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Opinion

The world witnessed yesterday that the Moroccan King is well

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE scene of King Mohammed VI arriving to greet the French President conveyed several important messages for both the local and international audience. The most important message among them was to dispel rumors regarding the King's health.

These rumors, which were circulated by certain media outlets outside Morocco, were intended to undermine Rabat's significant influence in the Arab world particularly in Africa.

The second of these messages targeted Europe in response to attempts, especially from France, to exert pressure on Morocco, following a



Al-Jarallah

period of heightened tensions in relations between the two countries throughout the past two years.

However, Morocco's firm stance compelled France to abandon its attempts to exert pressure, as evidenced by French President Emmanuel Macron's state visit.

This visit symbolized a reconciliation between Rabat and Paris, effectively turning the page on the differences that some countries sought to exacerbate in an effort to undermine Morocco's role in Africa.

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Amiri Diwan photos

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, alongside His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, receives newly-appointed Minister of Oil Tareq Sulieman Ahmad Al-Roumi (above left) and Minister of Education Jalal Sayed Abdulmuhsin Al-Tabtabae (above right) as they take their oaths of office.

New education, oil ministers sworn in

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, received at Bayan Palace on Tuesday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

During the reception, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah introduced to His Highness the Amir, newly appointed Minister of Education Jalal Sayed Abdulmuhsin Al-Tabtabae and Minister of Oil Tareq Sulieman Ahmad Al-Roumi, who took the constitutional oath.

Senior state officials attended the swearing-in ceremony.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah issued a decree on Tuesday appointing Jalal Sayed Abdulmuhsin Al-Tabtabae as Minister of Education and Tareq Sulieman Ahmad Al-Roumi as Minister of Oil.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is tasked with implementing the decree. It would be issued in the official gazette.

Kuwait upholds cash payment rights

KD10 cash limit on domestic labor offices, car sales, temporary trade fairs and pharmacies

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has confirmed that cash payment method is applicable in almost all commercial activities, except those for which a ministerial decision was issued prohibiting cash payment, such as domestic labor offices, car sales, temporary trade fairs and pharmacies if the transaction amount exceeds KD10.

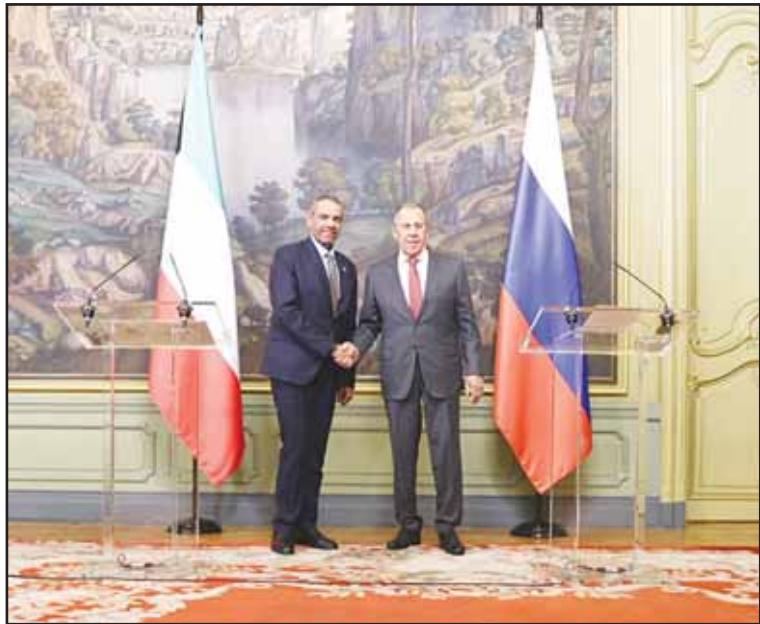
The ministry reiterated that all other activities normally accept cash payment; stressing no point of sale has the

right to reject cash payment, as cash remains an essential part of the payment process in commercial activities.

It affirmed that store owners can provide additional electronic payment methods as an option for consumers, in addition to cash payment, to ensure everyone's comfort and facilitate commercial transactions.

In another development, the Commercial Control Department at the ministry inspected the Perfume Exhibition to make sure that traders comply with the laws and regulations prohibiting the marketing and promotion of goods and services outside the boundaries of shops and booths.

This inspection is aimed at protecting consumers from any illegal promotion to ensure that sales and promotions are completed in a professional manner without inconveniencing or pressuring consumers who visit the booths and stores. This is in addition to protecting the rights of consumers and ensuring strict compliance with laws to guarantee a fair and safe commercial environment.



MoFA photo

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs during a joint news conference with his Russian counterpart.

Kuwait eyes enhanced food security collab with Russia

MOSCOW, Oct 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya said Kuwait is eager to open new horizons of cooperation with Russia, mainly in food security field.

Al-Yahya's statement was made during a joint news conference with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov following talks in Moscow, within the framework of the visit of Al-Yahya and his delegation to Russia.

Al-Yahya added that his talks with Lavrov were "fruitful and constructive", and focused on means of developing historic and robust relations between the two countries.

tween the two countries.

He noted that Kuwait established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in 1963, the first GCC country to take this step.

He extolled developed Kuwaiti-Russian relations in food security, and military, educational and cultural cooperation.

He said he informed Lavrov about the talks held with Iraq on demarcating maritime borders at the 162, and there were identical views between the two sides in this matter.

The talks with Lavrov discussed regional situations topped with the war in the besieged Gaza Strip, and there were identical opinions on the necessity of an immediate ceasefire, Kuwait's top diplomat said.

He called on the international community to work for ending this war. Kuwait was one of the first countries that hastily established an air bridge to send humanitarian and relief aid to Gaza, he pointed out.

On Russia-Ukraine war, Al-Yahya said Kuwait called for ending it as soon as possible, and solve the issue by dialogue.

On Syria's situation, he said Kuwait's position is clear in this matter and seeks to help Syrians find security and peace.

On Lebanon, Al-Yahya noted communication was conducted on Monday with the Lebanese government to provide a maritime corridor for delivering aid.

Meanwhile, Lavrov said the talks touched upon means of bolstering ties in varied fields, and increasing tourist activities between Kuwait and Russia.

He pointed to growing numbers of Kuwaiti tourists to Moscow this year, thanks to opening a route between the two countries last February.

Continued on Page 5

Israeli strike in northern Gaza kills at least 60

Kuwait calls for urgent aid to Gaza, Lebanon

GENEVA, Oct 29, (Agencies): Kuwait's envoy to UN agencies in Geneva urged the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to prioritize response to the "catastrophic" humanitarian situation in both the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

The statement was made by Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen to KUNA on the occasion of the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva today.

Ambassador Al-Hayen pointed out that the conference comes at an exceptionally complicated and very sensitive time in the region due to the ongoing blatant Israeli occupation's aggression, killing and force displacing of civilians, especially women and children.

He deplored the ongoing heinous crimes committed by the occupying power in the Middle East, especially in Lebanon and Palestine, and the occupation's continued disregard for international laws and conventions, as well as for international mediation efforts.

Al-Hayen stressed that the current international scene requires intensifying the role of international and humanitarian organizations.

He emphasized that the UN Security



KUNA photo

Diplomatic Attache Abdulaziz Al-Moajil

Council has to shoulder its responsibility towards maintaining international peace and security, reaffirming Kuwait's commitment to continue providing rapid response to humanitarian needs and enhancing international cooperation in this field, in implementation of the directives 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.

In New York, Kuwait warned that international humanitarian law is in grave danger due to the blatant Israeli violations and continued aggressions in the Palestinian territories, the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and Lebanon.

This warning was expressed by Dip-

lomatic Attache Abdulaziz Al-Moajil of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations in a special session of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

The legitimacy of the international law is being undermined every day because the Israeli occupation entity appears to be above the law and is not being held accountable, Al-Moajil said.

He deplored the international community's inaction in the face of these violations.

He expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying power in Palestine and Lebanon.

He condemned the occupying power's violations of international law and international humanitarian law and called on the international community to hold it accountable.

The diplomatic attaché referred to Kuwait's significant contributions to humanitarian aid provided for the victims of crises.

In this regard, Al-Moajil mentioned that Kuwait has launched an airlift to deliver life-saving aid to the people affected by the wars in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Continued on Page 5

Protect women & children in war zones: Sheikha Jawaher

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): It is imperative to ratchet up efforts aiming to mitigate the ill effects of war and armed conflicts on women and children, in line with UN Resolution 1325, a Kuwaiti diplomat said on Tuesday.

War and armed conflicts often witness "grave violations" of human rights committed against women and children, both of whom are most vulnerable to the devastating effects triggered by the unrest, Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah told the UN International Conference on Women, Peace and Security in the Philippines' capital of Manila.

The Kuwaiti senior diplomat went on to highlight her country's commitment to UN Resolution 1325, which calls for the integration of women into conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts, citing the formation of a national ad hoc committee tasked with working alongside global bodies to protect and enhance the rights of women, she said.

Kuwait has lately seen a spate of notable achievements made by women across various fields, chief among them the judiciary, diplomacy and security, she underlined, hailing these accomplishments as part of a national ambition to establish gender parity.

Agency integration dominates meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah met Tuesday with representatives from Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), and Kuwait General Administration of Customs.

Ministry of Defense said, in a statement, that the meeting, which took place at Kuwait International Airport, discussed cooperation and coordination among all sectors to achieve integration

that serves the country.

The ministry added that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef stressed the necessity of cooperation to unify efforts and serve the public interest.

The meeting was attended by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieut. Gen. Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, DGCA Head Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, KFF Chief Maj. Gen. Talal Al-Roumi, and Acting Director General of the General Administration of Customs Abdullah Al-Sharhan.

Day by Day

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Defense Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, the person who was responsible for delaying the issuance of Civil IDs to expatriates has been identified. At the core of the issue was personal benefit.

This delay in processing the civil identity cards for residents significantly impacted their lives since they could neither rent an apartment, denied access to healthcare and even could not complete essential transactions.

I trust you will address this issue effectively. Your attention to this matter is crucial for the well-being of many individuals. May you be blessed in your efforts, and I look forward to seeing positive developments soon.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Newswatch

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait, late Monday, called for improving the funding and financing of the UN and its organizations.

This came in a statement by member of the Kuwaiti permanent mission to the UN headquarters in New York diplomatic attache **Suleiman Al-Dawas** during the fifth meeting for the UNGA committee on improving financing.

The Kuwaiti diplomat affirmed that improving financing of the UN must come through multilateral work based on cooperation and trust amongst workers in the organization and member states.

He reiterated that it was important to listen to voices calling for reforms in the financial structure of the UN and also stressed the importance of equal representation in all aspects. (KUNA)

MUSCAT: Sultan of Oman **Haitham bin Tariq** and Algerian President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** held talks on Tuesday, in the Omani capital, Muscat.

A statement by Omani News Agency (ONA) said that eight Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were signed between the two sides, related to organizing exhibitions, events, and promoting cooperation and investment in the fields of education and research.

Additionally, the MoU's included cooperation in the fields of environment, development, financial services, training, and media. (KUNA)

7 Gulf Bank celebrates 64 years of milestones & community impact

8 NBK signs four strategic agreements valued at \$1.6 bln at the FII 8th edition



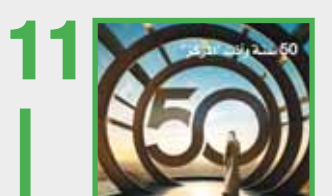
CEO Shaikha Al-Bahar: Reforms to foster a robust economy with raised private sector participation in line with Kuwait Vision 2035

9 NBK Wealth & J.P. Morgan Asset Management establish strategic investment partnership

9 NBK Wealth engages in insightful panel discussion at Future Investment Initiative



Burgan Bank announces its financial results for first nine months of 2024



Markaz: A half-century of excellence in finance and investment

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:38	Asr	14:41
Sunrise ..	05:58	Maghrib ..	17:05
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:23

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Warm and partly cloudy to cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind, with speeds of 10-40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery.
By Night: Mild to rather cold

Weather			
and partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	30	19	

Kuwait Airport	30	14
Abdaly	30	12
Bubyan	28	09
Jahra	30	16
Failaka Island	27	13
Salmiyah	28	21
Ahmadi	28	12
Jal Aliyah	29	14
Nuwaisib	30	16



KUNA photo
President of FANA and Acting Director General of UAE's news agency (WAM) Dr. Jamal Al-Ka'abi chaired the conference hosted by KUNA. KUNA Director General and FANA Vice President Dr. Fatma Al-Salem, along with directors general and heads of Arab news agencies, took part in the event.

Kuwait wins Arab praise for hosting FANA confab in world of ‘status quo’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): The 51st General Assembly conference of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) ended on Monday, recommending some decisions on boosting joint cooperation and improving action mechanism.

President of FANA and Acting Director General of UAE's news agency (WAM) Dr. Jamal Al-Ka'abi chaired the conference hosted by KUNA.

KUNA Director General and FANA Vice President Dr. Fatma Al-Salem, along with directors general and heads of Arab news agencies, took part in the event.

The conference discussed proposals submitted by KUNA regarding preparing a bulletin for child education, and news agencies' participation in KUNA magazine during specific occasions.

The conferees agreed that the 52nd of FANA General Assembly session would be hosted by Kuwait in the final quarter of 2025.

On the joint economic bulletin for 2024, they agreed on continuing the economic file for the new year, 2025.

The FANA General Assembly was briefed on the outcomes of building news reports in economic media, and their importance in developing the Arab news agencies' cadres, recommending holding new workshops.

The assembly approved the start of preparing an environmental bulletin by the FANA Secretariat as of 2025 in a similar manner to current bulletins, in accordance with endorsed standards and conditions.

The decisions and recommendations also include holding a session on marketing, and international and public relations to discuss means of establishing robust relations among Arab news agencies, and bringing the gap between them and the federation as a main umbrella.

The assembly was informed about the report related to preparing a specialized session by the FANA General Assembly regarding developing media people's skills on sustainable development, in implementation of the council of Arab media ministers.

Conference

The conference asked the FANA Secretariat to re-send the messages related to organizing an experimental session on the Arab media map of the 2025 sustainable development to be held in 2025.

State news agencies from the wider Arab region agreed on Monday that talks in Kuwait were paramount given the "status quo" around the world, highlighting such gatherings as instrumental in ratcheting up media

cooperation.

The 51st General Assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) represents an effort to ensure that news agencies around the region are on the "same page" when it comes to relaying information with "accuracy and reliability" to the public, they said.

The talks come at a time of meteoric technological advancements in the media sector, said Qatar News Agency chief Ahmad Al-Rumaihi, citing the emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) industry as chief among those changes, behooving news agencies to employ such methods in their day-to-day operations.

Significance

On the significance of the gathering, Oman News Agency chief Ibrahim Al-Azri said the region is going through a number of "unprecedented" political events, which call for more cooperation on pressing matters such as the "Palestinian cause," he underlined, while his Jordanian counterpart Fairouz Mubaideen highlighted the talks as a testament to the camaraderie within the region.

On the agenda for the talks that kicked off in Kuwait earlier on Monday, the Jordanian official said it runs the gamut from the AI industry to the role of Arab media in swaying public opinion, while Tunisie Presse news agency chief Najeh Missaoui cited the talks as a platform for knowledge exchange.

Arab news agencies have an imperative role in broadcasting trustworthy and factual information, mainly in light of current global events, Kuwait's Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdurrahman Al-Mutairi said on Monday.

Meeting with the Federation of Arab News Agencies' (FANA) head and members partaking in the 51st General Assembly currently hosted by Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Mutairi extolled the Federation's role in backing communication, and sharing news and information among Arab countries.

During the meeting, bolstering cooperation in a manner that contributes to developing media and enhancing integration among Arab news agencies, was discussed.

Kuwait has been committed to providing full support to the Federation to help it successfully achieve a common vision of Arab media and enhance its position globally, Al-Mutairi affirmed.

Arabs' media cooperation strengthens common values and transmits a true image about Arab societies, he noted.

Right contractor, lots of patience key to erecting your dream home

Family, spouse opinion holds sway

By Mohammad Al-Musleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Building a home is a dream for many citizens. Although the construction process may seem complicated, understanding the basic steps and structural elements and lots of patience can greatly contribute to the project's success and help avoid common mistakes.

To achieve a successful and stable construction, experts in the field stressed the importance of selecting the right engineering office to create precise internal and external designs and plans for the house. They also highlighted the need to consider the opinions of family members, including spouses and children.

The experts advised families to choose high-quality materials for all construction needs, including electrical and plumbing installations, and to make the best use of available space.

They warned against contractor fraud, which may involve the use of low-quality materials or manipulation of costs for materials and labor to achieve illegal profits.

The experts explained that building a "dream house" requires careful attention to details and thoughtful planning. These precise steps can help citizens in Kuwait achieve their goal of creating a comfortable and safe home.

The construction process involves multiple complex stages, starting with the location of the land and its level in relation to the surrounding streets. Factors such as whether the land is flat or sloped, the dimensions and measurements of the plot, and its shape, whether rectangular or square, are crucial.

The house's facade poses a construction challenge, as it needs to consider its orientation (north, south, east, or west) to understand how wind and sunlight will affect the home. It is also important to take into account neighboring buildings and nearby public amenities, such as mosques, schools, and parks.

Financial

Understanding costs, assessing financial capacity, and staying within the budget allocated for construction and finishing, as well as avoiding excessive debt are major challenges for those looking to build their dream home. It is important to consult family members, gather all opinions and preferences, and document all needs and notes.

In this regard, the Vice President of the International Society for Value Engineering in the Gulf States Dr. Eng. Bader Al-Dhaidi shared several tips for those wishing to build a dream home.

He advised the need to study the needs of the families, including those of children and spouses, and clearly define the desired functions of each element in the building before starting the planning phase.

Dr. Al-Dhaidi stressed that understanding family needs is important, as they are the primary beneficiaries of a home.

He highlighted a study presented at a conference as per which 88 percent of individuals who built their homes were dissatisfied because their requirements and needs were not taken into consideration beforehand. In contrast, only 12 percent reported satisfaction, which was mainly among those who learned from previous experiences and consulted a specialized expert.

Dr. Al-Dhaidi urged individuals to be aware of their financial capacity and the budget allocated for construction and finishing, insisting that citizens should not overextend themselves, as this can lead to debt.

He indicated that some people end up building at costs beyond their means, which can result in construction projects getting halted for years due to their inability to cover financial expenses.

No entry in schools after official work hours: MoE

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Ministry of Education issued a circular to schools and kindergartens about the new mechanism on regulating the entry of individuals to schools.

The circular emphasized the need to guarantee the safety of educational facilities and the school community by following the system in place.

It stressed that no one is allowed to enter the school during or after official working hours unless their data (name and identification number) are recorded in a special register. The reason for the visit must be specified as well, while a written permit must be obtained if the visit is outside official working hours.

This is part of the ministry's efforts to ensure compliance with the directives on the security and safety of educational facilities and their employees.

All concerned parties in schools and kindergartens have been instructed to adhere to the circular, whose stipulations were adopted in order to protect the school community and ensure a safe environment for everyone.



KUNA photo
First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Youssef Saud Al-Sabah during his participation at the Milipol Qatar 2024 exhibition.

First Deputy PM back home

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Youssef Saud Al-Sabah arrived in the country after an official visit to Qatar.

In a press statement Tuesday, Sheikh Fahad expressed his appreciation to the Qatari leadership, government and people for their hospitality and generosity.

Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah participated Tuesday in the opening of the 15th

edition of the Milipol Qatar 2024 exhibition on security and safety. Kuwait Ministry of Defense said, in statement, that the minister was briefed on the latest security technologies and solutions regarding security requirements, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, the use of modern technology in smart and safe cities, and development of forensic sciences used in investigations. (KUNA)

See Also Page 3



Participants of the lecture series.

Safer digital future targeted

KCST hosts cybersecurity lecture series with US defense experts

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST) hosted a series of cybersecurity lectures featuring experts from the US Department of Defense and the Economic Section of the US Embassy, says a press release issued by the US embassy in Kuwait.

The event marked the second cybersecurity lecture series held in collaboration with KCST, aimed at highlighting Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

The lectures provided valuable insights into emerging trends and best practices for securing digital environments, with a focus on US-Kuwait cooperation in the field.

The cybersecurity lecture series has the ultimate goal of strengthening critical infrastructure network resilience and building a digital economy for the future, unlocking new levels of collaboration and more broadly promoting network security and digital growth.

The event was attended by representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, the National Cybersecurity Center, the Central Authority for Information Technology, and KCST students.

US Embassy Economic Counselor Brad Stilwell opened the lecture series with remarks emphasizing the growing importance

of US-Kuwait cooperation on cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

Following this, US military cybersecurity expert Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3) Carmona delivered a presentation entitled "Securing the Future: Cybersecurity Best Practices," which provided practical strategies for safeguarding information systems.

US military cybersecurity experts CW2 Whiteseal and Sergeant First Class Williamson also conducted an interactive presentation on "Cyber Threat Intelligence," engaging both professionals and students in discussions about emerging threats and practical solutions.

The speakers answered questions from attendees regarding the future of artificial intelligence, methods to increase cybersecurity awareness, and effective strategies for protecting organizations from cyber threats.

The event served as an important platform for knowledge exchange, promoting a shared commitment to building a safer digital future.

Professor Khalid Al-Begain, President of the Kuwait College of Science and Technology, stated, "Enhancing collaboration in the field of cybersecurity between the university and the US Embassy in Kuwait is a crucial step towards a secure future."



KUNA photo
Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan during her inspection of the Salmi Road project.

Minister visits Salmi Road project to review progress, asphalt cure

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan inspected the Salmi Road project yesterday to assess the latest developments.

During her visit, she reviewed the implementation plan and monitored the progress of work, specifically the asphalt treatment to start the implementation of the project.

In a press statement issued during the tour, Dr. Al-Mashaan explained that teams from the Ministry of Public Works will be closely monitoring the project's implementation. A committee has been formed to select engineers to oversee the project development contracts, and tests have been conducted to ensure their capability in man-

aging these projects.

She affirmed the commitment of the Turkish company that is implementing the project to adhering to international standards during the project's implementation.

The minister urged citizens and residents to cooperate with the relevant authorities regarding road closures during construction.

Dr. Al-Mashaan highlighted that road maintenance and repair is a priority for the country's political leadership.

She praised the guidance and support of the political leadership, represented by His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, for road maintenance projects, which are vital to achieving an advanced infrastructural pillar within the "New Kuwait 2035" vision.

Milipol Qatar '24 begins in Doha with Kuwait participation



KUNA photo
Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah meets Kuwaiti cadets studying in Qatari Military Colleges.

DOHA, Oct 29, (KUNA): The First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah visited the Qatari Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) camp on Tuesday.

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense reported that Sheikh Fahad was received by Qatar's Minister of Interior and Lekhwiya Commander, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, upon his arrival, and that the visit included a formal military parade by the Lekhwiya force in the main field.

Sheikh Fahad praised the high level of competence and advanced equipment showcased by the Lekhwiya force, underscoring their readiness and preparedness, and the visit was concluded with an exchange of commemorative gifts.

Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah met Kuwaiti

cadets studying in Qatari Military Colleges, during his official visit to Doha.

In a statement by the Defense Ministry, Sheikh Fahad affirmed the importance of completing their academic and military courses, stressing on their role in supporting Kuwait's future stability and security.

He concluded his visit by praising the cadets' efforts, wishing them further success in their academic journey.

The cadets are delegated by Kuwait's army and the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Coast Guards and the National Guards, noting that they are studying in Qatar's Ahmad Bin Mohammad Military College, Mohammad Bin Ghanim Naval Academy, and the Police College.

The 15th Milipol Qatar began in Doha with

the participation of 250 national and international companies specialized in security and safety.

The event, which saw Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah attending, will last until October 31.

This year's Milipol has six grand international pavilions held in an area of 23,000 square meters.

The worldwide event of homeland security "Milipol" was organized for the first time in 1984 in Paris and occurs every two years.

Kuwaiti Army Deputy Chief-of-Staff Air Marshal Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah headed the Kuwaiti delegation in the GCC Army Chiefs of Staff Higher Committee, hosted earlier its 21st session in Doha, Qatar on Monday.

Manhunt launched as Asian runs after killing compatriot

Boisterous motorist rams police car, flees



Senior army officials at the opening of the competition.

Kuwait Army holds 10th edition of 'Best Cyber Warrior' contest

By Munif Nayef
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army has announced the 10th edition of the "Best Cyber Warrior" competition, running until October 31. Sponsored by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, the event is organized by the Army's Cyber Operations Directorate in collaboration with the US Central Command.

Teams from both military and civilian state institutions, as well as participants from allied and friendly nations, are involved.

The competition aims to strengthen cooperation in cybersecurity, enhance participants' abilities to combat electronic threats, and provide valuable experience

in a high-stakes, competitive environment. This intensive training prepares participants to perform effectively under pressure, positively impacting their roles in various institutions.

At the launch press conference, Colonel Abdullah Al-Shatti, Head of the Cybersecurity Operations Branch, shared that the competition -- organized for the tenth consecutive year in collaboration with the US Centcom -- has expanded this year to in-person participation in Kuwait for the first time.

The event includes 80 teams from 10 countries, composed of both local and international military and civilian participants. Previously held online during the Covid-19 pandemic, this year marks a return to in-person engagement following improvements in the global health situation.

Gang of building material thieves from sites busted

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: In Criminal Security Department has arrested a gang of Asian workers engaged in theft and resale of construction materials from sites in Al-Mutla'a City and neighboring areas.

Acting on information submitted by a Kuwaiti citizen the plainclothes men began their investigations and arrested the suspects, who during interrogations confessed to systematically stealing and reselling construction materials at significantly reduced prices.

The large quantities of stolen goods were then seized from a warehouse in the Jeeb Al-Shuyoukh area.

4 years jail for lawyer: The Court of Appeals has upheld the verdict of a lower court and sentenced an unidentified lawyer to 48 months imprisonment with hard labor.

The court also ordered the confiscation of the lawyer's devices and the closure of his account on the X platform.

This happened after the Public Prosecution accused him of inciting the overthrow of the country's regime, insulting the Amir and misusing the phone.

PAFN names new admin: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has finished reassigning 20 administrators from the Inspection and Control Affairs Sector and the Technical Engineering Sector and transferring them from a shift system to other departments.

The administrative Decision No. 503/2024, which outlines the transfer of these 20 administrators to various departments, including the Financial Affairs Department, Food Laboratories, Information Systems Center, and the Imported Food Department, will take effect at the beginning of November next year.



Mol photo
The Asian gang and the stolen material found in their possession.

27 traffic accidents per day in 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The total number of traffic accidents (collision and run-over or collision and rollover) during the past year 2023 reached 9,886, which means that the daily rate of these accidents reached about 27 traffic accidents per day, according to recent statistics published by the General Administration of Statistics, reports Ministry of Interior.

The Capital Governorate came on top of the list with 3,260 traffic accidents, followed by Farwaniya Governorate with a total of 1,860 traffic accidents, then Ahmadi Governorate with 1,546 accidents, then Jahra Governorate with 1,210 accidents, followed by Hawalli Governorate with 1,008, while Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate came at the bottom of the list with 1,002 accidents as the least number of traffic accidents among the six governorates.

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Kuwait active participant in UN's humanitarian sojourn

"THIS month, the United Nations celebrated its annual day, a time when new humanitarian values resurface, touching the lives of millions around the world -- millions deprived of their right to a dignified life yet still holding onto hope for survival," columnist Abdullah Al-Shehab wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"On October 24, 1945, the grand structure of the United Nations was born, contributing to fostering a spirit of constructive cooperation among humanity and safeguarding their interests.

"This marked a significant shift, closing a chapter filled with violence and bloodshed to create a new world characterized by tolerance, security, and the assurance that opportunities for a better life would emerge. It established a global social contract aimed at protecting the vulnerable and aiding the afflicted.

"Kuwait has been an active participant in this humanitarian journey. Since gaining independence in 1961, it has played a vital role in the international community, effectively adopting the UN's objectives and reaffirming its commitment to partnership.

"Kuwait has extended its arms to embrace the needy, working tirelessly to create a life free from hardship and showcasing a magnificent image of generosity.

"Its efforts have breathed new life into humanitarian contributions, earning Kuwait respect and recognition on the global stage for its remarkable achievements, which have uplifted the less fortunate and preserved the dignity of noble souls.

"Kuwait has remained steadfast in its humanitarian mission, never deviating from its established path. It has consistently acknowledged its capacity to understand the deteriorating social realities and has worked to correct them, striving to create a world where people feel secure among each other -- a world governed by the values of social justice, freedom, equality, and the right to life.

"The UN decision in 2014 to designate Kuwait as a Center for Humanitarian Action and to name its late Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, as the "Humanitarian Leader," was no coincidence.

"It reflects Kuwait's impressive humanitarian accomplishments across various sectors and its swift, unconditional response to international calls for assistance to those in need.

"Moreover, charitable work has been an integral part of Kuwait's humanitarian identity, serving as the backbone of its initiatives and a catalyst for growth.

"Kuwait's charitable institutions have spread across the globe, embodying the nation's will and aspirations.

"I can confidently say that the strength of Kuwait's charitable projects lies in their established position within the global humanitarian landscape, creating a vision that serves as an alternative to dire realities.

"These initiatives manifest in various remarkable ways, becoming an inherent part of the nation's culture and identity, always surrounding those in need."



Al-Shehab

ing the establishment of such funds, inspired by the successes of oil-producing nations," columnist Dr. Saud Asaad Al Thaqib of the Department of Finance, College of Administrative Sciences - Kuwait University, wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"However, can this model be adapted to an economy that thrives on private sector and free market principles? This analysis examines international experiences and evaluates the relevance of the sovereign wealth fund concept to the US economy.

"Kuwait was a pioneer in recognizing the significance of economic sustainability, establishing the world's first sovereign wealth fund in 1953.

"This fund later evolved into the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), which currently manages assets exceeding \$978 billion, according to unofficial estimates.

"The KIA has played a critical role in maintaining the stability of the Kuwaiti economy, particularly during crises like the Iraqi invasion, enabling the state to sustain social welfare despite its heavy dependence on oil.

"Over the years, other countries have launched sovereign funds, although Kuwait retains a prominent position as one of the largest in the world.

"For instance, Abu Dhabi manages around \$1.7 trillion through its various sovereign funds, including ADIA, Mubadala, and ADQ, which have bolstered its global standing.

"Norway offers a successful model in sovereign fund management, having established its fund based on oil revenues in the 1990s.

"Today, it boasts the largest sovereign fund globally, with assets exceeding \$1.6 trillion. Norway's fund has facilitated investment diversification away from oil, characterized by high transparency and effective governance, ensuring optimal resource utilization and providing a framework for balancing immediate benefits from resources with long-term financial sustainability.

"In contrast, Saudi Arabia utilizes its Public Investment Fund (PIF) to drive its Vision 2030 initiative, aiming to reduce oil dependency and diversify its economy by investing in strategic sectors such as technology, tourism, and renewable energy.

"Unlike other sovereign funds, the PIF focuses on domestic development and acts as a significant catalyst for economic transformation within the Kingdom.

"For the United States, which relies heavily on the private sector, natural resource revenues contribute only a small fraction to GDP.

"Therefore, establishing a sovereign fund would necessitate increased government intervention, such as raising taxes or borrowing, potentially exacerbating the fiscal deficit. Instead, the US could allocate its resources more effectively towards innovation and infrastructure, aligning with its economic structure and fostering sustainable growth.

"While sovereign wealth funds have proven effective for countries reliant on natural resources, the notion of creating such a fund in the US may not be pragmatic.

"The American economy is built on a competitive model where government intervention in investing surpluses could impede growth.

"Ultimately, what works for Kuwait, Norway, Abu Dhabi, and Saudi Arabia may not be the most suitable choice for the world's largest economy."

– Compiled by PFX Fernandes

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Council advances key facility upgrades ahead of Gulf Cup

Jleeb conditions spark urgent call for action

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: In a recent session, Kuwait's Municipal Council approved key initiatives aimed at supporting food storage infrastructure and enhancing public facilities.

Among the approved projects are strategic storage areas of 1,000 square meters in Adan and Mubarak Al-Kabeer for food warehouses, along with plans to reallocate sites for the Constitutional and Capital Markets Courts in Granada.

The Council also endorsed several proposals, including the establishment of a specialized training institute for Sadu handicrafts at the Sadu House and the addition of multi-storey parking at Amiri Hospital. A proposal to extend the service road parallel to Street No. 85 in Al-Shamiya was also approved.

Responding to member inquiries, the Council provided updates on service projects in Al-Jahra and discussed concerns over telecommunications towers. It also addressed citizens' complaints about secondary power stations in Al-Adiliya.

The Council referred several key proposals to its executive body for further review, including a proposal to allocate space for a zoo, create an entrance for Al-



The Municipal Council during its sixth regular session of the third term, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri.

Mutlaa City, and relocate a street in Abu Halifa.

It also discussed allowing charities to establish headquarters in investment buildings.

The Council's Deputy Chairman, Khaled Al-Mutairi, called for immediate action on the deteriorating conditions in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, emphasizing that the area's proximity to Kuwait Airport and Jaber Stadium makes its current state an issue of national importance.

Citing security concerns, infrastructure strain, and theft of public utilities, Al-Mutairi urged the Council to expedite improvements.

In anticipation of hosting the

Gulf Cup Championship, Al-Mutairi urged the municipality to prioritize cleanliness and logistical



Photos by Rezk Taufiq
Khaled Al-Mutairi, Council's Deputy Chairman.

readiness to present a welcoming and modern image of Kuwait to international visitors.

The Council aims to ensure that all necessary measures are in place to maintain a pristine environment for the event, highlighting Kuwait's commitment to hospitality and sportsmanship.

After deliberations that lasted about half an hour, the Municipal Council approved the Jahra waterfront project, known as the Jahra Corniche, during its sixth regular session of the third term, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri.

This marks the beginning of the implementation phase of the project, which covers an area of 5.6 square kilometers.

Austrian Embassy marks Nat'l Day

Austria, Kuwait strengthen ties amid global challenges

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait Ulrich Frank has affirmed that his country is committed to multilateralism and the rule of law in international relations.

He pointed out that like Kuwait Austria sees that the United Nations Security Council reflects the world that has long passed, specifically the international order after World War II.

Based on this mutual understanding, Kuwait and Austria co-chaired the intergovernmental negotiations on equitable representation in the council and increasing its membership.

In his speech at the celebration of Austria's National Day recently, Frank stressed that "we are committed to making the council more effective and accountable, including our candidacy for a non-permanent seat in the 2026 election."

Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Europe Mohammad Yaqoub Hayati attended the event.

Frank also confirmed the political consultations between the two countries' ministries a few months ago. "I am confident that strengthening diplomatic relations between our countries, which have lasted about 60 years, will continue to be beneficial for Kuwait and Austria. A new dimension of horror has been unleashed in the Middle East a little over a year ago, as the violence being practiced on both sides -- Palestinians and Israelis -- and the civilian population throughout the region is heartbreaking. It is clear that Austria stands by international law. Protecting innocent civilians in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as the hostages, is irreversible. We need to de-escalate on all fronts. We must do everything in our power to end the humanitarian catastrophe that is happening now. This requires an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, Lebanon and all possible fronts to allow humanitarian aid and finally release the hostages, including the Austrians," he added.

He also emphasized that "we must make room for diplomacy again. A negotiated two-state solution is the only way to achieve lasting peace, so the



Photo by Rezk Taufiq
Ambassador Ulrich Frank with Mohammad Yaqoub Hayati, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Europe during the Austrian Embassy National Day celebration.

Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in peace."

He pointed out that the war of aggression launched by Russia against Ukraine has made it clear that the enemies of an open society with its corresponding values and a rules-based international order continue to pose a serious threat to people's way of life in Europe as well and not far from Austria's eastern border. Unfortunately, many other regions are also facing the scourge of war, civil war, terrorism and all the disastrous consequences, he asserted.

He stressed that Austria is not just an observer of the events taking place in this region: as part of UNIFIL, there are 170 Austrian soldiers on duty along the Blue Line, alongside Blue Helmets from many other countries. "Austria has provided 37 million euros in humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza and the region since Oct 7, 2023. After the controversy over the role of UNRWA, Austria resumed suspended payments. Based on our history, we know that peaceful coexistence requires compromise, tolerance and the recognition that the other may be right and I may be wrong," he elaborated.

He confirmed that the cornerstones of Austrian foreign policy are solid and based on the core values he mentioned earlier.

Al-Omar aims to enhance postal services

By Mohammed Al-Musleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Minister of State for Communications Affairs Omar Al-Omar visited Siddiq Post Office to assess the work progress and discuss ways to improve postal services to better meet the public needs and improve productivity.

In a press statement, Al-Omar affirmed the importance of creating a better work environment by upgrading facilities and equipping employees with the necessary tools to boost performance.

He encouraged staff to submit their proposals for improving work processes, whether technical or related to the work environment, with the aim of achieving comprehensive enhancements in service quality.

Al-Omar highlighted the commitment of the ministry to support all initiatives that develop postal services according to the highest standards.

He also highlighted the importance of direct communication with the public via social media to improve transparency and promptly respond to citizens' inquiries.



Al-Seyassah photo
Minister of Communications Affairs Omar Al-Omar listens to officials during his inspection tour of Al-Siddiq Post Office.

The minister stressed that the ministry has been focusing on expediting parcel delivery processes and reducing delays, as well as implementing an effective tracking system to ensure beneficiary satisfaction.

Sheikh Abdullah praises initiatives

Governor unveils Hafez, Sahel apps

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Sabah says the Hafez program for rationalizing the consumption of electricity and water, as well as the Sahel application, are distinguished and informative initiatives.

He affirmed the importance of raising awareness among citizens and residents, and enabling them to contribute to rationalization efforts, which can yield significant benefits for society.

Speaking at the introductory seminar on the Sahel and Hafez applications, the governor stressed that the Capital Governorate organized the event to introduce these apps to the attendees and train them how to effectively use them to maximize their benefits.

He expressed satisfaction with the positive interaction from citizens, highlighting that technology has become an essential tool in daily lives of people.

Sheikh Abdullah clarified that these programs were designed to simplify government transactions for subscribers.

He affirmed the Capital Governorate's commitment to hosting lectures and seminars aimed at enhancing social and cultural awareness in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, businessman Jawad

Bukhamseen said rationalizing electricity and water consumption is a national duty.

He revealed that his participation at the event was at the invitation of the Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, who supports such events that are important for the country and its citizens.

Bukhamseen highlighted that the incentives provided by the Hafez program represent both a source of pride and a major advancement in efforts to conserve resources.

He urged other governorates to adopt a similar awareness approach as that of the Capital Governorate, pointing out the media's crucial role in promoting these enlightening seminars in various fields to ensure their reach to every home in Kuwait.

Bukhamseen explained that rationalization is a service to the country, especially in light of the increased electrical loads experienced during the summer months and the resulting outages. Citizens play an essential role in assisting the state with rationalization efforts, preserving public facilities, and reducing electricity consumption.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy provided a full explanation of the Hafez Rationalization Program, and affirmed its commitment to developing customer services and reducing waste in electricity and water consumption.



Al-Seyassah photo
Capital Governor honors the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy.



October

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Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

Kuwait Amir congratulates
Turkiye’s Pres on Nat’l day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Tuesday to the President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his country’s national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished Erdogan good health and well-being, and more progress and prosperity for Turkiye and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratu-

lations on Tuesday to the President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his country’s national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished Erdogan good health and well-being, and more progress and prosperity for Turkiye and its people.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Tuesday to the President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his country’s national day.



Participants pose for a group photo during the third season of the Young Ambassador Program at the UN House in Kuwait.

KUNA photo

The world

Continued from Page 1

It is important to note that Paris, like other European capitals, understands that its access to Africa hinges on its relationship with Rabat. In order to restore its presence in a region that is rich in both minerals and human resources, France cannot afford to deviate from this path.

On the local front, Moroccans are accustomed to the King’s frequent travels throughout the nation, so the recent rumors did cause some anxiety. However, the smart way to address these concerns is by hosting a significant event.

The Moroccan people were reassured by the King’s appearance in full health and vigor during the reception of his esteemed guest, especially since he was involved in discussions on various important matters that Paris aims to pursue in Morocco.

While the agreements primarily focused on energy, water, education, and internal security, the extensive discussions about Morocco’s potential as a leading Arab-African state highlighted France’s reliance on it, which set the stage for the resumption of various projects.

Moreover, it is well known among Moroccans that the King personally oversees these issues, particularly those related to infrastructure.

For more than a decade, Morocco emerged as a central hub for investments after partnering with several major industries, particularly in automotive manufacturing, some of which export to Europe. Previously, Rabat relied on importing these products from the old continent or other industries.

This shift is significant for the African continent, which seeks to reduce its huge import bill that depletes much of its income. Similarly, Europe is looking to open doors to alleviate its ongoing crises.

It is important to acknowledge that King Mohammed VI has demonstrated wisdom and prudence in navigating crises calmly. This approach has contributed to enhancing Morocco’s philanthropic efforts in many African countries and beyond.

So here we are ... Rabat has begun to reap the rewards, both through investments in various sectors and by transforming the entire country into a sought-after tourist destination. Its security and stability, along with the welcoming nature of its people, make it an attractive haven.

Throughout the past decades, Morocco has proven its keenness about

Arab relations particularly Gulf relations. This commitment reflects Morocco’s desire to stand on par with its brothers, driven by the belief that Pan-Arabism should be realized in practice, not just in words.

While some may attempt to misrepresent Rabat’s positive image, such efforts often backfire, causing more harm to themselves than to Morocco. The book’s title aptly reflects its rightful owner - a king by the name of Mohammed VI.

Kuwait eyes

Continued from Page 1

He commended Kuwait’s balanced position towards the issue between Russia and Ukraine, noting Russia sees no initiative from Ukraine to establish “real and fair peace”.

Regarding regional developments, Lavrov said the talks categorically rejected the random bombing of civil neighborhoods in Gaza, the killing of civilians and other violations of international humanitarian law.

He affirmed the need of taking urgent measures to reach a ceasefire and open humanitarian corridors to avoid further killing.

He demanded hastily creating proper conditions to resume comprehensive talks with Palestinians and Israelis as soon as reaching a ceasefire.

Lavrov expressed Russia’s categorical rejection of displacing Palestinians to Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula. He said this idea runs counter to the interest of Egypt and Palestinians, and to peace endeavors in the region.

On Syria, Lavrov said the talks affirmed the need of reaching a comprehensive settlement based on the relevant Security Council resolutions regarding maintaining Syria’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Kuwait calls

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait humanitarian contributions embody its national principles of extending a helping hand and supporting people affected by disasters everywhere, he said.

He urged world countries to stop exporting weapons to the Israeli occupying entity and to press it to end its criminal war on Palestine and Lebanon.

He called for achieving a permanent truce for protecting civilians and putting an end to the ongoing systematic violations and crimes against the

Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Elsewhere, an Israeli strike on a five-story building where displaced Palestinians were sheltering in the northern Gaza Strip killed at least 60 people early Tuesday, more than half of them women and children, Gaza’s Health Ministry said.

In a separate development, Lebanon’s militant group Hezbollah said it has chosen Sheikh Naim Kassem to succeed longtime leader Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike last month. Hezbollah vowed to continue with Nasrallah’s policies “until victory is achieved.”

Israel also faced backlash after passing legislation that could severely restrict the ability of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees to operate in the Palestinian territories. The agency, known as UNRWA, is the largest aid provider in Gaza. Israel has long accused it of militant ties, allegations it denies.

A spokesperson for the U.N. children’s agency said the decision “means that a new way has been found to kill children.”

Hezbollah said in a statement that its decision-making Shura Council elected Kassem, who had been Nasrallah’s deputy leader for over three decades, as the new secretary-general.

Kassem, 71, a founding member of the militant group established following Israel’s 1982 invasion of Lebanon, had been serving as acting leader. He has given several televised speeches vowing that Hezbollah will fight on despite a string of setbacks.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel, drawing retaliation, after Hamas’ surprise attack out of Gaza on Oct. 7, 2023, triggered the war there. Iran, which backs both groups, has also directly traded fire with Israel, in April and then again this month.

The tensions with Hezbollah boiled over in September, as Israel unleashed a wave of heavy airstrikes and killed Nasrallah and most of his senior commanders. Israel launched a ground invasion into Lebanon at the start of October.

Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets into northern Israel on Tuesday, killing at least one person in the northern city of Maalot-Tarshiha, authorities said.

Even as attention has shifted to Lebanon and Iran in recent weeks, Israel has continued to wage a large operation in northern Gaza and to carry out airstrikes across the territory.

Dr. Marwan al-Hams, director of the field hospitals’ department at the Gaza Health Ministry, announced the toll from Tuesday’s strike in the northern town of Beit Lahiya at a news conference. He said another 17 people are missing.

Embassies mentor youth for SDGs advocacy

3rd Young Ambassador Program kicks off

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Kuwait, in collaboration with the British and Canadian embassies, launched the third season of the Young Ambassador Program under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The event featured the presence of Minister Plenipotentiary Mohamed Rashid Al-Omairi from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who in his speech emphasized the Ministry’s commitment to engaging youth in the promotion of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Over its previous two seasons, the program has offered a valuable platform for secondary school students in Kuwait to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become effective advocates for the SDGs and to drive economic, social, and environmental progress.

The first season focused on gender equality, motivating students to support women’s inclusion and empowerment, while the second season concentrated on developing climate diplomacy skills. Both seasons achieved notable success, equipping students with the confidence and expertise to address some of today’s most pressing global challenges.

This year’s program, which was held under the theme ‘Sustainable Peace and Security’ in alignment with UN SDG 16, will span six months and is set to empower 40 of Kuwait’s brightest young minds with essential diplomatic and advocacy skills.

The initiative aims to nurture a new generation of leaders committed to fostering positive, sustainable change in their communities and beyond.

Each Young Ambassador will be paired with a participating embassy or international organization, receiving weekly mentorship and engaging in various networking and learning activities throughout the program.

The participants will learn to promote peaceful coexistence, mitigate conflicts, and build secure, inclusive societies worldwide, contributing to the UN’s vision of a stable, peaceful, and just global community.

In her address, Mrs. Ghada Eltahir, the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, acknowledged the crucial support of partner embassies, particularly the British and Canadian embassies, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She noted that their collective commitment has been vital in advancing this initiative: “Your dedication is commendable and essential for realizing our shared vision of a peace-

ful and prosperous global community, placing youth at the center of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions,” she said.

Minister Plenipotentiary Mohamed Rashid Al-Omairi stated: “We hope this Program empowers youth to advocate for sustainable peace and security while familiarizing them with the UN Charter’s principles, which emphasize the peaceful resolution of disputes – guiding principles for international relations. Youth in Kuwait have always played a significant role in society.

“While we can impart our knowledge and expertise, today’s youth can also teach us, providing fresh perspectives on pressing issues. By offering a platform for students to enhance their skills in diplomacy, we are sure to benefit from their contributions,” he added.

British Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Mrs. Belinda Lewis, expressed her delight in continuing to support the Young Ambassador Program in its third year.

She noted the Program has witnessed many motivated young people grow their confidence and leadership abilities, and she looks forward to the same enthusiasm and commitment as this group addresses the theme of Sustainable Peace and Security.

“This is a complex area, encompassing issues from organized crime and open conflict to transparent governance and representative decision-making. We are eager to see our Young Ambassadors engage with these important topics and provide constructive insights.”

HE Aliya Mawani, Canada’s Ambassador to Kuwait, expressed pride in collaborating once again with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations, and diplomatic partners to provide students in Kuwait with a unique opportunity to learn about diplomacy from experts.

She emphasized the importance of youth engagement in today’s complex global landscape for effective governance and peace efforts. “I have been truly impressed by previous Young Ambassadors and the passion they brought to the Program, and I look forward to meeting this season’s cohort.”

Highlighting the global challenges youth face today, such as ongoing conflicts and geopolitical tensions, Mrs. Eltahir underscored the urgent need for sustainable peace, particularly in conflict-affected regions. She also pointed out that the Program aligns with UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ vision for empowering young people to participate actively in decision-making processes as part of the Pact for the Future.

“As we witness the talents of these young ambassadors, I am confident they will continue to advocate for peace and inclusive societies in alignment with SDG 16,” Mrs. Eltahir concluded, congratulating both the young ambassadors and their partners.

الطرق السيارة بالمغرب
Autoroutes du Maroc

NATIONAL COMPANY OF THE HIGHWAYS OF MOROCCO (ADM)
Construction of the viaducts on rivers HASSAR, EL MALEH, N’FIFIKH, ELGHBAR, MHAASSER, CHARRATE and YQUEM located on Rabat Casablanca Continental highway

OPEN INVITATION TO TENDER N° 71 / 24 / S
NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT AND AMENDMENT N° 2

It is brought to the attention of all companies wishing to participate in the open tender relating to the execution of the works of construction of the viaducts on rivers HASSAR, EL MALEH, N’FIFIKH, ELGHBAR, MHAASSER, CHARRATE and YQUEM located on Rabat Casablanca Continental highway, that the said call for tenders was the subject of amendment n°2, which relates in particular to the following points:

- The date for opening bids, initially set for November 28th, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., is postponed to December 12th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
- Submitting competitors’ bids on paper becomes the only means of participation in the call for tenders. Electronic receipt of envelopes is no longer authorized. Competitors are therefore required to submit their bids only on paper. Only submissions submitted on paper will be taken into consideration. However, withdrawal of tender documents as well as communication with competitors remain available from the ADM markets portal. To this end, competitors may:
 - Either deposit their envelopes against a receipt in the registry office at the ADM headquarters at the following address : Société Nationale des Autoroutes du Maroc, Avenue Azzaitoune, Hay Riad, Rabat Instituts ;
 - Either send them by registered mail with acknowledgment of receipt to the aforementioned office ;
 - Either give them to the chairman of the tender commission at the start of the session and before the opening of bids ;
- The possibility of proposing the variant offer for lots 2 and 4.
- The qualification and classification required according to the system of qualification and classification of the construction and public works is modified as follows :

For lots 1, 3 and 4 :

Sector	Qualification	Rank
D-construction of structures	D2 - Exceptional reinforced concrete structures D4 - Exceptional structures in prestressed concrete	1

For lot 2 :

Sector	Qualification	Rank
D-construction of structures	D2 - Exceptional reinforced concrete structures	1

View our notices of calls for tenders and competitions at: www.adm.co.ma. ADM market regulations can be downloaded from the same address.



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Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tenders will be on **Monday, 25 NOV 2024 @ 09:00 A.M.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (IN KD)
1	027146	WATER ANALYZER	5
2	027232	S/F FLOWSERVE PUMP	5
3	027359	S/F LUFKIN PUMPING UNITS	5
4	027360	S/F NUOVOPIGNONE PUMP	25
5	027361	NETAPP SOLUTION MAINTENANCE & SUPPORT RENEWAL	5
6	027379	FLARE KNOCK OUT DRUM	5

Notes:

Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please fill request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGOC or SAC) to e-mail HBJH@chevron.com and CBMS@chevron.com at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

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Tel No.: **23983639** - Ext. : **2502 - 3477**

‘Sign of deepening relations’

N.Korea sends top diplomat to Russia as its troops train to fight in Ukraine

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 29, (AP): North Korea said Tuesday its top diplomat is visiting Russia, in another sign of their deepening relations as rival South Korea and Western nations say the North has sent thousands of troops to support Russia’s war in Ukraine.

North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency said a delegation led by Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui departed for Russia on Monday, but didn’t specify the purpose of the visit. In a closed-door hearing at South Korea’s parliament, the South’s spy agency said Choe may be involved in high-level discussions on sending additional troops to Russia and negotiating what the North would get in return, according to Lee Seong-kweun, a lawmaker who attended the meeting.

The announcement of Choe’s visit came hours after the Pentagon said North Korea has sent about 10,000 troops to Russia, who are expected to arrive in battlefields in Ukraine within “the next several weeks.”

South Korean and Western leaders have expressed concern that North Korean involvement could help prolong Russia’s aggression in Ukraine, and that Russia may offer technology in return that could advance the threat posed by North Korea’s nuclear weapons and missile program.

Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh told reporters Monday that some of the North Korean soldiers have already moved closer to Ukraine and were believed to be heading for the Kursk border region, where Russia has been struggling to push back a Ukrainian incursion.

South Korea’s National Intelligence Service told lawmakers it’s examining the possibility that some groups of North Korea’s military personnel in Russia, including generals or other high-ranking officials, may have already moved to frontline areas. The spy agency also said the two sides appear to be struggling to resolve communication issues although the Russian military is training North Korean troops on Russian military terminology, Lee said.

The agency said space-based reconnaissance is an area where North Korea is likely receiving Russian help. It said North Korea may be acquiring advanced components from Russia as



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, (center), prepares to depart for Russia, in Pyongyang, North Korea on Oct 28. (AP)

it prepares to launch another military reconnaissance satellite following a failed attempt in May, said Park Sun-won, another lawmaker who attended the hearing.

North Korea first placed a spy satellite in orbit last November. Its leader Kim Jong Un has described those assets as crucial for monitoring South Korean and U.S. military activities and

enhancing the threat of his nuclear-capable missiles.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in telephone calls with European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte on Monday shared South Korean intelligence assessments that North Korean troops could be deployed to battlefronts “more quickly than anticipated.” He called for closer coordination with European governments aimed at “monitoring and blocking” illegal exchanges between Pyongyang and Moscow. Yoon’s office said in a statement.

After initially denying the claims about North Korean troop deployments, Pyongyang and Moscow have adopted a vaguer stance, asserting that their military cooperation conforms with international law without directly admitting the presence of North Korean forces in Russia.

North Korea has also been accused of providing millions of artillery shells and other military equipment to Russia to fuel its war in Ukraine. The United States and its partners have described Russia’s procurement of North Korean personnel and supplies as a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, and raised suspicions that Moscow is helping Pyongyang to evade sanctions and unlawfully finance its weapons program.

Russia, along with China, has blocked U.S.-led efforts at the Security Council to tighten sanctions on North Korea over its recent missile testing activities, which intensified after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Russia also vetoed a U.N. resolution to extend the mandate of a panel of monitors in March in a move that effectively abolished oversight by U.N. experts of Security Council sanctions against North Korea. It prompted Western accusations that Moscow was acting to shield its arms purchases from Pyongyang.

“The illegal military collusion between Russia and North Korea poses a significant security threat to the international community and a serious matter that could potentially harm our security. We must thoroughly examine all possibilities and prepare countermeasures,” Yoon said in a Cabinet meeting in Seoul on Tuesday.



Top: Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump, (right), looks on as local Muslim leaders speak during a campaign rally at the Suburban Collection Showplace on Oct 26, in Novi, Mich. Above: Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, center, tours the Hemlock Semiconductor Next-Generation Finishing facility as Corning Chairman and CEO Wendell Weeks, (second from right), looks on in Hemlock, Mich. on Oct 28. (AP)

Arab American voters make their choice – Harris, Trump or neither – in election’s final days

DEARBORN, Mich., Oct 29, (AP): Bowls of labneh and platters of za’atar bread covered the tables in a Lebanese restaurant near Detroit, yet no one seemed to have much of an appetite.

On one side were Kamala Harris’ top emissaries to the Arab American community. On the other were local leaders who were explaining – once again – why many in the community couldn’t vote for the vice president because of the war in Gaza.

“I love this country, but I’ll tell you, we have never been so disappointed in this country as we are now,” said Nabih H. Ayad, chairman of the Arab American Civil Rights League. “We wanted to give the Democratic Party the opportunity to do something, and they haven’t.”

“The one line we can’t cross,” Ayad said, “is genocide.”

Nasrina Bargzie and Brenda Abdelal, who were hired by Harris’ campaign to spearhead Arab and Muslim outreach, listened intently but said little in response.

If Harris loses Michigan and the presidential election next week, it’s conversations like this one that could explain why. The Detroit area has the country’s largest concentration of Arab Americans, and Democrats fear that Harris will pay a steep political price for US support for Israel, which rejects allegations that its military operations in Gaza constitute a genocide.

Community members who normally back Democrats said they face an impossible decision. Either they punish Harris for what they view as complicity in the deaths of at least 43,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, or they endure Donald Trump’s return to the White House, which they fear would

revive discrimination toward their community.

A reminder of the situation’s complexity came in Ann Arbor on Monday night, when Harris held a campaign rally. Assad Turfe, one of the few Arab American elected officials in Michigan to endorse the vice president, said his community needs someone “who sees us, who understands us and who will give voice to our pain,” adding that “without a doubt that Kamala Harris is that leader.”

But as Harris began her remarks, pro-Palestinian protesters interrupted by chanting, “Israel bombs, Kamala pays, how many kids have you killed today?” Harris responded, “hey guys, I hear you” and “we all want this war to end as soon as possible.”

It’s unclear how many skeptics Harris will be able to win over, especially since she has not proposed any concrete changes on US policy toward Israel or the war in Gaza. Four years ago, Joe Biden won by a 3-to-1 margin in Dearborn, where nearly half of the 110,000 residents are of Arab descent. Now Democrats are concerned some of these voters will go to Trump or third-party candidates like Jill Stein.

“They’re split. There are those who will vote for Harris, recognizing that they could get a seat at the table,” said US Rep Ro Khanna, D-Calif., who convened the recent meeting at the Lebanese restaurant in his efforts to help the Harris campaign. “But there’s a chunk that will vote for Stein or stay at home. Then there’s a minority who will vote for Trump.”

Trump has secured a number of endorsements from Muslims in the area, including from two Democratic mayors who represent Muslim-majority cities outside Detroit. He brought several Muslims on stage at a rally in metro Detroit on Saturday.

He argues he will put “a stop to the endless wars” and notes the Abraham Accords that Israel signed with several Arab nations during his presidency. He has also mocked Harris’ embrace of former Rep Liz Cheney, a conservative Republican whose father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, was a key force behind the US invasion of Iraq. Harris is campaigning with Liz Cheney to try to pull away moderate Republicans turned off by Trump in Michigan and elsewhere.

But many top Arab American leaders – even those who have not endorsed Harris – are still deeply negative toward Trump and say his endorsements don’t reflect a majority of the community. They also remember his call for a “total and complete shutdown” on Muslims entering the country and his travel restrictions on visitors from Muslim-majority countries. And some point out that Trump has suggested that he would give Israel even more leeway to attack its rivals in the region.

Turfe, a Lebanese American and the deputy executive of Wayne County, is among the few Arab American leaders in Michigan to have endorsed Harris. He says it’s to ensure the community doesn’t return to a Trump presidency that “opened up old wounds for the generation that lived through those post 9/11 years.”

Turfe said he was jolted awake by immigration agents in 2005 when they came to detain his wife, who had come to the country when she was 2 years old and was unaware that she didn’t have legal citizenship.

“They came for her and they ripped my family apart,” he said.

Then in 2006, Turfe’s two grandmothers were killed in Lebanon as Israel fought with Hezbollah in a war backed by President George W. Bush.

Orbán boosts Georgia’s ruling party over election despite outcry vote was rigged

TBILISI, Georgia, Oct 29, (AP): Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán gave a boost Tuesday to Georgia’s ruling party, saying its victory in a parliamentary election in the South Caucasus nation was free and democratic despite a massive opposition protest that denounced the vote as rigged and illegitimate.

Orbán, Russian President Vladimir Putin’s closest partner in the European Union, is the first foreign leader to visit Georgia following Saturday’s vote that the country’s electoral commission said was won by the ruling Georgian Dream party.

Georgia’s president and opposition said the election was “stolen” with the help of Russia, claiming there was widespread ballot fraud and violence, with the EU and the U.S. calling for a full investigation.

But Orbán gave a different assessment after meeting with his counterpart, Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, and congratulating him on the victory by his Georgian Dream party.

“I look at the debate that has erupted around the election. I read the evaluations of international organizations, and I see that no one dares to question that this election was a free and democratic choice,” Orbán said.

People rallied outside parliament Monday night, demanding a new election under international supervision and an investigation into the alleged vote rigging. The protest underlined tensions in the country which lies between Russia

and Turkey and where the Georgian Dream party has become increasingly authoritarian and tilted toward Moscow.

Orbán was booed after arriving at his hotel in Tbilisi on Monday evening. Protesters called him a “political prostitute” and “puppet” in Russian and Hungarian, using expletives to tell him to leave the country.

Kobakhidze said Orbán’s visit had “particular significance” as it takes place during Hungary’s presidency of the Council of the European Union although the bloc said he doesn’t have any mandate for the visit.

Georgian Dream told voters it is committed to joining the EU despite the fact Brussels suspended Georgia’s membership process after the party adopted a Russian-style “foreign influence law” in June that critics say curbs press freedom.

Pursuit of EU membership and NATO is written into Georgia’s constitution and many in the country of 3.7 million viewed Saturday’s vote as a pivotal referendum on the opportunity to join the bloc.

Georgian Dream, established by Bidzina Ivanishvili, a shadowy billionaire who made his fortune in Russia, has adopted laws similar to those used by the Kremlin to crack down on freedom of speech and LGBTQ+ rights.

Orbán said it was clear “the opposition and the ruling party are committed to European integration,” rejecting opposition claims that Georgian Dream opposes it.



In this photo released by Georgian Prime Minister Press Office on Oct 29, Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, (second right), and Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán, (second left), speak during their meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia. (AP)

More than 150 hurt in India fireworks explosion

NEW DELHI, Oct 29, (AP): A huge explosion of fireworks injured more than 150 people at a religious festival in a temple in southern India, a report said Tuesday.

The explosion occurred Monday night when a fireworks storage facility near Veerarkavu temple caught fire, the Press Trust of India reported, citing the police. It happened in Kasargod, which is nearly 580

kilometers (360 miles) northwest of Thiruvananthapuram, the Kerala state capital.

The injured were treated at various hospitals in Kasargod, Kannur, and Mangaluru districts. Eight of them had serious injuries.

There is a huge demand in India for firecrackers, which are used in religious festivals and weddings. Fatal accidents occur nearly every year

as people work in makeshift factories without proper safety measures.

An explosion at a fireworks factory in southern India July last year killed eight people. In 2018, a massive fire at a firecracker factory in New Delhi killed 17 workers. A year earlier, a blast killed 23 people while they were making firecrackers in a village in Madhya Pradesh state in central India.



Firefighters inspect the damaged office building after it was hit by Russian aerial guided bombs in central Kharkiv, Ukraine on Oct 28. (AP)

Russia strikes Ukraine 2 biggest cities: officials

Russian drones, missiles and bombs smashed into Kyiv and Kharkiv, Ukraine’s biggest cities, in nighttime attacks, killing four people and wounding 15 in a continuing aerial onslaught, authorities said Tuesday.

Russia has bombarded civilian areas of Ukraine almost daily since its full-scale invasion of its neighbor almost three years ago, causing thousands of casualties. The Russian army is also pushing hard against front-line defenses in the eastern Donetsk region of Ukraine.

In another worrying development for Kyiv officials, Western countries say North Korea has sent some 10,000 soldiers to help Russia’s military campaign.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was expected to speak about that new threat at a meeting Tuesday in Reykjavik with the leaders of Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

A Russian aerial attack struck Kharkiv, in Ukraine’s northeast, at around 3 a.m., hitting a house and

killing four people, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. Nearly 20 houses were damaged in the attack, he said.

Several hours earlier, Russia dropped a glide bomb on the landmark Derzhprom building in Kharkiv city center, injuring seven people, Mayor Ihor Tereshkov said.

Derzhprom, also known as the Palace of Industry, is included in UNESCO’s World Heritage List as an example of modernist architecture. (AP)

US warns of visa restrictions for people who undermine Ghana’s democracy

ACCRA, Ghana, Oct 29, (AP): The U.S. State Department has warned that it would restrict U.S. visas for people who undermine Ghana’s democracy, ahead of the West African country’s general election in December.

Ghana has held peaceful, free, fair and transparent elections for nearly two decades. The presidential and parliamentary elections will be held concurrently on Dec. 7. It will be the ninth consecutive general election since the country’s return to multi-party democracy in 1992.

But allegations of voter roll irregularities this year have created concerns about a possible democratic backslide.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was quoted as saying in a statement that the visa policy announced Monday would be directed only at people “who undermine democracy” and not at the government





US Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks at a news conference during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Vientiane, Laos on Oct 11. (AP)

or people of Ghana.

Last month, Ghana’s biggest opposition party, the National Democratic Congress, or NDC, held nationwide protests demanding an audit of the voter roll, alleging it detected thousands of unauthorized transfers and erasures of voter names.

Current President Akufo-Addo is stepping down this year after his second and final four-year term. Former President John Dramani Mahama of the NDC, who lost in the 2016 and 2020 elections, will face off with Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia of the New Patriotic Party in this year’s election.

Last year, the U.S. State Department announced a similar policy of visa restrictions ahead of the Nigerian general election, restricting entry to people “believed to be responsible for, or complicit in, undermining democracy in Nigeria.”

Market Movements				29-10-2024				
		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts	
	SAUDI	- TASI	+8.94 12,062.09		PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	-103.26 7,239.98	
	DUBAI	- DFMGI	+46.44 4,583.36		EGYPT	- EGX 30	-153.57 30,619.96	
	JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+298.15 38,903.68					
	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+670.66 91,031.44					

Business

Gulf Bank celebrates 64 years of milestones & community impact

From a modest headquarters in the early sixties to one of the largest financial institutions

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Founded on November 23, 1960, Gulf Bank started as a modest venture on Fahad Al-Salem Street in Kuwait City. Established by a group of 12 merchants under Amiri Decree No. 44, the Bank initially operated with just 50 employees and a starting capital of 24 million ruppees (around KD 1.8 million). Over the past 64 years, it has evolved into one of Kuwait’s leading financial institutions, playing a pivotal role in the country’s economic growth and development.

With total assets reaching KD 7.4 billion as of June 2024, Gulf Bank has expanded its services significantly, offering a wide range of personal and corporate banking services, treasury solutions, and financial products through an extensive network of over 50 branches and more than 300 ATMs.

Supporting Kuwait’s Development

Since its inception, Gulf Bank has been an integral part of Kuwait’s economic, cultural, and urban growth, supporting numerous major development projects. The Bank has played a crucial role in funding large-scale initiatives, either through direct financing or in partnership with other banks. Its support extends to Kuwait Vision 2035 projects across various sectors, including oil, construction, and infrastructure.

Major Project Financing

Gulf Bank has been a significant financier for landmark projects, including the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Bridge, which connects Kuwait City to Subbiya, as well as the Sabah Al-Ahmad City, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Centre. The Bank also supported the expansion of Farwaniya Hospital and various colleges at Sabah Al-Salem University City in Al-Shadadiya. Additionally, Gulf Bank played a role in financing oil projects such as the Clean Fuels Project by Kuwait National Petroleum Company and portions of the Al-Zour Refinery.

Committed to Digital Transformation

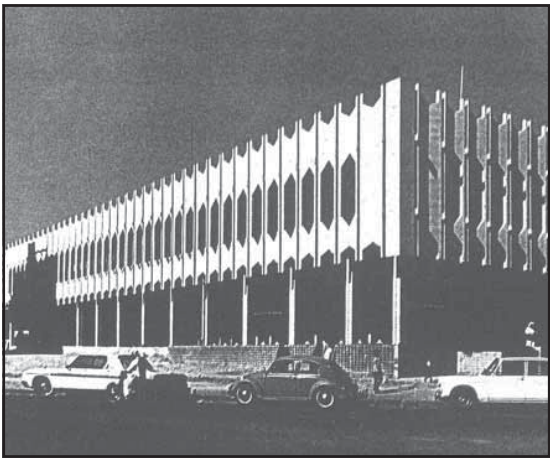
As part of its Gulf Bank 2025 strategy and commitment to digital growth, Gulf Bank has made considerable progress in digital transformation. The Bank aims to provide innovative and user-friendly services that promote sustainable growth while solidifying its status as the “Bank of the Future” in Kuwait. By leveraging advanced digital technologies, Gulf Bank has introduced a range of new and unique products and services for its customers.

Invest GB: Wealth Management and Asset Solutions

To enhance its services in wealth management, Gulf Bank established “Invest GB” with a capital of KD 10 million. The company provides comprehensive and innovative solutions in wealth and asset management, investment, and advisory services to high-net-worth individuals and institutional investors. It is committed



The Gulf Bank's current headquarters.



Picture of the first headquarters of the Gulf Bank.



Picture in front of the main branch.



Old Gulf Bank logos



A long history of outstanding customer experience with Gulf Bank.



An image of the decree establishing the bank as published in the official gazette.

to upholding the highest ethical standards, guided by a team of experienced professionals in investment and asset management.

Sustainability and ESG Commitment

Demonstrating its commitment to sustainability, Gulf Bank has introduced an ambitious Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy for 2024-2030, which will guide its initiatives over the next six years. The Bank is dedicated to enhancing ESG standards, supporting national sustainability efforts through strategic initiatives, and embracing responsible practices.

These initiatives aim to foster a sustainable community while delivering exceptional financial services

and innovative digital solutions.

Community Engagement

Gulf Bank has consistently stayed connected to the community by organizing a range of programs and events that address the interests of the public and its clients. The Bank actively participates in various occasions, both in person and on social media, with initiatives carefully selected to bring tangible benefits to society.

Credit Ratings and Global Recognition

Gulf Bank enjoys strong international recognition for its creditworthiness and financial strength. As of

- Gulf Bank is among the leading banks in Kuwait and the region, with total assets of KD 7.4 billion.
- The Bank offers a wide range of services through more than 50 branches and an ATM network exceeding 300 machines.
- Gulf Bank has been part of the urban, cultural, and economic development witnessed by Kuwait since its establishment.
- One of the largest supporters of Kuwait Vision 2035 by financing projects and implementing its key initiatives.
- The Bank has achieved a significant transformation in its digital journey, resulting in numerous new services as part of its 2025 strategy.
- Established an investment arm to provide a comprehensive range of innovative investment products and services for customers.

September 30, 2024, Moody’s rated the Bank’s long-term deposits at “A3” with a “Positive” outlook. Fitch rated its long-term issuer default rating at “A” with a “Stable” outlook, and Capital Intelligence maintained a long-term foreign currency rating of “A+” with a “Stable” outlook. These ratings reflect Gulf Bank’s robust financial performance, prudent management, and consistent growth in the banking sector, both locally and globally.

Recognized Excellence: Gulf Bank’s Achievements in the Banking Sector

The Bank’s prominent position in Kuwait and the region has secured its place on Forbes’ list of the “Top 50 Banks in the Middle East,” with a market value of \$3.2 billion in 2023. Additionally, it was recognized as one of the “Top 100 Companies in the Region for 2024” by Forbes and acknowledged by The Banker magazine as one of the “Top 100 Arab Banks for 2024.”

Prestigious Awards

Gulf Bank has received several international awards, including:

- “Best Bank in Social Media Marketing and Services” by Global Finance
 - “Best Offering for Young High-Net-Worth Individuals” by Private Banker International
 - “Best Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative in Kuwait” by Euromoney
 - “Best Diversity and Inclusion Initiative in MENA” by MEED
 - “Best Empowerment of Women Initiative in MENA” by MEED
 - “Best Workplace Sustainability Initiative” at the International GCC Social Responsibility Conference in Bahrain
 - Guinness World Record for “Largest Cash Prize Linked to a Bank Account” for the Al-Danah Millionaire Account
- Gulf Bank remains steadfast in its role as a leading financial institution dedicated to growth, innovation, and community development, while actively supporting national objectives like Kuwait Vision 2035.

Main market index surges 1.01%

Boursa Kuwait rises 13.71 points, closing at 7,110.81

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Tuesday with the general index up 13.71 points, or 0.19%, closing at 7,110.81. A total of 398.9 million shares were traded across 17,659 transactions, valued at KWD 74.11 million (USD 226 million).

The main market index increased by 65.35 points, or 1.01%, reaching 6,519.10, with 279.5 million shares exchanged through 11,223 transactions, worth KWD 36.8 million (USD

112.2 million).

The premier market index edged up 0.66 points, or 0.01%, to 7,610.97, with 119.3 million shares traded in 6,436 transactions, totaling KWD 37.2 million (USD 113.4 million).

The Main 50 index rose by 71.17 points, or 1.12%, closing at 6,446.21, with 205.3 million shares traded through 7,087 transactions, worth KWD 28.5 million (USD 86.9 million).

Trading volumes jump 35.8% in 2024

Market makers’ trading in Kuwait surges to KD 2 billion in 9 months

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Market makers’ trading in operational stocks covered by their services surged nearly 100 percent in the first nine months of this year, ending on September 30, reaching almost two billion dinars, up from approximately one billion dinars during the same period in 2023, reports Al-Rai daily.

Transactions conducted by investment companies licensed as market makers accounted for about 20 percent of total trading in this timeframe, a significant increase from around 14 percent in 2023. This percentage represents the highest market-making activity in the region, underscoring the service’s efficiency in meeting key market demands.

The activity of market makers on the shares of 47 banks and companies -- about 32 percent of those listed on the stock exchange -- has shown significant momentum since the beginning of the year. Trading volumes increased by approximately 35.8 percent, totaling 10.1 billion dinars compared to 7.5 billion dinars by September 30, 2023.

While market-making results vary between active and illiquid stocks, many investment companies specializing in this field have successfully adapted to these challenges. The stock exchange provides a flexible regulatory environment that supports market-making activities, backed by a framework approved by the Capital Markets Authority.

Several strategic factors contribute to the effectiveness of market makers:

- **Liquidity:** Market makers must have the flexibility to trade and borrow shares, enhancing liquidity and allowing smooth entry and exit for investors.
- **Transparency:** Providing accurate and reliable information is crucial for helping investors make informed decisions.
- **Legal Framework:** A strong legal system that protects investors’ rights boosts market confidence.
- **Diverse Activities:** A variety of company activities across different sectors attracts new investors and capital.
- **Advanced Trading Systems:** Up-to-date technology facilitates operations and improves market efficiency.
- **Investor Awareness:** Educating investors about market opportunities increases participation.
- **Economic Stability:** A stable economic environment fosters greater investor confidence, reflected in heightened activity across many stocks.
- **Speculative Behavior:** While some stocks may rely on speculation, market-making has shown effectiveness in supporting operational companies, necessitating a deep understanding of investor behavior.
- **Financial Stability:** Market makers must focus on companies with solid financial results and regular returns. Companies that offer stable dividends attract income-seeking investors.

Saudi PIF Governor highlights 92 companies established by fund

Finance Minister Nora Al-Fassam represents Amir at FII 2024

RIYADH, Oct 29, (KUNA): The eighth edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference kicked off in Riyadh on Tuesday under the theme: “Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow”.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah’s Representative, Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of Oil Nora Al-Fassam is partaking in the event.

In a keynote speech, Governor of the Saudi Public

Investment Fund Yasir Al-Rumayyan said the fund has established more than 92 companies that intensively invest in significant and promising sectors.

He added that over seven years, the FII has facilitated deals at a value of more than USD 125 billion, expecting that nascent market economies would outweigh developed ones by 2030.

This year’s eighth edition of the FII focuses on fresh strategies to address and tackle global challenges, Africa’s role in the world economy and women’s role in

leading posts, internal structures and practical investment aspects.

Patronized by Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz, the FII mainly aims to explore all possible ventures that would contribute to Saudi Vision 2030 focused on diversifying the Kingdom’s economy to become less dependent on oil. The event attracts more than 5,000 participants from around 90 countries, including heads of state and government, and leading world business leaders.

ZainTECH CEO highlights importance of AI in transforming customer experiences

TAMAM partners with ZainTECH, FICO and LEAN to drive AI-powered innovation in Saudi Arabia’s fintech sector

RIYADH, Oct 29: Tamam, a Zain fintech and leader in Saudi Arabia’s microlending sector, is collaborating with ZainTECH, FICO, and Lean Technologies to develop cutting-edge, AI-driven data solutions specifically tailored to the Saudi consumer finance market. The alliance will result in the region’s first-of-its-kind AI-driven credit assessment model in the Kingdom, leveraging open banking data to drive financial inclusion, underscoring the Kingdom’s ambitious Vision 2030, aimed at positioning Saudi Arabia as a global leader in fintech innovation, and aligns with the regulatory framework set by the Saudi Central Bank.

The strategic partnership brings together four key players to explore and integrate advanced AI applications and open banking technologies to enhance Tamam’s platform. Through this collaboration, Tamam aims to revolutionize the consumer finance landscape, providing personalized, data-driven financial solutions that cater to the evolving needs of Saudi customers.

Tamam is a leading one-stop shop for financial services in Saudi Arabia, providing individuals with the opportunity to receive Shari’a-compliant loans without physically visiting a bank location. The platform’s end-to-end application and award process takes just minutes from the time of downloading the app to the loan amount being paid out. Loans are provided to Saudi nationals and residents, without the requirement of a salary transfer or guarantor, with a finance amount up to SAR 50,000 available for a 24-month tenure.

Yousef Al Musaillem, CEO of Tamam, commented, “This strategic



Tamam, ZainTECH, FICO and LEAN photo.

partnership marks a significant milestone in Tamam’s journey toward becoming a leader in AI-powered financial services in the Kingdom. By leveraging the expertise of leading-edge technology partners, we will deliver innovative, secure, and customer-centric solutions that meet the needs of our customers as well as contribute to Saudi Arabia’s 2030 vision of becoming a regional fintech hub.”

Andrew Hanna, CEO of ZainTECH said, “The importance of digital data and AI in driving significant predictive capabilities that fintech pioneers like Tamam can utilize to improve customer experiences is significant. This four-party collaboration to accelerate the delivery of new innovative fintech propositions, reinforces our ambitions to drive digital transformation and empower growth of enterprises in Saudi Arabia, further substantiated by ZainTECH’s recent opening of offices in

Riyadh.”

Combined, the partnership leverages:

- Tamam(Tamam.life) will define key business requirements and use cases, ensuring the solutions developed are practical, relevant, and secure for its customer base. Tamam will also prioritize stringent data protection and anti-fraud measures to maintain customer trust and comply with the Saudi Central Bank’s regulatory framework.
- ZainTECH(ZainTECH.com) the integrated digital solutions provider of Zain Group and lead technology provider, will oversee the deployment of AI-driven solutions across Tamam’s platform, ensuring compatibility and scalability while enhancing system efficiency and security.
- FICO(FICO.com) a global analytics software leader, will deliver AI use cases focused on predictive credit scor-

ing, risk assessment, and customer behavior analytics, driving value through personalized financial insights.

■ Lean(Leantech.me) will facilitate secure, compliant data connectivity through its open banking technology, ensuring seamless real-time data integration while adhering to the strict regulations set forth by the Saudi Central Bank.

Collaborative Innovation for Vision 2030

This partnership represents a significant step forward in the Kingdom’s efforts to lead the region in fintech innovation. The advanced AI-driven solutions being developed will enable Tamam to offer its customers a more personalized, secure, and seamless financial experience. This collaboration directly supports Vision 2030, under the supervision and regulation of the Saudi Central Bank.

Data Security and Protection
A key focus of the partnership is ensuring the highest standards of data protection and security. The parties have committed to strict protocols for secure data sharing and confidentiality, utilizing Lean’s open banking technology to facilitate compliant data exchanges. These measures will bring cutting-edge technology to the Saudi financial market, enhancing transparency, trust, and customer privacy.

All four organizations (Tamam; ZainTECH; FICO and Lean) reaffirmed their commitment to driving innovation in the Saudi fintech landscape by enhancing Tamam’s offerings and contributing to the broader objectives of Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030.



Shaikha Al-Bahar along with the National Bank of Kuwait delegations signing strategic partnerships to boost Saudi infrastructure development.

Reaffirming its commitment to Saudi Arabia and its role in advancing Vision 2030

NBK signs four strategic agreements valued at \$1.6 bln at the FII 8th edition

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is proud to announce the signing of several landmark agreements on the sidelines of the prestigious 8th Edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII), with a total value of SAR 6.2 billion (approximately \$1.6 billion). These agreements underscore NBK’s commitment to playing a pivotal role in contributing to Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030, as the bank continues to expand its presence across the Kingdom. By partnering with leading industry players, NBK strengthens its reputation as a trusted financial partner dedicated to supporting the Kingdom’s ambitious economic transformation and infrastructure development.

The signing ceremony was attended by Mrs. Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO of National Bank of Kuwait, Mr. Zaid Isam Al-Sager, Deputy CEO - International Banking Group, Mr. Meshari Hamad Bin Salamah, Deputy General Manager, Head of International Corporate & Commercial Real Estate, International Banking Group at NBK, Mr. Anas AlUbaid, General Manager of NBK -KSA, and Mr. Qais Al-Atceqi, Unit Head - MENA Corporate Banking at NBK.

These strategic partnerships, which span various sectors ranging across financial leasing, infrastructure development, and energy projects, highlight NBK’s proactive approach in driving sustainable growth and fostering key collaborations. With a deep understanding of Saudi Arabia’s evolving economic landscape, NBK tailors its innovative financing solutions to align with the national agenda. The bank’s long-standing commitment to the region, combined with these high-impact agreements, not only reinforces NBK’s market position but also enhances its contribution to the Kingdom’s infrastructure development goals.

Strategic Partnerships

Among the agreements reached, NBK has signed a Framework Agreement with ACWA Power, valued at SAR 2.6 billion (approximately \$690 million). This strategic partnership is designed to support ACWA Power’s ongoing expansion initiatives within Saudi Arabia and beyond. ACWA Power is the world’s largest private water desalination company, the first mover into green hydrogen, and a leader in energy transition. The company operates in 13 countries across the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia. NBK is committed to facilitating ACWA Power’s efforts to address the increasing

energy and water resource demands of the MENA region, reinforcing its dedication to sustainable development and innovation in these critical sectors.

In addition, NBK has established a Credit Facility Agreement with AlGihaz Contracting Company valued at more than SAR 1.8 billion (approximately \$480 million). This agreement aims to bolster AlGihaz’s working capital requirements as it continues to deliver critical infrastructure projects. Specifically, NBK is financing one of three contracts that Al-Gihaz is utilizing to support it with executing on the development of the world’s largest energy storage project in the Kingdom, with a capacity of up to 7.8GWh. With over 45 years of experience, AlGihaz is a specialized contracting company renowned for its engineering, design, and construction capabilities.

Furthermore, NBK signed a Credit Facility Agreement with the Pan-Kingdom Holding Group, including Saudi Pan-Kingdom Company (SAPAC) and Pan-Kingdom Real Estate (PKRE), amounting to over SAR 1 billion (approximately \$267 million). This agreement is intended to support the group’s working capital and investment needs. With more than 30 years of experience, Pan-Kingdom Holding Group operates across various sectors, including construction, manufacturing, operation and maintenance (O&M), transportation, water, real estate development, investment, among other activities, thereby driving the Kingdom’s economic growth and advancing its strategic development goals.

Lastly, NBK signed a Credit Facility Agreement with Alyusr and Financing Company totaling SAR 750 million (approximately \$200 million). This partnership aims to enhance Alyusr’s financing activities to meet the increasing demand in the Kingdom. Alyusr is a leading financing and leasing company licensed by the Saudi Central Bank, specializing in consumer and commercial financing.

Commitment to Strategic Development

NBK’s IBG has developed a strong presence in the region, with a team of over 300 seasoned corporate bankers across 11 countries. In Saudi Arabia, NBK has established a strong corporate banking footprint with over 30 corporate bankers, collaborating with some of the Kingdom’s largest and most reputable clients across both the government and private sectors.

As a key player in the financial landscape of the Kingdom, NBK is dedi-

cated to facilitating economic growth and diversification in line with Vision 2030. The bank’s agreements with key local and international players underscore its commitment to supporting major infrastructure and energy projects that will shape the future of Saudi Arabia.

International Banking Group: A Pioneer in Global Expansion

National Bank of Kuwait’s (NBK) International Banking Group (IBG) stands as a testament to the bank’s commitment to serving its customers beyond local borders. Established as the first national bank in the GCC and one of the first regional banks to expand internationally, NBK initiated its international expansion in the early 1980s. This strategic move marked the beginning of a journey that has since seen the Group extend its reach to 13 countries across four continents, with coverage extending to 50 countries across the world.

NBK employs over 6,000 staff globally, reflecting its diverse operations across Asia, Europe, North America, and the Middle East. The Group’s journey in Saudi Arabia commenced in 2006 with a single branch operation in Jeddah, which has since expanded to three branches in Jeddah, Riyadh, and Khobar.

IBG, which comprises overseas branches and subsidiaries, serves as a vital pillar of NBK Group’s growth. The strength of this network is reinforced by the Group’s regional and international expertise, alongside a steadfast commitment to maintaining the highest banking standards. With a focus on enhancing customer experience, IBG is dedicated to generating substantial value for its clients.

The Group’s international operations play a critical role in bolstering NBK Group’s revenues. In the first half of 2024, these operations contributed 24% of the Group’s net operating income, 23% of profits, and an impressive 40% of total assets. These figures highlight the robustness of the Group’s operational performance and underscore the success of its diversification strategy.

As NBK continues to expand its international footprint, IBG remains integral to its mission of providing exceptional financial services and innovative solutions to clients around the globe. Through this strategic international approach, NBK is well-positioned to navigate the complexities of the global financial landscape while delivering unparalleled value to its customers.

In an Interview with Bloomberg TV at the Future Investment Initiative Conference in Riyadh

CEO Shaikha Al-Bahar: Reforms to foster a robust economy with raised private sector participation in line with Kuwait Vision 2035

RIYADH, Oct 29: Shaikha Al-Bahar, Group Deputy CEO of National Bank of Kuwait, conveyed optimism about the robust outlook for Kuwait’s economy and anticipated improvements in the business environment in the near term. She highlighted that a stable political climate is expected to positively influence decision-making, thereby accelerating government spending on infrastructure projects.

In an interview with Bloomberg TV on the sidelines of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference in Riyadh, which launched yesterday, Al-Bahar stated, “With the National Assembly dissolved, decision-making now rests solely with the government, streamlining the process. We see that the government is genuinely committed to advancing economic reforms and launching mega projects, particularly in infrastructure, which will positively impact Kuwait’s economy.”

Al-Bahar highlighted the notable surge in project awards recently, noting that approximately \$6 billion worth of projects have been awarded in 2024, with an additional \$5 billion expected to be awarded in the near term. This activity opens up opportunities for both international and local companies, stimulates the lending environment, and drives overall market growth.

Al-Bahar emphasized that the reform trajectory is on the right track, paving the way for a real economy and significantly expanding opportunities for private sector contributions. These efforts align with Kuwait’s Vision 2035, which prioritizes private sector participation in driving economic development.

IPOs

Al-Bahar highlighted the momentum in Kuwait’s IPO and listing market, stating, “We are now witnessing a framework for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects, with companies emerging from these collaborations moving towards initial public offerings and stock exchange listings. This approach will contribute to enhancing capital market activity.”

“I believe that many family businesses will opt for listing, driven by their interest in establishing better governance and clearer strategic direction.” Al-Bahar added, expressing optimism about increased activity in family business listings, given the positive climate in Kuwait.

Boubyan and Gulf Bank

Commenting on the ongoing merger discussions between Boubyan Bank and Gulf Bank, Al-Bahar stated, “As the largest shareholder in Boubyan Bank, NBK supports this initiative. However, our endorsement is contingent upon the merger providing added value for our shareholders. A final assessment of the transaction’s viability will follow the recently initiated due dili-



Shaikha Al-Bahar in an interview with Bloomberg TV.

- A stable political climate will positively influence decision-making and encourage government investment in infrastructure
- An encouraging environment in Kuwait will incentivize family businesses to pursue listings on the stock exchange
- The integration of the PPP model will boost capital markets’ activity
- NBK is concentrating its expansion efforts on the GCC markets, particularly in Saudi Arabia
- The bank maintains robust relationships with a diverse range of customers across various sectors in Saudi Arabia
- The impact of geopolitical risks remains largely confined to the economies of the nations directly involved in conflict

gence process.”

Al-Bahar also highlighted that NBK holds a unique position among Kuwaiti banks by offering both conventional and Islamic banking services, aiming to further expand its Islamic banking offerings through Boubyan Bank.

Navigating a Lower Rates Environment

Al-Bahar emphasized that while the downward trend in interest rates presents challenges for banks profitability, it also stimulates increased borrow-

ing, particularly by large corporations amid expanding business activities. This uptick in borrowing could help to counterbalance the pressure on bank earnings created by the low-interest rate environment.

The Saudi Market

Al-Bahar highlighted NBK’s strategic interest in the Saudi market, emphasizing that NBK, as a global bank with a strong presence in diverse markets, is currently concentrating on the GCC region—particularly Saudi Arabia, which stands out as one of the most significant growth markets for NBK Group’s international operations.

She noted that NBK caters to a wide range of sectors within the Saudi economy, serving government-related entities, large corporations, and family-owned businesses. Additionally, the bank has established robust relationships with numerous clients across various sectors in the Kingdom.

Al-Bahar emphasized that NBK Group is actively pursuing the growth of its wealth management business in the Kingdom through NBK Wealth. The bank is also focused on expanding its offerings to clients by introducing a range of funds and other wealth management services.

Furthermore, she highlighted that NBK is actively engaged in this year’s edition of the FII taking place in Riyadh, represented by a significant delegation. Throughout the conference, the delegation held numerous meetings and successfully concluded several financing agreements with prominent Saudi companies across various sectors, underscoring the bank’s strong commitment to supporting Saudi Vision 2030.

Besides the Saudi market, NBK is also focused on the Egyptian market, which is one of the Group’s key growth areas.

Geopolitical Risks

On the topic of geopolitical risks and their implications for the economies of the GCC region, Al-Bahar remarked that these challenges are not unfamiliar to the area. She underscored that, despite the increasing tensions, the macroeconomic impacts have predominantly remained confined to the countries directly engaged in the conflict.

Al-Bahar highlighted that the circumstances for GCC countries are unique, as they consistently demonstrate resilience in navigating crises, particularly through government support provided to various economic sectors during challenging times.

She referenced the support provided by the Government of Kuwait during the COVID-19 crisis, which involved postponing and easing restrictions for banks and SMEs. She also highlighted the enactment of legislation to guarantee bank deposits during the global financial crisis of 2008.

On banks prioritizing social impact and sustainability principles

NBK Wealth engages in insightful panel discussion at Future Investment Initiative

RIYADH, Oct 29: NBK Wealth showcased its thought leadership and expertise in the financial sector by actively participating in an impactful panel discussion at the Future Investment Initiative (FII) held in Riyadh. This platform allowed the bank to engage with industry leaders and stakeholders, addressing critical issues that shape the banking landscape and influence economic growth. Representing the Group, Faisal Al-Hamad, CEO of NBK Wealth, shared his insights on pivotal topics, emphasizing the Group’s achievements and vision for integrating social responsibility within its core operations, in alignment with NBK Group’s overarching commitment to sustainable development.

The panel featured a diverse array of experts, including Andrew Bester, Member of the Management Board and Head of Wholesale Banking at ING Group, and Dr. Sidi Ould Tah from the Arab Bank for Economic Development of Africa (BADEA). These distinguished leaders contributed a wealth of knowledge and diverse perspectives, enriching the dialogue on the essential role banks play in fostering social impact.

A Commitment to Social Impact

A central theme of the discussion was whether banks should prioritize social impact amid ongoing economic pressures and market volatility. Al-Hamad underscored that social impact must be integral to a bank’s daily operations, fundamentally shaping its culture and decision-making processes. He emphasized the necessity of defining social impact in relation to specific geographies and local needs, essential for driving sustainable change and empowering communities. This sentiment was echoed by Bester and Dr. Ould Tah, who agreed that banks must recognize their societal roles beyond profit-making.

The conversation delved into the finance industry’s commitments to social responsibility and sustainability, raising questions about the potential for lasting change versus a return to traditional profit-driven models. The panel engaged in a series of compelling questions that prompted an in-depth examination of banks’ responsibilities in today’s financial landscape.

Participants explored the opportunities presented by a \$4.5 trillion circular economy, particularly for banks seeking impactful investments. They discussed how banks can effectively communicate to investors that socially responsible investing can yield positive financial returns, particularly in sectors such as renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable agriculture. Al-Hamad noted that such investments not only align with long-term growth but also cultivate a healthier population, thereby boosting demand for banking services.

NBK’s Triple Bottom Line Approach

Al-Hamad highlighted that NBK leads the charge in this movement, exemplifying a strong commitment to social impact investing through its Triple Bottom Line approach, which balances people, planet, and profits. In 2023, NBK launched its inaugural three-year Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy, setting ambitious targets, including a goal of accumulating \$10 billion in sustainable assets by 2030 to facilitate a transition to a low-carbon economy.

The panel also addressed the call from the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) for banks to embed circularity into their strategies. The panelists agreed that transformative change requires banks to focus on long-term growth through the integration of circular economy principles, which can generate significant economic benefits, including reduced costs for raw materials and energy.

Al-Hamad shared that NBK has proactively addressed expectations for banks to consider environmental and social impacts in lending. In April 2024, NBK joined the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) to quantify and disclose its financed emissions, enhancing its understanding of environmental impacts and supporting more impactful initiatives.



Faisal Al-Hamad leads panel discussion on banking and social responsibility at FII.

- Al-Hamad: Social impact should be integral to decision-making culture
- NBK is deeply committed to socially responsible investing, balancing societal needs with profit maximization
- We have proactively engaged in the “PCAF” initiative to assess the environmental and social impacts of our lending activities.
- Our goal is to achieve a sustainable asset portfolio of \$10 billion by 2030

Leveraging Technology for Impact

The discussion also emphasized the role of technology in bridging the information gap that often hinders social impact initiatives. Al-Hamad remarked, “Leveraging technology is essential to enhance our understanding of social impacts, enabling stakeholders to make informed decisions.” As investors increasingly seek data-driven insights, banks must harness technology to facilitate access to crucial information.

Panelists highlighted the potential for International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) standards to transform impact disclosures, anticipating advancements in technology that would make disclosures regarding social and environmental impacts

more frequent and automated. Enhanced tracking across supply chains can improve transparency, while data analytics and artificial intelligence can bolster reporting and accountability.

Innovation in a Competitive Landscape

The panel addressed the pressing need for banks to innovate in a competitive landscape, particularly in response to the agility and customer-centric focus of fintech companies. Al-Hamad emphasized that to drive meaningful societal impact, banks must embrace innovation. Traditional banks are increasingly investing in technology and digital initiatives, leveraging advanced data analytics to gain insights into customer preferences and tailor their offerings.

Al-Hamad highlighted NBK’s commitment to continuous learning and development, empowering teams to adopt innovative practices. He cited the launch of Weyay Bank in 2021, the first end-to-end digital bank in Kuwait, which emphasizes financial literacy and caters to the underserved youth demographic.

Government Initiatives and Sustainable Finance

The panel also examined the role of government initiatives in fostering sustainable finance and their impact on market dynamics. While such initiatives aim to encourage investments in renewable energy and sustainable technologies, it is crucial that they do not simply redirect capital to meet regulatory criteria without achieving meaningful change.

Al-Hamad acknowledged that aligning with international regulatory requirements has become vital for transforming business models. He noted that stricter regulations are compelling banks to adopt ambitious strategies for mitigating environmental and social impacts. NBK has already accumulated approximately \$3.65 billion in sustainable assets, with a target to reach \$10 billion by 2030.

Ensuring Integrity and Combatting Greenwashing

The conversation highlighted the need for genuine integrity in social impact initiatives, addressing the prevalence of “greenwashing.” The panel advocated for clear, measurable standards for sustainability claims and independent verification to enhance credibility. Regular audits and public access to sustainability reports can significantly bolster accountability, while regulatory bodies must have the authority to impose penalties for misleading claims.

Al-Hamad reaffirmed NBK’s commitment to ensuring the integrity of its sustainability initiatives, emphasizing that its ESG strategy is woven into the bank’s operations with oversight from its board of directors. In 2024, NBK became the first bank in Kuwait to issue a \$500 million Green Bond, underscoring its dedication to facilitating genuine sustainable outcomes.

Redefining Banking for a Better Future

As the discussion concluded, panelists emphasized the urgent need for banks to redefine their core purpose to reflect a commitment to positive societal impact. They advocated for banks to act as caretakers of resources, prioritizing investments that yield positive societal outcomes while fostering financial literacy among customers.

Reflecting on the insights shared, the panelists underscored the collective responsibility of the banking sector to transcend traditional profit motives. The call to action for financial leaders was clear: redefine your bank’s core purpose and embrace the opportunity to be a true force for positive change.

As a leader in the banking sector, NBK has consistently demonstrated its commitment to ESG principles, underpinning its operations with a responsible banking ethos. Through strategic initiatives and a focus on sustainable practices, NBK not only aligns with global standards but also actively contributes to the well-being of the communities it serves. This unwavering dedication positions NBK as a true pioneer in the financial landscape, driving positive change and setting a benchmark for others in the industry to follow.

Collaboration set to revolutionize client offerings

NBK Wealth & J.P. Morgan Asset Management establish strategic investment partnership

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: NBK Wealth (NBKW), a leading provider of all-inclusive wealth management services, announced today its strategic partnership with J.P. Morgan Asset Management (JPMAM), one of the world’s leading asset managers. Announced at the 8th edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, this collaboration aims to revolutionize the investment solutions available to NBK Wealth’s clients by combining the market leadership of NBK Wealth with JPMAM’s extensive expertise across various asset classes.

The partnership aims to expand NBK Wealth’s service offerings by harnessing JPMAM’s extensive suite of world-class investment strategies. This strategic partnership will empower NBK Wealth to provide a wider selection of innovative, diversified portfolios designed for high performance and tailored to meet the evolving needs of its clients. Together, both firms will unlock global investment opportunities, granting clients access to comprehensive portfolios that are built to withstand diverse market cycles and drive long-term growth.

Beyond product enhancements, this partnership will foster a deep exchange of knowledge and expertise. NBK Wealth’s investment professionals will benefit from JPMAM’s cutting-edge research and global insights, empowering them to deliver tailored investment advice and bespoke solutions. The collaboration also underscores both firms’ commitment to the joint development of customized investment solutions, combining local market knowledge with global capabilities to meet the unique needs of sophisticated investors.

NBK Wealth’s clients can expect numerous advantages, including access to a wider array of investment opportunities across diverse asset classes, regions, and markets. This alliance aims to enhance clients’ potential for higher returns through improved diversification and the introduction of innovative investment products. With an ever-changing financial landscape, NBK Wealth and JPMAM’s joint efforts will ensure clients have access to forward-thinking solutions that align with their long-term financial goals.

Commenting on this strategic partnership, Faisal Al-Hamad, CEO - NBK Wealth, stated, “Our strategic partnership with J.P. Morgan Asset Management reflects our unwavering commitment to delivering unparalleled value to our clients. By integrating NBK Wealth’s market expertise with JPMAM’s global reach, we are in a prime position to offer cutting-edge investment solutions that will effectively protect and grow our clients’ wealth.”

“This partnership also signifies our dedication to continuously evolving our service offering, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of innovation in wealth management. By collaborating with J.P. Morgan Asset Management, we are enhancing our ability to deliver personalized, high-performance investment solutions that meet the unique needs of each client, across varying market conditions,” Al-Hamad added.

Meanwhile, Patrick Thomson, CEO, EMEA, J.P. Morgan Asset



Faisal Al-Hamad, CEO of National Bank of Kuwait Wealth, and Patrick Thomson, CEO, EMEA, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

Management commented, “This collaboration with NBK Wealth underscores our belief in the power of partnerships to deliver superior investment solutions. By combining NBK Wealth’s local insights with J.P. Morgan’s global network and expertise, we aim to empower clients with innovative strategies that address their evolving needs and create a robust platform for long term growth.”

With this strategic partnership, both firms are set to enrich the wealth management experience for clients, ensuring they receive top-tier solutions and expert guidance for the future.

About NBK Wealth

NBK Wealth, a core part of NBK Group and one of the Middle East’s leading wealth management firms, manages over \$20 billion in Assets Under Management as of 2023. With a global presence spanning nine cities in five countries, NBK Wealth offers a comprehensive range of services, including private banking,

financial planning, asset management, and advisory services. The group takes a client-centric approach, tailoring solutions to meet the unique financial goals of ultra- and high-net-worth individuals and institutions. For more information: <https://www.nbkwealth.com/>.

About J.P. Morgan Asset Management

J.P. Morgan Asset Management, with assets under management of \$3.5 trillion, as of September 30, 2024, is a global leader in investment management. J.P. Morgan Asset Management’s clients include institutions, retail investors and high-net-worth individuals in every major market throughout the world. J.P. Morgan Asset Management offers global investment management in equities, fixed income, real estate, hedge funds, private equity and liquidity. For more information: www.jpmorganassetmanagement.com.

‘Participating in the meetings of utmost importance to us’

ABK participates in Annual Meetings of IMF and World Bank Group



Al Sumait in a group photo with the Minister of Finance, with the participation of bank officials.



Central Bank Governor Basil Al-Haroun, Abdulla Al Sumait, Noura Al-Duweesh, Omar Wahby, Rami El-Rifai and Leen Haddad.



Abdulla Al Sumait and bank leaders during a meeting with the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United States.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is pleased to announce its recent participation in the 2024 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, held in Washington, D.C. The event brought together finance ministers, central bank governors, and officials from prominent banks from around the globe. This involvement highlights the Group’s commitment to strengthening its position and enhancing its global presence, while also addressing a variety of global economic issues with key stakeholders.

Representing ABK were Abdulla Al Sumait, Acting Group Chief Executive Officer; Omar Wahby, Chief Executive Officer – UAE; Noura Alduweesh, General Manager of Treasury and Investment; Rami El Rifai, General Manager and Senior Executive Officer – Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC); and Leen Haddad, Assistant General Manager of Executive Management Affairs.

On this occasion, AlSumait, stated, “Our participation in the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund is of utmost importance to us in order to meet financial policymakers worldwide and understand their perspectives on how to address the diverse challenges we face in the banking industry and at the economic and financial levels. This helps us develop our strategies and strengthen our

relationships to provide the best financial and banking solutions to our clients in all the markets we operate in, which include Kuwait, the UAE, and Egypt.”

He explained that the annual meetings featured several discussion sessions aimed at highlighting many topics, the most important of which were global inter-

■ **Abdulla Al Sumait:** Our participation is of utmost importance to meet and engage with financial policymakers worldwide.

est rates and their impact on banks and various economic sectors, ways to address the challenges of inflation and poverty, providing job opportunities, and the global economic situation. Additionally, issues related to the development of digital services and their impact on banking operations, as well as the importance of achieving partnerships between the public and private sectors to implement developmental plans under appropriate financial and economic policies, were addressed.

These discussions included the participation of a select group of central bank officials, banks, and financial and investment institutions from around the world, noting the participants’ perspectives and opinions on overall developments and ways to maintain global economic growth, combat inflation, and achieve economic stability worldwide. AlSumait added that ABK representatives had the opportunity to meet with many officials from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as central bank governors. They also held discussions with representatives of global banks to explore ways to strengthen their relationships, while presenting the various financial indicators of the Group. He emphasized the importance of participating in such events to stay informed about the various economic, banking, and global changes, and to build cooperative relationships with global banks and other institutions.

AlSumait thanked the Central Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Banking Association, and the Embassy of Kuwait in the United States for their significant efforts in preparing the necessary arrangements for the success of the meetings. This highlighted the role of the Kuwaiti banking sector and its contribution to the economic activity of Kuwait, while providing the opportunity for Kuwaiti banks to showcase their successes and achievements.

Burgan Bank announces its financial results for first nine months of 2024

Reporting KD 165 million in revenue and KD 33 million in net profit

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: **Burgan Bank Group (“Burgan” or “the Bank”)** announced its financial results for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2024 (9M’24).

The Group reported KD 165 million in revenues for 9M’24, improving by 5% y-o-y, compared to KD 157 million during the same period in 2023. The increase in revenues was mainly driven by higher Net-Interest Income of KD 112 million, up 23% y-o-y, while Non-Interest income remained solid at KD 53 million.

The Group’s Net Interest margin also increased to 2.2% for the current period as compared to 1.9% in 9M’23, improving by 30bps y-o-y.

Driven by higher revenues, the Group reported a solid net income of KD 33 million, compared to KD 30 million for the same period in 2023, marking a strong growth of 10% y-o-y.

The Group delivered strong asset growth of 11% y-o-y in 9M’24, reaching KD 7.8 billion by the end of the period. The Group’s loan book grew by 6% y-o-y, reaching KD 4.4 billion; primarily driven by its Kuwait operations. Burgan’s deposit base also expanded by 14% y-o-y and stood at KD 5.0 billion by the end of 9M’24.

The Group reported significant improvement in its asset quality metrics with Non-performing Loan (NPL) ratio of 1.9% in 9M’24 compared to 2.5% reported last quarter (6M’24) – translating into a sequential (q-o-q) improvement of -60bps. Further, the Group’s Provision Coverage Ratio was also strong at 218% at the end of 9M’24.

The Group continues to maintain solid and healthy capital levels, with Common Equity Tier 1 ratio (CET1) of 12.9%, Tier I capital ratio of 15.2% and Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 19.0%, well above the regulatory requirements and demonstrating sufficient capital buffers to support future growth.

Commenting on Burgan’s financial results, the Bank’s Chairman, Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, said: “During this year, we witnessed consistent innovation-driven growth and development across core areas of Burgan Bank’s operations, as we continue to push ahead with our evolution-focused strategy. Our financial core remains strong and our foundations solid, as we carefully balance risk with reward in pursuit of development. These past nine months have seen us make considerable long-term investments across our entire business, including fortifying our digital infrastructure and enhancing our digitally smart solutions; further evolving our customer experience online and off; expanding our tailored offerings to all segments of customers; and investing in the growth, development and well-being of our human capital.”

The Chairman further added: “Guided by our core vision to become the most progressive and modern bank in Kuwait, we remain committed to offering best-in-class financial services and tailored solutions that create sustainable, long-term value for our customers, employees and shareholders, while adhering to the global standards of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices.”

Affirming Burgan Bank’s strong financial core and stable standing, the Chairman highlighted that the Bank has maintained high international standards in terms of its creditworthiness. Within that vein, Standard & Poor’s Global Ratings (S&P) affirmed the Bank’s long-term and short-term issuer credit ratings at “BBB+/A-2” with a “stable” outlook, reflecting its expectations that Burgan’s financial profile will remain broadly stable.

Redefining Banking Excellence and Innovation

Among the various areas that continued to set Burgan Bank apart is its unwavering commitment to elevating the banking experience it offers to its different Retail Banking customers



Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chairman



Tony Daher, Group Chief Executive Officer

and Private Banking clients.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Tony Daher, Group Chief Executive Officer at Burgan Bank, said: “Three core facets of our ambitious business strategy include growing and diversifying our corporate portfolio, building our wealth management and private banking offering, and elevating the scope and quality of our retail banking offerings. During these past nine months, we continued to build on solid foundations, striving to achieve further sustainable progress with a determination to continue strengthening our Kuwait business.”

As part of efforts to establish regional leadership and actively contribute to Kuwait’s economic growth and development, Burgan Bank signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Korea Finance for Construction (KFINCO), making Burgan the sole representing bank in Kuwait for the South Korean co-op institution, as part of the latter’s strategic expansion across the Middle East. The partnership agreement stipulates that Burgan Bank will be offering KFINCO fronting services, whereby the Bank will represent the company in issuing project-related guarantees on the back of their counter-guarantee.

Meanwhile, the Bank upheld its dedicated efforts to provide its Private Banking customers with an exceptional banking experience by introducing its most exclusive and prestigious invitations-only Visa credit card, which unlocks a world of high-end services, luxury experiences, and unmatched benefits for Burgan’s ultra-high-net-worth (UHNW) clients. More importantly, the Bank expanded its Private Banking branch network to include the Al-Adailiya branch, making it easier for all Private Banking clients to access and benefit from a suite of exclusive banking services, tailored to their financial needs and investment aspirations.

On another front, the Bank led the third quarter of the year by announcing the launch of the instant payment service WAMD, which customers can access through the Burgan Mobile application to send, receive, and request money transfers easily, safely, and securely. The service comes as Burgan Bank forges ahead with its digital transformation journey, fueled by a commitment to the Central Bank of Kuwait’s (CBK) strategy for reducing cash transactions and encouraging reliance on digital services.

Entwining Business Growth with Talent Development

Another primary pillar of Burgan Bank’s continued success is its dedication to developing its employees and investing in Kuwait’s top calibers and aspiring talents, under the umbrella of its market-leading human capital development program.

On its mission to be an employer of choice, the Bank celebrated the graduation of numerous talents from its suite of learning and talent development programs in the third quarter of 2024, including “Entelaqah”, “Investment and Wealth Management”, “Burgan Cares”, and the “Empower Her” sum-

mer internship program.

In parallel, Burgan Bank launched its innovation and digital transformation central hub, “Burgan Lab”, designed to foster a culture of collaboration, creativity and excellence through workshops, training sessions and focus groups all year long. Subsequently, the Bank introduced the first program under this new hub, “Burgan Lab Academy”, in collaboration with CODED to empower fresh graduates to become the next generation of tech leaders.

Furthermore, the Bank launched the 2024 edition of its flagship talent development program, “Ro’ya”, and expanded its “Burgan Cares” program to support employees interested in pursuing postgraduate studies.

Domestic Leadership, International Recognition

During the third quarter of the year, several global institutions recognized Burgan Bank for its robust financial standing, commitment to excellence and adherence to the highest standards in banking, environmental advocacy, and human capital development.

Burgan Bank was awarded the prestigious Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design- LEED v4.1 O+M: EB (Operations and Maintenance - Existing Buildings) Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for operations and maintenance at its head office building in Kuwait City. This achievement demonstrated the Bank’s commitment to sustainability, operational excellence, and environmental stewardship while adhering to the highest stan-

dards of ESG practices in banking.

The Bank also received the prestigious Brandon Hall Group Human Capital Management (HCM) Gold Award of Excellence in the “Learning and Development” area under the “Best Use of Social/Collaborative Learning” category. The award acknowledged Burgan’s adoption of learning and development initiatives that focus on unconventional social learning methods and adapt to the dynamic and ever-evolving industry.

Lastly, Burgan ranked 35th on The Banker magazine’s list of Top 100 Arab Banks in 2024, further affirming the Bank’s leading position on a regional level with strong investor and customer confidence. This prestigious recognition also confirmed the Bank’s robust financial strength and commitment to the highest standards of governance and transparency.

Advancing Together

Burgan Bank’s success in the first nine months of 2024 was also evident in its consistent efforts to develop and advance its community under the umbrella of its comprehensive social responsibility program. This included hosting the first “Empower Her” seminar, which followed the great success of the namesake summer internship program. The seminar, held under the auspices and sponsorship of Sheikh Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, gathered a distinguished audience including prominent figures in Kuwaiti banking and various sectors, creating a space for sharing valuable market insights to empower women in leadership positions across society.

The Chairman concluded his statement by thanking Burgan Bank’s Board of Directors, Executive Management, shareholders, customers, and all employees across every department for their dedication, loyalty, and notable contributions to the Bank. He also affirmed Burgan’s commitment to the sustainable development of its business operations across all departments with a sharpened focus on ESG.

It serves to note that the consolidated financials for Burgan include the results of the Group’s operations in Kuwait, as well as its share of results from its subsidiaries, namely: Burgan Bank Turkey, Gulf Bank Algeria, and Tunis International Bank. Through this regional reach, Burgan Bank has one of the largest regional branch networks across Kuwait, Turkey, Algeria, Tunisia, and a representative office in the United Arab Emirates.

KFH participates in 2nd edition of National Leadership Conference

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the participation in the second edition of the National Leadership Conference 2024 titled “Breaking Barriers II: A Strong Mind. Strong Body. Strong Leader”, following the outstanding success of its inaugural edition.

The Conference, organized by the National Leadership Institute, will be launching on November 5th at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. It presents an invaluable opportunity for participants to network, learn, grow, and elevate their leadership journey. The conference will feature global speakers from various sectors and industry experts, who will discuss critical topics highlighting the importance of mental resilience, physical wellness, and holistic leadership.

KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad AlOmar, stated that, by the grace of Allah, KFH has made significant strides in its efforts to develop current and future leaders. The Bank has implemented tailored programs in collaboration with world-renowned universities and prestigious educational institutions, graduating a cohort of leaders as part of its strategy to focus on developing human capital as a key asset in the institution’s success.

He pointed out that KFH’s participation in this conference emanating from its commitment to developing and empowering national leadership talent and its dedication to enhancing education in Kuwait. This is achieved through participating in all initiatives and conferences that provide opportunities to discuss challenges, explore new horizons, and contribute to knowledge transfer, empowering the next generation of national talents and capabilities.

He added that KFH, as a world leading Islamic financial institution, continuously strives to qualify exceptional talents and leaders with outstanding competencies capable of keeping pace with the latest changes and developments in their field. This enables them to make a positive impact on the work environment and maintain KFH’s leadership standing both locally and globally.

AlOmar affirmed that KFH’s efforts to build a leadership culture continue, contributing to the development of skills and professional expertise. This effort ultimately translating into sound decision-making into real-world outcomes, improved performance, and increased productivity at work.

KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media – Yousef Al-Ruwaieh

Meanwhile, KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, Yousef Al-Ruwaieh, emphasized KFH’s keenness to participate in the second edition of the National Leadership Conference 2024, following the great success of the first edition.



Zeyad AlOmar

■ **Zeyad AlOmar:** KFH is committed to empowering the national leadership and enhancing education.



Yousef AlRuwaieh

■ **AlRuwaieh:** KFH supports initiatives that enhance youth capabilities, entrepreneurship and the community

He added that KFH’s participation aligns with its leading societal role and its strategy to support youth and entrepreneurship. He affirmed the Bank’s commitment to supporting events that enhance the capabilities and skills of youth and the community in general. This commitment is part of KFH’s sustainability strategy, support for education, and knowledge transfer to empower youth, thus contributing to development and community service.

This year, the National Leadership Conference will feature a diverse lineup of international and local speakers, including:

■ Steven Bartlett: Entrepreneur, investor, author, and host of the UK’s number one podcast, “The Diary of a CEO,” who will share his story and leadership experiences.

■ H.E. Hassan Al-Thawadi: Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy in Qatar, the organization responsible for preparing and overseeing the 2022 FIFA World Cup. He will provide valuable insights from his experience in managing large-scale projects.

■ Dr. Mariam Al-Awadhi: Assistant Professor at Kuwait University’s College of Medicine and a specialist in mental health. She will be sharing her views on mental health and resilience.

Property is strategically located in a core midtown location of the Fulton Market

Kamco Invest acted as strategic advisor on a \$94.7mn junior financing transaction for real estate development project in US

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced today that it has acted as a strategic advisor for a USD94.7mn Sharia-Compliant junior funding for the development of a prime Class A office and retail property in the Fulton market of Chicago.

The property is strategically located in a core midtown location of the Fulton Market, which is fueled by the vibrant shopping and dining options and is the new preferred neighborhood for Chicago’s affluent and creative-oriented professionals after having undergone years of transformation and development. The project entails the development of a vacant plot of land into creative offices, and retail space and has been 39.2% pre-leased. It is expected that the property will be fully leased upon completion of the development, driven by the strong supply and demand dynamics of the Fulton Market.

Upon completion of the development, the property will feature an 11-story building with a total rentable area of



Corner of Fulton and Sangamon

373,053 square feet. This comprises 350,534 square feet of office space (94% of rentable square foot) and 22,518 square feet of shopping space on the ground floor (6% of total RSF) and 76 parking stalls.

Mohammad F. Al Othman, Senior Executive Director of Alternative Investments

commented, “We are delighted to be part of this successful transaction, a Sharia-Compliant Junior Financing for a real estate development in the US. This is a significant milestone reflecting the expertise, accessibility to key transactions and the track record our real estate team has built over the past years.”

The property is being developed by a premier team of developers, general contractors and consultants who have an established presence and extensive track record in delivering multiple development projects on time in the Fulton Market and Chicago. The transaction was well received by investors, attributed to the relatively lower risk attached to this type of financing and the Sharia-compliant nature of the investment. Additionally, the transaction offers two exit strategies, either through refinancing or property sale, and the transaction’s financing is further supported by a prominent regional US bank and a leading international insurance company.

Al Othman added, “The high-profile and robust financial position of the equity sponsors, developers, consultants, and tenants underscore the confidence in this transaction.”

It is worth noting that the Alternative Investments team at Kamco Invest provides advisory services and manages a real estate portfolio consisting of 22 properties in the United States, Europe, and the United Kingdom, with a total value exceeding USD 2 billion.

Markaz: A half-century of excellence in finance and investment



Markaz group photo-Ghabga

Founded in 1974, evolving as a financial leader with Assets Under Management of KWD 1.38 billion

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: This October, Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” proudly commemorates its 50th anniversary as a pioneering force in asset management and investment banking across the region. Each milestone along its distinguished journey tells the story of a company that has firmly established itself as a paradigm of institutional excellence within the financial sector, resonating both regionally and globally.

Foundation and Legacy

Established in 1974 amidst an era of oil-driven economic ascension, Markaz was built to create a transformative financial institution that would align with international markets, open global investment avenues for Kuwaiti investors, and lay the groundwork for Kuwait’s evolution as a financial hub. Central to Markaz’s original vision was the persistent belief that without a vibrant, well-regulated capital market, the private sector could not realize its full potential in undertaking pivotal public and private projects that would fortify the national economy. This conviction remains deeply embedded in Markaz’s ethos.

Over the decades, Markaz has distinguished itself as a pioneer, introducing innovative investment products in the local market and establishing inroads into new markets. These strides included founding the first investment bank in South Korea with Hyundai Engineering and Construction in 1976, launching its real estate investments in Los Angeles, USA, in 1978, and acquiring a significant stake in the Bank of Lebanon and Kuwait in 1979. Markaz has been instrumental in advancing the investment, industrial, and real estate sectors, locally and internationally.

In the post-reconstruction phase of the 1990s, Markaz’s Board of Directors restructured the Company’s paid-up capital and increased it from KD 3.5 million to approximately KD 40 million. The Company was publicly listed in Kuwait Stock Market in 1997 with an ambitious plan to offer advanced financial services, to promote direct and indirect investment and to establish investment and real estate funds according to the best international practices.

Markaz’s growth trajectory has been fueled by its pursuit of unique investment opportunities and its unmatched expertise in crafting pioneering financial solutions that address present-day client needs while anticipating future trends. Its commitment to delivering meaningful value to clients, shareholders, and the communities it serves is apparent, with current assets under management totaling KD 1.38 billion, which is a testament to the resilience and enduring influence Markaz commands in Kuwait’s financial landscape and beyond.

Leadership Through Innovation

Guided by its vision to be the ideal partner in wealth creation and growth, Markaz continues to lead in innovation by creating investment avenues with unique characteristics and forging



Almarkaz – 50 years campaign



GCC Momentum Fund Event.



MGDP



Markaz latest awards.

ing new pathways for investors. This relentless pursuit of innovation has been the cornerstone of Markaz’s journey since inception. Among its pioneering products are the Markaz Fund for Excellent Yields (Mumtaz), Kuwait’s first domestic mutual fund; the Markaz Real Estate Fund, the first real estate investment fund in Kuwait; and the Markaz Forsa Financial Fund, the first options market maker in the GCC since 2005. Recent innovations include the GCC Momentum Fund, the first of its kind in the region, employing a momentum strategy to invest across GCC markets.

In investment banking, Markaz structured and launched Kuwait’s first convertible bonds denominated in Kuwaiti dinars for a client, further solidifying its role as a structuring advisor and issue manager. Markaz also structured the first BOT-backed bonds in Kuwait, issued the first Sukuk for a Kuwaiti real estate company, and pioneered the first high-yield bond in the Kuwaiti market. It continues to provide elite advisory services in mergers, acquisitions, restructuring, and valuation to top-tier companies.

Markaz’s presence has transcended geographical borders, offering a diverse array of real estate products, investment funds, asset management services, and unique Islamic financial instruments. Since 2005, Markaz has established a firm presence in KSA and UAE real estate sectors and then expanded beyond the GCC and MENA region. International real estate operations in Europe and the United States are actively pursued



Markaz 50 Years logo

through Mar-Gulf, Markaz’s real estate arm based in Los Angeles, California, amplifying Markaz’s global footprint.

Corporate Governance

The Board of Directors implemented a prudent governance policy, evolving into a robust governance framework prior to the issuance of related laws and regulations, diligently applied by the executive management. This commitment has positioned Markaz among a select few Kuwaiti companies that voluntarily established a formal corporate governance structure. Markaz has taken crucial measures to assess governance risk and implement internal controls and administrative systems, aligning with the best international practices.

Corporate Social and Economic Responsibility

Markaz extends its legacy of excellence through extensive societal contributions, participating in initiatives that foster human capacity, enrich knowledge, and support economic advancement. Additionally, Markaz sponsors

events and initiatives designed to enhance community development and empower youth, playing a pivotal role in strengthening the financial sector in Kuwait and the region.

These efforts are rooted in Markaz’s foundational social and economic responsibility strategy, which rests on three principal pillars: building human capacity, aligning the business environment with the principles of sustainable development, and promoting good governance in the business environment. Markaz’s dedication to sustainability is underscored by its distinction as the first investment company in Kuwait to voluntarily publish a sustainability report. It regularly supports impactful events through partnerships with organizations advancing social and economic goals.

In support of Kuwaiti youth talent, Markaz launched its Graduate Development Program in 2017, aimed at cultivating the next generation of leaders in the financial services industry. This one-year program provides Kuwaiti graduates with invaluable practical experience and skill development

in a professional setting, preparing them to meet the evolving demands of Kuwait’s job market. Since its inception, the program has trained 57 Kuwaiti graduates, with 42% subsequently employed.

A Legacy of Awards

Over the past five decades, Markaz has earned nearly 90 awards from esteemed financial and media institutions, reflecting its unwavering commitment to building trust with clients, investment professionals, and the financial sector across the region. In 2024 alone, Markaz has garnered seven awards from EMEA Finance, MEED, Euromoney, and Global Finance, spanning asset management, investment banking, real estate, investment advisory, digital solutions, and innovation.

Markaz’s Workforce

For half a century, Markaz’s teams have been its most valued asset, embodying the spirit of its enduring journey. Every member brings passion, expertise, and professional insights, striving to provide superior service to clients. Markaz promotes an employee-

driven culture that values diversity, inclusivity, and collaboration. The company invests substantially in professional development, career advancement, and regular employee recognition initiatives. In 2023, Markaz relocated its headquarters to Burj Alshaya, enhancing operational efficiency and elevating client service.

50th Anniversary Advertising Campaign

Reaffirming its client-centric ethos, Markaz launched an anniversary campaign under the theme “50 Years of You at the Center,” celebrating 50 years of putting clients at the heart of its operations. This campaign reflects Markaz’s pride in its clients, with a television commercial shared across Markaz’s social media channels and cinemas in October. The ad embodies success stories of different clients’ segments across generations whom Markaz has supported in reaching their financial and investment aspirations as a trusted partner in wealth creation.

Looking Ahead

Markaz’s 50th anniversary is a defining moment in its history, embodying a legacy of positive impact on the national economy, society, and wealth creation for clients. Markaz’s unwavering commitment to integrity and transparency, with clients as its primary focus, has strengthened its position as a leader across local and regional financial markets. This solid foundation ensures Markaz will continue meeting client needs and achieving shared growth objectives.



Photos from the event.

Hypermarket celebrates with dazzling offers and festivities



Lulu Hypermarket celebrates its 23rd anniversary.

Ultimate shopping experience

LuLu Hypermarket marks 23 years with biggest sale event

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: LuLu Hypermarket is pulling out all the stops to mark its 23rd anniversary with a celebration like never before. From October 30 to November 5, customers across Kuwait can enjoy an incredible range of exclusive deals and a flat 50 percent discount on select categories, products, and brands at all LuLu outlets nationwide.

This year's event promises Kuwait's biggest sale ever with remarkable savings across a variety of products. Discounts will apply to a vast selection, including groceries, health and beauty items, fruits and vegetables, fish and meat, dairy and frozen products, electronics, home appliances, garments, toys, footwear, fragrances, cosmetics, luggage, and more.

Never-before deals on dresses,

including a straight markdown of 50 percent on garments and special discounts on top brands, bring shoppers unbeatable value and makes this an ideal time to revamp wardrobes.

Exciting giveaways, and in-store entertainment during the anniversary celebration makes the event an unforgettable experience for all ages. With the retail giant's famous quality and affordability, this promotion is not only a celebration of 23 successful years but a grand gesture of gratitude to its loyal customers.

Do not miss out on Kuwait's biggest sale of the year! Visit any LuLu Hypermarket outlet from October 30 to November 5 and grab the year's best deals on your favorite products before they are gone.



A group photo from the event

Innovative thinkers gather

AU hosts TEDx on campus

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Teaching and Learning Center at the Australian University (AU) hosted the highly anticipated TEDx event on Saturday, October 19, 2024 in its Auditorium under the theme "Mindset: Shaping Tomorrow". The talk brought together innovative thinkers, passionate leaders and talented speakers to share ideas worth spreading.

TEDx Australian University, licensed by global TED organization, featured diverse lineup speakers aiming to foster a spirit of curiosity and exploration, encouraging the AU community to challenge norms and envision a better future. Keynote speeches were brought by local community influential and inspirational figures sharing their experiences to inspire attendees and motivate them

to persevere despite adversity. The speakers included Dr. Manal Al-Hasawi, Ms. Asrar Al-Ansari, Mr. Ali Najim, Mr. Majed Al-Zaabi, Mr. Mohammad Al-Saddani, Ms. Rola Mourdaa, Mr. Abdullah Bofitain, Mr. Sayer Al-Otaibi, Mr. Nicholas Chalhoub, Mr. Ali Nasser, Ms. Sharefah Bager, and Mr. Hussain Al-Mossawi.

Ms. Rola Mourdaa, Manager of the Teaching and Learning Center at AU, during her speech shared her personal experiences and reflected on standing firm in one's values. She remarked: "Success and happiness in life are not based on money, fame or career, maybe it's a combination of all but what will really count in the end are moments of connection, shared laughter, support during hard times and priceless memories with loved ones."



Luxury suites for unforgettable occasions at the Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya.



Celebrate milestones in luxury

Make celebrations unforgettable with luxury suite offerings at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya invites guests to elevate their special occasions with a range of exclusive suite offerings designed to transform any gathering into a memorable celebration.

From intimate milestones to grand events, each suite combines breathtaking views, opulent interiors, and curated amenities for a truly extraordinary experience in the heart of Kuwait City.

Guests can select from the refined Amiri Suite, perfect for hosting up to

15 guests, or the expansive State and Royal Suites, each offering an ideal setting for up to 30 guests with stunning vistas of Kuwait City and Al Shaheed Park.

With gourmet menus prepared by Executive Chef Thierry Papillier and his renowned culinary team, events are enhanced by an exquisite selection of salads, main courses, and desserts, bringing the flavors and artistry of fine dining directly to the suite.

Known for its impeccable service, Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait enhances each celebration with meticulous



Enjoy ultimate luxury at the Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait.

attention to detail. From custom floral arrangements by Alissar to the personalized, discreet service that the hotel is celebrated for, every aspect is thoughtfully crafted to ensure a seamless and unforgettable experience.

For those seeking a venue that epitomizes luxury and service, Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya offers an unmatched setting for special occasions.

For reservations and inquiries, contact Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at 2200 6000 via call or WhatsApp.

Best account of its kind in Kuwait

KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza weekly draw

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2024 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The fourth weekly draw, based on customers' September deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. The KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Mubarak Shamki Jaber Jasim, Nagia Reda Abdalrazek Alshendal, Hassan Zahid Said Mousawi, Amina Ahmad Daoud, and Khaled Woqayan Khaled Alwoqayan, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Eissa Mohammad Jumaah Alnaddaf, Sameerah Abdullah Hasan Sadeq, Hamad Khaled Hamad Ashqair, Mohammad Saleh Mohammad Alshamari, Faleh Salem Mubarak Alajmi, Shaikha Jodah Mubarak Alfadhli, and Husain Mohammad Bader Fayad.

It serves to note that AlDirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the cus-



tomers gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to en-

ter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes a two-month cycle in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

Al Dirwaza account is also in compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Supervisory Board. Furthermore, the account comes with a wide range of benefits, including the ease of opening the account, which does not require a salary transfer, and the customer's ability to open it remotely without visiting a branch through KIB Online on the Bank's website or KIB Mobile application on smartphones.

Additionally, Al Dirwaza account automatically grants customers instant issuance of an ATM card, with a KD 2,000 ATM daily withdrawal limit, as well as the ability to issue credit cards against the cash collateral in the account. To open the account and participate in its draws, a minimum of KD 100 is required and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.

MoH highlights latest treatment options on World Psoriasis Day

Psoriasis affects over 76,000 people in Kuwait: experts

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Ministry of Health, represented by Al-Amiri Hospital, observed World Psoriasis Day to raise community awareness about this skin disease, support those affected, and enhance the understanding of the condition among healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers. During the celebration, Hospital Director Dr. Arej Al-Kandari informed reporters that psoriasis is prevalent in Kuwait at rates consistent with global statistics. He emphasized the ministry's commitment to providing the latest treatments available worldwide.

Dr. Al-Kandari explained that the primary aim of celebrating this day, which occurs annually on October 29, is to inform all segments of society about the nature of psoriasis and the latest developments in its treatment.

This includes correcting miscon-

ceptions, recognizing the importance of the target group, assisting them, and offering support to alleviate their suffering. He highlighted the collaboration among various departments in treating psoriasis, noting its association with several other diseases, such as joint and digestive system disorders.

He also mentioned the hospital's efforts to establish a special clinic that connects dermatology services at the Abdul Karim Al-Saeed Center with other departments.

Consultant Dermatologist and Skin Pathologist Dr. Mohammed Al-Otaibi, who heads the Dermatology Department at Al-Amiri Hospital, explained that psoriasis can manifest in various forms, including spots where the skin membrane bleeds but not from the entire surface.

He noted that any part of the body can be affected by psoriasis; however, it tends to appear more frequently on areas such as the elbows, knees, lower back, scalp, and nails. The incidence rate varies by climate, with



A number of health experts who participated in the Psoriasis World Day event to raise awareness about the skin disease.

lower rates in hot regions and higher rates in colder ones.

According to available statistics, the global incidence of psoriasis ranges from 1% to 3%, with approximately 3% of the population affected in the Arab region, translating to around 76,000 cases in Kuwait. Dr. Al-Otaibi stated that psoriasis affects both genders equally and can occur at any age, though it is less common in infants and young children compared to adults and seniors. He reassured that psoriasis is a non-contagious disease and noted that genetics plays a significant role, as studies show that about 30% of psoriasis cases have a hereditary background.

While Dr. Al-Otaibi acknowledged that there is currently no complete cure for psoriasis, he highlighted various methods available to control the condition, aiming to stop the activity of affected areas and manage the skin cell formation cycle, thereby enabling patients to maintain a better quality of daily and social life.



KFSHRC neurosciences center revolutionizes epilepsy care with new procedure.

Non-invasive treatment

KFSHRC treats drug-resistant epilepsy focus without surgery

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Oct 29: King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre (KFSHRC) has achieved a groundbreaking medical milestone in the Middle East. The hospital's Neurosciences Center successfully removed a drug-resistant epileptic focus responsible for severe seizures using a minimally invasive thermal radio frequency ablation technique with electroencephalography (EEG) – eliminating the need for traditional open-brain surgery.

Led by Dr. Ibrahim Althubaiti, a consultant neurosurgeon at KFSHRC, this innovative procedure targets the area of the brain causing seizures, significantly improving patients' quality of life. Recurrent seizures can severely impact daily activities like work, school, and social interaction. Additionally, they increase the risk of physical injuries due to sudden loss of motor control.

The KFSHRC procedure allevi-

ates these burdens. Frequent emergency department visits associated with seizures are not only stressful for patients and families but also increase healthcare costs. This novel approach offers renewed hope for overcoming seizures, regardless of age.

The thermal radiofrequency technique uses a fine needle inserted into the brain to destroy seizure-causing cells. This eliminates the need for open-brain surgery, reducing risks and accelerating the recovery process.

The KFSHRC Neurosciences Center is renowned for its surgical volume and complexity. It holds the record for the world's youngest child to undergo successful separation of the epileptogenic lobe – a 14-day-old infant. The center was also the first to employ thin electrodes for precise identification of epileptic foci. The Center's expertise benefits patients of all ages, locally and internationally.

New option for those struggling with hearing loss

Apple AirPods Pro's new hearing aid feature to address ignored problems

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): Some Apple AirPods wireless headphones can be used as hearing aids with a new software update available Monday. It's a high-profile move that experts applaud, even if they only reach a small portion of the millions of Americans with hearing loss.

An estimated 30 million people - 1 in 8 Americans over the age of 12 - have hearing loss in both ears. Millions would benefit from hearing aids but most have never tried them, according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Countless others have tried them, but don't use them because of cost, poor quality, poor fit, how they look or for other reasons.

Over the past few years, there's been a push to change that. Two years ago, federal rules changed to allow hearing aids to be sold over-the-counter, a move that many hoped would bring better and cheaper options to patients. And last month, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved software from Apple that would turn AirPods Pro 2 into hearing aids.

It's unclear yet whether the rule changed has helped, experts say. But turning AirPods into hearing aids is the kind of creative move advocates had hoped for. Here's what to know about hearing loss, hearing aids, and Apple's



A pair of Apple AirPods Pro 2 are displayed on a table at Brooklyn College's audiology clinic in New York on Oct. 22, 2024. (AP)

new option.

About 15% of Americans report some difficulty hearing. Most people with hearing loss are over 60, but hearing problems don't only affect older people. One study found men and people living in rural areas are more likely to have hearing loss.

And it has been linked to many health effects beyond the ear. It contributes to isolation, depression and cognitive decline, experts say. It raises dementia risk and rewires the brain. It's also been linked to an increased risk of falls - a major health concern among older adults.

"Everything we do, all our relationships, whether it's personal or in our work life, involve hearing conversation," said Barbara Kelley, executive

director of Hearing Loss Association of America. "We're finding now that the sooner that people can pay attention to their hearing health, the better."

Before the 2022 rule change by the US Food and Drug Administration, everyone had to see a doctor and get a prescription for a hearing aid to get one. Now, they're available without one.

"As more of them are sold, then hopefully the price will go down," said Elizabeth Stangl, an audiologist at the University of Iowa. "But we haven't seen a big rush to get them."

Even buying over-the-counter, a decent hearing aid can easily run you \$400 to \$500, said Stangl, who researches how well people adjust to using hearing aids. And some of the less expensive options are really just "cheap amplifiers," lacking the personalized level settings and noise canceling features that really make hearing aids helpful.

The hearing aid feature is available with AirPods Pro 2 models, and requires an iPhone or iPad to set it up. It starts with built-in tests that will help users determine if they have hearing loss, set up the feature if they do, and set personalized amplification levels.

The headphones sell for \$249 on Apple's website, and sometimes less from other retailers.

While there are many other earbud-

type devices that can function the same way, experts agreed that the AirPods addition is a good one, simply because of the way it could help normalize hearing aids.

"It's just mainstream," Kelley said. The ubiquity of AirPods could make people worried about the look of a hearing aid more open to using them.

There may be some drawbacks, though. Fit and comfort during long use might be an issue. And while other hearing aids are built to last through a whole day or more, Stangl said the battery life of the AirPods won't allow for that. She also noted that wearing earbuds can send a message to others that the person doesn't want to be disturbed or spoken to.

"But we're hoping that more people will try it and realize, 'Yeah, these do help,'" she said.

Stangl suggests people do plenty of research before buying. She said Facebook and Reddit forums can be especially helpful in vetting devices. The websites Hearing Tracker and Soundly also have reliable reviews and resources for selecting a hearing aid, she said.

The Hearing Loss Association of America and American Academy of Audiology have guides to buying a hearing aid at their websites. If you are stuck, consult an audiologist.



The Shenzhou-19 spacecraft sitting atop a Long March rocket covered up is seen ahead of its launch from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwestern China on Tuesday, Oct. 29. (AP)

Latest mission to make China a major space power

China set to launch next crew to space station

JIUQUAN, China, Oct 29, (AP): China said all systems are ready to launch the next crew to its orbiting space station early Wednesday, the latest mission to make the country a major space power.

The two men and one woman will replace the astronauts who've lived on the Tiangong space station for the last six months. The new mission commander, Cai Xuzhe, went to space in the Shenzhou-14 mission in 2022, while the other two, Song Lingdong and Wang Haoze, are first-time space travelers

both born in the 1990s.

Song was an air force pilot and Wang an engineer with the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation who will be the crew's payload specialist. Wang will be the third Chinese woman aboard a crewed mission.

The three appeared at a brief news conference Tuesday behind protective glass, declaring their intention to carry out their scientific projects on the space station and "bring pride to the fatherland."

The Shenzhou-19 spaceship carrying

the trio is due to launch from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China atop a Long March-2F rocket, the backbone of China's crewed space missions. Launch time is set for 4:27 a.m., according to the space agency's spokesperson Lin Xiqiang. China built its own space station after being excluded from the International Space Station, largely due to the United States' concerns over the program's complete control by the People's Liberation Army, the Chinese Communist Party's military arm.

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The Proteas reached 307-2

De Zorzi and Stubbs hit first test centuries as SA dominates Day 1 vs B'desh

CHATTOGRAM, Bangladesh, Oct 29, (AP): Opener Tony de Zorzi and Tristan Stubbs hit maiden centuries to help South Africa dominate Bangladesh on Day 1 of the final cricket test on Tuesday.

The Proteas reached 307-2 before bad light forced an early stumps with Zorzi batting on 141. David Bedingham was on 18.

Stubbs scored 106 from 198 balls with the help of six fours and three sixes before being out. Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam took both of the wickets for 110 after bowling 30 overs.

Zorzi was instrumental in putting South Africa on the front foot after stand-in captain Aiden Markram won the toss and opted to bat first. Zorzie and Markram put on 69 runs for the opening stand, scoring at a run rate of nearly four until left-arm spinner Taijul intervened.

Taijul broke through with the wicket of Markram, who chipped a tossed-up delivery straight to mid-on after scoring 33 off 52 with two 4s.

Zorzi edged a delivery of pacer Hasan Mahmud

behind when on 6 but debutant Mahidul Islam failed to hold on to the catch.

Zorzi made Bangladesh pay heavily for the missed chance.

Taijul, who took eight wickets in the first test that Bangladesh lost by seven wickets, was largely ineffective as Zorzi attacked him as a strategy to put pressure on the hosts' bowling lineup.

Stubbs was also similarly comfortable in his stay in the crease and used his feet properly against the spinners.

Zorzi raised his maiden test century from 146 balls, employing a sweep shot to precision for a boundary against offspinner Mehidy Hasan through deep square-leg.

Stubbs hit Mehidy for three sixes in quick succession before he cut a delivery of occasional bowler Mominul Haque to sweeper cover for a single to complete his first test century from 194 balls. Soon after, Taijul dismissed Stubbs with a low delivery, ending 201-run partnership between him and Zorzi.

Bangladesh's bowlers however failed to conquer Zorzi, who struck 10 fours and thee sixes in 211 balls and kept attacking relentlessly to help South Africa go past 300.

England wicketkeeper **Jamie Smith** will miss the team's test tour of the New Zealand over November and December because he will be on paternity leave for the birth of his first child.

Jordan Cox will take the gloves for the tour and looks set to win his first test cap during the three-match series.

Batting allrounder **Jacob Bethell**, 21, was called up to a test squad for the first time, having made his international debut in the summer in T20 and ODI matches against Australia.

The 16-man squad will be captained by Ben Stokes and play tests in Christchurch, Wellington and Hamilton.

The first test in Christchurch starts Nov. 28.



England's Jamie Smith, center, and teammates appeal successful LBW out of Pakistan's Noman Ali, right, during the day two of third test cricket match between Pakistan and England, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. (AP)

Cincinnati holds off NYCFC in playoff opener



New York City FC midfielder Andrés Perea, left, and FC Cincinnati defender Teenage Hadebe right, fight for the ball during the second half of a first-round soccer match of the MLS Cup playoffs in Cincinnati. (AP)

Here's how Erik ten Hag got it wrong at Man U

Bad signings, no identity and big losses

LONDON, Oct 29, (AP): Erik ten Hag's 2 1/2-year tenure at Manchester United will divide opinion.

He ended United's longest trophy drought in nearly 40 years, claiming two domestic cups - and beating fierce rival Manchester City in one of the finals.

Yet, there were too many humiliating moments and matches for a team of United's stature to accept, making his departure on Monday pretty much inevitable.

Here's a look at what went wrong for the Dutchman at Old Trafford:

SPENDING

Ten Hag oversaw the spending of around 615 million pounds (\$800 million) on players since his arrival at Old Trafford in the summer of 2022. In the Premier League, only Chelsea has spent more in that time. Yet, few of the signings were a success and there was a short-sightedness involved, given the majority were either Dutch players - and therefore well-known to Ten Hag - or had previously played in the Netherlands. Just this summer, United spent around \$240 million on five new signings - two being Netherlands internationals in Joshua Zirkzee and Matthijs de Ligt and another, Noussair Mazraoui, who played under Ten Hag at Ajax. Undoubtedly the biggest flop has been Brazil winger Antony, who followed Ten Hag by joining for \$95 million from Ajax but barely plays.

STYLE

Arguably the biggest criticism of Ten Hag has been his inability to instill a distinguishable philosophy or style of play at Old Trafford. Under the Dutchman, United has been a "moments" team - a far cry from the cohesive and attractive side he built at Ajax. Managers like Ange Postecoglou (Tottenham), Unai Emery (Aston Villa) and Arne Slot (Liverpool) have quickly established a clear identity at their respective teams despite

being in charge for less time than Ten Hag. Across town, Manchester City - under Pep Guardiola - has been playing some of the best soccer ever seen in the English game. Meanwhile, Ten Hag has appeared to stumble through matches, without United showing a clear pattern of play and the team relying on big individual moments to score goals. Tactically, Ten Hag has been found out many times, too. Just last week, he surprised fans by deploying Mazraoui - a fullback - as a No. 10 in a Europa League game, when United drew 1-1 at 10-men Fenerbahce.

STATISTICS

Ten Hag will leave United with a couple of trophies but far too many big defeats and bad statistics. United is currently on its worst ever

start to a Premier League season - 14th place and 11 points after nine games - and that comes hot on the heels of its worst finish - eighth - in the Premier League era (since 1992). The 7-0 loss at Liverpool last season was the heaviest defeat at its fiercest rival, its worst competitive defeat in more than 90 years, and surely the low point in his tenure that has also featured a 6-3 loss at Man City, 4-0 losses at Brentford and Crystal Palace, and a last-place finish in a Champions League group containing Galatasaray and FC Copenhagen.

SITUATION

There will be some sympathy for Ten Hag, who might have been destined to fail because he was a good coach simply at United at the wrong time. His en-

tire tenure has been dogged with upheaval and behind-the-scenes change, whether it was the first two years when United was up for sale - and its American owners were heavily criticized for how they run the club - or the last few months when United was adjusting to its fresh soccer leadership fronted by new minority owner Jim Ratcliffe. However, Ten Hag has always had plenty of money to spend, whoever he was reporting to, and should clearly have been doing better with the standard of players at his disposal. United needs a big personality to get the club out of its current malaise and competing with the likes of City, Liverpool and Arsenal - and Ten Hag never seemed to be the man for that.



Manchester United's Lisandro Martinez lifts Manchester United's head coach Erik ten Hag while celebrating victory in the English FA Cup final soccer match between Manchester City and Manchester United at Wembley Stadium in London. (AP)

Sounders open first round with win

CINCINNATI, Oct 29, (AP): Luciano Acosta picked up an assist on Yamin Asad's first career postseason goal and Roman Celentano made it stand up as FC Cincinnati beat New York City FC 1-0 in the opener of a best-of-three first-round series for the MLS Cup.

Asad ended a scoreless match in the 51st minute when he took a pass from Acosta and sent a header into the net to give Eastern Conference No. 3 seed Cincinnati the lead in the match and the series - which shifts to Citi Field in New York on Saturday.

It was the first postseason goal for Asad in his third career playoff appearance. Acosta notched his third assist in his 10th postseason match.

Celantano totaled two saves in goal for Cincinnati on the way to his third career clean sheet. He had two shut-outs in four playoff starts last season. Celantano has allowed just six goals in seven career playoff starts.

Matt Freese saved five shots in his first postseason start for sixth-seed NYCFC. Freese's only other postseason appearance came in 2021 while playing for the Philadelphia Union when he filled in for starter Andre Blake - out with COVID-19 - in a 2-1 loss to his current club.

Both keepers had one save in a scoreless first half between two clubs that had never met in the postseason.

NYCFC will be without defender Tayvon Gray, who was hit with a red card for a foul on Acosta in the ninth minute of second-half stoppage time.

Cincinnati beat NYCFC 1-0 at home in March on a goal by Acosta and lost 3-2 on the road early this month. Acosta tied for the league lead with 19 assists during the regular season and added a team-high 14 goals. His 33 goal contributions in a single season set a club record.

Cincinnati and Inter Miami both finished with 11 road victories this season to tie for the league record in a single campaign.

Alex Roldan scored the decisive goal in a 5-4 shootout after Seattle goalkeeper Stefan Frei and Houston's Steve Clark dueled to a scoreless draw in regulation, and the Sounders rallied to beat the Dynamo in a best-of-three first-round opener for the MLS Cup.

Frei was not tested the whole rainy night and finished without a save in his shutout effort. But he guessed right in the fourth round of the shootout - forcing Erik Sviatchenko to miss wide left. Roldan sent a right-footed shot to the top right corner, delivering the winner for the Western



Houston Dynamo goalkeeper Steve Clark (12) goes up to collect the ball against Seattle Sounders forward Raúl Ruidíaz during the second half of a first-round soccer match of the MLS Cup playoffs in Seattle. The Sounders won on penalty kicks. (AP)

Conference's No. 4 seed.

Frei led the league in clean sheets this season with 13 after topping the league with 14 last year. He has allowed just 32 goals in 33 postseason starts with 14 shutouts - all with the Sounders.

Steve Clark turned away three shots in his 18th career postseason start - the last six with the No. 5 seed Dynamo.

The Sounders, who joined the league in 2009, have never lost a home match to the Dynamo.

Houston was forced to play a man down from the 66th minute on after midfielder Coco Carrasquilla was sent off for getting two yellow cards over a span of five minutes.

Sounders' leading goal scorer Jordan Morris left with an injury in the 52nd minute. He was replaced by Raúl Ruidíaz, who scored the first shootout goal for Seattle. Albert Rusnák, Jackson Ragen and Cristian Roldan had the others.

The Dynamo's successful PKs came from Ezequiel Ponce, Griffin Dorsey, Sebastian Kowalczyk and Daniel Steres.

Seattle has made the playoffs in 15 of its 16 seasons, winning conference championships four times and the MLS Cup twice - 2016 and 2019. The club got off to the worst start in its history this season before going 12-2-3 in the second half.

Houston, which set club records with 54 points and eight road victories this season, will host the Sounders on Sunday.

The Dynamo are making their 10th postseason appearance and first in back-to-back seasons since 2013. The two clubs played to a 2-2 draw in Houston during the regular season. Seattle beat the Dynamo 1-0 at home.

Few upsets likely on second day of Copa del Rey matches in Spain

MADRID, Oct 29, (Xinhua): Six more teams from La Liga, including Atletico Madrid, kick off their campaign in this season's Copa del Rey on Wednesday.

With the format of the competition meaning none of the teams playing in the Spanish Supercup (Athletic Bilbao, Mallorca, Real Madrid or FC Barcelona) go into the hat for the first two rounds, Atletico are arguably the biggest club in the first round as they look to improve on last season's semifinal which saw them beaten 4-0 on aggregate by Cup holders Athletic.

Diego Simeone's side face Catalan outfit Unio Esportiva Vic, who play in the regional Lliga Elit, which is the sixth tier of the Spanish game and who shouldn't be a threat to a side that contains players such as Alexander Sorloth and Conor Gallagher.

Someone is likely to carry out big squad rotation to the team that lost 1-0 to Real Betis on Sunday, but one rule in the Copa del Rey is that sides must have seven players from their first team squad on the pitch throughout the match, otherwise risk expulsion from the competition.

Sevilla travel to the outskirts of

Madrid to play Las Rozas, who play in Group 7 of Spain's fifth-tier Tercera Division and are clear favorites to continue their improvement under Francisco Garcia Pimienta.

Osasuna have to travel to the far southwest of Spain to face sixth-tier Chiclana, who reached the first round of the cup last season, before losing 5-0 at home to Villarreal and a similar result is likely on Wednesday.

Leganés claimed an important win in La Liga on Sunday and the top-flight minnows are away to Lucena. The fifth-tier club from near Cordoba in the south of Spain, may be one of the few 'minnows' with a chance of an upset as they top their group in Tercera, while Leganés are more focused on surviving in La Liga than the Copa del Rey.

Celta Vigo are also in the south of Spain to face sixth-tier side San Pedro, and should have few problems, while Valencia go to the south of Madrid to play Parla Escuela.

This semi-professional side shouldn't be a problem for Valencia, but the side currently bottom of La Liga will want a convincing win ahead of their La Liga match at home to Real Madrid next weekend.

Collaboration underscores both organizations’ commitment to positioning Dubai as a premier destination for polo

Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club kicks off polo season with IFZA for 5th straight year



DUBAI, UAE, Oct 29: The Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club (AHPRC) announced the launch of its highly anticipated 2024-2025 polo season, marking the continuation of its esteemed partnership with IFZA, the most dynamic and truly international Free Zone Community in the UAE, for the fifth consecutive year. This enduring collaboration underscores both organizations’ commitment to positioning Dubai as a premier destination for polo, attracting elite players from around the globe to compete in prestigious tournaments.

The agreement was signed at the Al Habtoor Group Headquarters by Mohammed Al Habtoor, Vice Chairman and CEO of Al Habtoor Group, Founder of the Dubai Polo Gold Cup (DPGC) Series, and President of the UAE Polo Federation, and Martin G. Pedersen, Chairman of IFZA.

The new season officially commenced last October 26, 2024, with the Ladies Charity Cup – a signature event that not only showcases the dynamic sport of polo but also serves as a platform to support a charitable cause. This season opener reflects the Club’s vision of blending sport with community engagement, setting the tone for another impactful year.

The polo season will run until April 26, 2025, featuring a diverse calendar of competitive tournaments, exhibition matches, and youth polo events. This partnership between AHPRC and IFZA continues to reflect the synergy between the two entities, both focused on fostering the growth of polo while enhancing the UAE’s status as a top-tier destination for lifestyle and sport.

Mohammed Al Habtoor spoke about the remarkable progress of polo in the region: “The growth of polo in the Middle East over the past decade has been extraordinary. We have worked tirelessly to create an environment where the sport thrives, attracting top talent and building meaningful partnerships that drive the game forward. It’s exciting to see the UAE increasingly recognised as a major player on the global polo stage.”

He added, “We are proud to welcome IFZA as our partner for another season. Their continued support has been instrumental in elevating the quality and reach of our events at AHPRC. Together, we are not only delivering exceptional polo experiences but also inspiring a deeper appreciation for the sport across the region. This season promises to be another milestone in our shared journey of expanding polo in the Middle East.”

Martin Pedersen, Chairman of IFZA, echoed the sentiment, saying: “Our renewed collaboration with Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club reflects IFZA’s dedication to fostering local sports and promoting community engagement. We are excited to be part of a season that promises exceptional competition and camaraderie.”

“Over the years, IFZA has become an integral part of Dubai’s sporting landscape through polo. This season will once again unite talent from around the world, inspiring a spirit of healthy competition and partnership that we deeply value.”

In addition to the exciting tournament schedule, IFZA will expand its renowned hospitality offerings this season. In partnership with the Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club, IFZA will extend access to its exclusive hospitality lounge, traditionally reserved for VIPs, partners, and media, to the general public, with the launch of and launch of ‘Party at the Polo’. Located within the luxurious confines of the Al Habtoor Polo Resort, this initiative aims to provide a broader audience with the opportunity to experience IFZA’s signature hospitality throughout the polo season.

Guests can indulge in a lavish selection of gourmet brunch options and premium beverages while immersing themselves in the thrilling ambiance of world-class polo matches. This extraordinary event promises a celebration of sport, style, and entertainment.

The partnership between AHPRC and IFZA remains a testament to their mutual goal: promoting Dubai’s reputation as a world-class destination where sport, business, and hospitality converge.

Limited tables are now available for booking at www.partyatthepolo.com. For the latest updates and event details, follow ‘@partyatthepolo’ on Instagram.

Kuwait Olympic Committee to hold Athletes’ Committee elections

Sheikh Jaber Thamer Al-Sabah

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Sheikh Jaber Thamer Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Committee for Examining Candidates’ Papers for the Athletes’ Committee and Supervising the Elections, announced that elections for the Athletes’ Committee of the Kuwait Olympic Committee will take place tomorrow at the committee’s headquarters.

The Chairman emphasized that these elections are crucial, providing athletes participating in the Olympic Games and opportunity to select representatives who will voice their concerns and work towards creating an environment that enhances both local and international sports levels.

He added that this process is essential for shaping a vision for Kuwaiti athletes, ensuring their opinions influence key decisions within the Kuwaiti sports movement and reflecting a forward-looking perspective for the future of sports in Kuwait.

The elections will be held from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm and the following candidates have been nominated for the committee: Dr. Abdulaziz Dhari Burjas, Abdullah Al-Muzain, Abdullah Shaaban, Abdulaziz Al-Shatti, Abdullah Al-Harbi, Abdullah Mansour, Abdullah Al-Khams, Ali Al-Zankawi, Ammar Al-Tamimi, Madawi Al-Shammari, Amina Shah, Jassim Al-Awadhi, Suad Al-Faqan, Ibrahim Al-Dhafiri, Sarah Al-Hawal, and Abdulrahman Al-Fadl.

Al-Ittihad advances to King’s Cup quarters



Al-Ittihad and Al-Jandal players vie for the ball.

Al-Shabab eliminates Al-Riyadh

RIYADH, Oct 29: **Al-Ittihad Club advanced to the quarter-finals of the Custodian of the King’s Cup after a 2-0 victory over Al-Jandal in the round of 16 at Shining Jewel Stadium in Jeddah.**

Abdulaziz Al-Bishi opened the scoring for Al-Ittihad in the 4th minute, with Abdulrahman Al-

About adding a second goal in the 45th minute. Al-Ittihad’s French coach, Laurent Blanc, opted to rest star striker Karim Benzema and Algerian midfielder Housem Aouar ahead of the Jeddah derby against Al-Ahly in the Saudi League’s ninth round scheduled for Thursday.

In other quarter-final qualifiers, Al-Shabab defeated Al-Riyadh 2-0 at Al-Malaz Stadium in Riyadh, with goals by Haroun Camara (37) and Italian

Giacomo Bonaventura (90+3). French coach Hervé Renard, recently appointed to lead the Saudi national team, was present at the match.

Al-Qadisiyah also secured its spot in the quarter-finals with a 2-1 away win over Al-Wahda. Mexican striker Julian Quinones netted twice (37 and 45+4), while Al-Wahda’s Dutch midfielder Juninho Bacuna scored in the 7th minute.

The quarter-final draw will take place today.



Thamer Al-Shanfa

Kuwait Basketball League kicks off

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The 62nd edition of the Kuwait Basketball League kicks off with two opening matches at Union Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. Al-Sulaibikhat faces Kazma at 5:00 pm, followed by Al-Arabi against Al-Yarmouk at 7:00 pm.

This season, nine clubs are competing, including defending champion Kuwait Club, Al-Qadisiya, Kazma, Al-Arabi, Al-Qurain, and Yarmouk. The league follows a two-division format, with the top four teams advancing to the semi-finals. In the semi-final stage, the first-place team faces the fourth, and the second-place team faces the third in a best-of-three playoff format. Winners proceed to the final round, also in a playoff format but with five games, where the team securing three wins will claim the championship.

Thamer Al-Shanfa, Secretary General of the Basketball Federation, announced that the competition will follow a two-division merger format, with the top four teams progressing to the “golden square” to vie for the title. Teams finishing in fifth to ninth place will compete in a separate group to determine rankings.

Al-Shanfa confirmed that the Federation’s competition committees and referees are fully prepared, expecting this season to showcase high-level play due to strong technical preparations by the clubs. He highlighted the Federation’s collaboration with clubs to ensure successful local championships that strengthen players and benefit the national teams. Additionally, the Federation has scheduled the Super Cup match between Kuwait and Al-Qadisia for November 27.

The league began in the 1961-1962 season with six clubs. Al-Qadisiya has won the title 23 times, followed by Kuwait Club with 15 titles, Kazma with 9, Al-Arabi with 8, Al-Jahra with 5, and Al-Sahel with one. The league’s 2000-2001 season was canceled, with no champion declared.

Winds of change

College basketball enters new world following a massive realignment

WASHINGTON, Oct 29, (AP): College basketball has undergone a massive upheaval in a short time.

The transfer portal has created what amounts to free agency, with players switching teams like wardrobe changes at a Broadway show and forcing coaches to rebuild their rosters annually.

Name, image and likeness compensation deals have changed the game off the court, providing financial opportunities for athletes that weren’t there just a few years ago while adding another layer of recruiting and retention headaches to coaching staffs. Extra eligibility for players because of the pandemic impacted rosters, too.

The latest jolt: Conference realignment, which has shifted - consolidated? - power in college hoops.

Well, maybe outside of two-time reigning champion UConn.

“I don’t know what business anybody has been in where there hasn’t been significant changes over time if you’ve been in the business for three or four decades,” said Bill Self, coach at top-ranked Kansas. “We’re going through one of those changes now and people probably aren’t as comfortable with the change - as I’m not, either - but I do think we’ll get through it and it’ll balance out, and we’ll be at a place that we’re much more comfortable in a short amount of time.”

The latest realignment round, namely a contraction and eventual re-expansion of the Pac-12, started as a slow burn.

Texas and Oklahoma kicked things off by leaving the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference, then longtime Pac-12 rivals USC and UCLA bolted to the Big Ten.

Colorado ignited a flurry of further Pac-12 defections by opting to leave for the Big 12, a move that persuaded Arizona, Arizona State and Utah to join the Buffaloes. Oregon and Washington left for the Big Ten. California and Stanford followed suit, heading off to the Atlantic Coast Conference.

That left Washington State and Oregon State as the only remainders of the “Conference of Champions.” All of these changes took effect this summer, setting up a season of change in college sports.

The Pac-12 has since announced a rebuild, mostly by raiding the Mountain West Conference, causing a ripple effect. Even longtime holdout Gonzaga plans to leave the West Coast Conference for the new Pac-12 in 2026.

The jumbling has forged four massive conferences with nearly coast-to-coast footprints, adding depth and talent to already-strong conferences. The changes also have forced coaches to adjust, while fans might need scorecards to remember who’s playing where.

“Sometimes new is exciting,” Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. “Sometimes we want to be stuck in our ways, but we’re not going to be able to be stuck in our ways, so I’m going to embrace that part.”



One of the winning teams.

Winners pose for a group photo.

Manjappada NextGen Cup ’24: celebration of youth soccer talent, community spirit, and sportsmanship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The much-anticipated Manjappada NextGen Cup 2024, organized by the Manjappada Kuwait Wing, concluded at PAS Sabahiya, showcasing young soccer talent, vibrant community spirit, and sportsmanship. Manjappada FC and Lords Academy emerged as champions in the under 18 and under 15 categories respectively. Indian International School Mangaf became runners up in both categories, while Gulf Indian School and United Indian School came second runner up in their respective categories.

The tournament was inaugurated by Eng. Soud Al-Hajri and Eng. Ali Al-Fayez from KNPC. With exciting matches in each category, spectators enjoyed a thrilling display of skill and teamwork. Medical support was provided throughout the event by dedicated medical partners, ensuring player safety and welfare. An expert refereeing panel from KEPAK, led by Mr. Mansoor, ensured fair play and professionalism.

Manjappada thanked all the event sponsors, who made the NextGen Cup possible, and the committed medical team from Al Nahil International and Shifa Al Jazeera, that safeguarded the health and well-being of all participants.

This year’s Manjappada NextGen Cup united fans, young athletes, and families, underscoring the passion and commitment of the Manjappada Kuwait Wing to nurture youth talent and promote football within the community. Plans are already underway for an even more spectacular tournament next year, aiming to elevate the experience for players and fans alike.



Winners pose for a group photo.



Gulf Football Cup

Sports

26th Arabian Gulf Cup draw scheduled for November 9 in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Supreme Organizing Committee for the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup Football Championship has scheduled the tournament draw for November 9. Kuwait will host the competition from December 21 to January 3.

The draw ceremony is expected to feature Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa, President of the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation, along with federation officials, dele-

gations from the eight participating teams, and prominent Gulf football stars.

In a press release, the Gulf Federation stated, "preparations in Kuwait have accelerated for the tournament draw ceremony, with ongoing coordination meetings between the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation and the Supreme Organizing Committee. Tournament committees will also convene alongside the draw to

finalize committee heads, members, and work plans for the next stage."

This 26th edition, the fourth under the leadership of Federation President Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Thani, will feature eight teams: Qatar, Yemen, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE, Kuwait, and Iraq.

The tournament format includes two stages: a group

stage and a knockout stage. The draw will place the eight teams into two groups, with Kuwait as the host and Iraq, the defending champion, leading each group. The top two teams from each group advance to the semi-finals, where the leader of Group 1 faces the runner-up of Group 2, and the leader of Group 2 meets the runner-up of Group 1. Winners of the semi-finals will then compete in the final to determine the champion.

Suns hand Lakers first loss of season

Nuggets finally win, Cavaliers maintain unbeaten run

PHOENIX, Oct 29, (AP): Devin Booker scored 33 points, Kevin Durant added 30 and the Phoenix Suns rallied to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 109-105.

The Lakers took an 83-76 advantage into the fourth, but couldn't hold on, suffering their first loss of the season after winning three in a row. Durant made back-to-back jumpers to give the Suns a 105-101 lead with 2:17 left.

LeBron James responded with a 3-pointer with 1:58 left to cut the margin to 105-104, but the Lakers never regained the lead. James finished with 11 points, narrowly extending his NBA-record streak of at least 10 points in a game to 1,226.

The Suns bounced back from an early 18-point deficit to get the win. The Lakers beat the Suns 123-116 on Friday at home after climbing out of an early 22-point hole.

Austin Reaves hit a 3-pointer with 5:16 left in the first quarter to give the Lakers a 26-8 lead, but the Suns rallied to take a 50-48 lead by halftime. L.A.'s Anthony Davis scored 20 points before the break on 9-of-14 shooting. He finished with 29.

Nuggets 127, Raptors 125

In Toronto, Nikola Jokic scored seven of his 40 points in overtime, and the Denver Nuggets overcame a 15-point deficit to beat the Toronto Raptors.

Canadian star Jamal Murray sent the game to overtime by making a reverse layup for the Nuggets with less than a second remaining in regulation.

Jokic also grabbed 10 rebounds. Aaron Gordon had 16 points and 11 boards for Denver.

Toronto's RJ Barrett missed a 3 in the final seconds of OT, and Ochai Agbaji and Jakob Poeltl were unable to tip in Barrett's miss.

Mavericks 110, Jazz 102

In Dallas, Kyrie Irving scored 23 points and Klay Thompson added 18 to lift the Dallas Mavericks over the Utah Jazz.

Jazz forward Taylor Hendricks was wheeled off on a stretcher with a broken leg midway through the third quarter after he fell to the floor without any contact near the baseline beneath Utah's basket. The team said he had

a fractured right fibula and dislocated ankle.

Rockets 106, Spurs 101

In San Antonio, Jalen Green scored 34 points and the Houston Rockets never trailed in victory over Victor Wembanyama and the San Antonio Spurs.

Jabari Smith added 17 points and Alperen Sengun had 12 points and 12 rebounds for Houston.

The Rockets rebounded from a 109-106 loss to the Spurs on Saturday to close out a two-game set in San Antonio.

Jeremy Sochan had 22 points and nine rebounds, and Wembanyama had 12 points and 18 rebounds for the Spurs.

Bulls 126, Grizzlies 123

In Memphis, Zach LaVine scored 30 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter to key a Chicago comeback as the Bulls defeated the Memphis Grizzlies.

Nikola Vucevic finished with 22 points for the Bulls. Coby White scored 20 and Josh Giddey finished with 12 points, eight assists and 13 rebounds, including a key offensive rebound in the final seconds.

Desmond Bane led Memphis with 30 points, making 11 of 19 shots, including 6 of 10 from 3-point range. Jaren Jackson Jr. had 19 points, while Jake LaRavia finished with 17 points, and Scotty Pippen Jr. had 14 points and 10 assists.

The Bulls led 126-123 after Giddey split a pair of free throws with 8.9 seconds left. Memphis had the last shot, but Bane's 3-point attempt was off the mark.

Wizards 121, Hawks 119

In Atlanta, Kyle Kuzma had 25 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists, and the Washington Wizards beat the Atlanta Hawks for their first win this season.

Jordan Poole scored 26 points for Washington, and reserve Corey Kispert had 21 points. The Wizards improved to 1-2 after two one-sided defeats.

Celtics 119, Bucks 108

In Boston, Jaylen Brown scored 30 points, Payton Pritchard came off the bench and hit eight 3-pointers en route to 28 points, and the Boston Celtics beat the Milwaukee Bucks.

Reigning Eastern Conference Player of the Week Jayson Tatum added 15 points and eight rebounds for Boston



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) battles Boston Celtics' Jordan Walsh (27) for the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Boston. (AP)

(4-0). Derrick White had 13 points and eight assists.

Cavaliers 110, Knicks 104

In New York, Darius Garland scored a season-high 34 points, 15 in the fourth quarter, and the Cleveland Cavaliers improved to 4-0 by beating the New York Knicks.

Donovan Mitchell added 25 points, Evan Mobley had 17 and Jarrett Allen finished with 15 points and 15 rebounds for the Cavaliers, off to their best start since beginning defense of their 2016 NBA title by starting 6-0.

Magic 119, Pacers 115

In Orlando, Paolo Banchero scored a career-high 50

points, and the Orlando Magic beat the Indiana Pacers.

Banchero also had 13 rebounds and nine assists in a terrific performance.

Jalen Suggs had 25 points and seven assists for Orlando, and reserve Mo Wagner finished with 14 points.

Heat 106, Pistons 98

In Miami, Jimmy Butler had 23 points and seven assists, Terry Rozier added 20 points and the Miami Heat beat the Detroit Pistons.

Tyler Herro scored 19, Bam Adebayo added 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Jaime Jaquez Jr. also scored 12 for the Heat.

Kuwait's judo teams impress at Arab Championship

AMMAN, Oct 29: The Kuwaiti youth judo team secured first place in the overall ranking at the Arab Championship for junior and youth teams, while the Kuwaiti junior team finished in second place. The championship concluded recently in Amman, Jordan.

Faisal Al-Hamad, head of the delegation and Treasurer of the Kuwaiti Judo Federation, highlighted the high level of competition among the participating Arab teams. He praised the youth and junior players for their impressive performances, which led to the team's success in the championship.

Al-Hamad attributed this achievement to the thorough preparation provided by the Kuwaiti Judo Federation and the effective strategies developed for the national teams competing in both Arab and Asian championships. He expressed gratitude for the support from the Public Authority for Sports, which has played a vital role in assisting sports federations to achieve results that showcase the strength of Kuwaiti sports on a regional level.



Al-Hamad crowns the Kuwait judo team.

FIFA to host talks on player welfare with unions, clubs

ZURICH, Oct 29, (AP): FIFA is ready to host talks led by Arsène Wenger on improving player welfare that could weigh limiting the number of games they play in a congested calendar and mandating off-season breaks.

FIFA said Monday a Wenger-led task force "will convene in the coming weeks" and include delegates from global players' union FIFPRO, clubs and domestic leagues, plus national federations. Those groups previously had seats on a committee of stakeholders that FIFA shut down in 2021.

The new panel's scope will include "operational, medical, regulatory and legal perspectives," FIFA said, without specifying a timetable or path to making decisions.

The consultation will start with FIFA under increasing legal pressure to listen more to stakeholders,



Qatar's Akram Afif, center, poses for a photo with AFC President, Shaikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, left, and FIFA President Gianni Infantino, right, after receiving the player of the year award during the Asian Football Confederation or AFC Annual Award Seoul 2023, ceremony at the Grand Peace Palace in Seoul, South Korea. (AP)

including a formal complaint to the European Commission in Brussels this month by union and league officials.

That filing cited European competition law in how FIFA has expanded or added new men's competitions that increase the workload for elite players that has pushed some to talk of going on strike.

"The task force is due to make recommendations informed by the latest scientific research into the topic of players' physical and mental well-being," FIFA said in a statement.

FIFA already partners with the World Health Organization including to promote good practice on managing head injuries.

Wenger, the former Arsenal coach, has been FIFA's head of global soccer development since 2019.

rived on crutches to the ceremony. "One of my key things is I always try to improve every game."

Known as a hard-working and unselfish player despite his abilities, Rodri was quick to deflect praise from others.

"I just want to say thank you again to the people who recognize my value in the game," he said. "When I was a kid I never thought of winning the Ballon d'Or, but in the last years I've been playing at the highest level."

The 26-year-old Bonmatí retained her award after helping Barcelona win the Spanish League, the Spanish Cup, and the Champions League. Bonmatí joined Barca teammate Alexia Putellas in winning two titles since the women's trophy was first awarded in 2018. She beat her teammates Caroline Graham Hansen of Norway and Salma Paralluelo of Spain as Barcelona completed a 1-2-3.

"It's a pleasure to be here again," said Bonmatí, who received the award from Oscar winner Natalie Portman. "Thanks to my teammates and the clubs who make me a better football player every year."

Even though attacking midfielder Jude Bellingham was third Dani

Carvajal finished fourth in the voting, and coach Carlo Ancelotti won the coach of the year award, no one from Madrid attended the gala in central Paris.

Ancelotti posted a message on X instead as did Vinicius, who was considered by many to be the favorite for the award, even though Rodri also had an outstanding season.

"I'll do it 10 if needed," Vinicius wrote in Portuguese. "They are not ready."

Madrid midfielder Eduardo Camavinga made it clear what he thought of the vote, calling it "football politics."

"My brother you are the best player in the world and no award can say otherwise," the France international wrote on X along with a photo of him and Vinicius celebrating together. "Love you, my bro."

Former Madrid star Karim Benzema, who won the Ballon d'Or in 2022, posted a supportive message in French on Instagram, along with the words "Trop Fort" ("Too Strong").

Neither Messi nor Cristiano Ronaldo - winners of the prestigious individual award a combined 13 times - were in the running for this year's prize - the first time that's happened since 2003.



Barcelona's Spanish player Aitana Bonmati, left, and Manchester City's Spanish player Rodri kiss their 2024 Ballon d'Or trophies during the 68th Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball) award ceremony at Theatre du Chatelet in Paris. (AP)