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Opinion

Dear ministers, HH the Amir is monitoring your performance

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

REFORMING the legacy is challenging and requires a lot of work. The vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad for Kuwait to reclaim its status as the "Pearl of the Gulf" must be realized, along with an awareness of the country's interests and aspirations.

On this basis, we cannot go back to the previous approach of ministers, especially when it comes to interests that serve the future. While there were obstacles in the past, most notably the



Al-Jarallah

encroachment of lawmakers on the government's powers, the current situation is entirely different.

Vigorous efforts must be exerted by the minister, whoever he may be, to reverse decisions that have harmed the country's economy and to support the Council of Ministers in changing laws that have stifled Kuwait and diminished its productivity.

In the past, administrative practices that fostered corruption, rooted in jealousy, selfishness, and stinginess, were prevalent. The voice of lawmakers instilled fear in ministers and even in the Council of Ministers as a whole, particularly in ministries tasked with managing the national economy professionally and practically, rather than through improvisation.

His Highness was aware of the pitfalls and sensitivities created by the powerful, the deep state, and some shortsighted individuals who fail to understand the importance of economic stability for social reassurance and its benefits to the nation's strength and resilience when he embarked on his rescue effort.

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Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com



Left: His Highness the Amir receives Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Director General. Right: His Highness the Amir receives the President of Kuwait Audit Bureau Essam Al-Roumi.



Amiri Diwan photos

AMIR RECEIVES K.D.I.P.A., AUDIT BUREAU FISCAL REPORTS

Kuwait draws record \$675m in foreign direct investments

FDI rises to \$5.55bn since 2015, KDIPA report reveals

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace Monday morning.

The Amir received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Monday morning at Bayan Palace as well. Later, His Highness the Amir met with Minister of Commerce and Indus-

try, Minister of Finance, and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Khalifa Al-Askar, along with Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Deputy Chairman Wafa Al-Qatami, as they presented KDIPA's report for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Additionally, His Highness received President of Kuwait Audit Bureau Essam Al-Roumi, who submitted the bureau's annual report for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-

Hamad Al-Sabah also received Minister Al-Askar, Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber, Deputy Chairman Wafa Al-Qatami, and President Al-Roumi at Bayan Palace, as they presented their respective reports for the fiscal year.

Kuwait attracted foreign direct investments (FDI) of up to KD 206.9 million (USD 675 million) from the period starting in April 2023 to March 2024, according to a report released by the country's direct investment authority.

The fresh investments have upped the cumulative figure since the inception of Kuwait Direct Investment Authority (KDIPA)

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KUNA photo

Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani receives First Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Qatari Amir receives Kuwait 1st Deputy PM

The Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani received on Monday First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his visit to the country to participate in the 15th Milipol Qatar Exhibition and Conference 2024.

A statement to KUNA said that at the outset of the meeting, First Deputy Prime Minister conveyed to the Qatari Amir the greetings of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and his wishes of good health and happiness and to the

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7th Smart City Forum explores tech for Kuwait's urban future

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes
Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the State of Kuwait hosted the 7th Smart City Forum on Monday, October 28 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel to explore new technologies, innovative urban solutions and the evolving partnership between Korea and Kuwait in advancing smart urban transformation.

High-ranking officials, industry leaders, and experts from both nations gathered to discuss the future of smart city development and strengthen bilateral cooperation which is seen as vital for the ongoing collaboration between Korea and Kuwait, which began in 2017 as a follow-up to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on smart city development in 2016.

Since then, the two countries have made significant strides, particularly through the South Saad Al-Abdullah Smart City project. The Korea Land & Housing Corporation (LH) has been instrumental in shaping the project's master plan and overseeing its management, reinforcing Korea's role as a strategic partner in Kuwait's Vision 2035 initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, the Korean Ambassador HE Park Chong-Suk expressed optimism



Korean Ambassador H.E. Park Chong-Suk delivers the opening address at the 7th Smart City Forum on Monday.

about smart city technology, stating, "By embracing smart technologies, we can transform our cities into more livable, efficient, and resilient spaces," and underscored the importance of collaboration between Korea and Kuwait in realizing this vision."

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70,000 staff trained

Ministry of Health achieves 90 percent digital transition

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi has announced the digital transformation of all administrative correspondence in all health sectors, from division heads to the minister's office. This marks the first digital transformation the Ministry of Health has undertaken since its founding. In the coming two weeks, another step will be taken in that direction.

In a press statement issued to announce the opening of the 2nd Kuwait Public Health Conference, titled "Public Health Challenges and Proposed Solutions", the minister revealed that 70,000 employees, including technicians, administrators, nurses, and other healthcare professionals, have completed training on the new electronic system.

He affirmed the effectiveness of the electronic systems in hospitals and administrative sectors, highlighting the restoration of these systems in most primary health care centers.

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US-Kuwait ties highlighted at Command, Staff College

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): The Commander of Mubarak Al-Abdullah Command and Staff College, Major General Pilot Fahad Al-Khurainij, received the US Ambassador to the country, Karen Sasahara.

In a statement Monday, the Ministry of Defense said that the US ambassador gave a lecture to the Joint Command and Staff Course No (29) students titled "The United States of America and the Middle East".

The ambassador also touched on the distinguished ties between the US and Kuwait, the ministry added.

The ministry noted that the lecture is part of a series of lectures held by the college for its courses. The college hosts lecturers from various academic civil and military specializations inside and outside of Kuwait to give lectures on several topics that address military, political, and strategic affairs.



Ministry of Defense photo

Commander of Mubarak Al-Abdullah Command and Staff College, Major General Pilot Fahad Al-Khurainij, with the US Ambassador.

8 | **KFH holds webcast for Q3 '24 financial results**

8 | **Zain Kuwait and Mada Communications win 'Best Industry Digitalization' award**



10 | **Al Bahar: Inclusion, gender equality are cornerstones of comprehensive and sustainable economic growth**

Mural celebrates 125 years of alliance

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): The curtains of a Kuwaiti-British mural were raised on Sunday at Souq Al-Mubarakia to mark 125 years of fruitful relations between the two countries.

In a ceremony organized by the National Council for Culture Arts and Literature (NCCAL) in cooperation with the British Embassy, British Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis said this wall painting carries several symbols and meanings between the two sides, mainly the hoopoe which lands in the two countries during its annual migration.

The mural, drawn by British and Kuwaiti artists Megan Russel and Yusuf Saleh respectively, celebrates the deep-rooted history between the two countries over 125 years, Lewis told KUNA.

The mural also contains some special roses, and pearls Kuwait has been famous for, she said, stressing that the UK-Kuwait ties

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KUNA photo

British Artist Megan Russel gives final touches on the drawing, celebrating 125 years of deep-rooted history between the two countries.

Newswatch

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdelattah El-Sisi stressed on Monday the need for a coordinated effort by all international parties, including the European Union, for an end to hostilities and to push for aid in Gaza, Lebanon, and the West Bank.

This came about during a meeting between President El-Sisi and the European People's Party President Manfred Weber, in which they discussed the latest regional developments, said Presidential Spokesperson Ahmad Fahmi in a press conference. (KUNA)

GAZA: Health authorities in Gaza announced on Monday that 96 Palestinians were martyred, and 277 others injured due to the ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip.

In a press statement, they reported that the Israeli occupation committed five massacres against families in the Strip, resulting in the aforementioned figures reaching hospitals. (KUNA)

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:38	Asr	14:42
Sunrise ..	05:58	Maghrib ..	17:06
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:23

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Rather hot and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

By Night: Mild to rather cold with light to moderate northwest-

Weather

erly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-28 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	28	20
Kuwait Airport	30	17
Abdaly	31	14

Bubyan	29	11
Jahra	30	18
Failaka Island	26	12
Salmiyah	27	21
Ahmadi	26	13
Jal Aliyah	30	16
Nuwaisib	29	18



HH the PM receives the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) report.

PM receives KDIPA, SAB fiscal reports

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Monday Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Finance, and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Khalifa Al-Ajeel

and Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, alongside Deputy Chairman Wafa Al-Qatami, as they handed His Highness KDIPA's report for the fiscal year

2023/2024.

His Highness the Prime Minister later received the President of Kuwait Audit Bureau Essam Al-Roumi, as he handed His Highness the bureau's report for the fiscal year 2023/2024. (KUNA)



PM Diwan photos HH the PM receives the Audit Bureau report.



His Highness the Prime Minister receives Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistics Services.

PM receives Saudi transport minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Monday Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistics Services, Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser, and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of his visit to the country. The meeting was attended by Minister of

Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Saudi Ambassador to the country Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud, Head of the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Dakhil Al-Dakhlil and the Chairman of the General Directorate of Civil Aviation Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

Other Voices

Türkiye, Kuwait: celebrating 60 years of friendship & solidarity

By Tuba Nur Sönmez

Türkiye ambassador to Kuwait

As we celebrate the 101st anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye, it is a time for reflection and pride, not only for the achievements of our nation but also for the strong and lasting ties we have built with our friends around the world.

October 29 marks a day of national pride for Turkish citizens, a moment to honor the legacy of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, and to pay tribute to the heroes who fought for our nation's independence and unity.

We bow our heads to the memory of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, and to all the heroes, men and women who fought side by side and sacrificed their lives for our nation's independence and unity.

60 Years of Friendship: Türkiye and Kuwait

The year 2024 holds special significance for Türkiye and Kuwait, as we mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations. Over these six decades, our partnership has grown from modest beginnings into a deep, multi-faceted relationship, underpinned by shared values and fraternal ties. As Embassy, we have been celebrating this joyous occasion through series of events.

Türkiye and Kuwait's relationship is not just rooted in diplomacy but in a long history of mutual respect and cooperation that stretches back hundreds of years. Today, we proudly describe our ties as "outstanding" and a model for regional and international partnerships.

Under the visionary leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, our relationship continues to flourish, reaching new heights in recent years through frequent high-level visits and the signing of critical agreements in areas such as trade, defense, and investment.

The most recent visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal to Türkiye in May, during which six agreements were signed, exemplifies the strength of our bond. The fact that Türkiye was the first non-Arab country His Highness visited after assuming his position further highlights the unique and close ties between our nations.

"Hard Times Reveal True Friends"

Türkiye and Kuwait have always stood shoulder to shoulder in trying times. Following the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye earlier this year, our Kuwaiti brothers and sisters were among the first to offer their assistance, demonstrating once again the depth of our friendship. As the saying goes, "Hard times reveal true friends."

This solidarity was also evident recently, when Kuwait extended its support after the terrorist attack in Ankara. In the face of such tragic events, Kuwait's unwavering backing has been a source of strength and comfort for Türkiye. We are deeply grateful for the exemplary friendship of the Kuwaiti people and government.

In addition to our bilateral relationship, Türkiye and Kuwait share a broader vision



Tuba Nur Sönmez

for peace and stability in the region. Both nations have long supported a just resolution to the Palestinian cause, and we have worked together in delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza. The joint efforts of Turkish and Kuwaiti authorities have placed both countries at the forefront of providing assistance to the most vulnerable in Gaza.

As Türkiye, we firmly believe that the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, must take immediate and necessary measures to prevent further destabilization in the region. It is imperative that institutions responsible for maintaining global peace and security act decisively to safeguard the future of the Middle East.

We consider bilateral trade and other forms of economic interaction as crucial components of our relations. In 2023, our trade volume amounted to nearly 700 million USD. There are around 50 Turkish companies in Kuwait, operating mainly in construction, home textile, garment, perfumery, jewelry, and service sectors. Additionally, Kuwaiti investments in Türkiye have reached \$2 billion, mainly concentrated in finance and real estate.

Cultural, historical , religious ties

Considering the cultural, historical, and religious ties between our nations, and the potential of both countries, these figures fall short of the actual potential. Hence, increasing bilateral trade and investment volume between our countries remains essential for us.

Our people-to-people relations have also been developing, with Kuwaitis among the top foreign buyers of property in Türkiye, acquiring more than 8,000 properties in the last seven years. In addition, we welcomed a remarkable 57.7 million visitors in 2023, according to the latest figures. Nearly 400,000 Kuwaiti tourists visited Türkiye, making Kuwaitis among the top visitors to Türkiye relative to its population.

Taking all these factors into consideration, we believe that cultural similarity is a chief facilitator of the interaction between our countries. I strongly believe that increasing cultural interactions will continue to enhance this momentum and our fraternal relations.

In conclusion, the Türkiye-Kuwait relationship is a shining example of how two nations can build a multifaceted partnership based on mutual respect, shared interests, and a commitment to common goals. As we look to the future, we remain committed to further strengthening our ties and fostering a relationship that benefits both nations and contributes to regional and global stability.

May the Republic of Türkiye and the State of Kuwait forge an enduring friendship.

MoCI to protect consumers

Check on perfume selling shops

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28 : The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced that the Commercial Control Department will conduct an inspection tour of the perfume exhibition.

This initiative aims to ensure compliance with laws and regulations prohibiting the marketing and promotion of goods and services outside designated areas, such as shops and display outlets (booths). This enforcement is in accordance with Resolution No. 198 of 2024.

The primary goal of these inspections is to protect consumers from potential

harassment arising from promotional activities conducted outside the legal framework. The Ministry emphasizes that this decision is intended to ensure that sales and promotional operations are executed professionally, without causing inconvenience or undue pressure on consumers during their visits to booths and stores.

By enforcing these regulations, the Ministry aims to foster a fair and safe commercial environment that prioritizes consumer rights and upholds market integrity. This proactive approach is part of the Ministry's broader commitment to maintaining ethical business practices and enhancing the overall shopping experience for consumers.



KUNA's Dr. Fatma Al-Salem

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): The 51st General Assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) commenced on Monday in Kuwait hosted by KUNA with representatives from member agencies in attendance to discuss a range of topics outlined on the agenda.

The conference was chaired by Dr. Jamal Mohammad Al-Ka'abi, Acting Director-General of WAM and President of FANA, alongside FANA Vice President and Director-General of KUNA, Dr. Fatma Al-Salem, together with senior officials from other Arab news agencies and representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat General, which participates as an observer.

In his opening speech, Dr. Al-Ka'abi highlighted the challenges facing media in the region, particularly in light of current crises affecting Gaza and Lebanon, and emphasized the critical role of news agencies in providing accurate coverage of events. He also noted that the meeting would address a wide range of issues affecting the media sector in the Arab world, exploring ways to enhance media cooperation, share expertise, and advance technologies that support regional and international news coverage.

Dr. Al-Ka'abi described the assembly as a key platform for discussing vital issues affecting Arab media and fostering collaboration among news agencies, and he underscored the need for innovative strategies to improve agency performance and competitiveness, as well as the importance of adapting to digital transformations, maintaining ethical standards, and investing in training to enhance employee competencies.

FANA Secretary-General, Dr. Fareed Ayar echoed these sentiments, and highlighted FANA's role as an active participant in the International News Agencies Congress, leading six sessions since 2004 and establishing FANA's position among major regional and international media organizations.

Dr. Ayar also pointed out FANA's collaboration with news agencies across Europe, Asia, and Latin America, as well as with the Arab League's media department, emphasizing ongoing training and development initiatives for agency personnel in both journalism and technical fields.

He expressed hope for continued support for Arab news agencies, both financially and in terms of editorial freedom, to uphold their essential role in delivering accurate news and countering misinformation and disinformation prevalent on social media.

Dr. Ayar thanked Dr. Fatima Al-Salem and KUNA for organizing the conference and extended his gratitude to attending delegates, commending their dedication to developing unbiased and trustworthy news sources.

Dr. Fatma Al-Salem, Vice President of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) and Director General of KUNA, emphasized the significance of the 51st FANA General Assembly meeting in Kuwait as a testament to the shared commitment of Arab news agencies to foster cooperation and knowledge exchange.

In her opening speech, as Kuwait is set to serve as the Arab capital of culture and media in 2025, Dr. Al-Salem highlighted the essential role of Arab news agencies in delivering accurate, objective, and truthful information, emphasizing the need for solidarity in the region.

She noted the significant changes in the media landscape over recent years, where modern technology and artificial intelligence have become central to content creation, and urged Arab news agencies to embrace innovation, invest in skill development, and actively exchange knowledge to ensure high standards of accuracy and professionalism.

The conference, Dr. Al-Salem added, provides a valuable platform for sharing ideas and exploring future collaboration opportunities, and expressed hope that the discussions would strengthen ties among agencies and lead to new strategies for addressing the challenges facing the Arab region.

Dr. Al-Salem extended her sincere gratitude to the Acting Director-General of WAM and FANA's President Dr. Jamal Al-Kaabi, FANA Secretary-General, Dr. Fareed Ayar, and all participating agencies, expressing optimism for productive outcomes from the conference.

The conference, hosted by KUNA, features a range of topics on the agenda and brings together delegates from member news agencies.



KUNA photos The 51st conference of the General Assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA), hosted by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), begins.



Dr. Jamal Al-Kaabi



FANA's Dr. Fareed Ayar

Private lessons prohibited

MoE sets up student care centers for tuition classes

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The student care centers in various educational districts have started the registration of grades five to 12 students who wish to attend tutorial classes in the afternoon, stressing that teachers must adhere to the Education Ministry's regulation on prohibiting private tutorials.

These centers are part of the ministry's strategy to advance the educational process and help students overcome difficulties in certain subjects in order to improve their academic performance. They provide services in the educational districts to cater to the largest number of students.

The tutorial classes cover basic subjects like Mathematics, Science, Arabic and English; in addition to other subjects according to each student's needs with the aim of improving their academic performance in preparation for the end-of-first-semester exams.

The ministry assigned qualified teachers to these centers. They are selected according to their experience and efficiency in teaching certain subjects. It is expected that these centers will witness a huge turnout of students and parents who wish to improve their children's educational capabilities to be ready for the end of the first semester and final exams.

It called on all students to benefit from these centers that provide additional educational support and develop the students' abilities for them to excel and succeed in their academic journey.

The registration fee for each subject is KD 25 for the intermediate and secondary stages. If a student registers in more than one subject or if two siblings register in the same center, the fee for each subject is reduced to KD 20.

The total tutorial period will be 20 hours -- two hours per subject per week or three hours per day -- from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Sunday to Wednesday.

Car auction tender to open Dec 1

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) set Dec 1, 2024 as the date for announcing the tender for the car auction in Amghara. Sources revealed the agency will be in charge of the procedures for launching the tender in accordance with Article 17 of Public Tenders Law No. 149/2016, which stipulates contracting through public tender (competitive negotiation or solicitation of bids).

Sources said the contract covers the maintenance of roads, main and secondary squares, asphalt or dirt squares, sidewalks, temporary roads, service sections, parking lots, and rainwater and sanitary sewer networks.

Meanwhile, sources disclosed that the Ministry of Public Works will soon launch

the study and design phases for the establishment of a sewage water treatment plant in a low-cost housing project and the complementary works with an implementation period of 18 months; indicating the announcement will most likely happen in March 2025.

Sources added this project is in the ministry's contract plan for the current fiscal year, indicating the aim is to treat sewage water from the housing project and use the treated water for the irrigation of ornamental plants, protection of the environment and reduction of pollution.

Sources said the project includes studying options and alternatives for treating sewage water in emergency situations, designing tanks for treated water, irrigation canals, electrical conversion station, administrative buildings to serve the station and connecting roads.



KU officials welcome Brigadier Ali Al-Wahib, Director General of Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences, and Brigadier Mohammed Al-Samhan, Director of the Center for Quality Control, Scientific Research.

KU, Mol in joint bid to promote biometrics tech

By Abdulrahman Al-Shimmari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Acting Director of Kuwait University, Dr. Osama Al-Saeed, has emphasized the university's commitment to hosting seminars and events that benefit university members and visitors, promoting co-operation between academia and security sectors.

Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, the initiative aims to expand the understanding and use of biometric technology in security and legal fields, adhering to current regu-

lations and laws. During his meeting with Brigadier Ali Al-Wahib, Director General of Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences, and Brigadier Mohammed Al-Samhan, Director of the Center for Quality Control, Scientific Research, and Training, Dr. Al-Saeed highlighted the significance of these events for discussing the legal dimensions of biometric fingerprinting.

The discussions will benefit from faculty members and legal experts to explore practical solutions for safe and effective technology use.

Brigadier Al-Wahib underscored the

role of these events in raising scientific and legal awareness about biometric technology, aligning with the leadership's vision for innovation in security.

He added that the planned symposium aims to address the challenges of biometric use while respecting international human rights standards, balancing security with privacy.

This event, part of the agreement between Saad Al-Abdullah Academy and Kuwait University, promises to strengthen their cooperative efforts in advancing biometric fingerprinting technologies.

'Nowhere to run ... senior or junior same in eyes of law'

'Dialogue with citizens priority'

By Munif Naif/Jaber Al-Humoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf has affirmed that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sa-

bah is dedicated to Kuwait, and that the latter's first and last concern is to raise the status of the country everywhere, while disclosing that His Highness' priorities include protecting the national identity and applying the law on the senior before the junior.

In a statement when he visited the office of former MP

Majed Al-Mutairi, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf asserted, "God willing, I will be up to the responsibility and trust that His Highness has given me in applying the law. I hope he will not be upset about applying the law on anyone."

He narrated the case of someone with dual citizenship: "A man came to the police station saying, I have dual nationality. This is my Kuwaiti nationality. Take it. I have not been sleeping well for two months due to fear that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf will catch me today or in six months. Take away your nationality and let me sleep like other people."

He listened to the comments of some citizens in preparation for addressing their issues according to the law, while Al-Mutairi praised the efforts of the minister in serving the country and its citizens, thanking them for these efforts.

In addition, the minister visited the diwanis of Sat-tam Al-Jalal Al-Sahli, Fahad Falah Bin Jamea and Nada Abu Raqaba Al-Otaibi as part of his continuous visits to such places to have a dialogue with citizens.

Insulting Gaza women: On behalf of Kuwaiti citizens and Palestinian residents, a number of lawyers filed complaints with the Public Prosecution against a media figure who they accuse of insulting the women of Gaza in a video he posted on social media.

Lawyer Al-Kandari stated on his X account, "I have submitted a complaint to the Public Prosecutor against the individual known as "M.N." for publicly insulting and slandering the Palestinian women, which undermines their honor and dignity. I am filing this complaint in my capacity as the representative of a respected member of the Palestinian community in Kuwait."

Lawyer Ahmed Al-Hammadi also filed a report with the Public Prosecutor against the same media figure, citing "morally, socially, and legally unacceptable comments that insulted the women of Gaza".

He said, "At a time when the women of Gaza are standing firm against the crimes of the Israeli forces, and despite the State of Kuwait's support for the remarkable resilience of the people in Gaza, someone has emerged to attack the honor of our sisters there."

Strategic restraint in intricate ties between Iran & the West

"IN THE intricate dynamics between the Iranian regime, the United States, and Israel, there lies a complex tapestry of strategic restraint, implicit tolerance, and carefully calibrated threats," columnist **Talal Abdul Karim Arab** wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"Reflecting on this issue in my July 4, 2019 article for Al-Qabas, titled "America will not kill the golden egg-laying hen," I examined why the United States, despite provocative rhetoric, often shies away from decisive action against Iran.

"Former President Trump's rhetoric, for instance, promised a hardline stance on Iran, particularly against actions threatening international stability or targeting US assets. Yet, even as Iran and its proxies attacked American bases, assets, and commercial interests, Trump's response remained surprisingly measured.

"Despite provocations that many assumed would trigger retaliation, Trump refrained, citing his concern over potential casualties among Iranian forces.

"This cautious stance has striking parallels to Obama's handling of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, a major ally of Iran. When Assad crossed Obama's "red line" by using chemical weapons, the deployment of US fleets along Syria's coast initially raised expectations of a robust response.

"However, Obama's decision to step back not only avoided direct conflict but also allowed Iran to solidify its presence in Syria, emboldening Iranian influence throughout the region.

"Both Obama's and Trump's approaches point to a long-standing tolerance from Western powers, including the US and Europe, toward Iran -- a tolerance that extends despite the regime's documented human rights abuses, sectarian policies, and inflammatory rhetoric toward Arab neighbors.

"This forbearance suggests that Iran's actions may, in fact, align with underlying Western interests, and perhaps even serve Israel's strategic agenda.

"In a Al-Jarida article dated March 15, 2023, I noted, "Those who believe that America and its allies want to overthrow the Iranian regime are mistaken." After all, eliminating Iran would mean destroying a "golden egg-laying hen," a phrase reflecting Iran's pivotal role in justifying US strategic presence and arms sales in the Gulf.

"The West's implicit agreement with Iran appears to be straightforward: as long as Iran halts nuclear ambitions, its regional activities may continue with minimal interference.

"For Gulf nations, this tacit agreement means perpetual insecurity, with Iran cast as an ever-present threat pushing them toward costly arms deals with Western suppliers.

"This strategy keeps Gulf states vigilant and heavily

dependent on Western military support, especially as Iran continues to deploy missiles and drones toward sensitive targets, even religious sites such as Makkah.

The complexity of this arrangement underscores that, unless the Iranian regime diverges drastically from its current agenda or crosses the nuclear threshold, its status quo will likely persist. Any true change, it appears, would need to stem from within Iran, driven by the will of the Iranian people themselves."

Also:

"In 2025, Kuwait will celebrate its designation as the Capital of Arab Media, a recognition that reflects its significant contributions to the media field over the decades. This selection crowns Kuwait's rich media journey, which began in the mid-20th century and has continued to evolve, establishing the country as a leading player in the region's media industry," columnist **Tarek Bouresli** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"Kuwait saw the launch of its first official radio station in 1951, marking the beginning of modern Kuwaiti media.

"At that time, Kuwait Radio stood out with its cultural and literary programs, which garnered admiration from listeners both within the country and beyond.

"The Kuwaiti media landscape did not stop at radio; it expanded with the establishment of Kuwait Television in 1961, making it one of the first TV stations in the Gulf region. The station played a pivotal role in promoting Kuwaiti culture and heritage and contributed to raising political and cultural awareness among local and Arab audiences.

"Kuwaiti journalism also played a significant role in shaping and influencing public opinion. In 1954, the newspaper "Kuwait Today" was founded, becoming the first official government newspaper, followed by numerous independent newspapers and literary magazines that enriched the Arab media scene.

"Kuwait has distinguished itself by supporting media freedoms and hosting Arab writers and intellectuals, making it a haven for free expression during times when the region has faced numerous political upheavals.

"Indeed, Kuwait's selection as the Capital of Arab Media 2025 is a testament to its ongoing commitment to advancing Gulf and Arab media and its dedication to keeping pace with technological developments. Kuwait has emerged as an important digital hub for new media, including online journalism and social media platforms.

"This occasion will undoubtedly serve as an opportunity to enhance cultural and media dialogue between Kuwait and the Arab world, spotlighting the country's rich media heritage while looking forward to a future that aligns with global media developments while preserving the authenticity and heritage that have always characterized it."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes



Talal Arab

Condolences

In loving memory of Late Mr. Saad Abdulaziz Abdul Mohsen Al-Rashed

a visionary leader
and cherished mentor,
whose unwavering
guidance shaped our lives.

His legacy and values will
continue to guide us forward.

Our heartfelt condolences
to the grieving family

Ravi Varrier (CEO)

Pradeep Menon (CFO)

 **Al Rashed International Shipping Co. k.s.c.c**

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Ten talents selected to enhance their skills and ideas in global arena

Kuwaiti innovators set for Silicon Valley AI program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) announced Sunday that 10 Kuwaiti innovators will participate in a global artificial intelligence innovation program in Silicon Valley in San Francisco next month.

SACGC Director General Neda Al-Daihani, said in a statement, that the innovators were selected from among about 50 applicants by a specialized jury from the US-based Mind the Bridge Foundation according to international standards that include product readiness, market size, previous achievements, business model, team strength, and ability to communicate in English.

The SACGC's participation in this program, to be held during the period November 18-27, seeks to foster participants' innovation capabilities and provide them with tools and resources for success, excellence, and expansion, Al-Daihani said.

He also reaffirmed the SACGC's commitment to promoting innovation and supporting Kuwaiti innovators to develop their ideas and open new horizons for them in global markets.

Al-Daihani pointed out that the



Kuwaiti innovators and inventors.

SACGC photo

program provides a rare opportunity for those with scientific specializations to gain in-depth insights into the latest trends in artificial intelligence and innovation and benefit from an environment that is one of the most vibrant and creative in the world.

He noted that the program would enable Kuwaiti innovators to understand the American market more deeply, develop their innovative strategies and build a network of

relationships with key success partners in the United States.

The ten innovations that were selected to partake in the program included (Kaffy Pay), a leading technology company that provides innovative biometric solutions that enable payment via palm scanning and expands its technology in the fields of healthcare and education to improve safety and comfort; and Brilliance, an interactive educational kit that aims to enable blind stu-

dents to learn mathematics in Braille while enhancing self-learning, he clarified.

Al-Daihani stated that the innovations also included (Tim), an integrated system for managing healthcare resources using artificial intelligence designed to improve efficiency, reduce errors, and enhance patient outcomes in clinics and hospitals; (Ayadi), an online psychotherapy platform that connects users with certified therapists via secure

video therapy sessions.

He pointed out that the innovations also included (Mortex BCI), a system that allows controlling devices using thoughts through motor perception with the help of artificial intelligence and brain activity sensors, as well as (Scansx), an innovative portable medical device that uses artificial intelligence to quickly and accurately diagnose brain injuries.

Moreover, (Oqood AI), a legal platform supported by artificial intelligence to automate repetitive legal tasks and generate legal information and agreements in a secure and confidential manner; and (Eko-sLive), a comprehensive platform to simplify and improve the astrophotography experience with smart features for cloud storage, searching and sharing images.

Also participating in the program are (Classi AI), an artificial intelligence-based platform to facilitate the work of teachers by automating lesson planning and preparing student activities and assessments compatible with local curricula; and (Golden Egg), an application that connects breed owners and potential investors and allows users to interact, sell, and share their experience.

Holistic planning

Jahra waterfront project approved

By Enaas Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: In its regular session, the Municipal Council approved the Jahra Waterfront Project, known as 'Jahra Corniche', which spans approximately 5,794 square meters between the Doha West Station and the Jahra Nature Reserve.

The project will be offered to the private sector, following established laws and procedures.

The municipality emphasized the project's significance in enhancing tourism and commercial facilities while considering environmental, economic, and social factors.

It is expected to create thousands of job opportunities and improve access to the waterfront, providing breathtaking views of Jal Al-Zour and Kuwait City.

Transparency ensured

67 plots at Shuwaikh Friday Market allocated via lottery

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Public Relations Department of the Municipality has announced the allocation of 67 out of 69 plots at the Shuwaikh Friday Market. This includes 55 plots designated for previous owners and 12 plots for new applicants, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

A total of 132 applications were submitted for these plots, in accordance with the Public Markets Regulations.

The allocation was determined through a lottery system supervised by Nawaf Al-Kandari, Deputy Director General for Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorates Sector Affairs and Head of the Public Markets Committee.

The lots were drawn on Sunday, October 27, 2024, at 9 am in the Friday Market Hall, ensuring transparency and integrity throughout the process.

Al-Kandari mentioned that two plots operating under the free download system remain unclaimed.

The event was attended by several key officials, including the Director of the Capital Governorate Municipality Branch, Eng. Muhammad Marzouq Al-Mutairi, and members of the Public Markets Committee.

MoE sets stage for young talent with 'Best Theatrical Performance' contest

Kuwaiti students to showcase skills in acting, directing and teamwork

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Assistant Undersecretary for the Educational Development and Activities Sector at the Ministry of Education Maryam Al-Enezi announced the launching of the 'Best Theatrical Performance' competition for academic year 2024/2025.

Al-Enezi said this competition is for middle and high school students, as part of the ministry's efforts to develop educational activities and encourage students to be creative.

She explained the competition aims to promote the values of national belongingness and loyalty among students through the educational theater, as well as to

develop their artistic and creative skills with an emphasis on presenting performances that convey educational and national messages to highlight the Kuwaiti identity and activate the role of the educational theater in schools.

She affirmed that the performances will be under the supervision of the technical supervisors and school administrations. These supervisors will also encourage students to participate in creative activities, foster a spirit of cooperation and teamwork among the students, and help the participants develop their presentation and recitation skills, she added.

She enumerated the requirements for participation as follows:

- Theatrical productions should be in line with nation-



Al-Enezi

al and educational objectives;

- Performances should be 25 to 30 minutes long;
- Participants must uphold moral and behavioral standards throughout the performance;
- The performance topic should be appropriate for the participants' age group and reflect current educational trends.

She added that awards will be granted to the best theatrical performances in five categories:

1. Best Theatrical Performance
2. Best Director
3. Best Theatrical Text
4. Best Actor
5. Best Actress

She urged the participating schools to send their applications to the competition's email by Nov 30, 2024 at the latest; adding that a specialized committee will evaluate the performances and the winners will be announced on Feb 11, 2025.

United for agricultural innovation

Kuwait Institute hosts camels and food security conference

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Under the auspices of the Kuwait Camel and Folk Heritage Association, and with the participation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Middle East Camel Network (Camnet), the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) is hosting the "Camels and Food Security" conference.

The event, themed "Strengthening Efforts to Eliminate the General Health and Economic Burdens of Camels", will take place on October 29-30 at the Millennium Hotel, coinciding with the International Year of the Camel.

A scientific researcher at the Environmental Research and Life Sciences Center and Head of the conference organizing committee Abdulaziz Al-Atiqi explained that the conference aims to highlight the status of camels as a national resource.

It will highlight the importance of both public and private initiatives in enhancing the sustainability and conservation of this unique animal, as well as its

role in achieving food security. This is particularly relevant given the significant advancements in camel breeding and product manufacturing, along with successful examples from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

The conference will not only focus on improving the livestock sector in Kuwait and the region as a whole but will also bring together experts, researchers, and policymakers to raise awareness about the value of camels as an important animal resource. Participants will share knowledge and expertise on combating animal diseases, using modern technologies in molecular biology and genetics, and improving methods for counting, numbering, and tracking animals.

Al-Atiqi stressed that the conference is taking place at a critical time, as the world is facing challenges related to food security, climate change, and the need for sustainable agricultural and animal practices.

He said the strategies to be discussed include improving agricultural methods to boost local fodder production, adopting resource-efficient animal husbandry techniques, strengthening regional cooperation to ensure food and animal

security, and developing information systems for accurate statistics.

Al-Atiqi explained that the first day of the conference will focus on public health and infectious diseases in camels, including emerging diseases and the impacts of climate change. The first day's sessions will also review the work of the Middle East Camel Network and the Reference Center for Camel Diseases.

The second day's sessions will be held under the theme "Enhancing the Contribution of Camels to the Future of Food Security in the Region". Discussions will include topics such as the nutrition and sustainable management of camels, boosting the production and consumption of camel milk along with its health and economic benefits, camel genetics and breeding, improving breeds and their production capabilities, and developing policies that support food security at both national and regional levels.

This conference will serve as a platform for experts and interested parties to exchange knowledge and experiences, and work collaboratively to create a clearer vision for an implementation plan aimed at developing the camel sector.

PAM launches domestic worker rights campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has launched an awareness campaign on its social media accounts about the rights and duties of domestic workers and the mechanism for transferring from one employer to another, reports Al-Anba daily.

A source explained to the daily that if a domestic worker transfers to another employer during the guarantee period stipulated in the relevant law and regulations -- six months from the date of arrival in Kuwait -- without the knowledge of PAM; the worker's guarantee is forfeited unless a new contract is made between the new employer, labor recruitment office, worker and authority, which is represented by the Department for Organizing and Recruiting Domestic Workers. The source added that if the domestic worker refuses to continue working during the six-month guarantee period, the worker must be handed over to this department to protect the first employer's right to recover the recruitment costs.

In another development, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs Iman Al-Anzi revealed in a statement to the daily that the council received 228 reports on domestic violence in the last three months; including about 140 reports on violence against children; indicating most of these cases are due to a dispute between spouses regarding visitation and neglecting a minor.

Bids for main power station project open

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has launched a tender for the establishment of the main power station in South Saad Al-Abdullah Residential City, reports Al-Anba daily.

The new project, coded 'SSAB 4Z', includes the supply and installation of a 400/132/11 kV station to generate power to cover the electricity needs of a densely populated area and improve electricity services.

Sources confirmed this is part of the country's plan to develop the electrical infrastructure and cover the needs of new residential cities.

Sources said the deadline for the submission of bids is on Nov 28, 2024; indicating that the participating local and international companies should have experience in implementing similar projects over the past decade.

Sources disclosed that interested companies can submit their inquiries until Nov 7, 2024; thereby, giving contractors the opportunity to inquire and ensure that all requirements are met. Another basic condition is that the capital of the companies should not be less than KD5 million, which reflects the size of the project and its economic importance, sources added.

Sources said it is expected that the new project will contribute to ongoing efforts to support the electricity network in the region in line with the country's commitment to improve the infrastructure and basic services for the public.

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& Al Rashed Family

On the sudden demise of

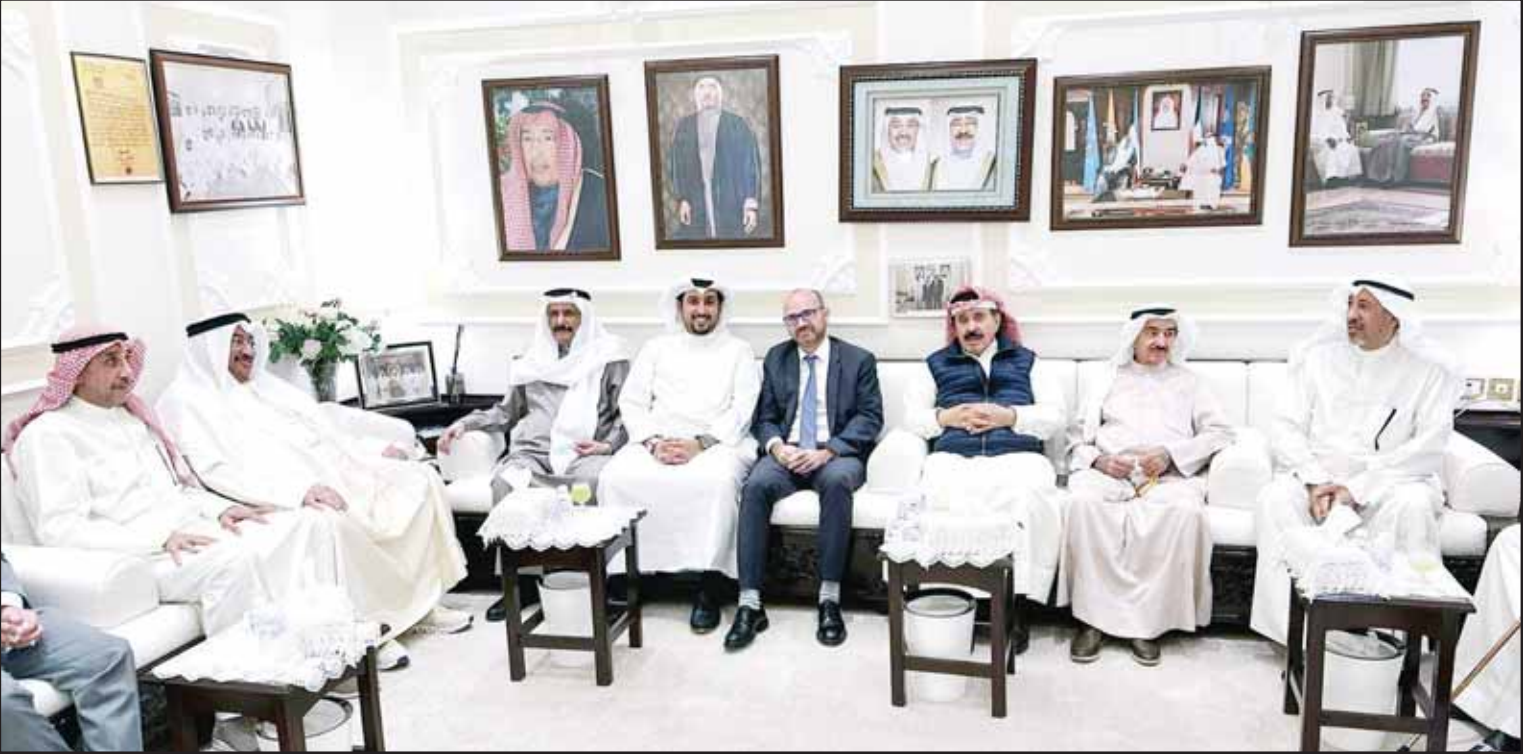
Saad Abdulaziz
Abdul Mohsen Al-Rashed

who passed away
on Monday, 28th October.

May Allah Almighty bestow mercy on his soul

A gathering of ideas and friendship

Al-Dughaishim Diwan hosts French Ambassador and other dignitaries



Khalid Al-Dughaishim, Abdul Kareem Ja'afar, Editor-in-Chief Ahmad Al-Jarallah, the French Ambassador Olivier Gauvain, Mohammad Al-Dughaishim, Mohammad Al-Me'jil, Abdulaziz Al-Dughaishim and Faisal Al-Jazzaf



Editor-in-Chief Ahmad Al-Jarallah, the French Ambassador Olivier Gauvain, Mohammad Al-Dughaishim and Mohammad Al-Me'jil.



Ahdi Al-Salman, Nawaf Al-As'ad, Saoud Al-Dughaishim and Al-Enezi

Conversations explore international issues, cultural connections

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Al-Dughaishim Diwan yesterday evening received the French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvain and a number of prominent figures including the Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah.

According to a press release issued by the diwan, the ambassador's presence brought a notable diplomatic and cultural dimension to the gathering.

ing. He had engaged in meaningful conversations with the attendees about pressing international issues, particularly global challenges, and potential avenues for cooperation between nations.

In a brief speech, Abdulaziz Al-Dughaishim warmly welcomed the ambassador and the other guests.

He affirmed that such meetings provide opportunities for exchanging ideas and strengthening

relationships.

Al-Dughaishim highlighted the diwan's vital role in enhancing cultural connections and promoting mutual understanding among peoples.

It is worth highlighting that the Al-Dughaishim Diwan serves as a welcoming space for family and friends every Sunday evening to gather in an atmosphere rich in social traditions, and engage in diverse discussions.

Kuwaiti and Russian FMs hold talks in Moscow



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, right, and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya shake hands at the end of a joint press conference following their talks in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Oct. 28, 2024. (AP)

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov held talks on Monday during an official visit of the Kuwaiti top diplomat to Moscow.

A statement by Kuwait's Foreign Ministry said the two sides discussed latest regional and international developments, foremost being the escalating situations in Palestine and Lebanon; seeking ways to cease hostilities and allowing safe passage of aid to those in need.

They also discussed the "impacts" of the controversial decision by the Iraqi Federal Supreme Court on the Khor Abdullah Agreement, as well as completing the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi maritime border beyond mark No. 162.

They similarly discussed means to resolving the Kuwaiti-Iranian marine borders' dossier.

Moreover, the two sides touched on the Syrian crisis and the international efforts to find a political solution that ends the suffering of the Syrian people.

Al-Yahya conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Russian President Vladimir Putin, as well as well wishes of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti people to the Russian Federation and its friendly people, praising historical relations and strong strategic partnership between the two countries.

For his part, Lavrov conveyed his greetings and well wishes to the Kuwaiti leadership, government and friendly people, praising deep-rooted bilateral ties.



Saleh Al-Oleywa, Fahad Al-Dughaishim, Saud Al-Farhan, Khaled Al-Dughaishim, and Abdul Kareem Ja'afar.

Condolences



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Al Rashed International Shipping Co. K.S.C.C

Express our heartfelt
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**Mr. Abdulaziz Saad Al-Rashed
& Al Rashed Family**

On the sudden demise of
**Saad Abdulaziz
Abdul Mohsen Al-Rashed**
who passed away on Monday, 28th October.

May his soul Rest in Peace

MoCI to launch real estate appraiser program

Registration starts November 17 for key industry insights

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry will organize the Certified Real Estate Appraiser Program C in November 2025, in collaboration with Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS).

On its official X account, the ministry announced the registration period for two groups -- the first will be from Nov 17-28 and the second will be from Jan 5-16, 2025; indicating that the course will be offered in Arabic and participants should register on the website of the institute kibs.edu.kw

The ministry highlighted the program's value in terms of helping participants understand the fundamentals of the real estate industry; including the concepts, terminology and building systems at the Kuwait Municipality such as building ratios, license types, re-

quirements and regulations, as well as the real estate, real estate markets and real estate ownership types. It also emphasizes the significance of real estate appraisal, qualifications of a real estate appraiser and the most well-known techniques in this field.

The program helps participants learn the methodology, steps, procedures and sources of the market-based valuation model and cost-based valuation model; and how to prepare real estate valuation reports using market and cost methods.

In another development, the ministry called for participation in awareness workshops that will be held under the auspices of the National Committee for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing via Zoom every Wednesday, starting from Oct 30 at 11:00 am.

It pointed out that this campaign is in line with its commitment to raise public awareness and ensure compliance with the standards of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for activities covered by anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism regulations.

Forbes Middle East honors Al-Othman



Al-Seyassah photo
Fahad Al-Othman receives Forbes Middle East Sustainability Leaders Award 2024.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Forbes Middle East recently recognized Fahad Al-Othman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American University of the Middle East (AUM) and Founder of HumanSoft Holding Company, as the 'Forbes Sustainability Leaders in the Middle East 2024', reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This prestigious list celebrates pioneers and visionaries driving sustainability initiatives and advancing sustainability goals to foster positive change in the region.

The UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, presented Al-Othman with an honorary shield at the Forbes summit held in Marina Hall at the ADNEC Center in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The summit, now in its second edition, was centered on the theme "Shaping a Sustainable Tomorrow."

In his acceptance speech, Al-Othman expressed gratitude for the recognition, attributing this achievement to AUM's strategic vision and commitment to sustainability.

He emphasized that sustainability has been a core principle of the university's mission since its founding, playing an essential role in shaping its vision and guiding its impactful initiatives.

Kuwait's solar market set for expansion

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: According to MEED Magazine, Kuwait is set to launch the tender for the third phase of the Dabdaba and Shagaya renewable energy project, which will have a capacity of 1,100 megawatts, by the end of this year, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to informed sources, the solar energy market in Kuwait is expected to experience significant growth

in the coming years. Given the current increase in electricity consumption, the country will require at least seven new power stations in the next seven to eight years, with one station coming into service each year.

The sources revealed that Kuwait needs to add 1,000 megawatts annually to prevent potential energy supply shortages.

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Express our heartfelt condolences to

Mr. Abdulaziz Saad Al-Rashed & Al Rashed Family

On the sudden demise of

Saad Abdulaziz Abdul Mohsen Al-Rashed

who passed away on Monday, 28th October.

May Allah Almighty bestow mercy on his soul

Dear ministers,

Continued from Page 1

He initiated this massive operation because His Highness wisely recognizes that Kuwait's true strength lies in a state of functional institutions where everyone understands their roles and responsibilities without infringing on those of others.

Based on this understanding, it is important to investigate the regrettable situation the nation currently faces due to several decisions, particularly those made by the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Among these, the B.O.T. law stands out as one that needs to be thoroughly reassessed.

It is irrational for Kuwait to violate international laws, particularly those pertaining to the specified timeframes in this legislation.

Despite the right of preemption, is it reasonable to expect an investor to abandon their life's work and put their project up for tender, only to be excluded from the process? Or to force them to build and operate a facility, only to abandon it after 10 or 15 years?

Facilitating business and promoting flexibility are essential first steps in boosting the national economy. Subsequently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Interior, and others must establish laws that benefit the nation and prevent a return to the chaos of previous times.

His Highness the Amir delivered a firm message to the ministers - "The situation is serious, and I will hold the negligent accountable. The people seek real achievements, and we want unlimited giving. I will closely monitor your performance."

This directive was issued after a careful examination of the state of affairs brought about by improper practices that have persisted for roughly 30 years.

The Council of Ministers faces a challenging task today. Although the Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajil is known for his integrity and determination, he must navigate many difficult challenges. Among the most critical is his collaboration with the Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs, and Investment Noura Al-Fassam to boost domestic investment, attract foreign financiers, and overcome the corrupt legacy of past practices.

As we have mentioned, land is only valuable when it is productive. This can be achieved through the buildings that are constructed on it, the people who work there, and the products created there.

The Build, Operate, Transfer system, and the creation of new, modern laws as well as the elimination of product exclusivity, represents some of the most significant barriers that need to be addressed in this regard.

If a factory owner wishes to add another product, this can enhance the economic cycle by increasing domestic sales and potentially enabling exports, benefiting Kuwait in both areas. This not only reduces the large import bill but also generates additional revenues through export fees and future taxes.

7th Smart

Continued from Page 1

The Korean envoy said, "It is a pleasure to gather once again on this significant platform to exchange ideas and insights on the future of urban development and smart city innovations."

He expressed deep gratitude for HE Eng. Abdullahif Al-Meshari, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, for his continued support and gracing the occasion.

He extended special appreciation to HE Ghada Hatim Eltahir, the Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, as well as Eng. Rashid Al-Enezi, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW).

He also thanked the experts from both Kuwait and Korea for their invaluable contributions to this forum. Their expertise and vision, he said, are critical to the success of this forum and the continued collaboration between the two nations on smart city development.

"A special word of thanks goes to the team at LH, who have been a crucial bridge in smart city cooperation between Korea and Kuwait and played a key role in organizing today's event," he added.

"Throughout human history, as people have come together in cities and communities, countless challenges have been faced. Yet, time and again, humanity has risen to the occasion -- responding with creativity, resilience, and innovation," he said.

"Today, as societies grow more interconnected and complex the challenges faced, particularly in urban settings, are evolving at an unprecedented pace. These new challenges demand fresh, forward-thinking solutions."

"This is where smart technologies play a pivotal role. They provide powerful tools and novel approaches to address the pressing urban issues of the 21st century -- whether it is building sustainable infrastructure, enhancing energy efficiency, or harnessing data-driven city management. By embracing these innovations, cities can be transformed into more livable, efficient, and resilient spaces for future generations," he added.

"Kuwait is already taking bold and decisive steps in this direction through its ambitious Vision 2035 initiative. This forward-looking plan aspires to position Kuwait as a leader in smart, sustainable urban development. A shining example of this commitment is the South Saad Al-Abdullah Smart City project, a milestone in Kuwait's journey toward becoming a hub of urban transformation," he said.

Over the past years, he said, the Korea Land & Housing Corporation (LH) has been instrumental in shaping the master plan for the South Saad Al-Abdullah Smart City and continues to oversee the project's management.

Despite some delays, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, investment negotiations are now resuming. Moreover, through initiatives such as the K-City Network program, smart solutions for the city are set to further develop, ensuring that it remains at the cutting edge of urban innovation, he added.

Today's exchange of a renewed MOU between LH and PAHW marks an important new chapter in collaboration. This agreement, alongside the discussions that will unfold throughout this forum, will propel the partnership forward and help achieve even greater milestones in the years ahead, he said.

He concluded by saying, "Let us work together to shape a smarter, more sustainable future --one that reflects a shared vision of overcoming challenges and building cities that meet the needs of tomorrow."

Minister Al-Meshari said, "the Korean companies that have been working in Kuwait and built many crucial and important projects have helped us in the implementation of Kuwait national development plans."

Since 2016 till today, he said, Kuwait and Korea have executed over 250 projects in Kuwait that have exceeded \$50 billion.

This is in addition to the various contracts between the Kuwaiti government and Korean companies, Kuwait's Ministry of Housing and Korea's Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport in the field of new city development between PAHW and LH corporation.

He went on to say, "Now, we aim through the partnership with Korea's LH corporation to complete the South Saad Al-Abdullah City in which LH performs the consultancy services as the city's program manager."

"Currently, we are in the negotiation stage regarding the development of parts of the city with Kuwait and Korean ideas and efforts," he said.

The forum commenced with the exchange of a renewed MOU between LH and Kuwait's Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), to enhance cooperation and investment in smart city solutions. This agreement is expected to deepen the smart features of the South Saad Al-Abdullah Smart City, positioning it as a leading example of sustainable urban planning in the region.

Held under the theme "Smart Cities and Innovative Urban Management: Enhancing City Maintenance Using Smart Technologies," the forum featured discussions on various topics related to smart city management technology.

These included IoT-powered urban management, renewable energy integration and microgrids, city planning and management through digital twin platforms, and smart road maintenance.

Experts from Korea and Kuwait shared valuable insights, focusing on leveraging innovative solutions to tackle the complex challenges facing cities today. The discussions highlighted the role of these technologies in creating smart cities that are not only efficient and cost-effective but also convenient and livable.

Ministry of

Continued from Page 1

Dr. Al-Awadhi affirmed that approximately 90 percent of the ministry's electronic systems have been restored.

He highlighted the Ministry of Health's commitment to service and development, as well as its integration into digital health.

The minister expressed gratitude for the trust of the political leadership and the directives from the Prime Minister.

Regarding the conference, Dr. Al-Awadhi affirmed Kuwait's commitment to enhancing the prevention of infectious diseases through vaccinations.

He highlighted the introduction of the human papillomavirus vaccine to prevent multiple types of cancers, a move that has positioned Kuwait among the leading countries to adopt this vaccine for the health of its population.

The minister pointed out the huge efforts exerted over the last eight years to combat winter respiratory diseases, which have resulted in a noticeable decrease in both infection and death rates by more than half.

He revealed that the ministry has successfully vaccinated over two million citizens and residents against influenza and pneumonia.

In a speech he delivered at the conference held by the Ministry of Health's Public Health Department regarding the most pressing health issues affecting individuals and society, Dr. Al-Awadhi explained that the vaccination schedule has been updated to enhance the prevention of infectious and dangerous diseases, in line with the advancements made by developed nations in this crucial area.

The recent pandemics, such as COVID-19, have highlighted the importance of early planning and international coordination in combating cross-border diseases. It is important to prioritize early diagnosis and treatment, as well as understand the value of scientific research and global collaboration. It is also important to develop plans to safeguard tourists' health, prevent the transmission of foreign diseases, provide medical guidance, and establish health regulations that adapt to new challenges.

Dr. Al-Awadhi highlighted that modern innovation and technology are essential for improving healthcare services, enhancing response times to medical emergencies, and offering previously unheard-of chances for creating efficient health monitoring systems that deliver personalized care tailored to the needs of individuals and communities.

Meanwhile, Director of the Public Health Department and Chair of the conference Dr. Fahad Al-Ghamlas affirmed that the health crises faced by

the world in recent decades, such as the emergence of new epidemics and pandemics, as well as the transmission of diseases from animals to humans, underscore the importance of the public health sector and its critical role in safeguarding community health.

He stressed that public health encompasses more than just the prevention of infectious diseases, as it also includes areas closely related to community health, such as environmental health and sanitation.

Dr. Al-Ghamlas explained that Kuwait has made remarkable progress in all medical fields, including public health. The Public Health Department is aligned with the state's overall direction and has adopted a decentralized approach to delivering health services. This includes expanding the establishment of expatriate medical testing centers and creating traveler health clinics.

The department's future plan includes expanding medical testing services for food handlers and other relevant categories, including both citizens and expatriates, as well as increasing the number of tuberculosis control centers.

Digitizing services provided to the public is a top priority for the department, with the aim of facilitating access for visitors in collaboration with relevant authorities. A system has been put in place to allow for digital scheduling of appointments to conduct tests for expatriates, food handlers, and other groups.

Health fitness certificates can now be obtained and results accessed through the government app Sahel, along with the availability of electronic vaccination certificates on the Ministry of Health's website.

Dr. Al-Ghamlas affirmed the department's commitment to expanding the digitization of services and staying in line with the latest scientific developments, adding, "This will be achieved through collaboration with regional and international organizations to enhance service delivery, as well as through ongoing training for staff and the adoption of modern protocols and programs relevant to the department's specializations".

Kuwait draws

Continued from Page 1

back in January of 2015 up until March of this year to KD 1.7 billion (USD 5.55 billion), the report said.

The investments were "generated by 95 licensed entities from 34 different countries," the report showed, citing "focus" on the services sector, Information Technology, in addition to oil and gas services and construction and infrastructure, the KDIPA report showed.

It went on to say that the "economic impact" from the licensed investment entities has led to a 16-percent increase in cumulative spending in the domestic economy of approximately KD 924.1 million, propped up by local goods and services, which include advanced technological devices and equipment, added the report.

On efforts to accelerate a national digital transformation, KDIPA said it marked several "milestones" in activities related to digital transformation, investment promotion, talents nurturing and sustainability, all of which led to the completion of necessary "digital infrastructure," the report highlighted.

Kuwait's investment authority has managed to "strengthen" its presence in the international arena by being elected, for the first time, as vice president of the global association of global investment bodies, WAIPA, thanks to its prominent external events to showcase latest economic developments in Kuwait, it said.

Mural celebrates

Continued from Page 1

have reciprocal development in varied fields and share fruitful ideas.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Yaseen, head of NCCAL national project, said it is part of a series of mutual projects to paint murals.

The aim of this mural is to boost cultural and artistic levels of artists, and shed light on innovations of Kuwaiti artists and develop their skills, he said.

The second mural is set to be painted at Souq Al-Mubarakiya in weeks, in cooperation with Australia Embassy to Kuwait, he revealed.

Qatari Amir

Continued from Page 1

people of Qatar further development and prosperity.

During the meeting, they discussed the deep-rooted relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen them, in addition to the prominent developments of shared interest regionally and globally.

Also, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef met with Qatari Minister of Interior and Commander of Internal Security Force Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, on his official visit to Doha Monday.

The meeting discussed enhancing cooperation, especially security-related, as well as reviewing regional and international issues, according to a statement received by KUNA.

The two sides praised the deep and historical bilateral relations, stressing the two countries' constant keenness to develop them in all fields.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Sabah also visited the Police Museum at the Qatari Ministry of Interior building and was briefed with its wings and collections. (KUNA)

New aircraft factory will boost new skills: Modi

Leaders of India, Spain launch India’s 1st private military aircraft plant

VADODARA, India, Oct 28, (AP): Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez inaugurated India’s first private military aircraft plant on Monday, boosting New Delhi’s ambitions of growing local manufacturing in its defense and aerospace industries.

Sanchez was welcomed to the country with a roadshow in Gujarat state’s Vadodara city where hundreds of people cheered and waved banners.

The two leaders then launched the Tata Aircraft Complex, the manufacturing hub which will produce the Airbus C-295 transport military aircraft in collaboration with Airbus Spain and to be deployed by the Indian air force.

Sanchez said the project was a triumph of Modi’s vision “to turn India into an industrial powerhouse and a magnet for investment and business-to-business collaboration.”

“This partnership between Airbus and Tata will contribute to the progress of the Indian aerospace industry and will open new doors for the arrival of other European companies,” he added.

“This new aircraft factory will boost new skills and new industries in India,” Modi said, adding that the country was now supplying parts to the world’s leading aircraft companies.

The chairman of Tata conglomerate, Natarajan Chandrasekaran, hailed it as a historic day for the country’s defense sector and credited the late Ratan Tata, the industrialist and former chairman who died earlier this month, for conceiving the idea more than a decade ago.

Under a \$2.5 billion deal signed in 2021, Airbus will deliver the first 16 of the aircraft from its final assembly line in Seville, Spain - six of them have been delivered to the Indian air force so far. Tata Advanced Systems Ltd will produce



In this handout photo provided by the Press Information Bureau, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, (third left), and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez, (second left), listen to an aide at the exhibition after inaugurating India’s first private military aircraft plant in Vadodara, India on Oct 28. (AP)

40 of the aircraft in the Vadodara plant, which is expected to roll out the first C-295 aircraft made in India in 2026. The aircraft can transport up to 71 troops or 50 paratroopers and will be able to access remote locations. It can also be used for medical evacuations and aid in disaster response and maritime patrol duties.

Since coming to power in 2014, Modi has vowed to turn India into a global manufacturing hub, including in infrastructure, pharmaceuticals and defense. As part of an effort to modernize and reform military equipment, the government has sought to grow the private defense manufacturing sector, a space previously occupied solely by the government-run organizations, and has eased foreign direct investment regulations to try and encourage companies to establish themselves in India.

The visit marks the first by a Spanish leader to India in 18 years. Modi and Sanchez have previously met on the sidelines of global summits in 2018 and 2021. During the two-day visit, Sanchez will hold talks with Modi to review ties between the countries and also speak with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

On Tuesday, Sanchez will travel to Mumbai, India’s financial capital and home to Bollywood, where he is expected to interact with trade and industry leaders, and also visit film studios in an effort to grow collaboration between the Indian and Spanish entertainment industry.

Their bilateral trade stood at nearly \$10 billion as of 2023. According to the Indian foreign ministry, more than 200 Spanish companies actively operate in India and around 80 Indian companies in Spain. The two leaders are expected to sign agreements that will further boost ties and cooperation in various areas such as trade, information technology, renewable energy and defense, according to an Indian government statement.

Harris calls on US ‘to turn page on hatred, division’, Trump NY event features insults

PHILADELPHIA, Oct 28, (AP): Kamala Harris said Sunday that “no one can sit on the sidelines” in this year’s presidential election, capping a day of campaigning across the largest city in the crucial battleground state of Pennsylvania.

“We are focused on the future and we are focused on the needs of the American people,” Harris said, “as opposed to Donald Trump, who spends full time looking in the mirror focused on himself.”

Speaking at a city recreation center, the Democratic vice president singled out young voters, praising them for being “rightly impatient for change,” and told the audience that “there is too much at stake” in the campaign.

Mark Ruffalo and Don Cheadle, two actors who starred in Marvel’s “Avengers” movies, were at the rally. Harris reminded the crowd that Pennsylvania’s deadline for early voting is Tuesday, telling them to “get it done tomorrow if you can.”

Energizing voters in Philadelphia, a traditional Democratic stronghold, is crucial for Harris’ chances of beating Republican nominee Donald Trump. If turnout falls short here, she’ll struggle to overcome Trump’s advantages in Pennsylvania’s rural areas. “Philadelphia is a very important part of our path to victory,” Harris told reporters. “It’s the

reason I have been spending time here. But I’m feeling very optimistic about the enthusiasm.”

The Democratic coalition relies on voters of color, and Harris’ itinerary on Sunday reflected that focus. She began the day with the Black congregation at the Church of Christian Compassion, where she said the United States is “determined to turn the page on hatred and division.”

Meanwhile, Trump hosted a rally featuring crude and racist insults at New York’s Madison Square Garden Sunday, turning what his campaign had dubbed as the event where he would deliver his closing message into an illustration of what turns off his critics.

With just over a week before Election Day, speakers labeled Puerto Rico a “floating island of garbage,” called Harris “the devil,” and said the woman vying to become the first woman and Black woman president had begun her career as a prostitute.

“I don’t know if you guys know this, but there’s literally a floating island of garbage in the middle of the ocean right now. I think it’s called Puerto Rico,” said Tony Hinchcliffe, a stand-up comic whose set also included lewd and racist comments about Latinos and Black people, all key constituencies in the election just nine days away.



Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump and former first lady Melania Trump listen to Lee Greenwood at a campaign rally at Madison Square Garden on Oct 27 in New York. (AP)



Former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte, (left), takes oath beside former senator Leila de Lima, (right), during a senate inquiry on the so-called war on drugs during his administration at the Philippine Senate on Oct 28, 2024, in Manila, Philippines. (AP)

Philippine ex-leader Duterte says he kept ‘death squad’ as mayor to kill criminals

MANILA, Philippines, Oct 28, (AP): Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte told a Senate inquiry Monday that he had maintained a “death squad” of criminals to kill other criminals when he was mayor of a southern Philippine city.

Duterte, however, denied authorizing police to gun down thousands of suspects in a bloody crackdown on illegal drugs he had ordered as president and which is the subject of an investigation by the International Criminal Court as a possible crime against humanity. Duterte, 79, attended the televised inquiry in his first public appearance since his term ended in 2022. The Senate is looking into the drug killings under Duterte, which were unprecedented in their scale in recent Philippine history.

Duterte acknowledged without elaborating that he once maintained a death squad of seven “gangsters” to deal with criminals when he was the longtime Davao city mayor, before he became president.

“I can make the confession now if you want,” Duterte said. “I had a death squad of seven, but they were not policemen, they were also gangsters.”

“I’ll ask a gangster to kill somebody,” Duterte said. “If you will not kill (that person), I will kill you now.”

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III, who was overseeing the inquiry, and Sen. Risa Hontiveros, pressed Duterte to provide more details but the former president responded in unclear terms and said he would explain further in the next hearing.

Often cursing during the hearing, Duterte said he would take full responsibility for the killings that happened while he was president from 2016 to 2022. But he said he never ordered his national police chiefs, who also attended the inquiry, to undertake extrajudicial killings.

“Did I ever tell you to kill any criminal?” Duterte asked his former police chiefs. They included Ronald Dela Rosa, the current senator who first enforced Duterte’s campaign against illegal drugs as his national police chief.

“No, Mr. president,” dela Rosa responded.

Former Sen. Leila de Lima, one of the most vocal critics of Duterte who once investigated the drug killings in Davao, said there was adequate evidence and witnesses of the extrajudicial killings but they were scared of testifying against Duterte. De Lima was arrested early on in Duterte’s presidency on drug charges she said were fabricated to stop her from proceeding with her Senate investigation. She was cleared of the charges and released from more than six years of detention last year.

“This man, the former mayor of Davao city and the former president of the Republic of the Philippines, for so long has evaded justice and accountability,” said de Lima, sitting near the former president.

“We have not made him to account after all these years,” she said, and added that witnesses could now surface and help prosecute Duterte and his associates.

Duterte sounded defiant through the hearing.

N.Korea sent troops to help Russia: NATO

BRUSSELS, Oct 28, (AP): NATO on Monday confirmed that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia to aid in its almost three-year war against Ukraine and that some have already been deployed in Russia’s Kursk border region, where Russia has been struggling to push back a Ukrainian incursion.

“Today, I can confirm that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia, and that North Korean military units have been deployed to the Kursk region,” NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte told reporters. Rutte said that the move represents “a significant escalation” in North Korea’s involvement in the conflict and marks “a dangerous expansion of Russia’s war.”

His remarks came after a high-level South Korean delegation including top intelligence and military officials as well as senior diplomats briefed the alliance’s 32 national ambassadors at NATO headquarters in Brussels.



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte delivers a statement, after a meeting with a high level South Korean delegation including top intelligence and military officials as well as senior diplomats briefed NATO diplomats, at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Oct 28. (AP)


40 soldiers killed in army base attack: Chad prez

DAKAR, Senegal, Oct 28, (AP): Unidentified assailants killed at least 40 soldiers during an overnight attack on a military base in the country’s west, Chad’s presidency said Monday. President Mahamat Deby Itno visited the base in Barkaram, an island in Chad’s Lake region, early morning and announced the launch of a military operation to track the assailants.

Chad has long battled with an insurgency in the country’s west, near the border with Nigeria. It was not immediately known who was behind the latest attack, but previous attacks in the region have been blamed by the government on the Boko Haram militant group. In March, an attack the government blamed on Boko Haram killed seven soldiers, reviving fears of violence in the Lake Chad area. A

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Express our heartfelt condolences to

Mr. Abdulaziz Saad Al-Rashed & Al Rashed Family

On the sudden demise of Saad Abdulaziz Abdul Mohsen Al-Rashed who passed away on Monday, 28th October.

May Allah Almighty bestow mercy on his soul

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
↑ DUBAI	- DFMGI	+57.73	4,536.92	↓ SAUDI	- TASI	-15.82	12,053.15
JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+691.61	38,605.53	EGYPT	- EGX 30	-38.70	30,773.53
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+29.01	7,343.24				
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+232.04	90,360.81				

Business

KFH holds webcast for Q3 '24 financial results

Performance remarkable

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) held the Analysts Conference for Q3 2024 with the participation of KFH Group Senior Deputy CEO – Finance, Dr. Shadi Zahran, KFH Group Chief Strategy Officer, Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem, KFH Group Acting CFO and General Manager Financial Control and Regulatory Reporting, Jamal Al-Humairi.

KFH Group Senior Deputy CEO – Finance, Dr. Shadi Zahran commenced the conference by highlighting the Bank’s financial performance up till the end of Q3-2024. He said that KFH has achieved a net profit for its shareholders of KD 482.9 million, reflecting an increase of 4.6% compared to the same period last year. This remarkable performance marks the highest-ever quarterly profits in KFH’s history and in the Kuwaiti banking sector. KFH’s earnings per share up to the end of Q3-2024 reached 29.62 fils, representing an increase of 4.8% compared to the same period last year. ROAE increased from 11.72% to 12.11%. ROAA stood at 1.85%. Net financing income up to the end of the third quarter of 2024 reached KD 835.1 million; an increase of 17.0% compared to the same period last year. And net operating income up to the end of Q3-2024 increased to reach KD 754.0 million; an increase of 1.9% compared to the same period last year.

He added: “KFH has achieved record financial results by the end of the third quarter of 2024, with growth in most of the key financial indicators. This success is attributed to the strong performance and disciplined implementation of KFH’s strategy, along with a cautious approach to risk management. The bank has also focused on diversifying the financing portfolio, improving the quality of assets, along with capital optimization enhancing the capital base, and to ensure KFH’s ongoing financial strength and solid creditworthiness.”

Zahran further commented: “Achieving these outstanding financial results was in conjunction with completing the merger of KFH and (formerly) AUBK. This marks the beginning of a new successful phase for KFH. The merger has become a successful model in the region, creating a major financial entity in the Islamic finance industry locally, regionally, and globally. It solidified KFH’s position as a benchmark in the industry and sets the stage for its goal to be listed among the top 100 banks in the world.”

He went on saying: “In the third quarter of this year, KFH successfully finalized the largest merger in Kuwait’s banking history between KFH and AUBK. The integration of operations was accomplished in 6 months, the shortest time frame among similar transactions in the region, while maintaining a high level of efficiency. This achievement supports KFH’s role as a leading benchmark for banks in Kuwait and the region. The significant merger has resulted in the establishment of a major financial entity within the Islamic finance sector, extending its influence across local, regional, and global markets. The process of merging and integrating these two institutions has been a notable success, ensuring a seamless transition for customers, employees, and shareholders, without compromising the customer experience. Also, during third quarter 2024, KFH group completed the conversion of AUB-Egypt and AUBUK successfully to sharia compliant banks.”

Zahran affirmed that KFH Group has demonstrated its capability in advancing the future of Islamic finance worldwide by the accelerated and successful conversion of the operations of AUB group to Sharia-compliant banking services. This supports KFH Group’s strategy to contribute to expanding the Islamic finance sector on a local, regional, and global scale.

He noted: “Additionally, KFH’s commitment to sustainability is exemplified by the transparent framework aimed at creating a more sustainable banking model that incorporates environmental, social, and governance (ESG) aspects. KFH is continuously progressing on sustainability initiatives, focusing on achieving new milestones and further integrating sustainable practices into operations. KFH’s recent inclusion in the FTSE4Good Index Series and KFH’s “A” rating on the MSCI ESG Index underscores KFH’s dedication to ESG



KFH Group Chief Strategy Officer, Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem.

Al-Mukhaizeem: A historic opportunity to implement economic reforms that can lead to a more diverse and resilient economy

standards.

Zahran pointed out that KFH’s support for Kuwaiti businesses and development plans stems from its significant national role and distinguished economic position as Kuwait’s largest bank by market capitalization and the world’s second-largest Islamic bank. KFH’s financing activities have diversified across various sectors, including oil, petrochemicals, energy projects, infrastructure, startups, environmentally friendly ventures, and real estate development. KFH’s have been a strategic partner in funding all major development projects.

He stressed KFH’s commitment to upholding its role as a leading example of social responsibility, actively participating in strategic community projects that fulfill its social purpose. As a major banking entity, KFH operates approximately 617 branches across 9 countries, surpassing all other Kuwaiti banks in terms of market capitalization, which reached about KD 12 billion.

With regards to digital transformation, Zahran mentioned that KFH has made remarkable steps achieving global recognition for its efforts. A key focus of its digital development has been the implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across several critical areas, including cybersecurity and risk management, as well as Robotic Process Automation. This has been accomplished through collaborations with Fintech companies to enhance systems security, efficiency, and products and services. Additionally, KFH has invested in the infrastructure of flexible smart systems and programs designed to provide customers with a seamless banking experience. The success of Tam Bank, Kuwait’s first Shariah-compliant digital bank, along with the digital payment platform “Zaheb” for merchants, proves KFH’s commitment to delivering leading-edge digital financial solutions.

He indicated that KFH continues to receive esteemed international ratings and awards, strengthening its position as a top financial institution in the region. KFH have been awarded Kuwait’s Best Bank, Kuwait’s Best Digital Bank – Tam Digital Bank, and Kuwait’s Best Bank for ESG by Euromoney.

Furthermore, KFH was recognized as the top listed company in Kuwait and ranked tenth in the Middle East by Forbes Middle East in their 2024 ranking of the top 100 listed companies. KFH has also ranked first in the Kuwaiti banking sector in terms of growth and return on risk for this year’s Top 100 Arab Banks Rankings from The Banker. These accomplishments, along with numerous other international awards, further establish KFH’s significant role in the Islamic finance industry.

KFH Group Chief Strategy Officer - Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

KFH Group Chief Strategy Officer, Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem discussed the key highlights of the current operating environment in Kuwait, along with an overview of KFH, its strategic direction, and the results for the third quarter of 2024.

Al-Mukhaizeem said: “According to the latest issued data, Kuwait saw an easing of the head-



KFH Group Acting CFO and General Manager Financial Control and Regulatory Reporting, Jamal Al-Humairi.

Al-Humairi: The high profits are mainly from an increase in net operating income and lower provisions

line inflation rate driven by reductions in housing and transportation costs. By the end of September 2024, the Kuwaiti Crude Oil Price stood at USD 74.3 per barrel, reflecting a decrease of over 24% compared to the same period last year. Nevertheless, the current developments suggest potential for economic recovery and stabilization in the coming year where GDP growth is expected to reach 3.8% in 2025.

The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has announced a reduction in the discount rate of 25 basis points, lowering it from 4.25% to 4.00%, effective September 19, 2024. This decision comes as a result of careful observation of both domestic and international economic conditions and marks the conclusion of the monetary tightening cycle that began in March 2022 by many global central banks.”

He added: “In terms of credit ratings, Kuwait maintains a robust profile with an A+ rating and a stable outlook from Standard & Poor’s, an A1 rating from Moody’s, and an AA- rating from Fitch, all with stable outlooks.”

Al-Mukhaizeem said: “Kuwait has an opportunity to implement key economic reforms that can lead to a more diverse and resilient economy. Possible actions include enhancing the business environment, simplifying regulations, improving transparency, and diversifying revenue sources. This will have a positive impact which will attract foreign investment and stimulate private sector growth paving the way to a more dynamic economy that thrives beyond oil dependency.”

He further noted that within the banking sector, KFH also continues to strengthen its position, with a long-term credit rating of A from Fitch and A2 from Moody’s, both with stable outlooks. Additionally, KFH is proud to announce that it has been recently recognized as Kuwait’s Best Bank and Kuwait’s Best Digital Bank by Euromoney Magazine. KFH has been also awarded an “A” rating by MSCI for its exemplary performance in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices. This rating underscores KFH’s commitment to sustainable finance and its leadership in integrating ESG principles into its operations and strategic initiatives.

Al-Mukhaizeem added: “As of the end of Q3-2024, KFH ranks first among the largest listed companies on Boursa Kuwait, with a market capitalization of approximately KWD 11.9 billion. This solid performance underscores our commitment to delivering value to our shareholders and clients alike.”

KFH Group Acting CFO and General Manager Financial Control and Regulatory Reporting - Jamal Al-Humairi

KFH Group Acting CFO and General Manager Financial Control and Regulatory Reporting, Jamal Al-Humairi presented the financial performance of KFH group for the nine months period ended 30 September 2024.

He said: “The Group has achieved Net Profit After Tax attributable to Shareholders for the first nine months ended 30th September 2024 of KD



KFH Group Senior Deputy CEO – Finance, Dr. Shadi Zahran.

Dr. Zahran: Achieving outstanding financial results in conjunction with completing the merger of KFH and (formerly) AUBK

482.9mn higher by KD 21.4mn or 4.6% compared to 9M-23 of KD 461.5mn.”

Al-Humairi explained that the higher profits are mainly from the increase in net operating income and lower provisions. Partly offset by higher net monetary loss that resulted from the application of IAS-29 “Financial reporting in Hyperinflationary Economies” on the financial statements of Kuwait Turkish Participation Bank (KTPB) and increase in operating expenses.

He added: “Financing income has increased by KD 558.3mn or 35.5% compared to same period last year mainly due to increase in yield. Net financing income at KD 835.1mn increased by KD 121.2mn or 17% compared to same period last year mainly due to an increase in financing income by KD 558.3mn offset by increase in finance cost and distribution to depositors by KD 437.1mn.”

Looking at the operating income profile, Al-Humairi said that the contribution of net financing income to operating income increased from 64% in 9M-23 to 70% in 9M-24 due to an increase in net financing income and decline in investment income.

Increase in fees and commissions by KD 26.3mn is mainly related to increase in transaction fee income mainly from our subsidiary in Turkey.

Al-Humairi noted that Group NFM for 9M-24 at 2.97% is higher by 28bps compared to 9M-23. Average yield improved by 225bps while average COF also increased by 197bps. This was the result of both rate hikes and repricing of assets and liabilities during the period.

He added: “Looking at provisions and impairments, group total impairment charge decreased of KD (17.3)mn compared to 9M-23.

Al-Humairi confirmed that KFH cautious approach towards provisioning have contributed to financing provision balance exceeding ECL required as per CBK IFRS 9 by KD 514mn as of 30 September 2024.

As for the Net Monetary Loss, application of IAS-29 on the financial statements of KTPB resulted in recognition of net monetary loss of KD 117.8mn in the current period an increase of KD 38.6mn compared to 9M 2023 due to inflation and significant maturity of CPI linked sukuk during last quarter of 2023.

Financial position:

Total Assets at KD 36.3bn decreased by KD (1.8)bn or (4.6)% in 9M-24.

Net financing receivables at KD 19.1bn decreased by (1.5)% mainly due to sale of KFH Bahrain and foreign currency volatility during the period. Excluding this impact, group net financing receivable increased in 9M 2024 by 5.6%. Investments in debt securities at KD 6.4bn. Deposits for 9M-24 at KD 19.9bn.

The contribution from CASA deposits to total group customer deposits as at the end of 9M-24 is 42.8% and on an overall basis the Group continues to benefit from a large pool of low-cost deposits.

Contribution of customer deposits to total funding is 69.6% compared to 71.7% in 2023.

At Huawei B2B Innovation Summit during GITEX Global 2024

Zain Kuwait and Mada Communications win ‘Best Industry Digitalization’ award

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Zain Kuwait, along with its subsidiary Mada Communications, have been recognized with the ‘Best Industry Digitalization’ award for the Energy Sector at the Huawei B2B Innovation Summit, a highlight of GITEX Global 2024, held recently in Dubai. The recognition reflects the two companies’ contributions to reshaping the energy landscape through technology, empowering digitalization across the sector’s biggest players in Kuwait.

The award was presented during Zain’s participation at GITEX, the world’s largest technology event, where global technology leaders gather to drive sustainable growth for the digital economy. The award was received by Mohammad Harb, Zain Kuwait Enterprise Operational Marketing Director, with Zain, Mada, and Huawei representatives in attendance.

This recognition underscores Zain Kuwait and Mada Communications’ notable achievements in advancing digital transformation solutions within the local energy sector, achieved through successful partnerships with the biggest K-companies. These accomplishments position Zain and Mada as the preferred choice for national institutions in this vital sector, supporting their strategic objectives towards sustainable growth.

Both companies empower energy enterprises to embrace digitalization to enhance operational efficiency by offering advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, 5G networks, drones-as-a-service, cybersecurity solutions, data analytics, managed cloud services, and more.

This award acknowledges Zain and Mada’s success in leveraging the latest digital technologies, fostering innovation, enhancing operational efficiency, and strengthening safety measures across the energy sector’s critical infrastructure. Their solutions have elevated productivity and sustainability, ensuring the sector’s readiness for future challenges. Zain and Mada reaffirm their commitment



Mohammad Harb receives the award in Dubai.

ment to driving digital transformation in the energy sector by dedicating further efforts to promote automation, data-driven decision-making, environmentally sustainable solutions, and innovative services that play a pivotal role in shaping the future of energy in the region.

Over the past years, Zain has further accelerated its efforts to support Kuwait’s energy sector with cutting-edge digital solutions. As one of the world’s



Group picture of Zain and Huawei officials.

leading oil producers, Kuwait’s economy relies heavily on this industry, and the company remains dedicated to supporting its continued and growth.

The company’s partnerships with industry leaders, both in the public and private sectors, have grown to include new projects that harness the potential of these technologies, which are transforming the energy landscape, and Zain is committed to ensuring Kuwait remains a global leader in this arena.

KD 261.8 mn stc’s revenues for the first nine months of 2024 with KD 24.7 mln net profit

EBITDA increased by 1.2% to reach KD 63.7 mn; customer base reached 2.3 mn customers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its financial results for the nine months period ended September 30, 2024, highlighting the most significant achievements, financial and operational performance in addition to the social initiatives made by the company during 2024.

In this regard, Eng. Muataz Abdullah Aldharab, the company’s CEO, stated: “Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) continues its leadership aspirations by achieving solid financial and operational results during the first nine months of 2024, reinforcing its role as a key contributor to Kuwait’s digital transformation. stc continuously ensures addressing market needs, particularly with the increasing demand for advanced ICT solutions, by delivering the latest comprehensive and integrated digital and technical services and solutions for both individual and enterprise sectors. Our efforts are focused on innovation in our product offerings to enhance customer experience and strengthen our market share within the competitive environment.

stc has also taken further steps during this period to diversify its growth avenues by enhancing its business model in line with the continuous changes in the telecom market. Our ongoing investments in advanced infrastructure and digital systems reaffirm our long-term



CEO, Eng. Muataz Abdullah Aldharab

vision to maintain our position as a trusted telecom operator and digital service provider.”

Aldharab added: “During the third quarter of 2024, stc concluded several agreements and partnerships, most notably signing a contract with the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to supply smart electricity meters. Furthermore, stc is working diligently to launch advanced 5.5G services in compliance with the decision of Kuwait’s Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA).

While these projects highlight our commitment to fostering innovation and delivering excellence in service, stc is also proud to have received the “ICT – Telecommunications Award – Kuwait” for the 5G Technology at the Middle East Technology Excellence Awards that reflects our ongoing efforts to enable digital transformation in Kuwait.

Driven by the company’s strategic pillar of providing a supportive



stc Headquarters.

and inclusive environment for employees, stc has been ranked as the ideal employer of choice in Kuwait for Information Technology and Engineering Professionals, according to Universum custom research - 2024.

In line with global trends, stc has focused on driving technological advancement by offering fixed communications connectivity services and IT solutions, providing the best integrated telecommunications and network solutions, in addition to advanced technology services, fixed broadband, system integration, cloud services, 5G services, Internet of Things (IoT), and data analytics for both individual and enterprise customers, through implementing strategic business transformation plans. By leveraging its highly developed network along with the expertise of its subsidiaries specializing in fixed communications connectivity services and information technology, stc has distinguished itself by delivering high-quality, comprehensive,

and innovative digital solutions to the business sector.”

Commenting on the announcement of the financial results as of September 30, 2024, Aldharab stated that: “stc has achieved good financial results during the nine months of 2024, with total revenue reaching KD 261.8 mn by the end of September 2024 with a growth rate of 0.8% compared to KD 259.8 mn during the same period last year. The main reason for this growth is attributed to the increase in the Consumer sector revenues, which constitute 73% of total revenues. Meanwhile, Business sector revenues accounted



stc logo

for 27% of the company’s total revenue during the first nine months of 2024. Overall, the growth in stc’s revenue is a result of our efforts to improve the company’s business model, developing digital services, and providing integrated technical solutions to companies in various fields.”

Aldharab added: “These outcomes resulted in a growth of EBITDA by 1.2% to reach KD 63.7 mn in the first nine months of 2024 compared to KD 63.0 mn during the same period in 2023 supported by the increase in stc’s revenue. As a result, the Company’s net profit increased by 1.4% to reach KD 24.7 mn (EPS 25 Fils) in the first nine months of 2024 compared with KD 24.4 mn (EPS 24 Fils) in the same period last year. The increase in net profit is mainly attributed to the cost optimization program and enhancing the company’s operational efficiency at both stc and its subsidiaries. stc’s customer base stands at approx. 2.3 mn customers at the end of September 2024”.

Commenting on the company’s financial position as of September

30, 2024, Aldharab said “stc’s total assets reached KD 441.7 mn by the end of September 2024, while the total equity of the company’s shareholders amounted to KD 233.7 mn. It is worth noting that stc has a strong solvency position amongst the telecom companies in the Middle East.

Looking towards a sustainable future, stc is committed to launching impactful sustainability programs aimed at raising awareness and promoting long-term sustainable practices. Through which, we aim to create a positive impact and elevate the culture of social responsibility in Kuwait, aligning with both national and global sustainable development goals.”

Aldharab emphasized: “stc remains dedicated to maintaining a balanced financial strategy to ensure the efficient allocation and optimization of company resources, in addition to aligning its financial decisions with long-term goals. This financial strategy supports the company’s ability to effectively manage risks while improving cash flows, making informed management decisions, identifying growth opportunities, and enhancing shareholders’ confidence. stc is also focused on developing its corporate and financial strategies to serve Kuwait’s digital transformation, while maximizing synergies between our digital solutions and financial objectives, enhancing operational efficiency, and implementing robust regulatory practices. This will help us in strengthening our position as a leading company in innovation and operational excellence.”

The financial results for nine months period 30 September 2024	
Revenues	KD 261.8 mn
EBITDA	KD 63.7 mn
Net Profit	KD 24.7 mn
Earnings per share	25 Kuwaiti fils
Assets	KD 441.7 mn
Shareholders' equity	KD 233.7 mn
Book value per share	234 fils per share
Customer base	2.3 mn customers

Belief in the importance of enhancing international co-op underscored

KIB participates in Annual Meetings of IMF and the World Bank Group

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) took part in the activities and events of the 2024 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG), held in Washington, DC, in the United States from October 21 to 26. KIB also attended the Kuwait Banks Evening Reception organized by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Basel A. Al-Haroon on the sidelines of these meetings.

The KIB delegation was headed by Raed Jawad Bukhamseen, Vice Chairman and CEO of KIB; Saleh Al Trad and Abdulrazzaq Al Mutawa, KIB Board Members; and Ma’ab Al Qassem, General Manager of International Banking and Financial Institutions Department at KIB. The

delegation also included Anwar Bukhamseen, Chairman of KIB Invest; Ahmad AlFaresi, Board Member of KIB Invest; and Jamal Al-Barrak, CEO of KIB Invest.

The Annual Meetings were attended by central bank governors, finance and development ministers, senior private sector officials, civil society organization representatives, and academics. They discussed various issues, including the dynamics of the food economy, mechanisms for achieving sustainable development, and challenges facing global financial markets.

In this regard, KIB said that its participation in these international forums, which bring together a select group of decision-makers and economic experts from around the world, reflects its firm belief in the importance of fostering international cooperation

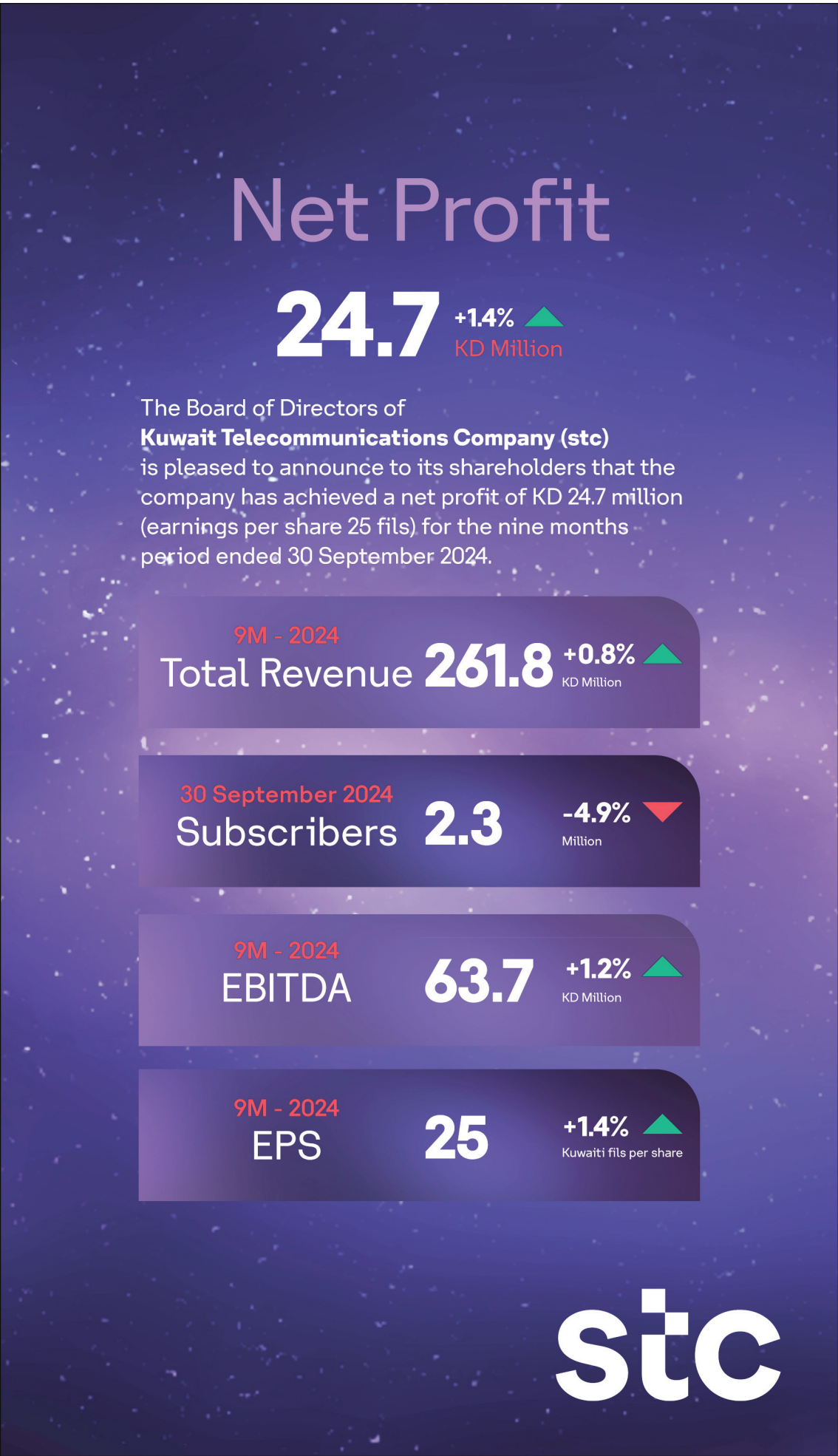
and exchanging expertise in the financial and banking sectors.

Additionally, KIB pointed out that the Annual Meetings provided an opportunity to showcase the Bank’s distinguished banking model and emphasize its role in financing investment projects and contributing to the realization of Kuwait’s Vision 2035. The meetings also allowed KIB’s delegation members to engage with senior international officials and discuss the most pressing challenges facing the global banking and financial industry.

It is worth noting that KIB consistently aims to participate in events and activities relevant to the local banking sector, as a national institution dedicated to adopting the latest innovations and advancements in the banking industry to contribute to the country’s economic development.



Ma’ab Al Qassem, General Manager of International Banking and Financial Institutions Department at KIB; Saleh Al Trad, KIB Board Member; Raed Jawad Bukhamseen, Vice Chairman and CEO of KIB; HE Governor of CBK Basel Al-Haroon; Anwar Bukhamseen, Chairman of KIB Invest; Ahmad AlFaresi, Board Member of KIB Invest; and Jamal Al-Barrak, CEO of KIB Invest.



Al Bahar: Inclusion, gender equality are cornerstones of comprehensive and sustainable economic growth

Driving Gender Equality: Insights from a Panel Discussion at the FII Conference in Riyadh

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) Group took a leading role in advocating for women’s empowerment in the financial sector at the 8th edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII), themed “Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow”. Representing NBK Group, Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO, and a longstanding champion of gender equality and women empowerment, engaged in a thought-provoking panel discussion in Riyadh, focusing on the critical importance of gender diversity and inclusion in driving sustainable economic growth.

Fostering Dialogue on Gender Diversity

The panel served as a vital platform to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities surrounding women’s empowerment in finance. It aimed to spark discussions on the significance of gender diversity, the role of inclusive practices in shaping economic sustainability, and innovative approaches necessary to dismantle barriers that have historically hindered women’s advancement in the industry. Additionally, the discussion sought to convey a powerful message to future female leaders, drawing from the insights and experiences of leading champions in the field.

Reflecting on the historical context of gender bias in finance, Al-Bahar remarked, “We’ve all faced skepticism in a male-dominated field, but it’s time we turn those doubts into opportunities.” She acknowledged the significant barriers women have faced, citing various research work that revealed the gender gap still exists “We’ve come a long way, but the past still casts a long shadow,” she emphasized, highlighting the ongoing need to dismantle these biases.

Navigating a Transforming Landscape

Transitioning from historical challenges, Al-Bahar addressed the evolving environment within the finance sector. “While challenges like pay inequity and lack of mentorship remain, we’re witnessing a transformation,” she stated. “The finance sector is beginning to understand that diversity isn’t just a nice-to-have; it’s a business imperative.” She highlighted initiatives like NBK RISE as exemplary models for fostering female leadership and creating pathways for women to excel in their careers.

This program is uniquely designed to drive community impact by advocating for increased representation of women in leadership roles, inviting external organizations to join in signing a pledge to elevate women into leadership positions within their institutions. “It’s about building bridges, not walls,” she remarked, underlining the importance of collaborative support in achieving gender equity. Furthermore, NBK RISE promotes inclusivity by sponsoring participants from various backgrounds, enabling them to cultivate a diverse network of women equipped with the necessary skills for success in senior roles. Crafted by women who understand the distinct challenges faced at different career stages, the program ensures authenticity and relevance in addressing real issues. Additionally, creative communication strategies have been implemented to raise awareness about the gender gap, fostering a more supportive environment for women’s leadership in the finance sector.



Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO of NBK Group, leads a panel discussion in Riyadh on the vital role of gender diversity and inclusion in promoting sustainable economic growth.



- The finance sector is beginning to understand that diversity isn't just a nice-to-have; it's a business imperative
- Women's leadership brings unique perspectives that can drive innovation
- Equal employment rates could lead to a 30% increase in GDP
- Unlocking our collective potential presents significant opportunities for economic growth
- While cultural norms can pose challenges, they also offer unique opportunities for tailored accessibility

The Impact of Women's Leadership

Al-Bahar underscored the pivotal role women play in enhancing firms’ investment strategies. “When women lead, they bring unique perspectives that can drive innovation,” she said, referencing studies indicating that mixed-gender investment teams outperform male-only teams by over 1.4% annually. “It’s not just about equity; it’s about performance,” she asserted, showcasing the tangible benefits of gender diversity in investment contexts.

Delving deeper, Al-Bahar discussed the advantages of female leadership in risk management. “Women often adopt a more conservative, long-term approach, prioritizing stability and sustainable growth,” she noted, citing independent research showing that portfolios managed by women had a 20% lower turnover rate. “We’re not just managing risks; we’re crafting legacies,” she emphasized, aligning this insight with NBK’s commitment to ESG principles.

The panel also highlighted the significant economic impact of empowering women in the workforce. Al-Bahar pointed to surveys indicating that equal employment rates in the MENA region could lead to a 30% increase in GDP. “Investing in women isn’t just a social responsibility; it’s an economic strategy. Imagine the growth if we unleashed our collective potential!” she ex-

claimed, advocating for gender equity as a driver of economic progress.

Women as Trailblazers in High-Growth Sectors

Al-Bahar further underscored the vital contributions of women in high-growth sectors such as FinTech, health-care, and clean energy. “Women aren’t just participants in the market; we’re trailblazers shaping the future,” she asserted.

At organisations like NBK, women have taken the lead on projects focused on cross-border investments, effectively tapping into new markets and diversifying portfolios, aligning with global trends that see women leaders spearheading innovative and sustainable investment strategies. NBK actively supports the inclusion of women in STEM fields, with approximately 27.8% of STEM-related roles held by women as of 2023. This dedication to gender diversity not only empowers women but also positions NBK as a regional leader in fostering an inclusive environment, paving the way for future female leaders in the industry.

The Democratizing Effect of FinTech

The discussion also touched on the democratizing effect of FinTech platforms like Robinhood and Coinbase in attracting women to finance. “These platforms have

broken down barriers and made investing accessible for everyone, especially women,” Al-Bahar stated. With 40% of new sign-ups on Robinhood being women, she remarked, “This is a seismic shift in how we engage with finance. We’re turning the tide.”

Examining Gender Diversity Through a Social Lens

Finally, Al-Bahar addressed the influence of government policies on gender diversity in finance. “While cultural norms can pose challenges, they also offer unique opportunities for tailored accessibility,” she explained. She pointed to Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 and Kuwait’s “New Kuwait 2035” vision as examples of initiatives aimed at increasing female workforce participation. “Change is a process, but every step we take brings us closer to equality,” she stated.

The panel concluded that the discussion at the Future Investment Initiative highlighted the critical importance of gender diversity, viewing it as more than just a moral obligation; it is essential for fostering sustainable economic growth. Al-Bahar aptly summarized, “In finance, as in life, diversity is the key to innovation and success. Together, we can reshape the future and create an inclusive landscape where everyone can thrive.”

Driving Positive Change

As a frontrunner in the banking sector, NBK remains steadfast in its commitment to ESG principles, recognizing their integral role in fostering sustainable development. By prioritizing responsible banking practices and championing initiatives that empower communities and support environmental stewardship, NBK not only enhances its operational resilience but also contributes to the broader goal of creating a sustainable future. Al-Bahar’s leadership exemplifies this dedication, reinforcing the bank’s mission to drive positive change within the financial landscape and beyond.

Continuing claims rise to highest level since 2021

US applications for jobless benefits fall

WASHINGTON, Oct 28, (AP): The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits fell last week, but the total number of those collecting benefits rose to its highest level in almost three years.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that applications for jobless claims fell by 15,000 to 227,000 for the week of Oct. 19. That’s less than the 241,000 analysts forecast.

Weekly applications for jobless benefits are considered a proxy for U.S. layoffs.

Continuing claims, the total number of Americans collecting jobless benefits, rose by 28,000 to 1.9 million for the week of Oct. 12. That’s the most since November 13, 2021.

The rising level of continuing claims suggests that some who are receiving benefits are finding it harder to land new jobs. That could mean that demand for workers is waning, even as the economy remains strong.

Still, the four-week average of continuing claims is only as high as it was this summer, and not terribly concern-



A Walmart truck fleet has We're Hiring Drivers signage on the back of the truck on I-88 road in Franklin Grove, Ill., Monday, Oct. 14, 2024. (AP)

ing yet, analysts say.

In response to weakening employment data and receding consumer prices, the Federal Reserve last month cut its benchmark interest rate by a half of a percentage point as the central bank shifted its focus from taming inflation toward supporting the job market. The Fed is trying to pull off a rare “soft landing,” whereby it brings down in-

flation without tipping the economy into a recession.

It was the Fed’s first rate cut in four years after a series of increases starting in 2022 that pushed the federal funds rate to a two-decade high of 5.3%.

Inflation has retreated steadily, approaching the Fed’s 2% target and leading Chair Jerome Powell to declare recently that it was largely under control.

Earlier this month, the government reported that U.S. inflation reached its lowest point since February 2021.

During the first four months of 2024, applications for jobless benefits averaged just 213,000 a week before rising in May. They hit 250,000 in late July, supporting the notion that high interest rates were finally cooling a red-hot U.S. job market.

In August, the Labor Department reported that the U.S. economy added 818,000 fewer jobs from April 2023 through March this year than were originally reported. The revised total was also considered evidence that the job market has been slowing steadily, compelling the Fed to start cutting interest rates.

Al, digital currencies among key topics

Burgan Bank attends 2024 WBG and IMF annual meetings in Washington

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: In line with its proactive role in participating in vital discussions on the latest developments and economic challenges facing the world that require global coordination, Burgan Bank recently joined world-leading financial institutions and global decision-makers at the 2024 Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), held in Washington, D.C., USA on October 21-26. Attending the event on behalf of Burgan Bank were Mr. Tony Daher, Group Chief Executive Officer; Mr. Abdullah Marafie, General Manager – Treasury and Financial Institutions; and Mr. Abdullah AlSharekh, Board Member.

In parallel to the annual meetings, the Burgan Bank representatives also attended the Kuwaiti Banks Evening Reception hosted by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) under the patronage of His Excellency, the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Basel Ahmad Al-Haroon at Conrad Washington DC. The customary reception gathered the most influential Kuwaiti banking and financial institutions to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration, share insights about Kuwait-specific challenges and solutions, and review the country’s progress in advancing its overall economic landscape. The KBA reception also served to cement Kuwait’s robust economic system and resounding financial influence in the region and across the global market.

“It is an honor for us to, once again, be present among the world’s most visionary and influential financial key players whose strategies and initiatives impact millions of lives worldwide,” said Mr. Marafie. “The global economic dynamics are in constant motion and in order to succeed on a domestic, regional, or international level, it is vital to continue being a vocal participant in the conversation. For decades, Burgan Bank has contributed effectively to the advancement of banking in Kuwait and the region by adopting sustainability, innovation, digital transformation, and human capital development as primary institutional pillars. Our participation in the 2024 Annual Meetings is an extension of our unwavering efforts to remain at the forefront of global banking advancement.”

“In today’s hyper-globalized financial market, it is of greater importance than ever before to work together toward achieving



Abdullah Marafie

banking sustainability and inclusive financial enablement for more beneficiaries globally. With the constant introduction of new financial technologies as well as the rise of new political, economic, and environmental threats, financial institutions must continue to innovate solutions that maintain financial stability and inclusion,” added Mr. Marafie.

This year’s agenda included some recurring topics such as climate change and its impact on financial stability and social inclusion as well as more novel ones including the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital currencies on the global financial system and domestic markets. The talks and panel discussions were delivered and attended by central bankers, ministers of finance and development, private sector executives, representatives from civil society organizations, and academics from around the world.

As a leading financial institution, Burgan Bank remains adamant about participating proactively in all domestic, regional, and global events that contribute to shaping and developing the world economic system and sharing valuable insights from its long and prosperous banking and financial journey.

About Burgan Bank

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is a Kuwait-based conventional bank with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institution sectors. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly sought to diversify its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the “Burgan Bank Group”, in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria – AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank – TIB (Tunisia), and Burgan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank’s brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excellence, and progression – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank’s core philosophy of ‘Driven by You’ is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.



HE Governor of CBK Basel Al-Haroon, Sheikh Ahmed Duaij, Isam Al-Sager, Adel Al-Majed, Abdulwahab Alrus-hood, Raed Boukhamseen, Tony Daher, and Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai gather for a group photo.

Conversation

Proof that immigrants fuel US economy is found in billions they send back home

By Ernesto Castañeda

American University

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

Donald Trump has vowed to deport millions of immigrants if he is elected to a second term, claiming that, among other things, foreign-born workers take jobs from others. His running mate JD Vance has echoed those anti-immigrant views.

Researchers, however, generally agree that massive deportations would hurt the U.S. economy, perhaps even triggering a recession.

Social scientists and analysts tend to concur that immigration – both documented and undocumented – spurs economic growth. But it is almost impossible to calculate directly how much immigrants contribute to the economy. That’s because we don’t know the earnings of every immigrant worker in the United States.

We do, however, have a good idea of how much they send back to their

home countries – more than US\$81 billion in 2022, according to the World Bank. And we can use this figure to indirectly calculate the total economic value of immigrant labor in the U.S.

I conducted a study with researchers at the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and the Immigration Lab at American University to quantify how much immigrants contribute to the U.S. economy based on their remittances, or money sent back home.

Several studies indicate that remittances constitute 17.5% of immigrants’ income.

Given that, we estimate that the immigrants who remitted in 2022 had take-home wages of over \$466 billion. Assuming their take-home wages are around 21% of the economic value of what they produce for the businesses they work for – like workers in similar entry-level jobs in restaurants and construction – then immigrants added a total of \$2.2 trillion to the U.S. economy yearly.

That is about 8% of the gross domestic product of the United States and close to the entire GDP of Canada in 2022 – the world’s ninth-largest economy.

Beyond its sheer value, this figure

tells us something important about immigrant labor: The main beneficiaries of immigrant labor are the U.S. economy and society.

The \$81 billion that immigrants sent home in 2022 is a tiny fraction of their total economic value of \$2.2 trillion. The vast majority of immigrant wages and productivity – 96% – stayed in the United States.

Remittances from the U.S. represent a substantial income source for the people who receive them. But they do not represent a siphoning of U.S. dollars, as Trump has implied when he called remittances “welfare” for people in other countries and suggested taxing them to pay for the construction of a border wall.

The economic contributions of U.S. immigrants are likely to be even more substantial than what we calculate.

For one thing, the World Bank’s estimate of immigrant remittances is probably an undercount, since many immigrants send money abroad with people traveling to their home countries.

In prior research, my colleagues and I have also found that some groups of immigrants are less likely to remit than others. (AP)



Photos during the event.

Special commemorative booklet honors six decades of Kuwait-Turkiye relations

Turkish Embassy celebrates 60 years of Kuwait-Turkiye ties with concert, exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: As part of a series of events celebrating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Turkiye and Kuwait, the Turkish Embassy organized a Turkish Concert and Diplomatic Documents Exhibition on October 27, 2024 at Yarmouk Cultural Center in cooperation with the State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkiye and Dar Athar Al Islamiyyah.

In her opening remarks, Ambassador Tuba Nur Sönmez emphasized that under the visionary leadership of His Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the brotherly relations between Turkiye and Kuwait will be strengthened and our cooperation will reach new heights in all areas. H.E emphasized that the Turkish Embassy in Kuwait remains committed to strengthening these ties and promoting initiatives

that are mutually beneficial to both countries. She also highlighted the solidarity and close cooperation that Turkiye and Kuwait have shown during difficult times.

During the Turkish Concert, two talented young Turkish artists, Ms. Eda Sevinis on piano and Mr. Umut Sağlam on cello gave wonderful performances. A commemorative group photo was also taken to mark the occasion.

After the ceremony, the guests attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the exhibition titled “60 Years of Diplomatic Relations and Enduring Friendship between Turkiye and Kuwait: Documents from the Archives”. The exhibition displayed selected documents from the Turkish State Archives, including press reports, diplomatic communications and photographs, which illustrate the deep-rooted relations and enduring friendship between Turkiye and Kuwait.

At the end of the event, a commemorative booklet was presented to the guests. The booklet included selections from archival documents, diplomatic correspondence, newspapers, and photographs of bilateral visits between Turkey and Kuwait.

Ambassador Tuba Nur Sönmez was accompanied by the Guest of Honor H.E. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs; Prof. Dr. Ahmet Tokdemir, Director of the State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkiye; Prof. Dr. Uğur Ünal, Rector of Gazi University and former Director of the State Archives of Turkiye; Sheikhha Fadia, Chairperson of the Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, cultural envoys and senior Kuwaiti officials.

Committing to positively contributing to local communities

Gulf Insurance Group sponsors new adolescent-focused child life room at Bayt Abdullah Hospice

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: In line with its commitment to social responsibility and welfare as a leading insurance group in the Middle East and North Africa, Gulf Insurance Group (GIG) is proud to announce its sponsorship of the transformation of the inpatient playroom at Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BACCH) into a new Child Life Room. This initiative, designed specifically for adolescents, marks a significant milestone in enhancing the emotional and developmental care provided to young patients during their healthcare journeys.

The newly designed Child Life Room goes beyond physical renovation, it offers a private and comfortable setting where adolescents can participate in personalized, one-on-one sessions with Child Life specialists. Equipped with age-appropriate resources, this room fosters trust, communication, and emotional wellbeing, allowing adolescents to better cope with the challenges of long-term healthcare.



Al Sanousi

Speaking of the sponsorship, Mr. Khaled Al Sanousi, Group Executive Manager - Corporate Comms. & Investor Relations,said: “At GIG, we are committed to making a lasting impact on our community, and we are honored to contribute to Bayt Abdullah’s compassionate care for young patients. This Child Life Room is more than just a physical transformation – it is a step towards providing emotional support and comfort to adolescents, enabling them to face their health-



Representative of Gulf Insurance Group with employees of Bayt Abdullah.

care journeys with resilience and confidence. This initiative reflects our holistic approach to business, and aligns with our commitment to social responsibility, supporting initiatives that positively impact our community.”

On her part, Ms. Margaret Al Sayer, OBE, Founding Director of KACCH & BACCH, said: “I am thrilled about this collaboration with Gulf Insurance Group which helped us to create a dedicated space for young people at Bayt Abdullah. This special room will offer our teens a peaceful environment to relax, connect with others, and spend meaningful time with their Child Life Specialists, away from the hustle and bustle of younger children.”

Supporting social causes is a cornerstone of GIG’s commitment to its corporate social responsi-

bility (CSR) and ESG initiatives. Its business strategy emphasizes sustainability, social welfare, and ethical governance, aiming to create a better future for generations to come. This donation to BACCH is a key part of our commitment to fostering resilience, compassion, and social responsibility in the communities the Group serves.

About GIG:

GIG is the largest insurance Group in Kuwait in terms of written and retained premiums, with operations in life and non-life as well as Takaful insurance. GIG has become one of the largest insurance networks in the Middle East and North Africa with companies in Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Algeria, UAE, KSA, Oman, Qatar, Iraq, and Lebanon. Its reported consolidated assets stand at US\$ 4.07 billion as at 30

June 2024.

Gulf Insurance Group enjoys the privilege of being the first triple-rated insurance Group in Kuwait. The Group holds a Financial Strength Rating of ‘A’ (Excellent) and issuer credit rating of ‘a+’ (Excellent) with Stable outlook from A.M. Best Europe – Rating Services Limited, a Financial Strength Rating of “A” with Positive outlook from Standard & Poor’s and an Insurance Financial Strength Rating (IFSR) of ‘A2’ from Moody’s Investors Service carrying a Stable outlook.

GIG is a majority-owned subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited, a Canadian holding company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, which, through its subsidiaries, is primarily engaged in property and casualty insurance and reinsurance and the associated investment management.

Sunbula account offers cash prizes

Warba Bank announces winners of Sunbula draw

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Warba Bank - the best bank in banking services for the corporate sector and banking services for the investment sector in Kuwait - announced the winners of the weekly Sunbula draw. Warba Bank will continue to make draws for 10 weekly winners for the Sunbula account in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

As for the lucky customers for the weekly Sunbula draw, 10 winners were chosen from Warba Bank’s customers, each of whom received 1,000 Kuwaiti dinars. The Winners are Mohammed Hamad Mansour AlAjmi, Mrs. Sanabil Mohammed Abdullah Murad, Mrs. Lulu Nasser Mubarak AlHajri, Mrs. Munira Nafil Mubarak Awish, Mr. Hamad Lufan Hawas AlShammari, Mr. Bashar Bader Mubarak AlZowair, Mr. Mishari Musaed Saleh AlAliyan, Mr. Fahad Nasser Sanat Al Ghadouri, Mr. Ibrahim Abdulaziz AlNashi, and Mrs. Aisha Obaid Bani AlArif.



Abdulaziz Al-Bekheet

The Sunbula account is the perfect choice for all those who wish to save money and achieve great financial returns on their balances at the same time; in addition to multiple opportunities to win cash prizes throughout the year.

With regards to the conditions for winning the Sunbula, Mr. Abdulaziz Soud Al-Bekheet - Director Region Retail Banking Group states: “Only 100 KD is required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and other major draws, whereby the customer still gets one chance per every 10 KD in the account, and the chances are calculated according to the lowest balance in the account during a month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to calculate the opportunities. There

are no restrictions or limits for withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the customer’s chances of winning”.

Notably, in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, Warba Bank has launched its latest banking solutions service “Customer Onboarding”. This will enable non-Warba Bank customers to apply for opening an account in an easy digital way through the bank’s website without the need to visit any of the bank’s branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new customers will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

It is worth mentioning that Warba Bank is one of the banks that achieved great successes in a short period of time, as it occupied a leading position in the field of digital Islamic banking services for individuals, and it is one of the most local banks in terms of the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent elements that make the bank close to all members of society.

Attended by the Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait, His Excellency Mr. Morino Yasunari

AAW celebrates opening of ASICS’ fourth store in Kuwait at Assima Mall

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW) and ASICS, the renowned Japanese sportswear brand, celebrated the opening of their new store in Assima Mall.

The event was attended by the Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait His Excellency Mr. Morino Yasunari, the ASICS Arabia General Manager Mr. Seiji Hori, AAW Chairman and CEO Mr. Faisal Ali Al Mutawa, AAW Deputy CEO Mr. Khalid Faisal Al Mutawa, along with team members from AAW and ASICS, as well as mall visitors.

The celebration highlighted ASICS’ brand heritage and its ‘Sound Mind, Sound Body’ philosophy. The event featured a range of Japanese-inspired entertainment, including a live handpan performance, a Japanese ink painting show, Japanese catering, and interactive games. These activities not only showcased the brand’s cultural roots but also emphasized its technological



ASICS store opening,



innovations in sports and lifestyle.

The ASICS Assima store, located on the Mezzanine floor, offers a wide range of running, volleyball, padel, tennis, and other sport style apparel and footwear for men, women, and children. In addition, customers can use the brand’s Foot ID and Run Analysis to determine their optimal running shoe.

Since its launch in Kuwait in 2018, ASICS has become a preferred choice for those seeking high-quality sportswear and footwear. This success is attributed to the brand’s commitment to testing, research, and sustainable practices, ensuring products that align with its philosophy of “A Sound Mind in a Sound Body.” It is worth noting that the first ASICS store in Kuwait was opened at The Avenues in 2018, the second at 360 Mall, the third at Al Khiran Mall, and now the fourth at Assima Mall, which is open from 10:00 am to 11:00 pm.

‘Conclave’ emerges as the surprise hit of the weekend**‘Venom’ falls short of projections as superhero films fade**

NEW YORK, Oct 28, (AP): “Venom: The Last Dance” showed less bite than expected at the box office, collecting \$51 million in its opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, significantly down from the alien symbiote franchise’s previous entries.

Projections for the third “Venom” film from Sony Pictures had been closer to \$65 million. More concerning, though, was the drop off from the first two “Venom” films. The 2018 original debuted with \$80.2 million, while the 2021 follow-up, “Venom: Let There Be Carnage,” opened with \$90 million even as theaters were still in recovery mode during the pandemic.

“The Last Dance,” starring Tom Hardy as a journalist who shares his body with an alien entity also voiced by Hardy, could still turn a profit for Sony. Its production budget, not accounting for promotion and marketing, was about \$120 million - signifi-

cantly less than most comic-book films. But “The Last Dance” is also performing better overseas. Internationally, “Venom: The Last Dance” collected \$124 million over the weekend, including \$46 million over five days of release in China.

That’s good enough for one of the best international weekends of the year for a Hollywood release. The low weekend for “Venom: The Last Dance” also likely insures that superhero films will see their lowest-grossing year in a dozen years, not counting the pandemic year of 2020, according to David A. Gross, a film consultant who publishes a newsletter for Franchise Entertainment.

Following on the heels of the “Joker: Folie à Deux” flop, Gross estimates that 2024 superhero films will gross about \$2.25 billion worldwide. The only upcoming entry is Marvel’s “Kraven the Hunter,” due out Dec. 13. Even with the \$1.3 billion of “Deadpool & Wolverine,” the genre hasn’t, overall, been dominating

the way it once did. In 2018, for example, superhero films accounted for more than \$7 billion in global ticket sales.

Last week’s top film, the Paramount Pictures horror sequel “Smile 2,” dropped to second place with \$9.4 million. That brings its two-week total to \$83.7 million worldwide.

The weekend’s biggest success story might have been “Conclave,” the papal thriller starring Ralph Fiennes and directed by Edward Berger (“All Quiet on the Western Front”). The Focus Features release, a major Oscar contender, launched with \$6.5 million in 1,753 theaters.

That put “Conclave” into third place, making it the rare adult-oriented drama to make a mark theatrically. Some 77% of ticket buyers were over the age of 35, Focus said. With a strong opening and stellar reviews, “Conclave” could continue to gather momentum both with moviegoers and Oscar voters.



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Tom Hardy in a scene from ‘Venom: The Last Dance.’ (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: Bad Bunny threw his support behind Vice President Kamala Harris on Sunday by sharing a video of the Democratic presidential nominee shortly after a comedian at Donald Trump’s Madison Square Garden rally made crude jokes about Latinos and called Puerto Rico a “floating island of garbage,” angering artists and some Hispanic Republicans.



Bad Bunny

Bad Bunny, whose official name is Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, is one of the most famous artists of the moment. His backing could be a boost for the Harris campaign as it tries to bolster its support with Latino voters, among whom Trump has been working to gain ground.

The video Bad Bunny shared with his 45 million Instagram followers shows Harris saying “there’s so much at stake in this election for Puerto Rican voters and for Puerto Rico.” A representative of the artist confirmed that Bad Bunny is supporting Harris.

Bad Bunny signaled his support moments after comedian Tony Hinchcliff made the remarks on Puerto Rico. Later, Hinchcliff said “these Latinos, they love making babies” and said they don’t use the pull-out birth control method.

The comments on Puerto Rico were immediately criticized by Harris’ campaign, but were also called out by Angel Cintron, the head of the GOP on the island, and Republican U.S. Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar, who represents parts of Miami and has participated in recent Trump events. (AP)

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HONG KONG: Adapted by Hong Kong Ballet, “The Butterfly Lovers,” a large-scale ballet, premiered at the Grand Theater of Hong Kong Cultural Center on the evening of Oct. 18 to a full house.

At the end of the performance, the audience greeted the creative team with long applause and cheers.

Known as “the Chinese Romeo and Juliet,” “The Butterfly Lovers” is brought to the stage for the first time in the form of ballet in Hong Kong, offering the audience a mesmerizing fusion of the ancient and modern, East and West.

The widely known legendary Chinese tragic romance between Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai has inspired countless adaptations in opera, music, film, and other art forms.

Hong Kong Ballet’s Artistic Director Septime Webre from the United States was deeply moved the first time when he heard “The Butterfly Lovers” violin concerto and believed it to be a “wonderful subject for a ballet.” Ricky Hu, choreographer-in-residence of Hong Kong Ballet, and his wife, Mai Jingwen, took on the task of creating the adaptation.

“There’s a lot of pressure because the story is a classic and the audience has seen so many adaptations,” Hu said. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

TIRANA: The third edition of Kosmos Tirana Music Festival is underway in Tirana, aimed at promoting classic music among the people.

The five-day event kicked off on Saturday evening. In the opening address, Jonian Ilias Kadesha, artistic director of the festival, said, “Music knows no small, big, visible, invisible borders, it finds its way to the soul of every human inhabitant of this world.”

Kadesha thanked Tirana Municipality and local arts university for offering help to the event. Musicians from various countries will play pieces by masters such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Schubert and Franz Haydn. (Xinhua)



Miles Mitchell, 21, winner of the Timothee Chalamet look-alike contest near Washington Square Park, Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, in New York. (AP)

Chalamet ‘crashes’ his own look-alike contest

NEW YORK, Oct 28, (AP): Actor Timothée Chalamet made a surprise appearance at his own look-alike contest in Lower Manhattan on Sunday, an event that drew hundreds of on-lookers, a dispersal order from police and at least one arrest.

Flanked by bodyguards, Chalamet briefly posed for photos with his high-cheeked, curly haired doppelgängers, some of whom had dressed as the actor’s characters in “Wonka” and the “Dune” movies.

But just as the wannabe-Chalamets began strutting along a red carpet in Washington Square Park, police ordered the large group to disperse, slapping organizers with a \$500 fine for an “unpermitted costume contest.”

At least one contestant was taken away in handcuffs, though police did not immediately say why. A spokesperson for the NYPD said charges were pending.

The organizers had posted flyers for the contest - which promised a \$50 prize to the winner - around New York in recent days, spurring social media speculation and thousands of RSVPs to an online invite.

Eventually, a winner was chosen: Miles Mitchell, a 21-year-old Staten Island resident, who dressed in a purple Willy Wonka outfit and tossed candy to the crowd from a brief case.

Film

This image released by Focus Features shows Ralph Fiennes in a scene from ‘Conclave.’ (AP)

‘Conclave’ mirrors real-life Vatican power struggles**Papal drama thrills Rome**

ROME, Oct 28, (AP): With Pope Francis a few weeks away from his 88th birthday, the plotting for his successor is well underway at the Vatican.

How timely, then, that just across town in Rome, “Conclave” a thriller filled with back-stabbing, manipulative cardinals, quick to toss morality out of the window as they promote their candidate, is a top draw at the Rome Film Festival.

This might be a little too close to home - literally and figuratively - for Pope Francis.

Austrian-Swiss Director Edward Berger, who directed “All Quiet on the Western Front” (2022), adapted the film from the 2016 novel “Conclave” by Robert Harris. Berger puts an extraordinary Ralph Fiennes in the role of Cardinal Thomas Lawrence, dean of the College of Cardinals responsible for organizing the conclave.

Powerful

The conclave is the centuries-old tradition in which, on the death of a pope, cardinals gather in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican to participate in rounds of voting until they elect a new pontiff. Conclave comes from the Latin “cum clave,” meaning “with a key,” to indicate the Cardinals are locked in until they have chosen the new leader for the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics.

The whole process is conducted under the spectacular frescoed ceiling painted by Michelangelo, and his masterpiece “The Last Judgment” depicting the fate of men heading to heaven or hell covers the wall behind the altar. During the entire process, the prelates are cut off from communicating with the outside world and must live in seclusion inside the Vatican.

Conclaves have a reputation as a no-holds-barred competition as cardinals make backroom deals to elect their favorites in secret ballots.

At the end of each round of voting, the ballots are thrown in a specially constructed stove in the Sistine Chapel, with a chemical added that will color the smoke.

The tens of thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square awaiting the result will know whether or

not a new pope has been selected by the smoke that appears from the chimney. Black means the cardinals have not yet selected a pope, white means a new pope has been chosen.

In “Conclave” Stanley Tucci plays Aldo Bellini, a progressive American cardinal fighting it out against the powerful conservative Cardinal Goffredo Tedesco played by Sergio Castellitto and Canadian Cardinal Joseph Tremblay played by John Lithgow. Nigerian Cardinal Joshua Adeyemi, played by Lucian Msamati, could be the first Black pope, but his homophobic views clash with the progressives.

While women remain excluded from the conclave and the highest circles of power at the Vatican, they provide assistance carrying out humble roles serving the cardinals during the conclave period. Isabella Rossellini plays a nun who surprises in her role of quiet observer who does not miss a trick.

While a thriller, the film often comes close to the real workings and current debates at the Vatican. As the stars of the film strolled down the red carpet, some wondered how the film would be viewed over at the Vatican.

“It’s intriguing. Are they sitting there at the Vatican watching the news coverage of ‘Conclave’?” actor Fiennes said. “I am sure there are a few people in the Vatican who would be curious to see what the film is saying.”

Despite his age and serious health issues, including a bad knee which has forced him to use a wheelchair, Pope Francis does not appear to be slowing down. In August he took his longest and most challenging trip ever, traveling by air to four countries in the Asia-Pacific. This month he has presided over the synod, a three-week meeting of more than 360 bishops and lay people to discuss the future of the church.

But Francis is not immortal. Discussions on who could be his successor have already begun, but it remains to be seen if the next real conclave will be as thrilling as the film.

People**Sexual assault trial****Depardieu skips court due to ‘health issues’**

PARIS, Oct 28, (AP): French actor Gérard Depardieu, who is facing trial for the alleged sexual assaults of two women on a film set in 2021, won’t appear before a criminal court in Paris on Monday due to health reasons, his lawyer said.

Depardieu, who previously has denied any wrongdoing, is accused of using “violence, coercion, surprise or threat” in the alleged assault, which prosecutors said took place on the set of “Les Volets verts” (“The Green Shutters.”)

Lawyer Jérémie Assous said doctors say the actor’s health doesn’t allow him to appear for the opening of the trial on Monday.

Depardieu “is deeply affected and unfortunately his doctors don’t allow him to appear at the hearing,” Assous told France Info radio.

Assous said he will ask the court for the postponement of the trial because his client “wishes to come, wants to express himself.”

Prosecutors say that in both cases, victims reported that the 75-year-old actor trapped them between his legs and groped their buttocks, genitals, chest and breasts over their clothes.

The trial was scheduled as France continues to reckon with sexual violence in the wake of the #MeToo movement that struggled to find traction especially in the cinema industry.

One of the victims has been identified as a 53-year-old production designer. The Associated Press doesn’t generally identify victims of sexual assault without their consent. Her lawyer did not respond to an AP’s email on that matter.

According to Paris prosecutors, the woman told investigators that she’d first heard sexual remarks from Depardieu and then one day, as she walked past him, he had “grabbed her, pulled her toward him, blocked her with his legs, and groped her waist, hips and chest, accompanying his gestures with obscene remarks.”

Three people witnessed it, prosecutors said, confirming that the woman made an attempt to break away from Depardieu’s grip and that she seemed “shocked.” A psychiatrist examination granted her a seven-day leave.

After the incident, it was arranged for Depardieu to apologize. But in a TV interview aired Saturday, the woman said the actor was furious and blamed her for causing trouble. Prosecutors said witnesses confirmed that what Depardieu had said did not constitute an apology.

Complaint

In the interview with French online news site Mediapart, the production designer - who spoke on camera but only gave her first name - said the alleged assault had taken a toll on her personal and professional life for at least 1 1/2 years. She said she could not sleep well, suffered anxiety attacks and lost weight.

The woman, according to prosecutors, said it had taken her a while to file a complaint but she decided to do so after hearing on television that there had never been an incident during the shoot.

The month before the alleged assault, another woman also working on the film’s set had complained about Depardieu, Paris prosecutors said.

A director’s assistant told investigators Depardieu had touched her buttocks on several occasions. She had expressed her disapproval and in return, Depardieu, she said, had been insulting toward her. She was also given a six-day leave by a psychiatrist.

Assous, Depardieu’s lawyer, told the AP in an email Saturday that “the witnesses and evidence (Depardieu) will produce will demonstrate that he is the target of false accusations.”

Despite the allegations against Depardieu, many have come out in his support, including French President Emmanuel Macron.

Late last year, 56 French performers, writers and producers published an essay defending the film star, saying that when “Gérard Depardieu is targeted this way, it is the art (of cinema) that is being attacked.”

Their call came just weeks after national broadcaster France 2 put out a documentary outlining accusations of sexual misconduct by 16 women against Depardieu, and showed the actor making obscene remarks and gestures during a 2018 trip to North Korea.

In the footage, Depardieu can be seen making groaning sounds and sexual comments in front of women, including a girl about 10 years old who is horse riding. He can also be seen posing for a photo, saying he was “touching the bottom” of a North Korean interpreter by his side.

He was charged in 2021 with rape and sexual assault after authorities revived a 2018 investigation that was initially dropped, following allegations from actor Charlotte Amoult.

In an open letter published in the conservative-leaning newspaper Le Figaro, Depardieu said last year: “I have never, ever abused a woman.”

The actor was long seen as a national icon in France. He has been a global ambassador for French film and enjoyed international fame with several roles in Hollywood.

Earlier this year, actor Judith Godrèche called on France’s film industry to “face the truth” on sexual violence and physical abuse during the Cesar Awards ceremony, France’s version of the Oscars.

Godrèche had previously alleged two prominent filmmakers sexually abused her when she was a teen, sending new shockwaves through the industry.

More recently, the ongoing trial of 50 men accused of raping a woman who had been previously drugged and rendered unconscious by her husband shook the country.



Depardieu

Afghanistan targets 6.2m children in anti-polio drive

Pakistan launches new vaccination drive amid rising polio cases

ISLAMABAD, Oct 28, (Agencies): Pakistan began a nationwide vaccination campaign Monday to protect 45 million children from polio after a surge in new cases that has hampered years of efforts to stop the disease in one of the two countries where it has never been eradicated.

Pakistan regularly launches such campaigns, but violence targeting the health workers and police assigned to escort them is common. Militants falsely claim the vaccination campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

The campaign is the third this year and will continue until Sunday "in response to the alarming increase in polio cases," said Ayesha Raza Farooq, the prime minister's adviser for the polio eradication program. "We are re-energized in our efforts to combat polio," she said in a statement.

During the door-to-door campaign,



A health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child in a neighbourhood of Peshawar, Pakistan, Monday, Oct. 28. (AP)

children younger than 5 will be vaccinated and given drops of Vitamin A supplements to enhance their immunity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently met with front-line health workers, urging them to ensure no child was left unvaccinated by going door-

to-door.

Anwarul Haq, who is the coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication, also urged parents to fully cooperate with polio workers. "Polio has no cure, but it can be prevented with this readily available vaccine," he said.

Pakistan has recorded 41 cases across 71 districts so far this year, Farooq said. Most were reported from southwestern Balochistan and southern Sindh province, following by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and eastern Punjab province.

The surge in cases in new locations is worrying authorities since previous cases were from the restive northwest bordering Afghanistan, where the Taliban government in September suddenly stopped a door-to-door vaccination campaign.

Authorities in Pakistan say the Afghan Taliban's recent decision to stop

door-to-door anti-polio campaign will have repercussions beyond the Afghan border, as people from both sides frequently travel to each other's country. The World Health Organization has confirmed 18 polio cases in Afghanistan this year.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only two countries in the world where the spread of polio has never been stopped. It is one of the world's most infectious diseases, so it continues to spread anywhere people are not fully vaccinated. In severe cases, polio can cause permanent paralysis and death.

Meanwhile, the Afghan caretaker government's Ministry of Public Health on Monday announced a three-day vaccination campaign aimed at protecting 6.2 million children under the age of 5 from poliovirus.

Running from Monday to Wednesday, the campaign will provide anti-polio drops to children in 16 out of Afghani-

stan's 34 provinces, said Sharafat Zaman Amarkhil, spokesperson for the ministry.

In his message, Amarkhil urged tribal elders, religious scholars, and parents to cooperate with polio workers to implement the campaign appropriately.

"There are no confirmed positive polio cases registered in Afghanistan in 2024. The ministry is trying to eradicate this wild virus by launching vaccine campaigns," Amarkhil said.

In another development, the vaccination rate for Australian children declined for the third consecutive year in 2023, new data revealed on Monday.

According to the government-funded immunization coverage report for 2023, published by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS), the vaccination coverage rate declined among children at all three standard age assessment milestones in 2023.

The Conversation

Higher death rates seen

Tiny pollutants in air could be a silent killer: research

By Shao Lin, Arshad Arjunan Nair, Fangqun Yu, and Quan Qi
University at Albany, State University of New York

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

Long-term high ultrafine particle concentrations in New York state neighborhoods are linked to higher numbers of deaths. That is the key finding of our new research, published in the Journal of Hazardous Materials.

Our study shows that high levels of ultrafine particles in the atmosphere over long periods of time are significantly associated with increased non-accidental deaths, particularly from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

Ultrafine particles are aerosols less than 0.1 micrometers, or 100 nanometers, in diameter - about one-thousandth the width of a human hair. Due to their tiny size, they can be easily inhaled into the distal branches of lungs, quickly absorbed into the bloodstream and even pass through organ barriers.

Effects

We also found that certain underserved populations, including Hispanics, non-Hispanic Black people, children under 5, older adults and non-New York City residents, are more susceptible to the adverse effects of ultrafine particles. The disparities our study uncovered underscore the necessity for public health agencies to focus on and protect high-risk populations.

We quantified the long-term health impacts of exposure to these pollutants by combining mortality data from vital records in New York state and using a model that tracks how particles move and change through the air.

Air pollution is now ranked the second-leading risk factor for death, accounting for about 8.1 million deaths globally and about

600,000 deaths in the United States in 2021.

Most air pollution standards and regulations have been focused on larger particulate matter, such as PM2.5 - which includes organic compounds and metal particulates - and PM10, a category that includes dust, pollen and mold.

In comparison, ultrafine particles are typically much greater in number and have a much larger surface area-to-volume ratio, allowing them to carry substantial amounts of hazardous metals and organic compounds. Furthermore, because of their smaller size, ultrafine particles can follow the air flow and get deep into the lungs when inhaled. These unique characteristics make ultrafine particles particularly dangerous, leading to a range of adverse health problems.

Despite this understanding, ultrafine particles remain largely unregulated, while larger particulates are regulated under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Due to their unique characteristics, ultrafine particles require additional, tailored attention.

Ultrafine particles stem from both natural sources and human activity - primarily from combustion processes such as motor vehicles, power plants, wood burning and wildfires. A large share of ultrafine particles is created by chemical reactions in the atmosphere involving acidic gases from fossil fuel burning and ammonia from farming and residential wastes.

As cities continue to expand and urban populations grow, people's exposure to these harmful particles is likely to increase. Both PM2.5 and ultrafine particles come from similar sources and can also form through chemical reactions in the atmosphere, but their trends diverge. (AP)

Protect youth

Britain set to ban disposable vapes

LONDON, Oct 28, (Agencies): The British government is set to ban the sale and supply of single-use vapes in England from next summer, it was announced on Thursday.

The Labour party government has proposed the legislation in a bid to curb a rise in vaping among young people, protect the environment, and "end the nation's throwaway culture."

If the bill receives parliamentary assent, the ban would be introduced from June 1, 2025, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has confirmed.

Vape use in England has more than quadrupled from 2012 to 2023, and 9.1 percent of the British public now buys and uses these products, according to the government.

The non-profit organization Material Focus has estimated that five million single-use vapes were either discarded as litter or thrown away in general waste every week in the UK last year, the equivalent of eight vapes being discarded per second.

"Banning disposable vapes will not only protect the environment, but importantly reduce the appeal of vapes to children, and keep them out of the hands of vulnerable young people," said Andrew Gwynne, minister for public health and prevention.

Despite the legal age of 18 for purchasing and using vaping products, figures published in August by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) indicated that around 20 percent of young people aged 11 to 17 have vaped in 2023 and 2024.

The latest statistics from the National Health Service (NHS) also show that a quarter of 11-to-15-year-olds have tried vaping, and nearly one in 10 do it frequently.

The ban was generally welcomed, as disposable vapes contribute to increased electronic waste, fire risks associated with their lithium-ion batteries, and the use of materials that can contaminate waterways and poison wildlife.

Laura Young, an environmental researcher and climate activist, called the government's action "a welcome and crucial step" toward "breaking the grip of vaping on our youth, alongside challenging the throwaway culture threatening to suffocate our planet."

Since the government has now proposed legislation to introduce the ban, business will have until June 1, 2025, to sell their remaining stock of disposable vapes. The UK government and devolved governments will align coming-into-force dates.



People fly kites at the Cape Town International Kite Festival in Cape Town, South Africa, Sunday, Oct. 27. (AP)

A colorful kite festival raises awareness for mental health

Enthusiasts flew kites of all shapes and sizes Sunday at a festival in South Africa that raises awareness for mental health and provides a burst of beachside color.

The Cape Town International Kite Festival is celebrating its 30th year, with participants traveling from the United States, Tunisia and elsewhere.

They ranged from seasoned pros - there is such a thing as professional kite fliers, according to organizer Barbara Meyer - to children who skipped down the sand with kites fluttering above them.

Kite designs included "Finding Nemo"-inspired fish, blue dragons, yellow lizards and a wiggly green jellyfish. One inventive entrant was a kite in the shape of a skydiver. Another was a giant hand that flew above spectators, waving in the wind.

October is mental health month in South Africa. Meyer said the festival is an important fundraiser for Cape Mental Health, an organization that offers largely free counseling to anyone who needs it in the Cape Town area.

She said kites reflected a motto: "No matter how fragile the string seems, a person can use it to hold a kite as large as a house."

She said the last few years had been tough for many with the mental scars of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially young people.

"There were so many different layers that COVID brought to people," she said. "People lost family members. The issue of isolation and lockdowns made it worse. There were a lot of job losses as well and a lot of people coming and asking for help." (AP)

Daylight saving time ends next weekend

Health tips for seasonal time change

NEW YORK, Oct 28, (AP): The good news: You will get a glorious extra hour of sleep. The bad: It'll be dark as a pocket by late afternoon for the next few months in the US.

Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. local time next Sunday, Nov. 3, which means you should set your clock back an hour before you go to bed. Standard time will last until March 9 when we will again "spring forward" with the return of daylight saving time.

That spring time change can be tougher on your body. Darker mornings and lighter evenings can knock your internal body clock out of whack, making it harder to fall asleep on time for weeks or longer. Studies have even found an uptick in heart attacks and strokes right after the March time change.

"Fall back" should be easier. But it still may take a while to adjust your sleep habits, not to mention the downsides of leaving work in the dark or trying exercise while there's still enough

light. Some people with seasonal affective disorder, a type of depression usually linked to the shorter days and less sunlight of fall and winter, may struggle, too.

Some health groups, including the American Medical Association and American Academy of Sleep Medicine, have said it's time to do away with time switches and that sticking with standard time aligns better with the sun - and human biology.

Most countries do not observe daylight saving time. For those that do - mostly in Europe and North America - the date that clocks are changed varies.

Two states - Arizona and Hawaii - don't change and stay on standard time. Here's what to know about the twice yearly ritual.

The brain has a master clock that is set by exposure to sunlight and darkness. This circadian rhythm is a roughly 24-hour cycle that determines when we become sleepy and when we're more

alert. The patterns change with age, one reason that early-to-rise youngsters evolve into hard-to-wake teens.

Morning light resets the rhythm. By evening, levels of a hormone called melatonin begin to surge, triggering drowsiness. Too much light in the evening - that extra hour from daylight saving time - delays that surge and the cycle gets out of sync.

And that circadian clock affects more than sleep, also influencing things like heart rate, blood pressure, stress hormones and metabolism.

Even an hour change on the clock can throw off sleep schedules - because even though the clocks change, work and school start times stay the same.

That's a problem because so many people are already sleep deprived. About 1 in 3 US adults sleep less than the recommended seven-plus hours nightly, and more than half of US teens don't get the recommended eight-plus hours on weeknights.

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Pakistan limited-overs coach Kirsten resigns ahead of tour

Australia to rest test stars for T20 series against Pakistan

Orlando City blanks Charlotte



Charlotte FC midfielder Júnior Urso, front left, defends against Orlando City defender Rafael Santos, right, during the first half of a best-of-three first-round soccer match for the MLS Cup in Orlando, Fla. (AP)

LAFc opens MLS playoffs with 2-1 win over Whitecaps

ORLANDO, Fla., Oct 28, (AP): Facundo Torres scored in the first half, Martin Ojeda found the net in the second, and Pedro Gallese notched his fourth postseason clean sheet to lead Orlando City to a 2-0 victory over Charlotte FC on Sunday night in a best-of-three first-round match for the MLS Cup.

Orlando City, the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference, grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 32nd minute and carried it into halftime when the club’s all-time leading scorer Torres scored unassisted with a left-footed shot from the center of the box to the top left corner of the goal. It was his club-record 19th goal this season across all competitions.

Orlando City took a two-goal lead in the 76th minute when Martin Ojeda scored with assists from Iván Angulo and César Araújo. It was the first postseason goal for Ojeda in his first start and third appearance. Angulo’s helper was his first in five playoff appearances - all starts. Araújo’s assist was his second in five postseason starts.

Gallese finished with two saves for Orlando City. He has allowed eight goals in seven postseason starts - all with OC.

Kristijan Kahlina saved five shots for fifth-seeded Charlotte. Kahlina’s only postseason appearance came last season when he started in a 5-0 loss to the New York Red Bulls.

A club-record 14 players scored for OC, leading to a club-record 59 goals during the regular season.

Orlando City played Charlotte to a 2-2 draw on the road and a 2-0 victory at home during the regular season. Torres and Duncan McGuire had the OC goals in both matches.

The series resumes on Friday in Charlotte, which had never been past the wildcard round until this season. The club closed out the regular season with a 4-0-1 record in its last five matches with the draw coming

against top-seed Inter Miami.

Denis Bouanga scored on a penalty kick in the first half and Cristian Olivera scored early in the second to lead Western Conference regular-season champion Los Angeles FC to a 2-1 victory over the Vancouver Whitecaps on Sunday night in a best-of-three first-round series for the MLS Cup.

LAFc took a 1-0 lead in the 30th minute on the PK goal by Bouanga. The reigning conference champs were awarded the kick after a foul was called on Vancouver defender Tristan Blackmon. It was the eighth postseason goal for Bouanga in his ninth career start. Bouanga scored 20 regular-season goals in each of the past two seasons.

LAFc grabbed a two-goal lead in the 57th minute when Olivera used assists from Mateusz Bogusz and defender Ryan Hollingshead to score his first playoff goal in his sixth postseason appearance - all starts. Bogusz notched his second career assist in his second start and sixth appearance in the playoffs. It was the second assist for Hollingshead in 20 career postseason appearances with 17 starts.

Vancouver avoided the shutout when Ryan Gauld scored in the fifth minute of stoppage time. Gauld had a hat trick for his first three career postseason goals in the Whitecaps’ 5-0 wildcard win over the Portland Timbers.

Hugo Lloris, in his first season in the league, finished with three saves in goal for LAFc.

Yohei Takaoka, who was coming off his first postseason shutout in the victory over the Timbers, totaled two saves in his fourth postseason start.

It marks the second straight postseason the two clubs have met in the first round. LAFc swept the Whitecaps last season with a 5-2 victory at home before winning 1-0 on the road. LAFc posted a 3-0 victory at home and a 2-1 win in Vancouver during the regular season.

The Whitecaps will host LAFc - aiming for its third straight appearance in the Cup Final - on Sunday.

Test squad for Australia tour announced

India names three uncapped players

DELHI, India, Oct 28, (AP): Rohit Sharma will lead an 18-man squad as India looks to defend the Border-Gavaskar Trophy across five tests against Australia starting November 22.

India will look to bounce back from its first home test series loss in 12 years against New Zealand in order to confirm qualification for the 2025 World Test Championship final.

It needs to win four of its remaining six tests this WTC cycle and will be aiming for a third straight test win in Australia following 2-1 victories in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

Three uncapped players have been named to a squad missing pacer Mohammed Shami. Opening batter Abhimanyu Easwaran is included, along with all-rounder Nitish Reddy and pacer Harshit Rana.

The remainder of the squad is along expected lines - young batters Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill to lead the charge, along with Virat Kohli, who has averaged 54.08 in 13 tests in Australia.

Lokesh Rahul has been included, despite inconsistent form, along with Sarfaraz Khan, who scored 150 against New Zealand in Bengaluru.

Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel are the two keeper-batters. Pant was the architect of India’s last series’ win in Australia, playing a match-winning knock at the Gabba. Brisbane will host the third test.

Three spinners were also named with Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, both possibly



India's Ravindra Jadeja plays a shot during day three of the second cricket test match between India and New Zealand at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, in Pune, India. (AP)

facing their last Australian tour, joined by Washington Sundar, who picked 11 wickets in the second test against New Zealand.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav has been left out due to a chronic groin issue and will seek treatment at home.

Shami is the biggest absentee as he is yet to recover from an Achilles’ injury sustained after the 2023 Cricket World Cup. He was expected to return for the home series against New Zealand, but suffered a setback with a knee issue.

Although Shami has declared himself fit, and has been posting

videos of himself bowling in the nets on social media, the national selectors ignored him from the initial squad.

If he does play domestic cricket in November, Shami could be included in the Indian squad from the third test onwards.

Adelaide will host the second test, a day-night encounter, and there is sufficient time until the third as India will also play a two-day day-night practice game ahead of the Adelaide test.

India has also named three traveling pace reserves in Mukesh Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed and Navdeep

Saini.

For the first time since 1991-92, Australia will host India in a five-test series and it will become the norm for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in the future. Melbourne and Sydney will host the Boxing Day and New Year’s tests as per Australian tradition.

India has also named its T20 squad that will travel to South Africa for a four-match series starting November 8. Suryakumar Yadav leads the T20 side once again, with all-rounder Shivam Dube, batter Riyan Parag and pacer Mayank Yadav missing due to injuries.

Durban, Gqeberha, Centurion and Johannesburg will host the four games, with the series ending on November 15.

India’s squad for Australia tests: Rohit Sharma (captain), Jasprit Bumrah, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel, R Ashwin, R Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar.

India’s squad for South Africa T20s: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson, Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jitesh Sharma, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakaravathy, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Avesh Khan, Yash Dayal.

SYDNEY, Oct 28, (AP): Australia has left out all of its first-choice test team for the upcoming Twenty20 series against Pakistan so they can prepare for a five-test series against India starting later this month.

In a congested month of cricket, Australia will play Pakistan in three one-day internationals starting Nov. 4, which is immediately followed by the three-match T20 series starting in Brisbane on Nov. 14.

The third and final T20 is in Hobart on Nov. 18, just four days before the first test against India at Perth.

Only Josh Inglis from the T20 squad is considered an outside possibility of being named to fill the vacant opening batter slot for the first test, with Nathan McSweeney and teenager Sam Konstas seemingly higher in the selection pecking order, along with Marcus Harris and Cameron Bancroft.

Pace bowlers Xavier Bartlett, Nathan Ellis and Spencer Johnson have been recalled to the white-ball squad after recovering from injuries.

“This group of players have all represented Australia in T20 cricket, so we look forward to them continuing to enhance their international experience throughout this series,” chairman of selectors George Bailey said in a written statement Monday.

“It is particularly encouraging to have Xavier, Spencer and Nathan

back in the national set-up.”

A captain, to replace the incumbent Mitch Marsh, has not yet been named. Inglis, Adam Zampa, or Glenn Maxwell are seen as the most likely contenders to be skipper for the three games in Brisbane, Sydney and Hobart.

Australia squad: Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa.

Pakistan limited-overs coach Gary Kirsten resigned on Monday, hours before the team departs for a tour of Australia.

The Pakistan Cricket Board said it has accepted Kirsten’s resignation and replaced him with test coach Jason Gillespie on an interim basis for three one-day international and three Twenty20 matches in Australia.

Kirsten apparently resigned after the PCB limited the roles of head coaches and removed them from the reorganized selection committee after Pakistan lost the first test against England earlier this month.

Former international fast bowler Aaqib Javed, ex-International Cricket Council umpire Aleem Dar and former test captain Azhar Ali were named to the selection committee as Pakistan rebounded to beat England 2-1 on engineered dry pitches.



Australia's Josh Inglis, center, plays a shot that will have him caught out by West Indies' Alick Athanaze, left, during their one day international cricket match in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)

Kane scores 15th goal of season

Munich cruises to 5-0 win at Bochum

MUNICH, Oct 28, (AP): Harry Kane scored his 15th goal of the season as Bayern Munich eased to a 5-0 win over Bochum in the Bundesliga on Sunday to lift some of the gloom from its heavy midweek loss at Barcelona.

Jamal Musiala scored a header and set up Kane’s goal in his first start since Oct. 2 following a hip injury in a win that looked like a return to business as usual for Bayern following one win from its previous five games in all competitions.

Michael Olise got Bayern started when he lofted a free kick over the wall and into the net in the 16th minute, before Musiala headed in for 2-0 soon after. Musiala dribbled past a defender and passed for Kane to score in the 57th.

The England captain has nine Bundesliga goals this season, making him the league’s joint-top scorer with Eintracht Frankfurt’s Omar Marmoush, who plays later Sunday.

Leroy Sané, who’s struggled for fitness in recent months, came off the bench to score his first Bundesliga goal in nearly a year in style with a drive into the top-left corner. Kingsley

Coman made it five with a shot that bounced in off the crossbar.

Bayern reclaimed top spot on goal difference ahead of Leipzig, which had moved up to first Saturday with a 3-1 win over Freiburg.

A 3-2 loss at Bochum last season helped Jose Bayern Munich the title, and the home team nearly took a shock lead early in Sunday’s game. Moritz Broschinski beat Kim Min-Jae to a long pass and shot past goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, but his effort was so lacking in power that Kim was able to chase it down and clear it before it crossed the line.

In the end, it was more misery for a team which is last in the Bundesliga and on Sunday marked exactly five months since its last win in a competitive game.

Bochum fired coach Peter Zeidler last week after eight games and no wins in all competitions, and has named coaches Markus Feldhoff and Murat Ural in joint charge “until further notice.”

Later Sunday, Union Berlin can move up to third with a win at Frankfurt, before Heidenheim hosts Hoffenheim.



Bayern's Harry Kane celebrates with supporters after the German Bundesliga soccer match between VfL Bochum and Bayern Munich in Bochum, Germany 2024. (AP)

Best of the Rest

Chen claims two golds: China’s Chen Yiman captured two gold medals at an international kitesurfing event on Sunday.

The event attracted over 80 athletes from around the world to one of China’s top destinations for the sport.

Chen triumphed in both the women’s big air and twin-tip racing events, while Thailand’s Pudla Narapichit won the men’s twin-tip racing. China’s Xie Weixin claimed the men’s big air title.

Zhuang Jiwei and Xiao Liuyi won the men’s and women’s wing-foil racing events, respectively.

Pingtang, an island off the coast of Fujian Province, is considered one of China’s premier kitesurfing spots. (Xinhua)

Cavani secures point for Boca: Edinson Cavani scored a late equalizer as Boca Juniors earned a 1-1 home draw with Deportivo Riestra in Argentina’s Primera Division.

The visitors took the lead in the 15th minute when Braian Sanchez deftly controlled a Nicolas Benegas pass with his chest before lifting a sublime volley over the head of goalkeeper Leandro Brey. (Xinhua)



Indian Public School team pose with officials.

Indian Public School crowned champion at CBSE Kuwait Cluster Football Tournament

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Indian Public School (IPS), Salmiya, triumphed as champion at the prestigious 26th CBSE Kuwait Cluster Football Tournament 2024, hosted this year by the Indian English Academy School (IEAS). The tournament kicked off with an exciting inauguration ceremony led by the Principal of IEAS, setting the stage for an intense display of skill and sportsmanship.

Nineteen Indian schools from across Kuwait competed in this highly anticipated tournament. IPS showcased an outstanding performance throughout, starting with a victory over IEAS in the opening match. In the quarter-finals, IPS defeated CSK, moving on to face FAIPS in the semifinals, where it secured another win. The final match saw IPS take on IISM, where it emerged victorious, clinching the championship title.

The tournament concluded with a memorable closing ceremony, attended by the Director of IEAS and the Principals of IPS and IISM, to celebrate the achievements of all participants.



The victorious IPS team celebrates at the end of the tournament.

celebrate the achievements of all the participants. Congratulations to IPS football team and coach Mr Mohammed IrshadulHaque for their remarkable

performance. Kudos to IEAS for organizing such a successful event, fostering camaraderie and sportsmanship among young athletes.



Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz of Spain steers his car followed by Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands during the Formula One Mexico Grand Prix auto race at the Hermanos Rodriguez racetrack in Mexico City. (AP)

Norris tightens championship fight

Sainz wins Mexico City Grand Prix

MEXICO CITY, Oct 28, (AP): Carlos Sainz Jr. got the win he desperately wanted in the final days of his Ferrari career. The Formula 1 title race, meanwhile, grew a lot more contentious. Sainz won the Mexico City Grand Prix on Sunday and Lando Norris closed the gap on Max Verstappen after another furious battle that cost the reigning three-time series champion three penalties and shaved 10 points off Verstappen's lead in the standings.

Sainz not only won but finished on the podium for the first time in Mexico City. It was the fourth win of his career, and second of the season for the driver who is being replaced by Lewis Hamilton next year at Ferrari. The Spaniard had never before won two races in a season. "Honestly, I really wanted this one," said Sainz, who sounded emotional on his radio on the cool-down lap. "I really needed it for myself, I wanted to get it done. I've been saying for a while I wanted to get one more win before leaving Ferrari, and to do it here in front of this mega crowd, it is incredible."

Verstappen started second and took the lead from pole-sitter Sainz on the start, but the first lap quickly drew a caution when contact between Yuki Tsunoda and Alex Albon caused Tsundona to crash and Albon to retire with damage to his car. The restart was spicy with the Ferraris racing Verstappen and Norris for position. And for a second consecutive week, the title contenders clashed.

Norris was penalized last week. This time it cost Verstappen two penalties totaling 20 seconds. After the race, the FIA

also penalized Verstappen two points to give him six for the 12-month period.

"I knew what to expect. I don't want to expect such a thing, because I respect Max a lot as a driver, but I was waiting to expect something like this," Norris said of Verstappen's driving. "Not very clean driving in my opinion, but I avoided it."

Norris was penalized a week ago at the United States Grand Prix for forcing Verstappen off track - a punishment that gave the final spot on the podium to the three-time reigning world champion. It also allowed Verstappen to widen his lead in the driver standings to 57 points before the race Sunday.

The tables were turned at Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez when Verstappen was given a 10-second penalty for banging wheels with Norris and forcing Norris off the track.

"Ten? That's aggressive," Verstappen said.

He then was slapped with a second 10-second penalty for gaining position when he left the track for a combined 20-second penalty to be served on his first pit stop.

"That's fine then. That's silly, man," Verstappen radioed.

He pitted from third on Lap 27 and his mechanics could not begin his service until the 20-second penalty was served. He dropped to 15th when he rejoined the race. Although Verstappen recovered to finish sixth, Norris spoiled what looked to be a Ferrari sweep when he snatched second place from Charles Leclerc with eight laps remaining.

Kuwait Handball League shifts back to Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff



Players challenging for the ball during the handball league.

aged by the Public Authority for Sports, was occupied with other sports events.

The fifth-round action will feature three matches: Al-Tadamon faces Al-Arabi at 4:30 pm, followed by Al-Fahaheel vs. Khaitan at 6:00 pm, and Al-Sulaibikhat vs. Al-Qadisiyah at 7:30 pm. The round continues tomorrow with Al-Sahel against Al-Qurain and Burqan taking on Al-Salmiya.

The Federation has postponed the matches for Kuwait Club and Kazma from the fifth to the eighth rounds due to their participation in the 27th Asian Clubs Championship in Doha from November 13-24. Kuwait Club, drawn into Group A, will compete with Al-Rayyan (Qatar), Al-Karkh (Iraq), Al-Sharjah (UAE), and Al-Shabab (Bahrain), while Kazma's "Orange" team, in Group B, will face Al-Khaleej (Saudi Arabia), defending champion, Al-Ahly Sidab (Oman), Al-Duhail (Qatar), and Mes Kerman (Iran).

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club continues intensive daily training at its camp in Manama in preparation for the Asian Championship, with a friendly match scheduled against Bahrain's Al-Ahly this Thursday. Kazma's team, having arrived at their training camp in Cairo, has also begun daily preparations for the competition.

Kuwait wraps up U-17 Asian Cup qualifiers with strong 9-0 victory

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: The Kuwait Under-17 team achieved a resounding 9-0 victory over the Northern Mariana Islands in their final Group 7 match of the Asian Cup qualifiers, scheduled for 2025 in Saudi Arabia.

In another group game, Australia and Indonesia played to a goalless draw, with Australia advancing to the finals as group leader due to goal difference, while Indonesia also qualified as one of the best second-place teams.

Kuwait's victory served as a morale boost following earlier losses to Indonesia and Australia, with scores of 0-1 and 1-3, respectively. Kuwait's junior team controlled the game from the outset, scoring five goals in the first half and adding four more in the second.

Best of the Rest

China qualifies for U17 Asian Cup finals: China qualified for the AFC U17 Asian Cup finals as one of the five best second-placed teams in the qualification stage, the team confirmed late Sunday night after a 2-2 draw with South Korea in the final game of Group C.

South Korea topped the group, with China finishing second due to an inferior goal difference.

"We made it, China have reached the U17 Asian Cup finals as one of the best five second-placed teams," the Chinese team announced on its social media account.

China, having defeated Bahrain, Bhutan, and the Maldives earlier in the tournament, started their game against South Korea poorly. (Xinhua)

Leader PSG crushes hapless Marseille to move 3 pts clear

Monaco loses at Nice

PARIS, Oct 28, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain moved three points clear at the top of the French league with a resounding 3-0 win at Marseille, which badly failed its first big test this season after a red card and an own-goal in the first half.

A win would have moved Marseille level on points with the defending champion, but instead third-place Marseille dropped six points behind unbeaten PSG and stayed three points behind Monaco in second spot. The humiliating manner of the defeat will doubtless test the patience of Marseille's hugely demanding fans.

Some of them started leaving Stade Velodrome before the end of the first half and the players were jeered off the field at the end. Aside from careless mistakes, a lack of leadership was evident.

Marseille did not qualify for any European competition this season and its players were fresh while coach Roberto De Zerbi had a full squad available.

Former PSG midfielder Adrien Rabiot started in midfield for Marseille, but the visitors were far sharper and took the lead in the seventh minute through midfielder Joao Neves following a low cross from left back Nuno Mendes.

Things got worse for Marseille when midfielder Amine Harit was shown a straight red card in the 20th for a high challenge on PSG captain Marquinhos.

Although television replays showed Harit did not raise his leg higher than the midriff of Marquinhos, the decision was maintained. Harit argued furiously with an official on the sidelines as he walked off.

A dreadful own-goal from central defender Leonardo Balerdi gifted PSG a goal in the 29th. A cross came in with no PSG player in the penalty area, yet Balerdi stuck his leg out and prodded the ball past his stranded goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli.

Balerdi was caught napping on the third goal when he failed to close down winger Bradley Barcola, who swept home after Ousmane Dembélé's shot was saved and the ball came back into the area. PSG controlled the game in the second half but did not appear to push for another goal, which may frustrate coach Luis Enrique given his side's problems scoring in the Champions League.

A lack of composure also penalized Monaco earlier, when Vanderson was sent off in a 2-1 defeat at Nice.

Monaco led through Switzerland striker Breel Embolo's 39th-minute strike as he latched onto Maghnes Akliouche's defense-splitting pass for his second goal in six days.



Kuwaiti player shoots as Northern Mariana Islands players look on during the U-17 Asian Cup qualifiers.

Real faces investigation over racist insults to Barca's Yamal

MADRID, Oct 28, (Xinhua): Real Madrid face a likely sanction after FC Barcelona's Spain international winger Lamine Yamal was the victim of racist insults during his side's 4-0 thrashing of Real Madrid in Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Saturday night.

Videos on social media show the 17-year-old, whose mother is from Equatorial Guinea and whose father is from Morocco, receive various racist insults from a sector of Real Madrid fans as he

celebrated scoring Barcelona's third goal in a 4-0 win in the 77th minute.

La Liga issued a statement stating they would "immediately report the racist insults and gestures received by Barcelona players to the Hate Crimes Section of the National Police Information Brigade, as well as informing the Co-ordinating Prosecutor of the Hate Crimes and Discrimination unit of the State Attorney General's office." The organization also "vehemently" condemned "the incidents

at the Santiago Bernabeu and remains firm in its commitment to eradicate any kind of racist behavior and hatred inside and outside stadiums." Spain's Superior Sports Committee (CSD) also issued a statement, saying the behavior was "unacceptable," and "far removed from the values of co-existence and respect inherent in sport, and whose eradication requires the work of everyone and, in particular, the collaboration of the clubs." The CSD added that "the events that occurred during the course

of this match will be analyzed by the State Commission against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Sport." This could result in Real Madrid receiving a fine and a possible closure of the section of the ground where the insults came from.

Real Madrid has been vocal in their condemnation of racism after their Brazilian winger Vinicius Jr has been the target of abuse on several occasions, and the club also posted a communicate which "strongly condemns any kind of behavior involving rac-

ism, xenophobia or violence in football and sport, and deeply regrets the insults that a few fans uttered last night in one of the corners of the stadium." The club said it was investigating to "locate and identify the perpetrators of these deplorable and despicable insults so that the appropriate disciplinary and judicial measures can be taken." Vinicius has been the main focus of the battle against racism in Spanish grounds, but the player has so far failed to make any comments about the insults aimed at Yamal.



Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag reacts on the touchline during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham United and Manchester United at the London Stadium in London. (AP)

Sports

Van Nistelrooy in interim control

Man United fires Ten Hag after woeful start to season

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 28, (AP): Manchester United finally ran out of patience and fired manager Erik ten Hag on Monday after a troubled start to the season which has left the 20-time English champions languishing in the Premier League amid a period of major upheaval at the storied club.

Ten Hag, who was hired in 2022, won two domestic cups in his 2 1/2 years in charge but paid the price for leading United to just three wins in nine league games in the opening months of this campaign.

There have been four defeats in there, too, including heavy beatings by fierce rival Liverpool and Tottenham. A 2-1 loss at West Ham on Sunday was Ten Hag's last game in charge, with the Dutchman departing with United in 14th place in the 20-team standings.

"Erik ten Hag has left his role as Manchester United men's first-team manager," United said.

"We are grateful," the club added, "to Erik for everything he has done during his time with us and wish him well for the future."

United said Ruud van Nistelrooy, one of Ten Hag's assistants and a former striker at the club, would be taking over as interim head coach while a permanent head coach is recruited.

The team's next game is at home to Leicester in the English League Cup on Wednesday.

Ten Hag joined from Dutch giant Ajax and was tasked with the responsibility of bringing the good times back to a club that has been in decline since former manager Alex Ferguson retired in 2013.

Despite winning the League Cup in 2023 and the FA Cup this year, United

was showing no sign of improving on its worst league campaign in 34 years, having finished in eighth place last season.

Already 12 points behind first-place Manchester City in the Premier League, United - which never had a distinguishable style of play under Ten Hag - appears to have little hope of challenging for the title and is in danger of missing out on qualification for the lucrative Champions League once again.

Ten Hag only held onto his job following an unexpected victory over fierce rival Man City in the FA Cup final in May and an extensive end-of-year review by United. He was then handed a one-year extension to his contract to 2026.

However, the club's new soccer leadership - fronted by new minority owner Jim Ratcliffe - was clearly unimpressed with the pace of change under Ten Hag.

Ratcliffe, the British billionaire, has taken over control of United's soccer operations, with a new CEO, sporting director and technical director all installed in recent months. They now have to appoint a sixth permanent manager since Ferguson's departure, following David Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Ten Hag.

"I don't think anybody will be truly shocked after what happened yesterday," former United defender Gary Neville said of the latest loss to West Ham.

"The fact they are in 14th is just unacceptable. You can't be 14th after nine games with the level of spending that has occurred, without being under significant pressure."



Some of the participants in action.

Al-Oyoun Girls Sports Club wins first Open Karate Federation Champ'ship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 28: Al-Oyoun Girls Sports Club clinched the title at the inaugural Open Karate Federation Championship for Girls for the 2024/2025 local sports season. Organized by the Kuwait Karate Federation, the event featured more than 150 players from 14 clubs and specialized academies.

The championship, hosted at the Federation Hall at Al-Salmiya Club, included categories across juniors, youth, and general divisions. Al-Oyoun Girls secured the top spot with 30 points after a competitive showdown with last season's titleholder, Al-Fatat Club, which finished second with 27 points. Kuwait Club took third place, with its

athletes amassing 18 points.

Dr. Abrar Abdul Sayed, head of the Women's Committee at the Federation, highlighted the impressive turnout and skill displayed in both "Kumite" combat and "Kata" demonstration events across all age groups. She congratulated the winning clubs and emphasized that the tournament holds special significance, as standout players will be selected to represent Kuwait in the first Gulf Girls Championship, scheduled for December in Riyadh. This tournament also serves as a valuable platform for identifying emerging talents, especially among the younger participants.

Maxey scores season-high 45 as 76ers hold off Pacers in OT

Clippers spoil Warriors home opener



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, right, tries to get to the ball before Atlanta Hawks guard Dyson Daniels, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City. (AP)

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct 28, (AP): Tyrese Maxey scored 10 of Philadelphia's 13 overtime points Sunday and finished with a season-high 45 as the 76ers beat the Indiana Pacers 118-114 for their first win of the season.

Maxey dominated the second half, scoring 14 of Philadelphia's last 18 points in the third quarter and rallying the 76ers from a 102-97 deficit in the final minute of regulation.

Caleb Martin added 17 points and 12 rebounds for Philadelphia, while Eric Gordon finished with 15 points in the return to his home state. Andre Drummond scored nine points and grabbed 17 rebounds.

Pacers All-Star Tyrese Haliburton rebounded from a scoreless Friday night in New York with 22 points, including a circus 3-pointer with 3.5 seconds left to force overtime. But he missed two free throws late in overtime which would have tied the score at 116.

Pascal Siakam added 17 points for Indiana, which lost its fourth home opener in 17 seasons.

Clippers 112, Warriors 104

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry left midway through the fourth quarter with a left ankle injury as Ivica Zubac and Los Angeles spoiled Golden's home opener with a win.

Zubac had 23 points and 18 rebounds.

Andrew Wiggins scored 29 points



Los Angeles Clippers guard James Harden (1) drives the ball past Golden State Warriors guard Buddy Hield (7) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco. (AP)

with a 3-pointer at the 3:47 mark of the fourth that made it a one-point game, Curry added 18 with six assists but left for good at the 7:55 mark. He tweaked his ankle late in the third then briefly tried to return with 8:08 left in the game before sitting down for good.

James Harden contributed 23 points and 11 assists making all nine of his free throws for a Clippers team missing Kawhi Leonard as the star forward is sidelined with a right knee injury.

Nets 115, Bucks 102

In New York, Cam Thomas scored 32 points, Dennis Schroder added 29 and Brooklyn beat Milwaukee in their home opener to give coach Jordi Fernandez his first victory.

The Nets pulled away in the fourth quarter after opening with two road losses in their first season under Fernandez, a native of Badalona, Spain.

Thomas scored 11 in the final period to surpass the 30 points he had averaged in the first two games.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Bucks, who have dropped two straight after winning their opener. Damian Lillard scored 21 points and Bobby Portis Jr. had 16 points and 10 boards.

Blazers 125, Pelicans 103

In Portland, Jerami Grant scored 28 points to lead Portland to a victory over New Orleans for their first win of the season.

Anfernee Simons pitched in 27

points and six assists as the Blazers bounced back from a 105-103 loss to the Pelicans on Friday. Deandre Ayton finished with a double-double of 17 points and 12 rebounds.

CJ McCollum had 27 points to lead the Pelicans in the second of a two-game set against his former team.

After New Orleans opened the game with an 8-0 run, Portland stormed back and took a 59-47 lead into halftime. The Blazers extended the lead to as many as 24 in the second half.

Portland bullied the Pelicans on the glass, posting a 51-39 rebounding advantage and a 22-15 advantage in offensive rebounds.

Thunder 128, Hawks 104

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 35 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, and Oklahoma City beat Atlanta in a matchup of teams that had won their first two games.

Gilgeous-Alexander fell just short of what would have been his third career triple-double.

Chet Holmgren had 25 points, nine rebounds and six blocks and Jalen Williams added 20 points and nine rebounds for the Thunder.

Oklahoma City outscored Atlanta 39-18 in the fourth quarter. The Thunder made 14 of 23 field goals in the final period while Atlanta made 6 of 20.

Trae Young had 24 points and eight assists for the Hawks. He only attempted 14 shots while being harassed by Oklahoma City's guards. He had at least 30 points and 10 assists in each of his first two games.

Osasuna ends two-game winless streak

Atletico struggles continue

MADRID, Oct 28, (Agencies): Atletico Madrid can't find a way to end its slump.

Diego Simeone's team followed up its home loss against Lille in the Champions League with a 1-0 defeat at Real Betis in the Spanish league.

An own-goal by defender José María Giménez less than five minutes into the match sealed Atletico's second consecutive loss.

It has only one win in its last six matches in all competitions - a 3-1 victory over Leganes in the Spanish league last weekend. Before that, it had league draws at home against Real Madrid and at Real Sociedad, and it lost 4-1 at Benfica in the Champions League.

"We know what we have to do, what we need to work on," Simeone said. "It's clear to me that soccer is all about getting the work done and when you can't find that dynamic you end up suffering."

On the plus side, Atletico had been unbeaten in 11 consecutive league matches until Sunday's defeat in Seville.

"We weren't able to play the type of game we wanted to play," Simeone said. "They got off to a strong start and were lucky to get the early goal."

Giménez found his own net while trying to clear a low cross into the area in the fourth minute at the Benito Villamarín Stadium.

The loss kept the Madrid club in fourth place, one point behind third-place Villarreal and four points behind city rival Real Madrid, which lost 4-0 to Barcelona at home in Saturday's clasico.

Atletico is 10 points behind leader Barcelona after 11 rounds.

Betis moved to fifth place and two points behind Atletico. Manuel Pel-

legrini's team has won five of its last eight league matches, including two of its last three games.

It was Betis' only second home win against Atletico in its last 16 league matches, and the first since 2019.

Sixth-place Osasuna picked up first-half goals in a 2-0 victory at Real Sociedad to end a two-game winless streak. Sociedad dropped to 12th place.

Leganes scored three second-half goals in a 3-0 win over Celta Vigo, while Getafe converted a 90th-minute equalizer in a 1-1 home draw against last-place Valencia, which is winless in five consecutive matches.

FC Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski said that, after securing emphatic victories over Sevilla, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid, the team is experiencing "a special time" as the players were "mentally prepared for big challenges".

Barcelona took a firm grip on La Liga with a 4-0 win at Real Madrid on Saturday night. The Catalans proved their good form before the "Clasico" as they had thrashed Sevilla 5-1 and then outplayed Bayern Munich 4-1.

"It's a special time for us as we won three important games. We play extremely attacking football. We scored many goals. It's important that we always have in our heads the thought that we want more. Sometimes we feel tired in our legs, we have worse minutes, but we feel that our heads are always well prepared for big challenges," Lewandowski told Polish media on Monday.

On Saturday evening, the forward helped to tilt things Barca's way in Madrid, with a quickfire double early in the second half.



Barcelona's goalkeeper Inaki Pena celebrates at the end of a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)