




Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group net profit rises 16.2% to KD 54.19 million in the first nine months of 2026

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Sheikh Nasser opens first 'French Week in Kuwait'

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PM pushes optimal use of Jleeb land



HH the PM chairs a meeting on Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh development at Bayan Palace on Tuesday.

PM Diwan photo

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired a meeting at Bayan Palace on Tuesday to discuss the development and reorganization of Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

The meeting reviewed efforts to optimize the use of state-owned land in the area, maximize its potential and align development with the country's strategic priorities.

Attendees included Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan; Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Mashari; Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait; Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem; Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq; Minister of Finance Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai; Acting Chief of the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Al-Khaled Al-Sabah; Fatwa and Legislation Department President Counselor Salah Al-Majed; and Kuwait Municipality Director General Eng. Manal Al-Asfour.



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Houthis act on behalf of Tehran and have been designated as a terrorist organization by the UN

The Houthis engaged in six separate conflicts with the Yemeni government

Tensions escalated between the Houthis and Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime

Abdul-Malik al-Houthi has repeatedly heightened tensions with the Arab coalition

The Houthis targeted the Red Sea and sought to gain control of the Bab al-Mandab Strait

An elderly woman noticed three elderly men with white beards sitting in her front yard

She invited them into her home, but they refused to enter until the head of the household returned

Wherever Love is present, Wealth and Success are sure to follow

During his travels, Alexander the Great came upon a city filled with the tombs of many kings

There, he found a young man descended from those kings who lived in solitude among the graves

Kuwait, Bahrain advance talks on coastal security coordination

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah discussed with Bahraini Coast Guard Commander Brig. Abdulrahman Al-Ruwai, ways to bolster cooperation in the field of coastal security and to share technical and operational expertise.

In a press statement issued on Wednesday, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior said that the discussion took place during a meeting held at the ministry's headquarters between Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef and the visiting Bahraini Coast Guard Commander.

Continued on Page 5



Ministry of Interior photo
Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah meets with Bahraini Coast Guard Commander Brig. Abdulrahman Al-Ruwai.

Kuwait rejects Houthi attacks, backs Saudi security measures

RIYADH, Oct 28, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met on Wednesday with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud during an official visit to Riyadh.

In a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh

Jarrah reiterated Kuwait's strong condemnation and denunciation of the terrorist attacks launched by the Houthi militia against regions in Saudi Arabia, including their targeted attempts against Makkah and Madinah.

Continued on Page 4



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo
Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah shakes hands with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud.

Sabah Al-Salem blitz reels in 43

Tickets, tows and takedowns

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Mubarak Al-Kabeer Security Directorate, in cooperation with the relevant authorities, conducted an extensive security campaign in Sabah Al-Salem to strengthen security, apprehend want-

ed individuals and lawbreakers, and enforce the law, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the campaign resulted in 212

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Day by Day

THE First Deputy Prime Minister should review the files of companies facing financial difficulties and investigate the underlying causes of their hardships.

These challenges often stem from ongoing regional instability and broader economic pressures affecting countries worldwide.

An empathetic intervention is essential to ensure business continuity and prevent further economic losses.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait lodges protest over Iranian embassy statement

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan, summoned Wednesday Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Totounji to hand him a note of protest regarding a statement issued by the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait.

The statement contained a blatant interference in Kuwait's internal affairs, infringing upon its sovereignty, and challenged the independence of its judiciary, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said in a press release, terming this as an

obvious violation of international laws and norms.

The Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister reiterated Kuwait's emphatic rejection and condemnation of any interference in judicial rulings issued by its national courts.

He called on the Iranian side to adhere to international law and the United Nations Charter, particularly the principles of good neighborliness and non-interference in states' domestic affairs, as well as the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo
Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan with Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Totounji.

Commerce shuts down 'cash trap'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has shut down a company engaged in the direct trading of currencies and precious metals after discovering that it was conducting electronic trading activities without the required license, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the ministry explained that the company created trading accounts for clients but prevented

Continued on Page 5

New clinic for elderly opens

Minister draws line on co-op misconduct

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah confirmed that the recent selection of the board members of some cooperative societies is in accordance with Article 35 of the relevant law.

This step aims to improve current conditions, rectify violations, and intensify oversight and governance to protect the assets of shareholders and rights of consumers.

In a meeting with the newly appointed board members on

Continued on Page 5



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq
Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah during the inauguration of the first physical therapy clinic under the mobile elderly care service.

Kuwait in eye of global oil storm

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: As the global economy grapples with a severe energy crisis that has weighed heavily on Europe and triggered significant political and economic turmoil, Kuwait's oil sector has emerged as a key strategic player in stabilizing international markets.

Meanwhile, the ongoing regional conflict, now in its eighth month, has placed unprecedented pressure on global supply chains.

In this regard, Sultan Al-Jazzaf, an economic expert and member of the Kuwait

Continued on Page 5



Al-Jazzaf



Gulf Bank equips its leaders to stay ahead of cyber fraud



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Kuwaiti leaders greet Czechia on national day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (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 Wednesday

day to Czech President Petr Pavel on the occasion of the Czech Republic's Independence Day.

In their messages, the Kuwaiti leaders wished President Pavel good health and wellbeing, and expressed hopes for continued progress, prosperity, and stability for the Czech Republic and its people.

Kuwait organizes fourth Kuwaiti-UAE Consular Committee session

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti-UAE Consular Committee explored ways to promote consular cooperation and develop mechanisms for joint coordination in a way that helps facilitate procedures and services provided to the citizens of both nations.

The discussion came during the joint committee's fourth session hosted by the State of Kuwait on Wednesday.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, represented by its Consular Affairs Department, hosted the committee's meeting, which was attended by five relevant government entities from both sides.

The discussions addressed a range of topics falling under the purview of the concerned ministries and institutions in both countries, mainly the ministries of interior, health, justice, and higher education.

In a statement to KUNA, Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs Aziz Al-Daihani said that the meeting was held in a positive atmosphere, reflecting the strength and depth of the fraternal relations between Kuwait and the UAE.

He added that Kuwaiti-UAE relations enjoy the care and support of both countries' leaderships, based on firm historical ties and a shared destiny within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) framework.

He added that the significance of the joint consular committee lies in providing a direct platform for coordination between both countries' competent authorities to tackle consular issues and matters and formulate shared visions that develop services provided to citizens and bolster work mechanisms and cooperation.

Highlighting endowment role

Kuwait, Maldives discuss Islamic affairs cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi discussed Wednesday with Maldivian Minister of Islamic Affairs, Awqaf, and Special Envoy Dr. Mohammad Shaheem Ali Saeed ways to enhance ties and expand joint cooperation in Islamic and endowment affairs.

Kuwait's Ministry of Awqaf said in a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the discussion focused on developing endowment management, exchanging expertise in resource investment, and highlighting Kuwait's successful experience in supporting public benefit initiatives.

Dr. Al-Wasmi underscored Kuwait's commitment to strengthening cooperation with the Maldives and leveraging

successful practices to boost institutional efficiency, ensure resource sustainability, and maximize societal impact.

He emphasized that endowment work is a vital pillar for community development through knowledge-sharing and strategic partnerships.

Meanwhile, Dr. Shaheem commended Kuwait's leading role in supporting Islamic and endowment initiatives, expressing his country's eagerness to benefit from Kuwait's expertise.

The meeting was attended by the Maldivian Assistant Minister of Islamic Affairs and Awqaf Mohamed Naseel, Acting Secretary General of Kuwait's Awqaf Public Foundation Eng. Jenan Al-Zamel, and Acting Deputy Secretary General Eng. Nasser Al-Khader.

Kuwait's FM, State Street chief review investment cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Wednesday State Street Chairman and CEO Ronald O'Hanley on his visit to

Kuwait. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the meeting reviewed prospects for joint cooperation and exchanged views on the global economic situation.

Other Voices

Dr. Luke and knee pain

By Ahmad alsarraf

AFTER experiencing knee pain, I consulted a doctor and began researching ways to manage the condition and live with it. I wanted to understand the best approach to treatment, whether through medication, rest, or surgery.

My search led me to Dr. Howard Luke, a renowned American orthopedic surgeon with nearly 30 years of experience. His medical philosophy is based on the belief that our joints, particularly the knees, can remain strong and functional throughout life if we care for and maintain them properly.

Dr. Luke believes that knee pain, stiffness, tissue tears, and even osteoarthritis should not necessarily limit our mobility or prevent us from enjoying our favourite activities.

Experiencing these conditions does not automatically mean that we are simply getting older. Instead, it may be a sign that we need to reassess certain aspects of our lifestyle, stay active, and keep moving.

A tear in the meniscus, which acts as a cushion between the bones of the knee, does not necessarily lead to inflammation. Even if inflammation develops, it will not inevitably progress to bone-on-bone friction. And even if it reaches that stage, it does not always mean you must limit your physical activity. Some patients with bone-on-bone osteoarthritis continue to run despite their condition.

But don't running, walking and other high-impact activities wear down the cartilage? According to Dr. Luke, the answer is no.

Movement and regular knee use do not necessarily wear down cartilage. On the contrary, movement helps nourish it. Cartilage does not receive nutrients directly from the blood; instead, it relies on synovial fluid, the thick, lubricating fluid inside the knee joint.

With each step, the knee bends and bears weight, helping distribute synovial fluid around and through

the cartilage, delivering essential nutrients that help maintain its health.

This movement stimulates cellular processes that promote collagen production and help cartilage repair itself.

In other words, using your knees and keeping them moving can help maintain their health.

One of the biggest mistakes people with knee pain can make is stopping physical activity altogether. Prolonged rest may do more harm than good.

Most cases of knee osteoarthritis are not caused solely by wear and tear, although this can contribute in some instances. Knee injuries, such as a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), can alter a person's gait, contributing to wear and tear that eventually leads to osteoarthritis.

Genetics also plays a role, although studies suggest that its influence varies.

Surprisingly, excess weight is not the only factor behind osteoarthritis. Although being overweight can increase the risk, particularly in weight-bearing joints such as the knees, obesity is also associated with a higher risk of osteoarthritis in the hands. This suggests that the condition cannot be explained by excess weight alone.

So, what can we do to prevent or manage knee pain?

My first recommendation to patients is to start with a 10-minute daily walk and incorporate exercises that strengthen the muscles supporting the joints. If possible, I encourage them to gradually increase their walking time to 30-60 minutes a day.

Walking can be like medicine for people with osteoarthritis. It can improve metabolic health, help reduce inflammation, and alleviate pain. However, some people worry that exercise will cause pain or worsen their joint condition.

Although certain exercises may feel strenuous or uncomfortable, this does not necessarily mean they are beyond a person's capabilities or that they will damage the cartilage.

It is possible to experience discomfort during physical activity without causing further harm. Getting older does not mean losing the ability to exercise, adapt, build strength, and improve physical fitness.



email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:39 Asr 14:41
Sunrise .. 05:59 Maghrib .. 17:05
Zohr 11:32 Isha 18:25

Kuwait reaffirms support for UN

Sheikh Jarrah calls for stronger multilateral cooperation

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah stated that diplomacy is the pillar of maintaining peace, preventing conflicts, bridging different perspectives and building trust among nations, even under the most complex circumstances.

Speaking on the occasion of United Nations Day -- observed annually on Oct 24, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber said this year's theme, "The Power of Diplomacy," carries special significance due to the overlapping crises, ongoing conflicts and escalating geopolitical tensions.

He explained that the effectiveness of diplomacy depends on adherence to the United Nations Charter and international law, along with efforts to strengthen a multilateral system that provides the framework for resolving disputes and safeguarding the rights and interests of countries.

He asserted that diplomacy is not just about the management of relations between states, as it is an essential instrument for preserving peace, preventing conflicts, and promoting international dialogue and cooperation.

He said since its establishment in 1945, the United Nations has been playing a crucial role in maintaining international peace and security, promoting sustainable development, protecting human rights, and strengthening dialogue and cooperation among nations. He added that the United Nations remains the cornerstone of collective international action up to this day.

He indicated that, for Kuwait, the "power of diplomacy" is not just a theoretical concept, but a fundamental tenet of its national identity and foreign policy. He pointed out that since joining the United Nations in 1963, Kuwait has consistently maintained that global security and stability depend on an international order, which respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and upholds the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs.

He stated that Kuwait follows a balanced foreign policy based on dialogue and mediation, greatly contributing to the resolution of regional and international crises and containing tensions for decades. He stressed that these efforts have sometimes been conducted publicly and, at other times, behind the scenes.

He cited the partnership between Kuwait and the United Nations, highlighting the position adopted by the international organization, particularly the Security Council, after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

He pointed out that the international community's commitment to the principles of justice played a crucial role in Kuwait's liberation and the restoration of its sovereignty in 1991, marking one of the most notable success stories of the United Nations.

Regarding cooperation between Kuwait and the United Nations, he re-



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq
Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, UN Resident Coordinator Ghada Al-Taher and diplomatic representatives attend the UN Day ceremony in Kuwait, held under the theme "The Power of Diplomacy," reaffirming the importance of dialogue, multilateral cooperation and international peace.

vealed that the partnership, which spans more than six decades, has produced important humanitarian and developmental initiatives aimed at supporting communities affected by conflicts and disasters.

He emphasized that humanitarian diplomacy is deeply rooted in the national identity of Kuwait, citing the establishment of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in 1961 as a prominent example.

He added that, under the leadership of HH the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Kuwait will remain an active and reliable partner of the United Nations, continuing to support international multilateralism and humanitarian efforts aimed at achieving

peace and stability.

On the other hand, Ghada Al-Taher, Representative of the United Nations Secretary General and Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, affirmed that diplomacy is a strategic choice and a vital tool for preventing conflicts, containing crises and building peace. She underscored the importance of dialogue, international cooperation and respect for international law, particularly in light of mounting global challenges.

She stated that 81 years after the founding of the United Nations, the world continues to need stronger multilateral cooperation and a greater emphasis on dialogue.

She added that true strength lies in preventing conflicts and protecting civilians, indicating that women, children and the elderly bear the heaviest

burden of such conflicts.

She commended Kuwait's contributions to multilateral action, as well as its support for mediation and humanitarian diplomacy. She pointed out that Kuwaiti development aid has reached more than 100 countries over the past six decades.

She also called to mind the legacy of HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, whom the United Nations honored with the designation "Humanitarian Leader" in recognition of his contributions.

She congratulated Kuwait on its reelection to the Human Rights Council, expressing the United Nations' anticipation of continuous joint efforts to promote human rights, advance decent work, and protect all segments of society.

Treaty to close gaps in elderly rights

Kuwait calls for UN convention to protect older persons

GENEVA, Oct 28, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait affirmed Tuesday its full support for international efforts aimed at drafting a legally binding treaty to protect and safeguard the human rights of older persons globally.

Speaking at the opening of the second session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Human Rights of Older Persons, held at the UN headquarters in Geneva from October 26 to 30, Third Secretary in the Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Department Hanan Sulaiman Al-Sultan stressed that such an instrument is crucial to closing existing protection gaps.

Al-Sultan emphasized that the proposed treaty must be grounded in a comprehensive human rights framework.

She noted that it should clearly delineate state responsibilities to respect, protect, and fulfill the rights of older persons while respecting national legislative diversity and legal enforceability.

The Kuwaiti diplomat highlighted the necessity of explicit legal safeguards to

shield older persons from violence, neglect, and exploitation.

She called for guarantees preserving their autonomy, legal capacity, right to healthcare, social protection, access to justice, and specialized care during emergency crises and digital transformation challenges.

Reviewing Kuwait's domestic advancements, Al-Sultan cited the completion of a national strategy for older persons developed in partnership with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), alongside bolstered institutional monitoring mechanisms.

She urged leveraging existing national and multilateral frameworks for treaty implementation to prevent reporting duplication, while prioritizing international technical cooperation and capacity-building.

Al-Sultan expressed Kuwait's optimism that consensus-driven negotiations in Geneva will yield a balanced international convention establishing enforceable obligations to protect older persons worldwide.

Ministry focuses on training, jobs, and food security

Kuwait to digitize social services under 2035 plan

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Ministry of Social Affairs intensified its field and planning efforts to implement its comprehensive 2035 development strategy in order to establish alliances with civil society organizations and platforms for youths and volunteer initiatives.

Reliable sources told the newspaper that the ministry is keen on supporting young national talent and volunteers in the social welfare system.

Sources said the ministry intend to achieve all the objectives in its 2035 strategy, which focuses on seven essential areas as follows: adoption of best

practices to develop sectors and the workforce while providing the best services as per the standards, promotion of legislative and advisory initiatives within a strong legal framework, reinforcement of collaboration with civil society organizations to support youth and volunteer-led projects in social welfare, emphasizing the importance of civil society organizations and their contributions to a unified society, empowerment of individuals and families through training and qualifications to ease their transition into the labor market, digitalization of sectors and services to promote sustainable governance, increasing joint initiatives and improving food security. Sources said these objectives will change the approach from a tradition-

al model based on consumption-oriented welfare to empowerment and active production.

Sources added that such a transition will ensure the long-term social and financial well-being of the state, while easing the burdens on the public budget by transforming dependent groups into productive and economically independent individuals.

Sources also indicated that the full digitization and automation of services are not just about simplifying procedures, as they are considered a qualitative leap toward instilling transparency, fairness and combating administrative corruption, while accelerating the fulfillment of citizens' needs in accordance with the requirements of sustainable governance.

PAM announces new leadership appointments

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has issued a number of decisions to rotate and appoint several officials to supervisory positions, including directors and controllers among various departments.

The appointments include the following:

- Jaber Al-Ali as Director of the Ahmadi Labor Department
- Rashid Al-Sharaki as Director of the Jahra Labor Department

- Mohammed Al-Otaibi as Director of the Capital Labor Department
- Sarah Al-Hajri as Director of the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Labor Department
- Fahad Al-Ajmi as Director of the Hawally Labor Department
- Meshal Al-Azmi as Director of the Labor Inspection Department
- Abdullah Al-Rashidi as Director of the International Relations Department
- Fahad Al-Murad as Director of the Trade Union Organizations Department
- Tahani Al-Mutairi as Controller of the Technical Support Department
- Dhuha Al-Shuwailan as Controller of the Employment Department.

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



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His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah inaugurates the first French Week in Kuwait at Assimah Mall on Wednesday, attended by French Ambassador Olivier Gauvin, Organizing Committee Chairman Ahmad Ismail Behbehani, diplomats and prominent public figures.



Sheikh Nasser opens first ‘French Week in Kuwait’

Kuwait, France turn 65-year bond into new opportunities

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah inaugurated the first ‘French Week in Kuwait’ at the Assimah Mall on Wednesday.

The theme of the event is “France in Kuwait”, and it is under the gracious patronage of Sheikh Nasser.

Several ambassadors, heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions, and prominent public figures attended the event.

Sheikh Nasser visited the exhibition pavilions, featuring French institutions and companies in different sectors.

The event aims to showcase French expertise and strengths in various fields, such as culture, automotive, high-tech industries and organizational development, with the participation of renowned global brands.

Ambassador of the French Republic to Kuwait, Olivier Gauvin emphasized that the launching of the exhibition reflects the strength and depth of the partnership between the two nations—



Photos from the event.

a partnership built on decades of cooperation that continues to evolve, promoting prosperity and security, while serving mutual interests.

Gauvin indicated that the exhibition highlights the extensive scope of bilateral cooperation, including trade,

investment, education, culture, defense and modern technologies.

He said French companies continue to contribute their expertise and innovative solutions in several priority sectors in Kuwait, while Kuwaiti investors and institutions maintain val-



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

ued presence in the dynamic French economy.

He affirmed that educational and cultural ties remain at the core of this partnership, growing ever stronger, thanks to the continuous interest of Kuwaiti students, families and visitors

who consider France a preferred destination.

He expressed his appreciation for the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nasser, and commended the tremendous efforts exerted by Chairman of the Organizing Committee Ahmad Is-

mail Behbehani and his team.

In addition, Behbehani stressed that holding this important event under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nasser has exceptional importance in strengthening Kuwaiti-French relations—a significance further underscored by the fact that it coincides with the celebration of 65 years of strong diplomatic ties.

He stated that bilateral relations are currently at the peak, bolstered by support from the political leaders in both nations.

He said this is exemplified by the historic visit of HH the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to France last year, followed by the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to Kuwait this month.

He stressed the importance of regularly hosting joint events, as they provide added value by opening new horizons for cooperation, solidifying cultural and economic bonds, and supporting the shared journey towards the growth, stability and prosperity of the two friendly nations.

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Kuwait opens ‘fully funded’ study missions for educators

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Ministry of Education has announced the opening of applications for its employees to pursue fully funded study missions or unpaid study leaves to complete a bachelor’s degree for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Eligible employees should submit their applications through the ‘Taa’ platform on the official website of the ministry on or before Nov 7.

Applications must align with approved plans and specializations, as well as the regulations governing study missions and leaves.

Applicants may edit, cancel or resubmit their applications during the registration period, but these options will be disabled two days before the registration deadline.

Kuwait University offers study leave in eight specializations -- Mathematics, Physics, Geology, Biology, English, Arabic, Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence. Applicants must hold a high school diploma or its equivalent issued not more than two years ago.

An application will be voided if the chosen specialization is unavailable or if the applicant fails to meet the university’s admission and registration requirements.

The College of Basic Education offers four specializations -- Mathematics, English, Arabic and Music Education.

For male applicants, the minimum required grade point average is 70 percent for recently obtained diplomas and 80

percent for older ones. For female applicants, the requirement is 75 percent for recently obtained diplomas and 80 percent for older ones.

Admission depends on the number of seats authorized by the college, as well as the relevant circulars issued by the Dean-ship of Admission and Registration.

This is in addition to fully funded scholarships and unpaid leave for employees to pursue a bachelor’s degree at private universities in and outside the county. These opportunities cover 11 specializations -- Mathematics, Physics, Geology, Biology, English, Arabic, Philosophy, Music Education, Accounting, Artificial Intelligence and Computer Information Systems.

Admission is subject to general criteria, ministry regulations, and requirements of the chosen academic institution. Applications will be voided if a specialization is unavailable or if the applicant fails to meet the admission and registration requirements of the concerned institution.

On scholarship for employees with disabilities, applicants are exempt from the requirements regarding length of service and fields of study. However, they must still comply with all other regulatory provisions and provide the most recent certificate issued by the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA).

The ministry advised individuals who have inquiries or encounter technical issues during the registration process to visit the General Department for Development and Training in Jabriya (Block 2, Street 105, opposite Fahad Al-Duwairi High School).

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait rejects

He underlined that these aggressive acts constitute a blatant violation of Saudi sovereignty, international law, and international humanitarian law, as well as a direct insult to the sanctity of Islamic holy sites and a provocation to Muslims worldwide.

Sheikh Jarrah emphasized that the systematic targeting of civilian objects and vital infrastructure represents a dangerous escalation threatening Saudi security, regional stability, civilian safety, and air navigation security.

He called for a firm international stance to hold those responsible accountable.

Furthermore, Sheikh Jarrah affirmed Kuwait’s full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its support for all measures taken to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and stability, reiterating that Saudi Arabia’s security is an integral part of the security of Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

During the meeting, both ministers reviewed the deep-rooted historical ties between the two nations, underscoring their shared commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation and strategic co-

ordination in line with the directives of both leaderships.

They also discussed the latest regional developments, stressing the vital importance of continued Kuwaiti-Saudi consultation to confront regional challenges and reinforce security and stability based on their shared destiny and mutual interests.

Meanwhile, the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen announced Tuesday that its air defense forces intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by the terrorist Houthi militia toward the city of Taif in western Saudi Arabia.

Official spokesperson for the Coalition Forces, Major General Turki Al-Malki, confirmed the successful operational defense in a brief statement published via his official account on social media platform X.

On Tuesday, the Saudi Civil Defense said that there was material damage to a building, a project under construction and a vehicle due to falling shrapnel from two ballistic missiles after the missiles were intercepted and destroyed.

The two ballistic missiles were launched by the terrorist Houthi militia, it said in a press release, adding that teams followed relevant standard procedures.

hala@halakw.com

America

Hunter Biden laptop issue resurfaces: A federal judge on Tuesday scolded prosecutors for their unorthodox handling of a criminal case against two former FBI officials accused of making false statements to Congress about their knowledge of a laptop the Justice Department says belonged to Hunter Biden, the son of former President Joe Biden.

US Magistrate Zia Faruqi rejected an amended criminal complaint filed overnight by the Justice Department that added a new obstruction charge against the two former officials, Nikki Floris and Bradley Benavides, after concluding that it was improperly submitted. Such charging documents require sign-off from a judge that probable cause exists to believe a crime was committed by a defendant, but this complaint was filed to the docket with no court approval. (AP)

□ □ □

Supreme Court declines to intervene: The Supreme Court declined to intervene Tuesday in a dispute over a Biden-era immigration regulation that allowed immigration judges to pause some deportation proceedings.

The high court turned down a request from Democratic-led cities who say the rule was used to help crime victims and neglected juveniles and should be revived. Texas and the Trump administration agreed to a court order blocking the regulation after the state sued. Texas alleged that the practice called admin-

istrative closure was dramatically expanded under former President Joe Biden and effectively allowed people to stay in the country indefinitely. (AP)

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Georgia Republican gets 15 years: A prominent Georgia Republican who ran a Ponzi scheme that federal prosecutors said caused losses of more than \$76 million to more than 300 victims has been sentenced to spend 15 years in federal prison.

Edwin Brant Frost IV, 69, had pleaded guilty in May to a charge of wire fraud that resulted from an investigation that began after First Liberty Building and Loan collapsed in June 2025. Frost, who has publicly apologized for his role, was also ordered to pay more than \$76 million in restitution. (AP)

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3 held in shooting plot in metro Atlanta: Three people, including two juveniles, have been arrested in connection with an alleged plot to carry out a shooting at a high school in metro Atlanta, authorities said Tuesday.

The announcement comes less than two weeks after a 16-year-old boy killed three children and a teacher in a shooting at Silver Rail Elementary School in central Oregon.

The FBI discovered threatening posts online from one of the trio and worked with local police to make the arrests on Oct. 20 and 23, apprehending two in Georgia and the third in California, the Canton Police Department said in a news release. They found weapons and ammunition. (AP)



The Supreme Court building is seen on the morning after the conservative majority sided with the Trump administration in a case over President Donald Trump’s executive order restricting mail-in voting, on Capitol Hill in Washington on Aug 25. (AP)

Trump makes last-minute push to keep state in GOP hands

Libertarians could spoil Republicans’ chances in fight for control of US Senate

DES MOINES, Iowa, Oct 28, (AP): Republicans are worried that Libertarian candidates could siphon away votes in some of this year’s most consequential US Senate elections, potentially costing them control of the chamber.

It’s a particular concern in Texas, Ohio, Kansas and Iowa, which are bracing for razor-thin contests in which even a few percentage points for a third party can be enough to swing the outcome.

Although all of those states lean Republican, a number of party strategists say unhappiness with President Donald Trump could lead some conservatives to cast protest ballots. An unpopular war with Iran and Trump’s expansion of executive power - two issues that grate on an anti-establishment slice of the American right - could fuel the Libertarian Party’s message of nonintervention and limited centralized authority.

“Libertarians, we believe, could draw enough votes to affect the outcome in a number of these races,” said Republican former Ohio state lawmaker Gene Krebs, who is working on a project to diminish the impact of spoiler candidates.

Republican Senate campaign officials said they were less concerned about Iowa, where Libertarians are not a regular presence on the ballot, than they are about Ohio, Kansas and Texas. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal strategy.

In Ohio, former Libertarian Party national chairman Bill Redpath is running against Republican Sen. Jon Husted and Democratic former Sen. Sherrod Brown.

“The Libertarian can easily pull enough votes away from the Republican so that the Democrat wins,” Krebs said.

Third parties could work against Democrats, too. An organization with Republican ties has distributed fliers promoting a socialist candidate, an apparent effort to pull support away from Brown. Enough Promises Ohio PAC, which sent out the fliers, received \$2.5 million from Conservative Americans PAC, according to federal disclosure reports.

Libertarian David Graham is running in Kansas, where Republican Sen. Roger Marshall is locked in a close race with Democrat Adam Hamilton.

This is Graham’s second campaign. He received 3% of the vote in a race Republican Sen. Jerry Moran won by 23 percentage points.

In Texas, Libertarian Ted Brown received only 2.3% of the vote in 2024, when Republican Sen. Ted Cruz easily glided to another term. However, the race is tighter this year, with Democratic nominee James Talarico facing off with Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.



Attendees listen as Republican US Senate candidate Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton speaks at an event kicking off his campaign’s bus tour during an event at the Rockwall Municipal Airport on Oct 17, in Rockwall, Texas. (AP)

Wayne Hamilton, a former executive director of the Texas Republican Party, said Paxton’s history of legal and ethical problems could have some conservatives looking for another choice.

“Nobody’s voting for the Libertarian. It’s a protest vote,” Hamilton said. “They are going to be voting that way because they don’t want to vote for Paxton, and this is an option.”

Brown is a former insurance adjuster from California who has been a long-time activist in the Libertarian Party going back to supporting Ron Paul’s presidential campaign in 1988. He said some conservative voters have turned on Trump.

“Some libertarians supported him thinking he was an anti-war candidate. And that’s where he’s lost them,” Brown said. “But my view and a lot of libertarians’ view is that separation of powers is very important. This president has seized way too much power in this imperial presidency.”

Meanwhile, Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico on Tuesday decried a “corruption crisis” he says is plaguing the US political system, competing for the spotlight with President Donald Trump in deeply conservative West Texas ahead of next week’s midterm elections.

Trump was in Texas for the third time in a month in a last-minute push to back Republican Ken Paxton and block Democrats from notching their first statewide election victory in more than three decades.

Talarico took the stage in Lubbock an hour after Trump wrapped up his own speech across town. A seminarian and a former teacher, Talarico reached for metaphors from both the Bible and a famous Texas pastime - Friday night football - to cast himself as an underdog against powerful forces including Trump and Elon Musk, who is bankrolling attack ads against Talarico on Paxton’s behalf.

“We’re going to shock the nation and shock the world when we beat the billionaires and take back Texas,” Talarico said.

Moments earlier, Trump leaned into cultural issues to portray Talarico as too liberal for Texas.

“He doesn’t represent your values, and we can’t take a chance,” Trump said.

Trump won Lubbock County by 40 points in 2024, and won most of the other counties in West Texas by far more. Republicans hope the president’s visit will motivate his staunch supporters to vote. The president spoke earlier in Corpus Christi, on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

As Trump’s war in Iran spikes gas prices and adds pressure on Republican candidates across the U.S., he sought to highlight an earlier military operation in Venezuela. Secretary of State Marco Rubio briefly appeared onstage with Trump, who used the trip in part to highlight the arrangement made with Venezuela to process more of its crude oil in Texas refineries.

Trump is entering the final week of his last midterms in a frenzied push to shore up Republican strongholds against unusually competitive Democratic candidates. Beyond Texas, he swung through Mississippi, Michigan, Georgia, Florida and Iowa over the past week, and his next stops are Ohio, South Carolina, Florida, Kansas and Iowa again.

He won all of these states in 2024.

The campaign marathon is a bet that while Trump is broadly unpopular, he still holds sway over the GOP’s most loyal voters - a bloc whose participation in the elections will be critical.

The strategy is facing its fiercest test in Texas, where Talarico has capitalized on the difficult political environment for Republicans and Paxton’s history of ethical and legal problems.

Ceasefire in Russian-occupied Ukraine city holds for first 30 hours

KHERSON, Ukraine, Oct 28, (AP): A planned six-day ceasefire in and around a Russian-occupied city in southern Ukraine held for its first day and night, officials said Wednesday, but Moscow and Kyiv continued to batter each other elsewhere.

The localized truce in the devastated southern city of Oleshky began Tuesday and is due to last through Sunday as a humanitarian operation races to get urgently needed food and medicine to about 2,000 remaining residents, as well as evacuate those who want to leave.

If the ceasefire holds, it will be the first time since Russia’s invasion of its neighbor more than 4 ½ years ago that the two sides have observed a significant truce. Previous attempts to stop the fighting have either failed to take hold or quickly unraveled amid deep mistrust.

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

Russia’s occupying forces impose strict limits on who can enter Oleshky, and there was no news on how the humanitarian operation was unfolding.

Russia’s ombudsperson Yana Lantratova and Ukraine’s human rights ombudsperson Dmytro Lubinets both said Wednesday there had been no ceasefire violations in Oleshky for 30 hours.



Firefighters put out a fire in a residential neighbourhood following Russia’s air attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Oct 28. (AP)

The plight of the city in Ukraine’s southern Kherson region caught the attention of US First Lady Melania Trump, and the White House said she brokered the humanitarian mission.

Pope Leo XIV also spoke this month with presidents Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine and Vladimir Putin of Russia, urging them to allow humanitarian aid into Oleshky and the safe evacuation of civilians, the Vatican said.

Both Ukrainian and Russian officials, eager to win US President Donald Trump’s approval as he

pushes for an elusive peace settlement, thanked Melania Trump for her role.

The ceasefire coincided with US-led plans to bring Moscow and Kyiv officials back to the table next month for technical talks on how to move forward on ending the war, even though neither side shows signs of backing down from their key demands.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, speaking in Helsinki on Wednesday, said Kyiv “will never accept any formula at the cost of our sovereignty or territorial integrity.”

PM reignites Britain’s divisive Brexit debate

LONDON, Oct 28, (AP): For a decade, British governments have observed a cardinal rule: Don’t mention Brexit. In particular, don’t suggest that voters’ 2016 decision to leave the European Union should be reversed.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham, who marked his 100th day in office on Tuesday, has broken that code of silence and reignited a debate that bitterly divided the country. He says Brexit has been a failure and the UK should seek a much closer relationship with the EU, with options up to and including rejoining the 27-nation bloc.

“I am positive about closer ties with Europe and I’m not hiding that,” Burnham told the Sunday Times. “I think it will add to British GDP. I think it will give us stronger control of migration. I want to make those arguments.”

In recent interviews, Burnham has said the country should have an “evidence-based debate” about the consequences of Brexit.



Britain’s Prime Minister Andy Burnham leaves 10 Downing Street to attend the weekly Prime Ministers’ Questions session in parliament in London on Oct 28. (AP)



Emergency services work at the scene of a collision between two trains in Urda, Spain on Oct 28. (AP)

Spain train disaster leaves 68 dead

URDA, Spain, Oct 28, (AP): One high-speed Spanish train slammed into another that had stopped on the tracks Wednesday, killing at least 68 people and shredding carriages in the country’s second deadly rail collision this year.

The regional government for Castilla La Mancha confirmed the death toll and said another 58 people needed medical treatment in hospital. Rescue workers continue to search in the wreckage for survivors and bodies.

The accident comes with memories still fresh of another crash between high-speed trains in southern Spain in January involving trains from the same two companies.

Spain’s rail system operator ADIF said the crash occurred Wednesday morning in the province of Toledo, involving two high-speed trains carrying hundreds of passengers and heading in the same direction from the capital Madrid to Seville in southwestern Spain.

One train, run by the state-owned RENFE company, ran into the tail of the other train owned by private company IRYO that had stopped, knocking two of its cars off the track in a rural area between two villages.

David Gómez, a construction worker, was working with his brother and another colleague nearby when they heard the crash and ran to help, he told the newspaper El País.

“People were trying to get out through the windows ... We cut through some fences to access the

area and treated people with the first-aid kits we had brought,” until emergency services arrived, he said. “As I was trying to pull a young woman out, there was a piece of a leg.”

Rail service was suspended between Madrid, Ciudad Real and Andalusia.

Until this year, there had been no fatal crash on Spain’s dedicated high-speed lines since the network opened in 1992. It was a source of national pride.

Spain’s Transport Minister Óscar Puente said that the accident was caused by what he called the “inexplicable” order from a central command center for Spain’s trains after a security system had failed. He said the train engineers were not to blame.

Puente said that at 8:30 a.m. the security system on a stretch of 63 kilometers (39 miles) stopped working due to a computer malfunction, causing all trains on that stretch to stop. But the central command told the RENFE train to start running again without any speed restrictions, and it ended up colliding with the stopped IRYO train at 8:53 a.m.

Puente said that the train should never have been told to start moving again since there was still a “stop signal” active that line. And if it had, at least it should have been told to go at reduced speed.

Puente said they were still studying information to see how fast the train was going, but it could have been at 200 kph (124 mph) for that

stretch of the track.

“I am not attributing responsibility to anyone, I am just stating the facts,” Puente said.

The crash, which occurred in a flat stretch surrounded by olive fields in between the towns of Urda and Los Yébenes, left one car torn into bits of metal and other material, scattering debris down a gravel slope.

Spanish Health Minister Mónica García said that emergency workers were focusing on rescuing survivors and bodies from the two most damaged train cars. She said that the injured are being sent to different hospitals in the area.

“It was a high-speed impact, so we are expecting this to be a tragedy,” García said.

Passenger Ignacio Relafío was traveling on the RENFE train. He told state broadcaster TVE that the train had stopped momentarily on the line before it started again and then crashed into the IRYO.

“We all felt the train abruptly slowing down and then the impact,” he said. “The car leaned to one side like it was about to tip over. I hit my nose, everything went flying, luggage, cell phones. Everything shook.”

Another passenger recounted to Cadena Ser radio how she felt the train slam on the brakes and was thrown forward in her seat, breaking the small table in front of her. She said she saw body parts and trapped people covered in blood.

Nepal’s disaster agency warns of heavy rain

Cyclone Arnab hits India’s Andhra Pradesh state as tens of thousands evacuated

KAKINADA, India, Oct 28, (Agencies): Cyclone Arnab dumped heavy rain across India ’s eastern Andra Pradesh state and caused extensive damage in some areas Wednesday after tens of thousands of people were evacuated from vulnerable coastal areas.

Prakhar Jain, head of the state’s disaster management authority, said the cyclone had weakened slightly before landfall earlier in the day but brought heavy to very heavy rainfall to several coastal districts, triggering widespread disruption in affected areas. No casualties were reported and damage was being assessed.

State disaster management officials said late Wednesday morning that wind speeds were up to 135 kph (84 mph).

Officials said the cyclone was expected to weaken further as it moved inland, with wind speeds likely to ease later in the day.

The cyclone left a trail of destruction across the state’s fertile Konaseema district, which officials said was the worst hit so far.

Banana and coconut plantations suffered extensively and a large number of trees and electricity poles were uprooted, disrupting electricity across the district, officials said.

Fallen trees blocked several roads, and disaster management workers rushed to clear roads and restore connectivity. About 6,000 electric poles were uprooted in Konaseema alone, officials said.

The India Meteorological Department said the landfall process was complete and heavy rainfall as well as strong winds would continue under the cyclone’s influence in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and parts of southern Odisha state. The rainfall flooded several low-lying areas of the port city of Visakhapatnam.

Cyclone Arnab weakened to a “severe” cyclonic storm Wednesday, the department said in an update.

Arnab’s outer bands first began lashing parts of the Andhra Pradesh coast late Tuesday as the storm intensified over the Bay of Bengal and moved toward an earlier-than-expected landfall.



Fishermen pull a piece of wood from coastal backwaters near anchored boats at Kakinada, India, as Cyclone Arnab crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast in the early hours on Oct 28. (AP)

Authorities began evacuating people from low-lying and flood-prone areas ahead of the cyclone’s landfall. They also canceled some train services as heavy rain and gusty winds started lashing parts of the coast. At least 89,000 people were evacuated in Andhra Pradesh, according to an official statement.

The state’s disaster management authority said more than 12 million people live along the cyclone’s expected path.

Authorities set up over 2,000 cyclone shelters across 20 districts, while

emergency alerts were being sent to the mobile phones of millions of residents, Jain said, according to the Press Trust of India news agency. More than 30,000 fishing boats were secured along the coast, while nearly 1,100 medical teams were deployed across affected areas to provide emergency assistance, he added.

In neighboring Odisha, officials planned to evacuate about 48,000 people from areas likely to be affected by the storm.

Meanwhile, Nepal’s disaster agency has warned of heavy rain, lightning and thunderstorms across much of the country, with heavy snowfall, snowstorms and avalanches expected in the country’s northern Himalayan region from late Thursday due to the cyclone affecting neighboring India.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority advised tourists to avoid high-altitude and Himalayan areas and warned of possible road and air travel disruptions.

The warning comes as Nepal continues to recover from devastating flash floods in August that killed more than 1,400 people and left thousands more missing. More flooding was reported earlier this month in northern Nepal.

Also:

NEW DELHI: At least one person was killed after a devastating fire gutted several roadside shops on the outskirts of the Indian capital city, New Delhi, police said.

Police and fire personnel were immediately rushed to the spot to douse the fire and prevent it from spreading to the adjacent area. Television images showed columns of black smoke rising in the area and police personnel clearing the nearby streets.

During the fire, the sound of cylinder blasts was heard.

“We have found a large number of LPG cylinders inside. We are currently addressing this issue and conducting search and rescue operations to check whether anyone is trapped,” **Pradeep Kumar**, a senior fire service official, said.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Subcontinent

1 dead in Pakistan cross border attacks: Afghan Taleban forces fired mortars into a former Pakistani Taliban stronghold in restive northwest-ern Pakistan, killing a civilian and wounding five others, a Pakistani government official said early Wednesday.

The shelling damaged shops in a bazaar in South Waziristan, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province along the Afghan border, a local government administrator said on X. He said Pakistani forces along the border were responding “effectively and heavily.”

There was no immediate comment from Kabul, and it was unclear what triggered the exchange of fire.

The clash came days after Islamabad urged Kabul to take verifiable action against militants it accuses of using Afghan territory to launch attacks inside Pakistan.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Gov **Faisal Karim Kundi** condemned what he described as unprovoked Afghan Taleban aggression against civilian homes and the Angoor Adda bazaar in Lower South Waziristan. He praised the Pakistani military’s response and said the province had sacrificed thousands of lives in the fight against terrorism. (AP)

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Sri Lanka searches for 7 fishermen: Sri Lanka’s



Kundi

Navy and Air Force have launched search operations for seven fishermen reported missing in two separate incidents off the country’s southern and northeastern coasts, the Navy said Wednesday.

One fishing vessel carrying four fishermen left Kudawella in the southern Matara district on Oct. 21, the Navy said.

The fishermen last communicated with the vessel’s owner on Oct. 23, after which contact was lost. The owner subsequently reported the vessel missing, prompting the Navy to launch a search operation with assistance from the Air Force.

Meanwhile, a separate search is continuing for another fishing vessel carrying three fishermen that departed from Puthumathalan in the northeastern Mullaitivu district.

The Navy said operations were continuing to locate both vessels and their crews. (Xinhua)

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Road accident kills 4 in Afghanistan: Four commuters were killed in a road accident in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar on Tuesday, provincial police spokesman Mullah Asadullah Jamshid said.

The accident occurred early Tuesday morning on a road linking Takhta Pul district with the border town of Spin Boldak, leaving all four victims dead at the scene.

The official provided no further details but confirmed that the driver fled the scene.

Police are trying to arrest the driver and bring him to justice for his alleged role in causing the accident. (Xinhua)

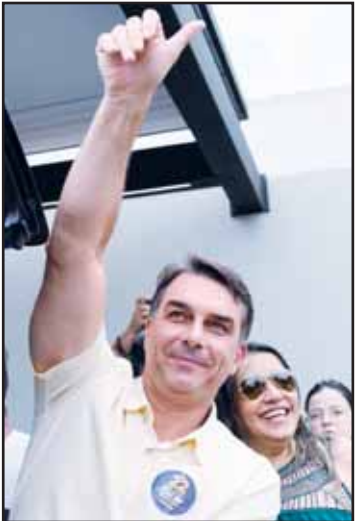
Flávio Bolsonaro flees Brazil thru Argentina: migration authority

SAO PAULO, Oct 28, (AP): Flávio Bolsonaro, the defeated Brazilian presidential candidate, fled his country to Argentina and then Ecuador alongside his wife and two daughters, Argentina’s migration authority said on Wednesday. The 45-year-old senator and his family were granted United States visas the day before by the Trump administration.

The move is almost certain to cause a big diplomatic rift between Brazil’s newly reelected President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and his Argentine counterpart Javier Milei, who traveled to Brazil to take part in Bolsonaro’s campaign.

Bolsonaro is under investigation by Brazil’s Supreme Court for alleged corruption, money laundering and tax evasion in two cases. The court had ordered Bolsonaro to hand over his regular and diplomatic passports by noon Tuesday. It remained unclear whether he had complied, but allies said late Tuesday he also has an Italian passport.

Argentina’s migration authority said on X that Bolsonaro, his wife Fernanda Antunes Figueira Bolsonaro, and his daughters Carolina Figueira Bolsonaro and Luiza Figueira Bolsonaro crossed into the country at 10:50 p.m. It added they entered via the Tancredo Neves International



Opposition presidential candidate Sen Flávio Bolsonaro arrives in Brasilia, Brazil, on the day of the presidential runoff election on Oct 25. (AP)

Bridge, a primary border checkpoint linking Brazil to Argentina’s northeastern province of Misiones.

“Those who did so possessed valid travel documentation and faced no legal impediments to entering the country,” the Argentine migration authority said.

The authority said that at 11:30

p.m. local time, shortly after clearing immigration control, the four boarded a private charter flight operated by aviation company Baires Fly S.A. According to the filed flight plan, the aircraft departed for Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Flight tracking website FlightRadar24 showed that a plane fitting the description of Bolsonaro’s landed in Guayaquil at about 4 a.m. local time, before taking off minutes later for Miami’s Opa Locka executive airport. It was not clear whether the defeated candidate was on board.

Lula, who turned 81 on Tuesday, told several dozen supporters outside the presidential residence in Brasilia that he did not have precise information about Bolsonaro’s whereabouts, but said he had left Brazil.

“I regret that he left Brazil, because he could have stayed here and proven that the accusations are not true,” Lula said. “This act of leaving Brazil is shameful.”

Representatives of Brazil’s government and Bolsonaro did not immediately respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press.

U.S. President Donald Trump said early Wednesday that he would approve of Bolsonaro coming to the U.S., calling him and his family “fine people.”



Al-Shabab fighters display weapons as they conduct military exercises in northern Mogadishu, Somalia on Oct 21, 2010. (AP)

Gunmen attack Nigeria community, 62 killed

100 dead in Sudan army drone attack: group

SHENDI, Sudan, Oct 28, (AP): More than 100 people were killed in a Sudanese military drone strike on a busy market in Nyala, the capital city of the South Darfur province in southwestern Sudan, said Emergency Lawyers, a rights group tracking violence in the country, in a statement Tuesday.

The strike, which it says happened Monday evening, also injured 113 people. The group said many of those killed and injured were women and children. The group blamed the Sudanese military for the strike on the market, condemning the attack.

“This massacre transformed a civilian marketplace into a scene of mass killing and injury and is an assault that threatens the lives of residents and compounds their suffering amid the ongoing war,” the group said in a statement. It called for an independent investigation into the strike.

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Gunmen kill 62 in Nigeria: At least 62 people have been killed after gunmen attacked a community in north-eastern Nigeria, the country’s emergency agency said Tuesday.

The attack, reportedly carried out by criminals known as bandits, happened on Friday in Binnari commu-

nity located in the Karim-Lamido local government area of Taraba state, and also wounded 52 other people and displaced thousands, according to Ladan Ayuba, the state head of the National Emergency Management Agency.

Attacks by bandits are common across northern Nigeria where armed groups carry out attacks against civilian populations.

Fifty-two bodies have been recovered so far, including 15 from the Benue River, NEMA officials said.

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2 attacks in Ethiopia kill 60: Two attacks in Ethiopia’s Oromia region killed at least 60 Orthodox Christians, the country’s Orthodox Church said, urging authorities to protect civilians and bring those responsible to justice.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church’s Holy Synod said Monday that 14 people were killed in Merti district on Oct. 20 and a further 46 in Shirka district on Saturday. Both districts are in Oromia’s Arsi Zone.

More than 20 people were seriously wounded and 20 homes were burned down, the church said, describing the killings as “brutal and

merciless massacres.”

A Christian resident of a nearby town said he traveled to Tereta Chole, the village in Shirka district where Saturday’s attack took place, to attend funerals Saturday and help transport the wounded. “We counted the injured people who were loaded onto the Isuzu truck,” he said.

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20 Somali soldiers dead: Islamic extremist militants killed at least 20 Somali soldiers in an ambush, a military officer who survived the attack said, as the government acknowledged damage to military vehicles but disclosed no troop casualties.

The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab group, which has fought Somalia’s government for nearly two decades, claimed responsibility for Monday’s attack near Jameeca village in southern Somalia.

The Defense Ministry said its troops killed about 75 militants and wounded 56 during hours of fighting. Al-Shabab claimed it killed 321 soldiers and captured prisoners and military equipment.

The casualty figures and claims of captured soldiers and equipment could not be independently verified.

Asia

Osprey makes emergency landing: A US military MV-22 Osprey transport aircraft made an emergency landing at an airport in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, on Wednesday, local media reported.

The aircraft is assigned to US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa Prefecture, and was transporting personnel as part of the Japan-U.S. Keen Sword 27 joint military exercises, Kyodo News reported, citing Japan’s Defense Ministry.

The Osprey landed at Tanegashima Airport on Tanegashima Island at around 10:10 a.m. local time, about 10 minutes after airport officials had been notified of its arrival. It took off again about three hours later.

No injuries or disruptions to civilian flight operations were reported. Still, the Kagoshima prefectural government has asked the central government to urge the United States to determine the cause of the emergency landing and prevent a recurrence, according to the report. (Xinhua)

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Man charged posing as Bondi victim: A man is facing deportation from Australia after being charged by police for allegedly falsely claiming he was injured in the Bondi terror attack.

The police force in the state of New South Wales said in a statement on Wednesday that the 46-year-old man allegedly made a false statement that he was injured in the December 2025 fatal mass shooting at

Bondi Beach and made subsequent fraudulent claims for compensation.

He was arrested on Tuesday and charged with publishing false or misleading material to obtain an advantage and false representation, resulting in a police investigation.

Under a state government scheme, victims who were hit by shrapnel or gunfire during the mass shooting are eligible for a lump sum payment of 35,000 Australian dollars (24,612.3 US dollars).

Local media, which identified the man as an Indian national in Australia on an expired visa, reported that he was detained by the border force officials shortly after his arrest and transported to an immigration detention center.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that he is expected to be held in detention until the conclusion of criminal proceedings, when he will face deportation. (Xinhua)

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2 killed in Philippine vehicle accident: A father and his infant were killed and a woman was injured when a sand-laden dump truck ran over their motorcycle in Quezon City of the Philippines’ capital region Metro Manila on Tuesday.

The woman was taken for medical attention. The motorcycle was crushed beneath the heavy vehicle, leaving it severely damaged.

The incident also disrupted traffic, with spilled sand and oil covering part of the roadway. Investigations are underway. (Xinhua)

Kuwaiti oil price drops to \$112.41 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil fell 27 cents to USD 112.41 per barrel (pb) in Tuesday’s trading, compared to USD 112.68 pb in Monday’s trading, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

On global markets, Brent crude fell USD 2.09 to USD 113.72 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate dropped USD 1.93 to USD 99.83 pb.

Recognizing the Mol’s role in strengthening cybersecurity awareness and protecting community in Kuwait

Gulf Bank equips its leaders to stay ahead of cyber fraud

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Gulf Bank organized a cybersecurity awareness seminar to strengthen preparedness for evolving cyber threats and support the protection of customer information. Held under the theme “Cybersecurity Is a Shared Responsibility,” the seminar marked Cybersecurity Awareness Month and reinforced the Bank’s ongoing support for the Central Bank of Kuwait’s “Let’s Be Aware” (Diraya) campaign. The event brought together more than 100 executive leaders from across the Bank, including Acting Chief Executive Officer Sami Mahfouz.

Gulf Bank expressed its appreciation to the Ministry of Interior for its continued efforts to strengthen cybersecurity awareness and protect the community in Kuwait from digital threats. The Bank also thanked Lieutenant Colonel Saud Anwar AlWazzan, a cybercrime officer at the Ministry, for his insightful keynote address and contribution to the seminar.

Speakers included Dr. Basil Allothman, Founder and Managing Director of Kuwait Hackers LLC; Eng. Husain A. Alnakkas, Cybersecurity Consultant; Iain Swaine, Senior Consultant at Axon Technologies; and Andrea Di Bari, Chief Technology Officer. They were joined by Mr. Ross McNaughton, Chief Information Security Officer at Gulf Bank.

Gulf Bank welcomed the high level of cybersecurity awareness among its employees, recognizing its importance as rapid technological advances enable increasingly sophisticated fraud and scams. The Bank emphasized the need to sustain this awareness through continuous education and vigilance, with every employee sharing respon-



A group photo of the seminar participants.

sibility for protecting customer information and maintaining secure banking operations.

The seminar examined emerging cyber risks, developments in digital fraud, and their implications for financial institutions. Discussions emphasized the importance of understanding how threats evolve and maintaining the knowledge and preparedness needed to respond effec-

tively. Contributions from public and private sector specialists reinforced the value of collaboration in addressing these challenges.

The impact of artificial intelligence on cybersecurity was a central topic. Speakers explored how AI can strengthen security systems, alongside the risks associated with its misuse in cyberattacks. These developments reinforce the im-

portance of a proactive approach to digital risk as financial institutions continue to expand their digital services.

The participation of executive leaders reflects the importance of embedding cybersecurity awareness throughout the organization. The annual seminar provides a forum for continuous learning and cooperation between departments, supporting a common understanding of digital risks and each employee’s responsibility for protecting customers, colleagues, and the Bank’s operations.

Gulf Bank continues to strengthen its cybersecurity framework through investment in advanced security technologies, stronger governance and risk management, and ongoing employee training and awareness programs. These efforts support its commitment to protecting customer data, maintaining business continuity, and delivering secure and innovative digital banking services.

Cybersecurity remains a strategic priority for Gulf Bank and an essential component of its digital transformation. The Bank continues to develop its technical capabilities and employee expertise in parallel, applying global best practices to strengthen preparedness and resilience. This approach supports the secure delivery of digital services while maintaining the trust of customers and partners.

Through its continued support for Diraya and initiatives such as this seminar, Gulf Bank emphasizes the value of collaboration in creating a safer digital environment. These efforts contribute to confidence in digital banking and support sustainable digital transformation for the benefit of customers, the community, and the wider banking sector.

Zain Innovation Challenge: Powering a nationwide, youth-led innovation ecosystem in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Zain Kuwait has unveiled the Zain Innovation Challenge, a national platform that reinforces the company’s role as a leading innovation enabler and a catalyst for a knowledge-based economy, by turning youth potential into practical, market-ready solutions that tackle nationwide challenges and generate tangible economic impact in the digital era.

This initiative is delivered in partnership with ten leading universities and colleges in Kuwait: Kuwait University (KU), Abdullah Al-Salem University (AAU), American University of Kuwait (AUK), Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), The Australian University (AU), Arab Open University - Kuwait (AOU), Kuwait Technical College (ktech), Canadian College of Kuwait (CCK), Kuwait College of Science & Technology (KCST), and Box Hill College Kuwait.

By closely collaborating with the country’s leading academic institutions, Zain is building a collaboration framework that connects the technology sector with academia and transforms the educational environment into a platform for producing real, deployable solutions to address diverse challenges, especially those facing societies in a rapidly changing world shaped by major advances in artificial intelligence technologies and digital transformation applications.

Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Al-Gharabally commented: “Kuwait’s ambition to build a thriving, knowledge-based economy depends on our ability to transform talent, ideas, and emerging technologies into meaningful economic value. This requires stronger connections between academia and industry, as well as an environment where innovation is encouraged, nurtured, and translated into tangible outcomes. Through the Zain Innovation



Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Al-Gharabally

- Company joins forces with 10 leading universities and academic institutions to support the nation’s knowledge economy priorities
- **Nawaf Al-Gharabally:** “Investing in young innovators is an investment in Kuwait’s long-term competitiveness”



Zain Innovation Challenge 2026

Challenge, we are helping create these conditions by empowering young people to apply their knowledge, address real-world challenges, and develop solutions with the potential to shape industries and create new economic opportunities.”

He added: “At Zain, we believe our role as a technology leader extends beyond providing advanced connectivity and digital solutions. It is equally about helping build the national capabilities and innovation ecosystem that will drive Kuwait’s future growth.

By bringing together the strengths of the private sector and academic community, we are investing in a generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, and technology leaders who will not only participate in the digital economy, but actively shape its future.”

The Challenge follows an applied model that integrates real market challenges into the accredited curricula of participating universities and colleges. Zain will provide validated data and approved problem statements spanning a broad set of priority areas

aligned with sector needs, inviting participants to develop solutions that address current national challenges and anticipate future market requirements. This approach strengthens the translation of knowledge into adoptable, scalable models that can be further developed.

The program stands out for its emphasis on practical deliverables, requiring functional prototypes and testable minimum viable products (MVPs). Report-only submissions are not accepted, reinforcing a sustainable, action-driven innovation mindset grounded in execution, measurable outcomes, and creative connections.

The Zain Innovation Challenge also focuses on STEAM innovation (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics), applied research and development, prototyping, raising youth skills and future readiness, and building effective collaboration across the private sector, universities, startups, and students to shape a more resilient innovation ecosystem with stronger value creation capacity.

The initiative’s journey will include direct supervision from Zain’s Innovation Ambassadors through mentoring, follow-up, and evaluation, ensuring students gain real industry exposure and expertise, along with two-way knowledge exchange that elevates solution quality and readiness for implementation. A group of employees representing different divisions and departments within the company will participate to ensure diverse and rich input.

The initiative will conclude with the Zain Innovation Challenge event to showcase demo-ready, testable solutions that address real societal and business challenges, with top teams potentially gaining additional opportunities within Zain’s innovation ecosystem.

Fed expected to hold rates amid rising inflation

WASHINGTON, Oct 28, (AP): The Federal Reserve is expected to stand pat on interest rates Wednesday even though inflation has accelerated in the past couple of months as the Iran war has caused spikes in oil and gas prices.

The Fed’s latest policy meeting concludes less than a week before the midterm elections, which have focused heavily on concerns about the cost of living and affordability. Consumers have generally soured on an economy weighed down by more expensive gas, groceries, and clothing, among other items.

The Fed, led by Chairman Kevin Warsh, wants to return inflation to its 2% target, which it typically does by raising its short-term interest rate. Higher borrowing costs, over time, can cool spending and slow inflation. The Fed raised its key rate last month for the first time in three years, from about 3.6% to 3.9%, in what many investors and economists perceived was a first step toward a renewed effort to bring down inflation.

Yet Warsh faces a host of challenges in achieving that goal. President Donald Trump slammed the Fed for raising its key rate last month, though he largely blamed the central bank’s rate-setting committee, rather than Warsh, whom he appointed. And some of the forces driving inflation - specifically the rapid buildout of artificial intelligence infrastructure and higher energy prices - won’t easily be tamed by higher interest rates.

At the same time, other parts of the economy are already being hit by higher rates, which were lifted by market forces, even before the Fed hiked last month. The average 30-year mortgage rate reached a three-year high of 7.4% earlier this month, though it

has since slipped a bit. Higher mortgage rates have made buying a home unaffordable for 5 million more Americans since the beginning of the year, according to Oxford Economics, a consulting firm. Over time, Fed rate hikes can make mortgages, auto loans, and credit card borrowing more expensive, adding to Americans’ sense that things like homes and cars are getting pricier.

After the Fed announces its rate decision, Warsh will speak at a news conference, where his remarks will be closely watched for hints about the Fed’s next steps. He will likely repeat the Fed’s desire for a “timelier” return of inflation to the 2% target. Some may view that as a sign the Fed will boost its key rate at its next meeting, in December, a move already widely expected by Wall Street investors.

If the Fed keeps rates on hold, Warsh will be pushed to explain why the central bank hiked in September but not this month. Inflation picked up in September, when consumer prices rose 3.7% compared with a year earlier. The increase was much bigger than the 2.4% rate in February, just before the Iran war.

And on a monthly basis, the consumer price index - the most widely-followed inflation gauge - rose 0.3% in both August and September. At that pace over a full year, inflation would rise much more quickly than the Fed’s 2% target.

On Thursday, a separate inflation measure more closely followed by the Fed, the personal consumption expenditures price index, is forecast to have jumped 3.6% in September from a year earlier, up from 3.4% in August. Core prices, which exclude the food and energy categories, are forecast to have risen 3.1%, up from 3% the previous month.

Business

Anthropic warns of AI risks in IPO filing

Any time a company looks to start selling shares on Wall Street, it’s required to disclose potential risks to 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,” wrote 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.”

The technology’s potential benefits include leaps in curing diseases and productivity boosts across every sector of the economy, the company said.

Still, the potential liabilities 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 safeguard 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 Management, said IPO deals have to display “very clearly” what risks people face when they invest their money in a newly public stock.

“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. (AP)

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group net profit rises 16.2% to KD 54.19 million in the first nine months of 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) Group announced its financial results for the nine months ended 30 September 2026. Net profit attributable to shareholders increased by 16.2% year on year to KD 54.19 million, reflecting continued progress across the Group’s core financial indicators.

Earnings per share increased by 18% to 17.6 fils, compared with 14.9 fils in the corresponding period of 2025. The cost to income ratio stood at 43.47%, reflecting the Group’s continued focus on cost discipline and operational efficiency. Operating income increased by 7.51% to KD 177.50 million, while operating profit rose by 5.55% to KD 100.34 million.

Loans and advances grew by 5% to KD 5.03 billion, while customer deposits stood at KD 4.30 billion. Total assets increased by 6.4% to KD 7.52 billion. Asset quality remained strong, with the non-performing loan ratio at 1.19% and loan loss coverage at 355%, supported by the Group’s disciplined risk management and prudent underwriting approach.

The Group maintained a robust capital position, with a capital adequacy ratio of 17.25%. Shareholders’ equity increased by 6.6% to KD 700.27 million, providing a solid foundation for the Group’s future development.

Resilient Performance and Balanced Growth

Commenting on the results, Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani, Chairman of ABK Group, said: “The Group’s nine-month performance demonstrates the resilience of our business model and our ability to deliver balanced growth while maintaining prudent risk management, strong capitalisation and operational stability.” He added:

“These results reflect disciplined execution of our strategy and our ability to respond effectively to changing market conditions. We remain focused on converting opportunities into sustainable value for our shareholders, customers and the communities we serve.”

Behbehani noted that ABK Group’s business model combines prudent decisionmaking with the agility to respond to evolving customer and market requirements across Kuwait, Egypt and the UAE.

He said the Group’s financial position, liquidity and capital buffers provide a firm foundation for balanced growth. ABK Group will continue to create longterm value by investing in customer focused services, digital capabilities and relevant financial solutions.

Behbehani reaffirmed the Group’s commitment to prudent policies that protect asset quality and support sustainable profitability. He added that ABK will continue advancing its digital transformation and developing financing solutions that contribute to Kuwait’s economic development and the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Strengthening the Capital Base

Behbehani noted that the Group has taken further steps to strengthen its capital base and support its future growth plans. In September 2026, the Extraordinary General Assembly approved an increase in the Bank’s authorised capital to KD 600 million. He also revealed that the required regulatory approvals were obtained in October to increase the Bank’s issued and paid-up capital, with a total value of KD 150 million, comprising KD 75 million in nominal value and KD 75 million in share premium.

He described the capital increase as an important milestone that enhances the Group’s capacity to pursue its strategic priorities and invest in its future capabilities.



Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani, ABK Chairman



Giel-Jan Van M. Der Tol, GCEO



focus on operational efficiency. This gives us a solid platform from which to invest in customer experience, digital capability and the future growth of our businesses.”

He added: “Our priority is to translate this financial strength into better outcomes for our customers and sustainable value for our shareholders. We are combining prudent risk management with focused innovation to build a simpler, more responsive and increasingly digital banking model.”

Enhancing the Customer Experience

Van Der Tol highlighted continued progress in ABK’s branch renovation programme across Kuwait, including upgrades to the Mansouriya, Shaab and Al Farwaniya branches. The programme is creating a more consistent branch experience while modernising the technology and systems available to customers and employees.

He noted that the programme is designed to improve the customer experience, support more efficient service and make ABK’s branch network more relevant to the evolving needs of customers.

ABK is also continuing to enhance its mobile banking application and expand its digital services, giving customers convenient, secure and reliable access to a growing range of banking transactions around the clock.

Investing in People and Organisational Capability

Van Der Tol emphasised that ABK’s employees are central to the successful execution of the Group’s strategy. The Bank continues to invest in developing their skills, strengthening leadership capabilities and creating the conditions for innovation.

Development programmes during the period covered areas including credit analysis and artificial intelligence. These initiatives are intended to help employees respond to developments in banking, support innovation and build the capabilities required for ABK’s future growth.

Van Der Tol reaffirmed ABK’s focus on earning customer trust by developing relevant solutions, services and offers across its business areas. He noted that deeper customer relationships will remain central to the Bank’s strategy and long-term growth.

Sustainability and Community Impact

Van Der Tol said that ABK’s financial objectives are supported by its commitment to responsible environmental, social and governance practices. He highlighted the publication of the Group’s annual Sustainability Report, which was made available in Arabic on the Bank’s website for the first time.

He also highlighted the continued development of ABK’s corporate social responsibility programme through its support for sporting, cultural, educational, health, environmental and humanitarian initiatives. These activities reflect the Bank’s commitment to the communities it serves and to Kuwait’s wider development objectives.

Concluding his remarks, Van Der Tol reaffirmed ABK’s support for the “Let’s Be Aware”

(Diraya) campaign. The Bank continues to publish financial awareness content through its branches and digital platforms, helping extend the campaign’s reach across its customer base.

Key highlights for the first nine months

- Net profit increased by 16.2% to KD 54.19 million
- Operating income rose by 7.51% to KD 177.50 million
- Operating profit increased by 5.55% to KD 100.34 million
- Earnings per share increased by 18% to 17.6 fils
- Loans and advances grew by 5% to KD 5.03 billion
- Asset quality remained strong, with a non-performing loan ratio of 1.19% and loan loss coverage of 355%
- Capital adequacy ratio remained robust at 17.25%
- Strong credit ratings maintained from Fitch(A) and Moody’s A2

“The additional capital provides greater long-term flexibility to support the Group’s strategy and future business growth,” he said. “It also strengthens our readiness to implement our next five-year plan and respond prudently to future capital requirements.”

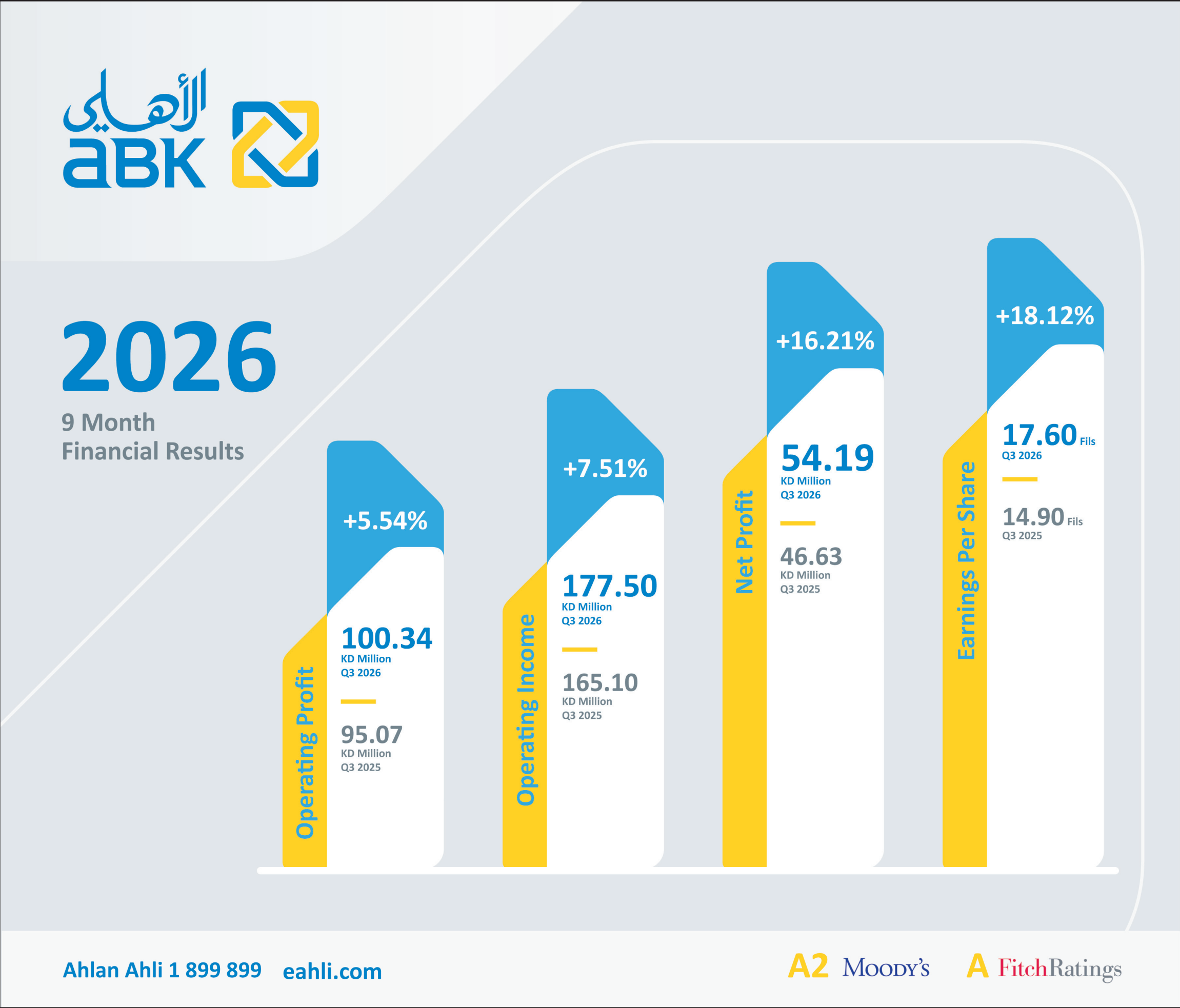
International Recognition

Behbehani noted that ABK Group’s credit ratings remained at A from Fitch and A2 from Moody’s. These ratings provide independent recognition of the Group’s financial profile and prudent approach to banking. He also highlighted the Group’s international recognition during 2026, including four awards from Global Finance and two from Global Brands Magazine. The awards recognised achievements in areas including digital services, call centre operations and governance.

Behbehani thanked the Board of Directors, executive management and employees for their contribution to the Group’s progress. He also expressed his appreciation to the regulatory authorities in Kuwait, Egypt and the UAE for their continued support and their efforts to advance the banking sector.

Disciplined Execution and Customer-Focused Growth

Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol, Group Chief Executive Officer of ABK, said: “Our nine-month results demonstrate disciplined execution across the Group. We have continued to grow profitability while maintaining strong asset quality, sound capital levels and a clear



Al-Terkait discusses the role of digital transformation in driving service excellence, customer experience, and business continuity

KFH shares its vision for the future of digital banking services at MoneyTech 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced its participation in the MoneyTech 2026 Forum, a leading annual event gathering prominent investment, business, and technology leaders from across the region. The event will take place on November 1, 2026, at The St. Regis Kuwait.

KFH participation reflects its longstanding commitment to technology and digital innovation, as well as its role in supporting technological transformation, developing banking services, and enhancing customer experience. It also underscores the bank's keenness to participate in forums which

discuss the future of financial services.

During the event, Deputy Group CEO Technology and Operations at KFH, Haitham Al-Terkait, will discuss digital transformation and artificial intelligence in the banking sector, two key drivers of competitive advantage and sustainable growth in today's market.

Alterkait will highlight the key pillars of digital transformation strategies. He will cover various aspects related to the bank, including its customers, infrastructure, services, and products, in addition to the importance of business and service continuity,



Haitham Al-Terkait
regardless of challenging circumstances.
The Bank's participation in MoneyTech

2026 aligns with its ongoing efforts to support initiatives and events that advance the banking sector, driven by the expanding role of technology and digital transformation in boosting operational efficiency and delivering more advanced services. It also demonstrates the Bank's commitment to meeting the aspirations of both retail and corporate customers by developing innovative solutions designed around the latest global industry trends.

Organized by Al-Jarida newspaper, and marking its 5th edition, this year MoneyTech focuses on companies and institu-

tions that have successfully navigated the exceptional challenges in global markets, maintained business continuity, and developed more agile operating models capable of delivering sustainable growth.

The forum also brings together a group of investors, entrepreneurs, and technology leaders from various countries to discuss several vital issues. Notable discussions include investment strategies in fintech, repatriating regional wealth, and the opportunities provided by technological innovations to support economic growth and enhance market competitiveness.

Al-Oun: Supporting communities through partnerships

Warba Bank sponsors Health and Sports Day for 'General Secretariat of Awqaf' employees

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: As part of its commitment to supporting community initiatives and promoting active lifestyles, Warba Bank announced its sponsorship of the Health and Sports Day for employees of the General Secretariat of Awqaf. The event is organized by the Secretariat in coordination with its Media and Waqf Development Department, through the Public Relations Division. It will take place at Hassan Abul Stadium, opposite the Secretariat's headquarters, with the participation of its employees.

The sponsorship reflects Warba Bank's continued support for initiatives that promote public health, encourage physical activity, and raise awareness of the importance of physical well-being in improving quality of life. It also supports cooperation with national institutions on community-focused initiatives.

Institutional Partnerships Strengthening Community Cooperation

Warba Bank's sponsorship reflects its commitment to strengthening relationships with national institutions, particularly the General Secretariat of Awqaf, by supporting activities that benefit employees and the wider community in line with its corporate social responsibility and sustainability objectives.

Through these partnerships, the bank supports events that combine health benefits with social interaction, encourage teamwork, and promote more active lifestyles.

Al-Oun: Supporting Health and Sports Initiatives Is Central to Our Social Responsibility

Commenting on the sponsorship,



Health and Sports Day for employees of the General Secretariat of Awqaf.

Saud Fahad Al-Oun, Executive Manager of Public Institutions Banking Services at Warba Bank, stated:

"At Warba Bank, we believe that social responsibility goes beyond providing support to actively contributing to initiatives that create a positive and lasting impact on individuals and society. Our sponsorship of the Health and Sports Day for General Secretariat of Awqaf employees reflects our commitment to encouraging physical activity, raising awareness of the importance of health and sports, and recognizing the strong institutional relationship we share with the Secretariat."

Al-Oun added: "We are committed to building constructive partnerships with national institutions and sup-

porting initiatives that improve quality of life, promote health and physical activity, and encourage positive engagement. We hope this event will encourage participants to maintain an active lifestyle and provide an enjoyable health and sports experience for the Secretariat's employees."

Diverse Activities Fostering Participation and Teamwork

The event is expected to include a range of arrangements and supporting activities designed to encourage employee participation and interaction in a positive sporting and social environment.

These activities aim to promote teamwork and provide employees with opportunities to engage in physical activity and social interaction, in line with the objectives of the Health and Sports Day.

Continued Support for Community Initiatives

The sponsorship reflects Warba Bank's continued commitment to supporting community initiatives that promote well-being, encourage healthy lifestyles, and strengthen co-operation with national institutions.

About Warba Bank:

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

Draw your dream car, drive the future

ALSAYER opens Toyota art contest for children

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: ALSAYER Group is delighted to announce the 20th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest to invite children from Kuwait to demonstrate their exceptional artistic and imaginative skills.

The Toyota Dream Car Art Contest encourages children all over the world to dream, imagine, and create artworks expressing the mobility of the future. Since 2004, Toyota has inspired nearly 10 million children from 153 countries to unleash their creativity and enjoy having a dream.

Guided by its mission to "Produce Happiness for All", Toyota aims to create a future where everyone can dream of a better tomorrow. Believing in the power of creativity, we hold this contest to inspire children, the leaders of tomorrow, to unleash their creativity and enjoy having a dream.

Submit a hand-drawn or digitally created artwork of "Your Dream Car," along with a brief description of your idea. Your artwork should showcase your creativity and originality, as it may be viewed by a global audience.

Kuwait National winners can ex-



pect amazing rewards from ALSAYER. Selected 9 finalists to enter the Toyota World Contest, Japan, and you could win \$5,000 and \$10,000 for their school to spend on their educational purpose.

The steps to enter the Contest are as follows - Scan the QR code and download the contest terms and con-

ditions, complete the entry form, follow the guidelines to avoid disqualification.

Submit your original artwork and entry form to Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. Toyota sales & service branches (Jahra - Shuwaikh - AswaqQurain - Ahmadi - Fahaheel - Toyota Spare

Parts Center in Sharq).

or ALSAYER Dream Car Administration - CE-CSR Office, Kuwait Free Trade Zone, Shuwaikh Port. For online submission send to - dreamcar@alsayergroup.com

For additional enquiry contact: 97168234, 1803803 ext 1082 / 1092.

* Completed 'Entry Form' should be securely attached to the back of the drawing sheet.

* Online submission must be in JPG, PNG (Artwork) & PDF format (Entry Form).

Last date of Artwork submission 11th February 2027

Eligibility:

Kuwait residents 15 years old and below can participate.

Category 1: 7 years old and below

Category 2: 8-11 years old

Category 3: 12-15 years old

What artwork and materials I can use?

You can use A3 size paper. Any coloring materials (pencils, crayons, watercolors, markers, paints etc). Digital artworks are acceptable.

Avoid copying previous contest entries, famous paintings, or using trademarked characters.

US and Cuba clash at UN over embargo resolution

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 28, (AP): The United Nations is set to vote Wednesday on a resolution condemning the decades-long U.S. economic embargo on Cuba as the Trump administration intensifies its campaign to undermine Cuba's socialist government, including by threatening military intervention.

The annual exercise aimed at calling out the U.S. government's "maximum pressure policy" has been put before the U.N. General Assembly for the past 34 years, and each time the resolution has received overwhelming support from the 193 member states. Last year, the vote was 165-7, with 12 abstentions.

And while it is still expected to pass by a large margin this year, it is unclear if the Trump administration's overt campaign to influence the vote will result in more opposition or abstentions from key countries - including Western allies - than it has in previous years. While such resolutions are not legally binding, they reflect world opinion.

The vote before the world body comes as Cuba is weathering deepening financial crises while the U.S. increases its already punishing economic campaign. On top of this, President Donald Trump last week once again raised the specter of U.S. military intervention, saying U.S. warships could stop over in Cuba on their way back from the Iran war.

The tensions between Washington and Havana have spilled over into public forums at the United Nations.

On Tuesday, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Mike Waltz and Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez found themselves in a shouting match on the floor of the General Assembly while debating the embargo resolution.

Shortly after Waltz had begun his criticism of the socialist government, Rodríguez walked down to the podium where the U.S. envoy was addressing the hall and called him a liar while trying to get a "point of order" from the official presiding over the

session.

"This individual needs to back away from this podium. He's not going to intimidate me in the United States of America," Waltz said as U.N. security and personnel tried to intervene. "You understand who you're dealing with? This is America. Back up."

In a post on X, Rodríguez reminded Waltz where he was making his remarks, saying he's at the U.N., not at a national security meeting at the White House.

"With his crude lies at the UN General Assembly, the U.S. government has launched another desperate attempt to justify its economic aggression against Cuba and its criminal energy blockade," he continued.

A week earlier, a similar interaction between Waltz and his Cuban counterpart, Ernesto Soberón Guzmán, took place outside a U.S.-hosted panel with Cuban dissidents and former prisoners that sought to highlight allegations of the oppressive behavior of the island's government.

It all reflects a clear break from the traditional diplomatic decorum expected at the U.N. and the new phase of contentiousness between the U.S. and Cuba.

The U.S. embargo against Cuba was first imposed in 1960 after Fidel Castro led a revolution that toppled dictator Fulgencio Batista and nationalized properties belonging to U.S. citizens and corporations.

As a result, the Caribbean country has spent decades facing the dire impact of longtime economic and financial troubles and is now being pushed to a breaking point after Trump, a Republican, announced in late January that he would impose tariffs on any country that sells or provides oil to Cuba. The warning has effectively cut off fuel to the island, leading to widespread power outages that affect basic activities such as cooking, the water supply and internet and telephone services.

A document of tragedy and grief

In ‘Everest: The Other Side,’ tragedy & triumph meet on Nepal’s peaks

LOS ANGELES, Oct 28, (AP): Hike up and ski down was Jim Morrison’s relatively straightforward dream, albeit not on your typical ski hill.

Morrison and his partner Hilarie Nelson aspired to summit Mount Everest’s north side, something only five people had ever done. None had ever skied down it. Given the long stream of mountaineers that queue up on the south face, you could call it the most drastic feat ever of avoiding a lift line.

“Everest: The Other Side,” by “Free Solo” filmmakers Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin, is the big-screen chronicle of Morrison and Nelson’s mission. Theirs is a quixotic aspiration: climb the world’s highest peak and then coast down.

But “Everest: The Other Side” is as much a document of tragedy and grief as it is one of extreme sport. On a similar expedition in 2022 while biding their time for Everest, Morrison and Nelson - partners in love and adventure - reached the top of a Nepalese mountain. But after just a few turns on her skis, a sheet of snow dislodged underneath Nelson. She died in the avalanche.

Nelson’s death reverberated through the mountaineering world and it reshaped the film Vasarhelyi and Chin were making. In “Free

Solo,” which documents Alex Honnold ascending El Capitan in Yosemite without ropes or a harness, the filmmakers had to contemplate the possibility that Honnold might fall to his death.

In “Everest,” that awful possibility comes to pass. Nelson’s fatal fall, as well as Morrison’s recovery of her body two days later, is captured with agonizing IMAX clarity. If “Free Solo” was about an unmitigated triumph, “Everest” wrestles with a darker side of such perilous exploits.

“This movie, the worst happened,” Vasarhelyi says in a brief moment on screen.

Risk tolerance is a common topic for Vasarhelyi and Chin, filmmakers who have intrepidly fused nature documentaries with adventure drama. Chin is himself a decorated climber; he summited and skied down the south face of Everest in 2006.

But in “Everest,” questioning whether it’s worth it is front and center. The movie lingers on the moments when Morrison and his team leave their homes, parting with children for two-month stints during which they’ll risk their lives on desolate peaks on the other side of the world. When Nelson dies, she leaves behind two boys. As the years tick on in the documentary, we watch them grow up without their mother.

Yet within months of her death, Morrison, from his lakeside Tahoe home, resolves to push ahead with the Everest climb. Tragedy isn’t new to him. Years earlier, he lost his wife, Katie, and two children, Wyatt and Hannah, in a plane crash. After first finding a walk down the driveway an insurmountable hike, Morrison resolves to live for them.

So his aim to reach the top of Everest and ski down may be a daredevil feat, but it’s also a grieving, heavy-hearted quest. He describes his yearning to ride down “the raddest ski line in the world.” But what’s compelling him is also something that can’t be easily articulated.

“Everest: The Other Side” is, to a certain extent, alive to these quandaries. The filmmakers even



This image released by National Geographic shows ski mountaineer Jim Morrison, from left, filmmaker Jimmy Chin, and Mark Fisher during the making of the documentary “Everest: The Other Side.” (AP)

share in them. Chin accompanies Morrison on both an aborted ascent and the successful attempt in 2025.

Deciding to continue with the project is its own debate for Chin and Vasarhelyi. They have two children of their own. Their proximity to extreme expeditions has already brought tragedy close to home. “How many people who have eaten at our dinner table have died?” Vasarhelyi asks him. The couple divorced in 2025, though

their separation goes unmentioned in the film.

While these debates are often present in the documentary, “Everest: The Other Side” grows increasingly shy of them. The higher Morrison climbs, the less inquisitive the movie gets. On the first attempted ascent, some of the Sherpas grow wary of the risks involved. Their sensible hesitations don’t put Morrison, handsomely outfitted by his North Face sponsor, in the best light.

By the time Morrison realizes his dream, it feels as though many have, off camera, moved on with their lives. The families back home fall out of the movie. “Everest: The Other Side” becomes a mournful and increasingly solitary march.

Maybe that’s appropriate. Morrison’s extreme compulsion inevitably pulls him away from us, leaving behind a more disquieting film. Even he can’t help but notice while hiking up that the snow conditions

he’ll be skiing down are rock hard and terrible. The descent, lasting four hours, is a feat of skill, perseverance and bravery. Even on a bad day, he’d have to grant, the skiing would have been better back home.

“Everest: The Other Side,” a Walt Disney Co. release in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for thematic material and brief strong language. Running time: 115 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Familiar sound, few surprises

‘Everything Under the Sun’ finds Nickelback in its comfort zone

NEW YORK, Oct 28, (AP): Nickelback’s “Everything Under the Sun,” the Canadian rockers’ 11th studio album, dishes out exactly what the all-encompassing title suggests - within their familiar formula.

Hard-rockin’ arena anthems, radio-ready singles and bighearted ballads are present alongside star cameos and a few surprises. Here, frontman Chad Kroeger, guitarist Ryan Peake, bassist Mike Kroeger and drummer Daniel Adair take some chances and miss a few but are mostly in standard form on their latest album out Friday.

Their recipe - glossy hooks, post-grunge rock riffs and gravelly vocals - has been criticized by some for being too predictable and repetitive. It has also been successful across their three-decade career, producing many chart toppers in the ‘00s. They’re not interested in stopping now. And at 12 tracks, Nickelback’s follow-up to 2022’s “Get Rollin’” is their longest album since their 12-song debut, “Curb,” in 1996.

“Rattle The Cage” leads off as a loud love letter to concert-going fans, a reminder that Nickelback can rip through a rock song. Current Mötley Crüe guitarist John 5 lends a blistering solo to the high-energy track that moves a mile a minute.

The anthemic “Lift Somebody Up” includes appearances by vocalists Sammy Hagar and Brent Smith, guitarists Zach Myers and Joe Bonamassa and drummers Tommy Lee and Charlie Benante. It has a lot of firepower but lacks edge.

The folksy, acoustic-heavy “Technicolor Steamboat” is the biggest eyebrow raiser. Actor Ryan Reynolds, who has collaborated previously with

Nickelback, channels Gene Wilder’s classic Willy Wonka character in the intro, declaring: “You’re going to love this.” Talk of a golden ticket and papier-mâché mountains follows over a hypnotic synthesizer and gentle drums. Love it? Not quite, but it’s certainly different.

More typical of Nickelback, there’s plenty of romance and reflection.

Kroeger croons about a chance meeting - maybe destiny? - as a foot-tapping drum beat steers the instantly catchy “I Already Know.” The power ballad “Make Me Love You” and mid-tempo “Leave Me Behind,” with its layered harmonies and tone-setting slide guitar, would fit on any Nickelback album. “Simple Song,” backed by the soaring UK Rock Choir, urges world harmony because, as the lyrics state, “right now we’re some kind of broken.”

“Chasin’ Famous” passes as a sequel to “Rockstar” from 2005’s “All the Right Reasons” with its satirizing of fame seekers. It’s not quite as fun or downright silly, but it bounces along with a head-bobbing guitar riff.

“Everybody chasin’ famous,” Kroeger sings. “That money / Can’t blame us / Everybody wants to taste it but just don’t know how.”

Nickelback certainly does. And “Everything Under the Sun” is everything they do best, haters be damned. Their fans will love it.

“Everything Under the Sun” by Nickelback

Three and a half stars out of five. On repeat: “Rattle The Cage,” “I Already Know,” “Make Me Love You”

Skip it: “Last Night Was Fun,” “Technicolor Steamboat”

For fans of: Power ballads, rocking out, looking at old photographs



This album cover image released by Virgin Music Group/Nickelback II Productions shows “Everything Under the Sun” by Nickelback. (AP)

Obituary

‘She never met a stranger’

Emmy-winning actress Susan James dies at 80

LOS ANGELES, Oct 28, (AP): Susan Saint James, who co-starred with Rock Hudson in the 1970s TV crime series “McMillan & Wife” and later co-starred with Jane Curtin in the sitcom “Kate & Allie” in the 1980s, has died. She was 80.

People magazine, citing a representative for the actor, said Saint James died Monday. She had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

“She never met a stranger,” her family said in a statement to People. “Every person she met became the most important person in the room at that moment, from a fellow board member to the clerk at the shoe store, who usually walked away knowing her entire life story.”

Born Susan Jane Miller on Aug. 14, 1946, in Los Angeles, she was raised in the northern Illinois city of Rockford, where her father had transferred for work. She began modeling as a teenager in Paris.

At 20, she moved back to Los Angeles and landed a seven-year contract with Universal Studios. She made her television debut in the 1966 movie “Fame is the Name of the Game” with Tony Franciosa.

She got another break when it became a series called “The Name of the Game” in 1968, with rotating lead characters played by Franciosa, Gene Barry and Robert Stack. Saint James provided the show continuity in her role as Peggy Maxwell, a research assistant who worked for all three men. She won an Emmy Award for the part in 1969.

Before “The Name of the Game,” Saint James had a recurring role in the crime-caper series “It Takes a Thief” starring Robert Wagner. Her other early TV credits included “Ironside,” “McCloud” and “Alias Smith and Jones.” In 1980, she guest-starred in an episode of “M(asterisk)A(sterisk)S(asterisk)H.”

Saint James, known for her unique, throaty voice, had a supporting role in the 1968 movie “Where Angels Go, Trouble Follows” starring Rosalind Russell and Stella Stevens.

She earned her biggest fame as Sally McMillan, the plucky wife of Hudson’s San Francisco police commissioner Stewart McMillan, in the hit series “McMillan & Wife” from 1971-76. She received three Emmy nominations for the role.

Saint James left the NBC show before its sixth and final season because of a contract dispute, with her character killed off in a plane crash. Saint James then turned to feature films.

She played opposite Peter Fonda in “Outlaw Blues” in 1977. She co-starred with George Hamilton in the 1979 vampire spoof “Love at First Bite” and joined Jessica Lange and Curtin in the 1980 comedy heist “How to Beat the High Cost of Living.” She co-starred in the 1981 romantic comedy “Carbon Copy,” in which Denzel Washington made his movie debut.

After middling success on the big screen, Saint James reunited with Curtin in the CBS sitcom “Kate & Allie,” which ran from 1984-89 and earned Saint James two Emmy nominations as the free-spirited Kate to Curtin’s straight-laced Allie.

While guest-hosting “Saturday Night Live” in 1981, Saint James met Dick Ebersol, the show’s then-executive producer and the future chairman of NBC Sports. They married barely six weeks after meeting and had three sons, Charlie, Willie and Teddy.

Teddy died at age 14 in a 2004 private plane crash that also killed the pilot and flight attendant; Ebersol and Charlie survived with serious injuries.

The family had spent Thanksgiving in Los Angeles and were due to make multiple stops on the return trip. The flight landed first in Colorado, where Saint James got off to go to the family’s second home. It crashed upon taking off again for Indiana in snowy weather.

Her family’s statement mentions the loss: “Her defining act: weeks after losing her youngest son, Teddy, in the Nov. 28, 2004 plane crash, she delivered his eulogy as a note to each of her other children and her husband, giving them words to heal. Even in the deepest grief of her life, she put everyone else first.”

Saint James filed for divorce from Ebersol in 2002, but they reconciled later that year. “We had a second chance,” she told People magazine in 2002. “I’m amazingly happier, so that’s a good sign.”

In his 2022 memoir “From Saturday Night to Sunday Night,” Ebersol called Saint James “the greatest partner I’ve ever had by far.”



Actress Susan Saint James poses during a ceremony honoring her with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on June 11, 2008, in Los Angeles. (AP)

She retired when “Kate & Allie” ended, choosing to focus on raising her younger children in Litchfield, Connecticut, while Ebersol took the executive job at NBC Sports.

Saint James made occasional guest appearances after that, including as the mother of her real-life look-alike niece Christa Miller on “The Drew Carey Show,” as well as “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” and “Suits.” In 1999, she starred in a production of “The Miracle Worker” in Torrington, Connecticut.

In 1998, Saint James, her sister, Mercedes Dewey, and a friend founded Seedling and Pip, a baby gift basket business with a focus on books based in Litchfield, Connecticut.

She was a longtime supporter of Special Olympics, volunteering and serving on its board of directors.

Besides her husband, she is survived by daughter Sunshine and son Harmony from her second marriage to makeup artist Tom Lucas, with whom she remained friends; sons Charlie and Willie with Ebersol; and Miller, whose first TV role was on “Kate & Allie.” Saint James’ first marriage to Richard Neubert ended in divorce.

Dutch broadcaster NPO scraps return plan amid backlash

Netherlands withdraws from next Eurovision Song Contest

AMSTERDAM, Oct 28, (AP): The Netherlands announced on Tuesday that it was withdrawing from participating in the Eurovision Song Contest over Israel’s participation, reversing a decision in September to return to the show.

NPO, the umbrella organization for public broadcasters in the country, announced in September it would send a performer to the glitzy pop gala after a subsidiary had said a month earlier it would boycott the contest for a second year.

In a statement, the organization’s director, Jet de Ranitz, said

that NPO was unable to secure a broadcaster who would send a Dutch artist. “Due to the sensitivities surrounding the themes currently at play, we have decided to take a step back for the time being,” De Ranitz said.

NPO had planned to return to the 2027 edition as a joint project between a number of the country’s public broadcasters, with the umbrella organization coordinating the selection of the performer, coverage of the event and commentary.

Five longtime participants - Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland and Slovenia - boycotted



A Eurovision flag flies at the port of Burgas, on Bulgaria’s Black Sea coast, which will host the 71st Eurovision Song Contest in 2027, Friday, Aug. 14, 2026. (AP)

the 2026 edition after organizers declined to kick Israel out over its conduct of the war against Hamas in Gaza and violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.

The decision to return had sparked backlash. Earlier this month, hundreds of NPO employees sent a letter opposing Dutch participation. A number of prominent Dutch media personalities also publicly objected to the move.

“In our coordinating role, we held discussions with the broadcasters to investigate whether there are any broadcasters willing to facilitate the participation of a

Dutch artist. In those discussions, we initially felt there was sufficient support to return,” De Ranitz said.

NPO will still broadcast the event.

In May, 35 countries participated in the 2026 edition of the glitter-drenched pop music competition. The contest was won by Bulgarian singer Dara, so next year’s competition will take place in the southeast European country.

The 2026 Eurovision final was watched by 130 million viewers around the world, organizers say, down from 160 million in 2025.

Interest persists post-episode

Chinese dramas gain global popularity on Netflix & iQIYI



This undated photo shows a still of the historical epic TV series “Swords into Plowshares”. (Xinhua)

BEIJING, Oct. 28, (Xinhua): Even after watching the Chinese drama series “The Early Spring,” Vietnamese marketing analyst Pham Thi Thuy Linh kept listening to its soundtrack every day -- not just for the story, but for the moments that felt deeply familiar, echoing experiences from her own life.

“Although I cannot understand all the lyrics, they still touch my heart,” said Linh, 35. Set against the backdrop of urban life, workplace challenges and the search for love and belonging, such Chinese drama series, often referred to as C-dramas, are striking a chord with audiences far beyond the country’s borders.

SURGING GLOBAL AUDIENCES

Best Thing” weaves traditional Chinese medicine into a love story, while “Speed and Love” adds racing and boxing to its romantic plot.

MORE THAN A SCREEN

For some fans, the interest continues after the final episode. They look up soundtracks and filming locations, or share favorite scenes online. Some also become curious about the food and everyday details they see on screen.

An article in India’s Hindustan Times highlighted locations in Beijing and Harbin featured in “The Early Spring,” giving fans ideas for places to visit and making the television drama a starting point for travel inspiration.

“Many good Chinese dramas across various genres, including ancient-setting, modern and psychological dramas, have attracted young Vietnamese viewers,” said Linh.

“The Early Spring” had climbed to second place on Netflix’s weekly global chart for non-English-language series.

The social media accounts of Jing Boran, who plays the male lead, drew comments from viewers around the world. Some viewers said they had rewatched the drama multiple times and thanked him for delivering such a compelling performance.

“Irreplaceable,” despite not yet having become a major hit in China, drew 2 million views in its first week. It entered the platform’s top 10 in 24 countries and regions.

Social media has also changed the way audiences engage with shows. They share their reactions, create their own content and keep the conversation going beyond the screen.

Vietnamese film critic and writer Le Hong Lam said Chinese television series and films had influenced Vietnamese popular culture at different times.

He pointed to “Meet Yourself,” a series about healing and finding beauty in everyday life. Its unhurried pace and focus on life’s small pleasures offer viewers a different vision of modern living, he said.

Chinese cultural products such as television shows, films, animations, and video games have gained widespread popularity worldwide, said Benjamin Mgana, chief editor of foreign news at the Tanzanian newspaper The Guardian.

Set in a fictional ancient world, “Pursuit of Jade” has also shown strong momentum. It has topped Google searches among Chinese costume dramas worldwide since 2025, racking up more than 10 million views.

DIVERSIFIED GENRES TO EXPLORE

As more Chinese series win over audiences abroad, viewers encounter a wider range of settings and stories, and come into contact with different aspects of Chinese life and culture.

Through these works, an increasing number of Tanzanian people have come to understand and appreciate Chinese culture, Mgana noted.

INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY

Chinese streaming platforms have expanded their global reach, opening up more distribution avenues for C-dramas beyond platforms like YouTube.

In 2019, Tencent launched its overseas version WeTV in Thailand to offer original Chinese content with Thai subtitles and dubbing. In the same year, iQIYI International was launched and gradually began localized operations in countries including Malaysia and Singapore.

These platforms have leveraged technology to break down language and cultural barriers. Over 90 percent of the translation and dubbing work for iQIYI International is done by AI, with humans only responsible for the final review. According to the company, the entire process, from receiving the source content to completing subtitles in more than 10 languages, takes just one to two days.

Some dramas like “The Early Spring” and “Pursuit of Jade” also landed on Netflix, indicating that C-dramas have gained a foothold on major global streaming platforms, competing on the same stage with traditional non-English content such as Korean dramas and Spanish-language dramas.

Industry insiders said that compared with the long-standing advantage of Korean dramas on global streaming platforms, C-dramas still require robust industrial capacity to maintain lasting global popularity.

Food

Korean-inspired seafood stew with kimchi kick

Esther Choi’s seafood stew wins mom’s heart

NEW YORK, Oct 28, (AP): Like my recipes for Kimchi Bolognese and Kimchi Mac and Beef, this dish from my cookbook “Hand Taste: Cook Like a Korean Grandmother” is part of my Korean Italian American repertoire.

And out of them all, this Kimchi Seafood Pot is my mom’s favorite. I made it for her once just for fun, and now she asks me to make it all the time. It’s all about seafood in tomato sauce punched up with kimchi and fish sauce, like a Korean cioppino.

Tomato passata is essentially tomato puree. If you’re shopping for canned tomato products and see a 24-ounce jar of tomato passata, that’s perfect. I prefer it over chunky canned tomatoes for this recipe because the silky-smooth tomato texture is better for coating the seafood. If all you have is canned tomatoes, puree them in the blender first.

The specific seafood is less important than using the highest quality you can find. If the best thing in your area is clams and shrimp, and scallops are insanely expensive, go with those two and use more of them to make up the difference. Or use calamari or pieces of white fish fillets in place of the scallops, adding them at the end so they don’t overcook. I love serving this with torn pieces of crusty bread for dipping directly into the pot, though I have also served it happily with pasta or rice.

Seafood:

- 2 pounds mussels
- 1 pound cockles (or clams) or more mussels
- All-purpose flour
- Kosher salt
- 8 ounces jumbo or large shrimp (about 8)
- 8 ounces bay or sea scallops

Sauce:

- Vegetable oil
- ½ cup finely diced carrot
- ½ cup finely diced shallots
- ½ cup finely diced celery
- 1½ tablespoons minced garlic
- 2 scallions, white and green parts separated and thinly sliced cross-wise
- ¼ cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, plus more for garnish
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ cup chopped kimchi
- 1 tablespoon gochujang
- ½ cup white wine
- 3 cups (24 ounces) tomato passata (see headnote)
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes

To serve:

- 1 lemon
- 1 loaf good crusty bread

Prep the seafood: If attached, pull



This image released by Voracious shows a recipe for a kimchi seafood pot from the cookbook “Hand Taste” by Esther Choi. (AP)

the beards (the hairy bits near the joint) off the mussels. Scrub each well and drain, discarding any mussels that aren’t firmly closed. Put the mussels in a bowl, cover with a cool, damp kitchen towel and refrigerate.

Put the cockles in a bowl with a pinch of flour and pinch of salt. Cover with cold water and let sit for 10 to 15 minutes while preparing the rest of the seafood. Drain the cockles, discarding any sand and grit at the bottom of the bowl and discard any that aren’t firmly closed. Cover the bowl with a cool, damp kitchen towel and refrigerate.

For each shrimp, cut along the backbone and devein, leaving the shell and tails attached (though if you don’t like peeling shrimp as you eat, remove the shell). For each scallop, peel off the small piece of muscle, if attached. If using scallops that are very large (like some sea scallops), halve them first so they cook evenly in the center at the same time as the shrimp.

Make the sauce: Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large Dutch oven or pot over medium-high heat. Add the carrot, shallots, and celery and cook, lowering the heat to medium if needed to prevent scorching and stirring often, until the shallots begin to soften, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in the garlic, scallion whites, and parsley and cook until very fragrant, about

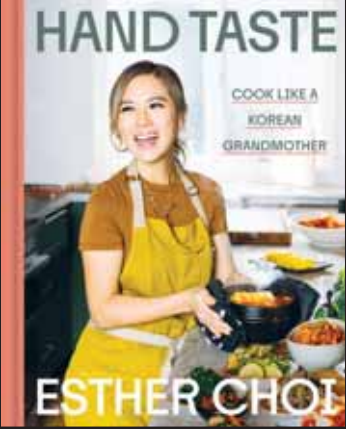
1 more minute. Stir in the salt and kimchi and cook until the kimchi begins to soften, about 2 minutes.

Stir in the gochujang, ensuring it is evenly dispersed, then pour in the wine. Increase the heat to medium-high and let the wine reduce by half. Stir in the tomato passata, fish sauce and red pepper flakes.

Cook the seafood: Stir the mussels and cockles into the pot and bring to a simmer. Cover and cook until the mussels and cockles have opened up, about 5 minutes; discard any that have not opened up. Stir in the shrimp and scallops, then cook un-

covered, stirring often, until the rest of the seafood is cooked through, 2 to 3 minutes longer.

To serve: Using a Microplane rasp, grate the zest of the lemon into the pot. Cut the lemon in half and squeeze the juice from one half into the pot. Stir, then taste and add more lemon juice if you want. Garnish with the scallion greens and some parsley and serve immediately with crusty bread. This recipe is best as soon as it’s made.



This image released by Voracious shows the cookbook “Hand Taste” by Esther Choi. (AP)

Jodi’s sale falls short of the \$50.1M T. rex record

Rare Nanotyrannus fossil sells for \$47.3 million

NEW YORK, Oct 28, (AP): A dinosaur that looks like a miniature T. rex is now one of the world’s most expensive fossils.

The rare skeleton of a Nanotyrannus - recently confirmed to be a distant cousin of Tyrannosaurus rex, not just a young specimen - sold for \$47.3 million to a mystery buyer at auction in New York City on Tuesday, according to Sotheby’s. The auction house had expected it to fetch anywhere from \$6 to \$9 million.

The blockbuster price tag for “Jodi,” as the skeleton is nicknamed, makes it the second-priceiest set of dinosaur bones ever sold. This summer, a T. rex fossil known as “Gus” sold for a record \$50.1 million at Sotheby’s.

The new owner of “Jodi” has, for now, chosen to remain anonymous after outbidding five other prospective buyers online and by phone during the roughly 12-minute live auction, Sotheby’s said.

A Nanotyrannus was about half the length of an adult T. rex, and the two creatures coexisted during the Cretaceous period some

67 million years ago. Nanotyrannus had relatively longer forelimbs and larger hand claws, as well as more slender, blade-like teeth than its famous cousin.

“Jodi” is one of only three such skeletons known to exist. Standing 9 feet 6 inches (2.9 meters)

and stretching nearly 20 feet (6 meters), it has been on display at the auction house’s upper Manhattan headquarters since earlier this month, and is considered almost 70% complete.

The dinosaur is named after Jodi Pierson, the Montana ranch-



Jodi, a mounted Nanotyrannus skeleton, of the Cretaceous Period, approximately 67 million years ago, estimated at \$6 - 9 million, is displayed at Sotheby’s, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026, in New York. (AP)

er who discovered it on her land in 2019.

Sotheby’s, in a statement, thanked the team of professional fossil hunters whose efforts to discover and excavate the specimen were the focus of the Discovery Channel documentary series “Dino Hunters” in 2020.

“Their commitment to understanding and preserving this remarkable specimen has helped bring us to this moment, a testament to the fact that we can all make major contributions to science,” said Cassandra Hatton, Sotheby’s head of science and natural history.

However, some scientists have opposed such private sales, saying “Jodi” and other significant fossils should be displayed in museums or other institutions so they can be studied by researchers and viewed by the public.

Scientists for decades weren’t even sure whether Nanotyrannus represented a distinct type of dinosaur or merely a juvenile T. rex. But research published last year concluded that it was in fact a distinct genus of dinosaur.

IWG Kuwait joins Pink October initiative at Al Shaheed Park under the slogan ‘Walk for a Purpose, Walk for Life’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: As part of Pink October, the International Women’s Group (IWG) Kuwait participated in a breast cancer awareness initiative at Al Shaheed Park in collaboration with Cancer Aware Nation (CAN), under the slogan “Walk for a Purpose, Walk for Life.”

The event brought participants together to raise awareness of breast cancer and emphasize the importance of prevention, regular screening, and early detection.

The initiative highlighted how every step can encourage women to prioritize their health, promote awareness, and show solidarity with those affected by breast cancer. Through collective action and mutual support, participants reinforced the message that early detection saves lives and that awareness remains a vital tool in the fight against the disease.

The gathering also provided an opportunity to appreciate Al Shaheed Park’s green spaces and welcoming environment while coming together in support of a meaningful cause.

Mona Haddad El Khoury, President of the International Women’s Group Kuwait for 2026–2027, expressed her sincere gratitude to the administration of Al Shaheed Park and the AmiriDiwan of Kuwait for their warm welcome and invaluable support in making the initiative possible.

She also extended her heartfelt thanks to Ms. Anwar Al-Yatama, Chair of the Committee for the Supervision, Management and Follow-up of Al Shaheed Park, Phase Three; Ms. Nojoud Al-Zamanan of the Media and Marketing Team; Mr. Salem Al-Hubail of the Media Team; and Eng. Munira Al-Mudhaf of the AmiriDiwan for their valuable contributions and support.

Special appreciation was extended to Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) for



Photos from the event.

partnering with IWG Kuwait on this important awareness initiative and for its continued commitment to promoting cancer awareness and prevention.

The event reaffirmed the Interna-

tional Women’s Group Kuwait’s commitment to community engagement, women’s well-being, and initiatives that bring people together in support of meaningful causes.

Every step counts, every voice

matters, and every effort can help save a life. Together, we walk for a purpose, and we walk for life.



A diverse coral assemblage is seen after a 2024 bleaching event at Pompey Reef in the northern Great Barrier Reef, far North Queensland, Australia, on Jan 1, 2025. (AP)

Almost all coral reef ecosystems face risk of collapse in 50 yrs, study warns

WASHINGTON, Oct 28, (AP): The world’s coral reef ecosystems almost all face a high risk of collapse in the next 50 years, mostly due to warming oceans and heat waves, according to a global assessment released.

It’s the latest dose of bad news for coral reefs, which are critical sources for seafood and tourism and often serve as buffers from coastal erosion and storms. Sometimes dubbed “rainforests of the sea,” they have some of the world’s richest biodiversity. They support a quarter of marine species as well as coastal communities and businesses.

Some 96% of shallow-water reef systems are already critically endangered and could disappear by 2075, the International Union for Conservation of Nature announced on the sidelines of a U.N. biodiversity conference in Albania.

Most of the world’s famous reef systems - including the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Coral Triangle in the Western Pacific Ocean and Southeast Asia, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System and the Red Sea coral reefs - are all critically endangered, the highest level of threat.

“The risk of coral reef collapse is escalating, but this must be a wake-up call rather than a cause for despair,” said Mishal Gudka, the scientific lead of the global IUCN Red List of Coral Reef Ecosystems assessment, the first of its kind.

“Coral reefs have shown a remarkable ability to bounce back from devastating bleaching events,” he said. “Pock-

ets of surviving, resilient coral reefs can still remain in the future, so we must do everything within our reach to set them up for success.”

When a reef collapses, hard corals disappear and are replaced by algae, rubble and sponges. As a result, the reef no longer supports a diverse ecosystem that can include everything from tiny invertebrates to reef fish like grouper.

“Coral reefs are one of the clearest vital signs of the ocean’s health,” Grethel Aguilar, the IUCN director general, said in a statement.

The assessment, spanning 127 tropical and subtropical ecoregions, and encompassing 72,726 square miles (188,362 square kilometers) of coral reefs globally, called climate change the “single most consistent threat driving coral reef decline worldwide.”

A week ago, another study in the journal Nature by the IUCN found that nearly 44% of reef-building coral species face an elevated risk of extinction due to climate change. A year ago, a survey found that harmful bleaching of the world’s coral has grown to include 84% of the ocean’s reefs - the most intense of its kind in recorded history.

The year 2024 was Earth’s hottest on record, and much of that is going into oceans. The average annual sea surface temperature of oceans away from the poles was a record 69.57 degrees Fahrenheit (20.87 degrees Celsius).

Beyond combating rising global emissions, experts said efforts to reduce pollution, overfishing and coastal development can help reefs survive.

Dementia accounts for over 10 pct of deaths in Australia for 1st time

New CDC report finds 19 germs cause 50,800 deaths annually in US

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 28, (Xinhua): Nineteen pathogens cause an estimated 9.7 million infections and 50,800 deaths in the United States each year, according to an updated report released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Tuesday.

The 2026 Antimicrobial Resistance Threats Report is the CDC’s most comprehensive estimate to date of the impact of drug-resistant bacteria and fungi, as well as Clostridioides difficile, the CDC said.

The report classifies 19 pathogens according to their threat to public health in the United States: four as urgent threats, 13 as serious threats and two as concerning threats.

The four urgent threats are Candida auris (C. auris), carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter, carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales, and drug-resistant Neisseria gonorrhoeae, the report said.

Drug-resistant C. auris infections have increased tenfold since 2019, and some strains are resistant to available classes of antifungal drugs, according to the report.

The report also highlighted the rapid spread of resistance genes, which can make infections harder to treat and more deadly.

“Antimicrobial resistance threatens modern medicine and puts millions of Americans at risk every year,” CDC Director Erica Schwartz was quoted as saying by US media outlets. “High-quality data help drive action, and CDC is committed to providing easily accessible information to help protect people from drug-resistant infections.”

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Dementia: Dementia, including Alzheimer’s disease, accounted for more than 10 percent of all deaths in Australia in 2025 for the first time, remaining the country’s leading cause of death, according to official data released on Tuesday.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said 19,019 people died from dementia in 2025, accounting for 10.1 percent of all registered deaths, up from 18,291 in 2024.

Ischaemic heart diseases remained the second leading cause of death, claiming 16,228 lives, or 8.6 percent of the total, with the mortality rate falling to its lowest level since official records began in 1968.

Cerebrovascular diseases, lung cancer and chronic lower respiratory diseases rounded out the five leading causes of death, which together accounted for 33.3 percent of all registered deaths.

A total of 188,421 deaths were registered across Australia in 2025, an increase of 1,153 from the previous year. However, the age-standardized mortality rate fell from 507.8 to 495.5 deaths per 100,000 people, indicating a return towards pre-pandemic mortality trends, the ABS said.

Over the past decade, deaths caused by dementia increased by 37.3 percent, while deaths from ischaemic heart diseases and cerebrovascular diseases declined by 16.2 percent and 12.1 percent, respectively.

The report also showed that accidental falls rose to the seventh leading cause of death in 2025, with 5,519 fatalities, an increase of 59.5 percent compared with 2016.

Meanwhile, influenza and pneu-



monia accounted for 4,382 deaths, ranking 11th among the leading causes of death and representing 2.3 percent of all fatalities.

The male age-standardized death rate dropped to a record low of 581.3 deaths per 100,000 people in 2025, according to the ABS.

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Genetic disorder: Researchers in Australia have discovered a way to release a genetic “brake” that silences healthy genes in Prader-Willi syndrome, opening a potential new path to treating the rare genetic disorder.

Researchers at Australia’s Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) found that re-

moving a protein called SMCHD1 lifted the genetic “brake,” allowing healthy but dormant genes to switch back on, according to a WEHI statement released Tuesday.

In Prader-Willi syndrome, the protein switches off certain genes essential for development and brain function, contributing to developmental delays, intellectual disability and an insatiable appetite that can lead to obesity. About 400,000 people worldwide live with the condition, the statement said.

The study, published in Science Advances, used CRISPR gene-editing, stem-cell and genomic technologies to examine the effects of removing SMCHD1 in patient-derived cells and animal models.

Current treatments mainly address symptoms rather than the underlying cause, often relying on multiple medications, surgeries and specialist care, providing limited relief, the researchers said, adding that potential new therapies targeting the cause of Prader-Willi syndrome are now advancing through a WEHI spinout company.

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Mpox: Four new cases of mpox have been reported in Pakistan’s northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bringing the total number of infections in the province to 18, the provincial health department said on Tuesday.

Peshawar, the provincial capital, has reported the highest number of cases, with five infections, while one death from the disease has been recorded so far, the department said.

Symptoms of mpox include fever, headache, body aches and skin rashes or blisters.

The department advised people to avoid close contact with infected individuals to reduce the risk of transmission.

□ □ □

Dengue: Bangladesh recorded 2,249 mosquito-borne dengue fever cases in the 24 hours to Sunday morning, the highest single-day tally so far this year.

According to the latest data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the country also recorded seven more deaths in the 24 hours until 8:00 a.m. local time on Sunday.

The latest DGHS figures brought

the total number of dengue cases to 123,948 and the death toll to 384 this year.

Dengue deaths this year included 139 in October, 148 in September, 43 in August, 36 in July and 13 in June.

Dengue fever, typically a monsoon-season illness in Bangladesh, is now spreading beyond its usual June-September period.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has recently directed the relevant authorities to conduct public awareness campaigns using loudspeakers in neighborhoods to prevent dengue.

□ □ □

Ebola: Tanzania’s northeastern Arusha Region has stepped up measures to prevent the spread of Ebola, training more than 100 health workers, designing an isolation and treatment facility, and intensifying health screening at the Namanga border post following an outbreak in neighboring Kenya, an official said Tuesday.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are nine confirmed cases and two deaths in Kenya, with no evidence of wider community transmission.

Arusha Regional Administrative Secretary Toba Nguvula said the measures aim to strengthen early detection and prompt management of suspected infections at the busy crossing linking Tanzania and Kenya.

Nguvula outlined the preparations after inspecting screening procedures and staff readiness at the Namanga One-Stop Border Post in Longido District.

Every day, there’s more speculation

LIV Golf’s future and the ripple effect for PGA and European tours provide plenty of drama

LOS ANGELES, Oct 28, (AP): LIV Golf didn’t generate this much suspense at tournaments when the music was blaring, the Saudi cash was flowing freely and players from the Cleeks and Majestics headed off in carts for the shotgun start.

Every day, there’s more speculation. Who’s leaving? Who’s staying? Weren’t these the same questions four years ago?

It was May 31, 2022, when a group of golf writers out to dinner in Ohio received emails announcing the field for the inaugural LIV Golf event - Dustin Johnson and 12 other PGA Tour members - and had to leave before the creme brulee arrived.

And now another waiting game, not for the launch but whether LIV survives.

LIV Golf is working through Chapter 11 bankruptcy with a pledge of \$300 million from BC Partners Credit, a far cry from the \$5 billion the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia dropped in four years before abruptly pulling the plug.

Key to the “LIV 2.0” version - at least 10 tournaments, player equity and prize money half of what it used to be - is getting a “critical mass” of players to buy into the plan. How many players comprise a critical mass is unclear. And while LIV officials don’t plan to announce each decision piecemeal, players are doing that for them.

Jon Rahm and Sergio Garcia have court-approved separations from LIV and are free to go. Louis Oosthuizen, Ian Poulter, Tom McKibbin and Adrian Meronk have said they are leaving. Graeme McDowell added his name to the list Monday with a succinct message on social media.

Adding a wrinkle to the immediate future of LIV was a report by The Athletic that Johnson was among more than 10 players seeking severance deals from PIF worth more than \$100 million in contract payments. Johnson’s attorney suggested a deal was tied to players sticking with LIV 2.0.

“The decision to release potential claims against the PIF and join LIV 2.0 will be influenced largely by how the PIF manages the windup of LIV 1.0,” David Cornwell told The Athletic.

An amended restructuring agreement approved by the New Jersey bankruptcy court indicates LIV no longer has a hard deadline for players to decide. The hope was to have a decision by the end of the month. LIV remains bullish about a 2027 season.



Captain Louis Oosthuizen of Southern Guards GC hits his shot from the 11th tee during the second round of MAADEN LIV Golf Virginia at Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Va. (AP)

That won’t be the end of the drama, however, and it would seem the golf landscape is still a long way off from being stitched back together, if it ever can be.

The PGA Tour has yet to say whether defectors - currently banned for one year from the date of their last LIV appearance - have a place. It’s not a high priority as the tour seeks to fill out its lucrative “Championship Series” schedule in 2028 and find sponsors for the second tier.

The European tour, meanwhile, delivered a strong ultimatum when CEO Guy Kinnings said anyone staying with LIV need not apply for membership for the commercially known DP World Tour.

That made it an easy choice for Rahm and Tyrrell Hatton - particularly with

Ryder Cup strings attached - and for youngsters Tom McKibbin and David Puig. They have status based on performance. That doesn’t mean it sits well with those who stayed.

“Four years ago, they didn’t give a (crap) about the DP World Tour,” Joost Luiten told Today’s Golfer. “They made a decision to go after the money. And now all of a sudden, the money is gone and they want to come back and act like nothing happened. I don’t think that’s right.”

There’s also the matter of sponsor exemptions for those who don’t have status, or even those who never gave much thought to the European tour because they didn’t need it. Now they do.

European tour officials are not in position to turn their back on a chance to strengthen fields.

“Given the high volume of inbound interest and enquiries we have received in recent weeks, we are exploring the terms on which we are willing to accommodate players provided they are free from third party contractual restrictions and are willing to abide by our membership regulations,” a European tour spokesman said.

It’s possible such players are allowed only a set number of exemptions. And because the exemptions are for stock events - think Magical Kenya Open and the Soudal Open in Belgium - it might not be a case of squeezing out a more worthy player.

But then it’s a matter of whether loyalty means more than name recognition. Eddie Pepperell, among the most thoughtful players, missed the cut last week in South Korea and wound up one spot out of a full European tour card for 2027. He wrote in his “The Chipping Forecast” post that outside of players whom people pay to watch, send everyone else to Q-school.

But potentially losing a spot in the field to a player no longer interested in LIV because it no longer offers \$20 million purses with no cuts?

“As someone who has gone through the wringer this game provides (mostly due to my own shortcomings of course) in recent years, and who has gone back to Q School and had two immensely divergent experiences, betrayal feels like the right word,” Pepperell wrote. “And unfortunately when one feels that way inevitably what follows is a loss of respect, and what tends to fill the void left behind is resentment and contempt.”

No matter what happens to LIV, one suspects it won’t make the healing process any easier.

‘Convincing majority of votes’

Bobsled, skeleton federation continuing Russian team ban

WASHINGTON, Oct 28, (AP): Russian teams will remain banned from World Cup bobsled races this season, and presumably the sport’s world championships as well, after one of sliding’s governing bodies voted Tuesday to extend the sanctions stemming from that country’s war with Ukraine.

Some Russian sliders may still compete in skeleton and monobob events this season, the International Bobsled and Skeleton Federation said, but only as individual neutral athletes and “subject to ... eligibility and vetting conditions.”

The neutrality issue is paramount in the process of determining which Russian athletes will be allowed to compete, just as it was last winter as the fields for the Milan Cortina Olympics were being set. Certain sports federations have let Russian athletes compete, but only after they are cleared by an independent review process to ensure that they have not publicly supported the war and are not affiliated with Russia’s military or other forces.

The reason skeleton and monobob are considered different from two- or

four-man bobsled is simply because of the lack of a team aspect. There is only one person on a skeleton sled - the discipline where sliders go head-first down the track - and one woman in a monobob.

“After thorough discussion and our presentation of facts about the involvement of the Russian Bobsleigh Federation and Russian athletes in actively supporting the actions of their government, and in some cases even their affiliation with the Russian army, a fair decision was adopted by a convincing majority of votes,” Ukrainian skeleton athlete Vladyslav Heraskevych wrote in a statement posted on social media.

Heraskevych, a likely medal contender at the Milan Cortina Games, was barred from racing in his event last February after refusing a last-minute plea by the International Olympic Committee to not use a helmet honoring more than 20 athletes and coaches killed since Russia invaded his country more than four years ago.

The first World Cup bobsled and skeleton races of the season are Nov. 27 at Altenberg, Germany.

Knicks get first win of season



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0), right, drives to the basket with the ball while being guarded by Los Angeles Lakers center Walker Kessler (14), left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

Trail Blazers edge Lakers despite Doncic's 41

NEW YORK, Oct 28, (AP): Karl-Anthony Towns had 27 points and 20 rebounds, and the New York Knicks avoided what would have been the second 0-4 start by a defending champion in NBA history by beating the previously undefeated Detroit Pistons 111-97.

Jalen Brunson shook free of his shooting struggles in a dominant third quarter that resembled the Knicks of last spring, not the team whose three losses in three games were as many as they had in 19 games during last season’s run to the title.

Brunson finished with 23 points and Mikal Bridges made his first four 3-pointers of the season and scored 12 in the Knicks’ first victory since Game 5 of the NBA Finals. New York then fell to Philadelphia, Boston and Orlando, and another loss would have matched the 1969-70 Boston Celtics for the most to start a season after winning a title.

But the Knicks blew open the game by outscoring the Pistons 37-13 in the third quarter to open a 25-point cushion against the team who handled them better than anyone else last season.

Cade Cunningham had 19 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the 3-1 Pistons. Detroit beat New York by scores of 121-90, 118-80 and 126-111 in 2025-26, and had won the last six meetings in the regular season.

Paul Reed had 22 points and nine rebounds starting in place of injured center Jalen Duren for the Pistons, who were seeking their first 4-0 start since 2018-19.

Trail Blazers 136, Lakers 129

In Los Angeles, Ja Morant and Deni Avdija scored 23 points apiece, Damian Lillard added 21 and hit a clutch 3-pointer with 43 seconds to play, and the Portland Trail Blazers remained unbeaten with a victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Luka Doncic had 41 points and nine assists in the Lakers’ first loss of the season.

Jrue Holiday scored 22 points for the Blazers, who are off to the franchise’s second 3-0 start in the last 15 years. Portland stayed perfect under new coach Micah Nori by finishing on a 15-8 run. Austin Reaves scored 26 points for the Lakers, and Sandro Mamukelashvili added 17.

Portland took an eight-point lead early in the fourth quarter before Doncic returned from the bench

to lead the Lakers’ comeback. Lillard and Avdija made back-to-back 3-pointers in the final minutes, but Doncic and Ziaire Williams matched them to keep it close.

Morant hit midrange jumpers on consecutive possessions to put Portland up by five, and Lillard clinched the win with his fourth 3-pointer. The 36-year-old veteran had another big night against the Lakers despite uncharacteristically missing four free throws.

Celtics 125, Nets 124 OT

In Boston, Jayson Tatum buried a 17-foot jumper at the overtime buzzer to cap a 40-point night, and the Boston Celtics beat the Brooklyn Nets for their third straight victory.

Tatum finished 10 of 20 from the field and 18 of 22 from the free-throw line. Paul George added 20

points and Derrick White scored 16 for the Celtics, who have not lost since they blew a 22-point lead in their season opener at Detroit.

Michael Porter Jr. had 27 points and 12 rebounds for Brooklyn (0-4), and Julius Randle scored 24 points.

Nets rookie Mikel Brown Jr. made a tying 3-pointer with 0.2 seconds remaining in regulation. But in OT, he missed a layup with 2.3 seconds left to set up Tatum for the winning basket. Brown, the sixth pick in the NBA draft out of Louisville, finished with 17 points.

Boston’s Mitchell Robinson missed two free throws with 3 seconds left in regulation, giving Brooklyn a chance at the tying 3. Robinson, a career 50.7% free-throw shooter, went 1 of 4 from the line and is 2 of 8 this season.

Spurs 130, Kings 103

In San Antonio, Victor Wembanyama had 29 points and 10 rebounds and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Sacramento Kings for their first home victory of the season.

Julian Champagnie added 26 points on 8-for-13 3-point shooting as San Antonio evened its record at 2-2 after opening with disappointing home losses to Oklahoma City and Houston.

Veteran center Domantas Sabonis scored 20 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists for winless Sacramento. De’Andre Hunter added 24 points and Zach LaVine had 22 points.

The Spurs were 17 for 37 on 3-pointers, surpassing the 15 they made against the Dallas Mavericks on Oct. 24 in their only previous victory. Dylan Harper had 13 points, six rebounds and six assists for San Antonio.

All five Spurs starters were in double figures in their highest offensive output of the season.

73-year wait is puzzling

Antonelli poised to make Formula 1 history for Italy

MEXICO CITY, Oct 28, (AP): Kimi Antonelli is on the verge of becoming Formula 1’s youngest-ever champion, and the first Italian to win the title since Alberto Ascari in 1953.

For a country full of passionate racing fans, the 73-year wait for an Italian champ is puzzling.

Over decades without a title contender to cheer, Italy’s legions of passionate “tifosi” fans have worn red to support Ferrari as a team, rather than individual Italian drivers.

Now the 20-year-old Antonelli, reportedly rejected by Ferrari as a child before joining Mercedes, is changing Italy’s racing story.

Ahead of Antonelli almost certainly securing the title Sunday in Mexico City, here why it’s taken so long for an Italian to win again.

Italy was the center of the racing world when the World Drivers’ Championship began in 1950.

Just five years after the end of World War II, the fledgling Ferrari brand was one of a clutch of teams in Italian racing red fighting for wins.

Italian Nino Farina won the first title for Alfa Romeo, and Ascari added two more for Ferrari in 1952 and 1953. The decade was dominated by Juan Manuel Fangio, F1’s first superstar driver and an Argentine of Italian heritage, who won five championships in his 40s, a feat never seen

since.

Financial issues forced Alfa Romeo, Lancia and Maserati out of F1, leaving Ferrari as the sole Italian constructor by 1960 with fewer opportunities for Italian drivers.

Small British teams, mocked by founder Enzo Ferrari as “garagistas” for being run out of backyards and garages, revolutionized F1 with light and nimble designs with the engine behind the driver. By the late ‘60s, they were dominant.

There have been other teams based out of Italy - including Racing Bulls today - but Ferrari has remained the country’s only genuine title contender.

Until the late 1970s it was rare for a season to pass without at least one Formula 1 driver being killed after crashing in races or tests.

Deaths of Italian auto racing stars - including Ascari, killed testing a Ferrari sportscar in 1955 - caused a backlash in Italy.

The influential Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano issued a blistering condemnation of auto racing after the 1958 death of Italy’s Luigi Musso, who was driving for Ferrari.

The newspaper likened auto racing to the ancient Roman god Saturn who “continues to devour his own children,” with Musso as one of the victims of a quest to make money regardless of the human cost.



In this file photo, Mercedes driver Andrea Kimi Antonelli, of Italy, celebrates on the podium after winning the Italian Formula One Grand Prix race in Monza, Italy. (AP)

Clubs show solidarity

Spanish soccer federation postpones 24 Copa del Rey games after train crash

MADRID, Oct 28, (AP):The national soccer federation has postponed all 24 Copa del Rey games scheduled for Wednesday because of the train accident that killed more than 60 people in central Spain.

Clubs across the country sent messages of solidarity and support to the victims of the accident, which also left dozens injured after a high-speed train slammed into the rear of another one that had stopped on the tracks.

“Shocked by the tragic railway accident,” the federation said.

It said it ordered the postponement of the games “in solidarity with the victims.”

“The entire Spanish soccer community stands united in grief over this

tragedy and has made itself available to the authorities to assist the victims of this devastating accident,” the federation added.

“Real Madrid C.F. wishes to express its deepest sorrow over the tragic railway accident,” the club said in a statement. “The club extends its condolences to the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives, as well as its affection and solidarity to the injured and all those affected by this terrible accident.”

Barcelona also expressed “its deepest condolences to the victims.”

“The club wishes to convey its support and solidarity to the families and friends of the victims and to wish all those injured a speedy recovery,” it said in a statement.

Atletico Madrid said it joined “in the grief for the victims of the terrible railway accident that occurred this morning.”

Atletico, Barcelona and Real Madrid are among the teams who do not enter the tournament until the round of 32.

The federation said it would later provide a revised tournament schedule. Five top-flight clubs were set to play in the first round on Wednesday: Real Betis, Celta Vigo, Valencia, Alaves and Levante.

First-round games on Thursday have not been postponed. Games were played on Tuesday as well.

The Spanish league has not announced any postponements of this week-end’s games.

Sabitzer sends Dortmund into German Cup last 16



Dortmund’s Marcel Sabitzer celebrates after scoring a goal during the German soccer cup match between Borussia Dortmund and Werder Bremen in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

Cologne thrashes Union Berlin 5-0

BERLIN, Oct. 28, (Xinhua): Marcel Sabitzer scored a stoppage-time free kick as Borussia Dortmund edged Werder Bremen 3-2 in the German Cup second round, surviving a second-half comeback inspired by former Dortmund striker Niclas Fullkrug.

Dortmund appeared in control after racing into a two-goal lead inside 17 minutes, but Fullkrug struck twice in four minutes after coming off the bench to bring Bremen level before Sabitzer settled the contest deep into added time.

Serhou Guirassy opened the scoring in the sixth minute, finishing from close range after Julian Ryerson redirected Maximilian Beier’s delivery into his path.

Carney Chukwuemeka doubled Dortmund’s lead in the 17th minute, converting Jobe Bellingham’s layoff with a first-time finish following a cross from Joey Veerman.

The hosts dominated the opening half, pressing Bremen high up the pitch and creating several chances to extend their advantage. Guirassy had another effort ruled out for offside, while Felix Nmecha also failed to capitalize on a promising opportunity.

Bremen struggled to create openings before halftime but im-

proved after the break, with coach Daniel Thioune’s decision to introduce Fullkrug proving decisive.

The former Dortmund forward pulled a goal back from the penalty spot in the 65th minute after Ryerson fouled Mick Schmetgens inside the area.

Fullkrug struck again four minutes later, dispossessing Waldemar

Anton near halfway before beating an opponent and driving home the equalizer.

Mitchell Weiser then threatened to complete Bremen’s comeback, but Dortmund regained control in the closing stages.

Amos Pieper blocked Daniel Svensson’s effort in the 89th minute before Sabitzer curled a free kick into the top corner in stoppage time to send Dortmund into the third round.

“We must be relieved in the end. We are happy we managed to avoid extra time,” Dortmund captain Nico Schlotterbeck said.

“We played a good first half but had some problems afterward. We became nervous after they pulled one back. It was a 50-50 game that we ended up winning.” Elsewhere, Augsburg beat Sonnenhof Graspach 4-2, while RB Leipzig edged Rot-Weiss Essen 2-1 and Bochum defeated Mainz 2-0.

Eintracht Frankfurt won 3-1 away to Hamburg, Cologne thrashed Union Berlin 5-0, Borussia Monchengladbach beat Karlsruhe 2-0 and Darmstadt defeated Elversberg 2-0.



Darmstadt’s Lee Ho-jae Lee, right, of South Korea, and Elversberg’s Felix Keidel during the German Cup soccer match between SV Elversberg and SV Darmstadt 98 in Elversberg, Germany. (AP)

Bad light frustrates Shadman Islam on 99

Bangladesh reaches 213-3 in 1st test vs Windies

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Oct 28, (AP): Bangladesh opener Shadman Islam was stranded on 99 as bad light brought an early end to Day 1 in the first cricket test against West Indies on Wednesday.

Shadman struck 10 fours to guide his side to 213-3 at stumps. Liton Das, returning from a hip injury, was also unbeaten, on 10.

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto had won the toss and opted to bat first, a decision that was justified by the patient Shadman.

“I think the way he batted, and showed composure throughout the day, the innings will be a learning curve for Shadman,” Bangladesh batting coach Mohammad Salahuddin said.

“As an opener, he should convert his 50s into

centuries regularly.”

New-ball bowlers Jayden Seales and Shamar Joseph put Bangladesh under pressure with probing lines and lengths early on.

Their persistency paid off when Tanzid Hasan edged a delivery from Seales to second slip on 7.

Unlike Tanzid, Shadman resisted the temptation to repeatedly drive outside the off stump and steadied the innings with Mominul Haque.

They kept West Indies at bay by sharing 59 runs for the second wicket.

Left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican broke the partnership when Mominul sliced a ball to mid-off on 28.

Warrican then dismissed Shanto on 19 after

a successful lbw review, the skipper missing a paddle sweep.

Shadman had raised his 10th half-century, and fourth against West Indies, by taking a single.

Shadman found an able partner in Tawhid Hridoy, who was playing his first match since making his debut against Zimbabwe in Harare four months ago.

The pair put on 88 before Hridoy was forced off the field after suffering cramp in the humid conditions. He was unbeaten on 42.

Bad light first interrupted play for about 30 minutes when Shadman was on 96. After the resumption, he appeared set for his third test century but was denied by the early close.

French protests push UEFA to switch date of Europa League game

NYON, Switzerland, Oct 28, (AP): The prospect of a general strike in France next week amid national protests on cost of living issues has pushed UEFA to change a Europa League match date in Rennes.

UEFA said Rennes will now host Olympiakos of Greece on Wednesday of next week at 4:30 p.m. local time (1530 GMT) instead of the Europa League’s scheduled program Thursday.

French trade unions are calling for a Nov. 5 general strike during widespread protests that began with students raising concerns about school conditions.

UEFA said it was informed by French public authorities that routine security around the game in Rennes could not be assured on Nov. 5.

The earlier kickoff time next Wednesday avoids a clash with 6:45 p.m. Central European Time (1745 GMT) starts in two Champions League games: Fenerbahce vs. Liverpool and AEK Athens vs. Real Madrid.

The French league also has moved games scheduled this Saturday when police and public authorities are dealing with planned marches and protests.

The French soccer federation said Wednesday an apparent “ghost goal” for Le Mans was valid despite Auxerre coach Will Still saying television images showed it was “impossible.”

Le Mans took the lead in a 1-1 draw Sunday in Ligue 1 from a header that Auxerre goalkeeper Paul Nardi seemed to save on the goal line.

The match referee was notified by his watch to the goal-line technology system and awarded the goal, backed by video review officials - whose real-time discussions were broadcast by the French federation Wednesday.

Still repeatedly said in post-game interviews the technology and match officials mistakenly judged seeing his goalkeeper’s gloved hand behind the goal line and not the ball.

Al-Melhem stresses importance of developing young equestrian talent

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Messilah Equestrian Club Show Jumping Championship gets underway on Friday morning, with beginner riders competing over 60cm and 80cm courses.

The competition resumes at 5:30 pm with the beginner 100cm class, followed by rounds at 110cm, 120cm and 130cm.

Messilah Equestrian Club Chairman Bader Tareq Al-Melhem highlighted the growing focus among equestrian clubs on nurturing young riders, stressing the importance of preparing a skilled generation capable of representing Kuwait at international competitions.

He said local clubs are home to numerous promising talents, reflecting the sport’s growing appeal in the country.

Established in 2004, Messilah Equestrian Club has spent 22 years training generations of riders, many of whom continue to distinguish themselves in Kuwaiti equestrian sport. Al-Melhem credited the work of experienced Arab and European coaches, saying the club continues to contribute to the sport alongside other local clubs.

He also emphasized that the increasing number of domestic and international competitions hosted by Kuwait helps raise riders’ technical standards and motivates them to remain active in



Messilah Equestrian Club Chairman Bader Tareq Al-Melhem

the sport.

Al-Melhem added that Kuwait’s wide network of equestrian clubs and training centers has encouraged greater participation, particularly in show jumping. He noted that Kuwaiti riders have reached international levels and won medals for the country on the global stage.

Prieto keeps Argentinos in title hunt

Neymar hit with a 2-match ban for covering his mouth in league game

SANTOS, Brazil, Oct 28, (Agencies): Neymar was suspended for two matches on Wednesday for covering his mouth while arguing with an opponent during a Brazilian league game.

Brazil’s sports tribunal handed down the suspension for the incident involving the Brazil forward in a Santos game against Bahia last weekend.

The tribunal said Neymar’s actions violated a protocol that was named after Vinicius Junior, who earlier this year accused an opponent of racially abusing him while the opponent covered his mouth with his jersey during a Champions League match.

Neymar will be out for three matches, the first for an accumulation of yellow cards and the other two for covering his mouth.

Neymar will serve his suspension for accumulated yellow cards against Palmeiras in the Brazilian league on Wednesday. He is not expected to be back in action until late November.

Neymar and Santos can appeal the suspension for covering his mouth.

Sebastian Prieto struck a second-half winner as Argentinos Juniors secured a 1-0 home victory over Independiente Rivadavia in Argentina’s Clausura tournament on Tuesday.

The hosts broke the deadlock in the 67th minute when Prieto’s speculative 40-yard drive slipped through the gloves of Nicolas Bolcato before nestling into the far corner.

Rivadavia controlled possession for long periods and had several chances to equalize but couldn’t find a way past goalkeeper Brayan Cortes.

“In this competition what matters most is consistency because in the end hard work is always rewarded,” Argentinos Juniors man-



Neymar

ager Nicolas Diez told a post-match news conference.

■ ■ ■

Brazil international midfielder Danilo has been ruled out of Botafogo’s visit to Remo on Wednesday due to a thigh strain, the Rio de Janeiro club said.

The 25-year-old sustained the injury in a 3-0 away defeat to Internacional in Brazil’s Serie A on Saturday.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Botafogo said Danilo would undergo treatment at its Lonier training complex in a bid to be fit for the November 4 home clash with Atletico Mineiro.

Danilo has made 64 appearances for Botafogo across all competitions since his arrival from Nottingham Forest in July 2025.

The injury is not expected to affect his availability for Brazil’s friendlies against Japan and Singapore next month.

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NEWS



Fleetwood's players celebrate after winning a penalty shootout during the English League Cup soccer match between Fleetwood Town and Arsenal in Fleetwood, England. (AP)

Sports

Arsenal suffers shock Cup exit

Fleetwood pulls biggest upsets

LONDON, Oct 28, (AP): Arsenal was beaten by fourth-tier Fleetwood Town in a penalty shootout in one of the biggest upsets in the 66-year history of the English League Cup.

Fleetwood converted all of its spot kicks against the Premier League champion and won 5-3 in the shootout in the last 16 after Bruno Guimaraes had a penalty saved.

The match finished 1-1 in regulation at the 5,300-capacity Highbury Stadium, the home ground of Fleetwood that bears the same name as Arsenal's former home stadium from 1913-2006.

Eighty-four positions separated the teams in the English soccer pyramid and Fleetwood, which had never reached this stage of the competition before, was the lowest-ranked club left in the draw.

Jubilant home fans streamed onto the field after Conor Haughey dispatched the clinching penalty.

Arsenal didn't field a full-strength team - first-team stars like Declan Rice, Gabriel and David Raya were missing - but manager Mikel Arteta still picked a strong lineup containing seasoned internationals, with captain Martin Ode-

gaard even thrown on at halftime with Fleetwood leading 1-0.

Viktor Gyokeres equalized in the 50th minute but Arsenal struggled to create many clear-cut chances after that and had 16-year-old prodigy Max Dowman sent off for kicking out at an opponent in the 85th. Dowman appeared to get a rebuke from Arteta as he left the field.

Fleetwood, which is a coastal town in northwest England and is languishing in 18th place in League Two, is most famous for being the team where former England and Leicester striker Jamie Vardy made his name. He was there for just one season and helped Fleetwood gain promotion out of the fifth tier, and into the English Football League, before getting a move to Leicester in 2012.

In 2023, Fleetwood's former owner, Andy Pilley, was handed a 13-year jail sentence for fraud. He lost an appeal in February this year.

Arsenal also lost its previous penalty shootout - against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League final in Budapest at the end of last season.

This latest one was in less glamorous surroundings but was much more embarrassing.



Kuwait veterans' soccer team delegation.

Kuwait veterans set for Gulf Cup campaign in Qatar

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Kuwait's veterans national team departed for Doha on Monday to compete in the Gulf Cup, scheduled to run from October 29 to November 4.

The Blue team will open its campaign against Saudi Arabia tomorrow before facing Iraq on Saturday. It is scheduled to wrap up its group-stage campaign on Sunday, although the oppo-

nent listed in the original report requires confirmation.

Head coach Thamer Enad and assistant coach Waleed Nassar named a 23-player squad for the tournament.

The squad comprises Khaled Al-Fadhli, Shehab Konkoni, Saleh Mahdi, Yaqoub Al-Taher, Hussein Fadhel, Jamal Mubarak, Ali

Al-Shimali, Waleed Ali, Naheer Al-Shammari, Saleh Al-Buraiki, Khaled Al-Qahtani, Obaid Al-Shammari, Faisal Al-Adwani, Mohammed Ashkanani, Jarrah Al-Otaibi, Mohammed Al-Adwani, Nasser Al-Othman, Nawaf Al-Mutairi, Hussein Hakem, Ali Maqsid, Malek Al-Qallaf, Abdulrahman Mousa and Mohammed Al-Ajmi.



Kuwait Boxing Federation President Abdullah Khaled Al-Otaibi and Qurain Club board member Abdullah Al-Aswad present trophies and medals to winning teams and boxers.

Sulaibikhat finishes second

Qurain wins the inaugural Youth Boxing Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Qurain Club claimed the title of the inaugural Youth Boxing Championship, which concluded at the Kuwait Boxing Federation's ring in Sabah Al-Salem, following a series of keenly contested bouts.

Sulaibikhat finished second, while Nasr secured third place.

Kuwait Boxing Federation President Abdullah Khaled Al-Otaibi and Qurain Club board member Abdullah Al-Aswad presented trophies and medals to the winning teams and boxers at the closing ceremony.

Qurain's Ahmed Salman, Ali Abdullah, Hassan Arkan, Salem Ali, Saleh Mohammed and Faisal Mahmoud won gold medals. Abdulwahab Mohammed of Nasr also claimed gold, alongside Abdullah Najm and Musaed Jaber of Sula-

bikhat.

Al-Otaibi congratulated the winners and praised the technical quality of the competition, highlighting the boxers' abilities and strong competitive spirit.

He noted that the closely matched competitors produced exciting bouts throughout the championship, reflecting the progress of boxing in Kuwait and the clubs' efforts to develop young talent.

He added that youth competitions play a vital role in identifying and nurturing promising boxers who could strengthen Kuwait's national teams in the future.

The federation, he said, remains committed to organizing more tournaments to help young boxers gain valuable competitive experience and improve their skills.

'As a sportsman, I cannot accept this'

Politics around Gianni re-election push Japanese official to resign

GENEVA, Oct 28, (AP): Two-time World Cup coach Takeshi Okada resigned as Japanese soccer federation vice president in protest at the politics around FIFA during Gianni Infantino's campaign to be re-elected.

Japan's soccer body on Wednesday published Okada's resignation statement dated last Saturday - 24 hours after the Asian Football Confederation had performed a U-turn by publicly supporting Infantino, who seeks a fourth and final presidential term at an election in March.

Infantino has faced a backlash since July over his failed World Cup sell-off plan and broader management style including ties to U.S. President Donald Trump, provoking a furor from soccer leaders in Europe, North America and - initially - in Asia.

The 70-year-old Okada, who coached Japan at the World Cups of 1998 and 2010, wrote of his belief "that sports should embody integrity."

"However, the series of actions surrounding this year's FIFA World Cup represent a significant divergence from my personal convictions," Okada said in the statement. "As a sportsman, I cannot accept this."

Okada acknowledged the complexity of Japan's place in the politics of world soccer's ruling body FIFA and Asia, adding he understood "there are practical reasons for aligning with the AFC's stance."

Japan wants to host the men's World Cup before 2050, its federation president Tsuneyasu Miyamoto said at an October 2023 online meeting of the AFC that endorsed Saudi Arabia's bid to host the 2034 edition.

AFC president Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa had in August joined his fellow FIFA vice presidents, Aleksander Ceferin from UEFA and CONCACAF's Victor Montagliani, by criticizing Infantino for "deception" and a "fundamental breach of trust" for pushing to sell a permanent stake in World Cup profits to private investors led by Joshua Kushner, younger

brother of Jared Kushner, who is married to Trump's daughter Ivanka.

However, Infantino never lost support from 2022 World Cup host Qatar and seemed to regain trust since August from 2034 host Saudi Arabia.

The two Gulf states are major power brokers in Asian soccer and, last Friday, Bahraini royal family member Sheikh Salman surprised many global soccer observers by announcing the AFC would now endorse Infantino.

The AFC has 46 of the 211 FIFA member federations who will vote in the March 18 election scheduled in Rabat, Morocco.

The 211 members effectively own FIFA as a Switzerland-based non-profit organization, and have been promised \$25 million each by Infantino in development funds over the next four years.

European soccer's ruling body UEFA has committed to finding a candidate against Infantino by a FIFA deadline of Nov. 18 to enter the contest.



In this file photo, Asia Football Confederation President Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, left, poses with FIFA President Gianni Infantino during an inauguration ceremony for the new building of the Asia Football Confederation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (AP)

Inglis leads way as Australia takes control of deciding test against SA

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Oct 28, (AP): Josh Inglis hit 85 not out on Wednesday to help Australia finish Day 2 of the deciding third and final cricket test firmly in control against South Africa on 330-4.

Playing his first test since December, Inglis struck nine fours and two sixes and put on an unbeaten 145-run partnership for the fifth wicket with Alex Carey.

Carey was 51 not out as Australia made a strong first-innings reply to South Africa's total of 329.

Earlier, Matt Renshaw scored 74 while Cameron Green returned from injury to add 65.

Renshaw had opened with Travis Head (41). The duo enjoyed a wicketless first hour before off-spinner Simon Harmer struck twice in an over to reduce Australia to 58-2.

Head was bowled - chopping onto his stumps - while Marnus Labuschagne was caught at slip for a five-ball duck.

Renshaw and Green added 32 runs before lunch before taking their third-wicket stand to 126 as Australia scored 73 in the first hour after the interval.

Marco Jansen then removed Renshaw as he chased a short delivery. There was a faint edge and he was given out caught behind via DRS.

It was Jansen's 100th test wicket and he struck again two overs later, with Green caught at slip.

However, the final session belonged completely to Australia as it added 139 without further loss.

Inglis led the way while Carey claimed his first half-century in 12 test



innings to help Australia record its first 100-plus stand for the fifth wicket against South Africa since 2014.

The series is tied at 1-1. Australia won the first test in Durban by 214 runs, while South Africa won the second match in Gqeberha by an innings and 31 runs.

Fast bowler Haris Rauf was fined 20 percent of his match fee on Wednesday and handed an official reprimand for breaching the ICC code of conduct during Pakistan's epic one-wicket win over England in the ODI cricket tri-series tournament.

All-rounder Shadab Khan scored a scintillating unbeaten 113 on Sunday and left England stunned by adding 89 runs for the last wicket with Rauf to seal Pakistan's place in Saturday's final.

The ICC said in a statement that Rauf had breached article 2.2 of its code of conduct for players, which relates to displaying conduct contrary to the spirit of the game.

Rauf, standing at the non-striker's end, appealed for a wide before arguing with England all-rounder Will Jacks during the 46th over of Pakistan's run chase.

Rauf also raised his bat and continued the exchange despite warnings from umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid. The Pakistan player also brushed past the official while walking towards Jacks.