

These included a letter of intent on defense cooperation between Kuwait's Ministry of Defense and France's Ministry of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs, and a declaration of intent on civil aviation cooperation.

Other agreements covered exploratory cooperation in data and artificial intelligence between Kuwait's Ministry of State for Communications and Information Technology and French company Bertin; academic, scientific and technical cooperation; and the promotion of direct investment.

Continued on Page 5

Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Dubai, a star created by Mohammed bin Rashid

UNDOUBTEDLY, the citizens of the region will always remember Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed, and their vision for the unity of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) -- a nation that has become a landmark for sustainable development and economic progress, serving as a model for others to emulate. Their vision is based on several elements, most notably the determination and wise selection of officials.

In just 54 years, this foundation enabled the nation to secure a prominent position and play a vital role regionally and globally. Over the past several decades, the UAE leaders have been dedicated to fortifying national cohesion. By standing shoulder-to-shoulder with their citizens, they established a resilient nation that excels not only in surmounting obstacles, but also in converting them into valuable opportunities.

Pondering these achieve-

ments brings to mind the meaningful address of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to the Gulf citizens. Along with his fellow leaders, particularly Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, they continuously promoted Gulf integration at the highest level. They regard the Gulf region as an indispensable anchor for the UAE, while fully acknowledging the vital responsibility of the nation as a dynamic contributor in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Therefore, such hard-earned success must never be taken for granted.

Continued on Page 5

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Embassy marks 65th 'versary of ties

'US committed to Kuwait's security, stability'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20, (KUNA) : Charge d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Kuwait Steven Butler on Tuesday reaffirmed his country's unwavering commitment to Kuwait's security, sovereignty and stability.

Butler made his press remarks on the sidelines of the US Embassy's celebration marking America's semiquincentennial and the 65th anniversary of the founding of diplomatic relations with the State of Kuwait.

The celebration was attended by Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, chiefs of diplomatic missions in Kuwait, representatives of American companies, and officials from various sectors.

The US diplomat underscored the depth of the historical relations between the two

friendly countries, saying that their partnership serves as a model of firm friendship that has withstood challenges over many decades.

Butler elaborated that this relationship is not restricted to the 65 years since both countries forged their diplomatic ties in 1961; rather, it dates to 1911 when the American Hospital was established in Kuwait, marking an

early milestone in the people-to-people relationship.

He added that Kuwaitis and Americans

share deep historical and human bonds that preceded the founding of formal diplomatic relations, and that have helped build a partnership based on trust, mutual respect and common interests.

Recalling historical positions that reflected US-Kuwaiti bonds, he cited American support for Kuwait during the heinous Iraqi invasion of the country in 1990 and its leadership of the international coalition that contributed to the liberation of the State of Kuwait in 1991.

He also reiterated both sides' unity in the face of regional security challenges, driven by a shared commitment to protecting the sovereignty of Kuwait, safeguarding its people and ensuring regional security.

Continued on Page 5

Blocking 'cash-out' schemes crucial to curb money-laundering: experts

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: The practice known as 'cash out' or 'takeesh' -- when goods purchased on credit are immediately resold for cash -- has been classified as an illicit financial activity, a violation of the legislation governing credit and commercial transactions in the country.

In a conversation with the newspaper, economic experts warned that cash conversion of electronic devices and smartphones obtained on credit carries risks far beyond financial loss. They pointed out that anyone participating in this system could be implicated in serious legal offenses, particularly money laundering and facilitation of fictitious credit.

Economist and former financial advisor to the Ministry of Finance Mohammad Ramadan clarified that while 'cash out' may not have an

immediate impact on the national economy, the need to pursue and eliminate such practices is increasingly urgent as they spread. He said this is concerning because the 'cash out' of high-end smartphones and electronic devices disrupts local market pricing. He explained that when an individual purchases a device on an installment plan and immediately sells it to a retail outlet for a fraction of its real value to obtain instant cash, that retailer can then sell the same device at a price lower than the official market rate. "This undermines the true value of goods, creates unfair competition, distorts domestic trade, and negatively affects the profits of companies operating in full compliance with the law," he added.

He indicated that the ongoing pursuits and decisive actions led by the

Continued on Page 5

Truck driver arrested in major drug pills bounty

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: Officers from the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) at the Interior Ministry, under the supervision of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, arrested a Turkish truck driver in Kabad for drug smuggling.

Authorities found 300,000 Captagon pills, valued at more than half a million Kuwaiti Dinars, which were hidden in the spare tyre of the truck protected by insulating material, such that a team from Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) was summoned to open the tyre and uncover the illegal substances.

Officials present during the operation included Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Affairs Brigadier General Fahad Al-Bader, DCGD Director General Brigadier General Mohammad Qabazard, and Assistant Director General of DCGD Brigadier General Sheikh Hamad Al-Sabah.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwaiti, Indian get 7 yrs jail for smuggling diesel

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: The Criminal Court sentenced a citizen working in Kuwait Municipality and his Indian partner to seven years in prison for smuggling subsidized diesel to sell it outside the country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

It also sentenced four Indians to one month in prison and acquitted a customs inspector, a sergeant at the Ministry of Interior, and an Egyptian marketing director.

Continued on Page 5



NBK concludes its participation in the 2026 IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings



stc platinum sponsor of Watheefi Career Fair and Kuwait Cyber Security League Hackathon

Continued on Page 4



Fajr	04:34	Asr	14:46
Sunrise ..	05:53	Maghrib ..	17:12
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:31

PM receives newly appointed senior judicial officials

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Tuesday at Bayan Palace senior judicial officials who took the legal oath before His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of assuming their new posts.

The officials were Supreme Council of the Judiciary President and Court of Cassation President First Counselor Hani Mohammad Al-Hamdan, Court of Cassation Vice President First Counselor Dhirar Abdullah Al-Wuqyan, and Court of Appeal President First Counselor Tareq Abdulatif Al-Jaber.

Minister of Justice Nasser Youssef Al-Sumait attended the meeting.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives senior judicial officials.

KUNA photo

Kuwait urges global action on nuclear disarmament

NEW YORK, Oct 20, (KUNA): Diplomatic Attaché of Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Jarrah Al-Anzi said that the complete elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against their use, warning against the threats of stockpiling and developing such weapons to international security.

In a statement to the UN General Assembly First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) on Monday, he reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and balanced implementation of its three pillars.

Al-Anzi expressed regret that the 2026 NPT

Review Conference failed to reach a consensus on final document.

He stressed that the lack of consensus does not negate existing obligations, foremost those under Article VI, calling for practical and verifiable steps toward nuclear disarmament within clear timelines, as well as legally binding, effective and unconditional security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons pending their complete elimination.

On the Iranian nuclear file, Al-Anzi underscored the importance of the decisions of the IAEA Board of Governors, including those related to reporting to the IAEA Director General, the UN Security

Council and General Assembly.

He called on Iran to address its non-compliance with nuclear safeguards, provide the necessary information and grant inspectors access to nuclear sites.

Confidence in the peaceful nature of nuclear programs is built on their verifiability, noting that cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog is a legal obligation that must be met, he stressed.

Kuwait supports a diplomatic solution that addresses existing concerns and safeguards regional security and stability, he pointed out.

Al-Anzi reiterated the call on the international community to take serious steps to urge the Israeli occupation to join the

'Documenting such experiences important step toward preserving a legacy'

Al-Bseis' career featured in 'From Their Achievements – Part Two'

By Bassam Al-Qassas

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: Counselor Hamad Zaid Al-Bseis, Chairman of the Al-Awazem Charity Foundation and UN Ambassador for Social Partnership, expressed his pride at having his life and career documented in the book "From Their Achievements – Part Two."

The book highlights the experiences of Arab figures who have contributed to establishing the principles of social responsibility and advancing its practices in the Arab region.

He emphasized that documenting

such experiences is an important step toward preserving a legacy of giving and fostering a culture of sustainable, institutional work.

Al-Bseis indicated that this inclusion in the book reflects the contributions of Kuwaitis to charitable work, humanitarian aid, and social responsibility, and underscores Kuwait's longstanding tradition of generosity, social solidarity, and service to humanity.

He said, "The value of successful initiatives lies not only in achieving results, but also in documenting and passing on these experiences to future generations, allowing them to serve as a source of inspiration and

a catalyst for developing future social initiatives.

Social responsibility is no longer limited to traditional charitable activities; it has evolved into an institutional endeavor requiring governance, partnership, strategic planning, and impact measurement to ensure sustainable outcomes and maximize benefits for society."

Al-Bseis noted that the Al-Awazem Charity Foundation remains committed to embedding these principles and continuously improving its practices to better serve humanity and promote the values of solidarity and cooperation.

He commended the efforts of the Regional Network for Social Responsibility and the Platform for Social Responsibility Experts in the Arab World.

Al-Bseis also expressed his appreciation to Professor Ali Abdullah Al-Ibrahim, the book's general supervisor, and Dr. Hayat Youssef Malawi, who prepared and presented the work, for their dedication to documenting Arab experiences and highlighting inspiring models in philanthropy and social responsibility.

He emphasized that the achievements of the Mabara (charitable foundation) are the result of collec-

tive efforts involving its founders, boards of directors, supporters, and volunteers.

Al-Bseis stressed that teamwork and a sincere commitment to serving society are essential to sustaining charitable work and creating a positive, lasting impact.

He concluded by expressing his pride in belonging to Kuwait, a nation renowned for benevolence and generosity. He prayed that Allah would bless the efforts of those working in the humanitarian and charitable sectors, protect Kuwait, its leadership, and its people, and grant the country lasting security, stability, and prosperity.



Hamad Zaid Al-Bseis

Kuwait stresses respect for international humanitarian law, protection of civilians

Respect for provisions must not be selective: Al-Mutairi

NEW YORK, Oct 20, (KUNA): Kuwait affirmed the need to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law, ensure the full and effective implementation of its rules and principles, protect civilians and civilian objects during armed conflicts, and hold those responsible for grave violations accountable in accordance with international law.

This came in Kuwait's statement delivered by Diplomatic Attaché Mohammad Al-Mutairi before the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the United Nations General Assembly during its consideration of agenda item 81, entitled "Additional Protocols."

Al-Mutairi reiterated the importance of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols as cornerstones of the international humanitarian law framework, stressing that respect for their provisions must not be selective or linked to any particular conflict.

He noted that the fundamental principles established by the Additional Protocols include distinguishing between civilians and combatants, and between civilian objects and military objectives; observing the principle of proportionality; taking the necessary precautions during



Diplomatic Attaché Mohammad Al-Mutairi

KUNA photo

attacks; and protecting the wounded, the sick, and medical and humanitarian personnel.

In this context, Al-Mutairi reviewed Kuwait's efforts to strengthen its national legislative framework to pledge its international obligations under international humanitarian law.

He noted that Decree-Law No. 134 of 2025 was adopted to regulate the use and protection of the Red Crescent and Red Cross emblems, thereby enhancing the protection of humanitarian emblems and preventing their misuse.

He added that Kuwait had also issued Decree-Law No. 154 of 2025 on the protection of missing persons, establishing a national framework for tracing persons who

go missing as a result of armed conflicts and guaranteeing their families right to know the fate of their missing relatives and obtain relevant information.

Al-Mutairi affirmed that Kuwait pays particular importance to the issue of missing persons, drawing on its national experience in addressing the issue of prisoners and missing persons and its commitment to continuing efforts to determine their fate and alleviate the suffering of their families.

He reiterated the importance of implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 2474 (2019) on missing persons in armed conflicts, which Kuwait introduced during its membership of the Council, reflect-

ing its conviction that the issue has humanitarian and legal significance and requires concerted international efforts.

Al-Mutairi also highlighted the role of Kuwait's National Committee on International Humanitarian Law in monitoring the implementation of relevant national obligations, coordinating efforts among the concerned authorities, raising awareness of international humanitarian law, promoting training on its provisions, and exchanging expertise and best practices.

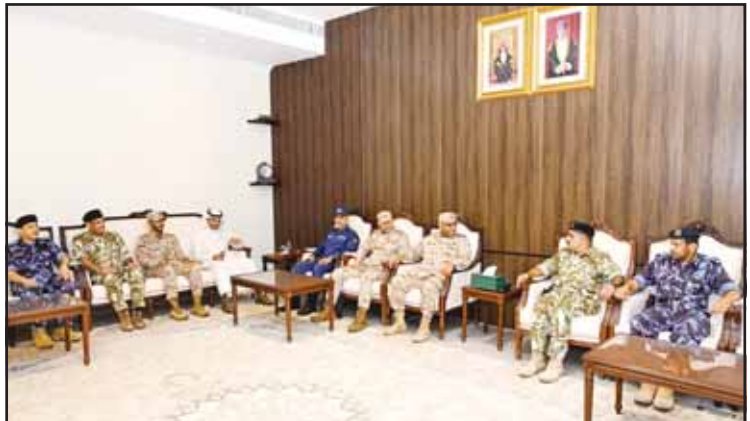
Al-Mutairi condemned Iran's attacks on Kuwait, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and Jordan, affirming that these attacks constitute a flagrant violation of the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and international law and contribute to the expansion of the conflict in the region.

He pointed out that Iranian attacks had targeted vital facilities and civilian objects in Kuwait, including water desalination plants, Kuwait International Airport, and the Public Institution for Social Security, resulting in the deaths of a number of civilians, public employees, and military personnel.

He also condemned attacks on ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, stressing the need to ensure freedom of navigation and transit passage through the strait and calling on Iran to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), which was co-sponsored by 136 countries.

Bid to boost disaster readiness

Kuwait delegation reviews Oman's crisis management



KUNA photo

Kuwait delegation visits Oman's National Emergency Management Center.

MUSCAT, Oct 20, (KUNA): Kuwait's task force tasked with establishing the Aman National Center for Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management reviewed Oman's experience in handling emergencies and disasters.

In a statement to KUNA on Tuesday, the team said the visit to Oman was part of its program to examine leading regional and international experiences and benefit from best practices in preparedness, readiness, response and risk management to support efforts to establish the center.

During the visit, the Kuwaiti delegation met Omani Minister of Social Development Dr. Laila Al-Najjar and Assistant Inspector General of Police and Customs for Operations Maj. Gen. Abdullah Al-Harthi.

Discussions focused on cooperation and ways to enhance the exchange of expertise and experience in emergency management and the mitigation of multiple risks.

The delegation visited Oman's National Emergency Management Center, where it reviewed institutional work mechanisms, coordination among various sectors, the integration of roles and responsibilities, and procedures for advance preparedness and handling exceptional weather conditions and disasters.

It also examined the Omani National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Center's systems for monitoring, forecasting and issuing early warnings, and their role in supporting decision-making and enhancing national preparedness.

The program included visits focusing on the roles of civil defense, ambulance services, relief, shelter, medical response and public health sectors, as well as coordination mechanisms to ensure a swift response and the continuity of essential services during emergencies.

EPA expands marine pollution plan to cover hazardous substances

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) is finalizing the National Contingency and Response Plan for marine oil pollution incidents, as well as harmful and hazardous substances.

This initiative aims to enhance preparedness and protect the marine environment, vital infrastructure and economic resources.

EPA discusses the plan in a workshop scheduled for Oct 20-21, with the participation of around 20 national entities, Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), and Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC).

The workshop includes a review of the responsibilities of various stakeholders and coordination mechanisms, as well as an exercise to simulate response to a pollution incident.

Dr. Lujain Al-Sayegh, Head of the Seawater Monitoring Section at the Water Quality Monitoring Department in

EPA, stated that this new plan builds upon its predecessor—which was limited to oil pollution—by expanding its scope to include harmful and hazardous substances. She said this update aligns with legislative changes, international requirements, and evolving roles and capabilities of the relevant stakeholders.

She added that the plan was developed in coordination with the competent authorities, with the Coast Guard General Department at the Ministry of Interior taking the lead.

She explained that the workshop focuses on the technical and organizational aspects, paving the way for incorporating final feedback before submitting the plan to higher authorities for approval.

She emphasized the importance of training response teams and ensuring the availability of necessary equipment.

She cited a past pollution incident in Doha, where an initial response was mounted within 45 minutes, equipment arrived three hours later, containment efforts began, and the pollution was fully contained within seven days.

On the other hand, Captain Aref Al-Awadhi, acting Di-

rector of MEMAC, stated that the development of the plan began in 2018 in collaboration with EPA and other national entities. He disclosed that the process included updating data and reviewing maritime risks, despite challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and organizational shifts.

He explained that the plan is based on the 1990 International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response, and Co-operation (OPRC) and the Protocol on Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS).

He said it incorporates an Incident Command System, which defines the structure for command, communication, and coordination, as well as the levels of response—local, national and regional.

He added that the next phase will focus on testing communication and information-sharing mechanisms, enhancing personnel capabilities, and transitioning toward operational readiness.

Colonel (Marine) Mohammad Al-Qadri, Head of Marine Pollution Units at the Coast Guard General Department, indicated that the Coast Guard serves as the first responder.

He revealed that its units operate round the clock to receive reports and assess incidents, laying the groundwork for activating the plan according to the nature of each event.

He pointed out that the updated plan expands the scope of participating entities, allowing the utilization of national resources, including the capabilities of military branches and the oil sector.

Sami Al-Sawagh, Marine Operations Manager at Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), stated that issuing this plan is a national priority, especially given the current regional climate.

He underscored the importance of finalizing preparations, securing necessary resources, and conducting field exercises and joint simulations to test the readiness of teams and equipment, ensuring comprehensive coverage across the country's territories.

He added that the relevant authorities reviewed the plan over the past few months in preparation for its official release, stating that clearly defined responsibilities and coordination among these entities are essential for rapid response and mitigating environmental and economic impacts.

Multi-faceted approach of safety, security drive

“NOT all security initiatives are fleeting campaigns that end when their activities conclude. Some embody a deeper vision, establish a distinct approach to addressing challenges, and leave a lasting impact on public awareness and behavior,” Saudi writer **Hajar Al-Saleem** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“In this context, the “Prevention and Safety” campaign, launched by the Ministry of Interior at the start of the academic year, stands out. It reflects an advanced understanding of a fundamental truth - lasting security cannot be achieved through measures alone, but also requires informed minds, responsible behavior, and a genuine partnership between state institutions and society. What makes this initiative particularly commendable is its underlying vision, which shifts the focus from merely reacting to risks to anticipating them, and from addressing consequences to raising awareness of their root causes.

“This is where the true value of preventive security lies. When an awareness message reaches an individual at the right moment, it can avert danger, spare a family a painful ordeal, and give society a greater opportunity to preserve stability and protect the well-being of its members. The equation may appear simple on the surface, yet it reflects a profound understanding of the nature of security responsibility in a world where challenges are growing and risks are constantly evolving.

“Choosing the start of the academic year to launch this campaign carries particular significance. Schools are not merely places of learning, but they are vital spaces for raising awareness, shaping character, and preparing generations capable of making sound decisions. Consequently, directing safety messages to students, parents, and educators underscores the importance of engaging society through one of its most influential gateways - a place where habits are formed, values are instilled, and the foundations of individual and social responsibility begin to take shape.

“In my view, the strength of the “Wiqaya... wa Aman” (Prevention and Safety) campaign lies in its broad vision and multifaceted approach. It extends the concept of protection beyond roads and streets to encompass the various spheres of modern life, addressing traffic, digital, and societal challenges. Security is no longer a static concept defined by a single image; rather, it is an evolving system that requires relevant institutions to keep pace with societal changes and engage younger generations in a language that resonates with their realities and needs.

“Digital awareness is particularly important in this context, as the virtual world has become an integral part of young people’s lives, offering vast opportunities for learning and communication while also exposing them to risks that demand attention. This underscores the need for families, schools, and security agencies to work together to foster a culture of responsible technology use, empowering young people to exercise discernment, make sound decisions, and protect their privacy and safety in a digital environment where challenges can be just as significant as those in the real world.

“Linking public awareness with security and traffic preparedness highlights the importance of an integrated approach. Safety cannot be achieved through awareness campaigns alone or field operations in isolation, but through the coordination and synergy of both within a unified system. When awareness campaigns are coordinated with security preparations, traffic monitoring, and a focus on student safety, they reinforce a vital principle - protecting society requires planning, preparedness, awareness, and cooperation to work hand in hand.

“In my view, the value of this initiative lies primarily in the principle it embodies - protecting individuals begins with respecting their intellect, raising their awareness, and engaging them in the shared responsibility of maintaining societal security. This vision strengthens the relationship between security institutions and citizens, paving the way for a partnership built on trust, awareness, and shared responsibility. In turn, it helps reinforce societal stability and resilience in the face of challenges.

“Ultimately, the “Prevention and Safety” initiative conveys a message that transcends its name, offering society a principle worthy of becoming an established cultural norm - safety is not merely the absence of danger, but the constant presence of awareness, sustained readiness to confront threats, and a collective commitment to protecting human life.

“The campaign’s true value, therefore, lies in its ability to transform prevention into a way of life, responsibility into everyday practice, and awareness into a collective force capable of safeguarding the present and building a more stable and secure future for generations to come in Kuwait.”



Hajar Al-Saleem

Also:

“In our daily lives, we inevitably experience a range of emotional responses to the events and situations around us. Such reactions are natural and healthy for individuals with sound psychological well-being.” Kuwaiti writer **Dr. Khaled Al-Janfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“However, when emotions become overwhelming, they can lead to counterproductive outcomes. Intense emotional responses may create tension, disrupt our psychological balance, and even contribute to complex psychological problems that we should strive to avoid, particularly in today’s unpredictable world.

“To minimize the negative effects of excessive emotional reactions and manage our responses effectively, we must embrace principles and practices that promote composure, emotional balance, and self-control. Remaining calm is essential, and this can best be achieved through self-discipline, particularly when we step outside our homes. Maintaining composure involves practices such as deep breathing, taking time to reflect before forming opinions, avoiding the tendency to take random events personally, and limiting social interactions to those necessary for daily life.

- Understanding the chaotic nature of the world: A rational person recognizes that while we can control certain aspects of our immediate surroundings, especially our personal lives, we cannot dictate what happens in the wider world. Events often unfold regardless of our expectations or assumptions. Many occurrences seem random and lack clear or logical explanations. The external world is indifferent to our feelings as we navigate our way through it. Given that the world is a chaotic mix of human actions and behaviors, connected simply by their coexistence in public spaces, one should not expect specific outcomes unless one consciously manages one’s own behavior when interacting with the world.

- Caution when interacting with strangers: A rational person should approach interactions with strangers cautiously, with the awareness that their psychological state and behavior may be unpredictable. This perspective encourages vigilance and a measured approach, particularly when personal safety and security are at stake. In such situations, discernment and prudence are essential.”

□ □ □

“If only each of us took the time to listen to the life stories of the elderly, the hardships they endured, the obstacles they overcame, and the successes they achieved,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Consider, for example, someone who made a point of listening to older people and discovered that they carried within them the wisdom of many years, a depth of experience that books alone cannot provide. Some of life’s most valuable lessons are not found in books, but in the lives of those who walked this path before us. A woman in her late thirties was once asked what had influenced her life the most. She replied, “A safe and stable homeland, and a man over the age of sixty.”

“When others remarked that he was an old man with no right to love, she replied, “You are mistaken. A man over sixty is a deep ocean of masculinity. He embodies every stage of life. He is passionate as a madman when he loves, vulnerable as a child when he cries, and profoundly mature when confronted with adversity. He is as beautiful as peace, as powerful as war, as delicate as a dream, and as magnificent as a warrior defending his homeland. He is a fountain of



Ahmad Al-Dawas

tenderness - a man with the spirit of a Greek, the sensibilities of a Babylonian, the sentiments of a Levantine, the chivalry and protective instinct of an Arab, and the noble, honorable character of a Najdi. When he smiles, a thousand planets seem to revolve around him.”

“In short, the elderly have experienced the full spectrum of life, tasting both its sweetness and its bitterness. It is this journey that refines character and deepens the human soul. I often wish I had possessed the mind I have today when I was twenty-five, back in 1975. Perhaps I would have handled life’s challenges more wisely and treated certain people differently.

“The Japanese writer Haruki Murakami is quoted as saying, “The past is a closed chapter, and your old mistakes belong to an earlier version of yourself. Your present self is more aware, more mature, and more beautiful. Do not tarnish it by dwelling on the past and its mistakes.”

A woman once recounted that she had said to her husband, “Hit me, if you’re a man.” He smiled and replied, “And who told you that I am a man?” She went on to explain that she had lived under the protection of his “manhood” for thirty years. He was a man unlike any other, so much so that other men seemed diminished in comparison. True manhood, sometimes, is simply reflected in the way a man treats others.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Crimes affecting environment on confab agenda

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Ministry of Justice participated in the 13th session of the Conference of State’s Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held at the UN headquarters in Vienna.

The ministry said in a statement on Monday that the conference, held every two years, discusses follow-up on the implementation of the UN Convention by member states, fol-



Bader Al-Misa'ad

lowing the launch of the review process under a resolution adopted by the conference at its 10th session.

The current session, which concludes on October 23, focuses on several draft resolutions to be issued by the conference, includ-

ing the establishment of a drafting committee to prepare an additional protocol to the convention on crimes affecting the environment, the statement added.

Headed by Director of the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies Senior Counsellor Bader Al-Mis’ad, the ministry’s delegation includes Senior Legal Researcher Yaqoub Al-Ejail and translator from the International Relations Department Reem Al-Ansari.

Al-Sumait: High judicial posts is a national trust

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait affirmed that assuming high judicial positions is a national trust, intrinsically linked to the standing of the judiciary and its noble mission to establish justice and safeguard rights and freedoms, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Al-Sumait made the statement after the appointment of Counselor Hani Al-Hamdan as President of the Supreme Judicial Council and President of the Court of Cassation, Counselor Darrar Al-Waqayan as Vice President of the Court of Cassation and Vice President of the Supreme Judicial Council, and Counselor Tariq Al-Jaber as President of the Court of Appeals and member of the Supreme Judicial Council. They took oath before His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Al-Sumait

He congratulated them on receiving this invaluable trust from HH the Amir, commending their legal competence, judicial careers, extensive knowledge and sound judgment.

He expressed confidence that they are well-suited for this responsibility, wishing them success in realizing His Highness the Amir’s noble vision to achieve a qualitative leap in the judicial system’s performance, consolidate justice, and protect rights and freedoms.

He stressed that the Ministry of Justice has always been committed to putting all its resources at the disposal of the judiciary, and providing the necessary administrative, financial and technical support to ensure the smooth administration of justice and create an environment conducive to fulfilling its mission. He added that supporting the judiciary and respecting its independence is a responsibility that the ministry is keen on upholding in all of its endeavors.

Jail-term, hefty fines in embezzlement of funds

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: The Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge Abdullah Al-Othman, sentenced the head of a sports federation to three years and four months in prison, and the director of a travel company to two years and four months, fined them and confiscated KD 551,000 for the embezzlement of funds allocated for fictitious sports camps, invoice forgery and money laundering reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The charges included submitting forged invoices related to the training camps of sports teams in Italy, and manipulating the number of players participating in tournaments and training camps held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt and South Korea, hence, the misappropriation of funds.

The court upheld the acquittal of a former federation president in the same case.

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Travel ban flouted: The Ministry of Interior has referred a civilian employee working at a border crossing to the Public Prosecution over allegations that he unlawfully facilitated the departure of a Gulf woman who was subject to a travel ban, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to security sources, the ministry received information indicating that the woman had left the country despite being listed on the travel ban register.

An investigation into the incident identified a civilian employee born in 1984 as a suspect in facilitating her departure by land.

The case file does not specify why the woman was subject to the travel ban. It also remains unclear whether the employee received payment for facilitating her departure or acted for other reasons.

The sources stressed that the conduct constitutes a criminal offense punishable by law. The employee faces several charges, including facilitating the unlawful departure of an individual subject to a travel ban. He has been referred to the Public Prosecution for further legal proceedings.

Roundabout on Road 85 is now open, says MPW

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: The Ministry of Public Works, in cooperation with the General Traffic Department, announced that the roundabout on Road 85 in Block 1 of the Jaber Al-Ahmad area was opened at dawn on Monday, October 19, adding that the opening of the roundabout is part of project QS/R/7, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Illegal clothes collection boxes lifted in Ahmadi

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: Kuwait Municipality announced that the Department of Public Hygiene and Road Occupancy had conducted an intensive inspection campaign in Ahmadi Governorate, resulting in two citations and the removal of three unauthorized clothing collection bins, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Meanwhile, the “Sustainable Impact” campaign continues in Hawally Governorate, aiming to raise environmental awareness and promote a culture of sustainability.

Saad Al-Khureinej, Director of Ahmadi Municipality, explained that inspection teams conducted field visits in Mangaf and Sabahiya, issuing two citations for unauthorized use of public spaces, removing three unlicensed clothing collection bins, and issuing seven formal warnings. These campaigns aim to identify road occupancy violations, ensure compliance with municipal regulations and bylaws, and take legal action against violators.

He affirmed that field inspections would continue throughout the areas under the teams’ jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Municipality’s Environmental Affairs Department, is continuing its “Sustainable Impact” campaign in Hawally Governorate from October 18 to 22.

The initiative aims to raise environmental awareness, foster a culture of sustainability, conserve resources, and reduce waste.

The campaign encourages employees to adopt positive environmental practices and sustainable behaviors in the workplace, helping to reduce resource consumption and protect the environment.

This initiative forms part of the Municipality’s broader commitment to promoting environmental responsibility and embedding sustainability principles, ultimately helping to preserve resources for future generations.

Woman held in drug ‘peddling’

Conman jailed for 3 years

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: Officers from Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Police Station have referred an African woman to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) on suspicion of drug trafficking, reports Al-Anba daily.

The woman was arrested while placing a hashish cigarette at a designated drop-off point for a drug user to collect.

According to security sources, investigations revealed that the suspect routinely took children with her when visiting locations and open areas where she left narcotics, apparently to avoid attracting suspicion or being detected by security personnel.

Following her arrest, officers searched her residence and discovered additional cigarettes suspected of containing narcotic substances, all prepared for distribution.

The seized items and the suspect were referred to the competent authorities for further investigation, including efforts to determine the source of the illicit substances she was distributing.

The sources noted that three children were with the woman at the time of her arrest but she was unable to provide identification documents for them.

The ongoing investigation will also examine the circumstances surrounding the children’s presence with the suspect.

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Conman gets 3 years jail: The Criminal Court has sentenced an expatriate to three years in prison with hard labor, followed by deportation, after convicting him of participating in the electronic theft of KD 13,500 from a Kuwaiti woman’s bank account through a fraudulent scheme, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The scam involved impersonating a government official and persuading the victim to download remote-access software.

The incident began when the victim received a phone call from an individual claiming to work for the Consumer

Protection Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The caller alleged that the call concerned a previously filed complaint and instructed the victim to download AnyDesk software and enter her bank account details.

Shortly afterward, the victim discovered that the funds had been withdrawn from her Commercial Bank account without her knowledge or consent.

Investigations revealed that, on the day of the incident, the stolen funds were transferred to the first defendant’s bank account, after which he transferred the entire amount to the account of a second defendant.

In convicting the first defendant, the court relied on the victim’s testimony, police investigation reports, documentation provided by the bank, and bank statements.

The court concluded that the sequence of transfers, the matching amounts, the movement of funds between accounts on the same day, and the immediate transfer of the money constituted corroborating evidence of the defendant’s involvement in the crime. Specifically, his bank account had been used to receive and transfer the stolen funds.

Lawyer Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan represented the victim as her legal counsel and filed the complaint on her behalf.

He also filed a civil claim against the defendants, seeking KD 5,001 in provisional compensation for the damages resulting from the incident.

The court acquitted the second defendant of the charges against him. However, it sentenced the first defendant to three years in prison with hard labor, to be served immediately, for the related offenses, and ordered his deportation upon completion of the sentence.

The court also ordered the confiscation of the forged documents.

Furthermore, the court referred the civil claim to the competent court to rule on the compensation request, explaining that examining the claim would require a separate investigation that could delay the resolution of the criminal case.

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Taher Group named Kuwait Law Firm of the Year 2026 at Law.com Middle East Legal Awards

Kuwaiti law firm receives prestigious regional recognition at Dubai ceremony, marking another milestone in its legal legacy dating back to 1969.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: Taher Group Law Firm has been named Kuwait Law Firm of the Year 2026 at the Law.com Middle East Legal Awards, held in Dubai, marking a significant achievement for the Kuwaiti legal profession and another milestone in the firm’s long-standing history.

The award, presented by Law.com, an established international legal media platform, recognises Taher Group

Law Firm’s professional achievements and contribution to the legal sector. The recognition further highlights the growing presence of Kuwaiti legal expertise within the regional and international legal community.

The award was received by the firm’s founder and senior partner, Abdulaziz Taher Alkhateeb, whose legal career and leadership have helped shape the institution since its establishment in 1969. Over more than five decades, the firm has developed from a longstanding Kuwaiti legal practice into an institution advising clients on complex litigation, corporate transactions, arbitration, regu-



Fawaz Alkhateeb Abdulaziz Alkhateeb

latory matters and cross-border legal challenges.

Commenting on the achievement, Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb, Managing

Partner of Taher Group Law Firm, said: “This recognition is a proud moment for our entire team and, above all, a tribute to the vision and dedication of our founder, Abdulaziz Taher Alkhateeb. His experience continues to guide us every day, reminding us that the true measure of a legal institution is not simply the cases it handles, but the trust it earns, the principles it upholds and the legacy it leaves for future generations.”

He added that the award reflects the importance of maintaining international professional standards while preserving the values upon which the firm was es-

established.

Taher Group Law Firm has also received recognition from international legal directories, including Chambers and Partners, The Legal 500 and IFLR1000. Through its international professional relationships, including TAGLaw, the firm supports clients with legal matters extending beyond Kuwait.

For Taher Group, the award represents both recognition of its history and a commitment to the future: strengthening legal expertise, developing the next generation of lawyers and supporting Kuwait’s position as a trusted destination for business and investment.

Top-notch in anti-graft course

Nazaha targets public sector staff

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: The Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) organized a training program recently titled “Promoting Integrity and Combating Corruption: The Authority’s Role and Mandate.”

The program brought together more than 60 leaders and supervisory-level officials representing over 20 government entities. It aimed to foster a culture of integrity and transparency while raising awareness of the legislation and mechanisms established to prevent and combat corruption in the public sector.

Nawaf Abdulhamid Al-Aidan, a senior legal auditor at Nazaha, stated that the program, held at Nazaha’s headquarters, targeted leaders, supervisors, and representatives of government entities.

He explained that the program sought to familiarize participants with corruption offenses defined under the law establishing Nazaha, the procedures for detecting and reporting such offenses, and the legal protections and rewards available to whistleblowers.

The program, held in coordination with various government entities, aims to foster a culture of integrity and transparency within public institutions.

It clarifies Nazaha’s mandate and outlines the various forms of corruption, while detailing the legal and personal protections afforded to whistleblowers. These measures are intended to build trust and encourage the reporting of wrongdoing.

Al-Aidan emphasized that reporting corruption is not merely a legal obligation but also a national duty and a shared responsibility to protect public funds and expose corrupt practices.

He also underscored the vital role of legal safeguards in encouraging individuals to report violations without hesitation.

Nadine Rashid Al-Bader, Director of the Administrative Development and Training Department at Nazaha, stated that the program targets supervisory personnel within government entities, including supervisors, managers, and department heads.

She explained that the program is part of a series of training initiatives being implemented by Nazaha from October 2026 to February 2027 to raise public sector employees’ awareness of integrity and anti-corruption principles.

The three-day program covers the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Nazaha’s

establishment, its founding legislation, its mandates and objectives, and its role at both the domestic and international levels.

The program also addresses the financial disclosure system, the categories of individuals subject to its requirements, submission deadlines, review mechanisms, and the penalties for late submission or failure to file disclosures. It also explores potential corruption offenses, procedures for receiving reports, whistleblower protection, the tracking of assets held abroad, and the role of preventive measures in promoting integrity and transparency.

Al-Bader noted that government entities continue to register for upcoming training programs that cover topics such as the Right to Access Information Law, the Conflict of Interest Law, the Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics, corporate governance, and combating financial and administrative corruption.

She pointed out that more than 50 government entities have already registered for these programs, with participation continuing to grow.

The initiative forms part of Nazaha’s efforts to strengthen cooperation with government entities, enhance employees’ legal and professional knowledge, and reinforce the principles of accountability and the protection of public funds.

Other Voices

Impurity of Persian language

By Ahmad alsarraf

MANY Persian theorists, particularly nationalists, view Arabic words as “evidence of impurity” or as an attempt to “Arabize” Iranian identity. They therefore link the Arabic language with official Islam and the historical political and sectarian dominance of the Arabs.

They consider replacing Arabic words with ancient or newly coined Persian equivalents a symbolic act aimed at restoring pre-Islamic Iranian civilization or severing the psychological connection with Arab rule.

Recently, the Parsig movement, composed of diaspora groups, used social media to circulate and promote lists of pure Persian vocabulary and advocate abandoning Arabic words.

Most of the words they propose date back to the Sasanian era. They have replaced traditional greetings for meeting and parting with “darud” instead of “salam.”

Many of these alternatives were already present in Classical Persian. However, the dominance of Arabic vocabulary over recent centuries has made them less common, prompting language purification movements to revive or promote them in modern writing.

In everyday usage in Iran, Arabic words remain widespread. Alternative terms appear mainly in nationalist writings, certain media outlets, diaspora activism, and social media.

There are also voices within Iran that criticize the myth of a pure Persian language. They argue that Arab-Persian interaction was reciprocal and profound, and that Arabic words have become an integral part of the Persian language, just as Persian has influenced Arabic.

Therefore, the Pahlavi Cultural Institute did not officially codify the language or coin new Persian words. Rather, it tended to favor Persian roots. The Institute had no serious intention or radical project to eliminate all Arabic words; instead, it focused primarily on replacing modern European terms and favoring Persian over Arabic.

What we are witnessing is not a purely spontaneous linguistic phenomenon, but rather an extension of a language-purification movement with a nationalist and political character. This movement uses the revival of ancient Persian words as a symbol of rejecting the influence of Arabic and Islam on Iranian cultural identity.

Another problem facing Iran is the ideological nature of its political



alsarraf

project and its limited ambitions, despite the fact that the revolution’s slogan and constitution indirectly reflect an aspiration to export the revolution and spread a form of vengeful Shi’ism intertwined with Persian nationalist tendencies.

Therefore, the regime has turned to Shiite minorities who have long complained of oppression, invoking calls for revenge, promoting the idea of the imminent return of the Mahdi to eliminate infidels and traitors, and advocating the liberation of Palestine by establishing control over as many Arab capitals as possible.

This is what Iran has pursued for many years, sacrificing much of its power and the lives of its people in the process.

Iran has made little effort to conceal these ambitions and aspirations since the 1980s. It exploits the hostility of the United States and Israel towards it to justify targeting countries that support the United States.

Another obstacle to improving relations between the two sides is the deeply rooted Twelver Shiite belief that the twelfth Imam, Muhammad ibn al-Hasan al-Askari, is still alive and is the awaited Mahdi. According to Twelver Shiites, Muhammad ibn al-Hasan al-Askari was born in 869 CE in Samarra and has remained alive for nearly 1,200 years, observing world events during his occultation. They believe he will one day reappear to defeat the enemies of Muslims and establish justice on Earth.

The Safavids used this belief to motivate their soldiers during wartime, convincing them that the Mahdi would support them in their conflicts with their Russian and Ottoman enemies.

The anticipated reappearance of the Mahdi has become part of the cultural heritage of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Among segments of the Iranian public, recent events and the prospect of an American attack are increasingly interpreted as signs of the Mahdi’s imminent return.

The Iranian regime derives its legitimacy by reinforcing this possibility and asserting its authority to rule on the Mahdi’s behalf through the doctrine of the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist (Velayat-e Faqih).

It is therefore natural to believe that the Mahdi will not allow the regime to be defeated and will crush any external or internal threats.

The current regime’s role is to preserve Iran and ultimately hand it over to the “Awaited Mahdi” upon his reappearance. These beliefs may become more deeply entrenched as the threat of all-out war recedes, or weaken if the regime experiences decline or collapse.

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Continued from Page 1

Kuwait, Czech Republic

He expects new initiatives and achievements in the relationship with the Czech Republic and Europe.

He revealed that the Political Cooperation Committee between the two countries recently held a meeting in Prague, during which both sides reached agreements on several matters that will come to fruition soon.

He confirmed that high-level visits between Kuwait and the Czech Republic continue on a regular basis.

Regarding defense cooperation, he pointed out that the partnership between the two countries cover several areas, including defense, economy and investment. He cited the advancement of Czech defense capabilities as a development the Kuwaiti side observed during the recent visit to Prague.

Meanwhile, Czech Ambassador to Kuwait Juraj Chmiel confirmed the strength of bilateral relations and the commitment of both sides to solidify cooperation in various fields.

He disclosed that the fifth round of Czech-Kuwaiti political consultations, held this month despite the security challenges the region is facing, proves the strong partnership between the two nations.

He pointed out that Czechoslovakia recognized the State of Kuwait as early as 1961, established diplomatic relations

in 1963, and opened its embassy in Kuwait in 1965.

He added that relations have since evolved to include commercial, economic and investment cooperation, creating mutual opportunities and benefits.

He also expressed his deep sorrow over the Iranian-linked attacks that Kuwait faced this year.

On behalf of the Czech Republic and the embassy, he extended condolences to the families of the victims, affirming his country’s solidarity with the Kuwaiti people and their leadership, and expressing support for Kuwait while honoring the memory of those who lost their lives.

He affirmed the commitment of his country to support regional security and stability efforts, citing the Czech Republic’s participation in Operation Desert Storm and the long-standing defense cooperation with Kuwait that helped lay the foundations for the existing partnership between the two countries.

On tourism, he is hoping to see direct flights established between Kuwait and the Czech Republic on a year-round basis, rather than being limited to certain seasons. He said Jazeera Airways is offering travelers direct winter flights to the Czech Republic, with operations set to begin this year. He wished that direct flights could be provided throughout the year, thereby strengthening ties between the two peoples and supporting tourism and economic exchange.

North America

Alberta rejects separation from Canada: Voters in Canada’s oil-rich Alberta province overwhelmingly backed remaining in Canada, with early referendum results Tuesday delivering a boost to Prime Minister Mark Carney’s push for national unity amid US President Donald Trump’s trade war and annexation threats.

With more than 1.5 million votes counted, 76% supported remaining in Canada, while close to 24% backed beginning a process toward separation, according to unofficial results from Elections Alberta.

The referendum wasn’t a direct vote on independence. Approval would have set Alberta on a path toward a future vote on separation from Canada.

“Albertans made a clear choice,” Carney said. “They chose unity, to build together, and to take care of each other. Above all, Albertans chose Canada.” (AP)

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Shooting in Ohio kills one: A shooting in a neighborhood near a mosque in Ohio’s capital city left one person dead Monday but was not connected to the house of worship or those who were inside, police said.

Federal and local authorities descended on the area as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said in a post on X that agents were responding to a report of a shooting at the mosque, northeast of downtown Columbus.

Police later said the shooting happened in the park-

ing lot of an apartment complex next to the mosque.

“At the mosque, unfortunately, there was an event going on that had nothing to do with what was going on outside,” said Sgt. James Fuqua. “... But it’s super important that I make it clear that this shooting had nothing to do with an attack on the mosque itself.”

The ATF did not immediately respond to a phone message seeking further information. (AP)

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National Guard member shot in DC: A National Guard member was shot and injured while trying to break up a fight in the nation’s capital, and the person suspected of firing the gun also was shot in an exchange with guard members, police said Monday.

The shooting happened at about 11:10 p.m. Sunday as seven or eight guard members in a parked van were monitoring the fight on a sidewalk in southeast Washington, in the Eastern Market neighborhood, said Jeffery Carroll, interim chief of the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington.

“They exited their vehicle to try to intervene to try to stop the fight from occurring when they heard gunshots,” Carroll told reporters. “An individual that had been involved in the fight had pulled out a firearm and began shooting.”

The person ran into an alley, Carroll said, and guard members immediately told the person to drop the gun.

“The individual then pointed the weapon toward National Guard members, who returned fire,” Carroll said. (AP)



The sun sets in rural Alberta, Canada on Oct 19. (AP)

Americans deeply pessimistic about the state of economy

Dems gain ground with AAPI adults as trust in Republicans fades: poll

WASHINGTON, Oct 20, (AP): Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander adults have become more disillusioned with President Donald Trump and Republicans as the Nov. 3 midterm elections approach, according to a new AP-NORC/AAPI Data poll, giving Democrats a substantial edge on major issues like the economy and health care.

The survey, which was conducted from Sept. 8-15 by AAPI Data and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, reveals that Trump’s standing on the economy has fallen among AAPI adults over the course of his second term.

About one-quarter of AAPI adults approve of the way Trump is handling his job as president overall. Only about 2 in 10 approve of his performance on the economy, which the vast majority of AAPI adults see as one of the most important issues for the upcoming election.

But although AAPI adults trust Democrats more than Republicans on a wide range of issues, views of the Democratic Party itself are still split.

Rebecca Larocco, a 45-year-old Korean American in Corning, Iowa, voted for Trump in 2016 and is leaning Republican in the midterm elections. She approves of his immigration policies but is unsure about Trump’s handling of the economy as the Iran war continues to compound gas prices.

“Where I’m at, it’s went up almost \$1.50 (a gallon),” she said. “I didn’t

expect to go into war at all, that has been definitely unexpected and I’m not sure... I’m just hoping they’ll do what they’re saying and get our economy back on track, get immigration and crime lowered.”

The economy remains top of mind for an overwhelming majority of the AAPI adult population when they consider the midterms. With the on-going Iran war affecting gas prices and other costs staying elevated, Americans overall are deeply pessimistic about the state of the economy and see it as a high priority for the midterms. That includes AAPI adults - according to the poll, about 9 in 10 rank the economy as one of the most important issues for the upcoming election, and about 8 in 10 say this about the cost of living.

The economy, the cost of living and healthcare dwarf other issues for AAPI adults. About 7 in 10 AAPI adults say healthcare is one of the most important issues for the election, while only about half say this about foreign policy, crime, immigration, election fairness or climate change.

At the same time, Trump’s economic approval among AAPI adults has dropped about 10 percentage points over the course of the year, and there are other signs his popularity has waned with this group. In late 2024, just after the election, about 4 in 10 AAPI adults had a “somewhat” or “very” favorable view of Trump. That’s fallen to about 3 in 10 now.

“What the data show is that any gains that he made not only during



Rob Sand, Iowa’s Democratic candidate for governor, speaks in St. Ansgar, Iowa on Oct 10. (AP)

the 2024 election - there was a bit of a honeymoon period that Trump enjoyed after the election before Inauguration Day - that has now largely disappeared,” said Karthick Ramakrishnan, founder and executive director of AAPI Data.

Len Takahashi, 57, of Universal City, Texas, describes himself as conservative but voted for Democrats in the last three presidential elections and for Republicans in midterm elections. For this midterm election, he is simply open to candidates who prioritize the economy.

“I would like policies that look in the best interest of the American public,” said Takahashi, who is

Japanese American. “That could be bringing down spending, a balanced budget of U.S. spending, bringing down inflation, working towards a more stable economy and, lastly, just a better atmosphere between the far left and far right.”

Democrats have gained at Republicans’ expense since Trump returned to the White House when it comes to AAPI adults’ trust in handling many key issues.

In a March 2025 poll, AAPI adults were evenly divided over which political party would better handle the economy and immigration. Now, Democrats have a roughly 20-percentage-point advantage on both is-

sues.

Meanwhile, around two-thirds of AAPI adults have a “somewhat” or “very” unfavorable view of the GOP. Only about one-quarter have a “somewhat” or “very” favorable view.

But while trust in the Democrats on specific issues has increased, AAPI adults are ambivalent about the party as a whole. About half, 48%, of AAPI adults have a “somewhat” or “very” unfavorable impression of the Democratic Party, while 44% have a “somewhat” or “very” favorable impression.

A separate AP-NORC survey of registered voters in September found, similarly, that while voters in general are deeply dissatisfied with Trump and the GOP, few think either party is capable of solving important problems.

Louise Rider, 40, is a Democrat living in Chicago. She believes Democrats are better than Republicans across all issues but says she’s unhappy with how the party has governed.

“I don’t think the Democrats are doing great, I think they need a lot of change as a party,” she said. “It’s kind of a helpless feeling, that nothing will get done with both parties unless there’s major changes.”

Some Republicans still stand behind Trump. James Finley, 74, of Lenox, Massachusetts, said Trump deserves some understanding because he cannot bring down high prices overnight. When it comes to Republicans in general, Finley is a

little more critical.

“They’ve had the majority for a couple of years,” said Finley, whose ancestry includes Japanese heritage. “I think they could have done a little bit more or maybe a lot more in terms of passing certain things that I wanted to pass.”

Still, he sticks to the party line and because “all I ever hear from Democrats is to get Trump,” Finley said.

As the election approaches, many AAPI adults are worried about problems with misinformation, legal challenges to the results, and voter suppression. About half of AAPI adults say it’s a “major problem” in U.S. elections that people who are eligible are not allowed to vote, while about two-thirds see foreign government attempts to influence results as a “major” problem.

Looking ahead to the November election, about half of AAPI adults are “extremely” or “very” concerned about fake or false information about the candidates, and about half also feel this way about legal challenges to the election results.

Finley is unsure if the voting process can be tightly monitored to prevent undocumented or unregistered people from attempting to vote.

But Takahashi, the conservative from Texas, is worried that Trump will try to manipulate the election.

He’s concerned, he said, that Trump would amplify claims of “fraud in the election system” should the midterms not go in his favor. “(He’ll) make that a point to distract the American public,” he said.



Protesters gather during clashes at an anti-government demonstration in Tirana, Albania on Oct 18. (AP)

From France to Albania, social unrest setting Europe’s streets ablaze

MADRID, Oct 20, (AP): Rising fuel costs, discontent with the state of schools, declining public services and a housing crisis are fueling an autumn of protests in Europe.

Crowds have protested for weeks in major cities, with some demonstrations marked by arrests, looting, injuries and violence across France, Italy and Albania. In Spain and Portugal, tent camps have sprung up to protest unaffordable housing.

Young Europeans are experiencing “a strong sense of uncertainty and a lack of control,” said Maria Silvestre, professor of sociology at the University of Deusto in Spain. “And when specific situations come together, a spark suddenly ignites that is capable of channeling that discontent and driving people into the streets.”

Cities have turned into battlefields as top EU economies, including France, Italy and Spain, approach pivotal elections, while far-right parties have made electoral gains in Germany and could do so elsewhere. It also comes as Europe faces a critical moment in its support for Ukraine, with President Donald Trump making overtures to Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin even as Russia is blamed for increasingly frequent arson attacks, cyberattacks and other acts of sabotage in NATO countries.

Right-wing politicians have seized on the chaos. While protests in France have appeared broad-based, Trump portrayed immigrants as responsible for the destruction, writing Monday on his Truth Social platform: “The migrants have taken over France. They must CLOSE THE BORDERS, FAST!”

Many of the protests have been fueled by frustrated young people. Other actors, including black-clad, masked agitators, have fomented violence, but French authorities and police have not blamed immigrants.

Here’s a look at what’s driving the unrest:

In France, which has a centuries-old tradition of popular protest, high schoolers have staged blockades and demonstrations for more than three weeks, demanding more resources for schools they describe as understaffed and dilapidated, especially in lower-income neighborhoods.

The protests broadened as France’s CGT labor union and other activists joined in while students paused for

a fall break. The movement now includes demands over rising living costs and public services.

Despite hundreds of thousands of people marching peacefully, the weekend’s unrest led to 2,400 arrests and serious disturbances in parts of France, including looting in Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Bordeaux. In Limoges, flames engulfed the 19th-century City Hall and nearly destroyed the building. Some schools were set on fire. As students and rioters threw firebombs and law enforcement responded with tear gas, hundreds have been injured.

French President Emmanuel Macron condemned Saturday’s violence, accusing far-left activists of trying to foment chaos by attacking buildings and police.

“Those who looted will have to pay for the damage, and those who sought to bring down the Republic will be held accountable,” Macron said Sunday in a rare televised address.

In Spain, elementary and secondary schoolteachers began an indefinite strike in Madrid last week to demand better pay and working conditions.

Zelenskyy seeks help in Norway

Russian missile kills 7 in Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 20, (AP): Russia unleashed another missile and drone blitz of civilian areas in Ukraine, killing at least seven people, officials said Tuesday, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy scrambled to ensure more American and European help during a visit to Norway.

US envoy Steve Witkoff, who along with Jared Kushner has tried without success to steer Russia and Ukraine toward a settlement and end the war, was also expected in Oslo, the Norwegian government said. Kushner, who is US President Donald Trump’s son-in-law, will attend the meeting by videoconference, it said.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre and Finnish President Alexander Stubb were due to meet with Zelenskyy in Norway’s capital.

With further US support for Ukraine in doubt as relations between Zelenskyy and Trump sour again, the Ukrainian leader said that he spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who is on a trip to Asia.

That conversation came after Zelenskyy told a bipartisan group of US lawmakers on Monday that he be-



A police officer walks on a highway after a Russian strike on Chabany, near Kyiv, Ukraine on Oct 20. (AP)

lieves “some political decision has been made to slow down ... support for us.”

Ukraine has nearly run out of American-made Patriot air defense interceptors that it needs to stop Russia’s ballistic missiles, according to Zelenskyy, who has pleaded for Washington to send more. But he said that the Pentagon is delay-

ing the delivery of missiles that other countries have purchased for Ukraine.

Zelenskyy also said that he sought Rubio’s help to ensure that the United States continues to share vital intelligence with Ukraine after Kyiv had received none or belated warnings about Russian missile attacks in recent days.

Europe

‘Capsizings cause deaths of 12 migrants’: A dozen migrants died in separate speedboat capsizings off the Greek islands of Lesbos and Samos, Greece’s coast guard said Monday. An infant was among the dead.

Six people died when a speedboat ferrying Syrian and Palestinian migrants struck the port side of a Greek coast guard vessel with its bow and capsized south of Lesbos late Sunday, a coast guard spokesperson told The Associated Press on customary condition of anonymity.

Four men, one woman and an infant were among the dead. Another eight people, including an individual who has been detained as the suspected people smuggler, were rescued. (AP)

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Latvia lifts air threat alert: Latvia’s National Armed Forces lifted an orange air threat alert on Sunday for the municipalities of Bauska, Aizkraukle and Ogre.

The military had issued the alert earlier Sunday, urging residents to take shelter indoors, keep two walls between themselves and the outside, and fol-



Frontex, (foreground), and Greek coast guard vessels take part in a search and rescue operation, after the capsizing of a boat carrying migrants, off the coast on the northeastern Aegean Sea island of Lesbos, Greece, on April 3, 2025. (AP)

low official updates. It advised anyone who spotted a low-flying or suspicious object to keep away from it and call 112.

The alert did not specify the nature or origin of the threat. Neighboring Lithuania had also sounded the alarm earlier Sunday morning, issuing red alerts for Panevezys and Siauliai counties and an initial yellow alert for Kaunas county. (Xinhua)

South Korea to withdraw some embassy staff from Ukraine

North Korea threatens to deploy more weapons at border with South

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 20, (AP): North Korea threatened Monday to resume propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts and deploy more weapons along the border with South Korea, as the rivals remain locked in animosities over last month's mine blasts that injured three South Korean soldiers.

Earlier this month, South Korea formally blamed North Korea-planted mines for the Sept. 21 blasts at the border, urging the North to apologize and remove other mines. That announcement came after North Korea denied responsibility for the explosions and warned of strong retaliation if provoked.

On Monday, Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, accused South Korea of firing warning shots and making warning broadcasts numerous times at the border since August under "such an unreasonable pretext" that North Korean soldiers crossed the border. She said that such provocations "have gone beyond the red line" since the mine blasts.

"A grave situation is prevailing along the southern border due to the reckless behavior of the ROK military gangsters," Kim Yo Jong said, referring to South Korea by its official name, the Republic of Korea.

She said the North Korean military was considering "deploying more tactical strike means along the southern border as a preemptive and suppressive measure to deal with contingency, and of resuming the loudspeaker broadcasting against the ROK."

On Tuesday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Jin Yong-Sung, called the North Korean threats "intolerable" and ordered the military to "sternly respond" to potential provocations by the North. Jin said South Korea's military will firmly deal with border breaches by North Korean troops, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In recent years, tensions along the Korean border, one of the world's most heavily fortified, have increased as North Korea added mines, barbed wire fences, anti-tank barriers



South Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Park Doosoon speaks during the briefing at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea on Oct 20. (AP)

ers and other front-line fortifications in line with its policy of terminating ties with South Korea.

South Korea's military earlier said North Korean soldiers violated the

border's military demarcation line 50 times this year during their fortification works. South Korea's military said it responded by firing warning shots and making warning broad-

casts. It didn't immediately respond to the latest North Korean warning.

In 2015, mine blasts blamed on North Korea that maimed two South Korean soldiers pushed the Koreas to the brink of an armed conflict, after South Korea resumed front-line loudspeaker propaganda broadcasts for the first time in 11 years.

Loudspeaker broadcasts are one of the old-fashioned, Cold War-era psychological warfare campaigns the two Koreas have occasionally used against each other in times of confrontation.

Since taking office last year, South Korea's liberal government, led by President Lee Jae Myung, halted such broadcasts as part of efforts to improve ties with North Korea. North Korea later stopped its own broadcasts.

North Korea has recently dialed up weapons testing activities in a likely bid to pressure the United States to make bigger concessions, after President Donald Trump renewed his efforts to restore diplomacy with Kim Jong Un.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: South Korea said Tuesday it will withdraw some staff from its embassy in Kyiv, deepening a diplomatic row over Ukraine's announcement last month of a transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war that Seoul says was meant to be secret.

The diplomatic dispute between the countries began after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy disclosed the prisoners' transfer during a Sept. 23 speech at the United Nations. South Korea has accused Ukraine of violating a nondisclosure agreement, but Ukraine denies the countries reached such a deal, further angering Seoul.

South Korea recalled its ambassador to Ukraine earlier this month in protest. Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Heorhii Tykhyi told local media at the time that Kyiv remains open to "constructive dialogue" and that "diplomacy must prevail over emotions."

Asia

Driver charged with injuring lawmaker: Police on Tuesday charged a driver with intentionally causing serious injury to an Australian federal lawmaker who is a critical condition after being struck by a car in an apparent escalation in political violence that has shocked the nation.

Helen Haines, a 65-year-old independent politician, was in hospital in critical but stable condition after being struck by a car outside her office in the city of Wangaratta, in Victoria state, on Monday in what police alleged was a "targeted" incident.

Brendan Nugent, from nearby Tarravangee, was charged with intentionally causing serious injury, dangerous driving causing serious injury and causing harm to a federal official, police said in a statement on Tuesday.

Nugent has been in police custody since shortly after Haines was injured and a crowd of bystanders subdued him. Nugent will appear in a Wangaratta court on Wednesday, when he could potentially be released on bail.

His father, Rod Nugent, released a statement Tuesday describing Haines as a "deeply respected, valued and much loved member of our local community." (AP)

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Cyclist killed in Australia hit and run: A cyclist was killed after he was struck by a vehicle in a suspected hit and run incident in Western Australia (WA) on Tuesday morning.



Haines

Police in WA said that the 40-year-old man collided with an unknown car while cycling in the southern suburbs of Perth around 5:20 a.m. local time on Tuesday.

He was declared deceased at the scene.

Officers secured the scene, and detectives from the major crash investigation unit began an investigation. Police asked for witnesses, or anyone with relevant dashcam footage, to contact investigators as they search for the vehicle and driver involved in the incident. (Xinhua)

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Indonesia uses dry ice to combat haze: Indonesia is conducting cloud-seeding operations using dry ice and salt to induce rainfall in four provinces affected by forest and land fires, with rain reported in several districts, State Secretary Minister Prasetyo Hadi said Tuesday.

Prasetyo said dry ice was being used to promote cloud formation, followed by dispersing sodium chloride to stimulate rainfall. Operations are underway in South Sumatra, Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, and West Kalimantan provinces.

In South Sumatra, eight flights have been conducted since Oct. 16, dispersing 1.6 tonnes of salt and 4 tonnes of dry ice. Officials reported a decline in PM2.5 concentrations and improved visibility following the operations.

West Kalimantan has conducted 107 cloud-seeding flights since Aug. 22, using a total of 98.8 tonnes of salt.

Meanwhile, Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan have carried out 48 and 23 flights, respectively, with authorities estimating rainfall volumes of 67.45 million and 222.67 million cubic meters. (AP)



The US aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt is seen leaving the Navy port of Yokosuka, near Tokyo on Oct 19, to participate in the Keen Sword 27 exercise at an undisclosed location. (AP)

Japan, US kick off joint drills around islands

Japanese and US troops on Monday kicked off one of their largest joint exercises focusing on the defense of Japan's southwestern islands and showcasing advanced weapons systems in the face of growing tension in the region.

About 45,000 Japanese troops and 12,000 American service members are participating in the biennial Keen Sword 27.

Seven other nations from the Indo-Pacific region and Europe are also taking part in some elements of the exercises, five of them - France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the Philippines - for the first time, according to Japan's Joint Staff. (AP)



Armored police vehicles that are part of the Gang Suppression Force (GSF) patrol the Tabarre neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Oct 19. (AP)

Haiti gangs target foreign troops in biggest attack since a new force began operations

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Oct 20, (AP): Gangs in Haiti opened fire on an armored vehicle over the weekend, leaving four soldiers from El Salvador unaccounted for in the first major attack since an international gang suppression force began operations in the violence-wracked Caribbean country.

The attack occurred Sunday in Croix-des-Bouquets, a once-peaceful community in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, that is now controlled by violent gangs.

The armed forces of El Salvador said in a statement Monday that the four aviation technicians were returning to camp when their armored vehicle was attacked with explosives and set on fire.

The military noted that the four men managed to flee the burning vehicle and it is working with international forces to "establish contact and determine the location of our military personnel."

Salvadoran authorities said that helicopters were dispatched to the area but they, too, came under fire as they dispersed armed men in the area.

"Multiple attempts to approach by land and air have been made, but these have been hampered by the intensity of the fighting," the Salvadoran military said.

The weapons and ammunition gangs are using are not made in Haiti and will continue to find ways to enter the country, Wien-Weibert Arthus, Haiti's deputy permanent representative to the U.N., told the U.N. Security Council Monday.

"This latest episode is a reminder, as if we really needed one, of the fact that the security challenges in Haiti are complex and complicated," he said. "We hope that those who are missing will be able to go back to their families unscathed."

Gang violence has displaced near-

ly 1.5 million people, a record, across Haiti in recent years, with more than 5,700 people killed or injured from January to mid-September, and more than 230 others kidnapped, according to the UN.

Mike Waltz, the US ambassador to the UN, condemned the attack during the U.N. Security Council meeting on Haiti.

"We believe the four men survived, but they do remain unaccounted for," he said. "We will bring you home."

Waltz said that gangs attacked the armored vehicle with "hundreds of bullets and explosives."

"To the gangs and gang leaders who carried out this cowardly attack, if you think you're going to intimidate this coalition into retreat, you have made a terrible mistake," he said.

The gang suppression force said in a statement that it's assessing the situation and has advised residents

where the attack occurred to remain indoors.

"Gangs are testing the gang suppression force," Jack Christofides, the force's special representative, said at the U.N. Monday as he noted that attacks against the force have recently increased.

He warned that gangs have carried out reprisal killings in some areas following operations by Haitian and international forces, and that they have pushed deeper into places including the community of Kenscoff and the Artibonite region.

"The reality is that we cannot be everywhere at once," Christofides said.

The area where the armored vehicle was targeted is controlled by gangs including Chèn Méchan; Kraze Barye, led by Vitelhomme Innocent; and 400 Mawozo, led by Lanmo Sanjou. Both gang leaders have been sanctioned by the UN and the US.

Paramilitary drone strike in Sudan kills 41 near Ethiopian border: group

CAIRO, Oct 20, (AP): A drone strike blamed on Sudan's notorious paramilitaries hit a gathering of displaced people on the border with Ethiopia and killed 41, a rights group said.

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

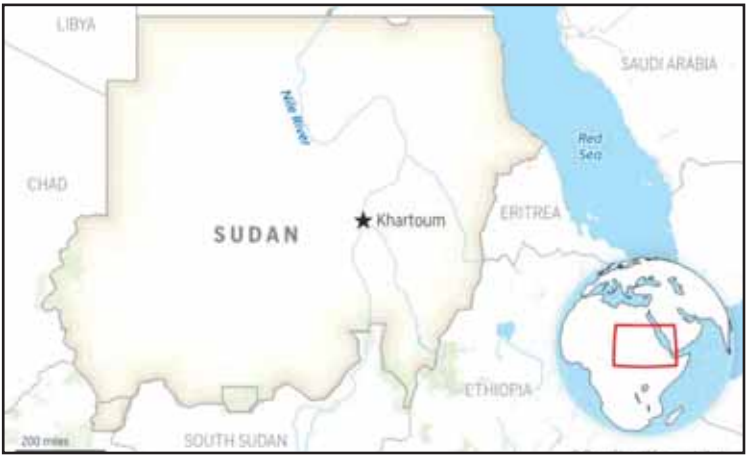
Among the dead were eight children and many women, the group said.

A spokesperson for the RSF didn't respond to a request for comment.

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

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

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



This is a locator map for Sudan with its capital, Khartoum. (AP)

The conflict has killed at least 59,000 people, according to conflict monitor ACLED, though aid groups say the real number is likely higher.

Also:

CAIRO: A rare drone attack on Sudan's capital killed three children Monday, a rights group said, as both sides in the country's war step up airstrikes that have killed dozens of civilians in the Kordofan region in recent days.

The strike, which the group blamed

on Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, killed children ages two, four and six in **Intidad Nasser**, a neighborhood east of Khartoum's airport. The RSF has been at war with the Sudanese military for more than three years.

Sayed Mustafa, a resident of the area, told The Associated Press he saw a drone flying toward the airport and heard anti-aircraft fire engage it.

"Shortly after, the drone went down, and we heard an explosion near the airport," Mustafa said.

Lat/Am

Cuba slams US arrest warrant for Castro: Cuba's government on Monday condemned an arrest warrant issued by the US state of Florida for former Cuban President **Raul Castro**, calling it a senseless legal ploy linked to Washington's blockade of the island.

"This reprehensible action against the Army General this morning in a pathetic Miami circus, with an electoral backdrop, has no, nor will it ever have, the slightest legal sense and even less practical sense," Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said in a post on social media platform X.

The arrest warrant is a political ploy in legal guise orchestrated by anti-Cuban politicians against Raul and against Cuba, said Diaz-Canel.

He added that the measure "reflects the difficulties they (the United States) face in trying to justify the blockade and the collective punishment of our people."

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez also condemned the move in a post on X, calling it a "new sterile maneuver by the anti-Cuban politicians of South Florida against Army General Raul Castro Ruz, which they have combined with other hacketed and baseless accusations against Cuba."

Rodriguez said the measure only reflected "the political rot and moral collapse of a group of parasites who deceive and swindle their followers, keeping them contributing through fundraising and financial support." (AP)

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Colombia gold mine collapse kills 14: At least 14



Castro

miners were killed Monday when an open pit gold mine operating with no permits collapsed in a remote corner of Colombia's Nariño province, regional authorities said.

In a statement, Nariño's government said that an additional seven people were injured in the mining accident near the small town of Santa Barbara de Icuande, adding that search efforts had ended Monday night.

"This emergency once again highlights the risks associated with informal mining," the statement said. "In less than three months, two collapsed mines in Nariño have killed 27 people."

Santa Barbara de Icuande is surrounded by dense rainforest and can only be reached by boat or small aircraft, which make it difficult for aid workers to reach the area.

"Entire families have been killed in this regrettable accident. It is very sad," said Nariño's governor, Luis Alfonso Escobar.

Hundreds of small mines in Colombia operate without government permits and some are controlled by rebel groups. (AP)

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Ecuador hit by fresh floods: Heavy rains linked in part to the developing El Nino weather phenomenon have triggered fresh floods, landslides and overflowing rivers across Ecuador, the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR) said Monday.

SNGR head Carolina Lozano said downpours from Sunday night into Monday triggered at least 11 incidents in the coastal provinces of El Oro, Los Rios and Guayas, as well as the Andean province of Bolivar.

Authorities reported eight floods and four overflowing rivers in Los Rios, Guayas and El Oro, while emergency teams were deployed to coordinate relief efforts and deliver humanitarian aid.

In Guayaquil, the capital of Guayas province, about 50 areas were inundated, local media reported. Among the hardest hit was the rural parish of Tenguel, where an overflowing river flooded homes. (AP)

Reaffirming its commitment to a strong presence at leading global forums

NBK concludes its participation in the 2026 IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings



Isam Al-Sager with Minister of Finance Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Basel Al-Haroon, and Kuwait's Ambassador to Thailand Dr. Meshal Al-Mansour together with leaders of Kuwaiti banks.



Isam Al-Sager, Minister of Finance Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai, and Kuwait's Ambassador to Thailand Dr. Meshal Al-Mansour, together with leaders of Kuwaiti banks.



Isam Al-Sager, Abdullah Al-Sumait, and Shaikha Al-Essa



Isam Al-Sager with Kuwait's Finance Minister, Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai, Kuwait's Ambassador to Thailand Dr. Meshal Al-Mansour, Hamad Al-Marzouq, May Al-Mudhaf, and Abdullah Al-Sumait.



Isam Al-Sager, flanked by Ali Khalil and Abdullatif Al-Nusif.



Isam Al-Sager, Salah Al-Fulaij, Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, and Abdul Mohsen Al-Rushaid at the Gulf-Asian Economic Forum.



Isam Al-Sager, Salah Al-Fulaij, Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Khaled Al-Sayer, and Abdul Mohsen Al-Rushaid at the Kuwait Banking Association reception.



Khaled Al-Sayer at the Kuwait Banking Association reception.



Isam Al-Sager leads the National Bank of Kuwait delegation at the Gulf-Asian Economic Forum.



Salah Al-Fulaij and Sulaiman Al-Marzouq during their participation in the Gulf-Asian Economic Forum.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) delegation concluded its participation in the 2026 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from October 12 to 18, as part of the Bank's commitment to strengthening its presence at leading global economic and financial forums and maintaining an active role in international economic dialogue.

Heading the delegation was Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, accompanied by Salah Al-Fulaij, Chief Executive Officer, NBK – Kuwait; Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, NBK – Kuwait; Omar Bouhadiba, CEO – International Banking Group; Khaled Al-Sayer, Head of Financial Institutions; and Abdul Mohsen Al-Rushaid, Head of Digital Communications.

As part of its participation, NBK attended a reception hosted by the Kuwait Banking Association at Capella Bangkok, held under the patronage and in the presence of Basel Al-Haroon, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait. The event brought together prominent international banking leaders, heads of Kuwaiti banks, Arab central bank governors, and senior officials and decision-makers from around the world.

The program also included a luncheon hosted by Dr. Mishal Al-Mansour, Kuwait's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, at the Inter Continental Bangkok in honor of the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the meetings. The gathering provided an opportunity to exchange views on key economic and financial issues on the meetings' agenda and strengthen engagement among representatives of participating Kuwaiti institutions.

On the sidelines of the Annual Meetings, NBK representatives participated in discussions at the GCC-Asia Economic Forum, organized by the Kuwait Banking Association. Discussions focused on strengthening economic and investment cooperation between GCC and Asian countries, exploring promising opportunities for financial and trade collaboration, and addressing the challenges currently facing the global economy.

Meetings and Events

As part of its participation in the Annual Meetings, NBK attended a series

- NBK's delegation attended the Kuwait Banking Association's reception under the patronage of the CBK Governor, alongside Kuwaiti bank leaders
- NBK participated in high-level sessions bringing together leading global economic and financial decision-makers
- Discussions with senior international officials addressed key banking industry challenges and the global economic outlook
- The meetings provided a valuable platform for exchanging insights with economic experts and financial sector leaders
- NBK operates across 13 countries on four continents and holds one of the highest credit ratings in the Middle East

of sessions and events bringing together leading economic and financial decision-makers from around the world. Discussions addressed major economic developments and global challenges, the future of financial markets and the banking sector, and prospects for economic growth and global financial stability.

A series of bilateral meetings with senior officials, decision-makers, and representatives of international financial institutions provided opportunities to explore potential cooperation and exchange perspectives on key regional and global economic and financial developments.

The program also included participation in the annual G30 seminar, which brings together central bank governors, financial sector chief executives, academics, and economists to discuss major financial and monetary issues affecting the global economy and international financial system.

The delegation also attended the IIF Annual Membership Meeting, a leading platform for dialogue among international financial and banking institutions, where discussions focused on financial stability, economic policies, and challenges facing the global financial sector.

A Platform for Global Economic Dialogue

The IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings are among the world's largest and most significant economic and financial gatherings, bringing together central bank governors, finance and development ministers, private sector executives, representatives of international organizations, think tanks, and academia to discuss economic and financial issues of global importance.

This year's meetings featured extensive discussions on the global economic outlook, financial stability, and the role of governance reforms in supporting economic growth and promoting social inclusion. They also addressed challenges facing global financial markets and the banking sector amid rapid economic transformations.

The agenda included meetings of several key committees and groups, including the Development Committee, the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the Group of Ten (G10), and the Group of Twenty-Four (G24), alongside numerous seminars and specialized sessions examining pressing economic and development issues.

Through its annual participation in the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings, NBK reaffirms its commitment to keeping pace with global economic developments and strengthening relationships with international financial institutions. This engagement reinforces the Bank's leading position, facilitates the adoption of international best practices and the continued development of its banking services, while supporting economic development and financial stability in Kuwait and across the region.

The meetings also provide an important opportunity for NBK to exchange expertise and perspectives with senior officials, leading economists, and international banking executives, while gaining insights into the latest trends and developments shaping the global banking and financial industry.

NBK maintains an extensive international presence spanning 13 countries across four continents and holds one of the highest credit ratings among major banks in the Middle East, as assessed by the three leading global credit rating agencies: Moody's, Fitch Ratings, and S&P Global Ratings.

Artificial Intelligence: From builders to beneficiaries

By NBK Wealth

For the past three years, most of the money made from artificial intelligence (AI) has gone to the companies building it: chipmakers, cloud providers and model developers. Even in the second quarter of 2026, companies tied to AI infrastructure produced roughly half of the earnings growth of the S&P 500, the main US stock index.

The next phase is likely to look different. The technology is now widely available and fairly cheap to use, so simply having it no longer sets a company apart. The real shortage in AI today is not the technology but the ability of organizations to put it to work. This shift should gradually transfer more of the opportunity from the builders of AI and AI infrastructure to its users, although the move is still at an early stage.

Almost everyone uses AI, but few profit from it

It is now hard to find a large company that does not use AI in some form. McKinsey's 2026 global survey of executives found that close to nine in ten organizations use it regularly in at least one part of the business. Employees seem to like it as well, with eight in ten respondents saying AI had made them personally more productive. Yet only 37% of organizations said AI had made any difference to their operating profit, the same share as a year earlier, and just 6% said it had an EBIT impact of 5% or more.

The explanation is fairly simple. A tool that saves an employee twenty minutes on a report makes that person's day easier, but it rarely changes the company's cost base unless the work itself is reorganized around it.

What sets the winners apart

The research points consistently to how companies are

run rather than which tools they buy. Of all the factors McKinsey tested in 2025, the one most closely linked to profit gains from AI was redesigning workflows. In simple terms, that means rebuilding a process around the technology instead of adding AI on top of existing processes. Nearly three-quarters of the best performers have done so, against about a quarter of everyone else. The winners also tend to have senior managers who own the effort, measure its impact, and aim for growth as well as cost savings.

The rewards appear to be large. In a study of more than a thousand companies, Boston Consulting Group (BCG) found in 2025 that only 5% of companies were creating value from AI at scale, while 60% reported little or none. The leading group delivered more than three times the shareholder return of the laggards over three years, although well-run companies were probably ahead before AI arrived. Size also helps, as large firms have more data and bigger budgets, and they are adopting AI faster than small ones. In the United States, 37% of businesses with 250 or more employees were using AI in spring 2026, compared with fewer than 20% of the smallest firms according to the US Census Bureau.

The first signs in the wider economy

Official statistics are starting to tell a similar story. US labor productivity, the amount produced for every hour worked, has grown by about 2.4% a year since the start of 2024, against 1.6% in the five years before the pandemic according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Much of that improvement comes from information, finance and insurance, and professional services, the sectors most exposed to AI, where productivity has risen at roughly twice the pace of the rest of the economy.

It is early days though. A survey of chief financial of-

ficers conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta found that companies believe AI is lifting productivity by more than the figures show, most likely because extra revenue takes time to come through, and they expect the effect to roughly double in 2026.

Opportunities

For investors, the equation moves from which companies build AI to which companies stand to gain most from using it. No screen replaces proper due diligence, but a few traits tend to separate the likely winners from the rest.

The first is a large wage bill for the kind of work AI can help with, such as handling information, writing, analysis or customer service. The second is the ability to keep the savings. A company with pricing power or loyal customers can hold on to lower costs as higher margins, while one in a crowded, price-driven market may simply pass them on.

The third trait is useful proprietary or unique data, which lets a company apply AI in ways its competitors cannot easily copy. AI models are increasingly becoming commoditized. If everyone has access to the same foundation models, the competitive advantage comes less from the AI itself and more from the data feeding it. The last is proof of execution, meaning management teams that can point to redesigned processes and measured results rather than pilot projects and promises.

These traits point most clearly to financial services and insurance, professional and business services, and information and media, the same sectors where the data shows the earliest gains. Healthcare and drug research, retail and parts of industry follow, with real potential but slower progress so far.

Key Risks and Considerations

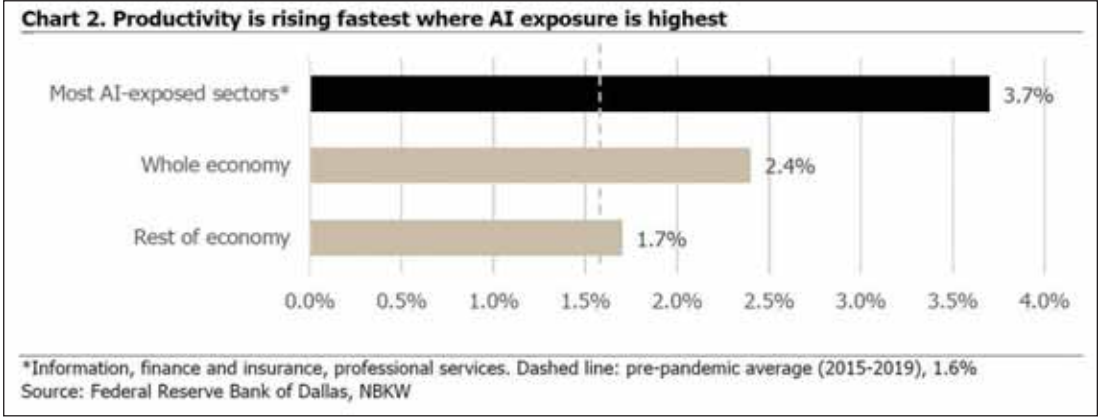
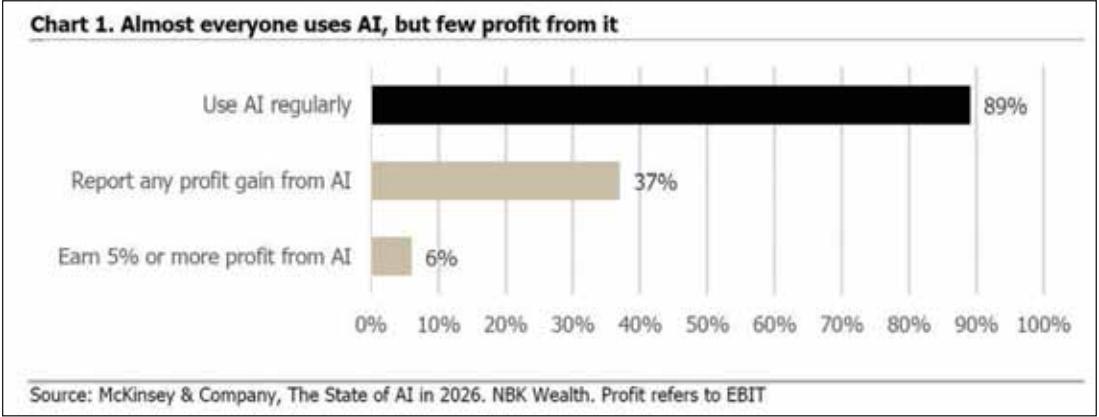
The main risk is timing. New technologies have often taken years to show up in company results, and markets

may price in the benefits before they arrive. The share of companies reporting any profit gain from AI did not rise between 2025 and 2026, a reminder that progress is unlikely to be smooth.

Competition is a second risk, since the savings may go to customers through lower prices rather than to shareholders. Cost is a third, as about one in five companies already say AI running costs are limiting their use. The theme also remains tied to the builders, and a sharp correction in AI infrastructure stocks would likely weigh on the whole theme. Much of the evidence also comes from surveys in which executives rate their own progress, and such surveys tend to lean toward optimism.

Key Takeaways

- The first phase of AI mainly rewarded companies building chips, models and cloud infrastructure, while the next phase is likely to reward the companies that use AI well.
- Close to nine in ten organizations now use AI, yet only about 37% report any profit gain and just 6% report a large one.
- The scarce resource is organizational ability, as redesigning work, committed leadership and measuring results matter more than access to the technology.
- Productivity data is starting to show gains, led by finance, professional services and information, the sectors most exposed to AI.
- The most promising beneficiaries tend to combine high labor costs, pricing power, useful data of their own and a record of execution.
- The shift is still in its early stages, and gains may reach earnings later than markets expect, which argues for selective, patient exposure rather than a broad bet on every AI user.



Attracting and discovering talent while supporting Kuwait's national workforce

stc platinum sponsor of Watheefti Career Fair and Kuwait Cyber Security League Hackathon

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a leader in enabling digital transformation and providing innovative services and platforms to customers in Kuwait, concluded its platinum sponsorship and participation in Watheefti Career Fair, Kuwait's largest national career fair, and the Kuwait Cyber Security League Hackathon. The participation reflected the Company's commitment to youth empowerment and community support, while strengthening its efforts to attract Kuwaiti talent.

Watheefti was held under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency Dr. Tareq Hamad Al-Jalahma, Minister of State for Youth and Sport Affairs. The opening was also attended by Eng. Rabab Abdullah Mazed Al-Osaimi, Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower, along with senior officials and representatives from participating organizations. Ahmad Al Murad, Chief Business Excellence Officer at stc, led stc's representatives at the opening and joined officials on a tour of the fair, where they viewed the participating employers and the opportunities presented to job seekers.

Kuwait Cyber Security League 2026 also took place under stc's platinum sponsorship, aimed at empowering young people and developing their digital skills. The national Capture the Flag (CTF) hackathon saw strong competition among Kuwaiti universities and brought together talented university students to test their skills in ethical hacking and digital defense.

Supporting cybersecurity talent

As part of its role as a main sponsor, stc supported Kuwait Cyber Security League, which was held on October 16th at Grand Hyatt Kuwait. During the hackathon, participating teams worked through technical challenges in-



Minister of State for Youth and Sport Affairs, Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma, visits the stc's pavilion.



stc's booth at the Watheefti Career Fair.



stc, represented by Chief Business Excellence Officer Ahmad Al Murad, receives recognition as a platinum sponsor.



From the Kuwait Cyber Security League event.

volving web security, digital forensics, network security and reverse engineering. The competition gave them an opportunity to apply what they had learned, work through complex problems and demonstrate the technical skills required to respond to changing cybersecurity threats.

stc presented a number of awards in recognition of the participating teams' efforts and

• Al Murad: This year's strong turnout reflects the importance of engaging with young people and understanding the career paths available to them

outstanding performance during the competition. The award ceremony took place in the presence of Dr. Tareq Hamad Al-Jalahma, Minister of State for Youth and Sport Affairs, and Eng. Manal

Al-Mazyad, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), with the National Cybersecurity Center also in at-

tendance. Supporting the hackathon allowed the Company to engage with young people who are developing specialized technical skills, complementing its participation at the career fair. It also reflected the increasing importance of cybersecurity expertise in Kuwait and the need to encourage emerging talent to continue gaining knowledge and practical experience in this field.

Strengthening stc's relationship with national talent

Commenting on stc's participation, Ahmad Al Murad, Chief Business Excellence Officer at stc, said, "Watheefti provides us with the opportunity to meet Kuwaiti talent directly and listen to what they expect from their careers and future employers. The strong turnout this year shows how important it is for young people to speak openly with companies and gain a clearer understanding of the paths available to them. These conversations also help stc identify the talent and capabilities we will need as the Company continues to grow and support Kuwait's digital development."

Al Murad added, "As for our support in the Kuwait Cyber Security League 3, it allowed us to engage with young talent who are already developing specialized technical capabilities. Their performance during the hackathon demonstrated the knowledge and capabilities found within Kuwait's technology community. We will therefore continue supporting initiatives that bring national talent closer to the private sector and help young people gain the practical experience they need to contribute confidently to strengthening the capabilities of Kuwait's future workforce."

stc's sponsorship of Watheefti for the fourth consecutive year formed part of its broader commitment to supporting national talent and improving access to careers in the private sector. The participation also aligned with the Company's corporate social responsibility framework, in which education and youth empowerment are key areas of focus. Through its involvement in the career fair and hackathon, stc continued to support the development of local capabilities and a workforce prepared to contribute to Kuwait's technological progress.

Jazeera Airways expands its network with Kraków flights

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: Jazeera Airways, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the State of Kuwait and Małopolska Tourism Organization organized an event to celebrate the launching of direct winter flights from Kuwait to the Polish city of Kraków.

These flights are scheduled for Dec 16, 2026 to Feb 6, 2027. Two flights per week between Kuwait and Kraków will be offered at competitive prices. Booking should be done through Jazeera Airways website (jazeeraairways.com) and its mobile application.

H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the State of Kuwait Michał Cholewa expressed his happiness over the launching of these direct flights, which will further strengthen bilateral ties and promote cultural and tourism exchange between the two nations. He pointed out that Kraków is one of Poland's famous and attractive

historical and cultural destinations. Meanwhile, CEO of Jazeera Airways Barathan Pasupathi affirmed the commitment of the airline to expand its winter destinations and offer the best travel options. He commended the partnership with 'Visit Kuwait' in showcasing Kuwait's winter attractions and events to international visitors.

Kraków is one of Poland's oldest cities and its historic center is a UNESCO world heritage site. The city is also home to the Wawel Royal Castle and vibrant seasonal markets. It serves as a gateway to the Zakopane and the famous Tatra Mountains, known for skiing and snowy landscapes.

On the other hand, the winter events and local attractions in Kuwait include the Gulf Marathon (supported by Jazeera Airways as the official carrier), Super Cup and various musical events, which will be held at a time the weather in the country is pleasant, made more attractive by its diverse dining scenes and renowned hospitality.



Photos during the event.

Gelephu Mindfulness City emerges as investment hub

Bhutan showcases tourism and investment opportunities

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: The Embassy of Bhutan, in partnership with Alghanim International, recently organized an event to promote tourism and investment.

It was also a celebration of the 15th wedding anniversary of the King and Queen of Bhutan, and the 18th anniversary of the King's coronation.

The Department of Tourism in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment of the Royal Government of Bhutan supported the event, in addition to Alghanim Shipping and Transport, Continental Hotels Group, Sama Kuwait Tourism, Elaf Takaful, Al-Ansari Exchange, Al-Marshoud Group, Al-Khalidi Events, Red Carpet and Al-Farisi Event Management.

During the event, Ambassador of Bhutan to Kuwait Kutshab Phub Dorji presented an insightful overview of the distinctive philosophy of the Kingdom. He disclosed that the tourism strategy of his country is based on the 'high value, low volume' principle—the vision of the Fourth King – to harmonize development with environmental and cultural preservation. He said tourism is offered as a comprehensive package, which includes accommodation, meals, transportation, expert guides, and the sustainable development fee (SDF) of \$100 per day.

He introduced the innovative project of His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Gelephu Mindfulness City, which is an expansive city of the future measuring 4,000 acres and nestled within nature reserves. He described it as a unique administrative zone with its own legislative, executive and judicial authorities.

He said the city has business-friendly regulations, drawing inspiration from Singapore's common law and anti-corruption practices, while adhering to global financial standards and international arbitration protocols.

Gelephu Mindfulness City consists of eight key sectors – spirituality, health and wellness (merging traditional and modern medical practices), education and knowledge, agrotechnology and forestry (ensuring 70 percent forest cover, along with vertical and hydroponic farming), green energy and technology (including hydroelectric, thermal and solar energy), finance and digital assets (digital currency supported by physical gold and asset tokenization), aviation and logistics (a new airport is scheduled to open in 2029, accommodating one million passengers), and tourism. It was announced earlier that the city welcomed family offices and businesses starting Oct 1.



Photos during the event.

The construction of an artificial intelligence campus and data centers in collaboration with Japanese companies, hospital for women and children (offering fertility and IVF services), and various infrastructure projects in partnership with local and international firms are underway. These projects aim to boost activity and secure international partnerships by 2029.

The upcoming global events include the 108 Stupa Project scheduled for Nov 1, 2026, during which 108 'stupas', 15 meters tall each, will be constructed along the Mao Chhu River within one day. The 'stupas' will be spaced 108 meters apart, with the involvement of 40,000 volunteers selected from a pool of 70,000 registered participants. The Bhutan Innovation Forum (BIF) will be held on March 24-26, 2027, in Paro. With its theme, "Human Abundance," the forum will focus on three pillars -- a conscious society, a smart economy and a resilient ecosystem, while the Bhutan Investment Summit will take place on Feb 11-12, 2027.

Meanwhile, in a heartfelt speech, Alghanim International Chairman Fouad Alghanim recounted his visit to Bhutan in January to attend an investment summit in response to the invitation of the ambassador. He described the intimidating nature of Paro Airport, known as one of the most perilous in the world, yet contrasted it with the confidence instilled by Drukair (Royal Bhutan Airlines), which has an impeccable safety record and skilled pilots.

Alghanim revealed that crossing the Himalayas and catching a glimpse of Mount Everest was an unforgettable experience. He commended the Bhutanese people for their warmth, hospitality and serene nature.

He added that the Thimphu Summit allotted 70-80 percent of its agenda for sustainable agriculture topics like organic coffee, buckwheat and black cardamom, as well as discussions on green energy.

Moreover, S.N. Ramachandran, Chief Financial Officer at Fawaz Holding Group, shared his insights on the attractiveness of Gelephu as a flourishing investment hub.

Despite repeated assurances from multiple administrations that the U.S. would become more actively involved in Central Asia, the region has often languished as a foreign policy priority in Washington.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the newly independent Central Asian nations saw a brief surge in U.S. interest, but that waned until after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, which turned America's attention once again toward Afghanistan and its neighbors.

The U.S. established a military presence in several countries mainly as transit points for equipment, materiel and provisions needed by U.S. and allied forces fighting the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

As the U.S. wound down its 20-year operation in Afghanistan, the Trump administration, in both its first and second terms, has sought to elevate its ties with Central Asia due to its location between Russia and China, but also as an underdeveloped area ripe for U.S. business opportunities.

Rubio's trip, which has been heavily promoted by the U.S. ambassador to India and special presidential envoy for Central Asia, Sergio Gor, is perhaps the most ambitious U.S. attempt in decades to boost economic and commercial ties with the region. Speaking to reporters in Samarkand, Rubio described "an incredible delegation" with representatives of almost 300 American businesses joining. (AP)

Rubio pushes trade, ties with Central Asia

U.S. SECRETARY of State Marco Rubio was in Uzbekistan on Monday to promote trade and ties with Central Asia, during a trip that came amid rumblings that America's top diplomat is ignoring pressing matters in favor of politically safer visits and meetings.

The trip, which involves a stop in India later this week, seeks to promote U.S. economic and security ties with Central and South Asia. But it has only tangential links to the Trump administration's current main foreign policy dilemmas in the Middle East and with the Russia-Ukraine war.

Rubio has brushed aside suggestions he is eschewing the most difficult issues in favor of taking on lower-hanging diplomatic fruit with less risk of failure and political damage, and the State Department pushed back on the criticism of his schedule.

In Samarkand, Rubio was meeting with his counterparts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan under the C5+1 diplomatic forum, which brings together the five Central Asian countries and the United States to discuss security, trade and other shared concerns.

Speaking to reporters ahead of the meeting, Rubio said "the United States wants to be a strong partner in Central Asia."

"Central Asia has just not gotten the level of attention from our policymakers over the last 20 years that it deserves. But that's changing. That's why we're here now," he said.

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In recognition of his significant impact and leadership in driving sustainability efforts

Forbes names KFH Group CEO Khaled Alshamlan first among Kuwaiti banking leaders on the Middle East’s Sustainability Leaders 2026 List

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20; In recognition of his significant impact and leadership in driving sustainability efforts across Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Group, Forbes Middle East has named KFH Group CEO Khaled Yousef Alshamlan as the top leader in Kuwait’s banking sector and the seventh in the Middle East on its Sustainability Leaders list for 2026.

The announcement was made during the Sustainability Leaders Awards ceremony held in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment. The summit brought together leaders in sustainability, technology, and finance to promote green practices and advance sustainable initiatives. KFH Head of Group Compliance and Governance, Meshal Alshayee received the award from Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment of the UAE, in the presence of Khuloud Al Omian.

The 2026 Sustainability Leaders list highlights executives who are advancing the sustainability agenda and influencing the strategic direction of leading companies across the region. The list includes 145 entries across 17 sectors, including banking, energy and utilities, family businesses, financial services, food and agriculture, free zones, healthcare, investment and holding companies, industry, oil and gas, real estate and construction, renewable energy, technology and telecommunications, transportation and logistics, development funds, and others.

Forbes Middle East said that KFH Group’s ESG sukuk investment portfolio grew to \$2.38 billion in 2025, reflecting its leadership role in sustainable finance within Islamic financial markets.

The magazine added that KFH’s investments in sustainable and green sukuk grew to around \$1.2 billion in 2025, marking an annual growth of 30.7% compared to 2024. These investments were distributed as 44% sustainable sukuk and 56% green sukuk.



Meshal Alshayee receiving the award from Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment of the UAE, in the presence of Khuloud Al Omian.

The magazine highlighted KFH’s establishment of an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) sustainability program in 2025. The initiative aims to achieve carbon neutrality across its operations by 2060, guided by an executive roadmap for 2025–2030.

Leadership in Sustainability
KFH continues to support sustainability through its successful investments in green and sustainable sukuk, its commitment to integrating sustainable practices across operations, and its proactive adoption of ESG

principles as a core pillar of its corporate strategy, aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Bank has earned an “A” rating on the MSCI ESG Index issued by Morgan Stanley and has been listed on the FTSE4Good Global Sustainability Index, reflecting its exceptional ESG performance and commitment to sustainable finance.

Moreover, KFH achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certifications for several of its branches, bringing the total number of LEED Gold-certified branches to five from early 2026. In addition, KFH Auto showroom was awarded the Gold Level Sustainability Assessment Certificate (GSAS), making KFH the first bank in Kuwait to attain this distinction.

KFH continues its sustainability efforts in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and maintains its pioneering “Business Sustainability Program” for SMEs, designed to provide competitive advantages and reinforce the Group’s vision for sustainable development and entrepreneurship.

KFH also maintains its “Keep It Green” initiative, which promotes environmental protection and reduces carbon emissions to foster a more sustainable future.

It is worth mentioning that KFH is the first institution to issue impact measurement reports. KFH is also the first bank to release annual Sustainability Report as well as Carbon Footprint Report, which include valuable insights, and detailed plans that outline the efforts to reduce carbon emissions. The report also sheds light on minimizing the negative environmental impact of activities that are not aligned with environment protection efforts in the coming years, in accordance with global initiatives for combating climate change.



Photo during the event.

Warba celebrates graduation of the first PULSE Lean Six Sigma Green Belt cohort

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20; Warba Bank celebrated the graduation of the first cohort of its PULSE Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Genesis program, which aims to develop employees’ capabilities in continuous improvement and operational efficiency. Participants completed specialized training in Lean Six Sigma and delivered practical improvement projects addressing operational challenges within the bank.

The program forms part of Warba Bank’s PULSE initiative, which focuses on improving performance, operational efficiency, and structured problem-solving. It also supports the bank’s strategy to invest in employee development and encourage staff participation in improving workflows and service quality.

From Theoretical Training to Practical Application
The Green Belt Genesis program was designed as an applied development experience extending beyond classroom instruction, equipping participants to apply Lean Six Sigma principles to actual challenges within the banking environment.

Applying the DMAIC framework (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control) was a key requirement for completing the program. Participants identified operational challenges, measured baseline performance, analyzed root causes, developed appropriate solutions, and assessed their impact using data.

All graduates completed practical improvement projects across diverse operational areas, including customer satisfaction, risk management, waste reduction, operational efficiency, process reliability, and workflow optimization, while fostering cross-functional collaboration among teams, process owners, and support functions.

Investing in Human Capital and Building Internal Capabilities
Commenting on the graduation, Maali Abdullah Al-Rasheed, Chief Human Resources and General Services Officer at Warba Bank, stated:
“The graduation of the first PULSE Green Belt co-

hort reflects Warba Bank’s commitment to developing employee capabilities and turning training into practical improvements. Participants demonstrated their ability to apply Lean Six Sigma tools to real operational challenges while working across departments. This highlights the importance of equipping employees with the skills needed to improve processes and deliver sustainable results. Through PULSE, we continue to promote a culture of continuous improvement, responsibility, and accountability across the bank.”

Al-Rasheed added: “The program reflects Warba Bank’s commitment to making employee development an integral part of institutional improvement. By investing in our people, we aim to build teams capable of identifying opportunities for improvement, analyzing challenges, proposing solutions, and measuring their impact systematically.”

Turning PULSE Training into Operational Improvements
Layali Mustafa Al-Fahad, Chief Operations Officer at Warba Bank, noted:
“The graduation of the first cohort marks an important step for PULSE, moving from training and capability development to practical application. Participants can now use the tools and methodologies they have learned to address operational challenges.”

Al-Fahad added: “This structured approach helps teams make data-driven decisions, address root causes rather than symptoms, and develop measurable, sustainable improvements. The projects also strengthened collaboration between employees, process owners, and support teams through a shared methodology for problem-solving.”

Building an Internal Network of Improvement Specialists
Warba Bank is working to build an internal network of Green Belt graduates equipped to identify operational inefficiencies, review existing workflows, and support improvement initiatives within their departments.

The initiative aims to make continuous improvement part of everyday operations across the bank.

Nvidia CEO urges Germany to embrace AI

FRANKFURT, Oct 20, (AP): Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang urged Germany’s makers of cars and industrial machines to quickly adopt artificial intelligence to “re-engineer” the country’s struggling business model by tapping its wealth of manufacturing data and expertise.

Huang, whose company designs the powerful computer chips and software used by companies like Anthropic and OpenAI to develop AI applications, said that digital technology would never replace manufacturing and the engineering world of cars and robots where Germany has vast experience.

Or, as he put it, “electronics will never replace atoms.” But he said industry would benefit by leaning into technology.

“The next wave of AI is physical. This is where AI interacts with the physical world: robotics, manufacturing, cars, heavy industry,” Huang said Monday during a discussion with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz at an investment conference in Berlin.

“And so AI can only augment your capability. It will not replace your capability. So take advantage of the technology.”

Huang said Germany’s data and expertise on manufacturing “is your natural resource, it belongs to the nation” but it needs to take better advantage of AI. “This industrial revolution is so mighty, so powerful. You don’t have another chance,” he said.

European leaders like Merz are looking to AI as a potential source of growth but are also concerned about the extent of European dependence on U.S. tech companies in the field. Europe’s wealth of high quality public-sector and machine-readable manufacturing data could serve as grist for AI, an opportunity cited by former European Central Bank head

Mario Draghi as an area where Europe could compete with the U.S. and China in the AI field.

Huang and Merz said AI was an opportunity for Germany’s so-called “mittelstand,” the hundreds of small- and medium-sized companies in highly specialized industrial sectors.

Merz is struggling to revive growth in Germany after years of near-stagnation after the pandemic. Among the economy’s headwinds are high energy prices after losing cheap Russian natural gas due to the invasion of Ukraine, competition from China in sectors like autos where Germany once dominated, and excessive red tape and permissions that hold up projects for years. All that has put a damper on an economy heavily oriented toward building complicated machines for export, including cars, trains, aircraft and factory equipment.

Europe lags the U.S. in building out the data centers that offer the massive computing capacity to train artificial intelligence applications, and faces concerns over the security of European companies’ sensitive data against subpoenas and criminal warrants on servers owned by U.S. companies and thus exposed to the U.S. legal system even if they’re in Europe.

Huang appeared to address such concerns by urging Germany to import AI technology but adding that “you should not export your culture, export your values, export your knowledge.”

Huang said Germany should “take advantage of artificial intelligence. Let them codify, let them program, let them teach this artificial intelligence and keep it here in Germany, and let’s re-engineer, the chancellor’s words, Germany. This is your chance to do it.”

AI pricing fuels US consumer anxiety

WASHINGTON, Oct 20, (AP): U.S. consumers aren’t just frustrated with high prices. They’re angry and confused about the increasingly high-tech ways that restaurant chains and major retailers are setting those prices.

Digital price tags are rapidly replacing paper ones in grocery aisles. Artificial intelligence tools help businesses decide what to charge by predicting how customers might respond. Terms like “dynamic pricing” and “surveillance pricing” are stirring anxiety on social media, where users wonder if different people are getting different prices for the same product.

Americans have grown accustomed to changing prices when booking flights, hotel rooms and rides, but the prospect of everyday spending shaped by algorithms they don’t understand and personal data they may not realize they’re sharing has touched a nerve.

“There are major tensions happening right now between who’s really going to have the power with some of these algorithms and usage of bots and AI: the companies or the shopper,” said Katie Thomas, who leads an internal consumer behavior think tank at the management consulting firm Kearney.

Companies using the technology say some concerns stem from misconceptions about how their pricing tools work. Walmart CEO John Furner said in a blog post last month that digital price tags save workers’ time and keep prices up to date. He said the labels aren’t used to raise prices based on the weather, time of day or individual shopper.

“We price the product, not the person,” Furner wrote.

But companies aren’t always transparent about the customer data they collect and how it’s used, which has made consumers suspicious and led to speculation. For example, social media posts falsely imply that electronic shelf labels Walmart plans to put in all its U.S. stores scan shoppers’ faces or cellphones to set individualized prices, Thomas said.

Lawmakers and regulators are taking action. Legislators in at least 30 states have considered pricing bills this year, including measures addressing algorithmic and personalized pricing, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The Federal Trade Commission has proposed an enforcement policy warning businesses that failing to disclose their use of personal data to set individualized prices could violate consumer protection law.

Here are some of the pricing practices and technologies drawing scrutiny.

What it is: Dynamic pricing means adjusting prices in response to changing market conditions, including supply and demand. An airline that adjusts ticket prices as departures approach is using dynamic pricing. Uber’s practice of lifting fares when demand outstrips the supply of available drivers, such as during rush hour, is a type of dynamic pricing known as surge pricing.

Why it matters: Frequent price changes extend well beyond food. Decodo, a web data company, tracked price changes in 2025 across products ranging from electronics to clothing and home improvement supplies. About half the U.S. changes it recorded were decreases, contrary to consumers’ assumptions that dynamic pricing only raises prices, said Gabriele Vitke, a senior product marketing manager.

What they are: Digital displays that let stores update shelf prices electronically instead of replacing



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

paper tags.

Why it matters: Digital price labels, long used in Europe and Asia, are drawing more attention as they spread to major U.S. retailers like Walmart and Whole Foods. Consumer advocates have argued that digital labels could eventually be used for surge pricing or personalized pricing. Labor unions also have opposed the technology.

The electronic shelf labels make frequent changes easier but don’t necessarily lead to higher prices during periods of strong demand. Retailers typically update electronic shelf prices on a regular schedule, often weekly, because shoppers value consistency, said Asa Farquhar of Relex Solutions, a retail technology company. Researchers who tracked prices at an unnamed grocery chain found “virtually no surge pricing” after the labels were introduced.

“Changing prices throughout the day, the way airlines or rideshare apps do, is exceedingly rare in grocery and general merchandise today,” Farquhar said.

What it is: Personalized pricing means offering customers different prices and discounts based on their locations, incomes, web-browsing habits and other information about individuals or groups of shoppers. Some advocacy groups and regulators use the term “surveillance pricing” for the same practice.

Why it matters: It’s unclear how widely businesses use personal information to customize prices. An FTC staff report released in January 2025 found that intermediaries offering tools that can tailor prices and promotions worked with at least 250 clients, including grocery and clothing retailers.

Lawmakers in Maryland, New Jersey and Connecticut recently enacted restrictions on using shoppers’ personal data to determine what they pay. The Maryland and New Jersey laws focus on groceries, with exceptions for certain loyalty discounts and other promotional offers. Connecticut’s legislation covers a broader range of retail purchases.

California prosecutors sued Target in 2022, alleging that the retailer’s app displayed lower prices before shoppers entered stores and raised them once they were inside.

Target agreed to a \$5 million settlement and a ban on using so-called geofencing technology to increase prices.

Target said the app functionality at issue was used to “provide guests with accurate pricing, which can vary across stores and channels.” The retailer said it didn’t personalize prices based on a guest’s data or behavior and remains “committed to clear, transparent pricing.”

Different prices do not necessarily mean personal data was used. Last year, an investigation by Consumer Reports, Groundwork Collaborative and More Perfect Union found that

shoppers on Instacart were shown different prices for identical products at the same stores. Instacart subsequently ended what it described as tests that randomly assigned shoppers to groups rather than setting prices based on their personal information.

What it is: Algorithmic pricing uses software to recommend or automatically set prices. Companies have used such systems for decades. AI can help the software identify patterns in sales, competitors’ prices and other information to predict demand and estimate how different prices would affect sales and profits. These tools can support both dynamic and personalized pricing.

Why it matters: It’s unclear how widely retailers use AI to help set prices, but research suggests businesses across industries are adopting it.

Simon-Kucher, a global consulting company, surveyed more than 2,200 business leaders in 28 countries and 39 industries last year, and 41% said they used AI software to gather market intelligence, including competitors’ prices. Another 28% said they used it for “real-time price optimization.” Price optimization means choosing prices that advance business goals, such as increasing profits, attracting shoppers or clearing unsold goods.

The National Retail Federation, which represents big and small stores, said algorithmic pricing is a new method of doing what retailers have always done: monitor and adjust prices depending on supply, demand, seasonality, competitors’ prices and other factors.

Some lawsuits have alleged companies used pricing algorithms to undermine competition.

A 2023 anti-monopoly lawsuit the FTC brought against Amazon challenged, among other practices, an algorithmic tool codenamed Project Nessie. The agency alleged Amazon used the tool to identify products whose prices it could raise with competitors likely to follow, generating more than \$1 billion in excess profits.

A trial is scheduled for next year. Amazon said the FTC allegations “grossly mischaracterize” the pricing tool.

Project Nessie was intended to stop retail price-matching practices from creating unsustainably low prices, the e-commerce giant said. Amazon said it tested the tool for a few years but it didn’t work as intended and was scrapped before the federal agency’s lawsuit.

A recent consumer lawsuit against McDonald’s alleged that its pricing system use nonpublic sales data from competing locations to coordinate prices. The Chicago-based burger giant said the lawsuit was “filled with inaccuracies” and that the company makes the tool available to U.S. franchisees to help them set prices at their individual restaurants.

Young Kuwaiti pianist Dana stars in KMA's Argentine music gala

Music of diplomacy bringing people together



Viktor Shramko with Orchestra KMA.

By Cezary Owerkowicz
Special to the Arab Times

The event was supposed to take place in May 2026. Unfortunately, the difficult circumstances made it impossible to hold the event then. Nevertheless, one should never give up on plans and dreams, even in the midst of difficulties.

This was reflected in the enormous success achieved in October, when the Kuwait Music Academy (KMA), with its excellent soloists and growing orchestra, returned to the stage. The hall at Yarmouk Cultural Center was packed. It was evident that people were longing for the return to social and cultural life.

'A' like Argentina

A beautiful, faraway country celebrated its National Day in May. It was the project of the Argentine ambassador and KMA to celebrate this occasion through a special concert. The event was held under the patronage of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NC-CAL) and Yarmouk Cultural Center.

Ambassador of the Argentine Republic H.E. Ramiro Hernan Velloso affirmed the importance of art and music in bringing people together and strengthening ties between

people and countries.

The event preceded the 'vernissage' of two exhibitions by Kuwaiti artists. Ms. Nadia Abdulhafour presented a collection of her artworks inspired by Argentina, while Ms. Shahed Alzaabi showcased photographs of her ascent of Aconcagua -- the highest peak in the Americas.

Music of diplomacy

The KMA Orchestra, conducted by Viktor Shramko, welcomed guests with the national anthems of Kuwait and Argentina. This was followed by the "Concert of Masters", featuring composers from Argentina and musicians from Kuwait. It was all set to the rhythm of tango.

Tango: love of freedom

People all over the world associate this name with Argentina. Tango emerged in the 18th century from the traditions of the legendary 'gringo-gauchos' -- Spanish and Italian immigrants, and even African rhythms. The poet, Jose Hernandez, expressed the free-spirited soul of the gaucho in his poem:

"I was born in the mighty Pampas' breast... / And this is my pride: to live as free / As the bird that cleaves the sky."

In the early 20th century, tango -- music from relatively poor people --



HE Ambassador with Kuwaiti pianist Dana Rabeea.

reached Paris and conquered all of Europe. In the 21st century, it was inscribed on UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Astor, the Tango legend

The music of Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992), the son of Italian immigrants, became the soul of Argentina. As a young boy, he received an Argentine 'bandoneon' from his father and fell in love with Bach. However, he grew up in exile in New York. After returning to his



Kinga Masternak, Dana Rabeea, H.E. Ambassador & Karol Masternak

country in 1936, his talent earned him a scholarship to Paris. There, he studied under the renowned Nadia Boulanger, known as the Mother of 20th Century Composers. She encouraged him to draw inspiration from the music of his homeland. Her advice proved so effective that Astor became an enduring musical symbol of Argentina.

Bandoneon

The 'bandoneon' is the most popular instrument in Argentina and Uruguay, but it originated

from Germany, making it a naturalized immigrant. It is similar to the accordion, yet it can be played very expressively through the use of varying bellows, pressures and other techniques. The left and right hands produce different timbres due to the wooden box for the left hand, which gives a nasal and muted timbre, in contrast to the bright and sharp sound produced by the right hand.

Creators and performers

The great Astor and his tangos dominated the show. They were masterfully performed by the great piano duo, Kinga and Karol Masternak. They also accompanied other excellent soloists on the piano, including Viktor Shramko on clarinet and Dmitri Kolesnikov on violin.

Kinga Masternak and Kamil Derylo beautifully sang Argentine songs. In addition to works by Astor Piazzolla, pieces by other Argentine composers, including Carlos Guastavino, Carlos Gardel and Ariel Ramirez, were performed as well.

Another remarkable performance was delivered by the Masternak piano duo, whose rendition of "Invitation to the Tango" by Polish composer Prof. Alexandra Brejza caused a sensation. The global hit "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" by

Andrew Lloyd Webber provided further proof that music is a universal language. ("Don't say goodbye... I'll be close by...")

Kuwaiti youth power

Along with the experienced soloists, a very talented Kuwaiti female student of KMA also took the stage. Dana Ahmed Rabeea, a student of Karol Masternak at KMA, perfectly played a piece by Alberto Ginastera.

Already known among the readers of the Arab Times, Dana Rabeea won first prize at the Seventh International Chopin Competition in Kuwait in 2025. She also won top prizes at international piano competitions in Bahrain, Malaysia, Estonia, Finland, Macedonia and Kuwait, and, most recently, in London.

Let us play

On this magnificent evening, KMA returned to the concert stage for the Kuwaiti audience. Stay tuned for our upcoming concerts!

KMA will soon announce the Eighth International Chopin Competition in Kuwait in two formats: online and live. I hope that the young musicians in Kuwait will continue the successes of past winners like Faisal Al-Bahairi in 2010 and Dana Rabeea in 2025.



Kinga Masternak (vocal) and Dana Rabeea on piano.



Hereby Kinga & Karol Masternak on piano.



Pianist performs on stage.



Dana Rabeea



Viktor Sharmko with KMA Orchestra and Kinga Masternak -- singer.



KMA Ensemble Viktor Shramko (clarinet), Dmitri Krasnikov (violin), Kinga Masternak (vocal), Karol Masternak on piano.

Move calls for digital literacy

UNSC adopts resolution to curb digital risks to children

NEW YORK, Oct 20, (KUNA): The UN Security Council adopted on Monday a resolution addressing the impact of digital technologies on the perpetration of violations and abuses against children.

The resolution also focuses on the need to provide children with digital literacy to identify risks, to prevent violations from occurring.

The resolution No. 2832 of 2026 introduced by Greece stated that digital technology may contribute to committing, facilitating or exacerbating violations against children in armed conflicts.

It also underlined the need to make use of this technology to prevent violations, enhance children protection and ensure their privacy.

The resolution seeks to strengthen the existing protection framework by addressing violations regardless of the means through which they are committed.

The text encourages Member States to reduce risks posed by digital technologies, prevent the use of children in malicious activities in the digital sphere, strengthen educators’ digital competencies and foster public-

private partnerships.

The resolution is not intended to regulate the technical aspects of digital content or infringe upon freedom of expression, but to address violence fuelled by such content.

It urged UN Secretary-General to collect information and lessons learned regarding the benefits and risks of this technology, in coordination with relevant UN entities.

It underlined the need to combat impunity, strengthen national accountability mechanisms, and build the capacity required to investigate and prosecute violations, ensuring that those responsible for violations against children are brought to justice, while guaranteeing victims’ right to access justice and receive medical services and the necessary support.

In addition, the resolution called for supporting national and regional research into the benefits and risks of digital tools and platforms for children, including their impact on their mental health and well-being, and strengthening partnerships between governments and the private sector to establish safeguards against exploitation and abuse.

‘I’ve never considered global issues too complex for American TV’

Amanpour to leave CNN after 43 years at network

WASHINGTON, Oct 20, (AP): Longtime CNN anchor Christiane Amanpour, who began as an entry-level assistant and rose to become one of the most visible correspondents and anchors on TV, reporting from war zones and hot spots for decades, will be leaving the network after 43 years.

Amanpour, the network’s chief international anchor, will scale back her daily show, “Amanpour,” on CNN International to once a week at the beginning of 2027, and end it in May, leaving the network the following month. She said in a statement Monday that she looks forward to “interesting new projects down the line.”

Amanpour, 68, also will end her PBS show, “Amanpour & Co,” at the end of the year, she said in her statement, shared by CNN. She will continue her podcast, “The Ex Files,” with her ex-husband, Jamie Rubin, a former U.S. diplomat.

“After many months of thought and a few sleepless nights, I have decided to separate from CNN, my partner of 43 fantastic years!” Amanpour said. She added she would “always be rooting for CNN and maintaining its history of independent journalism. Remember: Always be truthful, not neutral.”

Amanpour did not give a reason for her departure, nor did she specifically mention changes at her net-



Christiane Amanpour attends Variety’s Power of Women in New York on April 5, 2019. (AP)

work. But her exit coincides with a new era at CNN as it comes under a new owner, Skydance. After a year-long process, Skydance-owned Paramount closed its \$81 billion buyout of Warner Bros. Discovery on Oct. 6. The merger unites under one roof two giants in TV news - CBS and CNN.

On a personal front, Amanpour has spoken openly about her 2021 diagnosis of ovarian cancer and two later recurrences, calling it “the invisible killer.” She has urged others to “get all the scans that you can.”

Amanpour joined CNN as an as-

sistant in Atlanta in 1983. In his own message Monday, CNN’s chief executive, Mark Thompson, wrote that at the time, her promise was not universally appreciated. “Famously, one of her bosses told her back then that she didn’t have what it took to become a foreign correspondent - or to hold any on-air role at all,” Thompson wrote. “Boy, did she prove him wrong!”

Amanpour became a reporter and an international correspondent seven years later. She earned fame in the early 1990s, covering the Gulf War, conflict in the Middle East and many

other hot spots. War reporting is “a sense of mission, it’s a sense of purpose, it’s a sense of being able to tell a story,” she said.

She aimed to bring international news - including complicated stories - to American viewers. “I’ve never believed that things are too complicated to put on American television,” she told The Associated Press in 2023. “I’ve never talked down to an audience. I’ve never believed that they just want to know what’s happening in their backyard.”

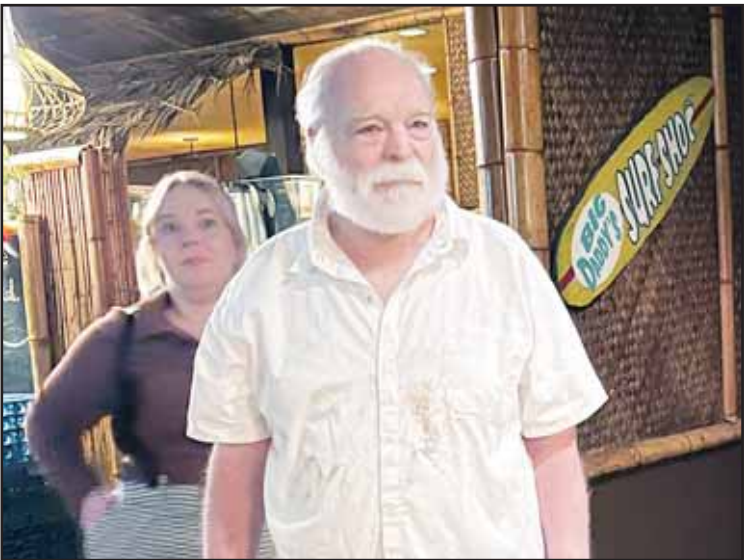
Amanpour also noted that her upbringing gave her a unique perspective.

“Because of my upbringing - I’m half-Iranian and half-British - I’ve had the great privilege of being able to see the world from two very distinct perspectives,” she said. “I’ve always spoken out about the need to bridge gaps. I know we can live in a world that’s not 100% tribalized.”

In her remarks Monday, Amanpour thanked her field crews and show teams.

“From my very first big exciting assignment covering the first Gulf War, to the horrors of the Bosnian War, Rwanda, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Iran and all the points in between, it’s the teams and the camaraderie that counted so much,” she wrote, “as we together battled to seek the facts, the evidence and the humanity, so that CNN could always broadcast the truth about the world and to the world, without fear nor favor.”

Obituary



This image released by Multicom Entertainment Group, Inc. shows Richard Riehle during the filming of “The Cowboy Killer.” (AP)

Industry loses exceptional talent

Richard Riehle, ‘Office Space’ & ‘Star Trek’ Actor, dies at 78

NEW YORK, Oct 20, (AP): Richard Riehle, a prolific character actor in TV and film who often played authority figures but was equally skilled at comedy, notably playing a sad-sack product manager in “Office Space,” has died. He was 78.

Wright Entertainment Inc. said Monday that Riehle had died Oct. 15 but disclosed no cause or details. “Our industry has lost an exceptional talent, and our community has lost a truly wonderful man,” said a statement.

Riehle’s almost five-decade career included playing a quartermaster in the Civil War drama “Glory,” a prison guard in “The Fugitive,” an air marshal in “Executive Decision,” a police officer in a guest spot on “The West Wing” and a principal on the TV adaptation of “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off.”

“If a casting director has found themselves in need of a burly, blustery, mustachioed man for their project, Richard Riehle has likely been near the top of their list,” The AV Club said in 2017.

He fell into acting as a senior at the University of Notre Dame. He couldn’t really afford to stay another year but was told he could take all the credits he needed in speech and drama in one semester. He stayed.

“I spent a semester doing anything and everything that you do in the theater - acting, directing, building sets, etc. - and then for some reason they

liked what I did enough that they got me a teaching assistantship at the University of Minnesota. So I went on and got my MFA (Masters of Fine Arts). I figured, ‘What the heck? If they’re gonna pay me to do it, I’m gonna do it!’” he told the AV Club.

He had his first lines in the 1977 movie “Joyride” alongside Desi Arnaz Jr., Anne Lockhart, Robert Caradine and Melanie Griffith. He’d go on to appear in the broad comedy “Bridesmaids,” the comedy-mystery “Shadows and Fog” for Woody Allen, “Black Rain” with Michael Douglas and the sitcom “Grounded For Life.”

He had an affinity to the “Star Trek” world, landing parts in three franchises - “Star Trek: The Next Generation” in 1992, “Star Trek: Voyager” in 2000 and “Star Trek: Enterprise” in 2004. He was on Broadway three times, including with Paul Giamatti in a 1999 revival of “The Iceman Cometh.”

One of his most beloved roles was in the 1999 film “Office Space,” as Tom Smykowski, an expendable employee at Initech facing getting laid off despite insisting, “I have people skills!”

“Beyond his immense talent, he will be remembered for his genuine goodness, boundless kindness, and unwavering generosity, particularly toward emerging actors and filmmakers, whom he encouraged and supported at every opportunity,” Wright Entertainment said.

Hu, also director of the office of the central commission for cultural heritage protection.

Hu said the plan for the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030) prioritizes protection, promotes the rational use of cultural heritage and adheres to the principle of minimal intervention, while strengthening systematic protection and unified oversight.

The plan sets a target of fully identifying the country’s cultural heritage resources by 2030, with an improved regulatory framework, a stronger body of laws and regulations, and a growing pool of professionals.

China is home to 61 UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the Great Wall, the Mogao Caves and the Beijing Central Axis. (Xinhua)

Television

‘It feels like a reclamation’

The Simpsons brings back Apu after years of silence

LOS ANGELES, Oct 20, (AP): Across 38 seasons of “The Simpsons,” the Halloween-themed “Treehouse of Horror” episodes have always been a treat of spooky stand-alone storylines. On Sunday, the show surprised viewers with a major resurrection: Apu, the beloved Kwik-E-Mart operator who had not been heard for the better part of a decade, spoke once again in Springfield.

He and his wife, Manjula, were back with a meaty plotline - and the voices of actual Indian American actors: Sunil Malhotra, a veteran voice-over artist, and Janina Gavankar (“The Morning Show”).

“Bringing Apu back feels like a reclamation. It truly IS his homecoming,” Malhotra and Gavankar said Sunday in a joint Instagram post.

Apu’s unheralded return is a remarkable twist to a yearslong discourse about how the character has represented a painful stereotype for some South Asian Americans. After a 2017 documentary by comedian Hari Kondabolu, “The Problem With Apu,” the character was largely exiled from the screen.

In “The Problem With Apu,” Kondabolu, a self-described fan of the Fox show, tried to process his misgivings. He interviewed a slew of celebrities of South Asian origin, including Kal Penn, Utkarsh Ambudkar and Hasan Minhaj, about growing up with the character. They shared memories of being bullied and called “Apu” as an insult. Adding to their view of Apu as just a caricature was that Hank Azaria, a white actor, voiced him.

With the full name of Apu Nahasapeemapetilon Jr., he felt like the “forever foreigner, someone who represents Indians in the United States through this sole typology of being a convenience store owner, being a recent immigrant, having this heavy accent, being really limited in this sort of like American identity,” says Bhoomi Thakore, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut. Thakore notes that Kondabolu’s film raised the notion that Apu was the only portrayal of an Indian character most people knew when he debuted in 1990.

Azaria stepped away from the role after the documentary, continuing to



Children appear next to a window display featuring “The Simpsons” character Apu Nahasapeemapetilon Jr. outside a 7-Eleven Kwik-E-Mart in Burbank, Calif., on July 2, 2007. (AP)

voice other “Simpsons” characters, as Apu fell silent, seen only in the background. Kondabolu, however, had never called for Apu to be canceled. On Monday, he praised “The Simpsons” for devising “a clever solution to all this” and hiring Malhotra and Gavankar.

“I’m also still proud of the public conversation about race and representation my documentary started,” he told The Associated Press in an emailed statement. “Finally, I’m hoping this stops all the hate mail in many languages that has been sent my way over the past decade.”

In a 2018 episode, “The Simpsons” responded to Kondabolu’s documentary by having Lisa Simpson bemoan how “something that started decades ago and was applauded and inoffensive is now politically incorrect. ... What can you do?” The camera then panned to a framed photo of Apu. The gag was branded by some as weak for not directly addressing the controversy.

In a 2020 New York Times interview, Azaria, who by then hadn’t

voiced Apu in a few years, announced he would bow out because “it just didn’t feel right.” Later that year, in response to racial reckoning demonstrations, “The Simpsons” announced it would no longer cast white voice actors as characters of color. The show then recast two Black characters, Carl Carlson and Dr. Julius Hibbert, with Black actors.

Kondabolu had not spoken with “The Simpsons” producers about Apu’s comeback, he confirmed to the AP, “but they didn’t owe me that.” And it does sound like Apu is here to stay.

“We love this character and wanted to bring him back in a smart, Simpsons-y way that allowed him to evolve,” executive producer Matt Selman said in a statement. “We’re excited by what Sunil has already brought to the role and look forward to seeing more of Apu in the future.”

A few weeks after “The Simpsons” responded to the documentary, author and producer Amar Shah wrote a se-

ries of social media posts and then a Washington Post op-ed on why he felt mostly sentimental toward Apu. When he watched Apu, he thought of his own Indian father hard at work as a convenience store owner and how that shaped his Florida childhood.

“Apu even now is a character that I wouldn’t mind my kids seeing represented because they’ll see aspects of themselves and of their own grandparents,” says Shah, reflecting on his 2018 piece. “I can totally empathize with someone of South Asian origin having a different POV (point of view) than me but this is my childhood. This is my story.”

After watching this latest episode, Shah didn’t sense any significant difference with Malhotra’s performance.

“Obviously, there’s a different voice, tenor, texture and all that. But, the character is always going to be there, his genuine humanity,” Shah says. “I think if they had incorporated this change earlier, it would have been a lot better.”

‘Make a mark in life’

Retired pilot helps preserve Neil Armstrong’s home

TOLEDO, Ohio, Oct 20, (AP) Ken Schreiber was 9 when Neil Armstrong took his first steps on the moon in 1969 - a moment he would never forget. Like Armstrong, he too became a military fighter pilot.

So when Schreiber read a story in August that Armstrong’s boyhood home in Ohio was for sale and later learned no one had come forward to preserve it, he surprised even himself by making an offer.

“I just thought somebody has got to step up to the plate,” Schreiber said, remembering his father’s advice to “make a mark in life.”

The sale is scheduled to be finalized Monday. The local historical society will take ownership thanks to Schreiber’s \$400,000 donation. He spent 20 years in the U.S. Air Force and retired as a pilot with American Airlines.

The Auglaize County Historical Society plans to restore the well-preserved home to its appearance during Armstrong’s boyhood, when he built model planes in the dining room and tested them in a basement wind tunnel he created.

The goal is to have the home ready for its first public tours by 2030 to mark the 100th anniversary of Armstrong’s birth, said Gerald Siesel, the historical society’s president.

The two-story home in Wapakoneta has long been a stop for visitors to the Armstrong Air and Space Museum curious about the astronaut’s early



The former bedroom of Neil Armstrong is seen Friday, July 31, 2026, in Wapakoneta, Ohio. (AP)

life, but it has never been open to the public.

The historical society has already started researching what the house would’ve looked like in the 1940s and talking with community leaders about raising money to renovate and maintain the home, Siesel said.

“Even now when this opportunity came our way, we realized we can’t do it ourselves,” he said.

Armstrong’s family moved often during his childhood before settling in western Ohio when he was a teenager.

The house at 601 W. Benton St. played a big role in his life. He conducted experiments while living

there and made his first solo flight and earned his pilot’s license at age 16.

Armstrong’s old bedroom is now decorated with photos and paintings of the moon landing and autographed photos of astronauts who’ve visited.

Little has changed on the outside, and the layout inside is similar too, though it has been updated.

The home went up for sale in August for the first time in nearly 40 years.

Karen Mikesell, a retired history teacher, bought the place in 1988 and is just one of a handful of people who’ve owned the home since Armstrong’s parents moved in the mid-1960s.

Over the years, she hosted nine astronauts, including Buzz Aldrin, who flew to the moon with Armstrong and Michael Collins in 1969.

Aldrin stepped inside the bedroom upstairs a few years after Armstrong died in 2012, Mikesell recalled, “and the tears just streamed down his cheeks.”

She said she felt a responsibility to preserve its past and to “keep it like the Armstrongs had” as much as possible. Mikesell, who’s 82, hoped someone would buy the house to help preserve it and inspire future generations.

That’s where Schreiber came in. He first asked friends to chip in but then donated the \$400,000 on his own to help the historical society acquire the house.

Variety

BEIJING: China will work to advance the formulation of a cultural heritage protection law as part of efforts to better preserve and pass on its cultural heritage, an official said Tuesday.

Hu Kaihong, deputy director of the General Office of the Central Commission for Guiding Cultural and Ethical Progress, told a media conference that the move is outlined in the country’s first five-year plan dedicated to cultural heritage protection issued in September.

The plan calls for improving the legal and regulatory framework and strengthening legal safeguards for various types of cultural heritage, including historic and cultural districts, said



An H3 rocket lifts off from the Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima prefecture, southern Japan on Oct 20. (AP)

Japan launches H3 rocket carrying Mars moon sample-return probe

TOKYO, Oct 20, (AP): A Japanese spacecraft rocketed toward Mars on Tuesday on a quest to explore its mysterious moons and bring back samples.

Five of the world’s space agencies joined forces for the five-year mission that will attempt to land a robotic prospector plus a rover on Phobos, the larger and closer of Mars’ two pint-sized moons.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, which is leading the bold sampling effort, launched the spacecraft before dawn from the country’s main spaceport on Tanegashima Island. Officials declared success an hour later when the spacecraft separated as planned from the rocket’s upper stage. Flight controllers burst into applause and jumped to their feet, shaking hands and embracing.

While NASA has successfully landed nine spacecraft on Mars over the past 50 years and China scored a 2021 touchdown, no one has ever reached Phobos or its sidekick Dei-

mos. And no one has managed to fetch samples from Mars, let alone its moons.

If successful, bits of dust, soil and rocks from Phobos will arrive on Earth in 2031.

“There’s a lot of adrenaline and a lot of excitement and a lot of wow,” said NASA astrophysicist Tom Statler, who’s involved with the project.

Japan has an edge going in, with two asteroid sample returns already under its cosmic belt.

Phobos is a lumpy, potato-shaped rock just 22 kilometers (14 miles) or so across. Examining pieces of it can explain how Mars’ moons - and possibly moons elsewhere - came to be.

Dubbed MMX for Martian Moons Exploration, the \$578 million mission features a hefty 5-ton spacecraft that should reach Mars by late next summer. It will sync up with Phobos’ tight orbit around the red planet, before ejecting the French-German

rover that’s named Idefix after the white terrier in the Asterix comics.

No bigger than a microwave oven, Idefix will plop onto Phobos by itself, bouncing for several minutes before coming to a halt in the moon’s extraordinarily low gravity.

The four-wheeled rover is designed to right itself if it lands upside down. All bets are off, though, if it sinks into soft soil or gets wedged between rocks, said the French Space Agency’s Julien Baroukh. Once the rover’s solar panels are deployed, the vehicle can no longer right itself, he added, which is why it will move at a glacial 1 millimeter per second (0.04 inches per second).

Idefix will serve as a “scout for safety,” according to Baroukh, as it prowls around Phobos for 100 days. Japanese flight controllers want to avoid powdery soil and rough terrain when the mothership - a four-legged stationary lander - descends to the surface to gather samples in late 2028 or 2029.

Accident ‘forever changed’ the company: Takahashi

Marine life dramatically declined in Gulf of Mexico in years after BP spill: study

WASHINGTON, Oct 20, (AP): In a deep, dark part of the Gulf of Mexico, the number of marine animals plummeted by about 60% in the years following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion, a new study found.

In a crucial part of the Gulf between the light surface and the darkest depths, where the BP-operated well failed and dumped 134 million gallons of oil, the number of fish found dropped by 63.5% from the year after the spill to 2015. Crustaceans, including shrimp and krill, a key food for whales, went down 62%, and larger animals like squid and octopuses fell 59.7%, according to a study published Monday in the journal PNAS.

And those populations haven’t come close to recovering, the study found.

Researchers focused on the ocean’s “twilight zone,” a vast area above the seafloor, where much of the surface marine life, including dolphins and whales, feast on creatures. Yet little is known about this gigantic ecosystem, and this region of the Gulf had not been studied before the 2010 spill, said study lead author Tracey Sutton, a biological oceanographer at Nova Southeastern University.

A 2011 post-spill exploration

cited in the research, which used six sets of nets at different depths and acoustic sonar, gave scientists a good sense of how much sea life was in the area between the surface and 5,000 feet deep (1,500 meters). They returned to the same place with the same equipment three-and-a-half years later and found sea life was between one-third and one-quarter of what it was in 2011.

“We saw this big decline,” Sutton said. “The question was then why? So we looked at all of the natural variables we thought could account for it, namely temperature, oxygen supply and food. None of those vary with the decline. The event that did was the oil spill. So we think that’s the most likely cause of the decline.”

Researchers kept on sampling since 2015 and the low populations remained, with a slight rise in 2022 and 2023 that did not prove statistically significant or lasting, Sutton said.

Sutton’s team documented the population declines with three different lines of evidence: what they caught in the nets, what their acoustic sonar found and genetic studies showing the species losing genetic diversity because of inbreeding.

A lot of marine life died instantly after the explosion, which



Crude oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill washes ashore in Orange Beach, Alabama on June 12, 2010. (AP)

killed 11 workers, and from nearly five months of leaking oil and gas. Those pollutants got stored in the eggs of survivors and subsequent generations of critters got more compromised and weaker, Sutton said.

BP spokesperson Paul Takahashi said the accident “forever changed” the company: “We have made many changes intended to help prevent an event like this from ever happening again.”

Both the oil and the dispersants used to clean the spill hurt fish, but in different ways, said study co-author

Isabel Romero, a chemical oceanographer at the University of South Carolina. Oil is more toxic and an overall threat, but the dispersant breaks the oil into smaller droplets, increasing the exposure of animals that live in the deeper water column, she said.

Dispersants caused many problems, and new studies show that in future accidents, it would be better to avoid those chemicals and instead add agents that increase oil-munching microbes, said former National Science Foundation Director Rita Colwell, a University of Maryland

environmental microbiologist who headed a 10-year, \$500 million BP-funded program to study spill effects.

Sutton said his team couldn’t prove an exact causal link to the BP oil spill, but by eliminating the other possibilities and looking at the timing, it’s logically clear that the spill caused the problem.

The krill population dropped 72%. Lanternfish - odd fish with blue-green lights embedded over their bodies - are a third of what they used to be, Sutton said. The stunning but scary dragonfish - with sharp teeth, light organs and a lure attached to its head - also had big losses, he said.

“These are foundational species,” Sutton said. “They’re the things most things eat. So it’s no wonder that we had wholesale changes across the community.”

Scientists learned much about this unexplored area of the Gulf.

“One of our biggest findings from the whole thing is how connected the whole oceanic Gulf is from top to bottom because the animals move up and down,” Sutton said. “There are predators at the top that dive deep. Lots of things that are deep that come up at night. So the system is one very large pulsing system, rather than just a layered system like people might have thought beforehand.”

Outside scientists were especially bothered by where the spill damaged.

“We know more about space in some ways than we do about the inner ocean. Because we can’t see these regions, there is a tendency to assume everything is fine, but here we have a clear result showing that something went very wrong,” Scripps Institution of Oceanography marine scientist Kaitlin Frasier said in an email.

Frasier, who wasn’t part of the study released Monday, published a post-spill study in 2024 looking at Gulf of Mexico whales and dolphins, finding population drops as high as 83%.

“It’s shocking how a single failure in a drilling rig can have this vast and sustained impact over thousands of square kilometers, with little visible recovery over 13 years after the spill,” said Dalhousie University marine scientist Boris Worm, who wasn’t part of the study. “It is important that we see this, because for the longest time these consequences were completely out of sight and out of mind.”

Worm and Colwell said this damage should be kept in mind as the world talks about deep-sea mining and increased oil drilling in deep waters.

Africa CDC wants aid groups to account better for millions disbursed to fight Ebola

DAKAR, Senegal, Oct 20, (Agencies): Africa’s top public health agency and Congolese officials have raised concerns over \$700 million in Ebola aid that is unaccounted for and called on aid groups to provide more information about their finances.

This comes as the world’s fastest-growing Ebola outbreak on record continues to outpace efforts, and the virus has spread into eight provinces in Congo and into neighboring countries, Kenya and Uganda.

The revelations renew longstanding questions about transparency and accountability in Congo, a country battered by decades of major epidemics, including repeated Ebola outbreaks. In recent months, The Associated Press reported extensively on strikes of front-line healthcare and support workers over unpaid salaries, bonuses and dangerous conditions in eastern Congo.

Previous Ebola outbreaks were marked by allegations of corruption and mismanagement of funds, which experts said have contributed to the mistrust of local communities, complicating the efforts to halt the spread.

“Many of those involved in the response - who sometimes risk their own lives to save others - say that they have not been paid,” Prince Bahati, a nurse from Bunia, a town in eastern Congo which is at the center of the outbreak, told the AP. “Such a situation is unacceptable and demands clarification, as well as rigorous oversight of how the mobilized resources are managed.”

Anicet Kakule, a Bunia resident, said his friend died in an Ebola treatment center because of a lack of adequate care.

“When you hear about sums like these, frankly, I can understand why some people believe that Ebola has become a business for many NGOs,” he said. “I would like to see the management of funds allocated to the response handled jointly by our country’s government and humanitarian partners - the WHO, for instance - to ensure greater transparency and accountability,” he said.

Here’s what we know about the Ebola funding.

Dr. Jean Kaseya, director general of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the continent’s top public health agency, told reporters last week that since the beginning of the epidemic, \$962 million from international donors

has been disbursed to organizations working on Ebola response in eastern Congo.

But only \$200 million has been accounted for by organizations working on the ground, which include U.N. agencies such as the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Food Program, and international charities like Save The Children and Medecins du Monde, as well as local aid groups.

Only one-third of the organizations attended a recent meeting organized by Congo’s health ministry and provided their financial records, Kaseya said. Those attending organizations said they received \$228 million, of which \$127 million had been spent and around \$100 million remained available.

Kaseya did not specify which organizations lagged behind.

“This represents a significant lack of transparency and financial reporting on the part of these organizations, preventing the Government from having a comprehensive overview of the resources mobilized, how they were utilized and the results achieved,” the Africa CDC said in a statement.

“It is unacceptable for organizations to receive hundreds of millions of dollars to intervene in a country facing a major health emergency without providing a transparent account to the national authorities responsible for coordinating the response.”

Kaseya said the agency would work closely with the Congolese authorities to investigate what has happened with the remaining money.

Following the statement from the Africa CDC, Congolese authorities, which are in charge of coordinating the response, highlighted that they have not received any money directly from international donors.

The country’s health minister, Samuel Roger Kamba, told the Congolese Press Agency on Sunday that the authorities have restricted operations of organizations on the ground, and granted accreditations to only 25 out of almost 100 organizations that had been previously authorized to operate.

The authorities are investigating what happened to the money, he said, and implementing organizations are required to report how much money they received, from whom and detailed plans for how they are spending it.

“The funds granted were not paid into the general treasury; we must know who received what and who is doing what on the ground. All partners must be able to provide us with this information,” Communications Minister Patrick Muyaya told the AP.

The 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.

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 has recorded eight cases as of Sunday.

The spread of the outbreak, caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus for which there is no approved vaccine or treatment, is fueled by mass population movements, rebel violence, mistrust and poor working conditions of front line workers.

Also:

ADDIS ABABA: The Ethiopian Ministry of Health said it is intensifying coordinated measures to prevent a potential Ebola virus disease outbreak in the country amid reported cases in neighboring Kenya.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the ministry said it, along with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, regional health bureaus and partner organizations, is stepping up prevention and preparedness measures

to keep the Ebola virus from entering the country and take swift responses in case of happening.

Health screenings at both air and land entry points are in place, while laboratory testing capacity, isolation facilities, rapid response teams and disease surveillance systems are being established and organized, the ministry said, adding that its health professionals are conducting health screening, isolation and monitoring round the clock for people coming from countries affected by the disease.

The ministry urged the public to remain vigilant and immediately report any suspected cases or individuals exhibiting key Ebola virus symptoms including vomiting and bleeding.

Kenya confirmed its first Ebola case on Oct. 6. The index patient, a Kenyan man who had been living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, arrived in Nairobi on Oct. 3.

Kenya’s health authorities confirmed an eighth Ebola case on Monday after a 49-year-old patient attendant tested positive.

□ □ □

FREETOWN: Sierra Leone has strengthened Ebola surveillance and preparedness measures after Kenya recorded seven confirmed cases, the National Public Health Agency (NPHA) has announced.

In a notice released on Sunday, the NPHA, working with the Ministry of Health, the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority and other institutions, strengthened screening and surveillance at Freetown International Airport and official land border crossings, particularly for travelers arriving from affected countries.



A healthcare worker speaks to a colleague at the Ebola treatment center in Beni, North Kivu province, Congo on Oct 19. (AP)

Researchers in Australia develop AI tool to assess stroke risk

SYDNEY, Oct 20, (Xinhua): Researchers in Australia have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) model that analyzes DNA to identify genetic risk factors for stroke, paving the way for more personalized risk assessments and prevention.

The study identified 18 genetic variants linked to ischemic stroke, the most common type of stroke. People in the highest genetic risk group had a 22 percent higher chance of stroke than those in the lower-risk group, according to a statement released recently by Australia’s University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

The team used a type of AI known as a transformer to train the model on thousands of genetic variations and identify links to ischemic stroke. Researchers tested the AI model using genetic and health data from the UK Biobank and a large US database. The model was more accurate than previous genetic risk tools at distinguishing people who had suffered a stroke from those who had not.

The study also identified the gene EDEM2 in brain cortex tissue as a key contributor to stroke susceptibility, providing a target for further research.

Researchers are now developing a multimodal AI tool that combines genetic assessments with other modes of data, including health and lifestyle surveys, scans and imaging, to improve risk assessment for stroke and other diseases.

Also:

MELBOURNE: Researchers in Australia have developed a way to precisely target the “unique molecular fingerprint” created when two genes become abnormally fused together, potentially paving the way for more personalized cancer treatments.

Researchers from Australia’s Peter MacCallum Cancer Center and collaborating institutions described the method in Science Advances, aiming to develop programmable cancer medicines tailored to individual tumors’ genetic abnormalities, according to a statement released recently by Peter Mac.

The new strategy can precisely target and silence gene fusions, stopping their cancer-driving effects and potentially offering a new, highly personalized approach to treating a wide range of fusion-driven cancers, according to the study.

□ □ □

SYDNEY: Eating an extra serving of fruit each day was associated with a lower risk of depression and anxiety symptoms in teenagers, while higher consumption of sugar-sweetened drinks was linked to an increased risk, an Australian study shows.

Researchers followed 6,537 adolescents from 71 secondary schools across the states of New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia over four years, beginning when participants were about 12.5 years old on average, according to a statement released Monday by Australia’s University of Sydney.

The study found that one additional daily serving of fruit was associated with a 13 percent lower risk of depression symptoms and a 7 percent lower risk of anxiety symptoms. Average daily fruit consumption ranged from two to 2.5 servings during the study period.

Higher consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages, including soft drinks, cordials and sports drinks, was associated with an increased risk of depression and anxiety.

□ □ □

SYDNEY: An international study has found no overall association between total ultra-processed food intake and bowel cancer risk, but identified different associations among specific food groups.

The study found that intake of ultra-processed meat products, including hot dogs and sandwich meats, was linked to higher bowel cancer risk. In contrast, whole grains, fiber, dairy, and calcium from ultra-processed foods, such as wholemeal bread and flavored yoghurt, were associated with lower risk, according to a recent statement from Australia’s QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute.

Researchers also found that replacing 10 percent of ultra-processed food intake with an equivalent weight of minimally processed foods was linked to a 2-percent reduction in bowel cancer incidence.

Dream stymies Valkyries to even WNBA Finals

Reese has 30 points and 16 rebounds

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 20, (AP): Angel Reese sent the message loud and clear to her teammates: “I need the ball! I need the ball!”

In front of the Golden State Valkyries’ raucous home crowd, the Atlanta star had no choice but to raise her voice - and Reese knew she had to raise her game, too.

She delivered with 30 points and 16 rebounds in Game 2 of the WNBA Finals after she struggled down the stretch in the series opener, and the Dream stymied Golden State on both ends in the second half to beat the Valkyries 79-65 and even the best-of-seven matchup at one game apiece.

“For me, I think I let my team down last game not really contributing as much as I could in the second half,” Reese said. “Not even just about scoring, my screen quality, me hustling and running to get rebounds,



Atlanta Dream forward Angel Reese (5) reacts during the first half of Game 2 of the WNBA basketball finals against the Golden State Valkyries in San Francisco. (AP)

just doing the things that they know me to do. So I just wanted to make sure I came out tonight and left my mark and did whatever I could to get the win, and I think I did that tonight.”

Rhyne Howard set a Finals record with six steals, Allisha Gray added 18 points, and Jordin Canada contributed 13 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds as the Dream earned the franchise’s first Finals victory after going winless in three previous trips - 0-10 overall. They now head home having salvaged a split in front of the boisterous “Ballhalla” crowd at Chase Center.

“It’s just the next step of who Atlanta is,” Reese said.

Reese became the third player with at least 30 points and 15 rebounds in a Finals game, joining Jonquel Jones for Connecticut in 2019 and Breanna Stewart for Seattle in 2020.

Atlanta coach Karl Smesko could see the focus in his superstar’s face before the game, and Reese’s teammates also saw it.

“She was definitely way more aggressive, she had a great game,” Valkyries center Kiah Stokes said. “We let everyone kind of have their way.”

Game 3 is Wednesday in Atlanta, where the next two matchups were moved to the NBA Hawks’ State Farm Arena so more fans could attend. It holds more than 17,000, as opposed to the Dream’s regular home, Gateway Center Arena, which accommodates only 3,500.

Chase Center holds 18,064 and has sold out every game since the Valkyries began playing last year.

Gabby Williams finished with 14 points on 3-for-15 shooting after she was the only Golden State player to score in double figures with 26 points in Saturday’s 68-64 Game 1 win. The Valkyries



Atlanta Dream guard Allisha Gray (15) and Golden State Valkyries center Aminata Gueye, center right, go for a rebound during the first half of Game 2 of the WNBA basketball finals in San Francisco. (AP)

shot 34.4% and went 7 for 24 from 3-point range.

“We shot terribly,” point guard Veronica Burton said. “We missed shots that we make all the time.”

Foul trouble almost did in the Dream this time - but Reese simply wouldn’t have it. She went scoreless

in the second half of the opener but delivered the big baskets and key defensive stops two days later, finishing 10 for 16 from the floor while dishing out three assists and blocking two shots.

“We watched film and saw the things that we messed up on. When

I said that they didn’t do anything to mess us up, it was literally just us,” Reese said. “And we can see that tonight. And we’re gonna carry that over in Atlanta. Atlanta, y’all better pull up and pop out, I’m looking forward to it.”

Atlanta scored 24 points off

Golden State’s 19 turnovers to hand the Valkyries their first loss in regulation since a 73-70 defeat at Chicago on Aug. 21. The Dream had just eight points off turnovers in Game 1 but returned to the defensive formula that advanced Atlanta this far.

‘Very exciting’

Svindal answers Norway call to help coach national team



In this file photo, former alpine skier Aksel Lund Svindal, from Norway, explains the course to children ahead of an alpine ski, women’s World Cup downhill, in Kvitfjell, Norway. (AP)

OSLO, Oct 20, (AP): Norwegian skiing great Aksel Lund Svindal has joined the coaching staff of the national team.

Svindal, the last Norwegian to win Olympic gold in Alpine skiing back in 1988, said he accepted a part-time position following a proposition from current members of the team.

“When athletes and coaches came to me this summer with a concrete challenge and a suggestion for how I could contribute, I thought it sounded very exciting,” said the 43-year-old Svindal, who retired from competing in 2019 because of persistent knee injuries.

Svindal, who underwent surgery in 2022 after being diagnosed with testicular cancer, was part of Lindsey Vonn’s coaching team ahead of this year’s Winter Olympics.

He was a superstar at the Vancouver Olympics in 2010, winning gold in the super-G, silver in the downhill and bronze in the giant slalom. He also won gold in downhill in Pyeongchang eight years later, was a five-time gold medalist at world championships, and earned the overall World Cup title twice -

in 2007 and 2009.

Norway won just two medals - a silver and a bronze - in Alpine skiing in the Milan-Cortina Olympics this year. It had four medals in the 2022 Games but no golds.

“We have a strong group of athletes and coaches who are constantly working to develop further,” said Claus Ryste, sports director for Norway’s Alpine skiing team.

“Aksel knows elite sports from both sides and knows what it takes to succeed at the very highest level. We believe he can add valuable perspectives in the work of taking new steps.”

Svindal is already with the team at a pre-camp ahead of the start of World Cup racing in Sölden, the Norwegian team said, and “will further contribute in selected periods throughout the season.”

A star who isn’t in camp is Aleksander Aamodt Kilde, who ruptured his Achilles tendon during a fall in preseason downhill training in Chile last week.

“This is a program I believe in,” Svindal said, “and I feel I can contribute in several areas, even though I am not with the team every single week.”

Ronaldo suspended for 30 days and fined

LISBON, Portugal, Oct 20, (AP): Walking out on the Portugal camp earned Cristiano Ronaldo a 30-day suspension and 255 euros (\$285) fine from the national federation.

Change Name

I, SEKH MINAZUL, S/o, SEKH JALIL, resident of Village Niranjanpur Musalmanpara, P.O. Nazirpur, P.S. Manikchak, Dist. - Malda, PIN - 732203, have changed my Iname from SEKH MINAZUL to SK MINAZUL and my father's name from SEKH JALIL to SK JALIL. Henceforth, I shall be known as SK MINAZUL for all purposes. SK MINAZUL and SEKH MINAZUL are one and the same person. Vide Affidavit No. 01/26, sworn before the Notary Public at Malda on 22.09.2026

The Portuguese Football Federation had provisionally suspended Ronaldo and called the punishment “adequate and sufficient.”

The federation said Ronaldo fully admitted the facts underlying the charges through a formal statement submitted on Friday. It said his confession and clean disciplinary record helped to reduce the punishment.

The fine was the maximum allowable by the federation after mitigating circumstances were taken into account.

Ronaldo can appeal the suspension, but he had already apologized and said he expected to be

UEFA demands immediate answers, rejects delays until next meeting

UEFA gives FIFA Nov. 2 deadline to disclose Gianni WC plan documents

LONDON, Oct 20, (AP): UEFA has given FIFA a Nov. 2 deadline to release documents relating to Gianni Infantino’s aborted attempts at a secretive investment plan for the World Cup and other governance issues.

The latest move in a power struggle between the two governing bodies came in the week after UEFA’s European delegates were disappointed by what they perceived as a lack of clarity by FIFA president Infantino over the issues at a FIFA council meeting last week.

Infantino provided no documents about the \$4.2 billion World Cup sell-off plan he launched and quickly dropped in July amid a fierce backlash led by Europe.

Among the 42 questions that UEFA is demanding an answer to are: Infantino’s personal remuneration package, financial payments made to singer Marc Anthony, the handling of U.S. striker Folarin Balogun’s disciplinary case, business and political relationships involving Donald Trump and his family, and the operational independence of FIFA’s judicial, electoral, and ethics committees.

UEFA asked U.S. federal courts to

authorize subpoenas compelling the production of documents and sworn testimony about the abandoned investment plan called FIFA Forward Enterprise.

FIFA lawyers have claimed UEFA is harassing Infantino.

The formal letter, signed by UEFA

general secretary Theodore Theodoridis on behalf of European FIFA council members, stated Infantino’s apology for his actions and subsequent explanation failed to address their core concerns.

“These explanations have not begun satisfactorily to address a num-



In this file photo, UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin, right, and FIFA president Gianni Infantino, left, holding a ball during the 49th UEFA congress in Belgrade, Serbia. (AP)

ber of fundamental questions raised by Council members. Others remain unanswered, and the information and documentation requested have not been (provided),” the letter said.

“The withdrawal of FFE, the recognition of mistakes, and the announcement of ‘potential governance reforms’ do not answer how the relevant decisions were taken or why the FIFA Council was not involved at the appropriate stage.”

UEFA submitted 42 detailed questions to FIFA, demanding responses by Nov. 2 - 16 days before the nomination deadline for the presidential election next March 18.

With the next FIFA council meeting scheduled for Dec. 16 in Doha - after nominations close - UEFA insisted that answers cannot wait.

“These questions require answers now. They cannot be deferred until the next meeting of the FIFA Council - nor can future governance reforms substitute for scrutiny of decisions already taken and accountability for them,” the letter emphasized.

The earlier deadline would give federations time to assess FIFA’s answers - or its failure to answer - while they can still nominate or endorse a challenger.

Hornets secure Miller with 5-year, \$209M extension

Lakers waive Knecht ahead of opening night

EL SEGUNDO, Calif., Oct 20, (AP): The Los Angeles Lakers waived guard Dalton Knecht in their final roster cutdown for the regular season.

Knecht was the Lakers’ first-round pick in 2024, and he briefly appeared to be a star in the making early in his rookie season. The 2024 SEC Player of the Year at Tennessee scored 37 points while hitting nine 3-pointers against Utah in November of that year in the highlight of a nine-game stretch in which he averaged 18.9 points per game.

But Knecht never matched that success again, and he never regained significant playing time for the Lakers after he was briefly traded to Charlotte in February 2025. The Lakers sent Knecht, Cam Reddish and draft considerations to the Hornets for center Mark Williams, only to rescind the traded hours later after Williams’ physical.

Knecht averaged just 10 minutes per game last season, never earning a regular rotation role.

The decision means the Lakers are keeping guard Bronny James for the start of a third season after the offseason departure of his father, NBA all-time scoring leader LeBron James.

Bronny James appeared in 69 games over his first two seasons with the Lakers, averaging 2.7

points per game.

The Lakers open the regular season at home against the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday night.

■ ■ ■

The Milwaukee Bucks waived guard Kevin Porter Jr. after a 2025-26 season in which he led the team in assists per game and ranked second in scoring.

The move came ahead of Monday’s NBA roster deadline. The Bucks open their season Wednesday at Washington.

Although injuries limited Porter to 38 games last season, the 6-foot-5 guard productive when available. He averaged 17.4 points, 7.4 assists, 5.2 rebounds and 2.2 steals.

The Bucks had a surplus of guards as they retool in their first season without two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, who was traded to Miami in the offseason. Waiving Porter should open up more playing time for younger backcourt performers such as rookie Brayden Burries and 20-year-old Kaspas Jakucionis, who will complement returning guard Ryan Rollins and 2025 All-Star Tyler Herro.

Jakucionis and Herro came to Milwaukee in the Antetokounmpo trade. The Bucks selected Burries out of Arizona with the 10th overall pick in this year’s draft.

■ ■ ■



Los Angeles Lakers forward Dalton Knecht (4) walks toward the bench during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game against the Golden State Warriors in San Francisco. (AP)

The Charlotte Hornets have agreed on a five-year, \$209 million contract extension with guard/forward Brandon Miller, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Monday because the team had not announced the agreement.

The 6-foot-7 Miller has averaged 19 points, 4.6 rebounds and 3 assists per game over his first three seasons in the league while shooting 37.3% from 3-point range. He

averaged 20.2 points, 4.9 rebounds and 3.3 assists per game last season while dealing with a shoulder injury.

Miller, 23, is expected to take on an even bigger scoring load this season after the Hornets traded LaMelo Ball to the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Miller was the No. 2 pick by the Hornets in the 2023 NBA draft, selected behind San Antonio’s Victor Wembanyama.

Charlotte opens the season Wednesday at Brooklyn.

Participants will embark on six-week program as registration remains open for Gulf Bank 642 Marathon’s categories

Gulf Bank announces 10 Challenge winners ahead of Kuwait’s only internationally accredited marathon

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: As preparations gather pace for the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, Gulf Bank introduced the 10 winners of its third consecutive Gulf Bank Challenge at a press conference bringing together all participants, program partners, and media. Selected from 260 applicants, the winners shared the inspiring stories behind their commitment to a healthier lifestyle as they prepare for a six-week training and nutrition program ahead of Kuwait’s only internationally accredited marathon.

The announcement also extended an invitation to the wider community to join the marathon on November 30, with registration still open across four distances: the 5K walk or run, 10K run, 21K half marathon, and 42K full marathon. From experienced athletes to first-time participants and those who prefer to walk, the event welcomes everyone to get active and experience Kuwait’s community spirit.

The 10 Challenge participants represent different ages, experiences, and fitness levels, with the youngest aged 20. Their ambitions range from completing their first five kilometers and preparing for longer distances to returning to running after a break and making exercise a consistent part of everyday life.

Over the next six weeks, participants will receive training led by Coach Mohammed AlHathal, memberships at Platinum Gym, sportswear and equipment from Intersport, and nutrition support from Numou. Together, these partners will help participants work toward their individual goals while developing habits they can maintain beyond race day.

Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Officer at Gulf Bank, said: “We are delighted to welcome our 10 participants to the third Gulf Bank Challenge. Among the 260 applications, we found stories that many people will relate to: wanting to prioritize their health, return to exercise, or discover what they are capable of achieving. We chose these participants because their willingness to begin could encourage others to do the same.”

She added: “We are very happy to witness a positive change in lifestyles, with people becoming more health conscious and making sport part of their everyday routines, especially the younger generation. Through the Challenge and the marathon, we want to support that



Najla Aleisa and Ahmed Al-Majed pose for a group photo with sponsors and winners.



Left: Najla Aleisa speaks during the ceremony. Right: Coach Mohammed AlHathal poses with the winners.



momentum and create more opportunities for people to get involved.”

During the event, participants spoke about their reasons for joining the Challenge and the milestones they hope to achieve. Their stories reflected the different starting points that bring people to sport and the importance of encouragement and support in helping them continue.

Aleisa said: “As our participants share their progress, including the

difficult days and small achievements, we hope others will recognize something of themselves in these experiences. The marathon provides a goal to work toward, while the confidence, friendships, and healthy habits developed along the way can last well beyond the finish line.”

Supporting Lasting Community Well-being

The Gulf Bank Challenge reflects

the social dimension of the Bank’s sustainability commitment by encouraging lasting lifestyle changes and wider community participation. Its focus on physical activity and well-being aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3, Good Health and Well-being, while its collaborative approach reflects the spirit of SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals.

By bringing together participants,

coaches, fitness and nutrition partners, the initiative demonstrates how shared expertise and resources can help individuals take practical steps toward healthier lives.

An Invitation to Run, Walk, and Connect

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon offers opportunities for people with different interests and fitness levels to participate. Those who prefer walking are welcome to join the 5K walk or run, enjoy the atmosphere, and share the experience with family and friends.

“Everyone is welcome to be part of the day,” Aleisa said. “Whether you are aiming for a personal best, taking part in your first event, or walking five kilometers with friends, you have a place in this community. Seeing people encourage one another and celebrate each other’s achievements is one of the most rewarding aspects of the marathon.”

Aleisa thanked all Gulf Bank Marathon sponsors and Challenge partners for their continued support. She also recognized Suffix, the marathon organizer, represented at the conference by Ahmed AlMajed, for its efforts in delivering the event and de-

veloping the participant experience.

A Unique Initiative

Ahmed Al-Majed, Chief Operations Officer of Suffix emphasized that the Gulf Bank Challenge is a distinctive initiative that promotes greater community participation and encourages individuals to adopt a healthier and more active lifestyle. He affirmed the company’s commitment to delivering an exceptional experience through world-class preparation and organization.

A Supportive Training Environment

Ali AlBaghli, Group Marketing PR director at Platinum, highlighted the importance of providing a motivating training environment that helps participants improve their fitness levels and prepare for the marathon through programs tailored to their abilities and objectives. He stressed that consistent training is essential for achieving positive results and making exercise a regular part of daily life.

Promoting Health and Well-Being

Saad Almuaili, Assistant Manager Corporate Marketing at Intersport, explained that the company’s support for the Gulf Bank Challenge stems from its belief in the role of sports in enhancing health and quality of life. He confirmed the company’s commitment to providing the necessary sportswear and equipment to help participants prepare effectively and stay motivated throughout their fitness journey.

Balanced Nutrition

Numo Hamad Baqer, Business Development Manager at Numo, underscored the importance of balanced nutrition in supporting physical performance and maximizing the benefits of athletic training. He noted that nutritional guidance provided during the challenge will help participants build sustainable healthy habits whose positive impact will continue well beyond the marathon.

Through the Gulf Bank Challenge and the marathon, the Bank continues to connect individual ambition with community participation, encouraging more people to take a first step toward an active lifestyle.

Registration remains open at www.gulfbank642marathon.com.

‘Immersive experience’

AAW opens Kuwait’s first INTERSPORT RUN store at Al Shaheed Park – Phase 3

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW) announced today the opening of Kuwait’s first INTERSPORT RUN, a specialty running store at Al Shaheed Park - Phase 3. The new store offers more than specialized running footwear and apparel, creating an immersive experience that brings people together through community-focused activities and encourages them to make running part of their everyday lives.

Located within one of Kuwait’s newest outdoor destinations, INTERSPORT RUN offers a specialised selection of running footwear, apparel, and accessories designed to cater to runners of all levels. The store features an advanced foot-scanning machine that provides detailed foot analysis, helping customers identify the most suitable running footwear for their individual needs. It also features a dedicated hydration station where



A photo of the Intersport branch at Al Shaheed Park - Phase 3.

runners and park visitors can stop by to replenish.

As part of its ongoing commit-

ment to promoting an active lifestyle, INTERSPORT RUN will host regular run club sessions at Al

Shaheed Park, bringing together the local running community and encouraging greater participation in the sport.

Al Shaheed Park – Phase 3 offers new spaces for leisure and outdoor activities, including a 2,400-metre running track surrounded by green spaces. The park provides an ideal setting for INTERSPORT RUN, a new destination for running enthusiasts in Kuwait.

INTERSPORT currently operates nine stores strategically located across Kuwait. Store locations include Murouj, The Avenues, Rafa Nadal Academy, The Assima Mall, Al Tilal Complex, Al Andalus Mall, SVN Beach Resort, Al Khiran Mall, and the newly opened INTERSPORT store at Al Shaheed Park - Phase 3. Additionally, INTERSPORT offers an online shopping experience through www.intersport.com.kw and the INTERSPORT Store mobile app.

Best of the Rest

Newell’s beats Cordoba: Jeronimo Mattar and Santiago Solari scored either side of halftime as Newell’s Old Boys clinched a 2-1 home win over Central Cordoba in Argentina’s Clausura tournament on Monday.

Teenage midfielder Mattar opened the scoring just after the half-hour, capitalizing on a failed clearance to fire in from 12 yards.

The hosts doubled the lead in the 69th minute when Solari tapped in from point-blank range following Walter Mazzantti’s cross from the right.

Central Cordoba pulled a goal back 11 minutes later through Leonardo Sequiera, who headed into the far corner after meeting Horacio Tjanovich’s cross at the far post. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Guruzeta suffers serious knee injury: Athletic Bilbao forward Gorka Guruzeta is likely to miss the rest of the season after suffering a serious knee injury in Saturday’s 0-0 draw away to Valencia.

The 30-year-old came on as a second-half substitute and had been on the pitch for just over a minute when he pulled up after appearing to catch his foot in the turf at Valencia’s Mestalla Stadium.

Athletic Bilbao coach Edin Terzic said at the post-match press conference that the injury “doesn’t look good,” and the club has now confirmed the worst fears.

“Athletic Club forward Gorka Guruzeta has suffered a complete tear of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his left knee, as confirmed by the club’s medical staff,” the club said on its website on Monday. (Xinhua)

Ten-man Getafe fights back to draw with Rayo

Spurs claim long-awaited Premier League win

LONDON, Oct 20, (AP): Ten-man Getafe fought back to draw at home with Rayo Vallecano 1-1 in La Liga and Tottenham became the last of the Premier League’s 20 teams to win a match this season.

Spurs beat Coventry City 3-1 at home.

In Serie A, Monza’s second win was a surprise drubbing of in-form Cagliari, while Torino continued its good run of form with a 3-0 win at Parma.

Former Real Madrid defender Dani Carvajal made his long-awaited Getafe debut almost five months after last playing a senior game.

The 34-year-old had been without a club since leaving Real in the summer and his debut got off to an unfortunate start when Alvaro Garcia finished a superb break to put Rayo 1-0 up after 12 minutes.

Getafe’s task was made all the harder when defender Djene was sent off for a second yellow card after 28 minutes but it fought back valiantly and the Coliseum Stadium erupted 11 minutes into the second half when Martin Satriano prodded home the equalizer.

Although Rayo had the better of the final half hour it could not get a winner. Rayo rose one place into 13th. Getafe was one place behind.



Tottenham Hotspur’s Mohammed Kudus, left, and Coventry City’s Caleb Yirenkyi in action during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Coventry City in London. (AP)

Giovanni Simeone scored his first goal of the Serie A season after four minutes to put Torino ahead at Parma and Scotland international Che Adams added a second midway through the first half.

Simeone got his second and Torino’s third after 69 minutes to guarantee the Turin giant back-to-back league wins for the first time this season.

The result lifted Torino three places into 10th, while Parma fell into the bottom three.

Earlier, Eddy Kouadio’s first professional goal put Monza on the way to an easy win over Parma.

The big center half scored after 35 minutes and a second-half double from Gustavo Varela, either side of a goal from 19-year-old on-loan Southampton forward Jay Robinson, sealed Monza’s second victory.

Cagliari came into the game unbeaten in its last four and fell one place to seventh.

Maddison’s return to the starting line-up after 536 days out through injury inspired Spurs in a pulsating game at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

His superb strike after 14 minutes settled the home fans and although an equalizer from Jack Rudoni early in the second half threatened to derail Spurs’ hopes, Omar Marmoush put it back in the lead nine minutes later. Ben Davies ensured the home win with a stoppage-time strike from the edge of the box.

The triumph was Spurs’ first of the season and lifted it off the bottom of the Premier League and into 16th spot. Coventry was one place further back.

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NEWS



Parma's Jose David Romero, right, fights for the ball with Torino's Ardan Ismajli, left, during a Serie A soccer match between Parma and Torino in Parma, Italy. (AP) – See Page 15

Sports

Kuwait archers deliver golden show in Fujairah



Kuwait archers celebrate with the national flag.

KUNA photo

Team eyes more success at West Asia Archery Championship

ABU DHABI, Oct 20, (KUNA): Kuwait's archery team won five medals — three gold, one silver and one bronze — at the third West Asia Archery Championship in Fujairah, UAE.

Team administrator Omar Al-Shatti told KUNA that the results reflected the athletes' strong performances throughout the competition and their ability to contend for top honors.

He dedicated the achievement to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's political leadership and the

Kuwaiti people. He said the success would motivate the team to work harder and pursue further achievements in upcoming competitions.

Al-Shatti also praised the Kuwait Shooting Sport Club's board of directors for its support and efforts to prepare the archers for the championship, expressing hope for stronger performances and more medals in future events.

In the compound men's team event, Abdullah Mal Allah, Ahmad Al-Shatti and Bader Al-Shalahi claimed gold.

Kuwait also struck gold in the women's recurve team event, with Suad Al-Bahar, Reem Al-Naqeeb and Nour Al-Sharhan emerging victorious.

Abdullah Mal Allah and Hanan Al-Meyas added another gold in the compound mixed team event, while Ali Al-Zaid and Reem Al-Naqeeb

secured bronze in the recurve mixed team competition.

The men's recurve team, comprising Ali Al-Zaid, Saad Al-Baloud and Abdulaziz Bushahri, claimed silver after finishing second in the team final.

Al-Shatti said Kuwait would have the opportunity to add two more gold medals on Wednesday, with Abdullah Mal Allah competing in the compound men's individual final and Hanan Al-Meyas contesting the compound women's individual final.

The championship began on October 15 and concludes Wednesday, featuring 72 male and female archers from Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Palestine. The competition includes recurve and compound events across individual, team and mixed-team categories.

Al-Nasr overcomes Al-Sahel in First Division

Kazma makes winning return as volleyball league resumes

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: The 2025-2026 volleyball league resumed after being suspended since early last month amid developments in the Gulf, with two matches played in the Premier League and First Division.

In the Premier League, Kazma marked its return with a convincing 3-0 victory over Qadsia, sending a strong message about its ambitions following the lengthy interruption. In the First Division, Al-Nasr overcame Al-Sahel 3-2 in a closely contested encounter that went the distance to a deciding set.

Premier League action continues tomorrow, Thursday, with Kazma taking on Sulaibikhat at 5 pm, followed by Qadsia's clash with Al-Arabi at 7 pm. Both matches will be held at the Kuwait Volleyball Association Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Sports Complex.

The First Division resumes Sunday with two fixtures at the same venue. Al-Shabab meet Al-Sahel, while Al-Yarmouk face Al-Nasr.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Volleyball Association's Competitions Committee is working to complete the remaining fixtures of the interrupted 2025-2026 season while preparing for the



Players challenge for the ball during Kazma-Qadsia match.

2026-2027 campaign.

Committee chairman Aref Al-Subaih said preparations were progressing rapidly to conclude the previous season's competitions and ensure the new season gets underway in an organized manner. He added that all committees were ready to carry out their duties, with support from the association's board of directors.

Al-Subaih stressed that the committee was focused on providing the conditions needed for successful domestic competitions and ensuring matches are organized to a high standard. He expressed hope that the upcoming schedule would deliver a competitive season, make up for the disruption and help clubs and players return to action in the best possible condition.

'Kuwait handball team faces crucial period'

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 20: Kuwait national handball team assistant coach Ali Murad has welcomed his appointment to the senior team's technical staff, expressing gratitude to the Kuwait Handball Association's board of directors, coaching department and national teams committee for placing their trust in him.

Murad described the role as a major responsibility and said he was eager to contribute to the team's development alongside a coach with extensive international experience.

"I am delighted with this confidence and the opportunity to take on the task. I look forward to making a meaningful contribution to the technical staff and working with the coaching and administrative teams



Assistant coach Ali Murad

to raise the national team's level and achieve results that reflect the standing of Kuwaiti handball," he said.

He stressed that the national team

was entering a significant period, with several international commitments on the horizon, led by the World Handball Championship scheduled for January in Germany.

Murad said the challenges ahead would drive the team to work harder and step up preparations in the coming months.

He also voiced confidence in the coaching and administrative staff and praised the players' dedication to the national team. He added that the strong backing of the association's board would encourage everyone to work toward a performance worthy of Kuwaiti handball's reputation.

Murad concluded by wishing the team success and expressing hope that the coming period would bring further development and achievements on both the continental and international stages.

Saudi Arabia Rally dropped after WRC cancellation

RIYADH, Oct 20, (Xinhua): Rally Saudi Arabia will not take place as part of the 2026 FIA Middle East Rally Championship, organizers announced Monday, weeks after the country lost its scheduled World Rally Championship round because of unrest in the region.

The event had been scheduled for November in Jeddah, having been retained as part of the regional championship following the cancellation of its WRC round.

In a joint statement, the Saudi Automobile and Motorcycle Federation and Saudi Motorsport Company said the latest decision was made in coordination with the FIA following a review of organizational and logistical preparations.

However, the organizations did not specify what prompted the latest cancellation or whether the rally would return to the championship calendar in 2027.

Saudi Arabia had originally been scheduled to host the WRC season finale from November 11 to 14, but the event was dropped because of regional instability and concerns over logistics.

At the time, the FIA said Saudi Arabia remained capable of hosting the event safely, but uncertainty in the Middle East had made logistical planning difficult.

FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem also expressed confidence in the long-term future of the rally, which made its WRC debut in 2025.

Infantino set to take re-election campaign to Japan to court Asian soccer federations

TOKYO, Oct 20, (AP): Gianni Infantino's campaign for re-election as FIFA president is set to move this week to Japan and a meeting scheduled for Wednesday with the Asian Football Confederation.

This comes after Infantino apologized last week in Zurich, Switzerland, to FIFA's 37-member ruling council - which he chairs - for "mistakes" he made in assembling a now-scrapped \$4.2 billion sell-off plan for the World

Cup.

The council is the main decision-making body at FIFA with a global spread of officials.

The planned meeting with Asian soccer leaders is to be held in a five-star hotel in Tokyo with the media largely excluded.

Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the president of the AFC, expressed early opposition to Infantino and

his plan to create a subsidiary to run the World Cup, but may have moved closer to Infantino, The Athletic has reported.

Infantino has offered to critics an open, independent review of how FIFA makes its decisions.

An Associated Press tally indicates Infantino is close to landing the simple majority of the 211 FIFA member federations he needs to win re-election in March to a fourth term.

Some of the deciding votes could come from Asia.

The AFC had joined the criticism of Infantino in the wake of the proposed World Cup sell-off, but its members appear far from united. Qatar, the 2022 World Cup host, has expressed support for the FIFA leader while Jordan has declared its opposition.

The FIFA Council is scheduled to meet next on Dec. 16 in Doha, Qatar.