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KD 256 mln stc's revenues first nine months
of 2026 with KD 26.3 mln net profit
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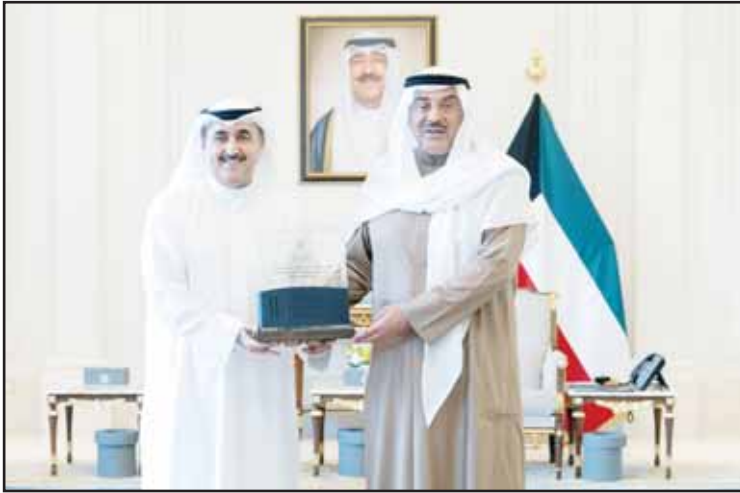
16 PAGES

150 FILS

Amir, Crown Prince, PM receive Audit Bureau annual report



Amiri Diwan photo
HH the Amir receives Audit Bureau President Esam Salem Al-Roumi.



Crown Prince Diwan photo
HH the Crown Prince receives Audit Bureau President Esam Salem Al-Roumi.



PM Diwan photo
HH the PM receives Audit Bureau President Esam Salem Al-Roumi.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday morning at Bayan Palace Audit Bureau President Esam Salem Al-Roumi, who presented His Highness

with the bureau's annual report on the examination and audit of budgets and final accounts of entities under its oversight for fiscal year 2025/2026.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled

Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received Al-Roumi, who presented him with the same annual report.

In addition, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received the Au-

dit Bureau president, who handed over the report covering the bureau's audit of the budgets and final accounts of entities within its oversight for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

SAUDI, IRAN, TURKIYE, PAKISTAN SEEK REGIONAL RESET



Opinion

■ Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Governments act in this manner in times of crisis

DURING major crises and conflicts, governments re-evaluate their financial and economic strategies to support their citizens and shield vital sectors. Protecting factories, businesses and service providers is essential to prevent operational failures and economic downturns, such as those currently seen in nations like the United States of America and Germany that struggled to adapt to local realities.

Severe disruptions have been affecting the economy since the COVID-19 pandemic and start of the ongoing regional wars. In response, Gulf nations, including Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, took decisive action through the provision of assistance to institutions, industrial facilities and citizens. These governments urged financial institutions to ease pressure on borrowers, thereby, giving them more time to recover from war-induced economic strain in order to ease their financial burdens. This relief has been proven to be vital, as global supply chain shocks drove up commodity prices and fueled rising inflation.

Maneuvering through these turbulent conditions necessitates

a futuristic strategy that turns hardship into an opportunity to attain economic revival. Failure to do so exacerbates the hardships of the public and the economy in general.

The proactive resolution of these challenges solidifies institutional performance and protects the national workforce, which remains the cornerstone of economic resilience. The relationship between governments and the private sector is reciprocal. As the state's main customer and engine for new projects, the private sector is crucial to economic vitality.

However, if governments delay payments for services, while strictly enforcing fee collections, they worsen the economic difficulties and stifle the sector best equipped to propel national growth.

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Kuwait pushes for safer skies, stronger security

Riyadh takes de-escalation drive to Tehran

DOHA, Oct 26, (KUNA): Chairman of Kuwait's Public Authority for Civil Aviation Sheikh Hamoud Mubarak Al-Sabah took part on Monday in the eighth meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Middle East Region (DGCA-8), held in Doha through October 28.

In his address, Sheikh Hamoud stressed Kuwait's commitment to strengthening coordination and cooperation among Middle Eastern countries, unifying efforts and supporting collective decisions to enhance civil

aviation security and safety and address shared challenges and threats.

He reiterated Kuwait's condemnation of Houthi militia attacks against Saudi Arabia, affirming Kuwait's full solidarity with the kingdom and readiness to mobilize its capabilities and provide all possible support to help it address the consequences of the attacks, in light of the strong fraternal ties between the two countries and their shared commitment to regional security and stability.

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Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Yang Xin, China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) Middle East General Manager Chuanhai Wei and other officials pose for a group photo during the groundbreaking ceremony for the North Kabd Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Kuwait, China break ground on North Kabd plant

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan laid the foundation stone for the North Kabd Wastewater Treatment Plant project in the presence of Yang Xin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the State of Kuwait.

Dr. Al-Mashaan said the project reflects the longstanding relations of friendship and cooperation between Kuwait and China.

She explained that its implementation is in line with the directives of the Amir, the Crown Prince, and the Prime Minister, who prioritize infrastructure and sustainable development projects as part of efforts to fulfill the aspirations of the Kuwaiti people for a better future.

The project is one of the Ministry of Public Works' major strate-



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Yang Xin and other officials participate in the laying of the foundation stone for the North Kabd Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

gic initiatives to develop Kuwait's wastewater system, in line with the national development plan and the country's environmental sustainability objectives.

The project covers an area of approximately 2.8 million square

meters.

The project involves more than the construction of a single treatment plant, as it comprises an integrated system of facilities and infrastructure.

At its core is the North Kabd

Wastewater Treatment Plant, with an initial operational capacity of 500,000 cubic meters per day and the potential for future expansion to one million cubic meters per day.

The project includes the construction of pumping stations in several areas, including Al-Shadadiya, Jahra, and Mishref, as well as extensive pipeline networks.

It also features deep-injection networks with diameters of up to three meters, the first of their kind in Kuwait, alongside storage tanks with a total capacity of 600,000 cubic meters.

The project further includes a central incinerator to dispose of pollutants generated during the purification process and a renewable energy system that uses solar power and biogas to meet 50 percent of the project's energy requirements.

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Day by Day

SHEIKH Fahad Al-Yousef, the First Deputy Prime Minister, made a commendable move by directing Rabab Al-Osaimi, Director General of Public Authority for Manpower, to hold weekly meetings with company and institution owners.

These meetings aim to address and resolve challenges arising in employer-employee relationships.

The enforcement of the law can involve both flexibility and firmness, depending on its implementation, reflecting the Kuwaiti sentiment - "A mild setback is better than a total disaster."

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah visited the Jordanian Embassy in Kuwait on Sunday evening to convey condolences over the victims of a terrorist attack targeting a church in Jordan's Karak Governorate.

He conveyed the condolences of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the Kuwaiti people to Jordan's King Abdullah II and the Jordanian people over the victims and injured. (KUNA)



IMA President: Kuwait a vital partner in promoting Franco-Arab cultural dialogue



GCC Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs honors KFH for leadership in Kuwaitization and talent development



NBK organizes sports event at Al Shaheed Park ahead of NBK Run 2026

Spy plot hits dead end

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Kuwait's Criminal Court - State Security Circuit, on Monday sentenced three men to death and eight Kuwaiti citizens to five years in prison each in a case involving espionage for Iran, membership in Hezbollah and a plot to assassinate the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The three men sentenced to death are Hussein Abdullah Al-Matouq, Hassan Abdulhadi Hajieh and Abdulreza Haidar Dehqani.

The verdict was issued by the State Security Circuit, presided over by Judge Nasser Al-Badr, with Judges

Omar Al-Mulaifi, Abdullah Al-Faleh and Salem Al-Zayed as members of the panel. Sultan Al-Shujai served as court secretary.

The case involved charges of harming Kuwait's national interests, collaborating with Iran, joining the Lebanese Hezbollah organization and planning hostile acts against the State of Kuwait, including the assassination of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

According to the case details, defendants four through ten met to plan the assassination and divided responsibilities among themselves.

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Juvenile unit sounds alarm on cyber risks

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: First Lieutenant Abdullah Al-Awadhi

revealed that the Juvenile Protection Investigation Department receives reports with complete confidentiality through the hotline No. 25589535, reports Al-Seyassah



Al-Awadhi

daily.

He stressed the importance of intensifying awareness and preventive efforts to protect juveniles from crime and delinquency.

In a statement to the daily, First Lieutenant Al-Awadhi explained that the Juvenile Protection Department is committed to strengthening cooperation with the Ministry of Education and school administrations.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:38	Asr	14:42
Sunrise ..	05:57	Maghrib ..	17:07
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:26

IMA President: Kuwait a vital partner in promoting Franco-Arab cultural dialogue

'Greater visibility for Kuwaiti talent in Europe'

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Anne-Claire Legendre, President of the Arab World Institute (Institut du Monde Arabe or IMA) in Paris, France affirmed that Kuwait plays a vital role as a partner in promoting cultural dialogue between France and the Arab world.

In an interview with the newspaper, Legendre revealed that the goal of IMA is to strengthen collaboration with Kuwaiti institutions in different fields like museums, heritage conservation, contemporary arts and literature. She said this initiative is aimed at broadening opportunities for Kuwaiti artists in France and throughout Europe.

She considers her trip to Kuwait as part of the delegation with the French President on Oct 19 a chance to explore joint projects, which include organizing exhibitions, sharing art collections, establishing museum partnerships, supporting cultural and creative sectors, and promoting the translation of Arabic literature into French.

Below are details of the interview:

Question: What is the significance of your visit to Kuwait as part of the French delegation?

Answer: I had the honor of accompanying the President of the Republic during his visit to Kuwait on Oct 19. The visit allowed me to hold a series of cultural meetings. Indeed, culture, heritage and human exchanges occupy a fundamental place in the shared history of French-Kuwaiti relations.

This visit had a special personal meaning for me as the former French ambassador to Kuwait. I returned with a wealth of memories. I was happy to reconnect with friends who dedicate their efforts to cultural life and the preservation of heritage.

Furthermore, meeting these individuals and engaging in dialogue with a new generation of creators added a unique dimension to the visit.

Cultural relations are built over a long period, nurtured by the trust and friendships that allow projects emerge and flourish.

Since its inception, Kuwait has been associated with the IMA project, which was established on the initiative of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. This historic commitment to establish dialogue between Arab and European cultures is the foundation that provides fresh momentum to our cooperation.

The institute is keen on showcasing the diversity and heritage of Arab societies, while providing a platform for contemporary artists, writers and creators from the Arab world.

My visit allowed me to witness the richness of the Kuwaiti cultural field and identify many avenues for future collaboration.

I also had the honor of meeting with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Honorary President of the Council for the Promotion of the Francophonie. His Highness is a prominent figure in the Francophone sphere in Kuwait and has long been a steadfast supporter of cultural dialogue between our nations.

Q: What were some of the key meetings you had during your visit?

A: Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah (DAI) Director Sheikhha Hessa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah welcomed me. The Al-Sabah Collection is one of the world's most significant collections of Islamic art. It reflects the richness of cross-civilization exchanges and aligns with the mission of IMA to promote the heritage of the Arab world and highlight its contributions to human history.

I also visited Bait Al-Sadu, accompanied by its president, Sheikhha Bibi Duaij Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. It is dedicated to the traditional art of Bedouin weaving, and plays a vital role in preserving this craft—a true symbol of Kuwaiti culture.

At the Peace Palace, a museum dedicated to the history of Kuwait, I was welcomed by Sheikhha Mona Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sheikh Ahmed Al-Sabah who oversee the Center for Historical Documents and Libraries at the Amiri Diwan. The visit was an opportunity to discuss methods for preserving archives and transmitting national history to future generations.

During my meeting with Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar, Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), I explored prospects for cooperation between our institutions, specifically in the field of museums, valorization of national heritage, and the exchange of exhibitions between Kuwait and France.

As a major cultural entity in Kuwait, the council is vital to translating our shared ambitions into concrete action.

Q: How do art collectors and cultural figures contribute to this cooperation?

A: Their involvement is crucial for preserving artworks, disseminating knowledge, and promoting the exchange of cultural heritage.

My meeting with Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Vice Chairman and CEO of Action Group Holdings and an avid collector of ancient coins, exemplifies the importance of this engagement. He loaned 430 gold coins from his private collection to the exhibition titled, "A Treasure in Gold" ('Un Trésor En Or'), held at IMA in the second half of 2022. This contribution affirms the trust between Kuwaiti collectors and French cultural institutions, as well as the mutual commitment to push for the exchange of knowledge.

I also met with Sheikhha Dr. Suad Mohammad Al-Sabah, a Kuwaiti writer and poet who has been honored



His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad receives Anne-Claire Legendre and the French Ambassador.



Dr. Souad Al-Sabah and Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah present Anne-Claire Legendre with a commemorative gift.



Anne-Claire Legendre, President of the Arab World Institute (Institut du Monde Arabe or IMA)

in France. She was recently appointed as Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters ('Ordre des Arts et des Lettres'). Her career reflects the vibrancy of the literary scene in Kuwait and underscores the importance of strengthening the presence of Kuwaiti writers in France and Europe—a goal that is in line with the mission of IMA.

These encounters aim to pave the way for new initiatives, including organizing exhibitions, exchanging artworks, highlighting the value of collections, and facilitating interactions among artists, researchers and writers.

Q: What are the most prominent prospects for cultural cooperation between Kuwait and France?

A: There are several avenues worth exploring, such as collaboration on the new National Museum, organization of traveling exhibitions between Kuwait and France, and showcasing the heritage of Kuwait and the region to the French and European audience.

Work is underway to re-imagine and develop the new National Museum, which coincides with the modernization of the IMA museum.

I hope that a dialogue will begin between the teams at both institutions to discuss potential cooperation and partnerships.

The new museum of IMA shall introduce the French public to the richness of the heritage of Arab countries and to highlight contemporary Arab creativity.

I will be happy to showcase artifacts discovered during excavations conducted by French archaeological missions in Kuwait, most notably on Failaka Island.

For decades, French and Kuwaiti researchers have worked together to study and preserve this extraordinary heritage, which sits at the crossroads of major ancient civilizations.

Beyond heritage, we want to strengthen the Kuwaiti creative scene, support the local development of cultural and creative industries, and build bridges with the French and European cultural fields.

Design, fashion, visual arts and publishing are some of the fields that offer promising opportunities for collaboration, which can serve Kuwaiti talent and enhance their international profile.

I also hope to see more Kuwaiti creators—both men and women—participating in the awards presented by

the institute.

Q: How does the institute promote the Arabic language?

A: The institute is committed to its mission of elevating the status of the Arabic language in France and Europe and promoting it as a language of culture. We will expand our Arabic language courses for youths and adults to meet the rising demand.

Furthermore, we will ensure that the visitor experience throughout our new museum is conducted entirely in Arabic.

In addition to the core activities of the institute, we are currently in discussions with several French cities to incorporate Arabic books into their public library collections.

Q: What are the most notable aspects you observed within the Kuwaiti creative scene?

A: One of the core missions of IMA is to harness the vitality of Arab cultural landscapes. We strive to enhance the mobility of artists, facilitate their access to new audiences, and promote exchanges among professionals in France, Kuwait and the Gulf region.

Q: What role does Arabic literature play in the plans of the institute?

A: It plays a central role. Literature serves as a mirror, reflecting the complexities, debates, imagined worlds and transformations of societies.

With its deep-rooted literary traditions and vibrant intellectual life, Kuwait holds a prominent place in our efforts to promote Arabic literature in France and Europe.

My meeting with Sheikhha Dr. Suad Mohammad Al-Sabah highlighted the significant role that writers and poets have played in the history of Kuwait's cultural influence.

We aspire to encourage the discovery of contemporary authors and foster dialogue between writers and publishers—an endeavor that requires a proactive policy for translating works from Arabic into French.

This will make Kuwaiti literature accessible to new readers and provide the French and European public with a deeper understanding of the societies of Kuwait and the Arabian Peninsula.

Through its programs and extensive network, the institute is well-positioned to help bring authors, publishers and readers closer together.

Q: What are the institute's ambitions in the Gulf states?

A: The Gulf states have an exceptional heritage and are actively developing their cultural infrastructure, museums and creative industries. This dynamic opens up broad horizons for the institute, whose mission is to establish dialogue between France, Europe and the Arab world.

During my recent visits to the Gulf states, I emphasized our desire to build a partnership based on the principle of reciprocity, in coordination with local institutions and in line with their priorities.

Such cooperation could include traveling exhibitions, museum exchanges, scientific partnerships, contemporary creative projects, literature, and the cultural and creative industries.

Through its expertise and network, the institute can bring together institutions and creators, support the emergence of new talent, and enhance the visibility of Gulf heritage and art scenes.

Given its long-standing relationship with the institute, Kuwait is a natural partner for renewing and expanding this ambition.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

Kuwait leaders send National Day congratulations to Austria

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of congratulations to President of Austria Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen on his country's National Day.

His Highness wished the Austrian president continued good health and happiness, and the friendly Austrian people further progress and prosperity. His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a similar cable to President Van der Bellen, congratulating him on the occasion and wishing him lasting health and wellness.

Likewise, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the Austrian president on his country's National Day. Austria marks its National Day annually on October 26.

UAE, Senegal invite Kuwait to Abu Dhabi Water Summit



KUNA photo

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives a joint written message from Emirati and Senegalese counterparts regarding participation in the 2026 United Nations Water Conference.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received a joint letter from UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and Senegalese Minister of African Integration and Foreign Affairs Cheikh Niang, inviting him to participate in

the 2026 UN Water Conference in Abu Dhabi.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press statement that the letter was received during Sheikh Jarrah's meeting Monday with UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi and Senegalese Ambassador to Kuwait Hassan Sougou.

Other Voices

Lenses, myopia and hyperopia

By Ahmed alsarraf

Myopia, or nearsightedness, is a condition in which near objects appear clear while distant objects appear blurry. This occurs when the eyeball is longer than normal from front to back or when the cornea is excessively curved, causing the image to be formed in front of the retina instead of directly on it.



Ahmed alsarraf

Hyperopia, or farsightedness, is a condition in which distant objects appear relatively clear while nearby objects appear blurry, particularly when reading or performing tasks that require close focus. This occurs when the eyeball is shorter than normal or when the cornea is less curved than necessary, causing the image to be formed behind the retina rather than directly on it.

The first time I felt the need to wear eyeglasses was about fifty years ago. When I put them on, I felt a great sense of relief as I saw everything more clearly, beautifully, and precisely.

I used to think that eyeglasses were a relatively recent invention. In 1287, near Pisa, Italy, an unknown craftsman attached two glass lenses to a frame, probably made of wood or bone, creating what is believed to have been the first pair of eyeglasses.

Yet, the invention of eyeglasses is relatively recent in the context of human history. How did people with impaired vision manage before specialized optical shops existed?

Humans used flat and convex lenses made of glass and rock crystal, dating back to the Bronze Age.

One of the most famous examples is the Nimrud lens from Assyria. Ancient Egyptians possessed vision-enhancing devices as far back as 5,300 years ago, while ancient artifacts indicate that

the Chinese were familiar with magnifying lenses.

The Arab optician Ibn al-Haytham played a significant role in the study of optics, which he explored extensively in his famous book, "Optics."

Italy is a global center for eyeglass manufacturing, particularly in the luxury eyewear sector. This is largely due to the country's advanced precision industries, including glassmaking.

However, mass production of eyeglasses began in the late 19th century. The industry emerged in a relatively small area around Belluno and Cadore, where an integrated network of factories, workshops, and suppliers developed. This network covered the production of metal frames, hinges, coatings and polishes, molds, lenses, and design.

Italy successfully linked eyewear to fashion, transforming eyeglasses into a staple of luxury brands and fashion houses and significantly increasing their value.

Some of the leading countries and companies manufacturing prescription and contact lenses are based in Germany. Zeiss, a prominent name in the optics industry, operates a global production network, with its largest facility located in Guangzhou, China.

The Japanese brand HOYA has several production centers worldwide. Nikon lenses are used in cameras, binoculars, and laboratory microscopes.

When purchasing reading glasses, it is important to prioritize lens quality rather than focusing solely on the frame. Choosing lenses made in Germany or Japan is worth considering.

Ready-made reading glasses sold in pharmacies often lack identifiable brand names and are typically mass-produced in standard prescriptions rather than customized for each eye. Therefore, when buying inexpensive reading glasses, the material, optical quality, and coating can sometimes matter more than the brand name.



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Alnowair Initiative graduates 35 women leaders

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): The "Alnowair Initiative" celebrated on Sunday the graduation of 35 participants from its "Women of the Future" program aiming to develop females' leadership skills, strengthen their role in decision-making, and promote their active participation in the workplace and society.

The program's closing ceremony was held under the patronage of Sheikhha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the founder and chairwoman of the Alnowair Initiative, completing four months of training funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kuwait, in strategic partnership with the European Union and the Commercial Bank of Kuwait.

In her speech during the ceremony, Sheikhha Intisar Al-Sabah said that true leadership does not begin with a title, but with a decision a woman makes to understand herself, confront her fears, believe in her worth and abilities, and have the courage to express her views.



KUNA photo

Honoring the graduates of the 'Women of the Future' program.

In a similar speech, Dutch Ambassador to Kuwait Wierish Ramsoekh said that concerted efforts were essential to promoting women's empowerment, noting that progress in this area does not happen automatically.

He added that making changes re-

quires a shared vision, building partnerships and collective action to support efforts aimed at empowering women.

Meanwhile, EU Ambassador to Kuwait Anne Koistinen congratulated the participants on completing the program, underlining the importance of initiatives

that enable women to develop their capabilities and assume leadership roles.

She extolled the Alnowair Initiative for building partnerships that create new opportunities for women and urged the graduates to maintain the network of connections they had established during the program.

Dana Al-Dhafiri, a program participant, told KUNA that the program had enabled her to interact with participants from various sectors to learn about their professional roles.

She noted that the experience strengthened her communication and professional and social networking skills and equipped her with expertise beyond her day-to-day job responsibilities.

The ceremony was attended by United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kuwait Ghada Al-Tajer, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Parmita Tripathi, Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Tara Scheurwater, and several senior officials from the Commercial Bank of Kuwait.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

A delayed decision brings an entire project to a halt

“AN entire project can come to a standstill because of a single decision that was not made in time,” Kuwaiti Engineer **Dawood Al-Dousari** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The designer waits for a plan to be approved, the procurement team hesitates to place an order, and the contractor remains on standby, unable to begin work.

In official reports, this may appear as nothing more than an “open item,” yet its impact ripples through the project schedule, costs, and the contracts of other stakeholders.



Eng. Al-Dousari

Therefore, effective project management is not measured by the number of meetings held or the volume of reports produced.

Rather, it is measured by the ability to bring an issue to the right decision-maker, provide the necessary information, and secure a clear resolution before waiting turns into a loss.

Decisions are often delayed because responsibilities are not clearly defined.

A large number of stakeholders may attend a meeting to discuss various alternatives, only for it to end without anyone knowing who has the authority to grant approval.

The matter may then be deferred to another meeting under the pretext of requiring “further study,” even when the available data is already sufficient to determine a practical course of action.

In such cases, the problem is not a lack of information but the absence of a clearly defined decision-making process - one that establishes who has the authority to decide, when a decision must be made, and who is responsible for overseeing implementation once approval is granted.

Making decisions quickly does not mean acting rashly.

A professional decision requires defining the issue, presenting the available alternatives, and outlining the impact of each option on time, cost, quality, and risk.

However, it does not require perfect information about an inherently unpredictable future.

A manager can identify the minimum data needed to make an informed decision based on what is currently known.

Any remaining uncertainties can be documented and monitored rather than bringing the entire project to a standstill until every possible variable has been resolved.

One useful tool is a “decision log,” which is a simple document that records the subject, the options considered, the final decision, the date it was made, the person responsible, and the rationale behind it.

Its value goes beyond documentation. It prevents the team from having to revisit the same discussions whenever a team member changes, while allowing the underlying assumptions to be reassessed if circumstances shift.

Furthermore, it protects the organization from the ambiguity that often surrounds verbal decisions, which can be interpreted differently by different people.

When everyone knows that decisions and their justifications will be documented, discussions tend to become more focused, and there is less temptation to push through poorly considered choices.

Projects also require a realistic escalation path. If a project manager lacks the authority to make a final decision, they must know when to escalate an issue, to whom it should be directed, and what supporting information must accompany it.

Escalation is neither a complaint nor an admission of incompetence. Rather, it is a mechanism for protecting the project when an issue exceeds the team’s delegated authority.

However, escalation loses its value when it comes too late.

For example, raising a procurement risk only after the project schedule has reached a point where sourcing an alternative or adjusting the sequence of tasks is no longer possible serves little purpose.”

Also:

“A citizen experiencing problems with his right eye visited the Al-Khaldiya Clinic. In the ophthalmology department, an Asian staff member conducted a brief examination,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“As the citizen attempted to identify the letters and numbers displayed on the chart, the staff member, in his haste, recorded the results without even waiting for the citizen to respond.

The citizen was then referred to a specialist, who said, “It does not appear that you need cataract surgery yet. It is still too early.”

Later, the citizen returned for a follow-up appointment, during which a different doctor stated, “It seems you do need the surgery. Come back to see us on such-and-such a date.”

When he returned, the citizen once again encountered the same Asian staff member, who hastily prepared a second report.

Meanwhile, another doctor in the

adjacent room informed him, “You need surgery, which will be performed at the Al-Dukhan Eye Center in Shamiya.”

He explained that the procedure involves removing the natural lens created by Allah and replacing it with an artificial one, describing it as a simple operation that takes just 15 minutes.

But how can this be? The Asian staff member’s work lacked precision. As the saying goes, “Anything built on a false foundation is itself false.”

A date for the surgery was set, even though the citizen retains 96 percent of his vision in the affected eye.

He remains hesitant, uncertain about the likelihood of the procedure’s success. Moreover, how could the doctor accurately determine the required measurements for the affected eye when the staff member recorded the examination results so hastily, without even listening to the citizen’s responses as he attempted to identify the letters on the chart?

For example, if we were to assign a value of “five” to the healthy left eye, what would be the appropriate lens measurement for the impaired right eye, given that the initial examination data recorded by the staff member was fundamentally flawed? The Asian employee did not listen to the citizen’s responses.

Furthermore, the local physician provided an incomplete medical report and referred the citizen to the Al-Oyoun Clinic in Shamiya. The staff at that clinic also failed to listen to his concerns and instead scheduled the surgery for October 21.

Under these circumstances, the citizen has refused to undergo the procedure. He is now considering visiting an optical shop or travelling abroad to have his eyesight properly tested using standard charts featuring letters and numbers, so that he can purchase a new pair of glasses.

The citizen hopes that the Asian employee will either change his conduct or be replaced by someone who treats visitors with kindness and composure and ensures that medical reports are prepared accurately.

A final note: A Kuwaiti writer for a local newspaper refrains from criticizing Iran, even when Kuwait itself is targeted by Iranian-launched drones. He also avoids writing about Iran’s internal affairs or the Houthis.

Instead, he directs his mockery at Muslims and Arabs while carefully avoiding any criticism of Iran. In fact, he frequently praises Iran’s history and contributions. Yet, in the past, when this same writer faced criticism from others, we stood by him and offered our moral support.”

Al-Dawas



“At the start of each academic year, many expatriate teachers take on a “side job” by providing private tutoring to students. These sessions often begin as soon as the official school day ends and continue late into the night, driven by strong demand from students struggling academically,” Dr. **Nayef Al-Adwani**, law professor and Kuwaiti lawyer, wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Several factors contribute to this phenomenon. Some teachers fail to fulfill their professional responsibilities during regular school hours, either due to a lack of commitment or because they treat teaching merely as a job of clocking in and out. They reserve their real effort for private tutoring, which can generate earnings many times higher than their government salaries.

Furthermore, educational supervisors and school principals often fail to adequately monitor teacher performance or track students’ academic progress.

In the absence of effective regulation by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior, the number of private tutors continues to grow each year, driven by the substantial income they generate.

These earnings are often transferred to their home countries through informal financial intermediaries, raising concerns about money laundering and the circumvention of official money-transfer channels.

The consequences are reflected in declining academic standards, with some students reaching universities or specialized institutes without having acquired basic literacy skills.

This has contributed to the emergence of a generation more concerned with obtaining a certificate than acquiring knowledge, seeking the easiest route to a degree—a route that, in this case, is paved with money.

As a result, the country has effectively become a marketplace for study guides, exam questions, and even leaked test papers, with everything available for a price.

The solution lies in enacting legislation that criminalizes the provision of private tutoring, recognizing it as a practice that undermines the education system and risks condemning an entire generation to academic failure and ignorance.”

– Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

National Guard deputy chief reviews Support Command readiness



KUNA photo

National Guard Deputy Chief Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas visits the Support Command to review workflow and assess operational readiness.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guard Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas visited the Support Command, where he was received by Support Command Commander Brigadier General Engineer Talal Al-Saeedi, along with senior commanders and officers, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The visit aimed to review operational progress and assess the level of readiness.

Lieutenant General Al-Barjas conveyed the greetings of the National Guard leadership to personnel, and expressed appreciation for their efforts in providing support and assistance to various state entities.

He also received a briefing on the tasks and responsibilities assigned to Support Command personnel.

Lieutenant General Al-Barjas commended the personnel’s vital role and dedication in supporting the National Guard’s missions and strengthening its capabilities.

Police snag 4 in drug busts

Hawalli sweep casts wide net

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior (MoI), represented by the General Department for Drug Control, announced on Sunday the arrest of four suspects in four separate cases involving the trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and alcoholic beverages.

The arrests were part of ongoing security efforts to combat such activities and apprehend those involved, the Ministry said in a press statement.

The operations resulted in the seizure of two kilograms of marijuana, one kilogram of cocaine, 1,000 Captagon pills and 80 grams of the narcotic substance known as shabu.

Authorities also seized 11 A4 sheets soaked with chemical substances, 97 bottles of alcoholic beverages and KD 520 in proceeds from sales.

The Ministry confirmed that the suspects and the seized items were referred to the competent authorities to take the necessary legal action against them.

Meanwhile, the ministry represented by Hawalli Security Directorate carried out a wide-ranging campaign to arrest violators.

The Ministry said its efforts resulted in 602 enforcement actions, violations and other measures, including the issuance of 353 traffic violations, providing assistance in 90 humanitarian cases, issuing 43 vehicle warnings, and apprehending 23 wanted persons and individuals reported as absconding.

It added that 17 individuals were arrested for violating the residency and labour law. Authorities also identified 15 abandoned vehicles, apprehended 11 people who could not produce identification documents, arrested six people in possession of narcotic substances, four street vendors, and two people in possession of alcoholic beverages, and issued one environmental violation, and more.

Wife ordered to return dowry

Court orders Kuwaiti to repay KD 13,490 in loans

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Court of First Instance ordered a Kuwaiti man to repay KD 13,490 to a Kuwaiti woman after he failed to prove that the funds transferred to his account were related to a business partnership between them, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Lawyer Ali Jawhar filed the lawsuit on behalf of the plaintiff.

The case involved multiple bank transfers made by the woman to the defendant’s account between July 2017 and April 2021, totaling KD 19,880.

The plaintiff maintained that she had lent the money to help the defendant overcome financial difficulties, but he failed to repay the amount despite repeated requests.

In his defense, the defendant stated that the transfers were made as part of a joint business venture.

Nevertheless, the court rejected his defense after considering the testimonies of both parties and the witnesses, as well as administering a supplementary oath to the plaintiff. She swore that the transferred funds were loans rather than capital invested in a business partnership.

The court clarified that a bank transfer alone does not establish the basis of a debt and that the burden of proving the purpose of the transfer rests with the party who made it. The court concluded that the plaintiff had presented sufficient evidence to establish her entitlement to the awarded amount.



The Family Court ruled to separate a couple on grounds of harm, granting the wife an irrevocable first talaq (divorce), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court ordered the wife to return her KD 6,000 dowry and ruled that she forfeit all rights arising from the marriage and divorce.

The judgment followed a case filed by the husband’s defense counsel, Lawyer Mohammed Safar, after the court found that the discord between the spouses had become irreconcilable, making continued married life impossible. Both parties had expressed their unwillingness to remain together.

In its reasoning, the court explained that marriage is founded on affection, compassion, and understanding. However, when disputes become entrenched and the relationship can no longer continue, separation becomes necessary, provided the legally stipulated grounds are met.

The court also ordered the wife to return the KD 6,000 dowry, as recorded in the marriage contract, and decreed that she forfeit all rights arising from the marriage and divorce.

Her ‘iddah, the waiting period prescribed under Islamic law, will begin on the date the judgment becomes final.



Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah holds a meeting with Colonel Mohammad Youssef Al-Rajhi and Saleh Hamad Al-Azzaz.

Farwaniya governor reviews special centers’ operations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah had a meeting with Director of the Special Centers Department at the General Administration of Service Centers Colonel Mohammad Youssef Al-Rajhi at his office in the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate on Sunday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Assistant Director of the Special Centers Department Lieutenant Colonel Saleh Hamad Al-Azzaz also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the governor reviewed the operational workflow at the special centers, the services

they provide, and their role in easing the processing of transactions for the public, thus, saving the time and effort of their clients.

He commended the department and its staff for exerting tremendous efforts to serve the public. He also affirmed the commitment of the governorate to strengthen cooperation with the department in order to improve services. On the other hand, Al-Rajhi and Al-Azzaz expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the governor for the warm reception and his dedication to support the department’s initiatives and solidify collaboration to better serve the public.

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Dr. Souad Al-Sabah and Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak receive a French delegation at the White Palace.

Kuwait, France explore fresh avenues for cultural exchange

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Dr. Souad Al-Sabah and Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak received a French delegation at the White Palace.

According to a press release, the delegation included President of the Arab World Institute in Paris Anne-Claire Legendre, Ambassador of France to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin, and Counselor for cooperation and cultural action and Director of the French Institute in Kuwait Soraya Saâ.

The meeting focused on cultural relations between Kuwait and France and explored prospects for cooperation with the Arab World Institute and the French Institute in Kuwait.

Discussions covered literature, the arts, heritage, and translation, with the aim of strengthening engagement between creative professionals and cultural institutions in both countries.

They also discussed Dr. Souad Al-Sabah's experience in French cultural circles, highlighting how translations of her work have introduced French readers to Kuwaiti and Arab poetry.

Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak said, "We cherish our friendship with France and the fruitful cooperation we share with its cultural institutions. We believe that culture adds a human dimension to relations between peoples, a connection renewed with every book translated, every exhibition held, and every meeting that brings together thinkers and creative minds."

Meanwhile, the French Ambassador Olivier Gauvin expressed his appreciation for Dr. Souad's creative journey and her commitment to intercultural dialogue.

He emphasized that France, in cooperation with the Arab World Institute and the French Institute in Kuwait, looks forward to expanding cultural partnerships between the two countries.

The visit continues the long-standing cultural ties between Dr. Souad Al-Sabah, her family, and France.

In December 2025, France awarded her the title of Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters (Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres) in recognition of her literary and intellectual contributions.

One of the most notable milestones in cultural cooperation was the exhibition "A Treasure of Gold: The Dinar Through the Ages," inaugurated in Paris in September 2022 by Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Jack Lang, then-president of the Arab World Institute.

The exhibition featured 425 gold coins from Sheikh Mubarak's private collection, showcasing various aspects of Arab and Islamic numismatic heritage.

Innovartism initiative embraces Kuwait's neurodivergent talent

Families key to unlocking potential

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): **Innovartism founder Manal Al-Gharabally said Sunday the initiative is an integrated ecosystem launched in Kuwait to support neurodivergent creatives and empower them artistically, professionally and economically.**

She made the remarks at the launch ceremony of the initiative and its "Hero's Journey" training program, held under the patronage of Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila.

Al-Gharabally said the initiative took more than two years of research, trials and preparation, with specialists, experts and neurodivergent creatives themselves involved in designing its programs and outcomes.

The initiative features training programs, local and international conferences, creative and professional empowerment spaces, and media awareness efforts targeting families of people with autism, as well as institutions and companies seeking to support their talents.

She said that the first edition of the training program enables participants with autism to develop their own awareness campaigns and share their perspectives through short-form visual content aimed at challenging stereotypes and showcasing their skills to society and institutions.

The program begins with professional and creative training led by local and international experts and specialists, culminating in employment opportunities through partnerships that help translate participants' achievements into practical outcomes. These efforts aim to open pathways to employment, entrepreneurship and economic participation, she added.



Group photo during the launch ceremony of the initiative and its "Hero's Journey" training program.

Al-Gharabally said participants' work would be showcased on November 1 to celebrate their achievements, expressing appreciation to supporting and partner organizations, organizing partner Sheikh Foz Al-Sabah and the participants' families.

Representing the event's patron, Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) Deputy Director General Dr. Khalifa Al-Haila said the initiative seeks to identify the creative potential of neurodivergent people, particularly those with autism, and develop their skills through art, innovation and technology.

He said Innovartism creates new opportunities for participation, productivity and employment, helping participants turn their talents into sustainable career paths.

Genuine empowerment goes beyond support to creating opportunities, discovering talent and strengthening

individuals' capabilities to become active partners in building society, Al-Haila stressed. He added that the initiative views differences as a source of strength and creativity and provides participants with a safe space to express themselves and demonstrate their potential.

Kuwait Autism Center Director General Sheikh Al-Subaihi said the initiative opens new opportunities for the center's participants, noting that its strategy is based on education, rehabilitation and employment.

She said the center had employed several young people with autism on monthly salaries, expressing hope that government institutions and the private sector would offer further employment opportunities.

Al-Subaihi also underscored the importance of involving civil society organizations in nurturing students' talents and preparing them for emerging fields, particularly artificial intelligence. She

praised the support of the General Secretariat of Awqaf, partner and supporting institutions, and parents.

Meanwhile, National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Creative Economy Program Director Eng. Jaber Al-Qallaf said the initiative marks a step toward empowering talent and providing people with the environment and tools needed to express their abilities.

Culture and the arts contribute to development, and creativity can generate social and economic value when supported by the right environment, he said, highlighting the importance of developing skills and building career paths that accommodate diverse talents.

Ken Ho, speaking on behalf of the Taipei Commercial Representative Office in Kuwait, said the office joined Innovartism at the invitation of Kilmittain and MBVISION in support of its combination of education, innovation and social inclusion.

Education minister monitors remote learning in 'pilot test'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei attended three online classes with school students on Saturday via the Teams platform as part of an initiative organized by the ministry to monitor the progress of remote learning, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the ministry explained that Al-Tabtabaei observed students' interaction with their teachers and verified that classes were being conducted according to their scheduled timetables.

The visit reflects the ministry's commitment to assessing the education system's readiness for remote learning firsthand.

Al-Tabtabaei instructed school administrations to monitor any difficulties students might encounter during the trial period, identify potential challenges, and work to resolve them.

He indicated that activating the platform was part of a one-day pilot test aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of online classes, identifying potential obstacles, and developing appropriate solutions.

The minister praised parents for their positive cooperation and dedication to supporting their children's participation in virtual classes.

He also expressed appreciation for the efforts of teachers and school administrations

in creating a suitable educational environment to ensure the success of the trial.

Al-Tabtabaei noted that this cooperation between families and schools reflects a shared sense of responsibility and a commitment to maintaining an effective educational process.

Furthermore, he stressed the importance of being prepared to shift to remote learning whenever circumstances require, ensuring the continuity of education regardless of emerging developments.

Al-Tabtabaei also highlighted the importance of coordinating efforts among school administrations, teaching staff, and the relevant authorities.

He stressed the importance of using the pilot's findings to strengthen the resilience of the education system and ensure its continued ability to fulfill its mission under various circumstances.

In its statement, the Ministry of Education confirmed the success of the pilot, which aimed to assess the readiness of schools, teaching staff, and students to use the platform.

The initiative also sought to evaluate the efficiency of the technical and organizational procedures governing remote learning and identify potential challenges facing students and teachers so that appropriate solutions could be developed.

The ministry noted that no significant issues were observed during the monitored classes, which proceeded in accordance with established procedures.

It added that monitoring and evaluating field observations would continue to refine the pilot and further enhance technical and organizational readiness.



Al-Tabtabaei

Awqaf takes values to youth

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs launched the Educational Bus and Instilling Islamic Values Program recently, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Rehabilitation and Evaluation Department at the ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, implemented the program to instill Islamic values, raise religious and cultural awareness, and promote positive behaviors among the youths.

Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Su-

laiman Al-Suwailem stated that the program strengthens the integration of efforts among state institutions in the upbringing of children. He said it promotes respect for others, the sense of responsibility, and balanced personality capable of serving the nation.

He disclosed that the program covers religious, educational, psychological, social and digital topics through interactive activities and lectures that link values to real-life situations.

Continued from Page 1

Juvenile unit

These efforts include awareness campaigns and lectures conducted in cooperation with the Directorate General of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior, aimed at educating students about the dangers of crime and delinquency.

The department handles reports submitted by juveniles or their families with strict confidentiality.

He went on to explain that the widespread use of social media has contributed to the emergence of new types of crimes involving juveniles, including cyber-extortion, bullying, and physical altercations arising from disputes that began on social media platforms.

It has made it easier for juveniles to communicate with strangers, contributing to the emergence of new forms of criminal activity, including cyber-extortion, bullying, the distribution of narcotics and pornographic

material, and recruitment into banned groups or organizations. Online disagreements can also escalate into conflicts and physical altercations.

Throughout the year, the Juvenile Protection Department holds coordination meetings with various government ministries and non-governmental organizations concerned with children and juveniles, including the Ministries of Health, Social Affairs, and Justice.

These efforts aim to facilitate the exchange of expertise, improve operational procedures, and enhance the professional capabilities of department personnel through specialized training courses.

The department is also intensifying its awareness and media campaigns to address negative phenomena and inappropriate behavior, helping protect children and juveniles, safeguard their security and stability, and promote a sense of shared responsibility among the relevant authorities.

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Continued from Page 1

Governments act

The financial cycle functions as an interconnected system, so any disruption could trigger wider operational failures in multiple facilities. To prevent such breakdowns, proactive governments explore alternative measures to ensure business continuity. In some instances, states subsidize workforce salaries like Saudi Arabia's initiative to cover a portion of the salaries of low-income citizens.

Easing bureaucratic hurdles during crises or war provides essential operational flexibility. Forward-thinking nations often pursue unconventional strategies to support their economies during turbulent times. For example, instructing banks to withhold debt enforcement against borrowers indirectly stimulates liquidity and keeps money circulating throughout the economic field.

Aligning with this approach, governments have instructed financial institutions to offer leniency to customers while releasing capital, ensuring that companies and employers retain the liquidity to fulfill payroll obligations. Since the region is still in a highly delicate political and military situation, no government can afford to overlook these realities. As a result, the concerned authorities are keen to promote local market spending in order to sustain commercial activity.

In the past, specifically during and after World War II, numerous European states implemented economic stimulus measures. They offered financial assistance and subsidies to businesses and industries to curb unemployment and encourage workforce participation.

Kuwait pushes

He stressed that civil aviation security and safety were top priorities and a shared responsibility among regional states amid growing challenges facing the aviation sector.

These challenges, he said, required enhanced preparedness, improved security and safety systems, information and expertise sharing, and stronger coordination and cooperation.

Sheikh Hamoud expressed Kuwait's appreciation to Qatar for hosting and organizing the meeting, and thanked the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for its continued efforts to promote coordination and cooperation among countries in the region and advance the development of civil aviation.

He concluded by underscoring the importance of such meetings in aligning visions, decisions and positions on common issues and challenges, thereby serving the interests of the civil aviation sector and improving safety, security and operational efficiency.

Meanwhile, a quadrilateral meeting

between Iran and the three countries party to the Makkah Agreement, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Pakistan, began on Monday to discuss ways to enhance regional security and stability.

Participants include Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei, Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and Turkiye's Intelligence Chief Ibrahim Kalin.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said during his weekly press briefing that the meeting could pave the way for further efforts to achieve regional security through regional cooperation.

Meanwhile, Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister for Public Diplomacy Raed Qarmali said on X that the meeting would discuss efforts to de-escalate tensions among parties to the current crisis and encourage dialogue and diplomatic solutions.

Saudi Foreign Ministry said that Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman and representatives of the countries party to the Makkah Mutual Defense Agreement were visiting Tehran as part of ongoing efforts to de-escalate the current crisis, encourage dialogue and diplomatic solutions.

In a statement on Monday, the ministry said the visit to meet senior Iranian officials was an extension of Saudi Arabia's role in promoting regional and international dialogue and peace.

The Kingdom hopes all parties to the crisis will engage positively and pragmatically with the outcomes of the visit and the ongoing efforts by Qatar and Pakistan, contributing to a resolution through dialogue and diplomacy, the statement added.

It stressed the importance of opening negotiation channels to prevent a renewed military escalation in the region and pave the way for an agreement that would end the crisis and achieve security and peace regionally and globally.

Spy plot

The eleventh defendant was tasked with providing the equipment needed to carry out the operation under the direction of the first three defendants.

The defendants were also accused of attempting to use explosives to carry out an operation intended to spread fear in Kuwait. The eleventh defendant was charged with attempting to bring explosives into the country to enable the others to execute the planned operation.

In its judgment, the court said the defendants had sought to undermine Kuwait's security, spread unrest in society and shake public confidence in the ability of state authorities to protect lives and property.

The court stressed that national security

was not the interest of an individual or a particular group, but a right belonging to society as a whole.

It further stated that Kuwait's sovereignty could not be challenged by foreign powers and that the state would not accept external orders imposed from beyond its borders or allow its institutions and symbols of authority to become targets of plots directed by foreign entities.

Kuwait, China

It features deep-injection networks with diameters of up to three meters - the first of their kind in Kuwait - as well as storage tanks with a total capacity of 600,000 cubic meters.

The project also includes the construction of a central incinerator to dispose of pollutants generated during the purification process and a renewable energy system that uses solar power and biogas to meet 50 percent of the project's energy requirements.

Dr. Al-Mashaan affirmed that the project's significance lies in developing Kuwait's sewage infrastructure and enhancing the use of treated wastewater for irrigation and afforestation, adding that these efforts will contribute to water conservation, the preservation of natural resources, environmental protection, and the mitigation of desertification.

She emphasized that the project represents a major step towards developing modern, sustainable infrastructure, reflecting the ministry's commitment to implementing vital projects that meet the country's current and future needs while supporting its sustainable development goals.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Yang Xin expressed his pleasure at attending the groundbreaking ceremony, describing it as a significant milestone in the project's implementation.

He explained that the North Kabd plant is currently the largest wastewater treatment project in Kuwait.

Once completed, the facility will enhance the country's capacity to collect, transport, and treat wastewater, as well as reuse treated water, contributing to an improved regional environment and better public services.

The project is one of the major cooperative initiatives between the governments of Kuwait and China.

The ambassador noted that China would contribute its construction expertise and technologies to support Kuwait's sustainable economic and social development and help realize the country's New Kuwait 2035 vision.

He highlighted that mutual political trust between the two countries had strengthened in recent years under the strategic guidance of Chinese President Xi Jinping and the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, reinforcing the foundations of a mutually beneficial partnership and expanding the horizons of their friendship.

Ambassador Xin pointed to frequent high-level exchanges and growing alignment between the two countries' development strategies, which have produced tangible and sustained results.

He said, "We continue to work hand in hand with our Kuwaiti counterparts to implement the important understandings reached by the leaders of both countries and build a stronger, higher-quality, and more effective China-Kuwait strategic partnership.

We hope to draw on China's capabilities to contribute to peace, stability, prosperity, and development in Kuwait.

We look forward to continuing our close cooperation with the Kuwaiti side, accelerating practical collaboration across various sectors, including major projects, and translating strategic plans into tangible achievements on the ground that deliver greater benefits to the peoples of both countries."

Ambassador Xin expressed his wishes for the project's success and for it to become operational as soon as possible.

In addition, Chuanhai Wei, General Manager of China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) Middle East, said the project had made steady progress since its launch last year, thanks to the commitment of the Kuwaiti government and the Ministry of Public Works, as well as the support of the Chinese government and close cooperation between the two countries.

He noted that the project reached a significant milestone with the signing of the agreement at Bayan Palace on July 26, paving the way for a new chapter in bilateral cooperation.

Wei expressed his gratitude to the Kuwaiti government, the Ministry of Public Works, the Chinese government, and all parties that have contributed to advancing the project.

He emphasized that the company fully recognizes the responsibility entrusted to it and expressed confidence in its ability to deliver the project to the highest standards, drawing on its extensive experience in major infrastructure projects, technological innovation, and expertise in project management, quality control, safety, and resource allocation.

Wei affirmed that the company would devote its full expertise to the project, fulfill all contractual obligations, and adhere to the highest standards of safety, efficiency, and quality.

He also expressed confidence that the project would proceed smoothly with the support of both governments, the Ministry of Public Works, and the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, contributing to sustainable development in Kuwait and the well-being of its people.



Panel discussion during the Second Kuwaiti Lawyers Conference.

Lawyers conference highlights technology, legislative reform

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Kuwait Bar Association launched the Second Kuwaiti Lawyers Conference on Sunday with the theme, "Global Summit for Innovative Lawyers."

Held under the patronage of Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait, the conference gathered lawyers and legal professionals from Kuwait, Arab and Gulf nations.

The conference focuses on the future of the legal profession in light of technological and legislative developments, while assessing the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in enhancing legal practice and the overall efficiency of the justice system.

In a speech delivered on behalf of the minister, acting Assistant Undersecretary for Technical and Administrative Affairs at the ministry Nouf Al-Qabandi affirmed that the ministry remains keen on strengthening its partnership with the association. She said the association plays a vital role within the justice system, indicating that the collaboration covers the development of judicial legislation, streamlining procedures, supporting digital transformation and exchanging expertise.

Al-Qabandi disclosed that the ministry's vision extends beyond the digitization of procedures, as it includes the creation of a secure legal environment that enables lawyers to easily access judicial services, while upholding the human essence and ethical values of the profession. She added that technology and AI raise the efficiency of judicial and legal work, hence, ensuring the prompt delivery of justice.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the association Attorney Khaled Al-Suwaifan stressed that the development of the legal profession entails keeping pace



Nouf Al-Qabandi delivers a speech on behalf of the Minister of Justice.

with technical and legislative changes, as well as transforming ideas into practical initiatives.

He stated that artificial intelligence facilitates the advancement of legal research and case management while saving time, but it remains a supporting tool for lawyers and judges and it cannot replace a lawyer's expertise, wisdom and responsibility in defending rights. He emphasized the necessity of maintaining confidentiality, independence, and professional and ethical standards when utilizing modern technologies.

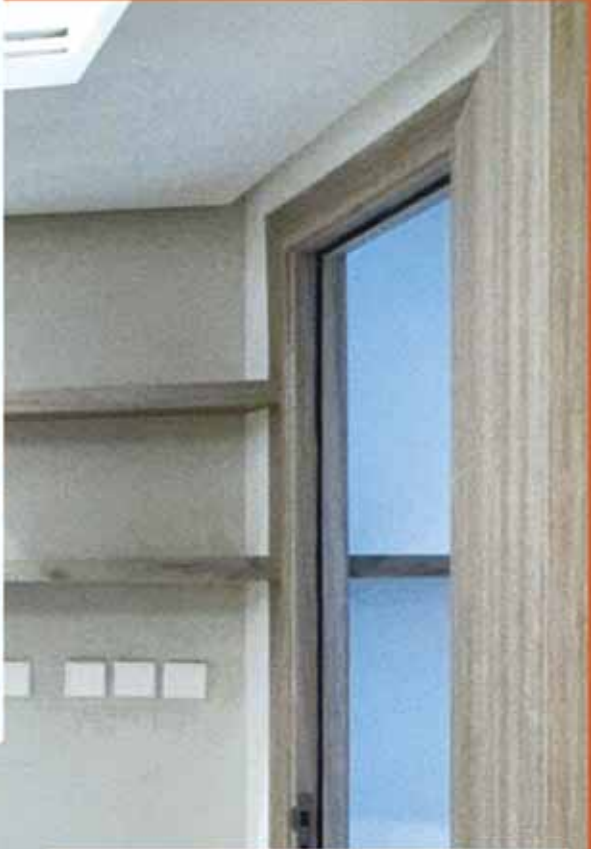
He indicated that the law on regulating expert testimony, establishment of economic judicial circuits, and new arbitration rules are significant steps toward modernizing the justice system.

He underscored the importance of continuous collaboration with the ministry to develop legislation, especially the law governing the legal profession. He added that the association is working hard to translate the aspirations of lawyers into practical programs and projects under the 'Lawyers Vision' initiative.

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Sullivan, Peltola seek support from Alaska Native voters ahead of Senate race

Trump escalates rhetoric against El-Sayed, drawing Arab American rebuke

PORT HURON, Michigan, Oct 26, (AP): US President Donald Trump intensified his anti-Muslim rhetoric against Michigan Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed on Sunday, portraying him as a threat to national security and questioning his loyalty to the United States in remarks that drew a sharp rebuke from a former top Arab American ally.

Trump called El-Sayed, a former Detroit health official, a “jihadist” who was “on the side of the terrorists” and would “have to go through a metal detector before he’s allowed to go into the Senate.” He also repeatedly invoked the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, drawing a comparison between stopping El-Sayed from entering the Senate chamber and the passengers who fought back against the hijackers aboard United Flight 93.

El-Sayed, who would become the nation’s first Muslim senator if elected, has called attacks on his loyalty to the country “shameful” and repeatedly denied any ties to extremist groups. The Republican president’s remarks were condemned by Bishara Bahbah, a founder of Arab Americans for Trump, the group that helped lead the president’s outreach to Arab American voters in 2024.

“The president’s statements are out of line,” he said in a phone interview. “They are crossing a red line. They are racist.”

With Republicans on the defensive over inflation, soaring fuel prices and the Iran war, the president has been trying to generate turnout

by claiming that El-Sayed and other Democrats are existential threats to America, instead of electoral rivals. Michigan’s Senate race between El-Sayed and Republican Mike Rogers is among a handful of contests that could determine control of the chamber.

Trump made his remarks in Port Huron, a Canadian border city about an hour north of Detroit and near communities where he made significant gains among Arab American voters in 2024. He became the first Republican presidential candidate since 2000 to win Dearborn, a city with one of the nation’s largest concentrations of Arab Americans.

Trump, who imposed a travel ban targeting several predominantly Muslim countries during his first term, has increasingly leaned into anti-Muslim rhetoric as Election Day approaches. He also attacked Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota at Sunday’s rally, where he declared that he had come to Michigan “to keep a jihadist Muslim Brotherhood member from becoming a United States senator.”

Responding to Trump, who also regularly mocks his name, El-Sayed told supporters at a rally in Grand Rapids later Sunday that he doesn’t care how Trump pronounces or misrepresents it.

“I don’t even care that he remembers my whole name because he can just go on and call me ‘senator’ after November,” El-Sayed said, drawing cheers.

Central to Republicans’ strategy against El-Sayed in the final weeks



Michigan Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed speaks to a crowd during a rally on Oct 25, in Grand Rapids, Mich. (AP)

of the campaign has been an effort to link him to the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamic movement with branches that the US government has designated as terrorist organizations.

El-Sayed was born in the United States to Egyptian immigrant parents who divorced when he was young. He was raised by his father, not his biological mother.

Trump on Sunday also targeted El-Sayed’s ties to popular streamer Hasan Piker, who appeared alongside the Democrat multiple times during the primary campaign, including at his election night event.

Piker in the past has said that “Hamas is a thousand times better” than Israel, describing some

Orthodox Jews as “inbred” and that “America deserved 9/11.”

Dearborn helped Trump win Michigan in 2024 after many voters in the city were outraged by the Biden administration’s handling of the war in Gaza.

Rogers and El-Sayed have been locked in a bitter race to fill the seat of retiring Democratic Sen. Gary Peters.

During their second and final general election campaign debate, Rogers questioned El-Sayed’s loyalty to the United States.

“Are you for America, or are you for these terrorist groups overseas?” Rogers asked.

El-Sayed said that questioning was “shameful.”

Also:

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: A little more than one week before the midterm elections, the leading candidates in Alaska’s US Senate race are trying to rally support from Alaska Native voters, a key constituency.

Both Republican Sen. **Dan Sullivan** and Democratic former Rep. **Mary Peltola** spoke at this week’s Alaska Federation of Natives conference in Anchorage.

The organization previously endorsed Peltola, who is Yup’ik, during her House races in 2022 and 2024, but it did not issue endorsements this year. Both candidates have highlighted support from Native organizations and leaders ahead of the Nov. 3 election. **Sealaska Corp.**, a regional Native corporation in southeast Alaska, has endorsed both of them, calling it a way to “honor their contributions and commitment to our communities, and to honor the diverse positions of our shareholders.”

The race is among the most closely watched nationally, with control of the Senate at stake. On Friday, President **Donald Trump** - who held a rally in support of Sullivan earlier this month - said he told his administration to sue to block certification of the race if the incumbent loses. The lawsuit cites potential confusion with another candidate who is listed on the ranked choice ballot as **Daniel J. Sullivan Jr.**

Sen. Sullivan is listed as a Republican and the incumbent, while Sullivan Jr. is listed without a party designation. US Attorney General **Todd Blanche** wrote on social media that

the lawsuit is necessary to make sure officials “have the information necessary to make a determination as to whether Alaskan voters were confused or misled.”

Alaskan Natives represent about one-fifth of the state’s population, but they can face challenges to voting in remote communities. Advocates have raised concerns in recent years with polling locations in some villages opening late or ballots not arriving on time to be fully counted due to mail delays.

There’s also cynicism about whether participating in elections will make a difference.

“There’s legitimate hesitations about whether whoever they vote for is actually going to impact them,” said actor and activist **Dallas Goldtooth**, who is Bdeewakantunwan Dakota and Dine and came to Alaska to encourage conference attendees to vote. “And our job is to say, hey, whether that matters or not, there’s an opportunity for you to make sure that your voice is counted. And I want to encourage people just to take the opportunity as much as possible.”

Sheri Buretta, who chairs the board of Chugach Alaska Corp., an Alaska Native corporation, introduced Sullivan to the conference Thursday as “one of our strongest champions.”

Sullivan, speaking as part of a congressional delegation update, said he’s learned important lessons from Native leaders. He cited work he’s done on issues such as pushing to ensure that Alaska Native Vietnam War-era veterans have access to land allotments.

Border chief defends wall plans in Big Bend despite court setback

BLAINE, Wash., Oct 26, (AP): The Trump administration’s top border official defended plans to build a wall and other infrastructure in Texas’ Big Bend region despite mounting opposition against the project and a court-ordered pause on construction, saying his goal of fortifying the country’s borders was “non-negotiable.”

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Rodney Scott argued that the \$46 billion wall project was justified despite a bipartisan coalition of landowners, local businesses and environmentalists who view it as a waste of taxpayer money that could be destructive to a region with historically low migrant crossings.

“Our number one goal right out the gate is we have to know who and what is coming into the United States,” Scott said on Thursday. If the Big Bend region were left without a wall or other border infrastructure while other areas along the border get those fortifications, he said,

“I am 100% convinced it will be completely overrun and destroyed.”

The fight over Big Bend has become a major test for how far the Republican administration is willing to go for the border wall, President Donald Trump’s signature infrastructure project.

Scott, a former Border Patrol agent, was tapped by Trump to complete it.

His agency is responsible for executing a plan funded last summer by Republicans in Congress to line the roughly 2,000-mile (3,200-kilometer) border with Mexico with a mixture of 30-foot-tall (9-meter-tall) steel walls, vehicle barriers, new roads and surveillance technology to prevent illegal immigration and smuggling.

The Trump administration says it is building about 12 miles (19 kilometers) a week. Scott, who gets daily progress updates, said it will be complete by the end of Trump’s second term. The primary border wall - some areas also get a secondary layer - will be done by the end of December 2027.

“We’re actually ahead of schedule,” Scott said.

The wall plan has run into resistance in places like Big Bend. The Trump administration suffered a major setback earlier this month when a judge ordered a pause on border wall construction in the region, citing what could be a likelihood that plaintiffs “will suffer serious, irreparable harm without an injunction.” The administration has asked the Supreme Court to lift the order.

The ruling included any construction in Big Bend National Park, an area that has seen a loud bipartisan outcry, including from some Republican lawmakers.

After bulldozers were spotted in the park tearing up ground in August, Scott ordered a pause on all construction-related activity there while he went to talk to people in the region. He said the agency is making other outreach to locals to discuss how to build projects so they don’t mar the park.



A portion of border wall is under construction in the Big Bend region on Sept 23, near Sierra Blanca, Texas. (AP)



People attend a protest entitled ‘Hands Off the Media!’ staged by Million Moments for Democracy group, on the Old Town Square in Prague, Czech Republic on Oct 25. (AP)

Vucic concedes defeat to student-led movement in seismic political shift

BELGRADE, Serbia, Oct 26, (AP): The long-serving strongman leader of Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic, conceded defeat on Sunday in an election that pitted him and his right-wing party against a diverse student-led opposition movement that spent two years protesting his government.

It was a seismic political shift in the Balkan country where Vucic, who had been endorsed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and who denounced the student movement as a foreign-led attempt to unseat him, led with virtually absolute power for 14 years.

Almost immediately, crowds flooded the streets of the capital Belgrade and other Serbian cities in an outburst of euphoric celebration.

Belgrade resident Dragana Kovacevic was thrilled that “everyone greets with smiles.” She said “we are all too happy, finally we are becoming one normal and free country.”

Maja Stetic said she feels “fantastic.” Vucic’s ouster, she said, “means liberation for me, means a new future for us and our children.”

High turnout and gathering tensions marked the highly contested



Aleksandar Vucic, leader of the right-wing Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) applauds at the party headquarters, after conceding defeat in the parliamentary election in Belgrade, Serbia on Oct 25. (AP)

parliamentary election that was a showdown between Vucic and his right-wing Serbian Progressive Party and university students who, accusing the government of corruption and dismantling democracy, had built a popular following across the country.

Serbia’s 6.4 million voters were electing lawmakers to the 250-member Parliament. In conceding the election, Vucic said his party projects that his opponents, the youth-backed Students’ List, will take between 135 and 140 seats while his SNS party will have around 105.



Independent presidential candidate Andrey Gyurov who is backed by the pro-Western reformist opposition casts his vote in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria on Oct 25 during the presidential election. (AP)

Presidential election in Bulgaria heads to runoff

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Oct 26, (AP): The presidential election in Bulgaria on Sunday ended inconclusively, with the next head of state to be picked in a runoff, according to election officials.

A record low turnout, attributed by observers to a general mistrust in politicians resulting in voter apathy, will pit two contrasting political visions against each other in a highly polarized contest on Nov. 1.

In a surprisingly strong performance, the candidate of the pro-Western reformist opposition, Andrey Gyurov, will face the incumbent leftist president, Iliana Yotova, setting clear lines of division regarding the country’s future relationships with other nations.

Bulgarians voted against a backdrop of growing economic hardship and drone attacks on Black Sea shipping. The vote is the first major test for the Moscow-friendly Progressive Bulgaria party of Prime Minister Rumens Radev after its triumph in parliamentary elections in April.

Despite a record number of candidates, the race had been expected to be decided in a runoff between incumbent Yotova, backed by Radev’s party, and former caretaker Prime Minister Gyurov, who is backed by pro-Western opposition parties.

Europe

Protests against media funding plan: Czechs rallied in big numbers in Prague on Sunday to renew protests against a plan by the government led by billionaire Andrej Babiš to overhaul funding for public broadcasters that many consider dangerous for their independence.

The crowd of thousands was bigger than the picturesque Old Town Square could take with many filling the nearby streets. The ruling coalition angered the protesters by unexpectedly moving ahead with the plan in the lower house of Parliament two days ago.

Coalition lawmakers hastily opened the issue and limited time for the opposition to take part in the debate before taking a vote to give the draft a green light in the first of three parliamentary readings at 4:36 a.m. (AP)

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Protesters resume rally in Portugal: Hundreds of protesters returned to Praça D. Pedro IV, also known as Rossio square, in Lisbon and gathered again in Porto on Sunday afternoon, hours after police used batons and dogs to disperse housing rights encampments in both cities in the early hours of the morning.

The pre-dawn operation in Lisbon and Porto, carried out after more than two hours of tension and repeated orders to clear the squares, resulted in 11 injured and 31 detentions for disobedience, according to the PSP public security police.

However, the figures were disputed by protest

organizers, who said there were 37 injured in Porto alone. Lisbon hospitals Sao Jose and Santa Maria reported 27 people treated for injuries sustained in the capital, contradicting the police count. (Xinhua)

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83 injured in Barcelona bus crash: A bus crash in the Barcelona area of Spain injured more than 80 people, local emergency services said Sunday.

The Catalan medical emergency services said 83 people were injured, including seven people seriously, 18 less seriously and 58 with minor injuries, in the crash in Fogars de Monclús near Barcelona.

Spanish news agency EFE said the bus had veered off a narrow, winding road and fallen down a 20-meter (65-foot) embankment on Sunday afternoon. (Xinhua)

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Storm disrupts flights in Netherlands: Storm Boelo brought strong winds to the Netherlands overnight and on Sunday, disrupting air traffic at Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport and causing damage in several areas.

The Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) issued a yellow weather warning on Sunday for coastal areas, forecasting gusts of 75 to 90 km per hour and warning of falling branches and traffic disruption.

Amsterdam Schiphol Airport said on its website on Sunday that “due to strong winds, fewer flights are expected to take off and land on Sunday, October 25.” (Xinhua)

Japan’s former prime minister Yasuo Fukuda dies at aged 90

TOKYO, Oct 26, (AP): Former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda, who led the country for just one year and spent years afterward trying to build better ties with China, has died, officials said Monday. He was 90.

He died on Thursday, the governing Liberal Democratic Party said, without disclosing further details, including cause of his death.

Born in 1936, Fukuda grew up in a political family in Gunma, northwest of Tokyo. His father Takeo Fukuda also served as prime minister and worked to build Tokyo’s ties with Beijing.

After graduating from Waseda University in Tokyo, Yasuo Fukuda worked for a Japanese oil company for more than 17 years before entering politics, first serving as his father’s private secretary just before the elder Fukuda became Japan’s leader in 1976.

The younger Fukuda was first elected to parliament in 1990, taking his father’s former seat. He landed his first ministerial post as Chief Cabinet Secretary, or top spokesperson, for gaffe-prone then-



Yasuo Fukuda, former prime minister of Japan, speaks during an interview with the Associated Press at his office on Sept 21, 2022, in Tokyo. (AP)

Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori in 2000. During that time Fukuda jokingly called himself the “secretary of explanations.”

As a lawmaker, Fukuda served in a number of foreign affairs-related roles and developed a reputation as a diplomacy expert. Like his father, he placed great importance on develop-

ing friendships with Asian countries.

During his 2007-2008 prime ministership, Fukuda developed stable ties with China’s Hu Jintao. Fukuda’s rule lasted only one year as he struggled to manage a divided parliament in which his Liberal Democratic Party held a majority in only one of the two houses.

Asia

Flash floods inundate Thailand: Flash floods on Monday inundated several areas of the island of Phuket in Thailand, one of the country’s major tourist destinations, following heavy rainfall overnight, officials said.

All three districts of the southern island province, including its capital, Phuket City, were impacted by the flooding. Water levels started to recede by late morning, but some lower-lying areas remained flooded and small vehicles were advised to avoid those areas, according to the provincial deputy governor, Romdon Hayiawae.

He said some parts of the province were also hit with mudslides and officials were working to clear the debris to prevent it from falling into canals and obstructing waterways.

Photos and videos shared on social media show floodwaters flowing into residential areas and filling up several roads, making them impassable. Vehicles are seen partially buried in piles of mud and rocks left behind by the flooding. (AP)

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4 dead in Vietnam vehicle collision: Four people were killed after two motorcycles traveling in the same direction collided in Vietnam’s northern city of Hai Phong early Sunday, local daily VnExpress reported.

The accident occurred at around 1:40 a.m. on Vo Van Kiet Street in front of Aeon Mall.

The four victims were aged between 16 and 21, and both motorcycles sustained severe damage to their front sections, according to the report.

The case is under further investigation. (Xinhua)

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Australia pays tribute to Haines: Australia’s Parliament resumed work on Monday with increased security and paid tribute to lawmaker Helen Haines



This image made from a video released by Phuket province’s Public Relations Department, shows bystanders near a car damaged by a mudslide caused by flash flooding in Phuket, Thailand on Oct 26. (AP)

who was critically injured last week in an alleged act of political violence.

Security screening measures were enhanced at Parliament House in the first session since Oct. 19, when authorities allege a driver rammed an SUV into Haines twice outside her electorate office. She remained in a Melbourne hospital on Monday in a serious but stable condition after both her legs were amputated.

A 43-year-old man has been charged with offenses including intentionally causing serious injury. Police have not revealed a motive.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was the first of several lawmakers to pay tribute to Haines, a respected independent. He proposed a motion expressing the Parliament’s wish for her recovery and support for her family. Her husband Phil Haines looked on from Parliament’s public gallery. (AP)

Presidents from several Latin American countries congratulate incumbent leader

Lula wins Brazil’s presidential runoff, Bolsonaro refuses to concede defeat

BRASILIA, Oct 26, (Agencies): Brazilian incumbent President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, candidate of the ruling Workers’ Party, won Sunday’s presidential runoff, according to results released by Brazil’s Superior Electoral Court on Sunday night.

With all the votes counted, Lula received 51.79 percent of the valid votes, compared with 48.21 percent for Flavio Bolsonaro, the Liberal Party’s presidential candidate and son of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, according to the official tally.

Lula will be sworn in on Jan. 5, 2027, for a four-year term, his fourth as Brazil’s president.

Speaking in a live speech in Sao Paulo following his victory, Lula vowed to work with the conservative Congress elected by the people and ensure greater public participation in the decision-making process.

He also stressed the need to strengthen digital regulation after defeating foreign interference through digital platforms, stressing

that Brazil is no one’s backyard.

Lula also pledged to strengthen public healthcare, improve care for the elderly, respect women and continue efforts to combat climate change.

“This election taught me many lessons. I want to say that we will change the way this country is governed. We will have the people participate more in our decisions,” he said.

Meanwhile, Flavio Bolsonaro, speaking in the Brazilian capital of Brasilia, said it is “impossible” to recognize the results, and called for the annulment of the election, alleging unequal treatment of voters following an extension of voting hours.

Earlier on Sunday, Brazil’s Supreme Federal Court ordered polling stations nationwide to extend voting by two hours in response to disruptions caused by public transport stoppages and heavy rain. The measure applied only to polling stations that remained open when the decision was communicated by the Superior Elec-



President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva addresses supporters during a victory rally after winning a fourth term in the presidential runoff on Paulista Avenue in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Oct 25. (AP)

toral Court; stations that had already closed were not reopened.

Bolsonaro argued that the decision had disadvantaged voters in areas where polling stations were not re-

opened and that his legal team would challenge the results.

Under Brazil’s electoral rules, if no presidential candidate wins outright in the first round by securing more than

half of the valid votes, the top two candidates advance to a runoff.

In the first round, held on Oct. 4, Flavio Bolsonaro finished ahead of incumbent Lula, winning about 47 percent of the valid votes against Lula’s roughly 45 percent.

Presidents from several Latin American countries congratulated Lula on his victory.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum hailed the result as a victory for the Brazilian people and democracy, while Uruguayan President Yamandu Orsi praised Brazil’s electoral process as a celebration of democracy.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel called for stronger regional integration. Paraguayan President Santiago Pena emphasized cooperation with Brazil to promote regional integration and development, while Bolivian President Rodrigo Paz highlighted the countries’ shared history and pledged to strengthen bilateral ties. Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino also congratulated

Lula and expressed his commitment to continued cooperation.

Other foreign leaders have also offered congratulations.

Considering Lula’s re-election victory as a win for “democracy and multilateralism,” European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen wrote on the social media platform X that “Together we will keep working closely for free and open trade. A rules-based global order. And strong ambitions for our climate.”

“France and Brazil have much to build together,” French President Emmanuel Macron posted on X. “In the face of the great challenges of our time, let us strengthen our strategic partnership and bring the friendship between our two countries to life, in service of a fairer world.”

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney wrote on X: “Let’s seize this opportunity to make it even stronger, together -- to create major new trade opportunities, protect the environment, and build greater prosperity for both our peoples.”

Zimbabwean president calls for unconditional lifting of sanctions

HARARE, Oct 26, (Xinhua): Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Sunday called for the unconditional lifting of sanctions imposed by Western countries on Zimbabwe, saying the measures constrain economic development.

In a speech marking the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Anti-Sanctions Day held annually on Oct. 25, Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe was making progress in its development aspirations despite the sanctions, stressing that regional integration was crucial to achieving the country’s development goals.

The SADC Anti-Sanctions Day was established by the 16-member regional organization in 2019 as a collective initiative to denounce the sanctions, which were imposed on Zimbabwe following the country’s land reform program that redistributed land from minority white farmers to indigenous black Zimbabweans.

“Sanctions not only punish our country, but the entire SADC family and infringe Zimbabwe’s role in advancing an integrated Africa,” said Mnangagwa, who also expressed appreciation to SADC member states for supporting the call to remove the unilateral sanctions.

“This reflects our shared commitment to a just and fair global order,



Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa outside the nomination court in Harare, Zimbabwe, June 21, 2023. (AP)

where the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs and the sovereign right of every country to chart its own destiny are respected,” said Mnangagwa.

He called for increased regional integration, saying SADC and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa offered opportunities to improve regional connectivity and strengthen cooperation in trade, industry, agriculture, energy and in-

frastructure.

Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe would broaden international partnerships and deepen regional integration to drive economic transformation, while pursuing diplomatic and domestic measures to lift sanctions and boost industrial competitiveness.

He also reaffirmed Zimbabwe’s commitment to multilateralism, international cooperation, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The United States enacted the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act in December 2001, restricting its support for multilateral financial assistance to Zimbabwe.

Also:

TRIPOLI: Libya’s Government of National Unity and the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Committee of the House of Representatives on Sunday strongly rejected recent remarks by US President Donald Trump, saying Libya’s dignity and its people must not be used as material for electoral debate.

Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah said in a statement that Libya rejects any insult directed at the country or its people, who have made major sacrifices in combating terrorism, emphasizing that relations with the United States must be based on mutual respect and shared interests.



Venezuelan opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Corina Machado arrives in Caracas following her return to the country after months abroad on Oct 25. (AP)

Venezuela’s opp’n leader Machado returns after months in exile

CARACAS, Venezuela, Oct 26, (AP): Opposition leader and Nobel laureate Maria Corina Machado reappeared in Venezuela Sunday for the first time since December, returning from exile at a time when doubts about the country’s democratic future - and the role of the US - are growing.

It was her first appearance since the US military deposed the country’s then-President Nicolás Maduro in January, replacing him with an interim president who has exceeded the time she was authorized to serve, with no election scheduled.

Machado announced her arrival on social media, writing, “I am here. With you.”

Another leading figure in the Venezuelan opposition, Edmundo González, wrote on X that he would be at her side “very soon.”

“Today is a very important day for Venezuelans,” he wrote. “Our sovereign voice returns with her to lead and guide this process!”

On Sunday afternoon, Machado strode into a church in the state of Lara, west of Caracas, shocking dozens who began to applaud as they shook her hand and hugged her, with cellphones aloft to record her return.

“Maria! Maria!” one person cried, as another shouted, “Welcome to Venezuela!”

One woman wiped away tears and called it “a miracle” while another woman’s hands flew to her face as she saw Machado enter the church.

“Long live freedom, damn it!” a man yelled.

Machado arrived in Caracas late Sunday as thousands of people joined the hours-long caravan or awaited it.

“The future of my children is in your hands. Please!” said a man who teared up as he ran alongside her car.

Asked by reporters Sunday about Machado’s return to

Venezuela, U.S. President Donald Trump said, “I don’t know anything about it, but I think she’s a very nice woman. She gave me her Nobel Prize. So how can I say anything else? And I hope she’s safe. She’s a very nice woman. But we’re doing really well in Venezuela.”

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio wrote on X Sunday that the conditions allowing for Machado’s safe return “is the direct result of the U.S. supported reconciliation talks.”

“The United States expects the freedoms of all sectors of Venezuelan politics to continue to be respected. Likewise, we expect all political actors to support these talks which represent the best chance Venezuela has had in thirty years to peacefully achieve not just a free and fair election but an enduring democracy,” he wrote.

Rubio has argued that before holding new elections, Venezuela must stabilize its economy and rebuild its institutions, including its courts and electoral council.

Brian Fonseca, a Venezuela expert and professor at Florida International University, said he thought her arrival was politically motivated when he first heard the news.

“But at the same time, it’s very symbolic,” he said. “Until there’s institutional change, or institutional space for the democratic opposition, this is a symbolic gesture.”

Fonseca said Machado’s arrival could complicate Washington’s strategy and might be a sign of talks about elections in Venezuela.

He said it remains to be seen how much latitude Machado is given and what steps she’ll take, adding that it could have consequences for the U.S. midterms.

Since Maduro’s ouster, Venezuela has been run by acting President Delcy Rodríguez, a longtime Maduro ally who received the Trump administration’s blessing to succeed him.

Subcontinent

7 killed in Pakistan road accident: Seven members of the same family were killed and seven others injured when their vehicle plunged into a ravine and caught fire in Pakistan’s eastern Punjab province on Monday, state-owned Rescue 1122 said.

The accident occurred in Murree district when 14 people, including women, children and elderly people, were travelling in the vehicle after attending a wedding ceremony, the Rescue 1122 said in a statement.

The van lost control due to overspeeding and struck a roadside safety barrier, causing its fuel tank to burst, the statement added.

The leaking petrol ignited, engulfing the vehicle in flames within seconds.

Seven people died from severe burn injuries, while the other seven sustained burns, the report said.

The injured were shifted to hospitals for treatment, where several of them are said to be in critical condition, the statement added. (Xinhua)

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3 dead as boat capsizes in Nepal: Three people died and one was injured after a passenger boat capsized in the Saptakoshi River in the Barahachhetra area of Sunsari district in southeastern Nepal on Sunday, police said.

The boat, carrying around 15 people, was traveling

from Bhojpur district to Sunsari district when the accident occurred.

“The bodies of the deceased have been recovered, but the rescue operation is ongoing,” Ashish Rayamajhi, spokesperson at the District Police Office Bhojpur, told Xinhua. He said the exact number of passengers would be confirmed after the rescue operation concludes.

Engine failure is suspected to have caused the accident, but investigations into the exact cause are ongoing, Rayamajhi said. (Xinhua)

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Afghanistan foils kidnapping attempt: Afghan security forces thwarted an attempt to traffic 89 people and arrested three suspected human traffickers in the western province of Nimroz on Saturday, provincial police spokesman Mawlawi Gul Mohammad Qudrat said Sunday.

The suspects were attempting to smuggle the 89 people out of the country illegally through Nimroz province. Security forces discovered the traffickers’ hideouts outside the provincial capital, Zaranj, and rescued the victims, Qudrat said.

Security forces also seized four vehicles from the hideouts, he added.

Many Afghans attempt to leave their war-torn country via dangerous routes in search of jobs, seeking to escape poverty and unemployment at home. (Xinhua)

KFH recognized as Kuwait’s top private sector institution for manpower nationalization

GCC Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs honors KFH for leadership in Kuwaitization and talent development

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in GCC States honored Kuwait Finance House (KFH) during a special ceremony held under the patronage of the GCC Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in Manama, Bahrain. This honor is in recognition of the Bank’s excellence in nationalizing its manpower, its training programs, and its pioneering efforts in attracting and developing national talent across Kuwait’s private sector.

KFH was recognized at the 12th Meeting of the GCC Committee of Ministers of Social Affairs and Social Development, held in the presence of senior regional officials and decision-makers, led by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, alongside the Secretary-General of the GCC, Jasem Mohamed AlBudaiwi; Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila; and Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Jassim Ibrahim Al-Najem. This recognition underscores the Bank’s leading position in advancing national employment and human capital development.

Following receiving the honorary plaque, KFH Acting Group Chief Human Resources Officer, Ahmad Alhammad expressed his pride in the recognition. He noted that it serves as an official acknowledgment of the bank’s pioneering efforts in developing national human capital and advancing nationalization programs. He further affirmed KFH’s commitment to ongoing collaboration with relevant authorities to expand training and qualification opportunities for national talent, raising their academic and professional capabilities in line with global best practices.

Top private sector institution for manpower nationalization

Alhammad explained that KFH’s selection as Kuwait’s top private-sector institution for manpower nationalization followed precise criteria and advanced performance indicators. According to official data and classifications, these benchmarks reflected the bank’s outstanding achievements in Kuwaitization ratios as well as its training and development programs.

He pointed out that KFH takes pride in being the top employer of national talent across Kuwait’s banking sector and the broader private sector. Over recent years, Kuwaitis have accounted for 98% to 100% of all new hires, driving KFH’s overall Kuwaitization ratio to 83%.

Alhammad reiterated that KFH will maintain its efforts to further elevate Kuwaitization ratios in line with regulatory guidelines, with a strong focus on increasing national talent in executive and leadership roles. He noted that Kuwaitis currently hold approximately 76% of the bank’s leadership positions.

Meanwhile, Alhammad noted that KFH continues to make tangible progress toward its sustainability goals related to human resources. This is being achieved by embedding principles of transparency, developing professional policies, and strengthening adherence to Environmental, Social, and Governance standards, contributing to building a sophisticated corporate culture and reinforcing the bank’s core values.

He added that KFH is committed to empower women across



Ahmad Alhammad receives an honor on behalf of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) from Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, in the presence of Jasem AlBudaiwi.

Alhammad: KFH’s recognition reflects the success of our strategy to invest in national talent

all departments and job levels, reflecting the bank’s belief in their role in driving economic and social development. Women hold numerous senior executive roles at the bank, demonstrating exceptional expertise in managing different roles and responsibilities. Currently, women make up roughly 32% of KFH’s branch workforce.

Recognition criteria

Recognition was based on several criteria. Each GCC member state nominates private-sector institutions that have recorded high and advancing ratios of nationalization, employ a significant number of national staff, and offer suitable training and development opportunities for the national workforce. The quality and availability of benefits and incentives that support the retention of national employees are also considered.

As part of the selection process, a specialized committee is established under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the chambers of commerce and industry and other relevant bodies. The committee assesses each nominated organization against statistics and specified eligibility standards.

Awards and recognitions

Group has earned widespread recognition and awards for its leadership and excellence in human resources and talent development. In 2026, The Group won seven prestigious awards, including five recognitions in the 23rd edition of the Stevie Global Awards, along with two awards from the Association for Talent Development (ATD). This achievement reflects KFH’s success in creating a progressive workplace culture, driving HR innovation, enhancing the employee experience, and committing to continuous learning, development, and growth. The awards include:

KFH Kuwait – 2026 Stevie Awards for International Business Awards:

- People Data & Analytics at Scale
- Achievement in Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG)
- Data-Driven Candidate & Internal Mobility Experience

Kuveyt Türk – 2026 Stevie Awards for Great Employers:

- Talent Acquisition Ecosystem
- AI Powered English Skills Development Platform

Kuveyt Türk – 2026 ATD Middle East Excellence Awards:

- Competency Development Centre
- AI-Driven Learning Transformation

This international recognition highlights KFH Group’s leadership in human resources development and underscores its ongoing commitment to investing in human capital as the foundation for sustainable growth and organizational excellence.

Key Figures:

- 98% to 100% of new hires in recent years were Kuwaiti nationals.
- 83% overall Kuwaitisation ratio.
- 76% female representation in leadership positions.
- 32% female representation across KFH branches.

Kuwait partakes in World Investment Forum

Minister Al-Marzouq urges focus on high-impact, sustainable investment

DOHA, Oct 26, (KUNA): Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq stressed Sunday the importance of focusing on investment quality and its economic and developmental impact.

Al-Marzouq made the remarks during the ministerial roundtable on “Investing for Development” and a session titled “The Gulf: The Future of Investment,” organized by the GCC General Secretariat as part of the ninth World Investment Forum, held by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Doha.

Discussions addressed ways to promote sustainable investment, develop investment policies and expand opportunities for regional and international economic cooperation.

Al-Marzouq emphasized that quality investments can contribute to transferring knowledge and technology, boosting productivity, developing national talent and strengthening the private sector’s role in achieving sustainable economic development.

He also highlighted the importance of enhancing economic and investment integration among GCC member states,



Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of Commerce and Industry

improving the business environment and facilitating investment flows to boost the competitiveness of Gulf economies and consolidate the region’s position as an attractive destination for global investment.

On the sidelines of the forum, Al-Marzouq met with several participating ministers, exchanging views on issues of mutual interest.

Kuwait’s participation in the forum, which runs until October 27, reflects its commitment to strengthening its presence at international economic events, exchanging expertise and broadening investment partnerships to support economic diversification and sustainable development.

Iran war fuels US energy crisis

Soaring fuel costs threaten Trump’s economic promises

WASHINGTON, Oct 26, (AP): Since launching the war with Iran nearly eight months ago, U.S. President Donald Trump has struggled to quell soaring energy costs, undermining Republicans’ attempt to keep control of Congress in the midterm elections next week.

Low gas prices were a key campaign pledge during Trump’s second presidential run. But the energy crisis spawned by the war has left him grasping for solutions and promising that things will get better.

The cost of crude oil - the main ingredient in gasoline as well as diesel - has been volatile as markets and consumers feel whiplash about uncertainty of the war’s future. All the while, households are feeling more strain, with cost of living concerns at the top of many voters’ minds going into Election Day on Nov. 3.

As of Monday, the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline was \$4.29, up from \$2.98 before the war. Diesel surpassed \$6 last month - a record - and now sits at an average of \$6.35 a gallon, up from \$3.76 in February.

Trump has repeatedly claimed that more expensive fuel is small price to pay for the war, which he describes as necessary to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. He’s also continued to blame his predecessor, former President Joe Biden, for the country’s economic problems. And the president has tried to frame the world’s oil squeeze as good news for U.S. production.

“We’re making a freaking fortune,” Trump told supporters at a campaign rally in Georgia over the weekend.

Here’s how Trump’s views on gas, oil and other energy costs have shifted since the war began.

Trump bragged about gas prices in his 2026 State of the Union address, just days before joining Israel to launch the Feb. 28 attacks on Iran.

“Gasoline, which reached a peak of over \$6 a gallon in some states under my predecessor and was, quite honestly, a disaster, is now below \$2.30 a gallon in most states, and in some places \$1.99 a gallon,” he said. “And when I visited the great state of Iowa just a few weeks ago, I even saw \$1.85 a gallon for gasoline, the lowest in four years, and falling fast.”

AT THE PUMP: Gasoline prices averaged \$2.95 a gallon nationwide, about 19 cents cheaper than a year earlier.

Trump saw a silver lining as oil prices spiked less than two weeks into the war.

“The United States is the largest Oil Producer in the World, by far, so when oil prices go up, we make a lot of money,” he posted on his social media site Truth Social.

THE PRICE TAG ON OIL: Brent crude cost over \$100 a barrel, up from about \$70 in 2025.

As oil costs cooled amid hopes for peace earlier this summer, Trump expressed frustration that gas prices were not falling quicker.

“They’re too high considering that Oil is now at \$68 a Barrel, and heading south,” he posted on social media. “The Retailers must quickly react to this statement, and do what they know is right - DROP YOUR PRICE FOR OUR GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE! There will be no gauging, which is totally illegal. If Retailers don’t do this, big problems lie ahead!”

AT THE PUMP: The national average for gasoline was \$3.86 a gallon - down from over \$4.50 in May, but still about 67 cents pricier than a year ago.

Ahead of the Fourth of July holiday, Trump claimed that lower gas prices were in sight.

“Just as I promised, Oil Prices are plummeting FAST, and Gas Prices at the pump are dropping too, but not as fast as they should be,” he wrote online, as he

anticipated discounts at some “Freedom Fuel” stations near Philadelphia. “Gas Prices will soon be back to the Record Low Prices Americans enjoyed at the pump before our very successful ‘excursion’ in Iran.”

THE PRICE TAG ON OIL: Amid wider hopes for peace, Brent crude fell to \$71.57 a barrel from its triple-digit highs.

In early September, Trump said that he didn’t think oil prices would cool before the midterm elections.

“Right after the election, oil prices are going to be tumbling downward,” Trump said at the time. “I think it’s going to take a little bit longer than the midterm.”

THE PRICE TAG ON OIL: As fighting once more escalated, Brent spiked past \$101 compared with \$66 a barrel a year earlier.

At a North Carolina campaign stop, Trump continued to downplay surging gas prices and again described the war as necessary.

“You have a little higher. It’s a very inexpensive price to pay for what we’ve done,” Trump said. “Remember that. It’s a little more. Frankly, even if it was a lot more.”

AT THE PUMP: Gasoline prices averaged \$4.37 a gallon, about \$1.18 more expensive than they were at the same time in 2025.

Earlier this month, Trump said he struck a deal to buy Russian diesel to tamp down a spike in fuel prices - marking a stark reversal of years of U.S. pressure on Moscow over its war with Ukraine. He also continued to claim the U.S. retained control of the Strait of Hormuz, despite traffic remaining well below pre-war levels amid threats of further attacks from Tehran.

“Between our TOTAL CONTROL of the Strait of Hormuz, and this great announcement on Russian Energy, Diesel Prices for Americans and, indeed, the World, will be COMING DOWN, IN RECORD NUMBERS, AND FAST!” he wrote. “Lower prices for Americans, especially our Great Farmers, Ranchers, and Truckers, is my Greatest Priority.”

THE COST OF DIESEL: The national average for diesel was \$6.28 a gallon, slightly down from a high of nearly \$6.53 in September.

Trump announced his administration’s latest effort to offset steep diesel costs: a new harvest fuel relief program, which he claimed would provide \$8 billion in support for farmers.

“When Republicans win, we will pass even more funding for our farmers,” Trump said at a Kansas campaign rally, where he also asked the crowd to “pretend please that I’m on the ballot.”

THE COST OF DIESEL: Nationwide, diesel averaged about \$6.32 a gallon - 74% more expensive than a year earlier, when the fuel cost \$3.63 a gallon.

Over the weekend, Trump argued once more that the Iran war means profits for the U.S. oil and gas business -- claiming that the country “is making hundreds of billions of dollars because of what’s happened in the Middle East.”

“My people said, ‘Please don’t mention that sir, because people are paying a little higher’,” the president said at a Georgia campaign rally on Saturday, adding that he can already see “fake news” headlines about consumers still suffering from steeper prices. “But I said I don’t give a damn. I’m going to say it. We’re making a freaking fortune. Our country is getting stronger and stronger all the time. And those pump prices are going to come down.”

AT THE PUMP: Gas prices averaged at nearly \$4.30 a gallon nationwide on Saturday. A year ago, drivers were paying about \$3.07.

stc

The Board of Directors of Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is pleased to announce the financial results for the nine-months period ended 30 September 2026.

 +0.1% Total Revenue	256.0 KD million
 +1.1% EBITDA	70.0 KD million
 +1.8% Net profit	26.3 KD million
 +1.8% EPS	26 Fils

Results are compared to the same period last year



Al-Rasheed: Sponsorship reinforces commitment to sustainability

Warba Bank sponsors University E-Waste Recycling Challenge

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Warba Bank announced its sponsorship of the University E-Waste Recycling Challenge, an initiative aimed at raising awareness of responsible electronic waste disposal and encouraging recycling among university students. The initiative forms part of the bank's continued efforts to support environmental sustainability and responsible resource management.

The sponsorship builds on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed earlier this year between Warba Bank and Eco Incubator, the organizing body of the competition. The initiative brings together universities across Kuwait to collect electronic waste in cooperation with environmental and educational organizations.

A University-Focused Environmental Competition

The competition centers on collecting electronic waste across participating university campuses. Eco Incubator is responsible for collecting the electronic waste, while Tadweeri, a specialized recycling company, handles its sorting and recycling. The initiative encourages responsible disposal practices and helps reduce the environmental impact of electronic waste.

The challenge follows an initial phase held last year in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, dur-



A glimpse of Warba Bank's participation, attended by Maali Al-Rasheed, Chief Human Resources and General Services Officer.

ing which more than 5.5 kilograms of electronic waste were collected.

Al-Rasheed: Supporting Environmental Sustainability Is an Investment in the Future

Commenting on the initiative, Maali Abdullah Al-Rasheed, Chief Human Resources and General Services Officer at Warba Bank, stated: "Warba Bank's sponsorship of

this challenge reflects our continued commitment to environmental sustainability and our responsibility as a national banking institution to support initiatives that benefit society. We believe that protecting the environment is an investment in the future."

Al-Rasheed added: "We are committed to supporting practical solu-

tions that reduce the environmental impact of waste. Our participation goes beyond recycling targets to encouraging lasting habits of environmental responsibility and resource conservation among students."

Al-Rasheed emphasized that cultivating a culture of sustainability among youth represents an investment in society's future, given their

central role in driving responsible practices and advancing long-term sustainability goals.

Collaboration Between Environmental and Educational Institutions

The challenge brings together several organizations, including the Environment Public Authority (EPA), stc, participating private universities,

Eco Incubator, and Tadweeri.

The participating organizations work together to raise awareness of electronic waste and provide students with opportunities to take part in practical recycling activities.

Empowering Youth Through Practical Action

The challenge encourages students to take an active role in environmental protection by collecting discarded electronic devices and learning about the recycling process. This hands-on experience helps connect environmental awareness with practical action.

Al-Rasheed thanked the Environment Public Authority, participating universities, co-sponsors, and Tadweeri for their cooperation, reaffirming Warba Bank's commitment to supporting environmental initiatives and sustainable development.

About Warba Bank:

Warba Bank has achieved significant milestones over a relatively short period, establishing a leading position in Islamic digital banking. With one of the largest shareholder bases among local banks, Warba Bank maintains close ties with different segments of Kuwaiti society. The bank continues to strengthen its position as a trusted banking partner, combining innovation and social responsibility in the delivery of financial products and services.

Volunteers set for milestone beach clean-up

Kuwait Eco Warriors to hold 300th beach clean-up

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Kuwait Eco Warriors, a premier grassroots environmental initiative in the State of Kuwait, has announced its upcoming 300th Week Beach Clean-Up Drive, scheduled for Friday, October 30, 2026, at 3:00 PM at Shumaymeh Beach.

Operating under the theme "Cleaner Environment • Stronger Community • Brighter Tomorrows," this milestone event invites residents, families, youth groups, and corporate organizations from across the country to unite in safeguarding Kuwait's coastal ecosystems.

A 6-Year Legacy of Environmental Stewardship

Founded in October 2020, Kuwait Eco Warriors has evolved from a small volunteer group into one of the country's most impactful community-driven movements. Having completed 298 consecutive weekly actions and over 300 individual clean-up operations across Kuwait's coastlines, public parks, and desert regions, the organization has mobilized volunteers to remove and safely dispose of more than 40 tons of plastic waste and marine debris.

Since 2022, Kuwait Eco Warriors has proudly served as the official country partner for World Cleanup Day in Kuwait, aligning local grassroots

initiatives with global environmental actions to engage thousands of residents annually.

Cross-Sector Partnerships Driving Change

The initiative's sustained impact is bolstered by strong strategic collaborations spanning diplomatic missions, major multinational corporations, educational institutions, and civic organizations. Notable partners and supporters include:

■ Diplomatic & Corporate Partners: British Embassy in Kuwait, Emerson, Starbucks, and LuLu Exchange.

■ Educational & Professional Bodies: American School of Kuwait, Dive Earth Team, and the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP).

■ Community Associations: Telugu Kala Samithi Association, Malayalikal Association, and Nepali YuvaShakthi Association Kuwait.

Accolades and Community Recognition

In recognition of its outstanding service to public health and environmental protection, Kuwait Eco Warriors has earned several prestigious honors:

■ The Ahmadiyya Medal: The highest civic honor presented by the Governor of Al-Ahmadi Governorate for exemplary community service.

■ ASSP Excellence Recognition: Awarded by the American Society of Safety Professionals for

excellence in public engagement and environmental safety.

Empowering Youth & Raising Digital Awareness

Beyond weekly clean-ups, the organization places a strong focus on environmental education for younger generations. Dedicated Kids' Clean-Up Drives provide hands-on lessons on marine conservation, plastic waste reduction, and responsible consumption. Additionally, the group produces educational content and digital campaigns across social media platforms to promote sustainable living habits throughout the wider Kuwait community.

Event Details & Public Invitation

The organization extends an open invitation to all members of the public, families, schools, and private enterprises to join this historic community effort.

■ Event: Kuwait Eco Warriors 300th Week Beach Clean-Up

■ Date: Friday, October 30, 2026

■ Time: 3:00 PM

■ Location: Shumaymeh Beach, Kuwait

■ Online Registration: Registration Form Link

■ Instagram: @kuwait_ecowarriors

■ Media & Inquiry Contact: +965 50544490



Bangladeshi Engineers celebrate 78th Engineers' Day in Kuwait.

IEB Kuwait organizes 78th Engineers' Day celebration

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The 78th Engineers' Day was celebrated in Kuwait with a colourful gathering organised by the Kuwait Overseas Chapter of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), highlighting the professional achievements and contributions of Bangladeshi engineers in the Gulf country. The event was held on Friday night at Kuwait City Tower Hotel, bringing together engineers, professionals, community representatives and their families. Discussions focused on the growing role of Bangladeshi engineers in Kuwait's engineering and technology sectors, their contribution to strengthening Bangladesh's international reputation, and opportunities to expand employment for skilled professionals from Bangladesh. Speakers emphasised the importance of recruiting more engineers and technically skilled workers from Bangladesh to meet Kuwait's professional and industrial needs. The programme was chaired by IEB Kuwait Chapter Chairman Engineer Mohammad Nazrul Islam and conducted by Vice-Chairman Engineer Md. Shahed Faruk Sinha. Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Major General Sayed Tariq Hussain attended as the chief guest. Among those present were Defence Attache Brigadier General Rakibul Karim Chowdhury, Commander, BMC Brigadier General Amirul Azim, Engineers M.I. Alam, Engineer Abdus Salam, Atiqur Rahman, and Mizanur Rahman, Bangladesh Business Council President Mukhai Ali Lutfur Rahman, IPC General Secretary Ruhul Amin Khan, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Kuwait Coun-

try Manager AKM Farhad, Station Manager Md. Shahjahan, Bangladesh Press Club Kuwait President Moin Uddin Sarker Sumon, Bangladesh Cricket Association President Jahangir Khan Palash and General Secretary Moazzem Hossain. Engineers, doctors, distinguished guests and family members also attended the programme.

The event began with a recitation from the Holy Quran by Engineer Abdul Quddus Mallik, former chairman and council member of the IEB Kuwait Chapter. A technical presentation on aircraft flight, aircraft components and their functions was delivered by Engineer Mohammad Nazrul Islam, using illustrations to explain the subject. The newly elected committee members of the IEB Kuwait Chapter for the 2026-2027 term were also introduced at the event. The committee comprises Engineer Mohammad Nazrul Islam as chairman, Engineer Md. Shahed Faruk Sinha as vice-chairman, and Engineer Engr. Humayun Sulaiman Kabir as honorary secretary. Engineer Md. Zulfikar Ali, Engineer Md. Mizanur Rahman, Engineer Md. Abdul Halim and Engineer Yusuf were introduced as council members. Following the discussion session, a cultural programme was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Singers Ashraf, Engineer Abdus Salam, Dosina Laboni and Dr. Nazma Talukdar performed songs, adding to the festive mood of the evening. The celebration provided an opportunity for Bangladeshi engineers living in Kuwait to strengthen professional networks, exchange experiences and showcase the expertise of Bangladeshi professionals working abroad.

YMCA Kuwait delegation meets Shanimol Usman

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: A delegation from YMCA Kuwait met Smt. Shanimol Usman, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, during her brief visit to Kuwait.

During the meeting, she enquired about the activities and programmes conducted by YMCA Kuwait. The delegation members shared information about the organisation's various activities and its contributions to the community.



Photos during the event.

Kuwait invites private sector to propose national events

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Permanent Committee for National Day Celebrations and Event Organization, led by Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, has announced an invitation for private sector entrepreneurs and owners of national enterprises to present proposals to showcase national events and activities while enhancing community involvement, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement on Monday, the committee disclosed that the invitation for proposals aims to expand participation, strengthen cross-sector partnerships, and harness innovative ideas and high-quality projects that embody Kuwait's identity and its rich cultural and civilization heritage, while realizing the aspirations of the public.

The committee affirmed that it operates throughout the year, focusing on cultural, tourism and entertainment initiatives that promote domestic tourism and inspire national talent, skilled individuals and project owners to create innovative experiences.

It indicated that all submitted proposals will undergo a thorough evaluation process based on their nature, objectives, and alignment with national programs, while considering regulatory and technical requirements.

This approach ensures that feasible and well thought ideas can be executed, contributing to the diversification and revitalization of activities. Entities, institutions and individuals are encouraged to submit their proposals using the QR code included in the announcement.

‘You Can See Everything’ surges as ‘Wildwood’ takes third

‘Clayface’ claims box office crown with \$24 million debut

NEW YORK, Oct 26, (AP): DC Studios scored a modest, R-rated win with “Clayface,” landing a \$24 million opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. But the biggest success story in theaters remained A24’s Elizabeth Holmes documentary “You Can See Everything,” which pulled in \$19.5 million in its first weekend of wide release.

The Nathan Fielder, Lance Oppenheim-directed “You Can See Everything” increased from 855 locations to 2,655. In expansion, it continued to blow away expectations. With \$45.1 million in two weeks, it already ranks among the highest grossing documentaries ever.

“You Can See Everything” has turned into a sensation partly by drawing waves of Gen Z moviegoers. Its awards season prospects are also growing. If “You Can See Everything” is nominated for best pic-

ture at the Oscars, it would be the first documentary nominated for Hollywood’s top prize.

“A24 invested a reported \$7 million in an interesting but complicated idea without a beginning, middle or end, that’s turned into a zeitgeist film about money, dreams, truth and reality,” said David A. Gross, who publishes the box office newsletter FranchiseRe.

In 3,458 theaters, Warner Bros.’ “Clayface” narrowly edged the A24 release for first place. That’s a solid start for the Gotham City villain tale and the third theatrical release for DC under the stewardship of James Gunn and Peter Safran. A bid to meld body horror with a comic book movie, it stars Tom Rhys Harries as Matt Hagen, a rising movie star who undergoes an experimental facial surgery after a mob boss disfigures him.

While such an opening would have

been a flop for most superhero films, “Clayface” was budgeted at only \$44 million - a fraction of the expense of most comic book films. It added \$19 million internationally.

That was enough to offer some stability, and assured profitability, to DC Studios following the disappointment of “Supergirl.” Earlier this year, that film grossed just \$126 million worldwide on a \$170 million production budget.

Audiences gave “Clayface” an “A-” CinemaScore, a high grade for a horror release. Reviews were also largely good. The competition for horror audiences can be fierce in October, but “Clayface” may end up the top genre draw of the month.

“Clayface is a great example of studios taking chances, with DC venturing into R-rated horror and body horror, something that’s certainly not your typical comic book movie,” said Paul Dergarabedian, head of market-

place trends for Rentrak.

Last weekend’s top film, the video game adaptation “Street Fighter,” sank like a stone, dropping 72% with \$8.6 million in its second weekend. The Paramount Pictures release, made for about \$80 million, has grossed \$46.9 million domestically in two weeks.

“Wildwood,” the latest stop-motion animated film from the Portland, Oregon-based studio Laika, debuted in third place with \$11.8 million in 2,779 locations. The film, directed by Laika chief executive Travis Knight, rode excellent reviews and strong audience scores (an “A” CinemaScore) to a notable improvement over the studio’s previous release: 2019’s “The Missing Link” (a \$5.9 million opening).

But “Wildwood” is still unlikely to generate a profit, given that it cost \$100 million to make. The PG-13 fantasy follows a teenage girl who

enters an enchanted forest to find her abducted baby brother.

“Wicker,” a comic fable starring Olivia Colman and Alexander Skarsgård, launched with an excellent \$5.8 million in 1,471 theaters. Acquired for \$2.5 million out of Sundance by Black Bear Pictures, the well-reviewed “Wicker” is a quirky love story about a fisherwoman (Colman) who has the local basket maker weave her a husband (Skarsgård).

The weekend’s other new releases were either hard to find or little seen.

Taika Waititi’s critically panned “Klara and the Sun,” adapted from Kazuo Ishiguro’s novel, made just \$725,000 at 880 theaters for Sony Pictures.

Amazon MGM opted not to even report grosses for Sacha Baron Cohen’s poorly received mockumentary “Ali G: Who Is It?”

Though Cohen took the rare step

of conducting numerous interviews as himself, and not in character, “Ali G: Who Is It?” was almost absent on its opening weekend. The film’s theatrical footprint was shrunk considerably as Cohen faced backlash in the U.K. over cultural appropriation and racial caricatures.

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

1. “Clayface,” \$24 million.
2. “You Can See Everything,” \$19.5 million.
3. “Wildwood,” \$11.8 million.
4. “Street Fighter,” \$8.6 million.
5. “Wicker,” \$5.8 million.
6. “Other Mommy,” \$3.9 million.
7. “Sense and Sensibility,” \$3.4 million.
8. “Whalefall,” \$3.2 million.
9. “Verity,” \$3.1 million.
10. “Resident Evil,” \$3 million.

Media

Nickelback returns with new album

‘Minions & Monsters,’ Matthew Perry docuseries & ‘The Gilded Age’ lead this week’s new releases



This image released by Universal Pictures shows a scene from Illumination’s “Minions & Monsters.” (AP)

LOS ANGELES, Oct 26, (AP): A docuseries about Matthew Perry and the latest “Minions” movie are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.

Also among the streaming offerings worth your time this week, as selected by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists: Daddy Yankee’s new album, the fourth season of “The Gilded Age” and the video game “Phantom Blade Zero.”

■ “Minions & Monsters” (Wednesday on Peacock) is the third “Minions” movie and the seventh in the overall “Despicable Me” franchise. But the film, directed by Pierre Coffin, the voice of the Minions, is one of the yellow guys’ most charming. In the 1920s-set film, the Minions come to Hollywood as silent movie stars who embark on making a monster movie. In his review, AP’s Mark Kennedy wrote: “The movie has playful references to old screen gods ... but the kids in the audience won’t get them and their parents are just too tired.”

■ In “Hanging by a Wire” (Wednesday on Paramount+), director Mohammed Ali Naqvi chronicles a 2023 rescue in Pakistan. Eight people (two adults and six teenage boys) were suspended in a cable car over a chasm after a wire broke. With archival footage and firsthand accounts, the film chronicles the drama from every angle, on the ground and above.

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

■ Back in 2022, the reggaeton icon Daddy Yankee announced his retirement. It was short-lived. Songs - written and released after revealing he had converted to Christianity - followed. And on Friday, he will release a new album, “La Postal,” a 15-track concept album where each track is a love letter to, well, love: romantic love, familial love, self-love and so on. The first taste arrived in the form of “BOTZ (Kiss Me Again),” high-energy, mainstream-friendly romantic reggaeton from the man who knows it best.

■ The Canadian rock band Nickelback will release their 11th studio album, “Everything Under the Sun,” also on Friday. Expect their familiar recipe of glossy hooks, post-grunge rock riffs and gravelly vocals, from energetic opener “Rattle The Cage” to power ballads like “Make Me Love You.” There are also a few surprises: Guest appearances range from Sammy Hagar to actor Ryan Reynolds.

■ Country star Dustin Lynch will release his seventh studio album, “Clean Slate,” also on Friday. Across 12 tracks, Lynch sharpens his tools; these are radio-ready stompers in the making. “There’s a lot of life on this record,” Lynch said in a press release. “Falling for somebody, missing somebody, looking back at things you might

do differently now, going out and having a damn good time, and figuring out what matters when everything else gets quiet.”

— AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

■ Parker Posey hosts “The Mob,” a Hulu competition series from the team behind “The Traitors.” Twelve celebrities - including Aida Turturro, Bruno Tonioli, Debi Mazar and Joe Gorga - live in an Italian villa and complete tasks drawn from mob movies, all for a shot at up to \$250,000. The group picks one member as the don, who decides who gets paid and who goes home. It debuts Monday with new episodes weekly.

■ A three-part Netflix docuseries, “The One About Matthew Perry,” revisits the life of the late “Friends” star, best known as Chandler Bing. Emmy-winning director Mary Robertson draws on interviews with Perry’s sister, Mia Perry Bowick, along with friends and collaborators, plus photos and videos not seen before. It premieres Tuesday, just before the third anniversary of the actor’s death.

■ In “Nocturne,” on Apple TV, Liev Schreiber plays a former soldier and homicide detective who leaves Philadelphia for a small Pennsylvania town, only to see a serial killer, played by Stephen Graham, target his community and family. Zazie Beetz co-stars as an FBI agent. The 10-episode series, adapted from Lars Kepler’s novels “Lazarus” and “The Sandman,” premieres Friday, Oct. 30, with two episodes.

■ Michael C. Hall returns as Dexter Morgan when “Dexter: Resurrection” begins its second season Friday, Oct. 30, on Paramount+. This time he’s up against two killers in New York, one with

a long history and one new, and he’s also dealing with middle age. Dan Stevens and Brian Cox join the cast, and Uma Thurman returns.

■ Julian Fellowes’ period drama “The Gilded Age” returns for a fourth season Sunday, Nov. 1, on HBO Max. Carrie Coon’s Bertha Russell deals with the fallout of her social rise, while Christine Baranski’s Agnes van Rhijn looks for a way back to the top. Jim Gaffigan appears as President Grover Cleveland.

— Alicia Rancilio

■ “Phantom Blade Zero” aims to create an entirely new genre: “Kungfupunk.” Beijing-based developer S-Game describes it as a mix of martial arts, steampunk machinery, the occult and “elements that do not fit a single category.” It’s the tale of an elite assassin named Soul who’s framed for his master’s murder and has just 66 days to live. Can he survive long enough to unravel the conspiracy? If not, at least he can wreak vengeance with a wicked assortment of swords and a few less pointy secondary weapons. Start carving your path Thursday, Oct. 29, on PlayStation 5 or PC.

■ Dalton’s Dinos is one of those weird roadside attractions that make cross-country drives so fun. Sure, it looks like it’s been abandoned, but you’ll soon discover there are “Terrible Lizards” underground. In this debut release from North Carolina’s WDR Studios, you have no weapons to fight the monstrous beasts. Instead, you’ll need all the running, jumping and climbing skills you can muster to explore a sprawling subterranean environment and escape with all your limbs intact. Dig in Thursday, Oct. 29, PlayStation 5, Xbox X/S or PC.

■ Lou Kesten



This combination of images shows album cover art for “Clean Slate” by Dustin Lynch, left, and “Everything Under the Sun” by Nickelback. (AP)

Obituary

Eric boasts 400+ voice acting credits

Bauza, voice of Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck, dies at 46

LOS ANGELES, Oct 26, (AP): Eric Bauza, the award-winning voice actor whose performances of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and many more characters made him the modern voice of Looney Tunes, has died. He was 46.

Bauza died suddenly late Sunday, his family said in a statement. The Los Angeles County Medical Examiner reported that he died at his home from hypertensive cardiovascular disease.

Beginning in 2001, Bauza amassed more than 400 voice acting credits in a career that gave voice to beloved characters in animated Looney Tunes series including “Puss in Boots,” “Muppet Babies,” “Avatar: The Last Airbender,” and countless others. He won three Children’s and Family Emmy Awards, from 2022 to 2025.

“Looney Tunes will always have a special place in my heart,” Bauza said in an interview with The Associated Press this year. “I watched them on Saturday mornings originally. It’s not just the voice but the overall aesthetic has influenced me as an artist.”

Raised in Scarborough, Ontario by Filipino immigrant parents, Bauza found his passion for voice acting as a teenager. In high school, he would deliver the P.A. system morning announcements in various cartoon voices.

In voicing Looney Tunes characters, Bauza faithfully and reverentially channeled Mel Blanc. So great was his affection for Blanc that, in conversation, he would even toss out an impression of Blanc outside the



Eric Bauza poses for a portrait to promote the film “Coyote vs. Acme” in Los Angeles on June 9, 2026. (AP)

recording booth. Bauza last year told The New York Times: “Mel Blanc is like the voice of God for me.”

Bauza’s Looney Tunes work included such feature films as “Space Jam: A New Legacy” (2021), “The Day the Earth Blew Up: A Looney Tunes Movie” (2024) and this year’s “Coyote vs. Acme.” That film, in which Wile E. Coyote takes the Acme Corporation to court for its defective products, became a modest cause célèbre after Warner Bros. opted not to release it.

After an outcry from fans, partly stoked by Bauza, the film eventually found a distributor in Ketchup Entertainment and surpassed \$100 million at the worldwide box office. While the film was in limbo, Bauza argued for its release at the 2024 Annie Awards, in the voice of Daffy Duck.

Chris Brown avoids prison for London nightclub bottle attack



R&B singer Chris Brown arrives at Southwark Crown court for being sentenced over a London nightclub attack in London, Monday, Oct. 26, 2026. (AP)

LONDON, Oct 26, (AP): Grammy-winning singer Chris Brown avoided prison time Monday for beating a music producer with a tequila bottle at a London nightclub three years ago.

The 37-year-old was given an eight-month sentence, suspended for a year.

He had faced up to three years in prison after pleading guilty to a count of affray in July for the attack on the dance floor of Tape, a private club in the swanky Mayfair neighborhood in February 2023.

Video footage played in court showed Brown having to be pulled away from the victim, his former friend Abraham Diaw, after striking him twice in the head with a bottle.

“The repeated use of a glass bottle in that way, especially aimed at the head, was plainly dangerous, it carried the risk of delivering a more serious injury than was ultimately sustained,” Judge Tony Baumgartner said in Southwark Crown Court.

Despite the seriousness of the attack, Baumgartner said Brown did

not qualify for a custodial sentence because he pleaded guilty and there were several mitigating circumstances, including stable employment and charity work. The judge acknowledged Brown’s previous convictions but said he had maintained a clean record in recent years.

Brown has faced repeated legal trouble since his felony conviction in the 2009 assault of his then-girlfriend, Rihanna, hours before the pair were due to perform at the Grammys.

He has been arrested in several U.S. states over altercations but was either not charged or prosecutors later dropped the charges. In 2019 he was arrested in Paris and questioned on suspicion of rape, but was released without charge.

In return for his guilty plea, prosecutors dropped charges of assault, attempting to cause grievous bodily harm and having an offensive weapon, a bottle.

Brown’s friend and vocal coach Omololu Akinlolu also pleaded guilty to affray and was given a four-month suspended sentence.

Anniversary marks 33 years of Kuwait – Ukraine relations

Ukrainian Embassy hosts Independence concert in Kuwait



Photos from the event

Photos by Rezk Tawfik

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Embassy of Ukraine in the State of Kuwait organized a distinguished musical concert at the Yarmouk Cultural Centre, celebrating the 35th anniversary of Ukraine’s Independence and the 33rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the State of Kuwait.

Ukrainian Ambassador: Music is a Universal Language Reflecting the Depth of Kuwaiti-Ukrainian Friend-

ship

In his opening speech, in the presence of Their Excellencies and distinguished guests, Ukrainian Ambassador H.E. Maksym Subkh affirmed that this concert represents a tribute to the friendship between Ukraine and Kuwait through the universal language of music that transcends borders and speaks directly to the heart.

World-Renowned Pianist Denys Bodnar Presents Masterpieces of Ukrainian Musical Heritage

The Ambassador presented world-

renowned Ukrainian pianist Dr. Denys Bodnar, who was a special guest in Kuwait for this occasion, where the concert provided a wonderful opportunity to discover the richness and beauty of Ukrainian musical heritage. The program included works by Ukrainian classical composers, including pieces inspired by the natural beauty of the Crimean Peninsula, as the Ambassador affirmed that music allows us to evoke the landscapes, memories, and cultural traditions that make Crimea an inseparable part of Ukraine’s histori-

cal heritage.

Special Participation by Artist Viktor Shramko Residing in Kuwait

Several pieces of the concert witnessed the special participation of Ukrainian clarinetist Viktor Shramko, who lives and works in Kuwait, in a beautiful expression of the contribution of Ukrainian artists to cultural life both at home and abroad.

Special Thanks to Sheikha Hessa Al-Sabah and Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah

H.E. the Ambassador expressed

his sincere thanks and gratitude to Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah, the Yarmouk Cultural Centre, and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters for their valuable support. He extended special thanks to H.E. Sheikha Hessa Al-Sabah, Director General of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah, for her important personal contribution to the success of this concert.

He also thanked Mr. Sabah Al-Rayes, Head of the Music Circle at Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah, Mr. Osama Al-Bahlan from the

National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Mr. Waleed Thakour, Operations Manager of Yarmouk Centre, and the Embassy staff represented by Cultural Secretary Mr. Dmytro and his colleagues for their dedication in making the evening a success.

The Ambassador concluded his speech by welcoming the attendees to enjoy the beautiful atmosphere of Ukrainian music, inviting everyone to stand for the national anthems of the State of Kuwait and Ukraine before the start of the concert.

From jade masterpieces to imperial treasures: discover Taiwan’s National Palace Museum

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager, Arab Times

TAIPEI, Oct 26: For travellers planning a visit to Taiwan, the National Palace Museum should be high on the list of places to explore. My visit in early October 2026 offered a remarkable journey through centuries of Chinese history, artistic achievement and cultural heritage, bringing visitors face to face with treasures created by generations of emperors, artisans and scholars.

Located in Taipei, the museum is much more than a repository of ancient objects. Its galleries offer a fascinating insight into the traditions, beliefs, craftsmanship and refined artistic tastes that shaped Chinese civilisation. From intricately carved jade and magnificent bronze vessels to imperial paintings, rare ceramics and historical manuscripts, the collection rewards visitors with something new at every turn. Yet, two of its most celebrated treasures stand out for their extraordinary realism and imaginative craftsmanship: the Jadeite Cabbage and the Meat-shaped Stone.

The Jadeite Cabbage: A Masterpiece Carved from Nature

The Jadeite Cabbage is among the National Palace Museum’s most recognisable treasures, captivating visitors with its delicate details and life-like appearance. Carved from a single piece of jadeite, the sculpture takes advantage of the stone’s natural white and green colours to recreate the pale stalk and layered leaves of a cabbage.

A closer look reveals two tiny insects — a locust and a katydid — perched among the leaves, adding movement and life to the composition. The remarkable detail transforms a familiar vegetable into an exquisite work of art.

The cabbage has traditionally been associated with purity and fertility. It is believed to have been part of the dowry of Consort Jin during the Qing Dynasty, adding another layer of historical interest to this celebrated object.

What makes the sculpture especially impressive is the way its creator worked with the natural variations in the jadeite rather than treating them as imperfections. The result is a small but extraordinary demonstration of artistic



Blue-and-White – Jue Cup and Stand with Dragon and Cloud Decoration crafted during the Yongle Reign of the Ming Dynasty.



The Green Jade Folding Screen



Meat shaped stone



Carved red lacquer containers from the Ming and Qing dynasties.



Yuan to Ming dynasties – Imperial Jade Finials and Ornaments.



Artificial planter back side



Jade Finial with Cranes Pattern from the Yuan to Ming dynasties.



Qing dynasty ivory carving

ive Stone Miniature Boat, an extraordinary work carved from a tiny olive pit. Its miniature figures and intricate details demonstrate the patience and precision required to create elaborate scenes on such a small surface. The carving is associated with the famous Ode to the Red Cliff, a celebrated literary work in Chinese culture.

For lovers of traditional painting, Travelers Among Mountains and Streams, attributed to the Northern Song Dynasty master Fan Kuan, offers a striking vision of towering mountains and the relationship between people and nature. The painting’s scale and composition invite visitors to look beyond individual details and appreciate the grandeur of the landscape.

The collection also includes rare Ru ware ceramics from the Northern Song Dynasty, admired for their delicate blue-green glazes, alongside imperial paintings, calligraphy, rare books and historical documents. Together, these works reveal the development of artistic techniques and the intellectual life of successive dynasties.

Another remarkable object is the Artificial Planter with a Coral Carv-

ing of the Planetary Deity Kuixing. Its vivid coral carving and elaborate design combine fine craftsmanship with traditional mythology, offering a striking example of the decorative arts associated with the Qing Dynasty.

Each of these objects tells a different story. Some document political and intellectual history, others express spiritual beliefs, while many reveal the extraordinary skill with which artisans transformed bronze, jade, stone, ceramics and other materials into lasting works of art.

Why the National Palace Museum Belongs on Your Taiwan Itinerary

A visit to the National Palace Museum offers a different perspective on Taiwan, complementing the island’s modern cities, scenic landscapes, night markets and celebrated food culture with a deeper encounter with Asian history and art.

The experience is not limited to specialists or dedicated museum enthusiasts. The Jadeite Cabbage appeals through its delicate natural details, the Meat-shaped Stone surprises with its lifelike appearance, and the miniature carvings inspire admiration for the skill required to produce them. Meanwhile, the paintings, ceramics, bronzes and historical documents provide a broader understanding of the civilisation that produced these treasures.

For international visitors, the museum is also an opportunity to slow down and appreciate the stories behind objects that have survived across generations. Every gallery offers a reminder that artistic achievement is not measured only by an object’s size or material value, but also by the knowledge, imagination and traditions preserved within it.

My visit in early October left me with a deeper appreciation of the National Palace Museum’s role in safeguarding and presenting this extraordinary artistic legacy. For anyone travelling to Taipei, it is a destination worth setting aside several hours to explore.

If Taiwan is on your travel list, do not miss the National Palace Museum — especially its celebrated Jadeite Cabbage, the astonishing Meat-shaped Stone and the wider collection of jade treasures. They offer a memorable encounter with history, culture and craftsmanship that can turn a visit to Taipei into something truly special.

New surgical and medical approaches offer hope in paediatric oncology

Childhood cancer experts urge holistic care at Samarkand congress

By Marlon Aquino Malinao
Managing Editor, Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Second International Congress on Childhood Oncology was recently held in Samarkand as part of the World Summit on Investing in Children’s Wellbeing, continuing its work with a focus on a holistic model of childhood cancer care that combines advanced treatment, infection prevention, palliative support and family-centred services. The congress underscored that successful care extends beyond survival to a child’s long-term quality of life.

A comprehensive approach
The congress’s second day examined modern treatments for paediatric cancer, care for complex clinical cases, prevention of infectious complications, and comprehensive support for children and families. Speakers stressed that effective oncology care depends not only on technology, but also on early diagnosis, individualised treatment plans, rehabilitation and palliative services. Four thematic sessions brought together specialists to review current clinical approaches and share international experience. The central message was that diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, palliative care and family support should function as one integrated system.

Palliative care
A key session addressed palliative care for children with serious or life-threatening illnesses. Participants emphasised that it is not limited to end-of-life care: it addresses physical, psychological and social needs, relieves pain and distressing symptoms, and supports families throughout the illness. Effective palliative care requires cooperation among doctors, psychologists, social workers and other specialists. The session also highlighted the importance of continuity between medical and social services, particularly during prolonged treatment. Uzbekistan presented a recently launched mobile palliative care service in Samarkand region, which provides medical and social support at home for children with serious and incurable illnesses. More than 300 children in the



tParticipants listen to presentations during the Second International Congress on Childhood Oncology in Samarkand.

region have been identified as needing such care; the service reduces repeated hospital visits and eases the burden on parents.

Surgical advances
Another session focused on modern strategies for paediatric tumour surgery. Speakers noted that surgery in childhood cancer demands exceptional precision: the aim is to remove tumours safely while preserving healthy tissue, organ function and the child’s future development. Discussions covered accurate diagnosis, assessment of tumour characteristics, and coordination between surgery, chemotherapy and other therapies.

Participants also examined how to expand access to specialised surgical care and strengthen multidisciplinary teams.

High-risk neuroblastoma
The congress also examined high-risk neuroblastoma, an aggressive childhood cancer arising from cells of the nervous system and occurring mainly in early childhood. Its high-risk form often requires a combination of treatments tailored to the disease stage, biological features, the child’s age and overall health. Current approaches may include chemotherapy, surgery, radiotherapy, stem-cell transplantation and immunotherapy. Experts stressed the need to translate research into clinical practice, develop individual treatment plans and deepen collaboration across specialties.

Infection prevention
The final session addressed infection prevention and control in paediatric oncology. Children undergoing chemotherapy and other intensive therapies can have weakened immune defences, making infections that are normally mild potentially serious. Speakers highlighted early detection, prompt treatment, laboratory diagnostics, hygiene standards and continuous risk assessment as essential to patient safety. Stronger infection control can reduce treatment-related risks, preserve continuity of care and improve recovery prospects.

From cure to quality of life
The day’s discussions reinforced the congress theme, “From Cure to Quality of Life,” which places the child’s wellbeing — physical, psychological and social at the centre of cancer care. Participants concluded that progress should be measured not only by clinical outcomes, but also by a child’s quality of life, family support, rehabilitation and ability to return to everyday life after treatment. The Samarkand congress served as a platform for international cooperation aimed at expanding equitable access to timely diagnosis, effective treatment, essential medicines and supportive palliative care.

Lebanese Embassy hosts Breast Cancer Awareness and Wellness event in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The Embassy of the Lebanese Republic in the State of Kuwait organized the Second Breast Cancer Awareness and Health and Wellness event recently, reports Al-Seyasah daily. This is in collaboration with the Council of Lebanese Women in Kuwait, with around 85 women in attendance. The gathering exuded a warm and positive atmosphere defined by optimism and solidarity, as participants conveyed a shared message -- the importance of prevention and prioritizing women’s physical and mental well-being. Mona El-Khoury, wife of the Lebanese ambassador to Kuwait, opened the event with welcoming remarks. She affirmed the embassy’s commitment to establish this initiative as an enduring annual tradition—one that highlights women’s health, raises breast cancer awareness, and underscores the significance of early detection, based on the belief that



A photo from the event.

awareness and knowledge serve as the first line of defense against the disease. She emphasized that early detection and regular screenings can be life-saving. She added that the empowerment of women begins with providing them accurate information for them to make informed decisions regarding their health.

She pointed out that wellness is not just about physical health, as it includes mental and emotional well-being, which are essential in achieving balance and leading a healthier life. The program included an awareness lecture by Dr. Joanne Hans, who discussed the impor-

ance of mental and emotional well-being and its impact on the quality of life. This was followed by the presentation of Dr. Georgette Assal from Dar Al-Shifa Hospital, who confirmed the significance of prevention and regular screenings for the early detection of breast cancer. She considers these crucial steps in improving treatment outcomes and minimizing complications. The event also featured an interactive fitness session led by instructor Rania Al-Khatib, who encouraged participants to engage in physical activity and incorporate movement into a healthy lifestyle, along with regular medical check-ups and preventive measures. The participants also exchanged health-related information, and the event was an opportunity for networking, sharing experiences and spreading positive energy. It underscored the value of community solidarity and collective action in promoting women’s health and spreading the culture of prevention.



Mona El-Khoury

How daylight saving time changes affect you and what you can do about it

WASHINGTON, Oct 26, (AP): An extra hour of sleep is on the way for most Americans, though the “fall back” to standard time will bring darker afternoons, too. One tip: Try to get outside for some morning sun - it’ll help your body clock reset faster. Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. local time on Sunday, which means you should set your clock back an hour before you go to bed. Standard time will last until March 14, when we will again “spring forward” with the return of daylight saving time. There’s a lot of grumbling about the twice-a-year time changes. An AP-NORC poll last year found that only 12% of American adults were in favor of it, while almost half opposed it. Lawmakers in Washington took up the issue yet again over the summer. People often find the spring switch harder, losing that hour of sleep we allegedly recover in the fall. But many people also mourn fall’s end of daylight saving time, when days already are getting shorter and moving the clocks can mean less daylight after school or work for exercise or outdoor fun. The poll found that, if forced to choose, most Americans would prefer to keep that extra hour of daylight in the evening. But health groups, including the American Medical Association and American Academy of Sleep Medicine, have long urged adopting standard time year-round. That’s because it aligns more with the sun, which rises later in the winter, and with human biology, what’s called the circadian rhythm. Brighter mornings and less light at night are key to keeping that rhythm on track, making it easier to wake up on time and stick with healthy sleep patterns. Most countries do not observe daylight saving time. For those that do - mostly in North America and Europe - the date that clocks are changed varies. In the U.S., Hawaii and most of Arizona don’t change and stay on standard time. Here’s what to know about the twice-yearly ritual. The brain has a master clock that is set by exposure to sunlight and darkness. This circadian rhythm is a roughly 24-hour cycle that determines when we become sleepy and when we’re more alert. The patterns change with age, one reason that early-to-rise youngsters evolve into hard-to-wake teens. Morning light is key to synchronizing that internal clock. By evening, levels of a hormone called melatonin begin to surge, triggering

drowsiness. Too much light in the evening - whether from later time outdoors during daylight saving time or from artificial light like computer screens - delays that surge and the cycle gets out of sync. And that circadian clock affects more than sleep, also influencing things like heart rate, blood pressure, stress hormones and metabolism. Even an hour’s change on the clock can throw off sleep schedules because even though the clocks change, work and school start times stay the same. Right after the spring change, darker mornings and lighter evenings make it harder to fall asleep on time. Those first few days have been linked to increases in car crashes and even an uptick in heart attacks. During the fall and winter, some people with seasonal affective disorder, a type of depression usually linked to the shorter days and less sunlight, often struggle. Many people easily adjust to the clock switch, like how they recover from jet lag after traveling. But a time change can add pressure on shift workers whose schedules already are out of sync with the sun, or those regularly sleep-deprived for other reasons. About 1 in 3 US adults sleep less than the recommended seven-plus hours nightly, and more than half of U.S. teens don’t get the recommended eight-plus hours on weeknights. Chronic sleep deprivation is linked to heart disease, cognitive decline, obesity and numerous other problems. In both fall and spring, changing bedtimes by as little as 15 minutes a night in the days before the change can help ease into it.



Dan LaMoore adjusts the hands on a Seth Thomas Post Clock at Electric Time Company on Oct 23, 2020, in Medfield, Mass. (AP)



A health care worker reacts while receiving a dose of Ervebo vaccine against the Ebola virus in Beni, North Kivu province, eastern Congo on Oct 16. (AP)

Nigeria identifies 53 contacts tied to virus case

Uganda tightens Ebola border controls

KAMPALA, Uganda, Oct 26, (Agencies): Uganda is reinforcing border controls to stop the spread of the deadly Ebola virus and now requires citizens returning from neighboring Congo to spend 21 days in quarantine at their own expense, the Health Ministry said Sunday, as investigators examine how a woman who traveled from Uganda to Nigeria contracted the disease. The outbreak in Congo has killed thousands, but Uganda has recorded no confirmed cases since declaring its outbreak over on July 28. It first established border controls in May, restricting all but essential travelers, including humanitarian workers and truck drivers, subject to screening. Travelers with a history of travel to Congo cannot transit through Uganda, including on chartered flights. Under the new measures announced Sunday, nonessential Congolese travelers will be returned through the nearest border crossing at their own expense, while those entering illegally face prosecution, the Ugandan ministry said. Screening has intensified at Entebbe International Airport and land borders. All arrivals must complete a passenger locator form and undergo health screening, including diplomats and United Nations personnel. Asked about reports that Nigeria’s first Ebola patient had not visited Congo, Health Minister Chris Baryomunsi said Ugandan investigators had not established whether she traveled there. He said she had relatives in Uganda and Congo and held two passports, one of them Ugandan. He did not identify the second issuing country. Switzerland’s foreign ministry told The Associated Press on Friday that the woman, married to a Swiss diplomat in Nigeria, had not visited Congo and was believed to have contracted Ebola while traveling to Uganda. Baryomunsi said Nigerian authorities had not provided all the information Uganda needed. Investigators are

working with Nigeria and international partners to review genomic findings and verify her movements and interactions in Uganda and en route to Abuja. Findings will be released later, Baryomunsi said. Nigeria’s Health Minister Muhammad Pate said Friday that the woman’s infection appeared closely related to Kenya’s first case, while cautioning that this did not necessarily establish the transmission route. The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention previously said both patients passed through Entebbe airport on Oct. 3. Where the Nigerian patient contracted Ebola remains unresolved. Uganda also said all 60 contacts of Kenya’s first patient, including border personnel, hotel staff and transport operators, completed 21 days of monitoring without symptoms and were released from follow-up. The patient, a 40-year-old Kenyan man living in Congo, traveled through Uganda and arrived in Kenya Oct. 3. He tested positive and died Oct. 5. Eight contacts subsequently tested positive; a 65-year-old close relative died Friday, bringing Kenya’s death toll to two. Uganda said it had deployed Ebola experts to Congo to help contain the Bundibugyo Ebola strain.

Also:
ABUJA: Nigerian public health authorities on Sunday said they had identified and followed up on 53 contacts linked to the country’s only confirmed Ebola case. **Jide Idris**, director-general of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), told a media briefing Sunday evening that the contacts include health-care workers, domestic staff, and the patient’s spouse. The confirmed case involves a 42-year-old woman who returned to the Nigerian capital of Abuja from **Uganda** via **Addis Ababa** on Oct. 3. She developed symptoms, including fever, diarrhea, generalized body aches and sore throat, on Oct. 7.

Doncic scores season-high 52 in LA Lakers’ victory over Jazz



New York Knicks guard Josh Hart (3) blocks Orlando Magic forward Franz Wagner (22) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in New York. (AP)

Wagner, Magic use big fourth quarter to drop Knicks to 0-3

SALT LAKE CITY, Oct 26, (AP): Luka Doncic scored 52 points, hitting eight 3-pointers, to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 132-123 victory over the Utah Jazz.

In the first 50-point game this season in the NBA, Doncic made several big baskets late in the fourth quarter to help the Lakers win for the eighth time in their last nine games against Utah. He finished off a 14-5 go-ahead run with back-to-back 3s that gave Los Angeles a 127-121 lead with 1:42 left.

Doncic also had 10 assists and seven rebounds. Austin Reaves added 29 points for the Lakers. The pair combined to shoot 21 of 24 on free throws.

Walker Kessler had only two points and seven rebounds in his first game back in Utah after being sent to Los Angeles in a sign-and-trade deal in July.

Magic 111, Knicks 102

In New York, Franz Wagner scored 21 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, and the Orlando Magic dropped the reigning champion New York Knicks to 0-3.

Wagner, who started 1 of 10 from the field, added 13 rebounds and nine assists, and Anthony Black had 18 points and five assists after missing Orlando’s first two games with an ankle injury.

The Magic, already playing without leading scorer Paolo Banchero, lost Jalen Suggs to a knee injury in the fourth quarter but outscored the Knicks 40-27 in the period to earn their first win under Sean Sweeney.

Jalen Brunson scored 28 points for the Knicks. Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 points and 14 rebounds and OG Anunoby added 22 points, but the Knicks became the first defending champion to start 0-3 since the 2011-12 Dallas Mavericks.

Pistons 106, 76ers 93

In Philadelphia, Cade Cunningham scored 26



Los Angeles Lakers forward/guard Luka Doncic (77) looks to pass the ball around Utah Jazz forward Ace Bailey (19) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Salt Lake City. (AP)

points, and John Collins had 16 points and 11 rebounds to help the Detroit Pistons stay unbeaten with a win over LeBron James and the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Pistons improved to 3-0 in their first game without All-Star center Jalen Duren, who will miss at least two weeks with a strained right hamstring. Duren was injured in the first half of Detroit’s win over Miami on Friday.

The Pistons led wire-to-wire against a Sixers team playing on the second night of a back-to-back and missing starters Joel Embiid and VJ Edgecombe. Embiid sat out for rest a night after he had a triple-double against Milwaukee. VJ Edgecombe missed the game with an abdominal contusion.

Thunder 108, Clippers 101

In Oklahoma City, Shai-Gilgeous Alexander scored 34 points, Ajay Mitchell had 18 off the bench and the Oklahoma City Thunder stayed undefeated with victory over the Los Angeles Clip-

pers.

Isaiah Hartenstein added 12 points and 12 rebounds for Oklahoma City, which won its third straight to start the season but lost three players to injury, including All-Star guard Jalen Williams, who went down hard on a drive to the basket with 1:14 left. Williams left the court on a stretcher with towels covering his left leg.

Timberwolves 117, Raptors 94

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards scored 26 points in 27 minutes to lead a hot-shooting home opener for the Minnesota Timberwolves in a victory over a Toronto Raptors team missing star Kawhi Leonard.

LaMelo Ball had 15 points and went 4 for 5 from 3-point range in 16 minutes, with foul trouble limiting his playing time in his regular-season debut in front of his new home crowd.

Pacers 136, Nets 109

In New York, Tyrese Haliburton had 24 points, 10 assists and an All-Star Game-worthy dunk as the Indiana Pacers hammered the Brooklyn Nets.

The Pacers shot 58% (49 for 85) from the field, including 49% (21 for 43) from 3-point distance. Haliburton shot 8 for 13 from the field, Pascal Siakam added 21 points and Obi Toppin chipped in 16 off the bench.

Reserve guard Nolan Traore had 17 points for Brooklyn, which has lost its first three games of the season.

Grizzlies 123, Kings 112

In Sacramento, Ty Jerome had 31 points, making all 14 of his free throw attempts, to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a win over the Sacramento Kings.

Rookie Cameron Boozer contributed 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Cedric Coward had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who opened the season 3-0. Jaylen Wells had 16 points.

Byron, Ricky complete the podium

Larson extends Chase points lead with 1st win at Talladega

TALLADEGA, Ala., Oct 26, (AP): Kyle Larson threw his left hand off the wheel in disgust with a half-lap remaining at Talladega Superspeedway, watching helplessly as his No. 5 Chevrolet plummeted from the lead.

About 30 seconds later, he was jubilant after picking the perfect time to make some perfect moves for his first victory at the 2.66-mile oval that has been among his worst in the NASCAR Cup Series.

“All of a sudden, everything just opened up,” he said. “An unbelievable way to get my first speedway win. It all just worked out.”

Desperate for a rebound after his worst finish of the Chase, the defending series champion expanded his points lead by a wide margin with a breathtaking rally from 11th to first through the last two corners of the final lap.

Larson took the white flag in the lead but lost 10 spots in the first two turns after being unable to handle several bumps by the No. 33 Chevy Austin Hill, who was trying to push him to the win.

“Just crazy to get the win after falling back as far as we did,” said Larson, who benefited from a drafting push by the No. 1 Chevy of Ross Chastain (who took fourth). “I went left, and everybody was just staying high.”

In a three-wide finish, Larson took the checkered flag by a few feet over Hendrick Motorsports teammate William Byron, who spent much of the race pushing Larson to the front. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. finished 0.066 seconds behind in third place.

“It’s good that Kyle won,” Byron said. “We worked really well together all day. If I couldn’t win, I wanted him to win.”

Larson credited the drafting help from Byron and several other Chevy drivers who kept him near the front.

His faith in a title repeat was also restored.

With his third victory in the past seven races, Larson moved 73 points ahead of Denny Hamlin in the Chase standings with two races remaining.

There are 76 maximum points available for a race win, so it’s possible that Larson could clinch his third championship with a win Nov. 1 at Martinsville Speedway. After leading by only five points entering the race, Larson gleefully blurted out a vulgarity when he saw the post-race standings that had Hamlin virtually conceding defeat.

“They’ve done a lot of things right, and a lot of things have really gone

right, and we’ve not done that,” Hamlin said. “And so we’ve got a big old gap, and I think as long as (Larson) can keep his four tires on it the next two weeks, then he’ll be a champion again.”

Larson drove like a champion Sunday as he rarely has at the Cup circuit’s three drafting tracks where drivers run inches apart at 200 mph.

Prior to his 35th career victory, Larson had a series-worst average finish of 30.6 at Talladega, Daytona and Atlanta, and hadn’t won on any of the tracks in 58 prior starts (the longest superspeedway drought among active drivers).

But he led 21 laps and engineered two impressive comebacks, the first starting with 15 laps remaining after he dropped from the lead to 21st in four laps.

He had made his way back to second with six laps remaining when a 15-car crash erupted. The race went into overtime after a 13-minute cleanup for a pileup that included Chase driver Joey Logano’s Ford landing on its roof.

While Larson made nearly all the right moves in the finicky draft where a split-second mistake can a large pileup, other title contenders made some costly errors over the course of 500 miles.

A 12-car crash on the 132nd lap collected five Chase drivers, effectively ending the championship hopes for Ryan Blaney and Tyler Reddick.

Christopher Bell, who entered just five points behind Larson, crashed after spinning while entering the pits under green for his first pit stop on Lap 56. He finished 35th and dropped to third in the standings. 74 points behind Larson.

The Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing trio of Chris Buescher, Ryan Preece and Brad Keselowski swept the top three spots in the first stage with a unique strategy that had the rest of the field nearly a lap down at one point.

With many drivers conserving fuel to shorten their first green-flag pit stop, Buescher, Preece and Keselowski broke from the pack with laps that were 10 seconds faster. They had a lead of more than 40 seconds and easily stayed more than half a lap ahead of the field through the end of the stage on the 98th lap.

The NASCAR Cup Series will head to its final short track of the season with Martinsville Speedway on Sunday, Nov. 1. Chase Elliott out-duelled Denny Hamlin for the victory earlier this season.



Kyle Larson (5) passes Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (47) for the win in a NASCAR Cup Series auto race in Talladega, Ala. (AP)

Best of the Rest

Herrera lifts Boca past Independiente: Facundo Herrera struck late as Boca Juniors clinched a 1-0 away win over Independiente in Argentina’s Primera Division.

The visitors broke the deadlock in the 88th minute when Herrera met Sebastian Villa’s delivery from a corner with a diving header that beat Santiago Mele at his near post.

The hosts had several chances to score but could not find a way past goalkeeper Alvaro Montero, who made a series of sharp second-half saves. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Atlas stays in title hunt with Puebla win: Atlas stayed in touch with the Liga MX leaders by recovering from a goal down to secure a 4-3 home win over 10-man Puebla.

Puebla forward Luifer Hernandez cancelled out Florian Monzon’s opener and Jorge Sanchez then gifted the visitors the lead by inadvertently turning the ball into his own net. (Xinhua)

Sabbatini fires 62 to claim first Champions Tour title

Yoshida becomes 4th Japanese winner on LPGA this season

GWANGJU, South Korea, Oct 26, (AP): Yuri Yoshida became the fourth player from Japan to win on the LPGA Tour this season when she closed with a 4-under 68 and won the BMW Ladies Championship on Sunday when Haer-

Change Name

I,kutbuddin holder of Indain passport no. S4691376 having permanent address H.NO. 52 KADRI COLONY CHANDNI CHOWK, RATLAM PIN :457001, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA residing in kuwail at present hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under given name Kutbuddin and Surname Multhanwala

an Ryu made bogey on the final hole.

Yoshida was four shots off the pace going into the final round but lit up the front nine with an eagle at the par-5 second, followed by three consecutive birdies to be 5-under 31 at the turn.

Ryu, who has won two LPGA majors this year, had a four-shot lead entering the final round but couldn’t find the same rhythm in closed with a 73 to tie for second with Hye-Jin Choi (69).

The LPGA heads to Malaysia next week before wrapping up its four-week Asia swing in Japan.

Japanese player Yuto Katsuragawa delivered under pressure for an even-par 71 and a two-shot victory at the Genesis Championship to secure his second Euro-

pean tour title that locked up his European tour card for next year.

A day after a bogey-free 63 in the third round tied the course record at Woo Jeong Hills, Katsuragawa made 16 pars to keep his advantage that allowed him to finish with a bogey. He won by two over Frederic Lacroix (68) and Martin Couvra (69).

Katsuragawa entered the week placed No. 106 on the Race to Dubai rankings and in danger of losing his card for being outside the top 100. The win shot him up to No. 28, guaranteeing his spot in the final two events of the season in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Rory Sabbatini made up a four-shot deficit on the back nine by closing with an ea-



Yuri Yoshida of Japan celebrates with the winner’s trophy following the final round of the LPGA BMW Ladies Championship at the Pine Beach Golf Links, in Haenam, South Korea. (AP)

gle and three straight birdies for a 9-under 62 to win the Stifel Classic on Sunday for his first PGA Tour Championships title.

Sabbatini played his final six holes in 6-under par, which included his 25-foot eagle putt from the fringe on the par-5 15th hole. His final birdie was from 40 feet up the hill on the 18th at Norwood Hills Country Club, and he wound up winning by one shot over Darren Clarke (65).

Raging wind at Port Royal caused unplayable conditions that led to cancellation of the final round Sunday at the Bermuda Championship. Austin Smotherman and Seamus Power were to return Monday morning for a sudden-death playoff.

Gusts topped 40 mph

(65 kph) in the morning, and none of the 72 players who made the cut was able to start the final round. Officials decided a few hours later to cancel play on Sunday, and with a forecast just as dire, made it a 54-hole tournament.

Yoshimori Fujimoto closed with a 5-under 66 to win by four shots in the Fortinet Players Cup on the Japan Golf Tour.

Pornanong Phatlum of Thailand won the Hero Women’s Indian Open for a record fourth time with a 7-under 65 for a four-shot victory. Deon Germishuys made up a five-shot deficit with a 4-under 68 and beat Cole Stevens in a playoff to win the Stella Artois Players Championship on the Sunshine Tour in South Africa.

In collaboration with a select group of specialized fitness trainers and with the support of strategic partners

NBK organizes sports event at Al Shaheed Park ahead of NBK Run 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: As part of its early preparations for the NBK Run 2026, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized a special sports event at Al Shaheed Park (Phase 3) in collaboration with expert fitness trainers. This initiative provided participants with comprehensive pre-race experience while raising awareness about the importance of physical activity in improving health and promoting healthy lifestyles.

The event sought to create an interactive environment that encourages individuals and families to engage in sports and incorporate running into their daily routines. Participants benefited from expert guidance and practical training sessions designed to help them prepare for the race and enhance their fitness levels.

This event reflects NBK's commitment to leveraging its community initiatives to support health and well-being by raising awareness about the importance of physical activity and promoting healthy daily habits, further helping to prevent various health issues associated with a sedentary lifestyle.

Participants had the opportunity to benefit from the expertise of specialized fitness and running coaches, who provided practical guidance for beginners and professional advice on race preparation and enhancing physical performance. Moreover, the event featured a range of interactive activities tailored to various age groups and fitness levels, fostering a spirit of participation and underscoring the Bank's commitment to providing an inclusive and enjoyable

sporting experience for all.

To further enrich their experience, NBK gave all participants gifts, so they continue adopting positive and healthy habits, in an atmosphere that combines sports, community interaction, and a focus on public health.

The event also featured a special sports challenge, offering participants the chance to win cash prizes from NBK and prizes from Intersport and Spark Athletic Center. Winners were selected during the event, adding an extra layer of excitement and engagement for those in attendance, all as part of an effort to boost participation and encourage individuals to adopt a more active lifestyle.

The event also saw the participation of Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa (AAW) by providing special "Intersport" print t-shirts to all participants and attendees, in addition to distributing healthy drinks from "Joe & The Juice", while United Beverages Company supplied drinks to all participants throughout the event, ensuring a seamless and comfortable experience for those in attendance.

On this occasion, Mohammed Al-Sarraf, Principal - Public Relations and Events Management at the National Bank of Kuwait, commented: "The NBK Run stands as the premier and largest sporting event of its kind in Kuwait, serving as a platform that annually brings together thousands of participants around the values of health, activity, and a balanced lifestyle. Driven by our commitment to delivering the best possible experience, we organized this event today to enable early preparation for the



Mohammed Al-Sarraf and the coaches with the male and female winners.

race. It offers participants the opportunity to benefit from the guidance of specialized fitness and running coaches in an interactive, motivating atmosphere, which helps to improve their fitness levels and encourage more individuals to take on the challenge and participate in the upcoming race with confidence and enthusiasm".

Al-Sarraf added: "This event contributes to creating a sports experience that transcends the physical aspect by offering participants the opportunity to connect, exchange expertise, and learn from one another, further boosting motivation to achieve personal athletic goals.

Furthermore, these gatherings foster an atmosphere of positive interaction and mutual encouragement, adding value to the participants' experience and making it more impactful and sustainable".

Al-Sarraf emphasized that NBK will continue to invest in community initiatives that deliver a positive, sustainable impact, particularly those related to health and well-being. He noted that sports are a fundamental pillar in building a healthier, more vibrant society, pushing the Bank to continue supporting programs and events that encourage physical activity across all age groups, therefore enhancing quality of life and fostering

social cohesion and engagement.

It is worth noting that NBK Run is held with the support of the strategic partners of the NBK Run, Nissan Al-Babtain, Ooredoo, Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa, EQUATE, SPARK, Chips, and the United Beverage Company, which contribute to the event's success and help advance its goals of encouraging members of the community to engage in sports and adopt healthy, sustainable lifestyles.

NBK continues to solidify its role as an active partner in supporting sports and health initiatives that contribute to community development and the well-being of its members, and it consistently organizes and

- Al-Sarraf:**
- In this event, participants will have the opportunity to benefit from the expertise of professional trainers to boost their race readiness.
 - Gifts and valuable prizes will be given to all participants to encourage them to continue adopting a healthy lifestyle.
 - NBK will continue its initiatives that create a positive and sustainable impact on society.

sponsors numerous events aimed at raising awareness about the importance of adopting healthy and sustainable lifestyles. This event is an extension of that established approach and reflects the Bank's commitment to leveraging its community programs and initiatives to support causes related to health and physical activity.



Top finisher receives award.



Winners receive prizes from Spark Athletic Center.



Athletes take part in warm-up exercises.

'Sports play vital role in rehabilitation, enhancing communication'

Kuwait Special Olympics celebrates first cohort of women graduates with intellectual disabilities



Women graduates honored at Special Olympics ceremony.

KUNA photo

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): Kuwait Special Olympics on Monday celebrated the graduation of the first cohort of its "Women Play, Women Lead" program, an initiative launched in Kuwait to develop leadership skills among women with intellectual disabilities and empower them to participate more actively in sports and society.

The ceremony was held at the Ahmadi branch of the Kuwait Society for the Care of the Disabled, in the presence of Public Authority for Disability Affairs Director General Dr. Dalal Al-Othman and Sheikhha Sheikhha Al-Abdullah Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah.

Kuwait Special Olympics National Director Rehab Borsli told KUNA that the program sought to strengthen participants' personal and

leadership skills through sports, promoting independence, decision-making and self-expression.

She said the initiative featured 12 training sessions, five community projects and five practical assignments aimed at improving participants' planning abilities, sense of responsibility and capacity to overcome challenges.

Borsli said the graduates had demonstrated the potential of women with intellectual disabilities to learn and achieve when given appropriate training and support. She also expressed appreciation to the partner institutions and specialists who helped deliver the program.

Kuwait Society for the Care of the Disabled Director General Baraa Al-Janaei said sports played a vital role in rehabilitation, enhancing communication and social interaction, and im-

proving quality of life.

He added that cooperation with Kuwait Special Olympics reflected a shared commitment to developing inclusive programs and improving services for persons with disabilities and their families.

Sheikha Sheikhha Al-Abdullah, meanwhile, emphasized the need to support women with intellectual disabilities and ensure equal opportunities for their participation in society. She called for coordinated efforts to remove barriers and advance inclusion.

The ceremony was hosted by two people with intellectual disabilities, underscoring the importance of enabling persons with disabilities to take active roles in public events and demonstrate their capabilities.

Al-Shabab seizes early lead in First Division Volleyball League

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Al-Shabab took the early lead in the 2025-2026 First Division Volleyball League after opening its campaign with a 3-0 victory over Al-Sahel in the first round, held Monday at the Kuwait Volleyball Association Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Al-Yarmouk also began the competition on a winning note, sweeping past Al-Nasr 3-0 to join Al-Shabab at the top of the standings. Al-Shabab, however, holds the advantage on set results, while Al-Nasr and Al-Sahel remain pointless.

The second round is scheduled for Wednesday, with Al-Sahel taking on Al-Yarmouk at 5 pm before Al-Shabab meets Al-Nasr at 7 pm. Both matches will be played at the association's hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.



Yarmouk player smashes the ball against Al-Nasr.

Al-Shabab and Al-Yarmouk will seek to build on their winning starts and maintain their positions at the summit, while Al-Nasr and Al-Sahel look to recover from their opening losses and get their campaigns back on track.

The league will run through to the final on Sunday, November 8, when the 2025-2026 First Division champion will be crowned.

Kuwaitis shine at Arab Veterans Tennis Championship

AMMAN, Oct 26: Kuwaiti players secured several titles and runner-up finishes at the seventh Arab Veterans Tennis Championship, organized by the Arab Tennis Federation in cooperation with the Jordan Tennis Federation at the latter's courts.

The event brought together 175 male and female players from 14 Arab countries, with competitors showcasing their skills in a spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Hussein Al-Bahbahani and Asrar Abdulmajeed won the mixed doubles title, while Abdulmajeed teamed up with Jordanian player Haya Tahboub to claim first place in women's doubles.

Ahmad Dashti and Mohammed Al-Foudari finished runners-up in the men's doubles competition for



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah and Ambassador Sami Al-Zamanan with Kuwait's champions.

players over 45. Dashti also took second place in mixed doubles alongside Lebanese partner Faten Ezzeddine.

The closing ceremony was attended by Arab Tennis Federation Chairman Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Kuwait's

Ambassador to Jordan, Bahrain's Ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Khalifa bin Abdullah, Oman's Ambassador to Jordan Fahad Al-Ajeeli, Arab Tennis Federation Secretary-General Ali Lafi Al-Mutairi, and several sports officials from Jordan and other Arab

countries.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber praised the championship's success in technical, organizational, and media terms, commending the Jordan Tennis Club, led by Engineer Ahmad Al-Qudumi, for its efforts in preparing for and hosting the event in cooperation with the Arab Tennis Federation.

He also lauded the Jordan Tennis Federation, headed by Khaled Nafaa, for its cooperation and support, particularly in providing the courts and facilities needed to stage the matches.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber added that the high level of competition at the seventh edition would encourage the Arab Tennis Federation to continue organizing the championship and further develop the event.

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NEWS



Bayern's Lennart Karl, left, and Freiburg's Patrick Osterhage challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between SC Freiburg and FC Bayern Munich in Freiburg, Germany. Bayern Munich returned to the top of the Bundesliga with a 3-1 victory at Freiburg, overcoming the absence of head coach Vincent Kompany before surviving a late fightback from the host. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait to open Asian Cup campaign against Oman



A file photo of Kuwait and Oman players fighting for the ball.

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Kuwait will launch its 2027 AFC Asian Cup campaign against Oman on January 8 in Saudi Arabia, before taking on Palestine on January 12 and host Saudi Arabia on January 17 in Group A.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) announced the tournament schedule and venues on Monday, confirming that Saudi Arabia will face Palestine in the opening match on January 7.

The continental competition will run from January 7 to February 5, 2027, featuring 24 teams and 51 matches across eight stadiums in

three cities. Riyadh will host five venues, while Jeddah will have two and Al-Khobar one.

King Fahd Sports City Stadium in Riyadh has been selected to host both the opening match and the final.

The group stage will conclude on January 20, with the knockout rounds beginning on January 22 ahead of the final on February 5.

Kuwait will aim to begin its campaign on a positive note against Oman in a challenging group that also includes Saudi Arabia and Palestine. The Blue will be seeking to secure one of the two automatic qualification spots from Group A and advance to the knockout stage.

Al-Qabandi commends referees' performance



The boxing referees with officials.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Nasser Al-Qabandi, head of the Referees Committee at the Kuwait Boxing Federation, has praised the performances of referees in the federation's competitions, saying their strong displays reflect the experience and expertise they have developed over recent years.

He said continued participation in various tournaments has helped referees build the skills needed to officiate effectively during the current sports season.

Al-Qabandi noted that referees had delivered solid performances in the federation's events since the start of the season, most recently the Youth Championship, which began last Saturday. He praised their handling of the bouts and their efforts to ensure competitions ran smoothly in line with approved rules and regulations.

He also acknowledged the support of the Kuwait Boxing Federation's Board of Directors, headed by Abdullah Khaled Al-Otaibi, for its efforts to improve refereeing standards through training and development courses. These initiatives help enhance officials' competence and keep them updated on changes to the sport's rules and officiating methods.

Al-Qabandi added that the board's commitment highlights the importance it places on the Referees Committee, a key component of the federation responsible for overseeing bouts and ensuring competitions are conducted in accordance with the rules.

Antonelli 'tightens' grip on historic F1 title chase

AUSTIN, Texas, Oct 26, (AP): In the first moments after Kimi Antonelli's latest victory, Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff called it "another small step" toward the Formula 1 season championship.

It's much bigger than that as Antonelli marches toward F1 history.

Antonelli's dominant win Sunday at the United States Grand Prix put the 20-year-old Italian on the brink of becoming the youngest champion in series history at the next race in Mexico City.

Antonelli's ninth victory of the season was a pole-to-flag drive that came within a razor-thin margin of closing out the championship. Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton finished fourth and Antonelli's Mercedes teammate, George Russell, finished eighth to extend the championship at least one more week.

Anything lower by them Sunday and Antonelli would already be champion.

"The car felt perfect today," Antonelli said. "Trying to have fun, hopefully fight for another win (in Mexico City). It would be best to finish well."

He made quick work of the Sunday with a blistering start that blew Red Bull's Verstappen off the line as he eased into the first corner. The uphill left-turn switchback is one of the most notorious collision spots of the season and it was no trouble on this day.

Verstappen has struggled with his starts several times this season, and Antonelli's blast into the first corner from pole position never gave him a chance to win the inside line into the corner. Instead, the four-time champion quickly found himself in a fight with the two Ferrari cars while Antonelli drove off into the distance and seized control of the race.



Mercedes driver Andrea Kimi Antonelli of Italy celebrates on the podium after winning the Formula One U.S. Grand Prix auto race in Austin, Texas. (AP)

Antonelli kept extending his lead while Mercedes watched to see where Russell and Hamilton would finish.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished second. Verstappen was third after winning the previous two races.

"Not a good race for us, Verstappen said. "My start was normal, it's consistently (bad)." After Antonelli took the checkered flag, team principal Toto Wolff spoke to him over the radio during his victory lap. "Another small step," Wolff told him. "Another small step."

The biggest one could come next week in front of one of the biggest, most boisterous crowds of the season in the high elevation of the Mexico City Grand Prix at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez.

Madrid delivers clasico blow to Barcelona

Mbappé upstages Yamal

BARCELONA, Spain, Oct 26, (AP): Lamine Yamal slid to his back, his hands covering his face.

The 19-year-old Barcelona phenom is so used to winning, and playing so spectacularly well, that he seemed the most awestruck of all the 60,000-plus at Camp Nou when he missed a chance like few others against Real Madrid on Sunday.

Yamal's close-range miss late in the first half summed up a frustrating clasico for Barcelona, which ended in a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Real Madrid.

Kylian Mbappé scored twice for Madrid to give Jose Mourinho a victory in his first game at Camp Nou since returning to coach Barcelona's fiercest rival.

Mbappé and Yamal are two of the favorites for the Ballon d'Or award to be announced in London on Monday. While voting for the world's top player last season ended a month ago, Mbappé upstaged Yamal on the field this time.

Madrid had fortune on its side in the 41st minute when Mbappé's first goal was part chance, part being in the right place.

Barcelona defender Gerard Martín tried to clear a cross by Yan Diomande. But his low, horizontal clearance hit Mbappé and ricocheted into the net.

Yamal then missed his golden opportunity to quickly pull Barcelona level before halftime.

Fermín López found him all alone streaking into the area. But Yamal, who arguably has the fanciest feet in soccer right now, flubbed his shot from near the corner of the six-yard box, sending his shot well wide of the post.

And this from a player who has made scoring incredibly difficult goals look easy. After having helped Spain win the World Cup in the summer, Yamal has 10 goals and 10 assists across La Liga and Champions League, plus another four goals for Spain, already this campaign.

It was that kind of night for Barcelona.

Raphinha leveled in the 61st when he received a pass from Pedri and fired a shot between the legs of Jude Bellingham for a league-leading 13th goal.

But the wide-open game swung Madrid's way for good in the 87th when substitute Eduardo Camavinga ran down a long ball, drew goalkeeper Joan García off his line and passed for Mbappé to tap home.

Instead of breaking La Liga's all-time record for the best start to a season with a 10th consecutive win, Barcelona endured a second straight loss in all competitions after also losing 4-2 at Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League. Barcelona had already tied the record of nine straight wins at the start of the season in La Liga established by Madrid in 1968-69.

Making it worse for Barcelona was the man celebrating in Madrid's dugout: Jose Mourinho, who



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe, left, attempts a shot at goal in front of Barcelona's Pau Cubarsi during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

fell down and pumped his fist after Mbappé's winner. The Portuguese

coach is widely disliked by Barcelona's fans for his previous spell

with Madrid from 2010-13 when he engaged in memorable tactical

and verbal duels with then coach Pep Guardiola.

Kuwait Club prepares for Nasaf test in AFC Champions League Two

Kazma seeks Gulf Champions League revival against Ajman

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: Kazma will look to revive their Gulf Club Champions League campaign when it hosts UAE side Ajman at 5:30 pm today at Al-Sadaqua Walsalam Stadium in the second round of Group C.

The group's other fixture will see Iraq's Erbil takes on Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq.

The Orange suffered a 2-0 defeat to Al-Ettifaq in Dammam in its opening match, while Ajman began its campaign with an emphatic 4-1 victory over Erbil.

The top two teams from each of the three groups, along with the two best third-placed sides, will advance to the next stage.

Kazma is eager to make amends for its opening loss and collect a result that keeps its qualification hopes on track. Croatian coach Dragan Tadić will be aware that another setback could leave his side facing an uphill battle to reach the next round.

The Orange will rely on home advantage and fan support as they seek to maintain the momentum gained from their recent

performances in the Zain Premier League. Their latest result was a 2-1 victory over Sulaibikhat last Friday, which lifted them to second place.

Ajman, however, pose a serious challenge after their convincing win over Erbil. The UAE outfit is seventh in their domestic league with nine points, five behind leaders Al-Jazira, and has quality throughout their squad.

The team is coached by Serbian Goran Tufegdžić, who previously managed Al-Shabab and Qadsia and guided Kuwait's



Kazma players ready for the key test.

national team to the West Asian Championship and Gulf Cup 20 titles in 2010.

A Bahraini refereeing team will take charge of the match, with Ismail Al-Habib as referee, assisted by Abdullah Yaqoub and Hussein Mohammed. Mohammed Jamal will serve as fourth official, while Mohammed Ibrahim will oversee VAR, assisted by Qatar's Saud Ahmed.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club will wrap up its preparations in Tashkent ahead of tomorrow's Group B encounter against Uzbekistan's Nasaf Qarshi in the AFC Cham-

pions League Two.

All players participated in the latest training session as coach Firas Al-Khatib looks to steer the White toward a strong run in the competition and a challenge for the title.

Kuwait Club occupies second place in the group with three points, having beaten Bahrain's Khalidiya 3-1 in the previous round. It opened its campaign with a 2-0 loss to the UAE's Al-Wahda.

Al-Wahda tops the standings with six points, while Khalidiya and Nasaf have one each.