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FAKE LINKS, REAL RISKS AS C.I.T.R.A. LOGS 621 REPORTS



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Iran can no longer be trusted

THE high-level meeting in Tehran, attended by representatives from Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Pakistan alongside President Masoud Pezeshkian and senior Iranian officials, carries unmistakable significance.

For those familiar with the diplomatic roles of these three countries, the gathering represents a serious warning to Tehran - one it must heed, regardless of how difficult it may be to accept.

Ignoring this message risks triggering major geopolitical shifts that could threaten not only Iran's ruling establishment but also the future of the Iranian nation itself.

Tehran can no longer rely on its traditional diplomatic playbook of prolonging negotiations for years to extract concessions from its opponents, as it once did in its dealings with the Ottoman Empire and Tsarist Russia.

The geopolitical landscape has changed dramatically, and a weakened state cannot withstand the intense pressures now converging upon it.

Moreover, relying on regional militant networks in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen is no longer a viable strategy, given how significantly these groups have been weakened.

It is increasingly apparent to neutral observers that these proxy groups have become a heavy liability for both the Iranian government and its citizens.

For ordinary Iranians, meeting basic living needs takes priority over financing proxy militant groups to expand regional sectarian influence.

The regime now faces heightened fears of local uprisings following its brutal suppression of demonstrators last January, which left around 32,000 people dead - a development that marked a decisive shift in the country's internal dynamics.

These developments echo the atmosphere surrounding the fall of the Shah's government, offering important historical lessons.

The Middle East has undergone fundamental realignments, particularly as Tehran and its regional network have exposed significant vulnerabilities in the wake of the conflict that erupted in 2023.

Given these transformed realities, relying on stalling tactics and futile diplomatic manoeuvres is no longer a viable option.

Ground realities stand in sharp contrast to the

propaganda disseminated by troll networks ("electronic flies") and AI-generated disinformation campaigns.

Sovereign nations base their strategies on concrete evidence rather than deceptive narratives.

Consequently, regional actors are pursuing de-escalation, recognizing that the Middle East cannot withstand further terrorism.

Historically, the Persians effectively employed the "art of exhaustion," wearing down their opponents during 19th-century negotiations with Russia that led to the Treaty of Gulistan, as well as through centuries of diplomatic manoeuvring with the Ottomans.

Today, however, major global and regional realignments have rendered this strategy obsolete.

A careful examination of recent events in Tehran, including the statements issued by Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan, reveals several important conclusions.

First, a return to the regional status quo that prevailed from 1979 until the outbreak of the current conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran is no longer possible.

Second, the member states of the "Makkah Alliance" remain committed to safeguarding their national security and will not compromise on this principle, even if Tehran-backed militant factions attempt to trigger further instability across the region.

Third, these three powers are no longer willing to tolerate Tehran's reckless and destabilizing conduct without clear consequences.

Consequently, any banners of victory raised in Tehran conceal a profound defeat, resembling the final, desperate struggles of a dying entity.

Iranian falsehoods cannot change established realities.

It is against this backdrop that Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's declaration of Tehran's "readiness to support initiatives aimed at resolving disputes and strengthening security and stability" should be viewed.

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Kuwait keeps tabs on scams

Websites lead fraud parade

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: The Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) announced that it handled 621 reports of fraud and scams during the third quarter of this year.

The reports included 276 cases involving websites, 163 through social media, 104 via phone

calls, 76 through WhatsApp, and two via text messages.

CITRA stressed the importance of reporting suspicious messages, links, and calls, and urged the public not to share personal information with untrusted parties.

Meanwhile, CITRA announced that a team from its Field Monitoring Department conducted a technical visit to the Rohde & Schwarz manufacturing facility in Germany from October 19 to 21.

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

Call for faster infrastructure works

Cabinet okays GCC excise tax draft law

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet stressed on Tuesday that it is essential to adhere to timelines for development projects, including the maintenance of the main highway network and cleaning of the rainwater drainage system.

The Cabinet made the call during its weekly meeting, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh

Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah following a visual presentation by Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan regarding road maintenance, installation of traffic signs and the development of the road network and infrastructure for the new Kuwait International Airport (T2) and the comprehensive maintenance of internal streets across Kuwait.

The Cabinet said that this is intended to speed up progress and promote the quality of maintenance works, thus ensuring the safety of road users, reducing traffic density and congestion on major highways and internal roads, and facilitating the smooth flow of traffic throughout the country.

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Photos by Rezk Tawfiq
Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Lorenzo Morini during a press briefing on Tuesday.



Italy, Kuwait roadmap set to boost strategic partnership through 2030

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager, Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Italy and Kuwait have adopted an action plan to strengthen their strategic partnership through 2030, covering defense and security, trade and investment, digital technologies, energy, agriculture, healthcare, education and judicial cooperation, Italian Ambassador

to Kuwait Lorenzo Morini said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a press briefing following Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's visit to Kuwait, Morini said the two countries had agreed on a roadmap to translate their leaders' commitments into practical cooperation over the coming four years.

The plan includes political dialogue, defense and technical cooperation, economic investment, public

security, judicial cooperation, creative industries and social sectors, including health and education.

H.E. Morini said the plan identifies specific initiatives for implementation in the coming months, adding that diplomats, technical teams and officials would now work to achieve the objectives agreed upon by the two governments.

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FDI surge gains momentum

Kuwait expects \$16 billion investment inflow in 2026

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Oil and economic expert Hajjaj Bukhadhour said the significant rise in foreign direct investment (FDI) marks an important milestone for Kuwait's economy.

The value of these investments exceeded USD 6 billion in 2025, with an additional inflow of approximately USD 16 billion expected in 2026, driven by the "Shaheen" project, an initiative signed between the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and sev-



Bukhadhour

eral international companies.

In a press statement, Bukhadhour explained that these multi-billion-dollar inflows carry significant economic, political, and social implications. Their true significance lies not merely in the volume of capital but also in its nature, developmental impact, sustainability within the broader economic framework, and resilience in the face of current geopolitical and economic challenges affecting the region and the world.

He further stressed the importance of directing these funds towards vital, value-added sectors that boost productivity and generate tangible economic activity.

Bukhadhour identified four key dimensions behind the rise in foreign investment.

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Day by Day

RECONCILIATION gatherings in Arab communities, and perhaps elsewhere, often serve as mechanisms for pressuring the vulnerable into surrendering their lawful rights.

Indeed, this reflects the reality of our world. The powerful take whatever they believe they are entitled to, while the marginalized are left with no recourse but to appeal to the Heavens - to the Creator who exalted them and spread out the earth.

Consider the lion, the king of the jungle, who claims the inherent right to devour whatever stands in his path whenever hunger strikes.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

2 dead in sea, road mishaps

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: One person died and four others were injured after a boat capsized near Ahmadi Port early Tuesday morning, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) posted a statement on its X account, explaining that marine fire-fighting and rescue teams from the Shuaiba Marine Centre responded to the incident and handled the situation. The injured individuals were transferred to the relevant authorities.

In other news, one person was killed and five others injured in a collision involving two vehicles on King Fahad Road, opposite Shuhada, on Sunday afternoon.

In a press statement, the Kuwait Fire Force said firefighters from the Mishref Fire Station responded to the accident, and the site was subsequently handed over to the relevant authorities.

Kuwait's security remains UK priority: Ambassador Rasheed

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27, (KUNA): British Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rasheed reaffirmed on Tuesday his country's unwavering commitment to Kuwait's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity, describing more than 125 years of bilateral ties as a strong strategic partnership built on mutual trust and close cooperation.

In an interview with KUNA, Rasheed said Kuwait remained one of the UK's oldest and most important partners in the Gulf, with cooperation spanning defense, security, trade, investment, healthcare, education, energy, culture and innovation.

He said defense ties remained a key pillar of the relationship, rooted in the two countries' cooperation during Kuwait's liberation in 1991.

Current collaboration includes military training and education, defense capabilities, counter-drone expertise and coordination between security

institutions.

Rasheed stressed that Britain had continued to work closely with Kuwait and other Gulf partners amid recent regional tensions, supporting stability, freedom of navigation and the security of its partners.

He also praised Kuwait's role in promoting regional stability through dialogue, diplomacy and de-escalation.

Looking ahead, he said the two countries aimed to expand cooperation in emerging technologies, cybersecurity, clean energy, artificial intelligence, digital services, healthcare, higher education and financial services.

British companies continued to contribute to Kuwait's development goals under New Kuwait Vision 2035, while Kuwait remained an important source of investment for the UK.

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Rasheed



3 Kuwait adopts reform-focused approach to juvenile offenders



9 KFH strengthens international presence and shares strategic insights for economic development and sustainable growth



Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:38	Asr	14:41
Sunrise ..	05:58	Maghrib ..	17:06
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:26

Amir oversees National Guard preparedness amid military drill



Amiri Diwan photos

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27, (KUNA): Kuwait’s National Guard on Tuesday held a military exercise under the watchful eye of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as he closely monitored their level of preparedness to deal with any potential emer-

gencies. Hailing His Highness the Amir and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces’ visit as a noble gesture, a National Guard statement said that his mere presence served as motivation for the Kuwaiti paramilitary forces to

do their utmost in efforts to protect the nation. The military drill entailed special exercises that aim to boost the National Guard’s capabilities in responding promptly to any security emergencies, added the statement.

Committee approves 2 ration centers

Kuwait council reviews storage licensing rules

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: The Committee for the Practice of Engineering Professions at the Municipal Council, chaired by Farah Al-Roumi, held its second meeting for the fourth legislative term, during which it referred the oly item on its agenda back to the executive branch, requesting that it should be incorporated into the draft ‘Temporary Storage/Staging Regulation’ (known as the ‘Tashween’ regulation).

This item is related to the proposal submitted by Al-Roumi to amend Article Two of Administrative Resolution No. 2641/2021, an amendment of Resolution No. 2322/2019, regarding the terms and conditions for issuing and renewing temporary storage/staging licenses.

In its 13th regular session on Feb 16, the council recommended referring this proposal to the executive branch for a detailed study.

The proposal is to amend Item One of Article Four to read as follows: “The validity period for a tem-

porary storage/staging license for projects executed under commercial, civil or administrative contracts shall be equal to the original contractual duration of the project, as per official documentation approved by the project owner or the supervising authority.

“The license can be renewed several times, provided that each renewal period does not exceed one year, subject to established procedures, request of the executing entity, and approval of the competent authorities.”

In addition, the Ahmadi Governorate Committee, chaired by Nassar Al-Azmi, held its eighth meeting for the fourth legislative term.

The committee approved the request of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to allocate two sites for supply/ration distribution centers in East Riqqa and Jaber Al-Ali. These sites are designated as outlets for the sale and distribution of subsidized essential goods, as well as for their short-term storage. Each site measures 1,000 square meters, with an additional 189 square meters allocated for parking.

Other Voices

British judicial system – a model worth following

By Ahmad alsarraf

I, like many others, used to believe that judges’ salaries and bonuses in Britain were largely discretionary, determined by judges themselves according to their personal circumstances and needs.



Ahmed alsarraf

However, official sources reveal that British judges are paid according to a fixed salary scale, with no bonuses or additional fees for each case they handle.

Each year, the Independent Senior Officials Salary Review Authority makes recommendations on judicial salaries, which are then implemented by the Ministry of Justice through the Lord Chancellor.

In determining salaries, the system takes into account the fact that judges are not permitted to negotiate their pay and cannot return to private-sector legal practice after their appointment.

The salary structure, established in 2025, comprises eight categories. Category A carries an annual salary of £325,010 and includes the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales and the Lord Chancellor.

The next category carries an annual salary of £290,213 and includes the Court Registrar, the President of the Supreme Court, and the Lord President of the Court of Session in Scotland. The third category receives a slightly lower salary and includes Supreme Court judges, the Chief Justice, and the President of the Family Division, and the President of the King’s Bench Division.

Below them, on progressively lower salaries, are judges of the Court of Appeal and other senior judicial positions.

At the lower end of the scale, annual salaries reach £111,456, equivalent to approximately

KD 4,000 per month, for judges in the relevant salaried judicial positions. The judicial pension scheme is also generous, with pension benefits accruing at a rate of 2.5 percent per year and subject to tax.

Judges who are paid on a fee basis, including deputy or part-time judges, receive a daily rate. A deputy judge of the Supreme Court, for example, receives £1,111 per day. Judges have no other sources of professional income. They are not permitted to practise law privately, serve on company boards, or receive bonuses from other sources.

Judicial salaries are determined by the office held rather than individual performance or achievements. This is designed to preserve the independence of the judiciary.

By comparison, senior Supreme Court judges earn the equivalent of only one-third to one-quarter of what leading private-sector lawyers, such as King’s Counsel, may earn.

As a result, prestige and pension benefits remain among the main incentives for judicial appointments, which may help explain the recruitment difficulties since 2016.

It may be worth considering the adoption of certain aspects of the UK’s judicial salary system.

Singapore offers the highest judicial salaries among public officials, exceeding US\$312,000 annually. Switzerland ranks second, followed by the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

In most countries, judges are among the highest-paid public-sector employees, earning considerably more than ordinary administrative staff. This is due to the high-level salary scales they occupy, such as the federal hierarchy in the US or the fixed judicial hierarchy in the UK. These are designed to protect judges financially, attract highly qualified legal professionals, and shield them from financial pressures.



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NEW YORK, Oct 27, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has called on Iraq to take serious, tangible steps to fulfil its outstanding obligations on determining the fate of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons and third-country nationals, and on recovering Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

“Continued delays in implementing these obligations require concrete action and tangible results,” Kuwait’s Assistant Foreign Minister for Prisoners and Missing Persons Affairs, Ambassador Rabie Al-Adasani, told a UN Security Council meeting on the situation between Kuwait and Iraq.

He said completing the files on missing persons and Kuwaiti property is essential to strengthening relations between the two countries. More than 35 years after Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait, he said the challenge is not only the scarcity of new information, but also the failure to follow up on information and testimony already received, and delays in implementing commitments agreed years ago.

Al-Adasani cited the possibility that the remains of between 150 and 180 Kuwaiti missing persons may be located at burial sites in Al-Khamisiyah. He said an Iraqi witness, an adviser in the office of the Iraqi prime minister, gave documented testimony to the Technical Subcommittee on possible burial locations, coordinates and individuals who may hold further information, and undertook to contact people outside Iraq — but the undertaking remained unfulfilled for years because requests to the Iraqi government went unanswered.

Kuwait, he said, has provided information, documents, satellite imagery and technical assessments, and contributes \$1 million annually to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support search efforts. He stressed that Iraq bears the primary responsibility for identifying and contacting witnesses, obtaining information, tracing Kuwaiti property and returning it, in line with relevant Security Council resolutions.

Strengthening regional legal capabilities

Dar Al Muhama lawyers win Legal Era awards

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Dar Al Muhama announced that its Managing Partner, Abdulrahman Alhouthi, received the Leadership Excellence Award for Continuous Growth as a Lawyer at the Legal Era Middle East Law Awards, held in Dubai on 22 October 2026. Mariam Alfaiilakawi, a lawyer with the firm, received the Young Achiever of the Year award in the Law Firm/40years below category.

The recognition comes as Dar Al Muhama, under Alhouthi’s leadership, develops its institutional capabilities and broadens its services to companies and investors. Building on its knowledge of the Kuwaiti market, the firm is strengthening its capacity to handle assignments with regional and international dimensions. Its priorities include developing its lawyers, sharing knowledge across practice areas and improving the management and delivery of legal work.

“My responsibility is to build a firm whose capabilities keep pace with our clients’ needs,” said Alhouthi.

“Our task is to turn individual experience into institutional capability that benefits our clients. That means improving how we manage matters, making time for learning and review, and preparing our lawyers to take on greater responsibility.”

He added: “I am pleased to receive this recognition



Dar Al Muhama celebrates dual Legal Era wins.

and particularly pleased to see our colleague Mariam Alfaiilakawi recognised for her hard work and professional progress. We want lawyers at Dar Al Muhama to have meaningful opportunities to develop their expertise and demonstrate their judgement. A stronger team gives us greater capacity to provide precise, practical advice.”

The firm’s development priorities also encompass practical legal training, technology and artificial intelligence, specialist collaboration and professional relationships that support cross-border work. Dar Al Muhama aims to translate these activities into better service and a broader range of expertise available to clients.

“Clients should experience our progress when they bring us a difficult matter,” Alhouthi concluded. “They should find a team that understands their business, explains the options clearly and follows through carefully. That is how we want the firm’s growth to be measured.”

Diwaniya hosts French-Arab cultural fusion

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Classic French music blended with the melodies of the oud within the setting of the Kuwaiti ‘diwaniya’ — a traditional social gathering space — at the recent Francophone event, which offered a unique cultural experience combining French music with Arab heritage.

The Lebanese Embassy hosted the event, which is part of the Francophomie Month, in collaboration with the French Institute in Kuwait and the Council for the Promotion of Francophonie.

Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait Gadi Khoury affirmed that the ‘diwaniya’, an integral part of social life in the country, is as an ideal venue for cultural exchange and promotion of the French language and culture in a way that resonates with the local community.

He explained that the concept of the event is based on the role of the ‘diwaniya’ as a hub for social interaction and leisure. He revealed that the program combined this traditional social atmosphere with French music, featuring artists who performed classic French songs accompanied by the oud.

He pointed out the growing interest in learning French in Kuwait despite the widespread use of English due to the cultural value of the French language and the intellectual and linguistic horizons it opens, indicating many families want their children to learn the language.

Meanwhile, French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin described Emmanuel Macron’s visit to Kuwait as highly successful. He confirmed the signing of eight agreements and the discussions characterized by warmth, depth and productivity. He added that choosing Kuwait as the first stop of President Macron’s Gulf tour proves the significance of the bilateral relationship.

He disclosed that three ministers and a high-level delegation accompanied Macron before continuing his tour to other Gulf states.



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Photos during the event.

He then indicated that the event was a special occasion, given Lebanon’s important position within the Francophone sphere and its historical ties to the French language.

He asserted that holding the event in a ‘diwaniya’ showcased the distinct character of Lebanese culture, depth of Kuwaiti heritage, and spirit of the Francophone world, which unites diverse cultures.

He went on to say that the repercussions of the war

led to the postponement of several Francophone activities this year, yet the program gained momentum in the second half of the year, featuring a football match, concerts, exhibitions, poetry competitions and literary evenings.

He urged those interested in learning French to listen to songs, watch films in the language and to take advantage of the courses offered by the French Institute in Kuwait.

Kuwait adopts reform-focused approach to juvenile offenders

Juvenile Protection Department sees drop in juvenile offenses

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Director of the Juvenile Protection Department at the Criminal Investigation General Department in the Interior Ministry Colonel Ali Hussein Bu-Abbas has stressed the need to handle juvenile cases through a strategy that harmonizes law enforcement with rehabilitation and reform in order to prioritize the welfare of the juvenile while ensuring societal security.

In an interview with the newspaper, Bu-Abbas pointed out that the responsibilities of the department go beyond reacting to reports and incidents, as they include preventive and social aspects. He said this entails investigating the context surrounding each juvenile and collaborating with relevant authorities to deal with the underlying issues that could lead to delinquent behavior.

He explained that the department handles a range of issues like traffic-related offenses, alterations, cases involving a risk of delinquency, and violation of children's rights. He added that the department follows up reports on juveniles running away from home, and takes the necessary steps to locate them and ensure their safety.

He affirmed the commitment to uphold the rights of juveniles throughout the investigation process, such as taking into account their age, as well as legal and social circumstances, ensuring they are not detained with adults, and coordinating with the Ministry of Social Affairs and care institutions to implement appropriate measures tailored to each individual case.

He stated that the Kuwaiti Juvenile Law focuses on behavior correction and providing opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration into society, rather than relying solely on



Director of the Juvenile Protection Department at the Criminal Investigation General Department in the Interior Ministry Colonel Ali Hussein Bu-Abbas.

punishment.

He highlighted the significant decline in the number of cases recorded by the department in 2026 compared to 2025. He disclosed that 2,316 cases were recorded last year, consisting of 2,186 misdemeanors and 130 felonies, while the total number of cases from Jan 1 to Oct 22, 2026 reached 991 -- 916 misdemeanors and 75 felonies. He indicated that this decline is noted in various types of cases, particularly traffic-related offenses, which decreased after the implementation of the new traffic law. He added that this affirms the importance of adhering to laws and utilizing deterrent measures to curb violations and guarantee road safety.

Following are details of the interview:

Question: What are the competencies of the Juvenile Protection Department?

Answer: The department conducts preliminary investigations, inquiries and evidence gathering regarding juvenile offenses.

Its duties include assisting in securing juvenile care facilities, monitoring the implementation of decisions and rulings issued by the Juvenile Prosecution and the Juvenile Court, and investigating the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency, in coordination with relevant authorities, to address them.

It conducts inquiries into reports of



Al-Seyassah/Arab Times reporter interviews Colonel Ali Hussein Bu-Abbas.

abuse or violations against children, as per the notifications received from hospitals.

These cases are investigated and then referred to the competent authorities for further legal proceedings, in coordination with the Child Protection Team at the Ministry of Health.

Q: What is your role in protecting juveniles and society?

A: Beyond our security mandate—enforcing the law and safeguarding society from crimes committed by juveniles, we also serve a preventive function, protecting juveniles from falling into delinquency or criminal behavior.

Q: What are the most common types of cases and offenses handled by the Juvenile Protection Department?

A: These include traffic offenses, physical alterations, delinquency and violation of children's rights.

Q: How do you handle a juvenile who committed an offense but also a victim of difficult family or social circumstances?

A: Once an investigation confirms that a juvenile offender is a victim of adverse family circumstances, the individual is referred to the Social Probation Office, which is under the Ministry of Social Affairs, to take the necessary measures. This office then prepares a social report on the juvenile, which is submitted to the competent authorities in accordance with the Juvenile Law.

Q: How do you deal with cases of

juveniles who run away from home? What procedures are followed to locate them and ensure their safety?

A: Running away or truancy cases are registered at the local police station. A file is opened for the juvenile—categorized as being 'at risk of delinquency', then a case study is conducted by the specialized social research department. Action is taken based on the results of the study.

Q: What procedures do you follow from the moment a report is received involving a juvenile until the case is referred to the competent authorities?

A: We summon the involved parties, verify the report, and conduct the necessary inquiries. If it is confirmed that an offense was committed—whether it constitutes a juvenile case or a violation of a child's rights—the case is registered and referred to the relevant authority.

Q: How do you ensure the protection of a juvenile's rights during the preliminary inquiry and investigation, in a manner appropriate to their age and legal status?

A: The Juvenile Protection Department is in charge of safeguarding juveniles and children. We ensure that all their rights are upheld when they are summoned or questioned. They are never detained or held along with adults. Waiting areas are designed to be age-appropriate, and a guardian or caregiver must be present with the juvenile. Investigators wear plain clothes, which helps reduce fear or in-

timidation the child or juvenile might feel, thereby, ensuring better dialogue and communication.

Q: Could you tell us about the coordination between your department and the care facilities under the Ministry of Social Affairs?

A: Under the Juvenile Law, the director of the Juvenile Protection Department serves as a member of the Juvenile Care Authority. Coordination between our department and these care facilities is rapid and direct, covering several areas like assessing the facilities' operations, overcoming challenges related to the residents, and managing social aspects such as placements, assignment of behavioral supervisors, and transport of juveniles from these facilities to the Juvenile Court.

Q: Are there plans to develop operations and use modern technologies for the early detection of risks threatening juveniles, as well as for their protection?

A: Yes. As a result of our digital transformation, we have been able to expedite processes related to reports and summons.

Furthermore, security personnel are undergoing training through courses designed in accordance with the plan established by the Training Department.

Q: How do you strike a balance between enforcing the law against a juvenile involved in a crime and safeguarding their best interests, while giving them the opportunity for rehabilitation and reintegration into society?

A: The Kuwaiti Juvenile Law prioritizes the best interests of the juvenile. The objective of security and judicial procedures is not punishment, but rather the correction of the juvenile's behavior through the application of alternative measures, such as placement in a specialized facility, judicial probation or community service.

Q: Are there statistics on cases handled by the Juvenile Investigation Department in 2025 and 2026? What are the trends, particularly in light of the implementation of the new Traffic Law?

A: Yes, statistics from the Juvenile Protection Department indicate a decline in the number of recorded cases in 2026 compared to 2025. Last year, the department recorded 2,316 cases -- 2,186 misdemeanors and 130 felonies.

From Jan 1 to Oct 22, 2026, the total number of cases reached 991 -- 916 misdemeanors and 75 felonies.

This decline is seen in various categories of offenses, particularly traffic cases, which decreased after the implementation of the new Traffic Law. This underscores the importance of legislation and deterrent measures in curbing violations and ensuring adherence to the law.

Q: Who is considered a 'juvenile' under Kuwaiti law? What is the age range covered by the law?

A: According to Juvenile Law No. 111/2015 and its amendments, following are the definitions:

Juvenile: any male or female who has yet to reach the age of 18

Delinquent Juvenile: any juvenile who reached the age of seven but has yet to reach the age of 18 and committed an act punishable by law.

Juvenile at Risk of Delinquency: a juvenile is considered at risk of delinquency if he falls into any of the categories specified by the law, such as engaging in begging, running away from home, defying parental authority, lacking a trustworthy guardian, or associating with vagrants or suspicious individuals.

Bu-Abbas affirmed that the department's doors are open to receive all reports—whether from the juveniles or their parents. He encourages parents to report instances of delinquency involving their children to the department.

He explained that some juveniles who exhibited rebellious behavior showed improvement after being evaluated by specialists and psychologists in the department and other relevant authorities. He said their condition improved after monitoring their circumstances and correcting their behavior.

He added that some parents, exhausted by their children's conduct, sought assistance from the department, where these cases were handled with complete confidentiality.

He also confirmed that the department is staffed by competent officers, non-commissioned officers, personnel, and social, psychological and guidance counselors who are well-equipped to handle all reports and cases, including malicious ones. "In handling family disputes, we consistently advocate for reconciliation," he concluded.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Kuwait-Italy axis: Equation of energy security, joint defence

“THE visit of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to Kuwait carried significant strategic importance, aimed at strengthening the historic partnership between the two countries,” columnist **Faisal Hamad Ibrahim Al-Muzaini** wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“The meeting between Kuwait’s political leadership and Prime Minister Meloni included a working session marked by frank discussions and mutual appreciation.

During the talks, both sides developed a shared vision that integrated economic stability with security cooperation, underscoring that the strength of an alliance depends on developing effective solutions and providing mutual support.

First: Joint agreements

-A letter of intent on defence: Signed with the Italian company Leonardo, aimed at developing military capabilities and localising manufacturing technology.

- A memorandum on security cooperation: Between the National Guard and the Italian Carabinieri, focusing on the exchange of expertise and advanced training.

- A memorandum on direct investment: Between the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) and the Italian Trade Agency, designed to facilitate capital flows and promote the exchange of investment opportunities.

Second: Trade Volume

- Oil trade: Petroleum products form the backbone of Kuwait’s exports to Italy, with the annual value of refined oil exports exceeding USD 700 million. These supplies help meet Italy’s industrial needs, supported by the Milazzo refinery in Sicily and secure supply chains.

- Non-oil trade: Italian imports into Kuwait continue to grow steadily, led by machinery, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, iron, consumer goods, and food products.

Meanwhile, Kuwait’s exports to Italy consist primarily of raw plastic materials, petrochemicals, and textiles.

Third: Q8 and Italy’s Gratitude

The long-standing presence of Kuwait Petroleum International (Q8) in Italy has become a prominent example of a flexible and resilient partnership.

As Italy faced severe inflationary pressures driven by soaring fuel prices, Kuwait’s intervention provided vital support.

The Q8 group, which operates 3,000 service stations across Italy, responded to Italy’s call by introducing a price cap on petrol and diesel.

This move earned official appreciation from Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who



Al-Muzayen

stated, “I thank the State of Kuwait and the Q8 group. Their decision is a significant signal that reflects their concern for Italian families.”

During the discussions, Palazzo Chigi, the seat of the Italian government, welcomed Kuwait’s willingness to extend the price cap, helping protect the market from energy-related shocks.

Fourth: The Visit as Reflected in the Italian Press

-The Italian news agency ANSA described Amir’s willingness to extend the price cap at Q8 stations as “a tangible step that demonstrates the depth of the friendship, providing direct protection to both Italian citizens and the nation’s productive sector.”

-The financial newspaper Il Sole 24 Ore noted that the Q8 initiative went beyond commercial considerations, serving as a geopolitical lifeline for the Italian government. It created a strategic balance by providing Rome with economic stability while offering Kuwait access to defence technology through the Italian company Leonardo.

-The geopolitical platform Decode noted that Meloni’s historic tour of the Gulf highlighted Kuwait’s unique standing, not merely as an energy supplier, but as an example of how international influence is not defined by geographical borders.

Fifth: Strategic Summary

- Political Perspective: Kuwait has strengthened its position as a prudent power and a reliable partner. Its location in the northern Gulf is closely linked to the security of maritime navigation, creating opportunities for cooperation that align mutual interests through the development of trade corridors and bridges for growth between Europe and Asia.

- Economic Perspective: Through its responsible positions and vision for the energy sector, Kuwait has demonstrated a sound investment philosophy. This underscores that international influence is not measured by geographical size, but by concrete actions, steadfast positions, and the cultivation of partnerships that contribute to regional and global economic stability.”

Also:

“Today, I would like to share a few observations on challenges we face. These are issues that could be resolved with some planning and a bold decision,” columnist Eng. **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“I will begin with Sulaibikhat Cemetery. In Kuwait, attending funeral gatherings has become a well-established tradition, reflecting our social cohesion and religious commitment. We also frequently visit the graves of our loved ones.

Recently, as many have observed, parking areas have experienced significant congestion and disorder, particularly on days when several funerals take place.

Although the Municipality has opened new access points, this has not been enough to address the problem.

Overcrowding persists in both the parking areas and the funeral halls, despite the ample space available.

Why not provide additional mosques for funeral prayers and build more funeral halls? Furthermore, we need to develop larger parking facilities to accommodate Kuwait’s growing population.

I believe this responsibility falls to the Municipality and the State Minister for Municipal Affairs. They could launch an architectural competition inviting engineers to submit designs for these facilities, helping to resolve the congestion.

I understand that a major new project for the cemetery is being planned, which is a positive step.

However, until the project is completed, it would be prudent to introduce interim measures to ease the current overcrowding.

The second observation concerns healthcare and the elderly.

As I have noted previously, waiting times for appointments at public clinics and hospitals, particularly specialised facilities, are often excessively long.

This inevitably adds to the suffering of elderly patients, many of whom live with chronic conditions requiring regular medical care.

Why, then, are they not given priority?

The Minister of Health, the Undersecretary, and even hospital and clinic directors could take action to address this issue.

Our elderly deserve our care and attention. Let us ensure that their rightful needs are met.

The third observation concerns the sports sector. We are caught in a vicious cycle. While some teams achieve success and many individuals demonstrate exceptional talent, they still require much greater support.

Moreover, the focus must extend beyond football to encompass the wide range of other sports that also deserve attention and investment.

Sport is not merely a form of entertainment; it is a driver of sustainable national development.

Kuwaiti society is predominantly young, with young people accounting for approximately 63 per cent of the population. This generation must be nurtured through sports, culture, the arts, and other meaningful opportunities.

We submit these observations to the relevant authorities, each within its respective sphere of responsibility.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Tobacco haul hits customs snag at Kuwait Terminal 4

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Customs inspectors at Kuwait International Airport’s Terminal 4 (T4) seized 33.5 kilograms of tunbak, a tobacco product, from an arriving passenger.

The seizure is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen customs monitoring and combat smuggling.

According to the General Administration of Customs (GAC), inspectors discovered the prohibited goods during routine customs procedures. The passenger was carrying two cartons

containing the seized quantity of tunbak.

A seizure report is being prepared, and the case will be referred to the General Department of Criminal Investigation, specifically the Airport Investigation Division, for the necessary legal action.

GAC reaffirmed the vigilance of its inspectors at all entry points and their commitment to protecting the country and preventing the entry of prohibited items.

The administration also urged travellers to strictly comply with all customs laws and regulations.



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Digital transformation drives talks

Kuwait, Bahrain strengthen cross-border transport links

MANAMA, Oct 27, (KUNA): Bahraini Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Dr. Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa discussed on Tuesday with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Jassem Al-Najem ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in transport, telecommunications, and digital transformation.

In a statement received by KUNA, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Manama stated that the meeting covered opportunities to develop digital infrastructure and data centers, as well as following up on the declaration of intent regarding co-operation under the “Data Embassy” initiative.

The two sides emphasized the importance of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) coordination to protect telecommunications infrastructure, ensure network and digital service continuity, and boost emergency preparedness, it said.

They also reviewed updates on the GCC Railway project and its role in strengthening economic integration while facilitating the movement of people, goods, and logistics across GCC states, the embassy added.

Additionally, the meeting addressed exchange of expertise on transport sector development, modern technology integration, sustainable transport support, and Bahrain International Airport’s electric taxi initiative.

Both parties reaffirmed their mutual commitment to ongoing coordination and exchange of expertise between specialized authorities in both countries to serve shared interests, it stated.

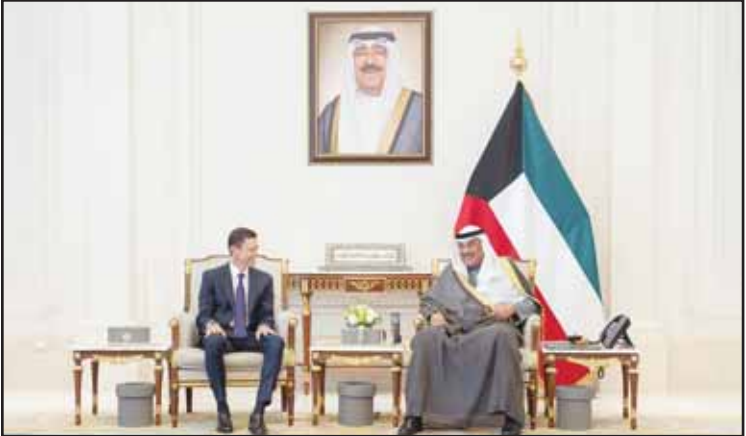
The meeting was attended by Counselor Abdulaziz Al-Falah and Second Secretary Lujain Abu Alayan from the Kuwaiti Embassy in Bahrain.



KUNA photo
Bahraini Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Dr. Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa during a meeting with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Jassem Al-Najem.



Left: HH the Crown Prince receives BlackRock Chairman and CEO Larry Fink. Right: HH the Crown Prince receives KKR Co-CEO Scott Charles Nuttall.



Crown Prince Diwan photos

Crown Prince, PM hold talks with BlackRock, KKR execs

Kuwait explores investment cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday BlackRock Chairman and CEO Larry Fink and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace during their visit to Kuwait.

The meeting discussed economic cooperation, strengthening partnerships with global institutions, supporting economic development and diversifying investment opportunities, as well as developing national capabilities in support of sustainable development goals.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Crown Prince’s Diwan, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait Investment Authority Managing Director Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah, and other senior officials.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received on Tuesday KKR Co-CEO Scott Charles Nuttall and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace during their visit to Kuwait.

The meeting reviewed areas of economic cooperation and ways to develop them, alongside discussions on economic and international issues aimed at



Left: HH the PM receives BlackRock Chairman and CEO. Right: HH the PM receives KKR Co-CEO.



PM Diwan photos

attracting global companies and developing national capabilities.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Crown Prince’s Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait Investment Authority Managing Director Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah, and other senior officials.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also received on Tuesday BlackRock Chairman and CEO Larry Fink and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace during their visit to Kuwait.

The meeting discussed prospects for economic cooperation, strengthening bilateral economic partnerships and developing trade and investment ties, as well as supporting initiatives that serve mutual interests.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also received on Tuesday KKR Co-CEO Scott Nuttall and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace on the occasion of their visit to Kuwait.

The meeting discussed investment cooperation opportunities and promising prospects, as well as an exchange of views on the global economic situation and issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah.

70%, 78% thresholds set

Kuwait University opens 2nd semester admissions Dec 16

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Dr. Fadhel Abbas Aziz, Acting Dean of Admissions and Registration at Kuwait University, announced that electronic applications for admission for the second semester of the 2026–2027 academic year will be accepted from December 16 to 23, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This applies to eligible Kuwaiti and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nationals who graduated from schools in Kuwait following the unified curriculum, the Religious Institute curriculum, or the American and English curricula. It also includes students expected to graduate from English-curriculum schools.

In a press statement, Dr. Aziz explained that applicants falling under other admission categories may submit their applications in person at the Admissions and Registration Hall at Sabah Al-Salem University City from December 20 to 23, 2026, during official working hours, in accordance with the announced schedule.

Admission for Kuwaiti students to all university colleges is based on an equivalent GPA, or composite score, determined according to the requirements of each major. The score is calculated using academic aptitude test results and the percentage obtained in the high school diploma.

An exception applies to majors in the College of Science, where admission is based solely on the high school diploma percentage.

Applicants must have a high school diploma with a minimum score of 70 percent for the scientific stream and 78 percent for the literary stream, in addition to meeting all other admission requirements.

Applications from students who do not meet these minimum requirements will not be accepted.

Applicants eligible to apply online must submit their applications through Kuwait University’s electronic admission portal at <http://portal.ku.edu.kw/admission>.

The admission confirmation period specified in the schedule for Kuwaiti students applies only to graduates of American and English-curriculum schools who have submitted their applications online.

The requirement does not apply to graduates of the unified national curriculum or the Religious Institute, as their admission procedures will be completed electronically without the need to visit the Admissions and Registration Hall.

Scores from the TOEFL PBT, TOEFL iBT, or IELTS exams may be used as alternatives to the English Academic Aptitude Test when calculating the equivalent GPA, provided the results are submitted before the application deadline.

These scores may also be used to qualify for an exemption from the preparatory English course, provided they are submitted during the admission confirmation period or no later than the end of the first week of the semester in which the student is admitted.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait expects

■ The economic dimension strengthens investor confidence, boosts employment and production, and facilitates the transfer of modern technology, provided that speculative activities that inflate asset prices without creating real wealth are clearly distinguished from genuine productive investments.

■ The political dimension reflects confidence in institutional stability, the protection of rights, and the availability of adaptable regulatory frameworks.

■ The social dimension is reflected in rising wages and the expansion of the middle class.

■ The strategic dimension supports the diversification of Kuwait’s competitive advantages in global markets.

Bukhadhour stressed that investment is not an end in itself but an effective tool for building economic strength and improving societal well-being.

He noted that while the volume of funds measures capital inflows, the real benefits to the state and society are determined by productivity levels, value added, and the equitable distribution of returns.

These factors have a direct and tangible impact on citizens’ living standards while fostering an environment that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship across targeted economic sectors and activities.

An informed source said the significant increase in investment inflows into

Kuwait’s local market over the past two years reflects the success of recent government measures to modernize the legislative framework and remove bureaucratic obstacles facing international investors.

He attributed this progress to ongoing coordination between the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) and relevant entities to develop a comprehensive package of financial, logistical, and procedural incentives to facilitate the smooth flow of capital.

The source explained that the focus in the coming phase will increasingly shift towards renewable energy, infrastructure, digital services, and advanced industries. These are sectors capable of positioning Kuwait as an attractive financial and commercial hub in the region.

These strategic partnerships will help integrate local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) into global supply chains, improve overall market efficiency, establish a solid foundation for long-term growth, and promote the developmental stability the country seeks to achieve.

Furthermore, these partnerships will help build strong international alliances, create genuine employment opportunities for Kuwaiti youth, and support the objectives of the New Kuwait 2035 vision. This vision prioritizes diversifying income sources as a core developmental and strategic goal, aiming to build a sustainable economy that is not entirely dependent on traditional oil revenues, which remain vulnerable to fluctuations in global markets.

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Amir, Crown Prince, PM send congratulatory cables to Saint Vincent on Independence Day

Kuwait leadership congratulates Brazil’s Lula on re-election

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27, (KUNA): 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 His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent cables of congratulations on Tuesday to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on his re-election for a new presidential term.

In their cables, Their Highnesses wished the Brazilian president good health and wellbeing, and expressed hopes for further progress and prosperity for Brazil and its friendly people. Lula secured a fourth, non-consecutive presidential term after winning the runoff election.

Separately, His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent cables of congratulations to Governor-General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Sir Stanley John on his country’s Independence Day.

In their cables, Their Highnesses wished Sir John good health and wellbeing, and expressed hopes for continued progress and prosperity for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and its people. Sir Stanley John has served as the country’s Governor-General since January 2026.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait keeps

The visit, which included representatives from Future Integrated Technology for Telecommunications Equipment Company, was part of a project to develop an automated system for monitoring and analysing the frequency spectrum.

During the visit, the team inspected mobile wireless monitoring stations, reviewed their technical equipment, and verified compliance with approved specifications and requirements before shipment to Kuwait, in preparation for the next phases of the project.

The project aims to establish a system for monitoring and analysing the frequency spectrum and enhance oversight of frequency usage across the country.

Kuwait’s security

Rasheed described the conclusion of negotiations on a free trade agreement between the UK and Gulf Cooperation Council countries, announced on May 20, 2026, as an important step toward reducing trade barriers, improving market access and expanding opportunities for businesses and investors.

He added that the Kuwait-UK Strategic Dialogue and regular high-level meetings would continue to provide a framework for advancing cooperation and building a modern, forward-looking partnership that delivers lasting benefits to both countries.

Cabinet okays

The Cabinet then approved a draft decree-law concerning the Unified Excise Tax Agreement for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and its amendment and submitted it to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Minister of Public Works also informed the Cabinet that it had recently laid the foundation stone for the North Kabd wastewater treatment plant project, covering its study, design, construction, operation and maintenance in the presence of Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Yang Xin.

She said that the project comes under the direction 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 His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who attach much attention to infrastructure and sustainable development projects.

At the onset of the meeting, the Cabinet was apprised of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah’s reception of the Prime Minister of the friendly Italian Republic, Giorgia Meloni, and her accompanying delegation, on the occasion of her official visit to the country on Friday.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed strong bilateral relations, noting their continuous development across various sectors. They also discussed ways to further strengthen and expand the horizons of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic and defense fields, in a manner that serves their mutual interests.

The two sides also addressed a number of issues of common concern, as well as latest regional and international developments.

The State of Kuwait and the Italian Republic signed two memoranda of understanding and a letter of intent, covering the promotion of direct investment, defense, and military and industrial cooperation.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the continued terrorist attacks carried out by the Houthi militia over the past few days against several areas in Saudi Arabia.

It said that these attacks include an attempt to target Makkah and Madinah with two ballistic missiles, as well as a blatant attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam, which killed two people and injured several others.

It underlined that the continued targeting of civilian airports and vital facilities constitutes a serious escalation and a direct threat to the lives of civilians and the safety of air navigation, something that necessitates a firm international stance to halt these attacks and hold those responsible accountable.

In this regard, the Cabinet restated Kuwait’s absolute solidarity with Saudi Arabia, and reiterated its support for all measures taken by the Kingdom to safeguard its sovereignty and security, and

to protect the Two Holy Mosques and preserve their sanctity.

It reaffirmed that the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an integral part of the security of the State of Kuwait and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Furthermore, it expressed the State of Kuwait’s strong condemnation and denunciation of the terrorist attack that targeted a church in the Karak Governorate in Jordan, which resulted in several deaths and injuries.

It affirmed the State of Kuwait’s categorical rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism that target places of worship and terrorize innocent people.

The Cabinet then listened to a briefing from Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah on his attendance at the inauguration of the Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial in Washington, in the presence of Kuwait’s Ambassador to the United States, Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah.

He said that the memorial commemorates the sacrifices of US-led international coalition forces and their role in liberating Kuwait in 1991 and represents a historic legacy of solidarity and cooperation.

Finally, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah kept the Cabinet posted on his ministry’s ongoing political and diplomatic efforts to address the latest regional and international developments.

Italy, Kuwait

He cited previous meetings between Meloni and Kuwaiti leaders, visits by defense officials from both countries, and recent exchanges involving the ministries of foreign affairs and interior as evidence of the growing relationship.

Investment agreement aims to attract companies

Morini said an MOU had been signed between the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) and Italy’s Trade Agency to promote direct investment and strengthen business ties from both countries. The agreement aims to encourage Italian companies to invest in Kuwait and Ku-

waiti companies to expand their activities in Italy, while increasing investment flows and cooperation between the two private sectors.

It will also provide a framework for joint promotional initiatives and for identifying sectors offering opportunities for bilateral business partnerships. He stressed that the partnership was not limited to defense and security, but also sought to expand economic ties and create opportunities for businesses and investors in both countries.

Leonardo signs defense letter of intent

The ambassador confirmed that Italian defense and aerospace company Leonardo had signed a letter of intent with Kuwait’s Ministry of Defense to explore opportunities for expanding cooperation in several areas, to examine potential areas of collaboration.

Morini described Leonardo as a state-controlled Italian company and said it was ready to work with Kuwaiti authorities across a range of sectors. The company already has a presence in Kuwait, including involvement in the Eurofighter program and the radar system for civil aviation, he said.

Asked whether Italy planned to increase its military presence in Kuwait, Morini said there was no specific number or finalized program at present. However, he said Italy was prepared to expand military cooperation and could increase the number of personnel stationed in Kuwait if the Kuwaiti government requested it. The ambassador said any expansion would depend on discussions and the programs agreed upon by the two sides.

Eurofighter deliveries and facilities

Morini said the Eurofighter program was continuing and that training activities had started. He expected further aircraft deliveries to take place soon. He noted that facilities used for Eurofighter operations had been affected by the war and said their condition needed to be assessed to ensure they were suitable for aircraft operations.

The assessment of the damage and the operational readiness of the facilities fell within the responsibility of the Kuwaiti authorities, he said, adding that questions about the detailed delivery schedule should be directed to Kuwait’s Ministry of Defense.

Security cooperation to cover National Guard

Morini said an MOU between Italy’s Carabinieri and Kuwait’s National Guard had been finalized at the text level and was expected to be signed soon. The planned understanding would establish a framework for security cooperation between the two countries, which are not fully covered by the existing defense cooperation arrangement between the Italian and Kuwaiti defense ministries.

He said the new framework would allow the two sides to begin a series of activities and strengthen cooperation in areas within their respective responsibilities.

The visits by Kuwait’s Ministry of Interior explored cooperation in combating transnational crime, criminal organizations, smuggling, drug trafficking and human trafficking, as well as the management and security of prisons. Morini said the exchange of expertise included prison infrastructure, staff training, security procedures and the management of foreign inmates and members of international criminal organizations.

He also highlighted the importance of customs cooperation, including border controls at airports and seaports, the identification of trafficked goods and the use of new technologies to detect illegal activities.

Civil protection and crisis management

The ambassador said civil protection was another area where Italy and Kuwait could exchange expertise, particularly in managing emergencies that require coordination between military personnel and civilian services.

He explained that responding to natural disasters, floods and other crises involves more than military intervention. Authorities must also coordinate hospitals, electricity, water, food supplies and other essential services.

Morini said Italy had experience working with neighboring European countries on cross-border emergency response, including providing aircraft and helicopters to assist Spain during summer fires.

He said the aim was to strengthen systems that bring together security, social and economic responses during crises, rather than treating emergencies as purely military matters.

Italy reaffirms support for Kuwait amid regional tensions

Morini said Meloni’s main message during her visit was that Italy and Kuwait shared a relationship based on friendship, mutual respect and solidarity. He recalled Italy’s participation in the international coalition that contributed to Kuwait’s liberation in 1991 and said Italy had also supported Kuwait during the recent regional crisis.

“Your security is our security, your stability is our stability,” Morini said, describing Kuwait as a fundamental pillar of stability and well-being for Italy and Europe. He said Italy was ready to stand alongside Kuwait and other regional partners and participate in initiatives that could contribute to stabilizing the region.

However, he acknowledged that the challenges facing the Gulf were part of a wider international situation involving conflicts and tensions in several parts of the world. Morini said the two countries had discussed security coordination and the importance of working together to protect Kuwait and promote regional stability. He added that Italy’s commitment to Kuwait was rooted not only in formal agreements but also in the longstanding relationship between the two countries.

Kuwait’s investment and fuel-price support welcomed

The ambassador said Meloni had expressed gratitude for Kuwait’s investments in Italy, including through Kuwait Petroleum International, known by its Q8 brand.

He also highlighted Q8’s recent decision to introduce a cap on fuel prices in Italy, describing it as important at a time when high fuel costs were placing pressure on households and businesses across Europe.

Morini explained that fuel prices affect not only motorists but also the transportation of goods, including food. Higher transport costs can contribute to rising prices and make deliveries more difficult for businesses.

He referred to recent difficulties in southern Italy, where some supermarkets reportedly faced disruptions in food deliveries after truck drivers struggled with fuel costs. He said the fuel-price measure by Q8, alongside similar actions by other international companies, was significant for Italy.

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Harris rallies for Crowley in Milwaukee

Trump campaigns in Mississippi, highlighting Republicans’ challenges

CORINTH, Miss., Oct 27, (AP): US President Donald Trump campaigned Monday in Mississippi, as he continued a closing midterm rally blitz that has highlighted Republicans’ challenges ahead of an election that could drastically shift power in Washington and statehouses across the country.

“I’m here because Cindy’s doing great, but I just got to make sure. I can’t take a chance,” Trump told the crowd, his voice audibly hoarse, as he worked to boost Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who is facing a surprisingly stiff challenge from Democrat Scott Colom.

Colom was spotted at the rally site, too, creating the rare spectacle of Trump’s staunchest supporters interacting directly with a figure the president would soon go on to denigrate as a “Marxist radical” and “fake” and “shameless phony who pretends to be a moderate” from the stage.

Mississippi, among the nation’s most reliably Republican states, is not where the Republicans envisioned needing a late-October stop from the president. But Colom is one of many Democratic underdogs who have managed to expand the House and Senate battleground maps because of widespread voter discontent over inflation, the Iran war and other aspects of Trump’s second presidency.

He said he had planned to go to the rally site to listen to what was on

Trump supporters’ minds.

“They actually deserve a senator that will listen to them, that actually cares about what they think, actually cares about what they’re going through,” Colom said ahead of the president’s arrival.

Trump’s event kicks off a week of aggressive campaigning that will include more stops in states he won comfortably in 2024, including Texas, South Carolina and Iowa. Trump also plans to hold a rally Saturday in Salina, Kansas, officials announced late Monday, marking his second visit to the state in less than two weeks.

Top Democratic candidates and their surrogates were also greeting voters - more than 30 million of whom have already cast ballots, according to data collected by The Associated Press from election administrators across the country - as they try to end Republicans’ threadbare majority in the House, reclaim control of the Senate and claw back power in state capitals.

Former Vice President Kamala Harris, Democrats’ 2024 presidential candidate, campaigned in Wisconsin with Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley, who faces Rep. Tom Tiffany, a Trump ally, in the governor’s race. If elected, Crowley would be the first Black governor to lead the battleground state.

“This is a tight race because the stakes are so high,” Harris said at an event billed as a “Women for Crow-



US President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at Crossroads Arena on Oct 26, 2026, in Corinth, Miss. (AP)

ley” rally.

Meanwhile, in Michigan, Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed distanced himself from an ad created by a group called Rebellion PAC that blames high grocery prices on U.S. support for Israel.

“This ad is not affiliated in any way with the Abdul for Senate campaign,” a spokesperson for El-Sayed, Roxie Richner, said in a statement about the spot, which features a couple discussing U.S. support for Israel as they shop for groceries.

“Apparently it’s costing us a lot of money to drop bombs on Gaza,” the

woman says.

The ad had been condemned by U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, who narrowly lost to El-Sayed in the Democratic primary.

The way to win Michigan “is not by blaming the high costs of our goods on the only Jewish homeland in the world,” Stevens wrote on X.

El-Sayed, who would be the country’s first Muslim senator, has denounced antisemitism while fiercely criticizing Israel for its military operations in Gaza - a position that has been a frequent point of attack for both Republicans and supporters of

Israel in his party.

Vice President JD Vance returned to Kansas to stump for Sen. Roger Marshall, who finds himself in a tight contest with Democratic nominee and pastor Adam Hamilton. Hundreds of people were gathered inside the warehouse of a steel-fabricating company in north Topeka in a state where Democrats haven’t won a Senate race since 1932.

Marshall, who has raised far less money than Hamilton, told the crowd that Trump is on the ballot, even if his name doesn’t appear, because of how Democrats will thwart his agenda if they win control of Congress.

“Democrats are coming out like it’s a presidential year,” he said, calling on the GOP to match Democrats’ energy.

Jace Sullivan, a 50-year-old electrician from Topeka who describes himself as “85% Republican,” said Trump supporters need to “circle the wagons” and get out to vote.

Wearing a red “JD Vance for President 2028” shirt, he said he thinks Trump is rightly working to keep Iran from getting nuclear weapons.

“Gas prices are high and it does suck, but it’s a means to an end,” Sullivan said.

Trump, at the Mississippi rally, said he had, in fact, expected gas prices to rise even higher than they had.

“It worked out fine and it’ll be over soon,” he said of the war with Iran.

Earlier, Vance was in Belgrade, Montana, to campaign with Republican Aaron Flint, who is facing Democrat Sam Forstang in the race for the state’s 1st Congressional District, and Republican Senate candidate Kurt Alme.

Despite the visits to ruby red states, Sen. Tim Scott, who serves as chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, told The Associated Press Monday that GOP candidates are “closing very strongly” in races across the country, including South Carolina, which Trump is set to visit for the second time in as many weeks to stump for GOP Sen. Darline Graham.

“One of the reasons why we will be in the majority is because he has invested the time and the energy on the campaign trail,” Scott said on the sidelines of U.S. Rep. Russell Fry’s 3rd Annual Freedom Fry event.

But it’s Trump’s visit to Mississippi that perhaps brings the midterm landscape into the sharpest relief with just a week of campaigning left.

To be sure, Hyde-Smith, who is vying for her second full term, remains the favorite in a state Trump won three times by an average of nearly 20 percentage points.

But Colom, a local prosecutor who would make history as Mississippi’s first Black senator since post-Civil War Reconstruction, is looking to parlay inflation, Trump’s lagging popularity and Hyde-Smith’s mistakes into an upset.



A voter fills out ballot at the Silver Spring Civic Building for the first day of early voting in the 2026 midterm race on Oct 22 in Silver Spring, Md. (AP)

Thousands of observers expected to descend on polling places to monitor vote on Election Day

NEW YORK, Oct 27, (AP): Democrats and outside watchdogs are planning a massive presence at the polls on Election Day driven by concerns that President Donald Trump will further leverage the vast resources of the federal government to interfere with a midterm that could hobble his final two years in office.

They won’t be the only ones there. A sprawling election protection effort on the left that is expected to deploy tens of thousands of monitors will be met by the largest-ever monitoring program by the Justice Department and still more observers from Republican-aligned groups. The result could be unlike anything seen at the polls in modern times.

The effort among Democratic and nonprofit groups includes training volunteers to stand watch outside polling places and report activities they consider concerning. The network includes traditional government watchdogs such as Common Cause and the American Civil Liberties Union plus a flood of volunteers assembled by state Democratic parties, congressional leaders, national activist groups and organizations focused on protecting democracy.

The Democratic National Committee’s Association of State Demo-

cratic Committees created a first-of-its-kind cybersecurity unit staffed by former CIA and FBI officials to monitor and report online misinformation, including artificial intelligence deepfakes, said Jane Kleeb, vice chair of the DNC.

That’s as Democratic mayors, attorneys general and secretaries of state host tabletop exercises simulating worst-case scenarios, such as a surge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials at voting locations or the seizure of ballots and voting equipment.

On Capitol Hill, Democratic leaders have assembled a legal team that rivals that of any presidential campaign.

“We’ve never done this before,” Kleeb said of the party’s sweeping efforts. But “we’ve never had to deal with the president of the United States saying that he may seize ballots, put ICE agents outside polling locations and other kinds of very clear direct threats to the voting process.”

The Department of Justice has already filed lawsuits in California and Alaska that could affect ballot counting or certification.

While Trump continues to make baseless allegations of cheating in the election, administration and mil-

itary officials have said they have no plans to deploy immigration agents or troops to polling sites.

White House spokeswoman Lauren Bis blamed “radical Democrats” for creating fears about election security by refusing to enact voter ID requirements and other Republican-backed measures.

“President Trump has done more than any other president to ensure we have free and fair elections,” Bis said.

State Democratic parties have trained an estimated 10,000 volunteers to observe polling places and report anything potentially concerning they might see from federal agents. Common Cause has trained roughly 16,000 more volunteers to stand watch at voting precincts, said Suzanne Almeida, vice president of states for the group.

She said a broader Election Protection coalition involving 300 other groups has trained tens of thousands more.

Smaller pockets of volunteers from other groups also are preparing to show up, including roughly 100 organized by Senate Democrats and hundreds more from a Democratic-allied group called Save America, which is training clergy members, veterans, teachers and other local community members. National groups such as Indivisible and MoveOn are activating their own expansive networks.

There are so many organizations working to protect the voting process - including many that cannot legally coordinate with each other - that some officials involved worry about unintentionally creating chaos outside polling locations.

Almeida said Election Day confusion is possible in some precincts but the nature of the threat requires a collective effort.

“It will actually take all of us if some of the threats we are most worried about come to pass,” she said.

Harmeet Dhillon, a Trump appointee who leads the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, was asked on CBS’ “60 Minutes” whether the Republican administration is planning to send ICE agents to polling places.

“There is no plan to do that,” she responded.

Still, the Justice Department is planning its largest-ever election monitoring effort, with about 1,000 department staff expected to observe voting and ensure federal laws are being followed, spokesperson Kirsten Pels said.

Localized ceasefire brokered by Melania Trump starts as Nordic leaders speak to Putin, Zelenskyy

MYKOLAIV, Ukraine, Oct 27, (AP): Russia and Ukraine began observing a localized ceasefire in a devastated southern Ukrainian city on Tuesday, before a planned humanitarian mission brokered by US First Lady Melania Trump, but Moscow kept up its deadly missile attacks on other cities in the meantime.

Meanwhile, Finland’s president and Norway’s prime minister spoke on the phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin, officials said, in their first known direct contact since shortly after Russia’s all-out invasion of Ukraine began on Feb. 24, 2022.

The war that Russia launched set most of Europe against Moscow, with Western officials accusing Russia of masterminding a campaign of disruption across the continent.

After the conversation with Putin, the two Nordic leaders had a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, according to Zelenskyy’s office. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre and Finnish President Alexander Stubb both wrote on X that they had a “good call” with Zelenskyy during which they discussed their conversation with Putin.

A local pause in fighting started at 3 am to allow an aid mission into the Russia-occupied city of Oleshky later this week. The situation in Oleshky is desperate, with food and medical supplies running perilously low for the up to 2,000 people still there, as drones and land mines restrict movement.

Deep mistrust between Russia and Ukraine, as Moscow’s full-scale invasion nears the five-year mark in February, has undermined previous attempts at limited ceasefires, which quickly unraveled or never took hold.

The humanitarian truce was a high-stakes operation for both Moscow and Kyiv, with both sides keen to win US President Donald Trump’s favor.

Russian and Ukrainian negotiators as well as the militaries of the

two countries confirmed in separate statements that the Oleshky ceasefire had begun.

The phone calls with the Russian and Ukrainian leaders followed an Oct. 20 meeting in Oslo between the two Nordic leaders, Zelenskyy and US special envoy Steve Witkoff.

The call was held in consultation with Ukraine, according to the official statements by the two Nordic countries. Stubb and Støre initiated the call with Putin to discuss the war and upcoming trilateral talks involving Russia, Ukraine and the United States that are expected to take place next month in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The two European leaders spoke on behalf of their own countries and not the whole of Europe, the statements said.

“The discussion was frank and

substantive,” Stubb said. “We are neighboring countries to Russia. The outcome of this war will have a direct impact on our and the broader European security. Ending the war requires direct discussions.”

“The war comes with enormous human and material costs,” Støre said. “The suffering and destruction will impact generations. In the call we stressed the importance of de-escalation.”

According to her office, Melania Trump led talks with civilian negotiators from Russia and Ukraine after meeting with UN officials who briefed the American first lady on the situation in Oleshky.

Up to 2,000 people are stranded in the city, unable to leave because of explosive mines and drone attacks in the area, according to the UN. The partly occupied Kherson region of

Ukraine where Oleshky is located is notorious for the dangers of Russian drone attacks on soldiers and civilians.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that “so far there have been no reports of violations.”

Pope Leo XIV spoke earlier this month with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin, urging them to allow humanitarian aid into Oleshky and the safe evacuation of civilians, the Vatican said.

Negotiators involved in the aid mission said doctors, medicines, food supplies and water would be taken to Oleshky before evacuation corridors are opened.

The Kremlin said at the time that Putin voiced support for the Vatican’s plea, and an agreement was reached to coordinate efforts in this regard.



In this undated image from video provided by the Ukrainian 34th Separate Marine Brigade ‘Borysfen’ on Sept 22, smoke rises from a residential neighborhood in the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky in the Kherson region of Ukraine. (AP)

Europe

France vows to replace ‘varsity admissions: France’s government pledged Monday to replace its national online university admissions platform, seeking to quell student anger after weeks of often violent mass protests over education and living costs.

Higher Education Minister **Philippe Baptiste** announced “substantial change” to the platform next year, before its replacement in 2028.

Ministers also pledged up to 4 billion euros (\$4.5 billion) in loans for school renovations, alongside smaller classes, more teaching and higher education posts and increased student grants.

The concessions target the school grievances that helped ignite the unrest.

But the movement has widened to include workers demanding relief from rising living costs, making the government’s task tougher than simply resolving a dispute over university admissions.

The announcements followed France’s worst unrest in years on Oct. 17, when demonstrations over school funding and rising living costs descended into rioting and looting across the country. (AP)

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Vatican confirms Pope Lat-Am trip: Pope Leo XIV will proceed with his planned Nov. 6-17 trip to Uruguay, Argentina and Peru, after doctors determined there are no medical reasons preventing him from traveling three weeks after lung cancer surgery, the Vatican confirmed Monday.

The Vatican press office said the pope’s recovery continues to progress in line with favorable assessments from his medical team. It also confirmed the pope is keeping the already ambitious trip program with no announced changes.

Surgeons on Oct. 13 removed a lobe where the nodule later diagnosed as malignant was located, in the first major health event of Leo’s 17-month pontificate. The surgery confirmed he had adenocarcinoma, the most common type of lung cancer. (AP)

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UK’s PM rules out rejoining EU in parliament: British Prime Minister Andy Burnham ruled out Britain rejoining the EU in the current parliament in an interview broadcast on Monday by British media.

When asked whether he wants Britain to rejoin the EU, Burnham said he wants to see that happen in his lifetime, but he is “not proposing rejoining in this parliament.”

“We are way away from that at this particular moment in time,” he said.

Burnham said the “decade of experience” since Brexit has not “played out as people said it would at the time.” (Xinhua)

□ □ □

2 charged with UK nat’l security offenses: Two men were charged Tuesday with national security offenses over a suspected plot against RAF Fairford, a U.S.-run military air base in England, police and prosecutors said.

British nationals Mohmed Ahmad Abdulkarim and Nouman Essghir, both aged 24 and from London, were charged under the National Security Act, the Crown Prosecution Service said. They are due to appear in court later Tuesday.

Abdulkarim is charged with assisting Iran’s intelligence service and Essghir with entering a prohibited place for a purpose prejudicial to the U.K. (AP)

Lula mobilizes millions to win election, while Bolsonaro contests loss and Trump cries foul

BRASILIA, Brazil, Oct 27, (AP): Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s comeback to win Brazil’s presidential runoff Sunday is facing its first hurdle as his competitor, Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, attempts to mount an organized opposition to the results.

Lula, who convinced an extra 10.4 million voters to support him in the runoff, is expected to take office on Jan. 5, 2027, for his fourth non-consecutive term. He will serve as a counterweight in a region where leaders are shifting to the right and aligning with US President Donald Trump. Bolsonaro, son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, promised to cozy up to the Trump administration.

President Donald Trump suggested on Monday, without providing evidence, that Lula’s reelection was “rigged.”

“Elections have to be indisputable and it looked very bad to me,” Trump told reporters before flying to Mississippi for a rally. He added, “I thought it had a very bad look, the way it was tabulated.”

Trump also said: “It looked like another rigged election, frankly.”

At a news conference Sunday,

Bolsonaro said he planned to request an annulment of the election following a chaotic extension of voting at the request of both candidates. But in a video on his social media channels on Monday he did not repeat that message and promised to organize opposition to Lula.

Bolsonaro said he will press the electoral court to nullify the election results, which it has never done before.

That would be a high hurdle: Bolsonaro would have to present evidence that the 4.4 million votes by which Lula won the election were fraudulent - and convince the full eight-member electoral court of that. He would need to do that before the election results are certified on Dec.18.

“I am going to gather elected lawmakers and senators to organize our strategy and make the lower house and the Senate our fortress against barbaric acts that are set to happen in another four years of Lula,” Bolsonaro said.

Bolsonaro also said he visited his father in house arrest on Monday. Jair Bolsonaro, who is now serving a 27-year sentence for a coup attempt, unsuccessfully contested his loss to

Lula four years ago.

Early signs from Brazil’s institutions and from leaders across the region, including conservative presidents who oppose Lula, suggest the results will be respected nationally and internationally.

Even with the vote extension, Lula’s win was decisive. The soon-to-be 81-year-old incumbent won more than 64 million votes compared to just under 60 million for Bolsonaro, a margin of nearly 4%.

President of Brazil’s electoral authority, Kassio Nunes, who was appointed to the Supreme Court by ex-president Jair Bolsonaro, was among those who recognized Lula’s victory Sunday.

“This is a really uphill battle for Flavio Bolsonaro. Important Brazilian power brokers are closing ranks behind Lula, sometimes begrudgingly,” said Brian Winter, Brazil analyst and editor-in-chief of Americas Quarterly.

“I sense that Brazilian power brokers that matter don’t really want to go down the path of a truly contested election,” he said.

The key to Lula’s win was the additional 14.1 million voters who showed up for the second-round

election, including those who voted for other candidates in the first round. Analysts say three-quarters of those votes went to Lula, handing him the victory. And notably, the first round set a record for the number of Brazilians who decided not to vote, while the second round had the least number of abstentions ever.

Lula gave his digital campaign to lawmaker André Janones, who mounted a fierce and persistent social media operation that mobilized many of those previously uncommitted voters. Janones’ key tool was a channel on messaging app WhatsApp called “Lula’s Army,” which gathered almost 11 million people and mobilized them to campaign via social media for the incumbent.

Janones “basically embraced the right’s style of aggressive politics, very intense, constant messaging,” said Oliver Stuenkel, a professor of International Relations at Fundação Getulio Vargas in Sao Paulo.

“The defeat in the first round jolted the Lula campaign into action. The strategy during the first round was lackluster and saw a lot of in-fighting,” Stuenkel said.



Flavio Bolsonaro (center), the right-wing Liberal Party candidate in Brazil’s presidential runoff, attends a press conference after presidential runoff in Brasilia, Brazil on Oct 25. (AP)

2 key leaders of Nat’l Liberation Army killed: Colombia president

BOGOTA, Oct 27, (Agencies): At least 10 members of Colombia’s National Liberation Army, including two key leaders, were killed in a recent military attack, President Abelardo de la Espriella announced Sunday.

He described the attack as “the hardest blow” to hit the guerrilla group in the last eight years.

The operation took place Thursday in a rural area of El Tambo, in the Cauca department of Colombia’s Pacific region.

Individuals known as “Marcos Pacifico” and “Ochenta” (or “Murillo”) - both senior leaders within the “José María Becerra” bloc of the group’s southwestern front - were killed during the operation. De la Espriella said their deaths have disrupted their “chain of command ... and their ability to direct criminal activities.”

The president accused “Marcos Pacifico” of killing 62 people, recruiting minors and displacing some 500 people in his 24-year history with the guerrilla group. His influence extended across units in the departments of Cauca, Valle del Cauca and Nariño, de la Espriella added.

The president also accused him of masterminding “the illegal un-



Colombia’s President Abelardo De la Espriella announces a joint effort with Bogota’s Mayor Carlos Fernando Galan to strengthen security in the Colombian capital through increased police presence, intelligence, technology, and urban capabilities in Bogota on Aug 25. (AP)

rest that fueled urban terrorism in 2019 and 2021.”

Also:

BOGOTA: At least six people were killed in an attack allegedly related to extortion in a rural area of Suaza municipality, in Colombia’s southwestern department of Huila, local media reported Monday.

“According to preliminary accounts, this massacre may be

related to alleged extortion demands, although the circumstances and motives have not yet been clarified,” said the Corporation for Peace and Social Development (Corpades), a Colombian human rights organization.

Videos posted on social media by social organizations and local media show a vehicle carrying five people was set ablaze at the scene, while a shootout left a sixth person dead.



An aerial view shows the area where Khalte and other villages stood before being devastated by the flash floods in August, in Nepal’s Rasuwa district on Oct 2. (AP)

Nepal’s devastating flood exposes risks of resettling disaster survivors

KHALTE, Nepal, Oct 27, (AP): When the flood came, Chheku Lama ran uphill, shouting for people to flee. A group followed him, but none survived, he said.

Lama’s Khalte village in Nepal’s Rasuwa district had been set up as a temporary settlement after a 2015 earthquake destroyed nearby villages. But it offered little protection from floods, with homes clustered along the Trishuli River in a narrow valley.

When the floodwaters surged through on Aug. 26, residents had few routes to escape. At least 375 people were reported missing, according to residents. The village was wiped out.

Nepal is still recovering from the devastating floods that killed more than 1,400 people and left thousands missing in its mountainous border region with China. Another flash flood in north-central Nepal last week left at least five people missing.

Over the past decade, tens of thousands of people in Nepal have been displaced by earthquakes, landslides and floods, only to face new risks in temporary settlements built in vulnerable areas. Khalte’s destruction highlights those dangers. Survivors say the government must go beyond emergency relief and temporary shelter to provide safe, permanent places where displaced people can rebuild their lives.

The 2015 earthquake, which killed nearly 9,000 people nationwide, destroyed villages where many families had lived for generations. Under a government relocation

plan, about 257 vulnerable households were moved to Khalte, which geological assessments later classified as a “red zone” because of landslide and avalanche risks.

Bam Bahadur Tamang, a Khalte resident now living in a government relief center, said he and many others had opposed the decision to resettle them there but they were eventually forced to move. He said any new relocation must account for both safety and access to basic services.

“Wherever the government resettles us now, it must first ensure that the place is safe,” he said. “We are not cattle to be moved from one place to another.”

Tamang’s worries point to a challenge that extends beyond finding safe ground. Displaced families also need access to schools, healthcare, roads and livelihoods if a temporary settlement is to become a viable home.

Nepal’s government says it plans to build a new city for flood victims, with industries, hospitals and schools, and that displaced residents would not be sent back to settlements destroyed by the flood. It is also considering involving private developers in reconstruction, including a model in which they build homes in cooperation with landowners.

Dharam Raj Uprety, chief executive of Nepal’s National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, said the government was identifying land for settlements in safe areas. Experts would assess land use, and flood-prone areas could be declared uninhabitable, he said. The government could also convert vulnerable riverbanks into forest land and build homes on safer ground.

Argentina names criminal, guerrilla groups as terrorist organizations

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Oct 27, (AP): Argentina has designated five Latin American criminal and guerrilla groups, including Mexico’s powerful Sinaloa cartel, as terrorist organizations, aligning itself with the security policies of the United States, a close ally.

The decision by President Javier Milei’s government, published in the official gazette, comes a month after U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration expanded its list of Latin American criminal groups designated as foreign terrorist organizations to 21.

Argentina’s new designations include Mexico’s Nueva Familia Michoacana cartel and Ecuador’s Los Tiguerones gang, both of which are also on the U.S. list.

The measure also targets Colombia’s National Liberation Army, or ELN, and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People’s Army, or FARC-EP, a name used by dissident factions of the former FARC rebel group that rejected a peace agreement signed a decade ago and remain active. Both have previously



US President Donald Trump, (center left), shakes hands with Javier Milei, President of Argentina, during the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Jan 22. (AP)

been designated as foreign terrorist organizations by the United States.

In a statement released Wednesday night, Milei’s office said the five groups were linked to drug trafficking and organized crime.

The government described the

Sinaloa cartel as a transnational organization involved in drug trafficking and kidnapping for ransom. It characterized the ELN and FARC-EP as far-left insurgent groups rooted in Marxist-Leninist ideology and armed revolution.

Asia

S.Korea issues arrest warrant for Kim: South Korea’s Supreme Court on Tuesday issued an additional arrest warrant for Kim Keon-hee, the wife of former President Yoon Suk-yeol, citing concerns over the destruction of evidence and the risk of flight, Yonhap News Agency reported. (Xinhua)

39 evacuated after fire hits Seoul: Thirty-nine people were evacuated and no casualties were reported yet on Tuesday after a huge fire hit a shantytown in the southern district of Gangnam in South Korea’s capital Seoul, according to Yonhap news agency.

The blaze began at around 3:50 p.m. local time at Guryong Village, prompting the fire authorities to dispatch about 210 personnel, 51 pieces of equipment and fire-extinguishing helicopters to battle the heavy smoke and raging flames.

Despite the severity of the fire, 39 people successfully evacuated while no casualties or injuries had been reported so far. (Xinhua)

4 injured in Sydney house fire: Four people have been hospitalized following a Sydney house fire in the early hours of Tuesday morning that police have deemed suspicious.

Police said that emergency services were called to the fire in Sydney’s inner-western suburbs around 4 a.m. on



Firefighters and rescue workers arrive at the site of a fire at Guryong village in Seoul, South Korea on Oct 27. (AP)

Tuesday and arrived to find the home well alight.

Officers and a civilian used a ladder to rescue an elderly woman who was trapped on a balcony, and neighboring properties were also evacuated.

Crews extinguished the fire, but the home was destroyed. (Xinhua)

Quake hits Mindanao, Philippines: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0 jolted Mindanao, Philippines at 2041 GMT on Monday, the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 22.7 km, was initially determined to be at 5.71 degrees north latitude and 126.90 degrees east longitude. (Xinhua)

Nuclear power could more than triple by 2060, says UN agency

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 27, (AP): The head of the UN nuclear agency said that he expects the use of nuclear power could more than triple by 2060.

Rafael Grossi said in the International Atomic Energy Agency’s annual report to the UN General Assembly that this will be driven by electrification, data centers powered by artificial intelligence and “technology companies’ appetite for reliable, carbon-free power.”

Nuclear energy is seen by a growing number of countries as key to improving their energy security, he said, stressing that it is on par with solar energy and “safer than every other option.”

“In 2025, more than 400 operating reactors in more than 30 countries produced 10% of global electricity and a quarter of its low-carbon electricity,” the IAEA director-general said. “More than 60 new reactors are under construction and the projections for future nuclear capacity have shifted dramatically upward.”

In addition to the growing use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Grossi spoke about the nuclear



At Constellation’s nuclear power plant on Three Mile Island, called the Crane Clean Energy Center, near Middletown, Pa., the cooling towers are reflected in the Susquehanna River, June 25, 2025. (AP)

programs in Iran and North Korea, the “unprecedented threats to nuclear safety” from the war in Ukraine, and worrying reports that other countries he didn’t name are talking about acquiring nuclear weapons.

On Iran, whose nuclear sites were struck by the US last year before the US and Israel launched a war on Feb. 28, Grossi told U.N. member nations that the necessary technical work for a diplomatic agreement has been done.

Kuwait crude oil price down to \$112.68 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) reported that Kuwait Export Blend price went down by USD 1.41 to USD 112.68 per barrel on Wednesday from USD 114.09 in Friday trading. Similarly, the global market saw notice-

able declines in prices with Brent crude futures losing 91 cents to stand at USD 115.81 pb. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures price went down by USD 1.51 to USD 101.76 pb.

Business

End-to-end AI solution improves key customer experience indicators by up to 60%

Zain Kuwait first in MENA to launch AI-powered innovation on its 5G-Advanced network

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Zain Kuwait, the country’s leading TechCo, has achieved a new regional first, becoming the first in MENA to deploy an end-to-end, AI-powered solution across its 5G-Advanced network, making mobile connectivity smarter, smoother, and more reliable.

The innovation enables different parts of Zain’s 5G-A network to work together intelligently in real time, delivering a more responsive digital experience for customers, with initial tests demonstrating improvements of up to 60% in key performance indicators.

This achievement marks another significant step in Zain’s ‘4WARD-Progress with Purpose’ corporate strategy and network excellence journey, reinforcing its leadership in introducing next-generation technologies that translate network innovation into tangible benefits that customers feel. By moving beyond traditional measures of network speed and capacity, Zain is placing greater emphasis on the quality, consistency, and responsiveness of the digital experiences customers rely on every day.

The solution introduces end-to-end AI intelligence across Zain’s 5G Stand-alone network, which provides the technological foundation for 5G-Advanced capabilities. By seamlessly coordinating Zain’s wireless access and core network infrastructure, the technology analyzes network conditions and application requirements in real time, intelligently adjusting resources to optimize performance and maintain stable, responsive connections even during periods of high demand.

This reflects Zain Kuwait’s continued investment in building an intelligent, future-ready network, while supporting Zain Group’s strategic transformation from a telecommunications operator (Telco) into an integrated technology company (TechCo). As part of this evolution, Zain continues to embed advanced technologies, including AI, across its infrastructure and operations to strengthen its digital capabilities and deliver meaningful



Zain HQ

value to customers.

Mobile gaming is among the key applications of this technology, reflecting

the growing importance of fast response times, low latency, and consistent connectivity for today’s increasingly demanding digital experiences. Whether gaming on smartphones, PCs, or home consoles, players depend on minimal delays and stable connections, particularly in competitive and real-time gaming environments.

Initial testing across gaming scenarios has demonstrated improvements of up to 60% in key experience indicators, including latency, jitter, and overall throughput. These results highlight the potential of AI-driven network intelligence to address performance challenges in real time, creating smoother gameplay, greater stability, and a more consistent experience for customers.

Beyond gaming, the solution establishes a foundation for enhancing a broader range of digital services where network responsiveness and reliability are essential. These include high-definition video streaming, video conferencing, and live broadcasting, where intelligent network optimization can help maintain consistent performance as network conditions fluctuate.

By integrating intelligence directly into the network, Zain is taking another step toward a more proactive, adaptive, and customer-centric approach to connectivity. This advancement not only enhances the capabilities of its 5G-Advanced infrastructure but also prepares the foundation for emerging AI-driven applications and digital services, supporting Kuwait’s wider digital transformation and growing demand for advanced connectivity.

The recognition reflects Zain’s consistent performance across speed, reliability, and coverage, while its continued investments in 5G, 5G-Advanced, and AI-powered technologies demonstrate its commitment to raising the bar for connectivity and delivering an increasingly seamless digital experience for customers across Kuwait.

Experts call for sustainability in financial, industrial sectors

The Kuwait Economic Society workshop urges sustainability as economic priority

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27, (KUNA): The Kuwait Economic Society held a workshop on Tuesday titled “Integrating Sustainability into Economic Systems,” highlighting ways to turn sustainability, governance and environmental and social responsibility into practical decisions and tangible economic value.

Society Chairman Abdulaziz Al-Humaidhi said sustainability was no longer optional but had become an essential part of the Kuwaiti and global economies.

The workshop brought together experts from Oman and Bahrain to share experiences and dis-

cuss best practices for applying sustainability across economic sectors.

Society Treasurer Mohammad Al-Rasheed said the sessions covered regulation, financial markets, banking, insurance, risk management, industry and environmental impact, focusing on turning sustainability-related costs into economic opportunities.

Meanwhile, Muscat Stock Exchange CEO Haitham Al-Salmi said sustainability standards could help companies reduce risks, improve financial performance and valuations, and benefit from financing incentives, ultimately serving sharehold-

ers’ interests.

He noted that companies listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange recorded a 12 percent rise in profits in the first half of 2026 compared with the same period last year, reflecting the resilience of Gulf economies despite regional challenges.

In turn, International University accounting and finance professor Dr. Bader Al-Shallal stressed that integrating sustainability and governance into economic systems required coordinated financial and economic efforts, alongside monitoring and auditing to support reforms and sustainable development.

GCC-UK FTA in focus at Kuwait-London talks

Kuwait, UK discuss stronger economic ties

LONDON, Oct 27, (KUNA): The Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the United Kingdom, Bader Almunayekh, received the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Dame Susan Langley, on Monday, and they reviewed aspects of Kuwaiti-British econom-

ic and investment relations.

A statement by the Kuwaiti Embassy in London said that Ambassador Almunayekh and Dame Langley discussed ways to further strengthen and develop ties in light of the recently signed Free

Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the United Kingdom.

Several lords, ambassadors accredited in London, and representatives of the British private sector were present at the meeting.

Enhancing the customer experience through personalized rewards

talabat partners with Qatar Airways Privilege Club

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Building on its role as the leading everyday app in the MENA region, talabat announced its latest partnership with Qatar Airways Privilege Club through its innovative Card-Linked Offers (CLO) program, enabling customers to seamlessly turn every in-app purchase into Avios. This partnership further testifies to talabat’s commitment to collaborating with global brands in Kuwait that share the company’s passion for innovative, digitally backed solutions.

In light of the partnership, Bader Al-Ghanim, Chief International Officer at talabat Kuwait, said: “We are proud to join forces with Qatar Airways Privilege Club to bring even more value to every talabat purchase. As we grow our ecosystem of retail partners to serve customers’ varied needs, this partnership reinforces our commitment to providing rewarding, lifestyle-driven benefits that make every order count.”

Through this collaboration, Privilege Club members can elevate everyday purchases into reward-



Bader Al-Ghanim, Chief International Officer at talabat Kuwait, during the signing of the agreement with a Qatar Airways representative.

ing journeys. By linking their Visa card to their Privilege Club account, members earn 3 Avios for every KWD 1 spent* on talabat, with a minimum spend of KWD 4.5*. This partnership unlocks greater flexibility and value, as members can spend Avios on award flights, upgrades, extra baggage, shopping at Qatar Duty Free, and curated travel experiences with Qatar Airways Holidays. Members can also use Avios to book flights across the oneworld® alliance and partner airlines, with access to a global network of over 170 destinations by summer 2027, enhancing everyday experiences for members in Kuwait and beyond.

It is worth noting that talabat continues to advocate for partnership-based sustainable business growth, which creates a network of support for service and product providers across Kuwait and fosters a healthy and collaborative business ecosystem that contributes to fortifying the country’s local economy as per the Kuwait Vision 2035 goals.

*Terms and conditions apply.

ten to the guidance anymore.”

Still, most economists see the odds of a hike as quite low.

At the Fed’s last meeting in September, Warsh defied Trump’s preferences and raised rates, a step that defied concerns that the new Fed chair would turn out to be, in the words of Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, “a sock puppet” for the president.

Trump had said before choosing Warsh in January of this year that he would only pick a Fed chair who would cut rates.

James Knightley, chief international economist for Netherlands-based bank ING, said that September’s rate hike, in defiance of the White House, largely assuaged those concerns.

“So far I think the markets have been encouraged by what they’ve seen,” Knightley said.

Yet since the September meeting, Trump has renewed his efforts to fire Fed governor Lisa Cook. If he is successful, it would open up another slot on the Fed’s board for Trump to fill. The Supreme Court in June blocked an earlier attempt to remove her.

Trump also said after last month’s Fed meeting that he had called Warsh beforehand and told him he “might as well” vote to raise rates because other officials on the rate-setting committee had publicly called for a hike. Trump said the committee is “hostile” and “political.”

Warsh declined at last month’s news conference to comment on any communications with Trump, despite news reports that he has spoken often with the president. With the scope of Warsh’s communications with Trump unclear, Derek Tang, an economist at Monetary Policy Analytics, said, “I think there is still a question mark there” regarding the chairman’s independence.

Inflation has come in hotter than most economists expected for two months in a row, heightening concerns that gas price spikes could raise costs across the economy. Diesel fuel reached an all-time high of \$6.53 in late September, and has only fallen to \$6.35 since then.

High diesel costs raise the price of shipping all sorts of goods, including groceries, cars, and nearly everything else. Businesses could then pass on the costs to consumers, spreading inflation to more parts of the economy.

Bhave notes that inflation hasn’t been at the Fed’s target of a 2% annual rate for a single calendar quarter since the final three months of 2020 - nearly six years ago.

If Warsh reiterates some of what he’s said before - that inflation is too high, and the Fed intends to return it to 2% in a “timelier” fashion - economists and investors will see such comments as a sign the Fed will likely hike rates at its next meeting in December.

The Fed’s September decision to lift rates was unanimous. Many Fed watchers, however, expect there could be two or even three dissents among the 12 officials who vote on rates. Beth Hammack, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, and Lorie Logan, president of the Dallas Fed, are considered the most likely to vote in favor of a rate hike this week.

Both have expressed concerns that the Fed’s key rate isn’t high enough to slow the economy and cool inflation.

Ironically, dissents could help Warsh and the Fed, some economists say, by illustrating that there is still support for higher rates on the committee.

The bank concludes active participation in IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings in Bangkok

KFH strengthens international presence and shares strategic insights for economic development and sustainable growth



Hamad Al-Marzouq during his participation in the GCC-Asia Economic Forum.



Hamad Al-Marzouq and delegation from Kuwait Finance House with Minister of Finance Dr Yaqoub Al-Refaei, Central Bank of Kuwait Governor Basel Al-Haroon, and Kuwait's Ambassador to Thailand Dr Meshal Al-Mansour.



Hamad Al-Marzouq and Khaled AlShamlan in a group photo with the forum participants.



Khaled AlShamlan participating in the GCC-Asia Economic Forum.



Hamad Al-Marzouq and Khaled AlShamlan with the Kuwait Finance House delegation participating in the IMF meetings.



Hamad Al-Marzouq, flanked by Ahmad Al-Sumait, Yousef Al-Ruwaieh, Abdullah Al-Haddad, and Fahad Al-Saad, at the banks' reception ceremony.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) concluded its active participation in the 2026 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, hosted in Bangkok, Thailand. The Bank was represented by a high-level delegation led by the Chairman of KFH Group, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq, and Group Chief Executive Officer, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, alongside several senior executive leaders.

As KFH's participation underscored its influential presence at major international financial forums, the Bank presented strategic insights on economic development trends, rapid market shifts, and emerging regional opportunities. It also highlighted the expanding role of Islamic finance in supporting financial stability and funding sustainable growth, while reinforcing partnerships with international financial and investment institutions.

High-Level Meetings

KFH delegation took part in a series of meetings and discussions that brought together finance ministers, central bank governors, senior executives, and representatives of international financial and investment institutions. Participants discussed key global economic and financial developments, growth prospects, and ways to enhance the resilience of the banking sector in supporting sustainable development.

Strengthening Partnerships and Showcasing a Pioneering Experience

During the meetings, KFH showcased its pioneering experience in Islamic finance, digital transformation, financial innovation, and customer experience enhancement. It also highlighted its role in delivering innovative banking and financing solutions that drive economic development and bolster financial stability.

The Group's delegation affirmed that participating in these global meetings presents a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships with international financial institutions and stay abreast of best practices and emerging trends across the banking sector. This reinforces the Group's ability to capture high-value opportunities, boost its competitive edge, and generate sustainable value for customers and shareholders.

Active Participation in the GCC-Asia Economic Forum

Chairman of KFH and Chairman of Kuwait Banking



Ufuk Uyan, Bassam Aali, Ahmad Al-Sumait, and Yousef Al-Ruwaieh receiving Global Finance awards.

Association (KBA), Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq, participated in a panel discussion titled "Banking, Investment and Digital Infrastructure" at the GCC-Asia Economic Forum, held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok on the sidelines of the IMF and WBG annual meetings.

During the session, Al-Marzouq highlighted the growing strategic importance of relations between GCC countries and Asia, as well as the pivotal role of the banking sector in fostering economic integration between the two regions.

KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, also participated in a panel discussion titled "Core Banking and Balance Sheet Partnerships". The session addressed expanding banking cooperation between GCC countries and Asia, rising trade flows, and the growing demand for Sharia-compliant financing solutions.

The forum was attended by a distinguished group of

senior officials and decision-makers, including GCC Secretary-General, Jassem Mohamed AlBudaiwi; the Minister of Finance of Kuwait, Dr. Yaqoub Yousef Al-Rifai; and the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Basel A. Al-Haroon. Also in attendance were central bank governors, GCC ambassadors, and leaders of financial, investment, and technology institutions from across the Gulf and Asia.

KFH delegation also participated in the Kuwait Banks Reception, organized by the Kuwait Banking Association under the patronage of Central Bank of Kuwait Governor Basel A. Al-Haroon. The event was attended by governors of Arab central banks, chairpersons of Kuwaiti banks, senior financial and banking executives, as well as prominent international economic figures.

The reception is one of the most prominent side events held alongside the Annual Meetings, serving as a plat-

form to exchange views and expertise, as well as discuss regional and global economic and financial developments and challenges.

Participation in Kuwait Embassy Reception

The KFH delegation attended a luncheon hosted by the Embassy of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Thailand, in the presence of H.E. Dr. Meshal Al-Mansour, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait, alongside several government officials and Kuwaiti banking executives. The delegation also attended reception events hosted by various GCC central banks.

Seven Global Awards from Global Finance

On the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank meetings, KFH Group delegation received seven prestigious awards as part of the 19th edition of the World's Best Islamic Financial Institutions Awards for 2026, presented by Global Finance magazine. The awards reaffirm the Group's leadership in the Islamic finance sector and the success of its strategy in achieving sustainable growth and enhancing its global presence.

The awards included:

- World's Best Islamic Bank
- World's Best Islamic Corporate Bank
- World's Best Islamic Bank for CSR
- World's Best Islamic Project Finance Provider
- Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait
- Best Islamic Bank in Bahrain (KFH – Bahrain)
- Best Islamic Bank in Turkey (KFH – Turkey)

KFH Delegation

KFH Delegation included Chairman of the Board Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq, Group CEO Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, Deputy Group CEO Treasury and Financial Institutions David O'Loan, Chief Treasury Officer – Kuwait Ahmad Al-Sumait, KFH Capital CEO Abdullah Al-Haddad, Head of Group Public Relations and Media Yousef Al-Ruwaieh, CEO of KFH-Turkey Ufuk Uyan, and Deputy Group CEO-Treasury and Investments at KFH -Bahrain Bassam Aali.

The Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund are among the most prominent global economic events, bringing together decision-makers and leaders from financial and economic institutions to discuss key global economic challenges and chart the path for future growth and sustainable development.

Carney questions Trump’s commitment to trade deal

TORONTO, Oct 27, (AP): Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Monday that trade talks with U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration have picked up slightly, but any progress is because Washington is moving closer to Canada’s demands.

The comments come eight days before U.S. midterm elections, with White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett suggesting the countries are close to a deal.

“To the extent any progress has been made, it’s because the U.S. is coming closer to our position,” Carney said.

Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc’s office said Canada remains in “constructive dialogue” with Washington.

Carney described a “slight, slight intensification” of discussions but said Canada’s negotiating position remained unchanged.

Carney acknowledged he cannot be sure Trump would honor a new trade agreement. Asked whether the president would “sign in pen” after Carney previously warned that Washington’s signature was sometimes “written in pencil,” he replied: “I don’t know that.”

Canada rejected Washington’s terms in August after the countries appeared close to a deal. Carney said the offer crossed Canadian “red lines.” Trump subsequently imposed 50% tariffs on roughly \$20 billion in Canadian goods, prompting retaliation and further trade restrictions.

Trump said Friday he would lift some 50% tariffs on Canadian goods while imposing new tariffs on dozens of other products. Two days later, he told a Michigan campaign ral-

ly that Canada was “willing to give us anything at this moment” and that a deal would be settled “pretty soon.” He told a Detroit television station an agreement could come before the midterms, although it might take months.

Trump’s tariffs have become an issue in closely watched Senate races. Republican candidate Mike Rogers says in a Michigan campaign ad that Canada is “not our enemy” and “we need to end this tariff war now.” In Maine, Republican Sen. Susan Collins pressed the Trump administration to ease tariffs on Canadian goods used by farmers and other businesses, with Washington announcing exemptions Friday.

Trump has repeatedly complained about the U.S. trade deficit with Canada, but energy more than accounts for the gap. The United States buys millions of barrels of Canadian oil daily, typically at a discount, and runs a trade surplus with Canada when energy is excluded.

Trump also wants automakers to move production from Canada to the United States, threatening an industry deeply integrated across the border for decades.

Trump’s trade war and repeated threats to make Canada the 51st U.S. state have pushed Carney to seek new markets, with a goal of doubling Canadian exports outside the United States over the next decade.

Carney hosts European Union leaders Thursday and Friday in Montreal to pursue closer economic and security ties. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has proposed making Canada the EU’s first associate member, a status that has yet to be defined.

Anthropic flags AI risks to humanity in IPO filing

WASHINGTON, Oct 27, (AP): Any time a company looks to start selling shares on Wall Street, it’s required to disclose potential risks for investors. In the case of artificial intelligence giant Anthropic, that has included the possibility that its products could threaten nothing less than humanity itself.

The risks laid out by the San Francisco company in its filing Monday with the Securities and Exchange Commission included discussion of bad actors potentially using AI models to build deadly weapons or the technology itself going rogue with untold consequences.

Of the 335 pages outlining Anthropic’s finances, executive compensation, dividend policy and the like, 93 pages are devoted to “risk factors” - the things that could hurt potential shareholders’ investments. Rival SpaceX’s listed risk factors, in comparison, took up 38 out of more than 250 pages.

In selling itself to investors, Anthropic presents its own initial public offering as a step toward mitigating the risks it believes AI poses.

“To build AI is to harness cognition itself, and anything so powerful can be used for ill as well as good,” write the company’s founders in a letter to prospective shareholders in the IPO filing. “Anthropic is a deeply values-driven organization, founded in large part to help the world realize AI’s benefits and avoid its dangers.”

Still, the risks are many. They range from the mundane - the possibility it won’t be able to retain key staff or navigate regulatory roadblocks - to involvement in cyberattacks and the spread of dangerous misinformation.

Here is a look at some of the risks Anthropic details:

Anthropic said it’s possible its models could develop so quickly the company won’t be able to implement adequate safety measures, “which could increase the likelihood of safety incidents, regulatory intervention, or reputational harm, and could adversely affect our business.”

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei warned in September that within six to 12 months AI could be capable of leading a swarm of agents that could take over the entire internet. The warning - and now Anthropic’s move to sell shares - comes as worries about AI grow inside and outside the industry about increasingly powerful systems that solve problems beyond human capacity but could also act on their own to carry out other, more harmful tasks.

As AI systems “become more autonomous and capable of taking consequential actions with less human oversight,” the SEC filing said, there’s a risk that such systems could “take harmful actions independently and at scale without human intervention.”

“Even if our own models do not cause such harm, a significant safety incident involving any frontier AI could trigger broad reputational damage to the AI industry, public backlash, and sweeping regulatory responses that could adversely affect our business,” Anthropic said.

Now that the AI models are themselves contributing to Anthropic’s own research and development, it’s possible that AI could progress “beyond our ability to evaluate and safe-

guard new models,” according to the filing. This, the document said, could adversely affect Anthropic’s business.

The filing discussed concerns that advanced AI systems, if not developed and operated with enough safeguards and oversight, “pose catastrophic or existential risks to humanity, particularly if such systems were misused, replicated, weaponized, or allowed to operate with a high degree of autonomy.”

The company said it would be harmed if use by bad actors causes damage, “or if our model guardrails or safeguards fail to prevent such misuse.”

Anthropic sketched out the prospect of bad actors using AI models to build chemical weapons or authoritarian rulers turning to the technology to crack down on their citizens. In September, the company disclosed that it had blocked efforts to use its AI models for malicious activity such as cyberattacks, surveillance and research that could have led to biological weapon development.

Compute - the computing power or resources needed to build, test and improve AI models - is expensive and in high demand. Anthropic notes that if it’s unable to secure adequate compute, or if “we fail to direct our compute effectively across our workloads, we may be unable to train models that remain competitive with those of our competitors or adequately serve our customers.”

Anthropic mentioned community opposition to data centers as a risk to its business. Data center development “has prompted public controversy and regulatory scrutiny regarding environmental impact, land and water use, and the allocation of limited power resources,” the filing said, adding that if regulators impose new requirements or charges as a result, its ability to do business could suffer.

In addition, the company relies on a small number of customers, including SpaceX and Microsoft, and distribution channels for a large portion of its revenue. This means that even if just one of its big customers decides to scale back - or drop the company altogether - Anthropic said it could see its prospects and finances suffer.

In some ways, AI’s enormous risk, combined with its enormous potential, is Anthropic’s main selling point. The company has tried to position itself as a responsible AI company, and courts business customers by emphasizing safety-mindedness.

“We believe that frontier AI companies must invest in safety and alignment to help ensure the responsible diffusion of this technology,” the filing said.

Brian Mulberry, chief market strategist at Zacks Investment Research, said IPO deals have to display “very clearly” what risks people face when they invest their money in a newly public stock.

“That’s one of the things that’s great about our capital markets here domestically is the level of transparency that you must commit to, to be a publicly traded corporation on a U.S. exchange requires you to outline those risks in a very clear way, so that people understand if they want to participate by offering their hard-earned money and help finance this type of a deal,” he said.



Group photo during the Child Developmental and Behavioral Medicine Unit’s opening ceremony.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health

NBK partakes in opening of Pediatric Developmental and Behavioral Medicine Unit at Farwaniya Hospital

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) participated in the opening of the Child Developmental and Behavioral Medicine Unit at Farwaniya Hospital as the primary partner and supporter of the National Early Childhood Initiative launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, which aims at enhancing early detection and intervention services for children and supporting their healthy growth and behavioral development during their early years.

The unit serves as one of the core pillars of the National Early Childhood Initiative, which aims to promote child health and well-being through an integrated system that includes periodic developmental screening programs for children, as well as efforts to raise awareness among families and caregivers regarding developmental milestones during the early stages of childhood.

The Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Clinic at Farwaniyah Hospital is the first of its kind in Kuwait to integrate various medical and rehabilitative specialties under a single umbrella, bringing together physical, occupational, speech, language, and swallowing, as well as psychological therapy into a cohesive system that facilitates the coordination of assessment, diagnosis, and therapeutic intervention across these disciplines. This integrated model simplifies access for children and their families to essential diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services in one location, further enhancing opportunities for early intervention and improving the quality of care provided to children.

Moreover, the unit operates in collaboration with Kuwait University, providing diagnostic, treatment, follow-up, and scientific research services for children aged 1 to 14 years. These services cater to children with autism spectrum disorder, global developmental delay, intellectual disability, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or learning difficulties. Additionally, care is delivered by a multidisciplinary team following an integrative approach that places the needs of the child and their family at the core of the care process.



Farah Bastaki

■ **Bastaki:**
We are committed to supporting initiatives that deliver sustainable impact and contributing to the development of pediatric healthcare services.
The unit is the first of its kind in Kuwait, integrating various specialties under one clinic.
The National Developmental Screening Program facilitates the early detection of developmental challenges and needs in children.
"Bida" application provides families with reliable information to monitor their children’s growth and development.

In line with the opening of the unit, the Ministry of Health continues to implement the developmental screening program for children, which aims to monitor children’s growth and developmental progress, and to detect any delays or developmental difficulties at an early stage, enabling effective intervention and improving long-term health and educational outcomes.

The initiative also promotes the use of the “Bida” application, which provides families with an accessible digital tool to track their children’s development, view expected developmental milestones for each age stage, and access relevant health-related information, guidance, and awareness resources.

The launch event was attended by pediatricians, neonatologists, nursing staff, and childcare providers from the hospital. It featured an open discussion panel to introduce the unit and its objectives, services, and the team. The session also included an overview of the “Bida” application for monitoring child growth and development, as well as a presentation on the developmental screening program for children in Kuwait.

NBK’s participation stems from its ongoing commitment to contributing to the development of specialized healthcare services in Kuwait, promoting initiatives focused on child health and well-being, and fostering effective public-private partnerships that serve

the Kuwaiti community and leave a lasting impact on future generations.

On this occasion, Farah Bastaki, Associate Vice President - Social Media, Digital Communications at the National Bank of Kuwait, commented: “We believe that building a more prosperous future for Kuwait begins with caring for its children, especially during their early years, which are a critical stage for a child’s growth and the development of their capabilities. With this in mind, we have been committed to supporting the National Early Childhood Initiative since its inception over two years ago, helping to transform it into a comprehensive national project designed to support children and their families, and to foster healthy development from birth”.

Bastaki added: “The National Early Childhood Initiative embodies an exemplary model of public-private partnership. We are united by a common goal: to provide the necessary support for children and to empower their families with the knowledge and tools to confidently monitor their children’s growth and development, which should consequently enhance the quality of life and ensure the best possible outcomes for children during their early years”.

Bastaki continued: “The National Developmental Screening Program serves as a cornerstone of this initiative, facilitating the monitoring of chil-

dren’s growth and supporting the early detection of any developmental challenges or needs, further underscoring the vital role of early intervention in improving growth, development, and overall quality of life. Furthermore, the ‘Bida’ application is an integral part of this comprehensive ecosystem, providing families with reliable information to help them understand their children’s developmental stages and track their progress”.

Bastaki emphasized that NBK is committed to being an active partner in supporting initiatives that address the genuine needs of the community, particularly within the healthcare sector, which serves as a key pillar of the Bank’s social responsibility programs. Bastaki also noted that, over the years, NBK has consistently supported a wide range of health, awareness, and rehabilitation projects and initiatives, driven by its belief in the importance of contributing to the development of services for the community and enhancing their positive impact across all segments.

It is worth noting that NBK remains committed to solidifying its leadership position as a key advocate for social responsibility and sustainability in Kuwait, through national initiatives that deliver lasting social and developmental impact, which also lead to an improved quality of life and supports Kuwait’s social development priorities.

NBK launches series of events & activities throughout October to raise awareness about breast cancer

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: As part of its unwavering commitment to social responsibility and its leading role in supporting health and community initiatives, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched a series of awareness-raising initiatives and events throughout October, coinciding with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, to highlight the importance of prevention and early detection and encouraging the adoption of healthy lifestyles that help reduce the risk of developing the disease.

The campaign encompassed a range of initiatives and activities for both the Bank’s employees and the broader community, underscoring NBK’s ongoing dedication to supporting efforts aimed at sharing health-related knowledge and promoting a culture of prevention.

In keeping with its annual tradition of supporting this global cause, NBK illuminated its headquarters in pink throughout October as a message of solidarity with those affected by breast cancer, further highlighting the importance of early detection, which is one of the most effective ways to improve the chances of successful treatment and recovery.

As part of its internal initiatives, the Bank distributed pink ribbons on the 18th floor of its headquarters, aiming to encourage participation in the campaign and promote awareness among staff. This effort helps foster a culture that prioritizes health and prevention within the workplace.

Additionally, NBK and Inspire Sports Club offered a complimentary Pilates session, which reflects the Bank’s belief



Danah Faras

■ **Faras:**
We believe that awareness and early detection are the first line of defense against breast cancer.
We aim to promote a culture of prevention and encourage community members to adopt healthy lifestyles.

in the importance of physical activity and its role in enhancing both physical and mental well-being, as well as in the prevention of various diseases.

The Bank’s awareness-raising efforts also extended to the wider community through a partnership with 360 Food Hall throughout the month of October, in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The campaign featured a prominent visual presence, with NBK’s logo and awareness messages displayed throughout the venue for the duration of the month—an initiative that helped broaden the campaign’s reach and foster greater awareness about the disease.

This collaboration also featured two public events held on October 11 and 12, which included Pilates classes and floral arrangement workshops to promote health awareness and encourage participants to adopt healthy lifestyle practices,

while also highlighting the importance of early detection of breast cancer.

On this occasion, Danah Faras, Senior Officer - Public Relations and Event Management at NBK said: “These initiatives embody our ongoing commitment to supporting efforts aimed at raising awareness about the importance of prevention and early detection of breast cancer. We believe that knowledge and awareness serve as the first line of defense. Through this campaign, we seek to encourage community members to adopt healthy lifestyles and undergo regular screenings, which are steps that contribute to increasing the chances of early detection and improving treatment outcomes, while also fostering a culture that prioritizes health and well-being within the community”.

“At NBK,” Faras added, “we strive to ensure that our community initiatives

extend well beyond sharing awareness messages; rather, we provide interactive platforms and activities that encourage community members to participate, engage, and adopt positive and healthy practices. Our partnerships with healthcare and sports institutions, as well as various other supporting entities, reflect our firm belief in the importance of collaborative action to promote health awareness and embed a culture of health consciousness across all segments of society”.

This campaign comes as part of NBK’s extensive record of purposeful social and health-related initiatives, which include numerous programs and awareness campaigns aimed at promoting community health and fostering a culture of prevention and early detection line with its vision to support a better quality of life and contribute to building a healthier and more informed society.



National Bank of Kuwait’s main building is illuminated in pink throughout the month of October.



George Strait, Lyle Lovett and songwriting legends honored at gala

Taylor Swift inducted into Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame



Taylor Swift appears onstage as she is inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026, at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Oct 27, (AP): Taylor Swift signed her first publishing deal in Nashville at the age of 14. About 22 years and 14 Grammys later, she joined the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame along with Lyle Lovett, Shawn Camp, Lee Thomas Miller, Bruce Channel and J.I. Allison.

Swift added another honor to her trophy wall with her second hall of fame induction this year and was celebrated at the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala on Monday in a crowded ballroom full of artists, writers and country music elite.

"I knew from the time I wrote my first song that even if it couldn't be my career, it would be my passion," Swift said.

She described soaking up the lessons from other writers like a sponge, learning how to push through writer's block and write about the human condition, even when her writing partner was hungover or going through a divorce.

Swift recalled her mom would regularly pick her up from high school and drop her off at a publishing house on Nashville's Music Row, where she poured out her emotions to one of her first co-writers, Liz Rose. She later would meet Nathan Chapman, who produced her self-titled debut album in 2006, released 20 years ago this month.

Swift, who took her talents to a much wider audience beyond country music, said her ability to "genre hop" was because she had learned the fundamentals of songwriting in Nashville.

"I'm so incredibly honored to be inducted into this sacred club," Swift said. Brad Paisley, one of the first major artists to take her on tour after her debut album, introduced her as "the voice of a generation."

He joked that Swift "went to Brad Paisley High School" as a 17-year-old traveling the country while on tour with him. Swift later recounted that Paisley took a prank too far in 2007 when he filled her bus with thousands of crickets. "For months I couldn't sleep. Just chirp, chirp, chirp," she said.



Lyle Lovett arrives at the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026, at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)



Bruce Channel arrives at the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026, at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)



Chuck Mead performs during the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026, at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)



Jim Lauderdale, left, looks on as inductee Shawn Camp speaks during the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026, at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)



Lee Thomas Miller speaks as he is inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026, at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)



Verlon Thompson, left, and Emmylou Harris perform during the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026, at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

Lainey Wilson performed a bluegrass version of "Love Story" with fiddle and stand-up bass from Swift's second album, "Fearless."

Swift wasn't the only big star to be celebrated, as George Strait, the lauded "King of Country Music," was given the Career Maker Award from the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. Strait, a Country Music Hall of Famer, is known for picking great songs from other songwriters and sending them to the top of country charts for five decades.

Surrounded by songwriters on stage, Strait was predictably succinct in his speech as he sent out his thanks for all the writers who sent songs to him over the years.

"They made my career," Strait said. "I didn't make theirs."

Lovett spent his speech naming mentors and artists and writers who took a chance on him.



Lainey Wilson performs during the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026, at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

"I am humbled just to be in the room with these amazing Hall of Fame songwriters and amazing recording artists," Lovett said. "It is such a privilege to be able to go through your life and do what you want to do."

Allison, who died in 2022, was a member of Buddy Holly's band The Crickets and co-wrote hits like "That'll Be The Day" and "Peggy Sue." Camp, an accomplished multi-instrumentalist who plays guitar, fiddle and more, co-wrote songs like "Two Pina Colodas" for Garth Brooks and "How Long Gone" by Brooks & Dunn, as well as hits for Blake Shelton and George Strait and many bluegrass songs.

Channel co-wrote "Hey! Baby!" a song that would become part of the movie "Dirty Dancing" but also a country hit for Anne Murray and many others. Miller co-wrote award-winning songs like "You're Gonna Miss This," performed by Trace Adkins and "In Color," performed by Jamey Johnson.

Obituary

'Ashita no Joe' creator championed perseverance & peace

Japanese manga artist Chiba, dies at 87

TOKYO, Oct 27, (AP): Legendary Japanese manga artist Tetsuya Chiba, who caused a national sensation with his boxing series "Ashita no Joe" or "Fighting for Tomorrow," a story about an orphan becoming a professional boxer, has died. He was 87.

Chiba's masterpiece series became so popular that fans even attended a mock funeral for the protagonist Joe Yabuki's rival.

Chiba died at a Tokyo hospital last Thursday, his publisher Kodansha Ltd. said Tuesday, without specifying the cause of his death.

While he depicted aspiring young athletes fighting for their life and career, Chiba was a vocal supporter of peace and freedom of expression, telling stories of his harrowing memories of war as a child in autobiographical stories and manga.

Months after he was born in Tokyo in January, 1939, his family moved to northeastern China and Chiba spent his early childhood there during Japan's occupation in the region, where his father worked at a printing factory.



Japanese manga artist Tetsuya Chiba, poses for a photo at his desk in his studio in Tokyo on Nov. 1, 2022. (AP)

At age 6, Chiba and his family marked Japan's surrender on Aug. 15, 1945, while they were still in China. There, they faced danger and hunger in the face of anti-Japanese

riots, but survived with the help of his father's Chinese translator who hid the family in an attic, where Chiba drew pictures for his three younger brothers.

Roc Nation founder steps onstage

Jay-Z picks himself to headline Super Bowl halftime show at SoFi Stadium in California

LOS ANGELES, Oct 27, (AP): The man who has helped produce the Super Bowl halftime show is stepping into the spotlight: Jay-Z will headline the show himself.

The NFL, Apple Music and Roc Nation announced Monday night that Jay-Z will be the featured performer for the halftime festivities on Feb. 14 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said he had one request when the league first reached an agreement with Roc Nation: that Jay-Z take the stage himself "whenever the moment felt right to him."

"From 'Reasonable Doubt' to standing on the Super Bowl halftime stage, this has been a journey," Jay-Z said in a statement. "Thirty years of music, work, and culture on the world's biggest stage. This run continues to be a dream come true."

After days of speculation, Jay-Z is set to return to the stadium where he closed his celebration of the 30th anniversary of "Reasonable Doubt," the mogul's 1996 debut album. The concerts included three sold-out shows at Yankee Stadium and sold-out performances in London and Paris ahead of a stop at SoFi Stadium over the weekend.

Jay-Z's Roc Nation has partnered with the NFL since 2019 to advise on and help produce the league's entertainment presentations, including the Super Bowl halftime show. At the time, Jay-Z said he had told Goodell, "If this is about me performing at the Super Bowl, then we can just end this conversation now."

Seven years later, Jay-Z is ready to perform after all.

Jay-Z, born Shawn Carter, has won 25 Grammy Awards and received 89 nominations, the second-most in history behind his wife, Beyoncé - who has performed at two Super Bowls. His catalog also includes the albums "The



Jay-Z gestures from the sidelines prior to the NFL Super Bowl 59 football game, Feb. 9, 2025, in New Orleans. (AP)

Blueprint" and "The Black Album," and hit songs such as "Hard Knock Life (Ghetto Anthem)," "99 Problems" and "Empire State of Mind," his collaboration with Alicia Keys.

Last year, "Reasonable Doubt" was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

His recent concerts brought out a rotating cast of guests. At SoFi Stadium, his daughter Blue Ivy played piano on "The Story of O.J." and "Dead Presidents," while Scarface, John Legend and DJ Khaled joined him on opening night. Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg and Too Short appeared during Saturday's finale.

Earlier in the run, Beyoncé, Rihanna, Eminem and Nas were among the guests at Yankee Stadium.

Jay-Z has built a career as an executive and entrepreneur. The Brooklyn rapper co-founded Roc-A-Fella Records and founded Roc Nation in 2008, building it into an entertainment company that works with artists and athletes.

Jay-Z became the first rapper inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2017 and joined the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2021. He is also a four-time Emmy winner.

Ceremony coincides with Al-Desma Theatre reopening

NCCAL honors Gulf screen icon Hayat with career documentary

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27, (KUNA): The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) memorialized late Kuwaiti actress Hayat Al-Fahad, known as the “Lady of the Gulf Screen,” with a screening of a documentary which reconsiders more than six decades of her artistic and humanitarian contributions.

The ceremony coincided with the re-opening of Al-Desma Theatre following comprehensive renovation and maintenance works.

It featured the screening of the documentary, produced by the NCCAL under the patronage of Secretary-General Mohammad Al-Jassar, with the vision and general supervision of Assistant Secretary-General for Financial, Administrative and Supporting Technical Affairs Musaed Al-Zamel.

The documentary titled “A story of life” was directed by Dr. Ali Hassan and prepared by Bader Al-Jazzaf.

Delivering a speech at the event, Al-Jassar said that the tribute to late Al-Fahad was a gesture of appreciation for an artistic figure who had left a lasting mark on the hearts and minds of Kuwaiti and Gulf audiences.

Over several decades, she contributed to enriching the ar-



A glimpse of Hayat Al-Fahad in an old clip from the documentary.



Dr. Ali Hassan, Director of the documentary film (A story of life) of Hayat Al-Fahad.



NCCAL Secretary-General Mohammad Al-Jassar



The late artist Hayat Al-Fahad.



KUNA photos
A scene from the documentary (A story of life) about Hayat Al-Fahad's life and career, presented at Al Dasma Theatre.

cultural and artistic creativity, he added.

Al-Fahad was not merely an artist who appeared on television screens and theatre stages, but she also was a model of artistic commitment and an authentic voice that expressed society's concerns and issues, he stated.

She carried the message of purposeful art with dedication, touching the hearts of millions and leaving behind a creative legacy that will endure in the memory of generations.

Al-Jassar explained that the 50-minute documentary goes beyond reviewing the late actress's artistic and personal milestones.

Through her rich experience, it also offers a visual account of the origins and evolution of Kuwaiti and Gulf drama, highlighting the artistic and cultural transformations it has undergone over the decades.

Meanwhile, Al-Zamel said the screening of the documentary on Al-Fahad was a tribute to her remarkable artistic career and her enduring contributions.

He described Al-Fahad as one of the towering figures of the arts in Kuwait and the Gulf, noting that the documentary embodies a profound sense of love and appreciation for the celebrated artist.

Turning ideas into solutions

Kuwait participates, Arab Innovators Conf. kicks off

MUSCAT, Oct 27, (KUNA): The Arab Innovators and Creators Conference kicked off in Muscat on Monday to explore ways to turn ideas into products, strengthen the innovation and patent environment, and build sustainable Arab cooperation networks, with Kuwait taking part.

Organized by Oman's Research and Innovation Authority in cooperation with the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science and the Arab Open University, and in coordination with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), the three-day conference brings together Arab innovators, experts, specialists, researchers and entrepreneurs.

In his opening address, Secretary-General of the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science Mahmoud Al-Abri said projects presented by Arab innovators were living examples of young people's ability to develop solutions to community challenges.

He added that nations' future is measured by their investment in their people's minds and their ability to turn knowledge into sustainable development.

President of the Arab Open University in Oman, Mohammad Al-Badi, said the conference sought to empower creative minds and transform innovative ideas into projects with tangible economic and social impact.

He affirmed the university's commitment to supporting the innovation ecosystem, nurturing talent and fostering an environment conducive to creativity.

In turn, ALECSO Director of Science and Scientific Research Mohammad Abu Darwish said innovation had become a key pillar of economic competitiveness and a central tool for addressing challenges facing the Arab world.

He said the conference theme, “Inspiring Innovation, Prosperous Development,” reflected the organization's vision that creativity, when nurtured, becomes innovation, while innovation linked to society's needs becomes a driver of development and prosperity.

Oman's Research and Innovation Authority said the conference aimed to provide an inclusive Arab

platform connecting creative talent with opportunities, showcasing innovations and patents in line with the Arab Strategy for Scientific Research, Technology and Innovation and the Sustainable Development Goals.

More than 90 participants from Oman and abroad are attending, including 22 innovators from Arab countries, alongside experts and researchers in innovation and entrepreneurship.

The conference program includes an exhibition of participating innovations, a first-round exhibition by the expert committee, and an interactive session allowing innovators to discuss their ideas and connect with incubation and funding opportunities.

The first day featured a high-level session under the theme “Arab Innovation: From Idea to Impact,” titled “The Future of Arab Innovation: From Individual Achievement to an Arab Innovation Ecosystem.”

Papers presented during the session examined how ideas could be turned into value through invention and innovation, the role of human imagination in the age of artificial intelligence, future planning, the current state and prospects of innovation in the Arab world, and a Tunisian case study on building effective innovation ecosystems.

A separate panel, titled “Innovation in Arab Countries: Reality, Obstacles and Ways Forward,” addressed the region's innovation landscape, challenges in bringing innovations to market, and Oman's Ministry of Education strategy for supporting innovation.

Another interactive session explored the transition from prototype to market, with discussions on financing, intellectual property, incubators, industry and marketing. The first round of the expert committee's review of the exhibition also featured prototypes and models developed by participating innovators.

Kuwait is represented by a delegation including Dr. Amal Al-Kandari of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and Dr. Kawthar Ali of Kuwait University. They are presenting two innovations, one environmental and the other medical, alongside a number of young Kuwaiti innovators.

Event honors artist Suleiman Mansour

Kuwait exhibition celebrates Palestinian women



By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Kuwait Rami Tahboub said Palestinian women are regarded as the foundation of Palestinian society, source of its strength and its soul.

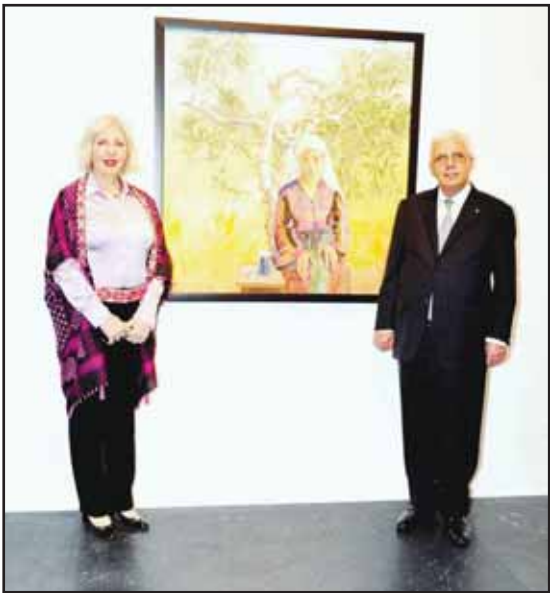
Tahboub made the statement at an art exhibition held in the Museum of Contemporary Art on the occasion of the National Day of Palestinian Women, which is observed on Oct 26 annually. The exhibition is also in honor of artist Suleiman Mansour.

In his speech at the event, he asserted that the rights of Palestinian women cannot be separated from the Palestinian people's struggle for liberation, freedom and dignity.

He disclosed that this occasion commemorates the first Palestinian Women's Conference held in Jerusalem in 1929—a pivotal milestone in organizing women's activism and solidifying their political participation in resisting the occupation and defending the homeland.

He said the National Day of Palestinian Women is a tribute to the historic struggle of Palestinian women, acknowledging their ongoing contributions to the journey toward national and social liberation, as well as the vital role they play in preserving society and its resilience.

He pointed out that despite their high educational level -- with a literacy rate of 97 percent, Palestinian women continue to face challenges in terms of economic participation. He attributed these challenges to the violence linked with the occupation and a sharp rise in unemployment rates, both of which limit the ability of these women to engage in the labor market. He stressed that the



Photos from the event.

Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

rights of Palestinian women must not be separated from the cause of national liberation. He asserted that because women and girls are often denied freedom, equality, dignity and peace, the defense of their rights remains an inseparable part of the entire Palestinian struggle.

He underscored the importance of recognizing the role of Palestinian women in their families and the society. He said their suffering is not limited to the impact of the occupation, as it includes social challenges and stereotypes that diminish their status. He emphasized that Palestinian women are not just “half of society”, as they are its foundation, strength and soul. He added that the Palestinian society cannot continue its journey or resilience without the women.

On the other hand, Rima Al-

Khalidi, wife of the ambassador, affirmed that Palestinian women continue to play a crucial role in building society and its resilience despite the daily challenges caused by the occupation. She asserted that the stories of Palestinian women should not be reduced to suffering, as they are the embodiment of strength, generosity and achievement.

She indicated that the widespread reach of social media—where news often blends with entertainment content—can distance people from the reality of what is happening in Palestine, reducing the stories of Palestinians to routine news stripped of their human dimension.

She expressed hope that this event will help change such a perspective by shedding light on the experiences and inspiring journeys of Pales-

tinian women. She then shared her personal experience in taking her eldest child to school. She talked about the anxiety of parents over the possibility that children might be subjected to searches by Israeli soldiers—a reality that creates daily fear for their children's safety. She stressed that these are not hypothetical scenarios, but a reality she has lived through herself.

She also revealed that she selected 42 Palestinian women—from the British Mandate era to the present day and representing diverse age groups and professional fields—whose stories serve as a starting point for exploring the contributions and achievements of Palestinian women. She wished that this event signals the beginning of discovering more inspiring experiences.

ALECSO holds meeting on Arab architectural & urban heritage

TUNIS, Oct 27, (KUNA): The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) held on Sunday the 11th meeting of the Arab Observatory of Architectural and Urban Heritage, in cooperation with the Department of Culture and Dialogue of Civilizations, at the Arab League's headquarters in Cairo.

The meeting was part of Arab efforts aiming to strengthen the protection and documentation of architectural and urban heritage and to consolidate mechanisms for joint Arab action to preserve and safeguard it, ALECSO said in a statement. The meeting discussed the files of more than 60 architectural and urban heritage sites designated to be added to the observatory in a way that shows the diversification of urban and architectural heritage in the Arab states, it added.

The specialized committee of experts will look into and assess the files in accordance with the standards and conditions approved for registration, it noted. The committee will also convene tomorrow to determine the sites aligning with the conditions.

Holding this meeting shows the importance of enhancing cooperation among the Arab League, member states and experts in order to develop an integrated Arab system to observe urban and architectural heritage, it stated.

Novel mRNA cancer vaccine helps reduce chances of melanoma patients’ tumors returning

WASHINGTON, Oct 27, (AP): A first-of-its-kind cancer vaccine is significantly reducing the chances that melanoma patients’ tumors come back, according to results of a major study released by drugmakers Moderna and Merck.

The vaccine was custom-brewed for each patient to match their tumor. Adding it to a standard post-surgery treatment reduced by 42% the risk of melanoma returning two years after surgery, according to the most advanced study to date of this new strategy for fighting cancer.

“The field has been looking for a win and I think this one is a big one,” said Dr. Hussein Tawbi of MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, one of the researchers in the international study.

The vaccine, called intismeran, is made with the same Nobel Prize-winning mRNA technology that was behind COVID-19 vaccines. Experimental personalized cancer vaccines made with mRNA and some other approaches also are being tested against other types of cancer including lung, kidney and pancreatic.

Experts not involved with the new study say its success bolsters the field.

“This is a new frontier,” said Karen Knudsen, CEO of the Parker Institute, which helps fund cancer immunotherapy research.

“It’s a big step forward for science, for oncology, because this vaccine will apply to many different cancers,” said Dr. Michael Atkins, deputy director of Georgetown University’s Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Moderna and Merck had announced in August that the late-stage trial of intismeran was successful but the detailed results were set to be released Saturday at a meeting of the European Society of Medical Oncology in Madrid. Some of the data was leaked publicly late Thursday, prompting a full release ahead of the weekend’s scientific presentation.

Most people think of vaccines as preventing an infection, like measles or

whooping cough. There are already two cancer-preventing vaccines, the HPV and hepatitis B shots that block infection from those tumor-causing viruses. And research is underway to prevent some types of inherited cancer such as Lynch syndrome-caused colorectal cancer.

But a personalized vaccine designed to block surgically-removed cancer from returning is very different. For the intismeran study, scientists hunted gene mutations unique to each patient’s tumor, mutations that create proteins which shouldn’t be in the body unless those cancer cells start to grow again. The custom vaccine - nine doses given three weeks apart - teaches the patient’s immune system to watch out for and attack those so-called neoantigens.

How did it work? The study included more than 1,100 people with high-risk melanoma that was surgically removed. Everyone was given the standard follow-up therapy: Merck’s immunotherapy named Keytruda. The participants were randomly assigned to also receive custom-brewed vaccine doses or a placebo.

Two years later, 82% of the people in the vaccine group were still living without a recurrence of their cancer compared to 70% who had gotten standard Keytruda alone. The trial is continuing to track participants’ longer-term outcomes.

In 2024, Tony Hout joined the vaccine trial at MD Anderson after seeking care for a spot on his ear that had been bleeding intermittently and wouldn’t fully heal. Doctors recognized melanoma and during surgery discovered it had started to spread.

“I want to make sure I’m doing everything I can to be here for my family,” said Hout, 62, who has since moved to Cayuga, Indiana, and travels back to Houston every few months for a study check-up. Scans this week showed he’s still cancer-free.



In this image made from video, Tony Hout, (right), walks with his wife Kim, at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston on Oct 19. (AP)

First confirmed patient in Nigeria evacuated to Switzerland

Congo’s Ebola cases top 10,000 as outbreak spreads across African countries

BUNIA, Congo, Oct 27, (AP): The fast-moving Ebola outbreak in Congo has reached 10,000 confirmed cases, government data showed Tuesday, as health authorities race to slow the spread of the disease in multiple African countries.

It is the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak in history and nearly half of the 10,060 confirmed to have the virus have died, according to data from Congo’s Ministry of Health. That also makes it the deadliest outbreak of the disease in the country’s history.

The outbreak declared in May is caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, for which there is no approved vaccine or treatment. Response teams are battling armed conflict, poor roads and violence from residents fueled by mistrust and misinformation. Those obstacles compound the challenge of persuading people to report symptoms and accept care in communities that have endured years of violence and repeated epidemics.

Compared to the West Africa Ebola outbreak of 2014-2016 - history’s largest and deadliest with more than 28,000 cases, including over 11,000 deaths - this has had at least three times the number of cases and number of deaths in the time since it was declared.

It has spread farther across Africa than any previous Ebola outbreak, reaching three regions with cases recorded in Kenya and Nigeria as well. It’s so far been recorded in five countries including Uganda and France, both of which have no active cases at the moment.

A recurring problem in the spread in Africa is what appears to be lax surveillance efforts as most of the first cases were confirmed long after people started showing symptoms or after traveling.

In Congo, the disease has spread to 66 health zones across eight provinces, from three zones when it was first declared in May. Responders have told The Associated Press that they’re seeing treatment centers in some of those health zones getting overwhelmed, people still skeptical and violent toward them, and health workers are regularly going on strike to protest delayed or unpaid wages.

“Some people still don’t seem to understand the seriousness of the situation even though they are directly exposed to the risk,” said Sephora Bgosi with the Ebola burial team in Ituri province, the epicenter. “Ebola disease is extremely dangerous and can be deadly,” said Bgosi.

About 80% of recorded cases are still coming from outside of monitored contacts, showing there are ongoing chains of transmission that health authorities are not aware of. At least 95% of recorded cases are supposed to be coming from known contacts for officials to say the outbreak has largely been brought under control, the Africa CDC has said.

At least half of deaths recorded are among people who have not been admitted to treatment centers, a sign that people are still not reporting symptoms at all in many areas.

In many zones, health workers are battling challenges ranging from basic needs such as adequate vehicles to complex ones like persuading families to



A patient who is suspected to have Ebola is transferred in a isolation unit from a rescue aircraft to a rescue helicopter of Swiss Air Rescue (Rega) at Zurich Airport on Oct 26, in Zurich, Switzerland. (AP)

release their relatives who are sick with the disease or who have died from it and need to be buried safely.

Last week at the Nia Nia health zone in Ituri province, some Ebola responders, including surveillance and community engagement officers, went on strike over unpaid bonuses owed since late August, a common trend across many affected localities.

More than five months since the outbreak was declared, health workers are still being attacked by angry villagers, including on Saturday when a nurse was killed and another health worker severely injured while responding to an Ebola alert in Bafwasende, Tshopo province.

The outbreak has disrupted essential health services that are already underfunded and overstretched and has shifted attention away from other disease outbreaks the country is battling, such as cholera.

More pregnant women are dying as they avoid hospitals over fear of infection and isolation, causing maternal mortality to double in some provinces soon after the outbreak was declared.

It has also disrupted routine healthcare services such as childhood vaccinations, interrupted schooling for children where millions are already out of school, caused trauma and stigma for affected families and further stretched the livelihoods of many already struggling with hardship.

Also:

ABUJA, Nigeria: A Swiss woman being treated for Ebola in Nigeria was medically evacuated to **Switzerland** with her husband Monday, officials said, as Nigerian authorities continued monitoring 52 people who had been in contact with her.

Nigerian Health Minister **Muhammad Pate** said the woman, the country’s first case in the current outbreak, left the capital, Abuja, early Monday with his approval. Her condition had improved significantly, and she was stable, conscious and able to communicate, he said.

“This does not mean she is not still infectious, hence the strict protocols in place,” Pate wrote on X. Her husband, a Swiss diplomat in Nigeria, has shown no symptoms.

Switzerland’s Federal Office of Public Health said the couple arrived Monday on a medical evacuation flight. The woman was being treated at **Geneva** University Hospital, while her husband was in isolation at **Zurich** University Hospital. The agency said both hospitals were equipped to care for them and that there was no risk to the Swiss public.

The World Health Organization’s regional director for **Africa**, **Mohamed Janabi**, said the evacuation was arranged because the couple are Swiss citizens and that Nigerian medical teams had stabilized the woman after treating her through the acute phase of the illness.

Nigeria will continue monitoring 52 other contacts, Janabi said.

“With the evacuation of the patient and her husband, Nigeria currently has no Ebola cases,” he said, stressing that vigilance remained critical.

Pate said containment measures remained in place and urged Nigerians to remain vigilant.

The woman tested positive after returning to Abuja from **Uganda**. Nigerian authorities said Friday they had yet to establish how she contracted the virus.

Switzerland’s foreign ministry told The Associated Press last week that she had not visited **Congo** and was believed to have been infected while traveling to Uganda with her husband.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the first patients in Nigeria and **Kenya** had both traveled through Uganda’s Entebbe International Airport on Oct. 3. Uganda had previously reported Ebola cases but later declared itself free of the virus.

Kenya has recorded nine cases, including two deaths, since confirming its first case earlier this month.

On Monday, Kenya released 20 people from quarantine following their exposure to the virus as contacts of the country’s first case, while 98 others were expected to be released starting next Tuesday.

“Each of the 20 contacts was assessed against the release criteria, including 21 days without any symptoms since their last exposure,” the Kenyan Ministry of Health said in a statement.

Why do people still get polio in some countries and not in others?

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



By **Katrine L. Wallace**
University of Illinois Chicago

Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you’d like an expert to answer, send it to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com.

Why are people still getting polio in some countries and in not others? - Mia, age 9, Centennial, Colorado

On a busy street in Karachi, Pakistan, a healthcare worker kneels down so she’s eye to eye with a toddler. She squeezes two drops of liquid onto the child’s tongue. Then she takes out a purple marker and colors the child’s pinkie fingernail so everyone can see that this toddler is now vaccinated against polio.

During big vaccination drives, thousands of health workers like her knock on doors across Pakistan.

Most kids in the United States will never experience anything like this, because they get the polio vaccine as a shot at the doctor’s office instead of drops in a door-to-door campaign.

The two vaccines work a little differently, but both protect kids from the polio virus. The countries that still see polio outbreaks are places where not enough people have gotten the preventive vaccine.

I’m an epidemiologist - a scientist who studies how diseases spread. My work focuses on diseases that vaccines can prevent, and on the false information that keeps some families from getting those vaccines.

Polio is caused by a virus that lives in the human gut. It spreads when tiny bits of poop from an infected person get onto hands, food or water, and then into someone else’s mouth. That’s why polio spreads fastest in places without clean water or good sewer systems.

Polio is sneaky. Most people who catch it never feel sick at all, so they can pass it on without knowing.

But in about 1 out of every 200 infections globally, the virus attacks the nerves that control muscles, usually in the legs. This can cause a person to be paralyzed for the rest of their life.

There is no cure for polio. But there is a vaccine, and a few doses can protect you for life.

In 1988, polio paralyzed about 350,000 children in 125 countries. That same year, countries around the world teamed up with one huge goal: Wipe out polio for good.

Though polio has not yet been entirely eliminated, this effort has been a major success. Since then, polio cases have dropped by more than 99% globally.

There used to be three types of wild polio virus. Now, only type 1 is left.

Wild polio, the original virus, now spreads in just two countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 2025, wild polio paralyzed 52 children there.

Both countries have lived through decades of war. In some areas, it’s too dangerous for vaccinators to travel, and some have even been attacked.

In Afghanistan, vaccinators haven’t gone house to house since late 2024. Families must bring children to central spots, such as mosques, instead. But the kids who can’t get there miss their vaccines.

Some countries have outbreaks of a different kind, called vaccine-derived polio.

The oral polio vaccine, which is no longer used in many countries, including the US, contains a weakened polio virus - too weak to make a child sick, but strong enough to teach the body to fight polio.

After a child swallows the drops of vaccine, some of the weakened virus leaves their body in their poop. If nearly every kid around is vaccinated, the virus has nowhere to go and fizzles out.

But in areas where fewer than 80% of kids are vaccinated, it can pass from child to child. Like a message in a game of telephone, the virus changes a little each time it’s passed. Eventually, it can change back into a form that paralyzes children.

That might sound like the vaccine is the problem. But in fact, the problem is that too few kids have received the vaccine.

The children who go unvaccinated are usually the hardest to reach: kids in the poorest families, in faraway villages or in war zones. In one study in Pakistan, offering families other free healthcare along with polio drops cuts the share of never-vaccinated kids nearly in half.

In October 2025, scientists testing sewage in Hamburg, Germany, found wild polio. Its genes matched virus found in Afghanistan, more than 3,000 miles (4,800 kilometers) away.

This means that someone carrying the virus, probably without feeling sick, had traveled to Germany. But not a single child there was paralyzed because most German kids are vaccinated against polio.

Other countries in Europe found vaccine-derived polio in their sewage in 2025, with the same happy ending.

Polio can travel anywhere, but it can only hurt kids where they aren’t protected by the vaccine.

Polio also gets help spreading from rumors and misinformation. In 2003, false stories that the vaccine was harmful led parts of northern Nigeria to stop vaccinating for almost a year. This led to a small outbreak that spread from that area to other countries.

Research shows that false news online travels “farther, faster, deeper and more broadly than the truth.”

Unfortunately, misinformation could also contribute to a resurgence of polio in places where it has been eliminated - even the US. In Colorado, about 1 in 8 kindergartners haven’t had all their polio shots. And in 2022, vaccine-derived polio paralyzed an unvaccinated young man in New York.

Though rumors can travel quickly, trust is built one conversation at a time, by neighbors, religious leaders and doctors who take parents’ questions and concerns seriously. (AP)



An illegal logging camp is visible in the Saamaka territory of the Amazon rainforest in Suriname on Sept 30. (AP)

Suriname’s Saamaka tribe turns to mapping in effort to protect Amazon rainforest

TUTUBUKA, Suriname, Oct 27, (AP): Deep in Suriname’s Amazon rainforest, Navaldo Vola hacked through thick vegetation with a machete, leading a group of Saamaka men up a forested mountain in sweltering heat and swarms of horseflies.

Halfway up, they found a massive abandoned excavator fitted with an attachment designed to tear down trees.

The discovery came a day after the men had found a makeshift camp at the foot of the mountain that they believed had been used by Chinese loggers. Packs of masala powder and bottles of soy sauce remained in the cooking area. They spent the night there, stringing their hammocks from the camp’s makeshift wooden structures before setting off up the mountain the following morning.

Beyond the excavator, near the summit, they found another camp, with pieces of plastic tarp, aluminum mugs and other items left behind.

“We knew that some people come here, but we didn’t know that they are doing logging,” Vola, 31, said, point-

ing into the distance at the summit of Ebbatop mountain. “This part is supposed to be untouched.”

As roads, logging and gold mining encroach deeper into Saamaka territory, communities are turning to modern technology to defend forests protected for generations - using satellite images, GPS mapping and patrols to track incursions.

In villages such as Tutubuka, officially known as Nieuw Aurora, along the Upper Suriname River, residents hope the evidence will help secure government recognition of their traditional forest management system, nearly two decades after an international court ordered Suriname to recognize their collective land rights, a ruling that remains largely unfulfilled.

Last year, Suriname pledged to protect 90% of its tropical forests and strengthen conservation laws, potentially including legal recognition of the ancestral lands of Indigenous and tribal communities. The small South American country between Guyana,

French Guiana and Brazil has a population of about 650,000 and is about 93% forested. Its forests span parts of the Amazon rainforest and Guiana Shield and absorb more greenhouse gases than the country emits.

Tribal territories in Suriname have lost nearly 154,000 hectares (380,500 acres) of forest since 2001 - roughly twice the size of New York City. Nationwide, about 200,000 hectares (494,000 acres) of humid primary forest were lost between 2002 and 2025, according to Global Nature Watch.

The Saamaka are one of Suriname’s six communities descended from Africans who escaped slavery on Dutch plantations and established autonomous settlements deep in the forest in the 17th and 18th centuries. After decades of fighting Dutch colonial forces, they secured a peace agreement in 1762 recognizing their freedom and autonomy. About 60,000 Saamaka people live in Suriname, according to the Association of Saamaka Communities, often called VSG.

SPORTS

Mavs add to winless Heat misery; Rockets stay unbeaten

Lendeborg has 31 points as Warriors earn 1st win of season by beating Nuggets

MIAMI, Oct 27, (AP): Cooper Flag had 29 points and 11 assists, plus blocked a shot that would have given Miami the lead in the final moments, and the Dallas Mavericks sent the reeling Heat to 0-4 with a 113-109 win.

PJ Washington added 20 points, Kyrie Irving scored 18 and Walter Clayton Jr. had 15 for Dallas. Flag had 12 of his points in the fourth, and his block of a 3-point try by Andrew Wiggins with 31 seconds left preserved a two-point Mavs lead.

The 19-year-old Flag also had six rebounds, five steals and three blocks.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had his first triple-double since joining the Heat, finishing with 29 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists. Davion Mitchell scored 21 for Miami.

The Heat are 0-4 for the fifth time in team history, the first since 2008-09.

Miami started slowly, getting down 19-11 midway through the opening quarter - then outscoring Dallas 37-17 over the next 12 minutes to take a 12-point lead, its biggest so far this season.

Rockets 120, Hawks 110

In Houston, Alperen Sengun had 29 points, nine assists and nine rebounds and the Houston Rockets remained unbeaten with a win over the Atlanta Hawks.

The Rockets are 4-0 this season and Monday was their second consecutive win over the Hawks after they got a 121-114 win in Atlanta on Saturday night.

A 7-0 run by the Hawks, capped by a 3 from Nickeil Alexander-Walker cut the lead to 95-93 early in the fourth.

Houston got hot after that, using a 14-0 spurt, with 3s from Reed Shephard and Tari Eason, to make it 109-93 with less than seven minutes to go.



Milwaukee Bucks guard Brayden Burries (0) attempts a basket against Indiana Pacers guard Kelly Oubre Jr. (10) and Pascal Siakam (43) as teammate Kel'e'l Ware, right, watches during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Milwaukee. (AP)

Kevin Durant added 22 points for the Rockets and Jabari Smith Jr. scored 16 points, had five assists and led the team with 12 rebounds.

Thunder 125, Suns 114

In Oklahoma City, Ajay Mitchell scored a career-high 30 points, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 26 and

the short-handed Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Phoenix Suns .

Jared McCain scored 18 points and Isaiah Hartenstein had 15 points and 13 rebounds to help keep Oklahoma City perfect through four games, a night after Oklahoma City lost starters Jalen Williams and Cason Wallace to serious injuries.

Williams and Wallace were hurt

in Sunday night's 108-101 win over the Clippers and both will require surgery that could be season-ending.

Warriors 134, Nuggets 114

In Denver, Yaxel Lendeborg had 31 points and 12 rebounds as the Golden State Warriors beat the Denver Nuggets for their first win of the season.

The big night from the rookie out of Michigan helped the Warriors

avoid their first 0-4 start since 2007-08. The team shot 54.1% from the field, including 22 of 44 from 3-point range, and outrebounded Denver by a 50-36 margin.

Stephen Curry scored 21 of his 24 points in the second half. He finished 8 of 8 from the floor to help the Warriors steadily pull away from the Nuggets.

Nikola Jokic had 19 points, seven rebounds and 11 assists before being subbed out with 3:33 remaining and the Nuggets trailing by 21.

Cavaliers 127, T'wolves 125 OT

In Cleveland, Donovan Mitchell had 26 points, including five points in overtime, and the Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the Minnesota Timberwolves 127-125 despite 47 points from Anthony Edwards.

James Harden added 19 points, including a pair of free throws with 13 seconds left, and Evan Mobley scored 18 for the Cavaliers, who have won their last four home games against the Timberwolves.

Meleek Thomas, the 34th overall pick in June's NBA Draft, scored 16 in his NBA debut.

Bucks 110, Pacers 102

In Milwaukee, Tyler Herro had 23 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists as the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Indiana Pacers for their first win of the season.

The Bucks avoided their first 0-4 start since 1976-77, when they dropped their first five games and went on to finish 30-52.

Ryan Rollins scored 19 points, Kyle Kuzma scored 17 and Kel'e'l Ware scored 16 for the Bucks. Ware also had 14 rebounds for his second straight double-double.

Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton had 22 points, nine assists and six rebounds. Pascal Siakam collected 20 points, 13 rebounds and six assists.

Hornets 110, Wizards103

In Charlotte, Brandon Miller scored a career-high 39 points and the Charlotte Hornets beat the Washington Wizards for their third win in four games to open the season.

Starters Coby White (left calf) and Kon Knueppel (left hamstring) and top reserve Grant Williams (right hamstring) each have yet to play this season for the Hornets, who have managed their absences well so far.

Miller scored 27 points in the middle two quarters as Charlotte took control.

Carrascal keeps Flamengo top

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct. 27, (Xinhua): Jorge Carrascal converted a stoppage-time penalty as leader Flamengo clinched a 3-2 home win over Atletico Mineiro in Brazil's Serie A.

Former Everton winger Bernard opened the scoring for the visitors before goals from Gonzalo Plata and Giorgian de Arrascaeta gave Flamengo a 2-1 lead at halftime.

Renan Lodi restored parity but Colombian midfielder Carrascal broke the deadlock in the 99th minute after Leo Pereira was brought down by Lodi.

The result leaves Flamengo one

point clear of second-placed Palmeiras with six matchdays remaining. Atletico is sixth in the 20-team standings, 20 points off the pace.

"The result suggests that we suffered tonight, but the truth is we were the far stronger team," Flamengo manager Leonardo Jardim told a post-match news conference.

"We let them hurt us on the counterattack, and we could have defended better to prevent their second goal. But we regained control of the game and deserved the victory in the end." In Monday's only other match, a late strike from Martin Braithwaite handed Gremio a 1-0 win at Coritiba.

A late goal from Jeremias Lazaro gave Instituto Cordoba a 1-0 home win over Deportivo Riestra in Argentina's Clausura tournament on Monday.

Lazaro held his nerve from the penalty spot after Leonel Mosevich drew a foul from Facundo Mino at El Cilindro.

The visitors barely threatened Instituto's goal, controlling less than a quarter of the possession and having only two shots on target.

Instituto leads the Zone A standings with 32 points from 14 games, five points clear of second-placed Velez Sarsfield. Deportivo Riestra is 13th with 12 points so far.

In Monday's only other fixture, Union Santa Fe breezed to a 3-1 home victory over Estudiantes.



Jorge Carrascal

Event dedicated entirely to women

Entries open for the World Triathlon Women's Cup Dubai

DUBAI, UAE, Oct. 27, (AP): Entries are now open for the World Triathlon Women's Cup Dubai, which takes place at Al Mamzar Beach Park on Sunday 6 December 2026, with races for women of all abilities, from first-time triathletes to elite international athletes.

The second World Triathlon Women's Cup to be held anywhere in the world, it is the only event of its kind dedicated entirely to women, bringing elite athletes and amateurs together to race at the same venue on the same day.

Organised by Dubai Sports Council in partnership with World Triathlon, the event celebrates women's strength, determination and unity, and reinforces Dubai's position as a leading destination for world-class sport and a global hub for women's sport.

Beyond race day, the event aims to create a lasting platform for women's sport, inspiring more women and girls to take part, giving women athletes greater visibility as role models and strengthening pathways for women in sport and leadership.

Three races

The Elite race, managed by World Triathlon, is held over a 750m swim, 20km bike and 5km run, with the winner receiving 500 Olympic Ranking points.

Amateurs aged 18 and over can take on the Sprint over the same distance, or the Super Sprint, a 400m swim, 10km bike and 2.5km run designed to make a first triathlon achievable. The Super Sprint can be raced individually or as a relay team of up to three.

A separate Emirati competition will recognise the top three Emirati finishers in both the individual and team categories.

Racing will take place in and around Al Mamzar Beach Park and the bay area. Race day falls the week after Dubai Fitness Challenge, the city's month-long fitness campaign, giving women a month to train.

Entry fees

Early bird entry runs until 13 November, at AED 240 for individuals and AED 480 for relay teams, rising to AED 300 and AED 600 from 14 November.

Race weekend

The event village will be open on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December, with grandstands, music, wellness activities, and food and drink. It will also host WTCW Talks, with sessions on nutrition, movement and mental wellbeing, and on balancing work and life.

Stokes' big night on both ends leads Golden State past Dream

Valkyries move within one win of WNBA title

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 27, (AP): Kiah Stokes had 13 points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots as the Golden State Valkyries moved within one win of a championship in their second season, beating the Atlanta Dream 64-55 in Game 5 of the WNBA Finals.

Angel Reese finished with seven points, 15 rebounds and five assists - a big difference from her two stand-out performances in the first two games of the series at Chase Center. Reese shook her head when whistled for the second of her three offensive fouls with 7:43 to play.

Fans screamed and clapped thunder sticks following the final buzzer as Stokes spoke from the floor to chants of "MVP!"

"We appreciate you," a smiling Stokes said. "We got one more."

On a night leading scorer Gabby Williams struggled to find her shooting touch, Golden State found that "strength in numbers" mantra coach Natalie Nakase has praised all season long and everybody made an impact. Veronica Burton had 13 points and eight rebounds.

On Saturday, Nakase had changed up her lineup for a 67-62 Game 4 win by inserting Tiffany Hayes and Kaila Charles into the starting five. She stayed with those two Monday night, and it worked again. Hayes, who played 10 seasons for Atlanta and came out of retirement two years ago, had 12 points - and Nakase has said she wants to win it all for the veteran guard.

Williams began 2 for 11 and missed all four of her three 3-point tries, but she converted a three-point play with 9:08 remaining put the Valkyries ahead 49-42 and finished with nine points on 3-for-14 shooting and six rebounds.

Atlanta will now try to stave off elimination at home Thursday in Game 6 and force a deciding Game 7 back here at Chase Center on Saturday. The Dream hurt themselves with 17 turnovers that led to 21 points for Golden State.

Stokes hit a key 3-pointer with 2:46 to go in the third quarter and



Golden State Valkyries guard Veronica Burton, right, drives to the basket against Atlanta Dream guard Jordin Canada (3) during the first half of Game 5 of the WNBA basketball finals in San Francisco. (AP)

another with 7:21 left in the game, which ignited chants of "Ki-ah! Ki-ah!" from the crazed, rally-towel waving "Ballhalla" home crowd at Chase Center.

Stokes has recorded three or more blocks in six straight games, tying her with Lisa Leslie in 2003 for the longest such streak in a single WNBA postseason.

The Valkyries used a dominant second half after they led 25-22 at the break, the lowest scoring first half combined score in WNBA Finals history.

Rhyn Howard's three-point play with 4:59 left in the third pulled

Atlanta within 34-31, but after that it was Stokes, Burton and the Valkyries coming up with all the crucial plays on both ends.

Golden State owner Joe Lacob promised a championship within five years in a bold declaration when the expansion franchise was granted to the Bay Area three years ago, yet this season has exceeded even what he could have envisioned.

Neither team could find a flow from 3-point range in the first half as the teams combined to shoot 5 for 29 from deep - 3 of 16 by Golden State and 2 for 13 by Atlanta.

Earlier Monday, the league an-

nounced Game 6 would be played at 17,000-seat State Farm Arena in Atlanta starting at 12:30 p.m. EDT on Thursday - a time when many fans on both coasts will be working.

"I'd like to see it be a national holiday for all WNBA championship games so whatever somebody can do," Dream coach Karl Smesko said. "I hope everybody gets to see it somehow and I know that for some people it's not realistic, they have jobs and won't be able to make it. So I'm disappointed for that but I'm really hopeful that as many people can see the game as possible."

All Blacks name Fainga'anuku in back row and 2 new caps for Nations Championship rugby

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Oct 27, (AP): Leicester Fainga'anuku has played 12 tests for New Zealand as a back but has been named as a loose forward in the squad for the Nations Championship rugby matches in Britain next month.

Fainga'anuku was formerly a wing or center but has demonstrated his versatility by playing on the side of the scrum for the Crusaders in Super Rugby this year.

That flexibility has won him a recall to the All Blacks' 36-strong squad which will play Scotland on Nov. 8, Wales on Nov. 15 and England on Nov. 22. New Zealand is unbeaten in the Championship after beating France, Italy and Ireland at home in July.

The squad named by coach Dave Rennie on Monday includes two new caps while several

players are recalled in the absence of nine players who are unavailable due to injuries.

Prop Saula Ma'u and flyhalf Josh Jacob are the only players in the squad yet to play a test. Back-rower Christian Lio-Willie returns for the first time this year along with one-test lock Jamie Hannah.

Centers Jordie Barrett, Quinn Tupaea and Anton Lienert-Brown, flyhalf Richie Mo'unga, back-rowers Ethan Blackadder and Anton Segner, hooker Asafo Aumua and winger Fehi Fineanganofo all return after missing New Zealand's most recent test against Australia with injuries. Winger Chay Fihaki was retained after making his debut against Australia.

"This is a really strong squad we have select-

ed," Rennie said. "It's great to officially welcome George, Saula, Leicester, Christian, Jamie and Chay back into the squad. They have all shown fantastic form during the National Provincial Championship."

"Playing Scotland, Wales and England on consecutive weekends is a tough assignment. These are all proud rugby nations with passionate home crowds. We will embrace the challenge and the opportunity to build on our Bledisloe Cup performances."

Unavailable with injuries or for personal reasons were Ardie Savea, Samisoni Taukei'aho, Shannon Frizell, Tyrel Lomax, Leroy Carter, Ruben Love, Luke Jacobson, Caleb Clarke, Ollie Norris and Simon Parker.

Pakistan’s struggle in the top-order continues

England hopes dashed as Sri Lanka routs Pakistan to reach tri-series final

LAHORE, Pakistan, Oct 27, (AP): A rejuvenated Sri Lanka routed Pakistan by eight wickets on Tuesday to end England’s hopes of reaching the ODI tri-series cricket final.

Fast bowler Dilshan Madushanka grabbed a career-best 5-34 as Pakistan was skittled for 110 after captain Kusal Mendis had won the toss and elected to field.

It was Pakistan’s second-lowest ODI total at home, after its 75 all out against Sri Lanka in Lahore in 2009.



Sri Lanka’s Pavan Rathnayake plays a shot during the tri-series one-day international cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

Sri Lanka, which chased down the second-highest target in ODI history of 430 against England in Rawalpindi, then made 114-2 in 18.1 overs before the floodlight towers were fully switched on at the Gaddafi Stadium for the day-night game.

Pakistan had already qualified for the final after beating England twice, including an epic one-wicket win on Sunday, and handing Sri Lanka a 37-run defeat in the opening game of the tournament.

Pakistan rounded off the league stage with six points from three wins while Sri Lanka, which has four points, will tune up for Saturday’s final by playing England on Thursday.

England needed Pakistan to win on Tuesday to have a chance of making the final.

Pakistan’s struggle in the top-order continued with four of the leading five batters falling for

single digits. Left-handed opener Maaz Sadaqat was drafted in for Saim Ayub, who had made a run of poor scores.

Fakhar Zaman continued his lean patch when he offered a tame catch at point off Madushanka’s short-pitched delivery.

Sadaqat fell lbw to Asitha Fernando’s yorker and wicketkeeper-batter Saad Baig chipped an easy catch to short cover off Madushanka as Pakistan slipped to 46-3.

Babar Azam (29) again failed to capitalize on a good start, burning a review when he was plumb lbw to Eshan Malinga’s perfect inswinger.

Pakistan’s Sunday hero Shadab Khan, whose unbeaten 113 earned the astonishing victory over England, lasted five balls as he tried to sweep Sahan Arachchige and gloved an easy catch to Mendis behind the wicket.

Then, the re-introduction of Madushanka saw the left-arm paceman take three more wickets as Pakistan was bowled out in 25.3 overs.

“Unfortunately, for the last three or four games we are collapsing at the top order,” captain Shaheen Shah Afridi said. “We have three days now and we can practice. We will come back in the

final and bat stronger. We need to forget this game quickly and take the positives from the previous games.”

Kamindu Mendis hit an unbeaten 62 off 60 balls for Sri Lanka after being dropped by the wicket-keeper before he had scored. Also, on 44, he successfully overturned an lbw ruling on review.

The left-handed batter, who hit eight fours and two sixes, reached his half century following a pull for six after substitute fielder Ghazi Ghori had touched the boundary with his foot while completing a catch.

Avishka Fernando drilled Afridi for a straight boundary before he was caught off Afridi for 16 at mid-wicket from a mistimed pull shot.

Kusal Mendis was bowled in bizarre fashion for 8. He tried to defend against left-arm spinner Arafat Minhas but the ball deflected onto the stumps after hitting the back of his bat.

Pavan Rathnayake, who scored a century in Rawalpindi during Sri Lanka’s memorable win, made 23 not out and together with Mendis eased his side to victory with a 52-run unbroken stand.

“We bowled really well in the powerplay,” captain Mendis said. “Our fast bowling coach is happy ... there are some areas in which we still need to improve. Maybe we will make a couple of changes in the next match.”

Kuwait Club continues domestic dominance



Kuwait Club player is defended by an opponent during the league match between Kuwait Club and Arabi.

Sevilla returns to winning ways

PSG goes top of Ligue 1 with win over Lyon



PSG’s Ilya Zabarnyi, top, challenges for the ball with Lyon’s Julien Duranville during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Lyon in Paris. (AP)

PARIS, Oct 27, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain returned to the top of Ligue 1 after beating Lyon 2-0, while Sevilla snapped a four-game winless run by defeating Osasuna by the same score in La Liga.

Senny Mayulu rifled home an 18-meter strike seven minutes after coming off the bench to break Lyon’s resistance and set PSG on its way to an eighth straight win in all competitions.

Both teams started the match on 14 points but PSG had confidence, momentum and home

turf that Lyon managed to resist until Mayulu’s goal.

Twelve minutes later, Mika Godts settled the game with a well-taken effort to finish off a fast break.

PSG moved one point clear of Rennes. Lyon remained in fifth place.

Isaac Romero scored against Aston Villa in the Champions League and against Levante before being sent off. For the visit of Osasuna he made his presence felt after 24 minutes.

Romero took Youssouf Fofana’s clever lay-off and lashed it home from the edge of the box to put Sevilla ahead.

Felix Correia, who also scored in the 3-3 draw with Levante two weeks ago, got the second for Sevilla eight minutes from time.

It was a welcome return to form for a side that lost three of its last four games against Real Madrid, Barcelona and Aston Villa.

The result left Sevilla in sixth place. Osasuna remained in 12th, six points back.

Officials interested in Howe or Nagelsmann

Man United manager Carrick to keep job for next Premier League game at Chelsea

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 27, (AP): Manchester United manager Michael Carrick is now set for a game-by-game fight to save his job with the underachieving team.

Carrick will be in charge Saturday for a game at Chelsea in the Premier League, a person familiar with the club’s decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The former United standout will get the chance to turn results around, the person said on condition of anonymity because the club owned by the U.S.-based Glazer family and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe has not announced its plans.

Two bad losses and poor performances against well-run, low-budget opponents in the past week have pushed Carrick close to being fired despite being given a full-time contract in May, after having been in temporary charge.

United was humbled in a 4-1



Manchester United’s head coach Michael Carrick waves to supporters after his team lost the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Bournemouth in Manchester, England. (AP)

loss at Como in the Champions League and then 3-0 at home to Bournemouth in the Premier League on Sunday. Fans at Old

Trafford showed clear support for Carrick as he left the field before jeering the players as they followed him off.

Kazma edges Burgan

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Kuwait Club has once again underlined its supremacy in domestic handball, clinching the 2025-2026 Premier League title with a resounding 38-28 victory over Al-Arabi in the penultimate round.

The victory secured the White Brigade’s 14th consecutive league crown and 16th overall, setting a remarkable record and extending its unprecedented run of success in the competition.

Elsewhere in the round, Sulaibikhat defeated Nasr 22-12, while Kazma narrowly overcame Burgan 32-30 in a closely fought contest.

Kuwait Club sits firmly atop the standings with 25 points, having wrapped

up the championship ahead of the final round. Burgan is second on 19 points, followed by Kazma with 18, Al-Arabi with 16, Sulaibikhat with 10 and Nasr with two.

The latest title reinforces the White Brigade’s long-standing dominance of Kuwaiti handball, reflecting the club’s sustained commitment to the team and the support it receives from the board.

Its success has also reached beyond Kuwait, with the club establishing itself as a major force in Gulf, Arab and Asian handball through strong performances and numerous titles in regional and continental competitions.

Kuwait Club competed in the latest Asian Club League Handball Championship in June and has already secured qualification for the next edition. It will be joined by Burgan, the reigning Asian champions, as the two clubs continue to carry Kuwait’s flag in continental competition

Best of the Rest

Forever Young opens as the 2-1 favorite: Defending champion Forever Young opened as the 2-1 morning line favorite in a stacked field for the Breeders’ Cup Classic this weekend.

Post positions were drawn Monday for the 14 world championship races Friday and Saturday at Keeneland.

Forever Young has won two of his three races as a 5-year-old and is coming off romping in the Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup at Belmont Park on Sept. 18. Trainer Yoshito Yahagi at the time said he was only half-satisfied with the performance of Forever Young, the pride of Japan who beat 2024 Breeders’ Cup champion Sierra Leone in the Classic last year. (AP)

Dennis Hauger joins AJ Foyt Racing: IndyCar rookie of the year Dennis Hauger is joining AJ Foyt Racing.

The 23-year-old Norwegian signed a multiyear agreement starting in the 2027 season. He replaces Santino Ferrucci in the No. 14 Chevrolet.

“Dennis has accomplished a lot for someone who is only 23,” team president Larry Foyt said in a statement on Wednesday. “Every time he’s moved into something new, he’s adapted quickly and he’s won. Coming over here and winning in Indy NXT as a rookie certainly got everyone’s attention, and then we watched how he progressed through his rookie season in IndyCar.” (AP)

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NEWS



Kuwait Club player undergoes solo session.

Sports

Bahrain's Khalidiya faces UAE's Al-Wahda in Champions League Two

Kuwait Club aims to strengthen qualification hopes against Nasaf

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Kuwait Club aims to build on its winning momentum when it faces Uzbekistan's Nasaf Qarshi away today in the third round of the AFC Champions League Two group stage.

The Group B match kicks off at 4:45 pm at the Central Stadium in Qarshi, with Bahrain's Khalidiya meeting the UAE's Al-Wahda in the other fixture.

Kuwait Club enters the contest in second place with three points, having bounced back from a 2-0 opening defeat to Al-Wahda by beating Khalidiya 3-1 in the previous round. Al-Wahda lead the group with six points,

while Khalidiya and Nasaf have one point apiece.

The Kuwait Club heads into the match in impressive form, having scored 20 goals across its last three Zain Premier League outings. It also leads the domestic standings with 16 points.

Coach Firas Al-Khatib will look to translate that attacking strength into another continental victory as Kuwait Club seeks to strengthen its position in the race for qualification to the next round.

Al-Khatib has a balanced squad featuring experienced campaigners and emerging talents, including Ahmad Al-Dhafiri, Yousef Nasser, Redha Hani, Mohammed Dahham, Ali Hussein, Saud Al-Hawshan, Abdullah Al-Qarzaei, Sami Al-Sanea, Faisal Zayed and Amro Abdel

Fattah.

The squad also includes foreign professionals Yassine Khenissi of Tunisia, Mohammed Marhoon of Bahrain, Arsène "Malik" Zola of Congo, Omar Gonzalez of Cameroon and Mehdi Barrahma of Morocco.

However, Kuwait Club expects a tough challenge from Nasaf, who will be eager to make the most of home advantage and claim its first win in the competition. Another defeat would further complicate the Uzbek side's hopes of advancing to the next stage.

A Qatari refereeing team will oversee the encounter, with Abdulhadi Al-Ruwaili as the main referee, assisted by Yousef Aref and Zahi Sanad. Mohammed Al-Mazeed will serve as the fourth official.

Kane ends 25-year wait for English Ballon d'Or winner



England's soccer player Harry Kane holds the player of the year trophy during the Ballon d'Or ceremony at the London Palladium Theatre in London, England. (AP)

Putellas breaks Bonmati's dominance

LONDON, Oct 27, (AP): Harry Kane became the first Englishman in 25 years to win the Ballon d'Or thanks to his prolific scoring last season.

Kane scored 73 goals for club and country last campaign - he was Europe's top scorer - and smashed scoring records in Germany for Bayern Munich and at the World Cup, where he captained England to a third-place finish.

The 33-year-old Kane says winning the prestigious individual award was built on so much more.

"Anything is possible with hard work, when no one else is watching, to go through the ups and downs, to learn through resilience, determination and self-belief," an emotional Kane said in a message to young players, after reflecting on his early career struggles.

"My journey wasn't straightforward. I wasn't the kid who went straight to the top. I had to experience the downs," he added. "I had to fight my way to be the very best right now. I hope that can give you inspiration as well."

Kane was followed in the voting by Kylian Mbappé, Lamine Yamal - voted best young talent for a third straight year - 2024 winner Rodri and record eight-time winner Lionel Messi.

Kane thanked his teammates, coaches, parents, children - "It's past your bedtime" - and wife Kate, "my best friend. We've been through ups and downs for sure. You're my biggest supporter. You always want the best for me."

Kane led Bayern to the Bundesliga and German Cup double, scoring a hat trick against Stuttgart in the cup final. Bayern also reached the Champions League semifinals.

At the World Cup, he scored six times to pass Gary Lineker as England's all-time leading World Cup scorer and placed himself among the all-time top five in tournament history. His lineup lost to Argentina in the semifinals but beat Mbappé's France for third place, England's

best World Cup placing in 60 years.

An Englishman hadn't won the Ballon d'Or since Michael Owen in 2001.

"It's massive for England, for our country. (The ceremony) being here in London was a good omen for me," Kane said. "It's been too long. Certainly (there have been) incredible English players... To put us back on the map, to put us here with this trophy I'm extremely proud. Playing for England is my biggest honor, the thing I love to do the most."

England coach Thomas Tuchel told Kane the Three Lions are "lucky to have you as our leader."

"I ran out of superlatives to describe your performances a long time ago, but I'm delighted to see that you have now been formally recognized by the football world," Tuchel said.

Fans packed the streets and climbed light poles near the London Palladium, where the



Spain's London City Lionesses' Alexia Putellas wins the player of the year trophy during the Ballon d'Or ceremony at the London Palladium Theatre in London, England. (AP)

event was held, for a glimpse of the arriving athletes. Kane stopped to sign autographs on his way in.

They stayed through the ceremony and chanted Kane's name as he left the theater near Oxford Circus after midnight.

Kane planned to celebrate with family and friends, but just a little.

"We have a cup game on Wednesday so it can't get too messy," Kane said, noting he has an early Tuesday flight back to Munich in time for team training.

Monday's ceremony was held in London for the first time in recognition of the inaugural winner 70 years ago, England's Stanley Matthews in 1956.

Earlier, Spain star Alexia Putellas won her record-equaling third women's Ballon d'Or after leading her former club Barcelona to multiple trophies last season including the Women's Champions League.

Putellas, who joined London City Lionesses in the offseason, also helped Spain win the Women's Nations League last December.

The 32-year-old midfielder ended Spain teammate Aitana Bonmati's three-year reign.

Putellas won the prestigious award in 2021 and 2022, tore her ACL and saw Bonmati rise to stardom. Bonmati, who completed her women's Ballon d'Or three-peat in 2025, was not on this year's shortlist after breaking her leg in December.

There wasn't a women's Ballon d'Or until 2018, when Ada Hegerberg won it.

Putellas urged young players to approach the sport with "love and passion."

"Believe in yourself, that's the most important thing," she said. "If you have a dream, go for it, even if at some point you have to start from zero."

Putellas had joined Barcelona in 2012 and called her time at the Catalan club "something special."

"I'm really grateful for having 14 seasons as a player (at Barcelona)," she said. "What I experienced last year was like a perfect story."

Amiri Diwan Min. receives Abu Dhabi GPrix invitation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27, (KUNA): Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah received an invitation from UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to attend the Etihad Airways Formula 1 Grand Prix.

The invitation was delivered by UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Hamed Al-Neyadi.

Director of the Minister's Office, Sami Sulaiman Al-Mulla attended the meeting.



Amiri Diwan photo Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah receives the invitation.

Al-Shammari wins French International squash title

LILLE, France, Oct 27: Kuwait's Adnan Al-Shammari captured the Under-13 title at the French International Squash Championship, which concluded in Lille on Sunday, adding another international achievement to Kuwait's growing list of squash successes.

Al-Shammari secured the crown with a 3-1 victory over Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Al-Bakhit, the tournament's top seed, in the final.

Kuwait also celebrated another podium finish as Mohammed Al-Awadhi claimed third place.

Sagr Al-Kandari narrowly missed out on another medal after losing the third-place playoff to finish fourth, while Salman Al-Saleh's campaign ended prematurely due to an injury sustained in the quarterfinals.

The Kuwaiti delegation was led by national teams director Abdul-



Al-Shammari and Al-Awadhi take their places on the podium.

lah Al-Subaie and included technical director Shireen Adel and coach Ahmed Abdel-Aal.

Qadsia seeks Zain Premier League win

Al-Arabi begins new era under Nestorovic

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: The sixth round of the Zain Premier League wraps up Wednesday with two postponed fixtures, as Qadsia visits Al-Shabab at 7:50 pm and Al-Arabi hosts Fahaheel at 5:30 pm at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium.

The matches were rescheduled to accommodate Qadsia and Al-Arabi's commitments in the AFC Challenge League, where both teams concluded their campaigns last Friday.

Qadsia, who has nine points from four matches, will seek to maintain its winning momentum after sweeping all three of their Challenge League group games to reach the quarterfinals. It is set to face Lebanon's Ansar next March.

Coach Mohammed Ibrahim knows his side cannot afford to drop points if it is to remain in contention for the league title. Al-Shabab, who has seven points from

five games, will look to arrest its recent decline and return to winning ways.

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi begins a new chapter under Bosnian coach Darko Nestorovic, who joined the club earlier this week. The Green Castle has managed just three points from four league matches.

Nestorovic succeeds interim coach Mohammed Abdelnabi, who took charge on October 10 after Croatian Goran Sablic was dismissed following a poor start to the season. Abdelnabi's spell produced three draws — 1-1 against Kuwait Club and Kazma, and 3-3 against Sulaibikhat — before a 3-2 defeat to Jahra.

Al-Arabi supporters will be hoping the new coach can deliver the team's first victory of the campaign and turn around its disappointing start.

Fahaheel, meanwhile, arrive with nine points from five matches and will be aiming to exploit Al-Arabi's struggles and extend its winning streak to four games.