



basketball Pages 15 & 16



Scan the QR code to access
the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel

Amir extends condolences to Spanish monarch over flood tragedy victims



Left: HH the Crown Prince receives Omani Foreign Minister Bader Al-Bouseidi at Bayan Palace on Thursday. Right: HH the PM receives Oman's Foreign Minister.



Crown Prince, PM receive Omani FM

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah welcomed Omani Foreign Minister Bader Al-Bouseidi at Bayan Palace on Thursday. The meeting coincided with the 10th session of the Kuwaiti-Omani Joint Committee taking place in Kuwait. Several high-ranking officials attended the reception, including Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya. Other attendees included key diplomatic figures from both Kuwait and Oman.

Continued on Page 5

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Thursday a cable of condolences to King of Spain Felipe VI on the tragic loss of life and widespread damage to property caused by floods in Spain's eastern region of Valencia. In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed sincere condolences over fatalities, wished speedy recovery for the injured and for Spain to overcome the repercussions of this natural disaster. Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent Thursday a cable of condolences to King of Spain Felipe VI on the tragic loss of life and widespread damage to property caused by floods in Spain's eastern region of Valencia.

Continued on Page 5

Online sales fuel spike

Citizens, residents spent KD 35.9b in nine months

By Mahmoud Shendi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Central Bank of Kuwait has reported a 5 percent increase in spending by citizens and residents during the first nine months of 2024, reaching 35.9 billion dinars compared to 34.2 billion dinars during the same period in 2023.

This increase was primarily driven by a surge in spending through online platforms, which accounted for 14.28 billion dinars of the total spending.

According to the bank's data, the value of point-of-sale (POS) transactions domestically during this period amounted to 12.9 billion dinars, while transactions abroad reached 1 billion dinars, totaling 13.9 billion dinars.

In terms of automated teller machine (ATM) transactions, the data indicated that domestic transactions totaled 7.4 billion dinars, with 200 million dinars occurring abroad, resulting in a total of 7.6 billion dinars. Online transactions for the same

Continued on Page 5

Illegal party in Salmiya ends in multiple arrests

Plans crumble as police disperse 'guests'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, has issued an order to stop an unlicensed party taking place in Salmiya, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The directive included dispersing 'guests' from the premises and arresting all staff members and persons responsible for organizing the event.

In a statement on the "X" platform, the Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior reported that the Criminal Security Sector of the Criminal Investigations Department (Department of Public Morals Protection and Combating Human Trafficking) was alerted about an unauthorized party scheduled at a games and entertainment center in Salmiya.

After receiving this information, a team of detectives was dispatched to the place in advance to survey the area and found out the venue had been decorated with musical equipment in place including a DJ setup and speakers, in preparation for the event.

The Ministry acted in time to ensure the immediate suspension of the unlicensed activities.



Photo by Samer Shiqr

Vehicles navigate a rain-soaked Kuwait highway on Thursday as the country experienced scattered showers.

Rainy weekend ahead

Defense ministry readies for possible weather difficulties

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): The Ministry of Defense on Thursday convened a coordination meeting for senior officers to discuss the readiness and equipment of the "Al-Wajeb" force.

The meeting aimed to unify efforts and ensure effective collaboration among various sectors, preparing the forces to assist in safeguarding lives amid anticipated weather fluctuations.

Attendees included Staff Brigadier Salalah Al-Sallal, director of joint operations at the Operations and Planning Authority, and Staff Brigadier Meshal Fahad Al-Sabah, commander of the military police, along with representatives from relevant military and civil departments. The ministry emphasized the importance of being fully prepared to respond to any challenges posed by changing weather conditions.

Scattered rain is expected in Kuwait until dawn on Sunday, with the Kuwait Meteorological Department indicating that thundery showers may occur. According to Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi, the department's director, southeasterly winds will prevail, ranging from light to moderate speeds, with periods of increased activity.

This weekend is expected to feature moderate weather, with partly cloudy to cloudy skies during the day and cooler temperatures at night. The country is currently influenced by a low-pressure system at both the surface and upper atmospheric levels, which facilitates the formation of low and medium clouds mixed with cumulus clouds, enhancing the likelihood of scattered rain.

Continued on Page 5



T2: modernity, ease of travel converged



KFH concludes participation in IMF and WBG meetings in Washington



Online registration for NBK Run continues



Gulf Bank invites community to participate in upcoming marathon on Nov 30 during press conference with Suffix

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Ministry of Interior announced Thursday that the General Department of Civil Defense would test emergency sirens on Tuesday, Nov 5, at 10:00 a.m. local time in six governorates. The tests aim to inspect the sirens efficiency and to make citizens and residents aware of various indications of the sirens' tones, the ministry said in a statement (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Chairman Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah discussed on Wednesday with South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait Park Chung-sook aspects of civil aviation cooperation between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop it.

The Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a press statement that the meeting discussed bilateral cooperation, ways to develop it, and the best ways to achieve the desired economic feasibility in light of the strong relations between the two countries in various fields. (KUNA)

Kuwait strongly denounces Israeli aggression on Lebanon and Gaza

NEW YORK, Oct 31, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait strongly condemned the atrocities being committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people and the Lebanese people.

Addressing a UN General Assembly session on Wednesday, Kuwait's Diplomatic Attache Zainab Al-Mansouri said the Israeli occupation forces have systematically pursued the most horrible crimes against our brothers in Palestine since 1967.

"But these crimes escalated in the last year to a level that can be justly called a genocide," she said in a speech on behalf of the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations.

The UNGA session was discussing

a report by the International Criminal Court on the genocidal acts being committed by the Israeli occupation forces in Gaza Strip.

"The crimes being committed against civilians, including women and children, bear the hallmarks of genocide and crimes against humanity," Mansouri affirmed, citing the ICC report on mass killings, forced eviction of civilians, starvation, deprivation of medical aid, and maltreatment of prisoners.

"The scope of aggression by the Israeli occupation forces expanded to Lebanon as a result of inaction by the international community and lack of accountability," the Kuwaiti diplomat added.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait, US Air Force officials discuss key military interests

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): The Commander of the Air Defense Force, Major General Khaled Al-Shariaan, and the Commander of the Ahmad Al-Jaber Air Base and Acting Director of the Air Force Operations Directorate, Brigadier General Pilot Waleed Al-Otaibi, each received separately the Commander of the US Central Air Forces, Lieutenant Gen. Derek France.

During the meetings, topics of common interest were discussed, especially those related to military aspects, the Ministry of Defense stated in a press statement Thursday.



MoD photo
Air Defense Force Commander Major General Khaled Al-Shariaan during his reception of the Commander of the US Central Air Forces, Lieutenant General Derek France.

Major oil storage agreement to serve Asian markets

KPC to store 4m barrels of oil in S. Korea

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and Korea National Oil Corporation (KNOC) agreed on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in June and it was completed Thursday when the two entities decided to store four million barrels of crude oil at the KNOC storage facility in Ulsan City for two years.

In a ceremony held at the KPC Auditorium, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of

Continued on Page 5

489 stripped of citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): The Supreme Committee to Investigate Kuwaiti Citizenship held a meeting, Thursday, under the chairmanship of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, who is also head of the commission.

The Ministry of Interior said in a statement that the committee decided to strip 489 individuals of Kuwaiti citizenship, pending referral to the Cabinet.



KUNA photo
Group photo of leaders of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and Korea National Oil Corporation.

Road 40 partial closure Friday

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior's General Department of Traffic has announced that two lanes of King Fahad bin Abdulaziz Highway (Road 40) will be closed to traffic starting Friday. This partial closure is necessary to facilitate the rearrangement of roadside blocks.

The affected section will impact

the highway's bifurcations leading to and from the Jasem Al-Kharafi Expressway (6th Ring Road) and Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Expressway (5th Ring Road). Motorists are advised to plan their routes accordingly and expect potential delays as the work is carried out. Further updates will be provided as the situation develops.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:39	Asr	14:40
Sunrise ..	06:00	Maghrib ..	17:03
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:21

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Mild and partly cloudy to cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 10-42 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.
By Night: Mild to rather cold and cloudy with light to moderate

Weather			
freshening at times southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-42 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	28	20	
Kuwait Airport	29	18	

Abdaly	29	18
Bubyan	28	17
Jahra	30	18
Failaka Island	27	16
Salmiyah	27	21
Ahmadi	28	-
Jal Aliyah	29	18
Nuwaisib	30	19

‘Curricula must be at par with global changes’

Expedite transition to full e-correspondence, urges Education Minister

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei held an inspection tour of a number of schools Wednesday morning and took note of several observations regarding facilities and construction aspects that require immediate improvements to enhance the educational environment.

Following his tour, the minister convened a meeting with the ministry’s undersecretaries to discuss critical issues affecting those working in education.

He reviewed the suggested solutions for the concerns he identified in the schools and stressed the urgency in implementing corrective measures to improve school conditions.

In an effort to improve direct communication with educational leaders and achieve tangible reforms, Minister Al-Tabtabaei called for holding separate meetings with each of the ministry’s undersecretaries for a more detailed discussion of the specific challenges faced by each sector. The timing of these meetings will be determined later.



Al-Tabtabaei

The minister also instructed the undersecretaries to improve the Sahel application’s communication mechanisms with citizens.

He tasked the Public Relations Department with screening the topics raised in the application, and ensuring that all issues are thoroughly addressed by the relevant sectors in order to enhance public communication.

Al-Tabtabaei stressed the need to expedite the transition to fully electronic correspondence, which will facilitate administrative procedures, reduce paper usage, and improve the efficiency and speed of responses to requests. This digital transformation of correspondence within the ministry was highlighted as a key focus of the meeting.

The minister affirmed the importance of developing curricula that reflect global educational changes and highlighted the need for focusing on teacher support as a crucial pillar for ensuring quality education.

Al-Tabtabaei’s commitment to closely monitoring the educational landscape and implementing swift, practical improvements is evident in his call to enhance both curricula development and the working conditions for administrators and teachers.

He also stressed the urgency of advancing digital transformation within the ministry, insisting that strengthening the infrastructure for distance education is

essential.

The minister noted that digital education has become a pressing necessity, and the ministry must be prepared to provide flexible educational solutions at any time.

According to sources, the meeting addressed several critical topics, with the main focus on job openings, which represent a key factor affecting the advancement of the educational process. The minister affirmed the importance of promptly and effectively addressing these vacancies to ensure the stability of the educational process and prevent any disruption to students’ progress in school.

In addition, discussions included ways to develop the learning environment in line with current educational reform trends.

The sources said, “Minister Al-Tabtabaei is highly committed to implement reform, and is dedicated to applying concrete measures aimed at enhancing educational standards and the ministry’s performance. He is eager to achieve measurable outcomes that foster the overall growth of the educational process, particularly by improving working conditions for teachers and administrators and ensuring a qualified workforce.”

They added that the meeting affirmed the importance of integrated collaboration across all ministry sectors, with a focus on identifying clear priorities to address the most pressing issues in the educational and pedagogical fields.



Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan checks the progress of work at the new airport terminal.

KUNA photo

T2: modernity, ease of travel converged

‘Kuwait image transformed’

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Mohammad Al-Mashaan has inspected the new airport project in the presence of the members of the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) headed by Essam Dawood Ahmed Al-Marzouq to personally look into the latest developments and follow up the implementation in order to move towards expediting the completion of the project.

Al-Mashaan affirmed her commitment in developing the infrastructure of the air transport sector in the country by adopting the best international standards in the civil aviation industry. She also stressed the need for coordinated efforts to address pending issues related to the new passenger terminal (T2) project.

She called for speedy completion of the project with the required quality and efficiency according to the approved technical specifications and adherence to the timetable, emphasizing the importance of coordination with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in this regard.

She added the government is keen on improving capabilities and providing the necessary facilities to complete the project and operate all airport services and facilities as per the timetable.

Progress

A visual presentation on the progress of the project was also conducted during the minister’s visit.

The minister clarified that the aim of this visit is to closely monitor the progress of the project, and identify and overcome challenges.

She added this is one of the ambitious national projects that aim to develop and modernize the country’s infrastructure in line with the New Kuwait 2035 vision and transformation of the country into a regional and global financial and commercial center that attracts investment. She affirmed that an agreement has been reached to complete the project as scheduled.

Meanwhile, Al-Marzouq expressed his appreciation for the vital role that national professionals and young people play in the implementation of the project in accordance with the principles of professionalism, competence and accountability.

Other Voices

Emergence of ‘sustainability’

Dr. Jaber Eid Al-Wanda
International Consultant, Sustainable Development
Deputy General Manager – Al-Najaf Charity

In the previous article, we briefly touched on the definition of sustainability. Let me continue, dear reader, with a quick overview of the key milestones that led to the adoption of the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the member states of the United Nations should observe and adhere to.

The beginning was in 1972 when the United Nations held a conference on the environment and human beings in Stockholm, through which interest in comprehensive development began to grow. This conference paved the way for the emergence of the term sustainable development. In 1983, the United Nations General Assembly established the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), which later became known as the Brundtland Commission. In 1987, the commission published a report titled ‘Our Common Future’, in which sustainable development was defined in its previous sense, a definition that was later adopted and widely spread.

In 1992, the United Nations held the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which led to the establishment of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), making the concept of sustainable development a global concern. Then, in 2000, the Millennium Summit took place in New York, resulting



Dr Al-Wanda

in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aimed to be achieved by the end of 2015. These eight goals were: eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development.

In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, where the previous eight goals were reaffirmed, and additional goals were added, such as reducing the harmful effects of chemicals and halting biodiversity loss. In 2012, the United Nations convened a conference on sustainable development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20), where it was agreed to establish common goals to be included in the post year 2015 development agenda, with a focus on the principle of “sustainable development” and its social, environmental, and economic dimensions.

Then came 2015, the year when the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to include the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the sustainable development agenda for countries through 2030. This resolution was officially issued in January 2016.

So, what are these seventeen goals? What is their relationship to the charitable sector, and do they align with our principles, customs, and priorities?

To be continued

KISR seeks to upgrade research, resources in 10th strategic plan

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has started its preparatory meetings for the launching of its 10th strategic plan covering the years 2025 to 2030.

Acting Director General of KISR Dr. Mishaan Al-Otaibi explained that “we are working hard to ensure that the new plan keeps pace with the developmental leaps witnessed in the fields of knowledge, technology and innovation around the world. It aims to improve the use of the institute’s resources and in line with the development plan of Kuwait and its vision for 2035. Like its predecessors, it focuses on applied scientific research on sustainable development, addressing the problems of national sectors, and enabling them to improve their outputs and adopt the best technologies and practices. It will contribute to strengthening connection with the priorities of the economic, productive and development sectors in the country.”



Dr. Al-Otaibi

Al-Otaibi disclosed that they evaluated the achievements of the previous plan and identified the needs of the productive and service sectors in the fields of Science and technology; hence, the need for coordination with the institute’s clients and beneficiaries.

He added the institute also pays attention to extracting the plan’s goals from developmental trends and from the main State plans related to economic and social development and modern uses and applications in Science and technology, taking into account the scientific structure, experience and knowledge of KISR.

He affirmed that the institute was one of the first to adopt planning in its work and has had extensive experience in this direction. Since an early period, it has sought to achieve its goals and carry out its tasks through five-year strategic plans, the first of which was from 1978 to 1984, he revealed.

He added the institute continued to develop the method of preparing its strategic plans for about 50 years, during which it organized the implementation of nine strategic plans that included many axes, such as the research and development axis, which includes research programs and studies; the scientific and technical consulting axis, which includes technical and analytical services, in addition to interest in developing human resources and research infrastructure, among many others.

Focus on arts, culture

Kuwait and IMA bridging Arab, Western world gap

PARIS, Oct 31, (KUNA): The support given by Kuwait to the Paris Arab World Institute (IMA) is so immeasurable that it would ensure that the Arab voice would reach the western world, especially during the current tumultuous situation in the Middle East, said the IMA president Thursday.

The IMA, usually focusing on arts and culture, plays an important role in defusing tension and bringing people from around the world closer together, Jack Lang said in an exclusive interview to KUNA.

Lang lauded the cooperation between the IMA and the State of Kuwait, saying it was a cornerstone in bringing the voice of Arabs to the western world.

Historically, the State of Kuwait played a crucial role in assisting the IMA since it was established in the 1980 especially during the institute’s dire financial situations, Lang affirmed. He added that Kuwait took the task of renovating the IMA’s library in 2017, noting that the facility was opened to the public and offered various Arabic books and manuscripts.

Lang affirmed that the IMA also bridged the gap between the West and Arab world providing crucial insights into Arab culture via exhibitions, symposiums, and other important events

The current situation in Palestine and Lebanon reinforced the role of the institute in this day and age, said the IMA chief, indicating in the case of Palestine, the IMA had launched an exhibition highlighting Palestinian creativity back in May and November of 2023 in addition to countless events and conferences on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Also in 2023, the IMA launched the “What Palestine Brings to the World,” exhibition as part of the efforts to cast light on the plight of the Palestinian people during the Gaza war and also to highlight their artistic and cultural inputs.

On Lebanon, Lang pointed out that the IMA had held numerous events in support of Lebanon namely after the Beirut port explosion in 2020.

He warned that the current Israeli occupation assault on Lebanon threatened various sites including Baalbek city, which was included in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in 1984.

Back to the IMA mission, Lang indicated that the institute did not want to influence public opinion directly; however, it does focus on Arab cultural contribution as a means to bring people together to appreciate art and culture rather than focusing on conflict and confrontation.

PAHW plans 40 KD1.5 bln projects

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has unveiled plans to implement 40 housing projects valued at up to 1.5 billion Kuwaiti dinars, with additional contracts currently in the tender phase.

Nasser Khuraibet, Deputy Director General for Planning and Design Affairs, revealed that the institution manages 9,669 residential units rented to Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis, situated in the Sabah Al-Salem Complex, as well as the Sulaibiya and Taima areas. The affordable housing project, aimed at Kuwaiti women, will feature modern, spacious designs of 350 square meters over two floors.

In a recent television interview, Khuraibet highlighted the institution’s commitment to expediting housing projects, aided by digital services that have streamlined citizens’ transactions without requiring physical visits to the institution. He also noted a new approach focused on integrating renewable and solar energy into public building projects.

Furthermore, Khuraibet shared that the designs for East Taima, East Sabah Al-Ahmad, and affordable housing units prioritize pedestrian and bicycle paths, enhancing accessibility to essential services without car dependency. He added that the demand for residential apartments in Jaber Al-Ahmad and Northwest Sulaibikhat has risen, attributing this to their proximity to the sea, privacy, and ample living spaces, which have positively impacted their market value.

Kuwait, Oman ink 9 MoUs in various fields: FM Al-Yahya

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): Kuwait and Oman signed nine memoranda of understanding (MoU) and executive programs in various fields, said Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya Thursday.

In remarks to KUNA, the Kuwaiti minister lauded the official visit made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, Bader Al-Buseidi, to the State of Kuwait, which lasted for two days on the occasion of the tenth session of the joint committee between the two brotherly countries.

Minister Al-Yahya stressed after the conclusion of the joint committee meeting, that this visit is of special importance, as it comes within the framework of strengthening the historical bilateral relations and pushing them towards unprecedented levels of strategic cooperation in various fields in line with the wise vision of the leaderships of the two countries.

He also affirmed that this partnership is pro-

ceeding steadily towards building a common future, as the two countries attach great importance to strengthening existing cooperation and expanding its scope to serve the interests of the two brotherly peoples under the direct guidance and insightful vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq.

The minister noted that the work of the joint committee came at a time that comes in light of a number of increasing regional challenges, which makes strengthening bilateral and regional partnerships a strategic necessity to achieve security, stability and development. Minister Al-Yahya stated that the two sides signed 9 memoranda of understanding and executive programs that reflect multiple fields including cooperation in cultural fields, mutual recognition of maritime certificates, municipal work, consumer protection and land transport.

In addition to enhancing cooperation in the

fields of agricultural, animal and fish wealth, endowments and religious affairs, tourism and civil service.

Al-Yahya said that these agreements aim to provide an institutional framework that contributes to achieving sustainable development, exchanging expertise and developing human cadres, stressing that cooperation in these fields enhances the role of government institutions and expands opportunities for partnership between the public and private sectors.

Minister Al-Yahya stressed that the results of the joint committee meeting will constitute a qualitative shift in the course of Kuwaiti-Omani relations and will establish a new phase of strategic cooperation.

He also expressed his aspiration for more joint meetings to deepen and develop this partnership in a way that achieves security and stability in the region.

Traffic law revision: much required move for safety

“THE current traffic law in Kuwait, enacted in 1976, is outdated, particularly when its minimal penalties are considered. To realize the noble vision of transforming Kuwait into a global financial and commercial hub, it is imperative to tackle the traffic crisis and reduce accident rates, making the country more attractive for investment,” columnist **Tarek Hamada** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

“Since assuming his responsibilities, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, has shown significant interest in traffic issues.



“Last week, Major General Tareq Hamada Al-Yusuf Al-Khadda, the Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic and Operations at the Ministry of Interior, revealed that amending the traffic law is essential to lowering the rates of serious violations and accidents, which currently amount to approximately 300 traffic mishaps daily.

“Traffic accidents are the second leading cause of fatalities in Kuwait, following heart disease.

“Major General Al-Khuda outlined key features of the new law, including that no fine will be less than 15 Kuwaiti dinars for parking violations.

“The penalty for using a mobile phone while driving will increase to 75 dinars, and the fine for reckless driving will be raised to 150 dinars.

“Similarly, running a red light will incur a fine of 150 dinars, and the penalty for street racing will increase from 50 to 150 dinars under the new regulations.

“He noted that these amendments would be submitted by Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef to the Cabinet for approval before being forwarded to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad.

“It is expected that some individuals may oppose the amendments to the traffic law, primarily those who do not understand the consequences of their negligence and failure to adhere to the law.

“This segment exists in all societies but is outweighed by the majority -- citizens and residents -- who view compliance with traffic laws as a protective measure for themselves and their families against potential harm caused by legal violations.

“The Ministry of Interior aims to reduce accidents rather than merely collect fines. It is important to note that the costs associated with traffic accidents account for approximately 3 percent of Kuwait’s GDP, resulting in hundreds of deaths each year, predominantly among young people, and causing a range of injuries and disabilities, from moderate to severe and permanent.

“The Kuwaiti proverb (Do not steal, so you will not fear) can be adapted for violators, implying that if one abides by the law, they need not worry about financial penalties while protecting themselves and others. This encapsulates the government’s intent -- nothing more, nothing less.

“The life of any individual is invaluable and cannot be compensated by money. The new law aims to encourage anyone considering a violation to reconsider their actions. It is hoped that everyone will refrain from breaking the law and that God will protect everyone from harm, keeping Kuwait safe under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid.

“The announcement by the Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior regarding the arrest of a gang in possession of 22 tons of subsidized food-stuffs necessitates not only the referral of the gang to the prosecution but also an investigation into how these goods reached them and addressing the vulnerabilities in the system that allowed for this leak.

“The General Administration of Customs must enforce stricter measures to prevent the smuggling of food supplies to protect public funds and combat the rising prices of food and consumer goods.”

Also:

“Following the September 11, 2001 events, the Council of Ministers, led by Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad (may God have mercy on him), decided to establish a ministerial committee to ensure that Kuwaiti charitable societies and committees operated transparently, adhered to legal requirements, and were free from any potential errors or suspicions,” columnist **Ahmad Yaqoub Baqer** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“Headed by Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and joined by Dr. Yusef Al-Ibrahim (Finance), Ahmad Baqer (Justice), Talal Al-Ayyar (Affairs), and officials from various agencies, the committee aimed to reinforce oversight and ensure lawful opera-

tions.

“The committee’s recommendations, approved by the Council of Ministers, required that international financial transfers be conducted solely through official channels overseen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Additionally, the Ministry of Affairs would monitor all activities, prohibiting cash donations to further enhance accountability.

“These measures were welcomed by charitable societies in Kuwait, aligning with the public’s desire to maintain integrity in charitable work and avoid any reputational harm to Kuwait.

“Charitable leaders recognized that accountability for individual errors was necessary without casting doubt on the charitable sector as a whole.

“In stark contrast to these strict regulations, recent actions by the Israeli Knesset, suspending UNRWA’s work, threaten the welfare of Palestinian civilians who rely on this humanitarian aid amidst ongoing violence, starvation, and displacement.

“Despite worldwide condemnation -- including from the United States -- the global response remains limited to verbal objections, while weapons continue to flow to Israel.

“Meanwhile, the US has taken a firm stance against some charitable organizations accused of financing terrorism, adding them to blacklists without judicial rulings, despite evidence provided by Kuwait’s Foreign Ministry to demonstrate innocence in various international meetings.

“The inconsistency is concerning: the United States condemns certain charitable groups while overlooking severe humanitarian issues and UNRWA’s suspension in Palestine, an organization it has officially recognized and not labeled as terrorist. This position is puzzling, especially as the US supports fairness and judicial evidence.

“In 1992, Kuwait’s Fact-Finding Committee evaluated and recommended renewing the security agreement with the United States, acknowledging its crucial role in Kuwait’s liberation.

“While Kuwait values its strategic partnership with the US across security, trade and more, it urges the United States to adopt a balanced stance on Kuwaiti charitable societies, support for Palestinian assistance and a fair humanitarian approach in the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly given Israel’s repeated violations of international treaties and agreements.”

□ □ □

“THE new traffic law, which is being presented as a looming threat against us in the manner of the saying, “You will be attacked, either by the wolf or his son”, is set to implement significantly harsher penalties and doubled fines. While the intention behind tightening penalties may be to improve street safety, we wonder what has been offered in return to the Kuwaiti citizens”, columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“For instance, when the fines for “No Parking” violations were tripled, did you create additional parking spaces in markets and public areas? The answer is no. Even temporary parking spaces in these areas are often occupied early by shop owners and employees, leaving citizens with no choice but to park in prohibited areas at the risk of getting fines. So, is the fault truly with the citizens, or with the government’s lack of adequate infrastructure?

“Another concern is the status of violations under the old law. Will they be resolved, or will they remain unresolved? It appears that the traffic department lacks a clear plan for addressing these existing violations before implementing the new law. This poses a significant problem that may not be fully recognized now, but its implications will become apparent later, especially when new violators are held accountable under the old regulations.

“Is it really that difficult to address these violations and establish a mechanism for dealing with them prior to the new law’s implementation?

“It is important that the implementation of the new traffic law is accompanied by a thorough review of forged driving licenses, as well as those issued illegally or through deceptive means. This is a longstanding issue inherited by successive administrations that remains unresolved.

“Also, many vehicles on the streets still belong to deceased owners or individuals who have permanently left the country. There are also cars registered in the names of expatriates, despite the new law prohibiting them from owning more than one vehicle. For example, you could ask Abdul Fattah Al-Ali about the number of cars registered under the name of one of the chefs.

“Finally, will the violation records be transferred to the sons of Kuwaiti women? Some of these individuals have become a burden to Kuwaitis due to lingering psychological effects, an issue we should address thoughtfully. God willing, we can find a resolution.”

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes/
Mahmoud Attiyeh



Kuwait Fire Force at the site of the accident.

KFF photo

One dead, many hurt in accident

One person died and six others were injured, some of them seriously, in a traffic accident involving two vehicles on the Al-Salmi Road this morning, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The daily quoting Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) sources said traffic was disrupted for some time until the General Traffic Department with help of firemen removed the damaged vehicles to the side of the road.

The daily added, the injured were taken to the nearby hospital for treatment after they were given

first aid by the emergency medical services personnel on site.

Meanwhile, a vehicle collided with another and overturned on Al-Salmi Road, resulting in injuries to many individuals.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), when the Control Room of KFF received information about the accident, firefighters rushed to the location and handled the situation. Paramedics referred the injured victims to the nearest hospital for treatment.

Court Cases

Comp eyed in double trial

Court acquits man charged of ‘usury’

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Misde-meanor Court acquitted a citizen of usury (granting loans with exorbitant interest) , in which the amount involved reached KD 58,000.

The Public Prosecution charged the citizen with usury, because he took advantage of the victim’s need for money by granting loan with exorbitant interest.

The case was registered at Yarmouk Police Station.

According to the case files, the investigation officer confirmed that an agreement was reached between the plaintiff and the accused that the latter would hand over money to the former after an agreement between them that the borrower would return the money with interest. The officer did not mention the value or percentage of the interest.

The defendant’s lawyer, Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan, confirmed that his client lent KD58,000 to the plaintiff to help the latter, but he did not take any interest.

The lawyer argued that the statements of the victim and the investigation officer were presented without clear evidence. He pointed out there are no documents affirming that the accused committed usury, stressing

the innocence of his client.

□ □ □

Citizen files lawsuit: A citizen filed a civil compensation lawsuit at the Court of First Instance, demanding compensation of KD30,000 after being tried at the Criminal Court twice on the same charge and incident due to an error committed by employees in the ministries of Interior and Justice.

According to the case files, Attorney An’am Haidar confirmed that her client was tried at the Criminal Court twice for the same act and charge due to the error, including his arrest through the decision of the Criminal Court during the consideration of the second felony case for the act for which he had been acquitted.

Haidar added that her client defended himself by pointing out the serious professional error committed by the employees that put him on trial without committing a crime and in violation of the validity of judicial rulings.

She demanded compensation for the material and moral damages that the citizen suffered, considering the causal connection between the wrongful act and the damages.



Haidar



Al-Qattan



KFF photo

Mangaf Fire Station firemen during the drill.

Ahmadi Governor checks readiness of fire-fighters

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visited the Al-Mangaf Fire Station on Thursday to assess the readiness of the firefighters in Ahmadi Governorate.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), the governor was received by the Acting Director of Firefighting in Ahmadi Governorate Colonel Jarrah Abdullah Mubarak in the presence of the heads of centers and officers from the Ahmadi Governorate.

Drifter overruns, hurts cop ... in police custody

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): A reckless driver was arrested in Sabahiya area after he ran over a police officer and injuring him in the process, the Interior Ministry announced on Thursday.

A statement by the ministry revealed that the officer tried to stop the driver from carrying on his reckless acts before the latter intentionally ran over him and escaped.

After cordoning off Sabahiya, the perpetrator was pursued until the police seized him, it added.



Al-Muzain



Sheikh Fahad Yousef

Kuwait Army chief retires

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah issued a decision on Thursday to accept the retirement request submitted by the Chief of Staff of the Kuwait Army Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain of his own volition, and grant him the rank of Lieutenant General effective October 30, 2024.

In a press statement issued by the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Fahad commended Lieutenant General Al-Muzain for his significant contributions to the Kuwait Army over his 40-year career.

He highlighted Lieutenant General Al-Muzain’s dedication and the impact of his various roles on the army’s development.

Sheikh Fahad wished him continued success in his future endeavors.

Two lawyers get 3 years jail for false info spread

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Criminal Court has sentenced two lawyers to three years imprisonment each for spreading false information on TikTok. Following a complaint filed by the Minister, the State Security Service had arrested the lawyers and were subsequently released on bail by the Public Prosecution.

□ □ □

Blogger jailed: The Criminal Court, presided over by Counselor Dhuwaih Al-Dhuwaih, has sentenced a well-known tweeter to three years in prison with hard labor.

The tweeter, whose identity has not been disclosed, was charged with publishing false information regarding the country’s internal affairs and managing several notorious fake accounts operated from outside Kuwait, some of which were registered under women’s names in London.



A camping tent set up in the desert.

‘No livestock in tents’

Subletting of camping site strictly forbidden: official

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Faisal Al-Otaibi, head of the Camps Committee at Kuwait Municipality, has announced the formation of a specialized team to monitor advertisements and activities related to the subletting or commercial exploitation of spring camps, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Al-Otaibi confirmed that this team, in collaboration with the Environmental Police and the Public Environment Authority, will conduct field inspections to ensure that camp owners comply with the set regulations and requirements.

He emphasized that current regulations strictly prohibit subletting and any form of commercial activity within spring camps. Violations will result in immediate penalties, including license cancellation, camp removal at the violator’s expense, and confiscation of insurance. The municipality issues camping licenses to individuals, not companies, underscoring the intended private use of these camps.

Al-Otaibi added that livestock rearing is also strictly forbidden in spring camps. The municipality is coordinating with the Public Authority for Agriculture and Animal Resources to enforce this rule.

Premium
Diwali Sweets

PURE DESI GHEE
PREPARATION

A delightful treat everyone can enjoy
SPECIAL DISCOUNT ON PRE-ORDERS

ORDER NOW : 1800 188 / 55011985

Kuwait rallies global partners to tackle corruption's threats

Calls for united action to uphold transparency and integrity

UIA honors Kuwaiti lawyer as best national representative

PARIS, Oct 31, (KUNA): The International Association of Lawyers (UIA) on Wednesday honored the Vice President of the Kuwait Bar Association for International Relations, Abdulrahman Al-Tahous, as the best national representative in the union for 2024.

This happened during the 68th General Conference of the International Association of Lawyers, which is taking place in Paris from Wednesday October 3rd until Sunday November 3rd.

In a statement to KUNA, Kuwait representative in the union Abdulrahman Al-Tahous, expressed his happiness over receiving this honor from among 1,280 lawyers participating in the conference.

He dedicated this honor to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and his colleagues in the Bar Association.

Al-Tahous stressed that over the course of five years he has worked hard in the name of Kuwait, to make it stand out in international forums, he considers the honor he received a Kuwaiti achievement at the global level.

He encouraged everyone to strive towards ambitious goals, stressing the need for scientific competence as well as experience and dedication to work.

Al-Tahous was appointed by the Association at the UIA Executive Committee meeting held in Luxembourg on November 5th 2019, where he approved the appointments and renewals of the national representatives.

Additionally, Kuwait will host one of UIA's programs in April 2025, which will enhance Kuwait's position internationally.

Founded in 1927 and with members in 110 countries, the UIA is a global, multicultural organization for the legal profession that facilitates professional development, stimulates learning and communication, and promotes the rule of law.



KUNA photo
Vice President of the Kuwait Lawyers Association for International Relations Abdulrahman Al-Tahous and the upcoming President of the International Bar Association Fernando Gomez.

VIENNA, Oct 31, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has affirmed that corruption is a complex challenge that hinders development and destabilizes economies and jeopardizes public confidence in the ruling institutions.

The State of Kuwait is aware that facing this challenge cannot be achieved through individual efforts but collective one, said Rehab Al-Farhan, the Third Secretary of the State of Kuwait's Permanent Delegation at the UN in Vienna on Wednesday. She was addressing the 13th session of states parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA).

She has stated that the State of Kuwait stands on side of its international partners to boost global measures to fight corruption through cooperation and innovation. The senior Kuwaiti diplomat also affirmed that her country is fully adherent to strengthening the partnership with the academy in the face of corruption. Furthermore, Kuwait also aspires to expand the joint cooperation projects at this level, she added.

Al-Farhan noted that the State of Kuwait, through joint training programs and initiatives, is seeking to "bolster the capacities of our institutions and empower the personnel involved in maintaining integrity."

While Kuwait looks toward the future, it remains committed to explore new means for cooperation with the academy and the member states, she said, also expressing conviction that the collaborative efforts would be fruitful in the future, where principles of transparency, accountability and governance would prevail.

In the conclusion of her statement, the Third Secretary congratulated anew



KUNA photo
Rehab Al-Farhan, the Third Secretary of the State of Kuwait's Permanent Delegation at the UN in Vienna.

Slagjana Taseva on her appointment as the dean of the academy, wishing her success in her new tasks. She also affirmed Kuwait's aspiration to join hands with her to attain the academy's goals.

Moreover, the Third Secretary Al-Farhan expressed the State of Kuwait's admiration of the academy for organizing this crucial session, the ongoing efforts in combating corruption at the global level, affirming the unwavering support for the academy's message and objectives with respect of enhancing transparency, accountability and the wise governance.

Kuwait joins pan-Arab talks

Al-Huwailah commends Kuwaiti innovation for hearing impaired

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah on Tuesday lauded the invention of the smart ear-lens by engineer Mohammad Al-Shammari.

This innovation is a qualitative leap in the efforts of aiding people with hearing impairment, said Dr. Al-Huwailah, also the Minister of Family Affairs and Childhood in a statement to KUNA.

She made the remarks as she met Al-Shammari, who displayed his invention in front of a group of deaf students, explaining that the technology transforms voices into texts presented and readable on the lenses.

The minister expressed pride of this creativity that aids deaf students to be engaged in education via other means than hearing. She also pledged to support this project to render it accessible and tradable on a wide scale.



Dr. Al-Huwailah

The talks, attended by Kuwaiti Social Affairs Minister Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, mark the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family through delving into the existential hardships faced by Arab families, which include the effects of rapid advancements in technology, said the chief of a Qatar-based education and research body Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser.

The Qatari official cited the rampant misuse of technology, chief among them the concept of virtual reality, as having altered the landscape of society, further enhancing the increasingly significant role the family plays in addressing these challenges, she underlined.

On efforts to keep these challenges at bay, UN Deputy Secretary-General and chief of the UN's Sustainable Development Group Amina Mohammed highlighted "prudence" to overcome such hardships, citing long-term sustainable development plans as an effective strategy.

Hailing families as a pillar of a "flourishing" society, Doha's Social Affairs Minister Mariam Al-Mesnad said national development plans revolve around familial principles and values, further demonstrating the importance of family bonds.

The two-day conference, organized by a Qatar-based family advocacy body, looks into challenges and hardships faced by families in today's world, running the gamut from technological advancements and climate change.

Also:

DOHA: Kuwait took part in a Qatar-hosted conference pertinent to family trends and affairs, in addition to challenges facing kin from across the wider Arab region.

Public warned about fake government app

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): Spokesperson for the unified government application for e-services (Sahel), Yousef Kazem, urged citizens and residents to be cautious of unofficial links claiming to represent the government application, stressing that such links aim to commit phishing and electronic fraud. Kazem explained in a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that citizens and residents of the country should not interact with suspicious links and websites that impersonate the

name of the government application (Sahel). He noted that these links are spread on some websites and social media platforms, which requires verification from official sources.

He pointed out that the (Sahel) application is only available through digital stores for smartphones and not through any other links or websites, stressing the need to communicate with (Sahel) through the officially approved channels to ensure information security and safe usage.

NOVEMBER

Room Promotion

One Night Stay in a Queen Cabana
for 2 persons with inclusive of breakfast
was BHD 76.230

Now BHD 49.550 Net

One Night Stay in a 2 Bedroom Chalet
for 4 persons inclusive of breakfast
was BHD 170.247 Net

Now BHD 110.661 Net

Promo period from 1st November to 30th November 2024

Terms & conditions apply*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351

Email: reservation@albander.com

www.albander.com

@albanderhotelandresort

Poet Sheikha Afrah publishes collection of poems in English

SHEIKHA Afrah Al Sabah has released her collection of poems "Blue Passion" in English. Originally published in Arabic, Sheikha Afrah Al Mubarak Al Sabah said that the reason for publishing the English version is to convey the poet's thoughts, emotions, and culture to non-Arabic speaking readers, hoping they enjoy and appreciate the beauty and sophistication of Arabic poetry. "Translating poetry helps promote multicultural dialogue and the sharing of human experiences; reading poetry in a foreign language takes readers to new horizons where they learn about other cultures that ultimately nurtures tolerance and inclusiveness," she said.

The book "Blue Passion" is a collection of twenty poems each tells a different story inspired by nature, particularly the sea, as well as to strong sentimental experiences of nostalgic memories and remembrance of those who have left us behind to remember them. Reminiscing on the poet's innermost feelings of loss have often shaped Afrah Al Mubarak's personality as she describes how certain places and natural landscape have overwhelmed her by their beauty and stirred feelings of poetical melancholy. Afrah's diwan, that is her poetry book "Blue Passion", is a display of a collection of images illustrated by artist Dima Al Ghoneim.

During the publication of "Blue Passion", Al Sabah held several book signing events at the Kuwait International Book Fair, Muscat International Book Fair, and Cairo International Book Fair, where she expressed an interest in enriching cultural interactions and her belief that human understanding and empathy is an integral part of our lives. The poet regards her cultural engagement as an essential factor in building cohesive and sustainable communities.

Al-Sabah has previously published her poetry book, the 'Box', portraying a collection of poems delving deep into human emotions, visions and inspiration. In 2009, Afrah published 'Howl-



Sheikha Afrah Al Sabah



The 'Blue Passion' book

ing for a Silence that cannot be heard', orchestrating a fusion of poetry and heritage, capturing glimpses rare imagery of her own personal world spread beautifully over the pages in a rich and appealing panorama of her own personal human experience. The English version of the "Blue Passion" poetry book was published by the Dar Al Farasha Publishing House and was translated by Ms. Safia Al Khatib and her team of translators at the Inter-Lingual Translation and Linguistic Consultancy, Kuwait.

'Red Palace project preserves Kuwaiti heritage and culture'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): The director of the Red Palace Project Rawan Al-Dhafiri affirmed on Thursday that the Red Palace project in Al-Jahra area contributes to consolidating and preserving the Kuwaiti history, cultural heritage and civilization.

In a statement for KUNA, Al-Dhafiri said that Kuwait Municipality started putting a vision for the Red Palace project in line with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's directives to convey the ambiance of Al-Mubarkiya Market to Al-Jahra Governorate.

She noted that the municipality has developed the idea of the project, so it becomes an integrated park and heritage market to be held on a land area of 470,000 square meters adjacent to the Red Palace.



Al-Dhafiri

She added that it will also work to develop that agricultural land near the palace after it was allocated to the project by the decision of the municipal council.

She mentioned that the project will be divided into two parts, northern and southern, and will be separated by a street, stressing the municipality's keenness to preserve the environment through creating a recreational park that includes a farmers' market that preserves crops and plants in the northern part.

She also stated that the project will include cultural components that increase the cultural and historical awareness of the area, such as a poetry library, an outdoor theater, workshops and kiosks for small and medium businesses, with special spaces for children.

She pointed out that the southern part of the project will include a traditional market similar to Al-Mubarkiya Market, including specialized markets, such as the gold market, the dates market and the clothing market, in addition to including the part on a large stage for celebrations.



Top: Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump talks to reporters as he sits in a garbage truck on Oct 30, in Green Bay, Wis. Above: Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris greets the Wisconsin Badgers women's volleyball team before speaking at a campaign rally at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wis on Wednesday. (AP)

Trump boards garbage truck to draw attention to Biden remark

Vice President Harris promises to ‘represent all Americans’

MADISON, Wis., Oct 31, (AP): Kamala Harris called Wednesday for Americans to “stop pointing fingers at each other” as she tried to push past comments made by President Joe Biden about Donald Trump’s supporters and “garbage” and keep the focus on her Republican opponent in the closing days of the race.

“We know we have an opportunity in this election to turn the page on a decade of Donald Trump, who has been trying to keep us divided and afraid of each other,” the Democratic nominee said.

Harris held rallies in a trio of battleground states as part of a blitz in the closing week of the election, with stops Wednesday in Raleigh, North Carolina; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Madison, Wisconsin.

She stressed unity and common ground, expanding on her capstone speech Tuesday in Washington, where she laid out what her team called the “closing argument” of her campaign.

“I am not looking to score political points,” the vice president said. “I am looking to make progress.”

As she waited for Harris to take the stage in Raleigh, 35-year-old Liz Kazal said she was “cautiously optimistic” about the election. She’s tried to volunteer for the campaign every week, including making phone calls, knocking on doors with her toddler daughter and raising money for Harris’ candidacy.

“You hope for the best and plan for the worst,” Kazal said.

Meanwhile, the White House rushed to explain that the president’s comment about “garbage” was a reference to rhetoric from Trump allies, not Trump’s supporters themselves. Press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden “does not view Trump supporters

or anybody who supports Trump as garbage.”

The controversy began Tuesday - at the same time Harris was speaking near the White House - when Biden participated in a campaign call organized by the Hispanic advocacy group Voto Latino. Biden used the opportunity to criticize Sunday’s Madison Square Garden rally, where a comedian described Puerto Rico as a “floating island of garbage.”

“The only garbage I see floating out there is his supporters. His demonization of Latinos is unconscionable, and it’s un-American,” Biden said. “It’s totally contrary to everything we’ve done, everything we’ve been.”

Harris told reporters before boarding Air Force Two for her flight to Raleigh that she disagrees “with any criticism of people based on who they vote for.”

“I will represent all Americans, including those who don’t vote for me,” she said.

Meanwhile, Trump walked down the steps of the Boeing 757 that bears his name, walked across a rain-soaked tarmac and, after twice missing the handle, climbed into the passenger seat of a white garbage truck that also carried his name.

The former president, once a reality TV star known for his showmanship, wanted to draw attention to a remark made a day earlier by his successor, Democratic President Joe Biden, that suggested Trump’s supporters were garbage. Trump has used the remark as a cudgel against his Democratic rival, Vice President Kamala Harris.

“How do you like my garbage truck?” Trump said, wearing an orange and yellow safety vest over his white dress shirt and red tie. “This is in honor of Kamala and Joe Biden.”

Trump and other Republicans were facing push-

back of their own for comments by a comedian at a weekend Trump rally who disparaged Puerto Rico as a “floating island of garbage.” Trump then seized on a comment Biden made on a late Wednesday call that “The only garbage I see floating out there is his supporters.”

The president tried to clarify the comment afterward, saying he had intended to say Trump’s demonization of Latinos was unconscionable. But it was too late.

On Thursday, after arriving in Green Bay, Wisconsin, for an evening rally, Trump climbed into the garbage truck, carrying on a brief discussion with reporters while looking out the window - similar to what he did earlier this month during a photo opportunity he staged at a Pennsylvania McDonalds.

He again tried to distance himself from comedian Tony Hinchcliffe, whose joke had set off the firestorm, but Trump did not denounce it. He also said he did not need to apologize to Puerto Ricans.

“I don’t know anything about the comedian,” Trump said. “I don’t know who he is. I’ve never seen him. I heard he made a statement, but it was a statement that he made. He’s a comedian, what can I tell you. I know nothing about him.”

A spokesperson for Trump said the joke doesn’t reflect his views, but the former president has not addressed it himself.

“I love Puerto Rico and Puerto Rico loves me,” Trump said from the garbage truck.

He ended the brief appearance by telling reporters: “I hope you enjoyed this garbage truck. Thank you very much.”

When he took the stage a short time later, he was still wearing the orange vest.

Democrats leaning on celebrity star power

Speaker Johnson pulling closer to Trump to save GOP’s House majority

HOLLAND, Ohio, Oct 31, (AP): Wherever House Speaker Mike Johnson goes, Donald Trump, seemingly, is not far away.

At a campaign stop for a House Republican candidate outside of Toledo, Johnson held up his cell phone as he has a dozen times before, and started filming - “Hey, Mr. President!” The crowd at the county GOP headquarters a couple hundred people deep knew what to do next.

“Is President Trump going to win Ohio?” They roared.

As Johnson travels the country trying to save his House Republican majority, and his own job as speaker, he has linked ever more tightly to Trump, a once uncertain relationship that has become increasingly beneficial to both.

The speaker is relying on the former president for his own political survival in the chaotic House, but also presenting himself as a partner to Trump, prepared to potentially challenge the election results, and, if Trump retakes the White House, deliver a MAGA agenda in Congress. Trump said over the weekend they have a “little secret” for winning, and Johnson, who backed a legal challenge to the 2020 election Trump lost, did not contradict him.

With the presidency and control of Congress at stake, Johnson, who in many ways is an accidental House speaker after taking over after Kevin McCarthy was ejected in a historic far-right revolt, is uniquely positioned to play a central role in both outcomes.

“We’ve been working on this assumption all along that we have to make it ‘too big to rig,’” - and that’s not just a slogan,” Johnson told The Associated Press between campaign stops in Ohio over the weekend.

If Trump wins, as Johnson expects he will, “this will all be an afterthought.”

And if not?

“We’ll sort it out. We’re going to follow all the way through.”

It’s a remarkable journey for Johnson, 52, a religious-rights lawyer from Louisiana, first elected alongside Trump in 2016 and now second in the line of succession to the presidency. He celebrated his first year on the job last week, before arriving in the Buckeye State, among 230 cities in 40 states he has visited since seizing the gavel.



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., (center), joined by Rep. Bob Latta, R-Ohio, (right), and Ohio state Rep. Derek Merrin, speaks during a campaign event at the Lucas County Republican Party headquarters in Holland, Ohio on Oct 26. (AP)

To hear Johnson tell it, Trump “is the head coach” and “I’ll be the quarterback,” and together they are preparing to run the play on an “ambitious” 100-day agenda with Republican senators - cutting taxes, securing the US border and taking a “blow torch” to federal regulations - if they sweep the White House and Congress.

Meanwhile, Kamala Harris has Bruce Springsteen, Taylor Swift and Beyoncé. Donald Trump has Kid Rock, Waka Flocka Flame and Hulk Hogan.

As the 2024 campaign whirls into its final week, Democrats are noticeably leaning on their star power advantage, calling on a diverse range of celebrities to endorse Harris, invigorate audiences and, they hope, spur people to the ballot box.

Democrats have long enjoyed a celebrity advantage and used it to close out presidential campaigns when attention and energy are critical. That upper hand has grown during Trump’s rise, a period that saw scores of celebrities, even apolitical stars, break their silence and speak out against the Republican leader. The advantage often means raucous, fiery events in the closing days of a race, but history - namely Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign - highlights how the energy at

those events can sometimes paper over broader issues with a candidate.

Weeks before the election on Oct. 20, Harris got an assist from music legend Stevie Wonder in Jonesboro, Georgia, who rallied churchgoers with a rendition of Bob Marley’s “Redemption Song.” Days later in Atlanta, Harris and former President Barack Obama headlined a rally that featured a performance by Springsteen and speeches from famed filmmaker Spike Lee and actor Samuel L. Jackson. The campaign followed that up a day later with a rally in Texas featuring a performance by Willie Nelson and a speech from Beyoncé.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, Harris’ running mate, has also benefited from the celebrity push. Singer-songwriter James Taylor performed at events with the governor in North Carolina earlier in the month. And Walz, along with Harris, spoke at an event in Michigan on Monday that included a five-song set from singer-songwriter Maggie Rogers.

“I come for Harris,” said Ashley Oberheide, a neighborhood resident who attended the outdoor Harris rally held in Ann Arbor’s Burns Park. “I love that musical acts are getting behind her, but I am always here for Harris.” She called Rogers an “added bonus.”



Members of the local police react to the news of one of their colleagues who died in the floods in Valencia, Spain on Oct 31. (AP)

Spain searches for bodies after flood claims 95 lives

Survivors of the worst natural disaster to hit Spain this century awoke to scenes of devastation on Thursday after villages were wiped out by monstrous flash floods that claimed at least 95 lives. The death toll is expected to rise as search efforts continue with officials removing bodies from vehicles and an unknown number of people still

missing.

“Unfortunately, there are dead people inside some vehicles,” said Spain’s Transport Minister Oscar Puente in reference to hundreds of cars and trucks stranded on roads stained brown with mud.

The aftermath of the floods looked eerily similar to the damage left by a strong hurricane or tsunami.

Cars piled on one another like broken toys, uprooted trees, downed power lines and household items all mired in a layer of mud covered the streets of Barrio de la Torre, a suburb of Valencia, just one of dozens of damaged localities in the hard-hit region of Valencia, where 92 people died between late Tuesday and Wednesday morning. (AP)

US allies in Europe face challenging times, whoever wins presidential election

BERLIN, Oct 31, (AP): The United States’ European allies are bracing for an America that’s less interested in them no matter who wins the presidential election - and for old traumas and new problems if Donald Trump returns to the White House.

The election comes more than 2 1/2 years into Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, in which Washington has made the single biggest contribution to Kyiv’s defense. There are question marks over whether that would continue under Trump, and how committed he would be to NATO allies in general.

A win by Vice President Kamala Harris could be expected to bring a continuation of current policy, though with Republican opposition and growing war fatigue among the US public there are concerns in Europe that support would wane.

Trump’s appetite for imposing tariffs on US partners also is causing worry in a Europe already struggling with sluggish economic growth. But it’s not



US President Joe Biden and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier inspect the military honour guard during the welcoming ceremony at Bellevue Palace in Berlin, Germany on Oct 18. (AP)

just the possibility of a second Trump presidency that has the continent anxious about tougher times ahead.

European officials believe US priorities lie elsewhere, no matter who wins. The Middle East is top of President Joe Biden’s list right now, but the long-term priority is China.

“The centrality of Europe to US foreign policy is different than it was in Biden’s formative years,” said Rachel Tausendfreund, a senior research fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin. “And in that way, it is true that Biden is the last trans-Atlantic president.”

The U.S. will continue to pivot toward Asia, she said. “That means Europe has to step up. Europe has to become a more capable partner and also become more capable of managing its own security area.”

Germany’s defense minister, Boris Pistorius, remarked when he signed a new defense pact with NATO ally Britain that the US will focus more on



Rescuers help people after a multi-storey apartment building was hit by Russian attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine on Oct 30. (AP)

Russian bomb hits building in Ukraine, 3 killed

Russian forces struck a residential building in Ukraine’s second-largest city of Kharkiv on Thursday, killing three, including two teenage boys, and injuring scores of others, and launched scores of other attacks as they continued their grinding onslaught in the country’s east.

Regional head Oleh Syniehubov said one of the boys, aged 12, was fatally injured when the building was hit by a Russian 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) glide bomb.

“He was freed from under the rub-

ble with severe head injuries and fractures,” Syniehubov wrote on social media. “Doctors performed resuscitation measures for more than half an hour. Unfortunately, it was not possible to save the child.”

Syniehubov said later that rescuers also retrieved the bodies of a 15-year-old boy and an unidentified man from the debris.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said at least 35 people were injured in the attack and others could still be trapped under the rubble.

Russia has increasingly used powerful glide bombs to pummel Ukrainian positions along the 1,000-kilometer (600-miles) line of contact and strike cities dozens of kilometers (miles) from the front line.

Early Thursday, Russia also fired 10 missiles of various types at the Dniester Estuary bridge that connects the northern and southern parts of the Odesa region, Ukraine’s air force said, adding that only two of them were intercepted. It didn’t say whether the bridge was hit. (AP)

America

Musk wins court victory: A federal agency was wrong to order that Tesla CEO Elon Musk delete a 2018 social media post that union leaders saw as a threat to employee stock options, a sharply divided federal appeals court has ruled.

The case involved a post made on what was then known as Twitter during United Auto Workers organizing efforts at a Tesla facility in Fremont, California. The post was made years before Musk bought the platform, now known as X, in 2022.

The National Labor Relations Board said it was an illegal threat. After Tesla appealed, three judges on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld that decision. (AP)

□ □ □

Man guilty of murder: A jury has found a man guilty of breaking into a room at a Las Vegas Strip hotel-casino and robbing and killing two Vietnamese tour leaders in June 2018.

Julius Damiano Deangilo Trotter stood with his lawyers, shaking his head and glancing several times at jurors while the unanimous verdicts were read Tuesday in Clark County District Court, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported. (AP)



A refugee man stands in front of a tent at a camp inside the UN controlled buffer zone that divides the north part of the Turkish occupied area from the south Greek Cypriots at Aglantzia area in the divided capital Nicosia, Cyprus on Aug 9. (AP)

‘Allow passage to asylum seekers’

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Oct 31, (AP): A senior official with Europe’s top human rights watchdog has urged the government of ethnically divided Cyprus to allow passage to nearly three dozen asylum seekers out of a UN-controlled buffer zone where they have been stranded in tents for months.

Michael O’Flaherty, the Council of Europe’s Commissioner for Human Rights, said in a letter released on Wednesday that despite receiving food, water and other aid, some 35 people,

including young children, continue to face “poor living conditions” that make it difficult for them to obtain items such as formula milk and diapers for babies.

The migrants, who come from countries including Syria, Iran, Sudan, Afghanistan and Cameroon are stuck in a buffer zone that separates the breakaway Turkish Cypriot north of the Eastern Mediterranean island nation and the Greek Cypriot south where the internationally recognized government is seated.

Appropriate military action: Kim

N.Korea long-range missile test signals potential capability to attack US

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 31, (AP): North Korea test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time in almost a year Thursday, demonstrating a potential advancement in its ability to launch long-range nuclear attacks on the mainland US.

The launch was likely meant to meant grab American attention days ahead of the US election and respond to condemnation over the North's reported troop dispatch to Russia to support its war against Ukraine. Some experts speculated Russia might have provided technological assistance to North Korea over the launch.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un observed the launch, calling it "an appropriate military action" to show North Korea's resolve to respond to its enemies' moves that have threatened the North's safety, according to the North's state media.

Kim said the enemies' "various adventuristic military maneuvers" highlighted the importance of North Korea's nuclear capability. He reaffirmed that North Korea will never abandon its policy of bolstering its nuclear forces.

North Korea has steadfastly argued that advancing its nuclear capabilities is its only option to cope with the expansion of U.S.-South Korean military training, though Washington and Seoul have repeatedly said they have no intention of attacking North Korea. Experts say North Korea uses its rivals' drills as a pretext to enlarge its nuclear arsenal to wrest concessions when diplomacy resumes.

The North Korean statement came hours after its neighbors said they had detected the North's first ICBM test since December 2023 and condemned it as a provocation that undermines international peace.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said North Korea could have tested a new, solid-fueled long-range ballistic missile on a steep angle, an attempt to avoid neighboring countries. Missiles with built-in solid propellants are easier to move and hide and can be launched quicker than liquid-propellant weapons.

Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters the missile's flight duration of 86 minutes and its maximum altitude of more than 7,000 kilometers (4,350 miles) exceeded corresponding data from previous North Korean missile tests.



This undated photo provided Dec 19, 2023, by the North Korean government shows what it says is an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) being prepared to launch from an undisclosed location in North Korea. (AP)

There have been concerns that North Korea might seek Russian help to perfect its nuclear-capable missiles in return for its alleged dispatch of thousands of troops to support Russia's war against Ukraine. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Wednesday that North Korean troops wearing Russian uniforms and carrying Russian equipment are moving toward Ukraine, in what he called a dangerous and destabilizing development.

Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute, said the early results of Thursday's launch suggested Russia might have given a key propellant component that can boost a missile's engine thrust. He said that a higher thrust allows a missile to carry a bigger payload, fly with more stability and hit a target more accurately.

Jung said he speculates Russian experts might have given technological advice on missile launches since Russian President Vladimir Putin visited North Korea for a meeting with Kim in June.

Kwon Yong Soo, an honorary professor at South Korea's National Defense University, said that North Korea likely tested a multiple-warhead system for an existing ICBM.



Fishermen secure their boats ahead of the arrival of Typhoon Kong-rey at Pa-tou-tzu fishing harbor in Keelung in northeastern Taiwan on Oct 30. (AP)

Flights and train service suspended

Typhoon Kong-rey hits Taiwan's east coast, 1 dead

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Oct 31, (AP): A powerful typhoon made landfall in Taiwan on Thursday, killing one person and bringing high winds and floods to much of the island's east coast and northern areas, after barreling past the northern Philippines.

Flights and train service were suspended in Taiwan and 8,600 people moved to shelters.

Typhoon Kong-rey was blowing at 184 kilometers (114 miles) per hour with gusts of up to 227 kph (141 mph) as it moved over the eastern county of Taitung. Parts of Yilan and Hualien counties were inundated by heavy rain, but many farmers in the largely rural areas had already brought in their crops in anticipation of damage from the storm.

Taiwan authorities reported one death and 73 injuries from the storm as of Thursday afternoon. The fatality occurred after a tree fell on a vehicle. Officials also said they were trying to contact a pair of Czech tourists who had been hiking in Hualien's Taroko National Park, famed for its steep cliffs and mountain trails. Other travelers were advised to stay where they were.

The capital, Taipei, was largely shut down as it was hit by high winds and heavy rains. Offices and schools across the island were closed. Off the north coast, a tugboat was dispatched to tow away a Chinese-registered freighter that floundered and

had been abandoned by its crew amid heavy seas.

Earlier Thursday, the typhoon's eye blew about 110 kilometers (68 miles) east of the northernmost Philippine province of Batanes, a cluster of islands and islets of about 19,000 people. Villagers in northern Philippine provinces evacuated to shelters on Wednesday.

The Philippines weather agency had warned the storm could blow away roofs and shatter windows and wreak extensive damage to farmland, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

"It's so, so powerful and we haven't seen the extent of the damage yet because the wind outside is still so strong," Batanes Governor Marilou Cayco told The Associated Press by cellphone before the line was cut off.

Kong-rey, the 12th weather disturbance to hit the Philippine archipelago this year, lashed the Southeast Asian nation while it's still recovering from a storm last week that left 179 dead and missing. Hundreds of thousands of people are still in emergency shelters from Tropical Storm Trami.

China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory and regularly sends planes and warships around the island, largely suspended its patrols, with just eight planes detected around the island between Wednesday and Thursday, according to Taiwan's Defense Ministry.

Frontier disengagement with China along disputed border almost complete: India

NEW DELHI, Oct 31, (AP): India and China have moved most of their frontline troops further from their disputed border in a remote region in the northern Himalayas, India's defense minister said Thursday, some 10 days after the two countries reached a new pact on military patrols that aims to end a four-year standoff that's strained relations.

Rajnath Singh said the "process of disengagement" of Indian and Chinese troops near the Line of Actual Control in



Indian army vehicles move in a convoy in the cold desert region of Ladakh, India on Sept 18, 2022. (AP)

Ladakh is "almost complete." The Line of Actual Control separates Chinese and Indian-held territories from Ladakh in the west to India's eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims in its entirety. India and China fought a deadly war over the border in 1962.

Ties between the two countries deteriorated in July 2020 after a military clash killed at least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese. That turned into a long-running standoff in the rugged mountainous area, as each side stationed tens of thousands of military personnel backed by artillery, tanks and fighter jets in close confrontation positions.

Earlier this month the two neighbors announced a border accord aimed at ending the standoff, followed by a meeting between India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the recent BRICS summit in Russia, their first bilateral meeting in five years.

It's not clear how far back the troops were moved, or whether the pact will lead to an overall reduction in the number of soldiers deployed along the border.

"Our efforts will be to take the matter beyond disengagement; but for that, we will have to wait a little longer," Singh said. Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang said Thursday that the frontline troops were "making progress in implementing the resolutions in a orderly manner."



A record 2.51 million earthen oil lamps are lit along the Saryu river during Deepotsav celebrations on the eve of Diwali, creating a new Guinness World Record, in Ayodhya, India on Oct 30. (AP)

Indians celebrate Diwali by lighting 2.51m clay lamps

Millions of Indians began celebrating the annual Hindu festival of lights, Diwali, by symbolically lighting a record 2.51 million clay oil lamps at dusk on Wednesday on the banks of the river Saryu in a northern Indian city they believe to be the birthplace of the Lord Ram.

Diwali is the most important festival of the year in India, particularly for the Hindu majority. It is celebrated by socializing and exchanging gifts with loved ones. Many light candles and oil lamps made from clay. Fireworks are set off. In the evening, a special prayer is dedicated to Lakshmi, who is believed to bring luck and prosperity. (AP)

Argentina's president fires FM after vote in favor of ending US embargo on Cuba

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Oct 31, (AP): Argentina's President Javier Milei dismissed his foreign affairs minister hours after the country voted in favor of lifting the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba at the UN General Assembly.

Argentine Foreign Minister Diana Mondino was replaced by Argentina's ambassador to the U.S., Gerardo Werthein, Milei's spokesman Manuel Adorni said on his X account.

Adorni didn't elaborate on the reasons behind the replacement, but the announcement came hours after Argentina voted Wednesday in favor of ending the embargo of Cuba.

The President's office later confirmed in a press release that the dismissal was because of the vote at the U.N.

"Our country is categorically opposed to the Cuban dictatorship, and it will remain firm in promoting a foreign policy that condemns all regimes that perpetuate the violation of human rights and individual freedoms," Milei's office said.



Argentine Foreign Minister Diana Mondino arrives at a ceremony in Buenos Aires, Argentina on July 18, 2024. (AP)

On Wednesday, 187 nations, including Argentina, voted in favor of a U.N. resolution condemning the U.S. embargo of Cuba, with only the United States and Israel voting against it.

Since taking power in December 2023, libertarian Milei has veered his country's foreign policy to be more aligned toward the U.S. and Israel interests.

Milei has expressed his total support of right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government over its bombardment and invasion of Gaza. His stand differs from most of Latin America - where Bolivia and Colombia have even severed ties with Israel and at least five countries in the region, including Brazil, have pulled ambassadors from Tel Aviv.

Asia

TEPCO ex-chair dies: Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings' former chairperson, who led the emergency response after a meltdown at its Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant and was accused of being responsible for failing to prevent the disaster as top management, has died, with his trials still pending.

Tsunehisa Katsumata died on Oct. 21, TEPCO said Thursday, without providing further details including the cause of his death.

Katsumata was TEPCO chair when Fukushima Daiichi was hit by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami in March 2011 and suffered triple meltdowns. He led the emergency response after the company's then-president stepped down due to health problems and served until mid-2012. (AP)



Katsumata



Volunteers prepare lunch for refugees at Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Kamwenge District, Uganda on Oct 21. (AP)

Uganda struggles to feed more than 1.7 million refugees

RWAMWANJA, Uganda, Oct 31, (AP): For months, Agnes Bulaba, a Congolese refugee in Uganda, has had to get by without the food rations she once depended on. Her children scavenge among local communities for whatever they can find to eat.

"As a woman who's not married, life is hard," Bulaba told The Associated Press. Some locals "keep throwing stones at us, but we just want to feed our kids and buy them some clothes," said the mother of six, who often works as a prostitute to fend for her family.

Uganda is home to more than 1.7 million refugees, the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, according to the United Nations refugee agency. Despite being renowned for welcoming those fleeing neighboring violence, Ugandan officials and humanitarians say dwindling international support coupled with high numbers of refugees have put much pressure on host communities.

Approximately 10,000 new arrivals enter Uganda each month, according to UN figures. Some have recently fled the war in Sudan, but most are from neighboring South Sudan and Congo.

Bulaba is among tens of thousands in Rwamwanja, a refugee settlement in southwestern Uganda. As in other settlements across the east African country, refugees there are given small plots of land to cultivate as they are slowly weaned off total dependence on humanitarian food rations.

Since 2021, as funding consistently declined, the UN's World Food Program has prioritized the most vulnerable groups for food assistance, in food items or cash, which can be as little as \$3. After spending three months in Uganda, refugees are eligible to get 60% rations, and the number falls by half after six months. Only new arrivals get 100% food assistance, leaving the vast majority of some 99,000 refugees in Bulaba's settlement vulnerable to hunger and other impoverishment.

Lat/Am

2 journos killed in Mexico: The UN human rights office in Mexico said Wednesday journalists in Mexico need more protection, after gunmen killed a man whose Facebook news page covered the violent western Mexico state of Michoacan.

Then less than 24 hours later an entertainment reporter in the western city of Colima was killed inside a restaurant she owned.

Journalist Mauricio Solís of the news page Minuto por Minuto was shot to death late Tuesday just moments after he conducted a sidewalk interview with the mayor of the city of Uruapan (oooh-roo-WAH-pan). State prosecutors said a second person was wounded in the shooting.

Solís had just finished an interview on the street outside city hall with Mayor **Carlos Manzo**. Manzo told local media he had walked away and "two minutes later, I think, and just a matter of meters away, we heard gunshots, four or five gunshots." Manzo said he could not rule out a connection between the interview and the killing. The UN rights office said Solís was at least the fifth journalist killed in Mexico this year. It said he had previously reported security problems related to his work. His Facebook page reported on community events and the drug cartel violence that has wracked the city. (AP)





Manzo

Haiti sees rise in killings:

More than 1,740 people were reported killed or injured in Haiti from July to September, a nearly 30% increase over the previous trimester, according to the latest numbers released Wednesday by U.N. officials.

The surge in violence comes as gangs seize control of 85% of the capital of Port-au-Prince - up from 80% - while a U.N.-backed mission led by Kenyan police to quell gang violence struggles with a lack of funding and personnel, prompting calls for a UN peacekeeping mission.

"In the absence of state representatives, gangs increasingly claim roles typically assigned to the police and the judiciary while imposing their own rules," warned the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, known as BINUH. (AP)

			Change	Closing pts				Change	Closing pts		
	SAUDI	-	TASI	+3.30	12,022.11		DUBAI	-	DFMGI	-13.47	4,591.05
	EGYPT	-	EGX 30	+286.74	30,658.00		JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	-196.14	39,081.25
							PHILIPPINES	-	PSEi	-137.28	7,142.96
							PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	-1,108.37	89,220.63

Business

Boursa Kuwait banks report strong Q3 2024 profit growth

Local banks achieve 5.91% profit increase

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Local banks listed on Boursa Kuwait reported a robust increase in profits for the third quarter of 2024, with growth driven by strong operating revenues.

The nine banks collectively recorded a profit of 399.65 million dinars (approximately \$1.31 billion) for the quarter, marking a 5.91 percent rise from 377.34 million dinars (\$1.23 billion) during the same period in 2023.

The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) led the sector with the highest quarterly profits, reaching 164.60 million dinars, followed closely by Kuwait Finance House (KFH) with 141.75 million dinars. In contrast, the International Bank reported the lowest profits at 4.16 million dinars. Notably, the combined profits of NBK and KFH accounted for 76.65 percent of the sector's total profits for the third quarter, amounting to 306.35 million dinars.

In terms of growth rates, seven out of the nine banks experienced increased profits, with the International Bank showing the most significant growth at an impressive 382.60 percent.

However, Gulf and Commercial Banks reported declines of 33.20 percent and 13.62 percent, respectively. Overall, the banking sector remained profitable, with no losses reported in either the quarterly or nine-month performance.

For the first nine months of 2024, the banks achieved a total profit of 1.25 billion dinars, reflecting a 4.61 percent increase compared to 1.19 billion dinars in the same period of the previous year. KFH recorded the highest nine-month profits in the sector at 482.93 million dinars, while NBK followed closely with 457.02 million dinars.

Together, these two banks represented 75.47 percent of the sector's total profits. However, it is worth noting that NBK recorded the lowest profits in the sector at 16.20 million dinars.

Nine banks showed profit growth over the nine months, led by NBK, which achieved a remarkable increase of 138.24 percent. Conversely, both NBK and Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) saw their profits decline by 25.28 percent and 10.71 percent, respectively.

The positive performance of the banks was bolstered by a 7.70 percent rise in total operating revenues, which reached 3.02 billion dinars during the first nine months of the year, up from 2.80 billion dinars. Notably, none of the banks experienced a decrease in operating revenues, with the International Bank achieving the highest growth rate at 23.71 percent.

In contrast, Gulf Bank recorded the lowest growth rate at 4.22 percent. KFH generated the highest revenues at 1.19 billion dinars, followed by NBK at 931 million dinars, while Warba Bank reported the lowest revenues at 53.25 million dinars.

In addition to profit growth, the total assets of local banks rose by 1.2 percent in September, reaching 89.6 billion dinars (approximately \$295 billion). Furthermore, net foreign assets of local banks increased by 4.5 percent to 14.2 billion dinars (about \$46.8 billion).

The Central Bank of Kuwait also reported a 3.9 percent rise in time deposits in September, amounting to 1 billion dinars (approximately \$3.3 billion). Cash credit facilities (loans) saw a modest increase of 0.8 percent, totaling 55.8 billion dinars (about \$184 billion).

The average interest rates on one-year treasury bonds fell to 4.375 percent in September from 4.6 percent in August. Additionally, financing for Kuwaiti imports surged by 24.8 percent to 858.8 million dinars (approximately \$2.8 billion).

These results reflect a positive outlook for the Kuwaiti banking sector, driven by strong operational performance and effective management of financial resources.

KPC to store 4 mln barrels of oil in S. Korea

Kuwait oil price soars to \$71.92 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti oil price rose by 78 cents to USD 71.92 per barrel on Wednesday, compared with USD 71.14 pb on Tuesday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Thursday.

Globally, Brent crude went up by USD 1.43 to USD 72.55 pb, and West Texas Intermediate crude rose by USD 1.4 to USD 68.61 pb. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), which is responsible for the U.S. government's energy policy, announced on Wednesday that U.S. gasoline inventories fell to their lowest level in two years last week due to increased demand.

It added that crude imports from Saudi Arabia dropped to their lowest level since 2021 last, and imports from Canada,

Iraq, Colombia and Brazil went down in the same week.

Also,

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday signed a two-year strategic agreement with Korea National Oil Corporation (KNOC) to store four million barrels of oil in Ulsan, South Korea.

The agreement was signed by KPC Deputy Chairman and CEO **Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah** and KNOC CEO **Dong Sub Kim** during a ceremony held at the KPC, in the presence of senior officials and representatives of the Foreign Ministry and South Korean Ambassador in Kuwait **Park Chung-sook**.



Residential sales surge 14% q/q to KD 384 mln

‘Stable’ real estate sales in Q3 2024 amid recovery in residential market

By National Bank of Kuwait

Real estate sales were relatively stable in Q3 2024, amid a recovery in residential sales from weak levels of previous quarters and a surge in investment sales, outweighing a fall back in commercial activity. The overall trend points to gradually improving real estate market activity, with the outlook helped by the commencement of the monetary easing cycle in September. On the price front, residential prices continued their downward trend in Q3, for the sixth consecutive quarter, lowering the valuation gap with the investment segment and stimulating demand. Meanwhile, government plot distributions came to a complete halt during Q3 after Q2's strong performance, resulting in an increase in the backlog of housing applications to 97.7k.

Overall real estate sales in Q3 declined by a modest 0.8% q/q to KD847 million, following a strong showing in Q2. Activity was supported by strong residential and investment sector sales, with transaction volumes increasing despite the seasonal impact of the summer months (Chart 1). On the other hand, commercial sales, which surged in Q2 to a record level, fell sharply, though were still above the 2023 quarterly average.

Residential sales in Q3, at KD384 million, were the strongest in almost two years, with the sector also posting the fastest quarterly (14% q/q) and annual (8.2% y/y) increase since 2021 (Chart 2). Transaction volumes were up by 26% q/q and 21% y/y, respectively, from the previous quarter's post-pandemic low. Around 40% of these transactions were logged in September, which saw the highest volume of activity in 16 months (42% y/y). Most residential sales were in the 'home' segment (65% of total), concentrated mainly in the Kuwait City, Hawalli and Al-Ahmadi governorates. On the other hand, around 90% of all land sales occurred in the Hawalli, Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Al-Ahmadi governorates.

The uptick in demand could partly be explained by cyclical forces, but also falling residential valuations, a multi-quarter trend. Overall prices remain high, especially in the inner areas, and in terms of affordability, real estate prices in Kuwait City are still one of the least affordable among GCC peers.

Meanwhile, the investment segment logged sales of KD317 million (42% q/q; 49% y/y), a near-five-year high. Sales were concentrated (76%) in the inner, Kuwait City and Hawalli governorates. Underlying demand was supported by a continued rise in non-Kuwaiti residents (up 1.4% in H1 2024), though housing rents rose only 0.7% y/y during Q3 2024 based on the readings from the consumer price index.

In contrast, activity in the commercial segment declined by 50% q/q in Q3 to KD146 million. Sales in this sector are notoriously volatile, and the quarterly drop was magnified by Q2's record high sales. The value of commercial sector sales in Q3 2024 is still around 15% higher than last year's quarterly average. According to media reports, with borrowing costs high by recent standards, many commercial units were sold by real estate companies to settle debts with banks in Q2. The solid expansion in non-oil sector GDP in the first half of the year and the pickup in real estate credit growth during Q3 (4.6% y/y; 3.3% YTD in August) point to a strengthening outlook for the real estate sector, albeit moderately.

Residential prices remain on a downward trend

The overall NBK real estate price index, which is estimated based on sales transaction data provided by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), saw a smaller decline of -1.4% q/q in Q3 2024 as it recovered from five consecutive quarterly falls (-3.2% q/q in Q2). The decline was largely linked to falls in residential sector prices (-3.3% q/q), while investment real estate prices rose by 1% q/q. On a year-on-year basis, the fall in real estate prices steepened to -4.7% from -3.0% in Q2 2024 on a sharper fall in the residential segment. The relatively lower prices may have spurred demand for homes over this period.

Outstanding housing applications increase amid a halt in distributions

The outstanding number of applications for government housing rose by 1.1% q/q in Q3 2024 to reach 97.7k. This increase came as the Public Authority of Housing and Welfare (PAHW) suspended plot distributions during the quarter, awaiting the approval of a new distribution strategy, according to local media outlets. However, PAHW efforts to complete the infrastructure works in South Sabah Al-Ahmad and South Sa'ad Al-Abdullah cities continue, with the authority signing three contracts worth KD 262 million to develop the infrastructure works in the former (for 17,380 units in south Sabah Al-Ahmad city, of which 27% has been completed) and tendering three infrastructure contracts in the latter (for 23,551 units in South Sa'ad Al-Abdullah city, to be completed by 2027). These projects will help to reduce the number of outstanding applications and ameliorate housing pressures over the long term. On the other hand, the volume of approved housing loans by the Kuwait Credit Bank, the public organization in charge of providing residents with residential loans, rose in Q3 2024 (31% q/q) due to the pickup in plot distributions over the previous quarters while the value of disbursed loans fell (-1.0% q/q) on lower government plot loans (-4%).

As part of its continuous efforts to develop local talents & contribute to the future of Kuwaiti banking sector

KIB celebrates graduates of the ‘Waed’ Talent Program 2023/2024

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently held a special ceremony to celebrate the graduation of its 2023/2024 class from the Waed Talent Program, marking another milestone in the Bank's efforts to develop and empower the next generation of banking professionals in Kuwait. Held at the Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait, the graduation event was attended by KIB's Vice Chairman and CEO Raed Jawad Bukhamseen and Deputy CEO Mohamed Said El Saka, alongside the Executive Management. At the ceremony, the Bank's leaders expressed their pride in the achievements of the graduates, recognizing their dedication and potential to contribute meaningfully to Kuwait's banking sector.

Commenting on the graduation, Feras Al Darmi, General Manager of Human Resources at KIB, stated: "At KIB, we believe in investing in our people, as they are the foundation of our Bank's success. The Waed Talent Program is a vital component of our strategy to develop local

talent and provide them with the skills needed to lead and innovate in the banking industry. Through Waed, KIB is not only investing in individual growth but also ensuring the Bank's continued success by building a pipeline of talented and effective leaders ready to meet future challenges and uphold the highest standards of excellence. We are confident that the 2023/2024 graduates will make significant contributions to both KIB and the broader financial sector in Kuwait."

On her part, Siham AlKhorayef, Manager of Learning and Development at KIB, said: "Over the course of a one-year learning journey, Waed participants engaged in an intensive curriculum that provided them with cutting-edge banking knowledge and insights into industry best practices. The program is designed to provide our participants with a blend of theoretical and practical knowledge that aligns with KIB's long-term objectives. This holistic training program enhances essential



KIB's Feras Al Darmi

skills and competencies, equipping participants with the tools necessary to excel in their future leadership roles."

The Waed Talent Program was launched in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2023 with the aim of developing Kuwaiti talent at all levels within the Bank, from entry-level employees to senior leadership. Selected Kuwaiti employees from various departments are trained to enhance their skills and prepare for effective leadership roles. This comprehensive approach reflects KIB's ongoing commitment



KIB's Siham AlKhorayef

to nurturing talent and fostering positive, sustainable change within the organization.

AlKhorayef emphasized that Waed reflects KIB's continuous commitment to investing in the future of the Kuwaiti banking industry, further solidifying the Bank's position as a 'Bank for Life.' She stated: "By fostering the growth of local talent, KIB ensures that its workforce is not only equipped to meet the current demands of the financial sector but also capable of playing a significant role in shaping Kuwait's broader economic

vision. Our aim is to build a highly skilled, innovative, and future-ready workforce that contributes positively to the nation's economic growth and development."

It serves to note that KIB remains committed to offering continuous development opportunities, fostering a culture that attracts and retains talented professionals in the Kuwaiti banking industry. Through its human capital development arm, KIB Life Academy, the Bank has delivered numerous programs that guarantee the ongoing personal and professional growth of both its employees and local Kuwaiti cadres.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation

and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.



'Waed' Talent Program

KFH concludes participation in IMF and WBG meetings in Washington



KFH delegation headed by Hamad Al-Marzouq in the round table meeting.

Represented by a high-level delegation headed by Hamad Al-Marzouq

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) concluded its participation in the 2024 annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, held in Washington, D.C., USA.

During the meetings, discussions focused on economic issues, strengthening bilateral relations, and exploring new avenues for cooperation with major financial institutions. The participation highlighted the role of KFH and Kuwaiti financial institutions, demonstrating the strength of the Kuwaiti economy and the power, development, and excellence of its financial and banking system.

KFH participated with a high-level delegation headed by Chairman Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq, including Acting Group CEO Abdulwahab Issa Al Rushood, CEO of KFH Kuwait Khalid Yousef AlShamlan, CEO of Ahli United Bank Group Bahrain Ahmed Saud Al-Kharji, CEO of KFH Capital Abdulaziz Al-Marzooq, CEO of KFH-Turkey Ufuk Uyan, Deputy Group CEO of Treasury and Financial Institutions David Arthur O’Lon, General Manager of Kuwait Treasury Ahmed Issa Al-Sumait, and Head of Investment Banking Services at KFH Capital Abdullah Al-Haddad.

High- level Meetings

The meetings were marked by active participation from the KFH delegation, who met with senior international officials, including central bank governors, ministers of finance and development, senior financial policy officials, and representatives from high-level financial institutions across various countries.

In the meetings, KFH’s delegation discussed a wide range of topics, including climate change, various aspects of financial sustainability, the impact of artificial intelligence, the prominent economic role of women, public debt, and the influence of geopolitical factors on the global economy. The bank’s delegation emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to achieve banking sustainability and enhance financial inclusion.

Additionally, KFH showcased its role and vision about the future of the global econ-



Hamad Al-Marzouq, Abdulwahab Issa Al Rushood and Khalid Yousef AlShamlan in the middle of the KFH delegation.



Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Ambassador of Kuwait to the USA with Abdulwahab Issa Al Rushood, Khalid Yousef AlShamlan, Ahmed Issa Al-Sumait and David Arthur O’Lon.



Group photo from left: Ahmed Saud Al-Kharji, Abdulwahab Issa Al Rushood, Khalid Yousef AlShamlan and Ufuk Uyan receiving the Global Finance Awards.



Hamad Al-Marzouq, Abdulwahab Issa Al Rushood , Abdulaziz Al-Marzooq, Abdullah Al-Haddad, Ahmed Issa Al-Sumait and Yousef Al Ruwaih at the Banking Union reception.

omy, based on its leadership in the global Islamic banking industry. The delegation discussed diverse and promising investment opportunities with various parties, since KFH has become more capable of providing its services on a global level after the acquisition of Ahli United Bank - Bahrain, due to its credit strength, the solidity of its financial position and its wide geographical spread, which extends to 12 countries around the world, including Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkiye, Egypt, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

Roundtable meetings

KFH’s delegation participated in roundtable meetings organized by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) and the American Chamber of Commerce, to discuss economic issues, investment opportunities, and promoting business between Kuwait and the United States.

Kuwait’s Embassy reception

On the sidelines of the participation in the IMF and WBG meetings, KFH delegation participated in a dinner ceremony held by HE Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Ambassador of Kuwait to the USA. The ceremony was attended by Noora Al-Fassam, Minister of Finance, Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, and Acting Minister of Oil, and Basel Al-Haroon, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, as well as leaders of the Kuwaiti banking sector.

KBA reception

Additionally, KFH’s delegation participated in the reception organized by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), which was held under the patronage of the Governor of CBK, Basel Al-Haroon, and in the presence of Minister of Finance, Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, and Acting Minister of Oil, Noora Al-Fassam and Kuwait’s Ambassador in Washington D.C., Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah. The reception was also attended by central bank governors from various countries, along with board chairmen of local banks, prominent officials, banking sector leaders, and international economic and financial figures.



Photos taken during the event.

I Filarmonici di Roma opens Italy-Kuwait Festival with classical concert

‘A Journey into Italian creativity’ kicks off with concert at the AUK

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Italian Embassy in Kuwait, as part of its Italy’s Day of Unity and of the Armed Forces festival, organized the first event -- the I Filarmonici di Roma concert at the American University of Kuwait -- a cultural journey, celebrating the talents of Italian artists and creators, fostering stronger ties between Italy and Kuwait.

This was part of a series of events that will unfold over 10 days in the framework of the festival “A Journey into Italian creativity.” From exquisite culinary experiences and captivating art exhibitions to enchanting performances and interactive workshops, this festival promises to showcase the unique spirit and creativity that Italy is renowned for.

Whether you are a connoisseur of the arts or simply curious about the wonders of Italian culture, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

In his address to the audience before the start of the event, HE the Italian

Ambassador to Kuwait Lorenzo Morini said, “Today marks the opening of the 10-day festival organized by the Italian Embassy together with other Italian Institutions and private actors and with the support of prominent Kuwaiti partners and the AUK University.

“This vibrant celebration invites you to immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Italian culture, art, and innovation.

The festival, he said, brings to Kuwait some relevant examples of the Italian excellence in art, music, design, fashion, jewelry and cuisine in an innovative setting. As a matter of fact, “I am convinced that it is important to reach out to all Kuwaitis and to show the public all the elements that are creating and nourishing the strong bonds existing between the people of Italy and the people of Kuwait.

“This evening I am very proud and honored to open the festival with a very special presentation, a fantastic concert, a true journey into Italian classical masterpiece and musical artistry.

The Chamber Orchestra “I Filarmonici di Roma” represents indeed one of

the most relevant and innovative experiences in the Italian classical music scenario, he said.

Founded in 1976, the formation was met with acclaim by critics and public alike from the very beginning and has played under the direction of and in collaboration with some of the world’s most renowned performers.

I Filarmonici di Roma offers a vast repertoire spacing from the Baroque to the contemporary music and can perform in different formations.

Moreover, the ensemble have frequently taken part to humanitarian initiatives promoted among others by the United Nations, the Italian Red Cross and by the Association for the Research against Cancer.

The Filarmonici in a quintet of strings formation, integrated by Anna Pugliese, Andrea Casarano, Piero Cardarelli, Manfred Croci and Luca Pincini presented masterpieces of some of the most important Italian composers such as Vivaldi, Rossini, Tartini, Pergolesi and Respighi, bringing to the stage a fundamental piece of Italian culture and a depiction of the passion of Italian people for art and beauty.



Group pictures during breast cancer awareness campaign.

Collaboration with Ibn Sina Hospital offers free health screenings

Al Hamra hosts pink month activities to promote community health and breast cancer awareness

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: As part of its social responsibility and commitment to supporting the community, Al Hamra Real Estate Company launched the ‘October Promise’ Pledge campaign under the global theme “No One Should Face Breast Cancer Alone” at Al Hamra Shopping Center at the beginning of October. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of early detection of breast cancer and encourages individuals to adopt healthy lifestyles that help prevent the disease. This is in line with the company’s strategy to enhance community health and support government efforts to tackle this global health issue.



More photos of the campaign.

Reflecting on the success of the campaign, Abdulaziz Al Dhuwaihi, Manager of Marketing & Public Relations at Al Hamra, said: “This year’s October Promise campaign stood out with its diverse activities that inspired visitors and offered them a supportive and purposeful experience. By embracing the global theme ‘No One Should Face Breast Cancer Alone,’ we were able to create a sense of community and solidarity. We noticed a positive community response, reflecting a collective sense of responsibility and strengthening solidarity with women affected by this illness.”

Al Dhuwaihi also noted that the focus on physical fitness was an essential part of this year’s Breast Cancer Awareness Month, adding that physical activity can contribute to breast cancer prevention. For this reason, the campaign organized the fifth edition of the Annual Hamra Rowa-

thon on October 19, which saw a broad participation of both men and women and greatly encouraged physical fitness as a means to general health.

This year’s campaign at Al Hamra Shopping Center featured a variety of community activities and awareness initiatives, with key highlights including the Interactive Support Board, launched on October 1, which allowed visitors to express their support and solidarity with those affected. Additionally, the center introduced a fruitful collaboration with Ibn Sina Hospital, offering free blood

KTS celebrates 19th anniversary
Kuwait Tamil Sangam honors social activist Mathi for his social services

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Social Activist Vengada Mathi was honored for his social services to the community by Kuwait Tamil Sangam (KTS) in its 19th year inaugural event held recently in Kuwait on 25th October 2024.

As part of the celebration, Social Activist Mathi was honored with Memento for his selfless services to mankind and tireless hard work in Kuwait. Guest of honour Mr. Shanthanu Bhagyaraj-Tamil Cine Actor, Mrs. Ananthi Natarajan - President KTS & Mr. Raja jointly felicitate him with shawl & memento in the presence of dignitaries and KTS committee Members.

During the event, KTS recalled his selfless support with dedication for the Indian Community in Kuwait.

Mathi, is a person for whom life is all service. He has spent almost 30 years in Kuwait and thousands of Indians who benefited from his service and assistance at the crucial time of their life, will be eternally thankful for his presence in Kuwait.

It is noteworthy to mention some of the achievements he has done for the society.

Mathi was instrumental in assisting in collaboration with the Indian embassy to ensure the suspension of the death sentences to save the Indians sentenced to death in Kuwait in three different occasions.

He has assisted for the families of Indians who died in Kuwait to receive the death compensation from the company or sponsors though the official channels and so far he has assisted in getting the compensation of more than 5 crores to various affected families.

During the Covid pandemic situation when there were no flight services, Mathi helped for various Indians who are in need of medical help & pregnant women to travel back to India through Vande Bharath with the support of Embassy officials.

In another incident, two children who lost their parents were struggling in Kuwait without having Indian passport; Mathi took up the issue with Indian Embassy and arranged for their passport to travel to India along with adopted parents.

Mathi’s social service activities extend to India also; during the Lockdown in the peak pandemic, he assisted for the 75 members of 35 migrant families struggled in Mumbai-Tharavi

to return back to their native district Sivaganga with the support of more than 3 state government officials and it was the first migration in India during the nationwide lockdown.

He provided necessary support for several Indians who were not able to return back home for many years due to legal problems, and with the help of Indian Embassy support he assisted for their repatriation.

He was helping the Women & men who came to Kuwait after paying money and duped here by the fake agents to return back to India safely with the help of Indian Embassy; also helping them to get their money back with the aid of the government officials in India.

Mathi was providing all help for the people who have been ill in the hospital for a long time in Kuwait to travel back to India with the support of the Indian Embassy.

In various cases, he has been providing moral support to the sick people who are hospitalized here in the Kuwait hospitals without friends/relatives and helping them to repatriate back to India.

Mathi provides all his services with the help of Indian Embassy and bound to the rules and regulations, both of Indian as well as Kuwait, he takes-up the issue with the officials and follow-up regularly until it gets resolved.

And his efforts with the help of the Indian Embassy to get the compensation due for some workers who died in the accident are pending before the court.

He continues to render countless such priceless favors without any recompense for decades and most of his assistants went un-recorded in the earlier days when there was no social media; no mobile phones with camera. However, we can be sure that it is etched permanently in the hearts and memories of those who were witness to his self-less service.

Mr. Mathi’s immense contribution to the Indian Community over the years had been recognized by various associations like Indian Frontliners (IFL), Kuwait Tamil Sangam (KTS), Tamil Nadu Engineers forum (TEF) & Senhamil Kalai Mantram in Kuwait; and this is the third time that he has been honored by KTS.



Aldhuwaihi

spired visitors and offered them a supportive and purposeful experience. By embracing the global theme ‘No One Should Face Breast Cancer Alone,’ we

Next Alfouz draw set for November 4

ABK announces ‘Alfouz’ monthly draw winner

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is excited to announce Faisal Salem AlEnezi as the winner of the Alfouz KD 20,000 monthly draw on Monday, 28 October 2024. The draw took place in the presence of a Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative, ensuring transparency.

From the highly coveted mega annual draw of a KD 5,000 monthly salary for 10 years to its KD 10,000 weekly prize, the account has attracted significant attention in the Kuwaiti market. Based on the account’s great success, ABK decided to go above and beyond to reward customer loyalty.

By introducing a KD 100,000 quarterly draw, in addition to an exciting KD 20,000 monthly draw, the Alfouz account continues to surpass expectations and deliver even more customer satisfaction.



ABK’s Alfouz account

To top it off, ABK has simplified the ability to open the account and win! Customers can enter the draws and get extra entry chances for every KD 10 deposited. The more you save, the higher your chance to be the next Alfouz winner!

ABK encourages everyone to open an Alfouz draw account or increase their balance to participate in the upcoming draw, which is scheduled to take place on Monday, 4 November 2024. Open an Alfouz account today and enjoy increased opportunities to win the lifestyle you’ve been waiting for!

To learn more about the Alfouz account and its range of exciting draws and prizes, please follow ABK’s Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank’s branches across Kuwait.



KTS honoring social activist Mathi.

IDAK conducts successful dental camp at Khalifa School for Special Needs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Indian Dentists’ Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK) organized a successful dental camp at Khalifa School for Special Needs, Salmiya, on October 28, 2024. The camp focused on early dental screening to identify potential issues, promote oral hygiene, and educate students, teachers, and caregivers on proper dental care.

Representatives from IDAK included Dr. Prashanth R Prasad, Chair of the IDAK Community Welfare Committee; Dr. Ajay Vazhiyodan, Co-Chair; and advisor Dr. Rajesh Alexander. A team of dedicated volunteer dentists, including Dr. Thomas Thomas, Dr. Simi Bhargavi, Dr. Dhanalakshmi Mannem, Dr. Aastha Mehta, Dr. Valentina Fernandes, Dr. Susmita Rachel, Dr. Ranjitha R S, and Dr. Maymoonza Zaidi,



Photos taken during the event.

participated in the camp. Dr. Ranjitha R S led an interactive session for children and caregivers, demonstrating brushing and flossing techniques tailored for special needs.

IDAK provided dental handbooks published along with brushing aids for students and caregivers. The handbooks, designed to support good oral health, were a valuable addition to the event’s focus on hygiene education.

The management of Khalifa School, represented by Principal Mr. Jawad Kawtharani, Vice Principal Mrs. Hanna John, Mrs. Munira Al Jabri, and Dr. Bindu Philip, expressed their appreciation to IDAK for its valuable service in screening approximately 230 students, underscoring the importance of community welfare initiatives in supporting children with special needs.

Comedian shares family humor in ‘Dad Man Walking’

Meyers swaps politics for parenting in new special

NEW YORK, Oct. 31, (AP) — Seth Meyers admits there are times when he’s in a disagreement with his wife or absurd situation with his kids and he can’t help immediately thinking about making it into a bit. The comedian and host of “Late Night with Seth Meyers” has morphed several of those amusing stories into his latest HBO/Max stand-up special “Dad Man Walking.”

Meyers’ last HBO special, “Lobby Baby” in 2019 also delved into his adventures in parenting, and Meyers says after being cooped up with the family during the pandemic he couldn’t not write about his kids and marriage to his wife, Alexi Ashe.

“I’ve always enjoyed how — unlike the nightly show, which is so tied to politics and the world we’re living in — this was more about sort of the universal experience of being part of a family,” Meyers said in a recent interview. “It’s really fun to be on stage and realize that you are not alone in the way you are feeling about things.”

The special was shot live at the Vic Theatre in Chicago where Meyers got big laughs when talking about mundane things like not knowing how to fold a stroller and the risks of playing board games with his children, who

are 8, 6 and 3 years old.

Meyers said his kids so far haven’t objected to him talking about the funny things they say and do on stage. “I am very cognizant of saying things that I feel like they’ll be okay with,” he said. Right now, they like being occasionally on TV and fodder for his act, but he knows that could end as they get older. His oldest son recently seemed less enthused about an annual turkey costume bit for Thanksgiving.

“The minute someone at school busts him for being in a turkey costume, game over,” Meyers said with a laugh. “But we will give them permission ... because my wife did buy into being married to a comedian, whereas they didn’t choose it.”

One of the special’s standout bits is about Alexi trying to get through airport security with a tub of hummus. Meyers was going to keep it to himself, but then couldn’t resist trying it onstage. “I am literally in real time thinking ... it’s not just that the story is so funny, but I realize this really is a perfect example of who we both are in this marriage,” he said. “It kind of overlaps nicely with the theme of what I’m trying to do.”

The special’s director, Neal Bren-



This image released by HBO shows actor-comedian-host Seth Meyers in a scene from his comedy special ‘Seth Meyers: Dad Man Walking.’ (AP)

Known for his biting political commentary, Meyers says the humor in his act stems from recognizing how men and women fail each other, and he tries to spread the blame around fairly. “I’m so loath to do that special about a man complaining about his wife,” Meyers said. He enjoys when husbands and wives both recognize themselves in his comedy. “The bal-

ance is very important to me. Whereas both sides politically is a completely useless waste of time, I do try to do both sides by marriage.”

Meyers also reflected on “Saturday Night Live” celebrating 50 years and said he loved witnessing the “big swings” of his era on the show. “I loved just being there while you watched Kristen Wiig, Fred Armisen, Andy Samberg and Bill Hader all just become the people who would then be a massive part of show business for the next two decades.”

While there will always be naysayers who say “SNL” isn’t as funny as it used to be, Meyers says being “beautifully uneven,” is one of its most enduring qualities, and likens it to watching live sports.

“You don’t know until it happens how it’s going to be,” Meyers said. “I’ve always said the worst show has something great and the best show has something terrible. And there’s no host that can guarantee consistency.”

As for whether he’ll keep doing stand up, Meyers said with all the family shenanigans, it’s a pretty safe bet. “They keep providing content. So yeah, I can’t imagine it’s going to stop anytime soon.”

Film



Kieran Culkin, (left), and Jesse Eisenberg pose for a portrait to promote the film ‘A Real Pain’ on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, in New York. (AP)

Modern trauma

For ‘Real Pain,’ Eisenberg embraces Culkin’s chaos

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 31, (AP) — Jesse Eisenberg did not know Kieran Culkin was about to drop out of his movie.

It was just a few weeks before shooting was about to begin on “A Real Pain,” and Eisenberg and much of the crew were already in Poland preparing. The film, which opens in theaters Friday, is deeply personal for Eisenberg, who at age 17 started connecting more with his own Polish heritage through his aunt.



Stone

The story, rattling in his mind for almost two decades, follows two cousins on a Holocaust tour after the death of their grandmother. It’s about modern pain and historical trauma — serious themes handled with the light, humorous touch of an odd-couple road trip film. One of them, David, is a little uptight, a little neurotic. The other, Benji, is a little more chaotic. You can guess which one Culkin had agreed to play.

“I connected with the character right away,” Culkin said. “I knew I wanted to do it. Like, creatively, I wanted to be a part of this thing.”

But the final season of “Succession,” in which he played the youngest Roy, Roman, stretched on longer than anticipated. Suddenly the time with his family he’d been counting on was disappearing under the crush of professional obligations and he wanted out. Word of this development came directly to Fruit Tree, the production company run by Emma Stone, Dave McCary and Ali Herting, who decided to keep it to themselves for a beat.

Relationship

“We totally understood but we were also panicked,” said Herting. “He was meant to fly the next week and start shooting the next day. There wasn’t time to recast. The only ace we had up our sleeves was the fact that Emma had this very close relationship with him.”

Culkin described Stone’s phone call as a “reverse psychology thing.” Stone, wearing her actor, friend and producer hats, was understanding, honest and direct about the fact that his reasoning made perfect sense and also that the whole thing was going to fall apart without him. But that that wasn’t his problem, she said. She’d deal with it.

“She let me off the hook completely,” Culkin said. “And I think it was the moment I got off the phone that I was like ‘oh (expletive), I’m doing this movie.’”

It wasn’t the first or the last time that the fate of “A Real Pain” would hang in the balance. It was a struggle to even secure financing, until Topic Studios came along.

“We were desperate to be part of it,” said Ryan Heller, Topic’s vice president of film and acquisitions. “It had this clear arc for audiences and a huge opportunity to surprise with how deep and layered and complex and personal it was. That combination? It’s a rare thing.”

There were also the logistical complications of shooting in Poland, which would involve being the first production to film at the former concentration camp Majdanek, outside of Lublin, and the fact that Culkin was a bit of a live wire on set. The first week was particularly stressful, as everyone found their rhythm working together.

Schedule

“Jesse and our director of photography (Michał Dymek) had had been meticulously shot listing because they were also so worried about the schedule and they wanted everything to be very precise,” Herting said. “And Kieran didn’t love it.”

He also found it hard to adjust to taking directorial notes from his scene partner. The result was tension. It was friendly, but palpable.

“It kind of fit with the movie though,” Herting said. “Like in the film too, they both soften and kind of started to meet in the middle. And then by the time we’re deeper into the story, they’ve really come together and there’s a sweetness and a bond. There’s a lot of mutual respect.”

Eisenberg learned to throw out his playbook and embrace the improvisation. Culkin started to appreciate that his director’s asks were part of a cohesive vision and not arbitrary. The result is something more alive and fun than Eisenberg could have ever planned for. They knew it was special, but now they’d face their next test: Audiences.

The Sundance Film Festival had always been the goal for “A Real Pain,” and they were rushing to finish the cut just days before it began. But they didn’t know what would happen there: If anyone would like it or buy it. Eisenberg’s first film, “When You Finish Saving the World,” had a more muted debut in part because the festival was virtual that year.

But with “A Real Pain,” they needn’t have worried. It was celebrated by audiences and critics and had distributors lining up to chat with Eisenberg moments after its premiere. The sale turned into one of those famous all-night sessions that are rarer and rarer for festival breakouts these days.



This image released by Sony Pictures Entertainment shows Tom Hanks, (right), and Robin Wright in a scene from ‘Here.’ (AP)

Timeless tales in one setting

‘Here’ with Hanks painful to watch

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 31, (AP) — Robert Zemeckis’ latest movie is insanely ambitious, starting with the dinosaurs and ending in present day with the Roomba. But it’s fixed on just one spot.

“Here” reunites Zemeckis, screenwriter Eric Roth and actors Tom Hanks and Robin Wright, who collaborated on “Forrest Gump.” This time, they’re not telling the larger-than-life story of a man moving through time — they’re telling the centuries-old story of a living room and all the different people who lived there.

In this living room, we see a wedding, a death, a birth, a marriage tested, a funeral, lots of vacuuming, many birthdays, Christmas and Thanksgiving, adults getting drunk and Jazzercise.

Zemeckis puts the camera at a fixed angle for the movie’s entire 105-minute duration without moving. It’s not so strange after a while — so bursting with life is each shot and vignette — but there’s a gnawing feeling that we’re in some sort of film experiment, like testing an audience on how long they’ll watch old security camera footage.

The camera may not move but the eras do, melting back and forth in time from pre-history, to the 1700s, to the 1940s, back to hunter-gatherer times and then the ‘60s and ‘70s, before hitting the early 1900s. It begins and ends in 2022.

Hanks and Wright form the movie’s spine, as Richard and Margaret. Over dozens of little scenes, we watch him as a boy grow up in the house and fall in love with Margaret, marry, move her in, have a baby and inherit it all. Whether they survive as a couple isn’t guaranteed.

Zemeckis is a filmmaker known for incorporating the latest in technology and this time it’s

de-aging as a visual effect, basically turning 68-year-old Hanks into what he looked like while filming “Splash.” It’s a lot of work, clumsy often, and Zemeckis has gotten lost in the uncanny valley, trying to tell a very human story about what unites us but by altering the actors so much that the human connection is lost. Look closely and you’ll see cigarette smoke go into one character, but never come out.

Other roles include Richard’s parents — played brilliantly by Paul Bettany and Kelly Reilly — and some unconnected people: a fun-loving couple living in the home from 1925 to 1944, and a less fun couple in the early 1900s. There’s an Indigenous couple in the 1600s who frolic in the space the living room will take over in 300 years and another family who rides out 2020 in the house amid the pandemic.

Connected

If that isn’t enough, we have an appearance by Benjamin Franklin. Why Benjamin Franklin? He’s connected to the house across the street. What he adds is not entirely clear. The movie could do with fewer Founding Fathers and cutesy touches like hummingbirds.

We watch the living room as a TV is added — the Beatles’ performance on “The Ed Sullivan Show” leads to “CHiPs” — and the vehicles outside go from horse to Model Ts to sedans. The home goes from \$3,400 just after World War II to \$1 million today and the fashions go from Victorian heeled boots to teased hair and American flag shirts.

“Here” — based on the graphic novel by Richard McGuire — is best when events at different times are linked — like when a roof starts leaking in one

era only to dissolve into a pregnant woman’s water breaking in another. Or when there’s mention of influenza in 1918 and we later see the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

One theme that is touched on but could have been strengthened is the impact of downsizing and economic disruptions on psyches, with Richard’s father in full Willy Loman mode one day, sobbing after being laid off: “They shrunk me.” Deferred dreams are another, but there’s not enough time for that if you’ve got silly visits by Benjamin Franklin. And while it’s inclusive to embrace Native Americans, the scenes add little to the narrative.

“Here” fails to connect all these centuries of human experiences, other than to celebrate the human experience in all its messiness, triumph and sadness. In fact, if these walls could talk, most of the characters are happiest away from this living room. Maybe the strongest theme is uttered by one character lamenting: “Time just went.”

Zemeckis nicely apes the graphic novel’s use of squares within the frame that show a peek at what’s going on in different eras — like little time travel devices — and kudos to Jesse Goldsmith for fantastic editing work.

But one visual trick sums up the movie: It’s supposed to be the story of a real wood-and-brick house, but it was filmed at Sony’s studio complex in Culver City, California. The main character is fake. “Here” is nowhere.

“Here,” a Sony Pictures release that premieres Friday in theaters, is rated PG-13 for “thematic material, some suggestive material, brief strong language and smoking.” Running time: 105 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Variety

LOS ANGELES: A Los Angeles woman has filed a lawsuit alleging that Metro Boomin, a Grammy-nominated producer who has worked with some of the biggest names in hip-hop and R&B, raped her in 2016 and she became pregnant from the attack.

The producer’s attorney calls the accusations false and said the lawsuit filed Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court is “a pure shakedown.”

Vanessa LeMaistre, 38, says in the lawsuit that she became friends with Metro Boomin, whose legal name is Leland Wayne, after the death of her 9-month-old son. While visiting him in a recording studio months later, she

blackout and woke on a bed to find Wayne raping her, the lawsuit alleges.

She learned she was pregnant from the attack a few weeks later, the suit says.

An attorney for the 31-year-old St. Louis-born producer immediately denied the allegations.

“This is a pure shakedown. These are false accusations,” Lawrence Hinkle II said in a statement Wednesday. “Mr. Wayne refused to pay her months ago, and he refuses to pay her now. Mr. Wayne will defend himself in court.

He will file a claim for malicious prosecution once he prevails.” (AP)

□ □ □

NEW YORK: Puerto Rican reggaeton singer Nicky Jam has withdrawn his endorsement of Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election a month after appearing at a rally for the candidate.

Tony Hinchliffe, a comic who called Puerto Rico “garbage” before a packed Trump rally in New York appears to be the catalyst.

“The reason why I supported Donald Trump was because I thought he was the best for the economy in the United States, where many Latinos live, many of us Latinos live, myself included, many immigrants who are suffering because of the economy and him, being a businessman, I thought it was the best

move,” Jam said in Spanish, in a video statement posted to his official Instagram page.

“Never in my life did I think that a month later a comedian was going to come to criticize my country and speak badly of my country and therefore, I renounce any support for Donald Trump, and I sidestep any political situation. Respect Puerto Rico, Nicky Jam.”

Representatives for Jam did not immediately respond to the Associated Press’ request for comment. (AP)

□ □ □

NEW YORK: Halloween has plenty of traditions, from candy to jack-o’-lanterns — and the annual spectacle of Heidi Klum’s costume.

The supermodel-turned-TV personality is fond of surprising her guests with her elaborate costumes, like in 2022, when she arrived

at the event on the end of a fishing line, encased in a slithering worm costume.

“I just wanted to be something random,” she explained while lying on the floor for maximum worm-like effect. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen anyone being a rain worm before.”

Last year, she enlisted the help of several Cirque du Soleil performers as the tail feathers for her peacock costume.

“A lot of planning goes into it, you know,” Klum said through her peacock beak, with husband Tom Kaulitz next to her, dressed as an egg. “Because first, you have to have an idea.”

At her 2008 party she dressed as Kali, the Hindu goddess of death and destruction — complete with multiple arms, dangling heads and a deep coat of blue body paint. (AP)



Boomin



Hello Kitty, (second from left), with Makoto Fujiwara, executive director of the Tokyo National Museum, (left), Sanrio Senior Managing Director, Yasuyuki Otsuka, (second right), and Keiichi Sawa, (right), managing director of Nippon TV, attends the opening ceremony of the exhibition ‘As I change, so does she,’ marking the 50th anniversary of Hello Kitty at the Tokyo National Museum in Tokyo Wednesday, Oct. 30. (AP)



Hello Kitty display is seen at the Tokyo National Museum where the exhibition ‘As I change, so does she,’ is held. (AP)



A visitor looks at giant Hello Kitty display at the exhibition ‘As I change, so does she.’ (AP)

From cultural icon to an empowering symbol

At 50, Hello Kitty is as ‘kawaii’ and lucrative as ever

TOKYO, Oct 31, (AP): Hello Kitty turns 50 on Friday. Befitting a pop icon at midlife, the bubble-headed, bow-wearing character’s fictional birthday has brought museum exhibits, a theme park spectacle and a national tour. And that’s just in Japan, her literal birthplace but not the one listed in her official biography.

Confused? Welcome to the party. If there’s one thing about Hello Kitty, it’s that she’s proven adaptable and as much a study in contrasts during her long career. She - and Kitty is a she, according to the company that owns her - may have been conceived as a vessel for the feelings of others, but some women see an empowering symbol in her mouthless face.

“Shrewd” is how Mika Nishimura, a design professor at Tokyo’s Meisei University, describes the way Hello Kitty conquered the worlds of commerce, fashion and entertainment. As a tabula rasa open to interpretation, the non-threatening creation was the perfect vehicle for making money, she said.

“American feminists have said she doesn’t say anything and acquiesces to everyone. But in Japan, we also see how she may appear happy if you’re happy, and sad if you’re feeling sad,” Nishimura told The Associated Press. “It’s a product strategy that’s sheer genius. By being so adaptable, Kitty gets all those collaborative deals.” The character’s semicentennial is evidence of that. Sanrio, the Japanese entertainment company that holds the rights to Hello Kitty’s name and image, kicked off the festivities a year ago with an animation account on TikTok, Roblox games and an avatar for the social networking app Zepeto.

There have been anniversary editions of merchandise ranging from pet collars, cosmetics and McDonald’s Happy Meals to Crocs and a Baccarat crystal figurine. A gold coin pendant with the image of Hello Kitty holding the number 50 is selling for about 120,000 yen (\$800), while a Casio watch costs 18,700 yen (\$120).

But first, more on the origin story.

Unlike Mickey Mouse and Snoopy, Hello Kitty didn’t start as a cartoon. A young Sanrio illustrator named Yuko Shimizu drew her in 1974 as a decoration for stationery, tote bags, cups and other small accessories. The design made its debut on a coin purse the next year and became an instant hit in Japan.

As Hello Kitty’s commercial success expanded beyond Asia, so did her personal profile. By the late 1970s, Sanrio revealed the character’s name as Kitty White, her height as five apples tall and her birthplace as suburban London, where the company said she lived with her parents and twin sister Mimmy.

“The main theme of Hello Kitty is friendship. When I first created it, I made a family of which Kitty was a part. But then Hello Kitty started to appear in other settings as the character grew,” Shimizu told the BBC in June. “Sanrio put a lot of effort into building the brand into what it is today.”

At some point, Sanrio designated Kitty’s birthday as Nov. 1, the same as Shimizu’s. Her background was embellished with hobbies that included playing piano, reading and baking. Her TV appearances required co-stars, including a pet cat named Charmmy Kitty that made its debut 20 years ago.

But Hello Kitty’s 40th birthday brought an update that astonished fans. Sanrio clarified to a Los Angeles museum curator that Kitty, despite her feline features, was a little girl. A company spokesperson repeated the distinction this year, renewing debate online about the requirements for being considered human.

“She is supposed to be Kitty White and English. But this is part of the enigma: Who is Hello Kitty? We can’t figure it out. We don’t even know if she is a cat,” art historian Joyce S. Cheng, a University of Oregon associate professor, said. “There is an unresolved indeterminacy about her that is so amazing.” Part of the confusion stems from a misunderstanding of “kawaii,” which is Japanese for “cute” but also connotes a lovable or adorable essence. Sanrio recruited Shimizu and other illustrators to create “kawaii” characters at a time when cute, girlish styles were popular in Japan. But the word is used often in Japanese society, and not only to describe babies and puppies.

An elderly man, something as innocuous as an umbrella, a subcompact car or a kitchen utensil, or even a horror movie monster can get labeled “kawaii.” By Western standards, the idea may seem embarrassingly frivolous. But it’s taken seriously in Japan, where the concept is linked with the most honorable instincts.

The complexity of “kawaii” may help explain Hello Kitty’s enduring appeal across generations and cultures, why Canadian singer-songwriter Avril Lavigne released a song titled “Hello Kitty” a decade ago, and why Britain’s King Charles wished Hello Kitty a happy 50th birthday when he hosted Japan’s Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako at Buckingham Palace in June.

Lifestyle

It’s spooky season

Discover scary stories from around the world

NEW YORK, Oct 31, (AP): Some are well-worn warnings as familiar as the changing of seasons. Others are slow burns that end with a bang. Still others are just plain eerie.

Stories of spiritual entities, paranormal activity and creepy cryptids are passed through generations the world over, becoming local legends that only sometimes reach across borders and cultures.

So if the sordid tales you grew up with no longer make you shiver, it’s time to reanimate your roster with global tales of ghosts, hauntings, and petrifying processions.

With Halloween nigh, and the season in many parts of the world ripe for campfires and spooky stories, people gravitate toward fear even in a complex and sometimes scary world. Here are some favorites - lore and fiction, with maybe some truth sprinkled throughout - that The Associated Press gathered from its journalists around the planet:

If you were out on the road in China in the old days - if you believe the stories, that is - you might have encountered a strange procession.

First, a man carrying a white paper lantern and scattering fake paper money ahead of them, chanting, “Yo ho, yo ho.” Then, a towering, hooded black figure wearing a ghastly mask and marching in an awkward, wooden gait. Bringing up the rear, another man guiding the giant by touch, perhaps with a black cat.

They were corpse walkers - and the giant was the corpse.

Bad things happen when someone gets buried far from home: Without descendants to feed their spirit and keep their grave clean, they’ll have a hard time settling in. They could even come back as a hungry ghost. So when a traveler died, the family would hire people who knew the strange art of walking a stiff body home.

When interviewer Liao Yiwu asked about memories of corpse walkers in the 2000s, some said they’d use a black cat to imbue the body with static electricity to make it walk. Others said there was a third man hiding under the cloak and giving the corpse a piggyback ride.

People kept their distance, he wrote, but the corpse walkers were always welcome at inns because they paid three times the normal rate and were said to bring good luck.

- By David Cohen in Bangkok

One of France’s oldest spooky legends is also one of its most gruesome, because it involves a walking headless corpse.

Said to have been Paris’ first bishop, Denis - later St. Denis - went on to lend his name to what is now the northern Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, famous for its magnificent basilica, its soccer stadium and the Olympic village that housed athletes during the Paris Games.

The third-century Roman rulers of what was then Gaul were apparently less than thrilled that Denis and companions Rustique and Eleuthère were making converts. Even after tossing them in prison, Denis continued to celebrate Mass. In some accounts, Denis suffered all manner of unspeakable tortures to make him renounce his faith - not just run-of-the-mill flagellation, but also mauling by famished wild beasts and being locked in a scorching oven.

Eventually, the three were sentenced to death and beheaded.

Legend has it that Denis’ corpse, lifted by two angels, picked up his severed head and walked from the Mount of Martyrs - the supposed execution site now called Montmartre - for about 6 kilometers (nearly 4 miles) before collapsing in the village of Catulliacum, now the town of Saint-Denis.

In Montmartre today, Suzanne Buisson Square has a statue of St. Denis holding his head, which he is said to have washed in the waters of a fountain there before staggering away with it.

- By John Leicester in Paris

Slithering beneath the vast dunes of the Gobi Desert, legend has it, is the monstrous Mongolian Death Worm. It kills prey by squirting lethal venom and can even electrocute from a distance. So goes the folklore that has since inspired depictions of deadly giant worms in movies and fiction. In Mongolia, the creature is known as olgoi khorkhoi, which roughly translates as “intestine worm.”

The critter became known abroad after American paleontologist and explorer Roy Chapman Andrews wrote about it in his 1926 book, “On the Trail of Ancient Man: A Narrative of the Field Work of the Central Asiatic Expeditions.” During a meeting with the Mongolian premier, Andrews was asked to capture a specimen of the giant worm.

“None of those present ever had seen the creature, but they all firmly believed in its existence and described it minutely,” he wrote. “It is shaped like a sausage about two feet long, has no head nor legs and is so poisonous that merely to touch it means instant death.” Some believe the lore began with a more common animal - a snake called the Tartar sand boa. Others, undeterred, believe the giant worms exists. Subsequent expeditions have yet to yield any proof.



Ella Purnell arrives at the season two premiere of ‘Arcane’ on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024, at The Egyptian Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

Music

Singer pushes boundaries

‘Chromakopia’ explores Tyler’s journey

LOS ANGELES, Oct 31, (AP): On his seventh studio album, “Chromakopia,” the multi-hyphenate Tyler, pulls back the curtain. Across 14 tracks, the rapper born Tyler Okonma interrogates the anxieties that come with age and fame, intertwining them with his own wisdom and some that arrive via carefully-placed voice messages.

Tyler is a jack of all trades excelling across industries in music, fashion and television. Like his hero Pharrell Williams, Tyler is known for his unconventional fashion sense as the founder of luxury label’s Golf Wang and Golf le Fleur, along with his television work on the Adult Swim sketch comedy series “Loiter Squad.” He established his role as a counter cultural tastemaker and controversial rule breaker with his first mixtape, 2009’s album and continues to push the boundaries of music - it’s no wonder his latest release continues to break barriers.

“Chromakopia” starts off strong with “St. Chroma” - an introduction to the new masked persona on the album’s cover - with forceful military cadences in the background of both Tyler and R&B singer Daniel Caesar’s vocals. A reassuring woman’s voice is heard at the beginning, “You are the light. It’s not on you. It’s in you.”

“I ain’t never had a doubt inside me,” he raps. “And if I ever told you that I did, I’m (expletive) lyin’.”

As a whole, the album “Chromakopia” represents the two-time Grammy-award winning artist as he delves into his 30s. In this new era, he seeks understanding in

all aspects of his life as he seeks to understand himself.

It’s not all light, like on the track “Like Him,” where Tyler explores similarities to an estranged father.

“Give me love and affection / Attention, protection (Go),” he sings in the second verse. “How could I ever miss a chance (Go) / That I never had?”

At a listening party for the album in Inglewood, California, on Sunday night, Tyler offered a kind of mission statement for the album. ““Oh, I’m not the guy I was at 20,” he said. “I’ve got a gray hair on my chest. Life is life-ing. I just wanted to write about stuff I think about when I’m dolo,” shorthand for the slang term “solo dolo,” to mean “by myself.”

He’s thinking about a lot: “Hey Jane” details a pregnancy scare atop dreamy production, “Take Your Mask Off” tells the story of various characters afraid to live in their truth. It’s as much about Tyler, the Creator himself as it is about them. “I hope you find yourself,” he says. “I hope you take your mask off.”

Lead single “Noid” targets celebrity, addressing paranoia and the strange parasocial relationships that come with fame in a claustrophobic, transgressive package. The chorus samples Zambian rock band Ngozi Family’s 1977 track, “Nizakupanga Ngozi.”

But the album isn’t all deep introspection. Tyler is as brash as ever on like “Thought I Was Dead” and “Rah Tah Tah,” which use deep bass that reverberates, felt in the listeners’ bones.

Variety

NEW YORK: Francis Ford Coppola will receive the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award, the American Film Institute announced Tuesday.

Coppola, who recently released his long-in-development epic “Megalopolis,” will be presented with the award in a gala tribute at Los Angeles’ Dolby Theatre on April 26. The 85-year-old filmmaker will be the 50th recipient of the award first handed out to John Ford in 1973.

“Francis Ford Coppola is a peerless artist - one who has created seminal works in the canon of American film, and has also inspired generations of filmmakers who now embody his artistry and his independent spirit,” said the producer Kathleen Kennedy, chair of the AFI board of trustees. (AP)

□ □ □



Coppola

NEW YORK: The owner of New Jersey’s largest newspaper says it will stop publishing a daily print version of the paper early next year, but its online version will continue.

The Newark Morning Ledger Co. said the decision announced Wednesday was due to rising costs, decreasing circulation and reduced demand for print copies of the Star-Ledger. The company also said it will close its Montville production facility in February 2025, the same time the newspaper’s print version will cease.

The Jersey City-based newspaper, which is owned by the Evening Journal Association, outsourced its printing several years ago to The Star-Ledger. Journal officials said Wednesday the paper could not remain in business following the production facility’s closure, noting it would likely face increased costs with a new printer and its circulation is small and dependent on newsstand sales. (AP)

□ □ □

CAIRO: The seventh edition of Egypt’s “Jump Like a Pharaoh” air sports festival kicked off on Tuesday, with about 200 skydivers from different countries participating in the three-day event.

The festival began as 100 skydivers jumped from C-130 aircraft provided by the Egyptian Armed Forces. They fashionably landed at the foot of the Pyramid of Khafre in Giza, near the capital Cairo.

“This edition witnessed the participation of many professional skydivers from around the world to enjoy the experience of flying over the pyramids,” said Youssef Medhat, a media officer with the organizer Skydive Egypt company. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

NEW YORK: Rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine was arrested in New York City on Tuesday for alleged parole violations that were set when he was sentenced several years ago to two years in prison in a racketeering case.

The performer, whose real name is Daniel Hernandez, was set to appear Tuesday afternoon before the federal judge who sentenced him in December 2019.

His sentencing came after he pleaded guilty in 2019 to charges accusing him of joining and directing violence by the gang known as Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods. (AP)

Smokeless alternatives key to a tobacco-free future

BAT launches global initiative to make smokeless world a reality

LONDON, Oct 31: BAT launched a global initiative to make a smokeless world a reality during the company's first ever Transformation Forum in London which took place on the 17th of September 2024.

The FTSE-listed company unveiled Omni™, an evidence-based, accessible and dynamic resource that shows how science and innovation can combine to achieve a smokeless world.

As a resource, Omni™ brings together hundreds of independent scientific studies, BAT's own research into its innovations, and examples of Tobacco Harm Reduction in action, such as Sweden which stands on the cusp of becoming the first country to go smokeless as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), making it the only European nation to reach the goal set by the EU, 16 years ahead of the 2040 target.

BAT's General Manager Middle East cluster, Alexandre Ghanem, said: "Tobacco Harm Reduction (THR) – encouraging smokers, who would otherwise continue to smoke, to switch completely to smokeless alternatives – is the fastest route to achieving a Smokeless World. And we're committed to working with a wide range of stakeholders to make this a reality.

"While we have history of humans

smoking tobacco for more than 8,000 years, innovation has now delivered smokeless products with reduced risks* compared to cigarettes. We stand on the threshold of a breakthrough science-backed change."

According to a recent report by the Smoke Free Sweden organization, Sweden has slashed its smoking rates over the past 15 years, from 15% in 2008 to 5.6% today. This massive drop was not straightforward to achieve and required a supportive regulatory framework and policy approach that enabled adult smokers access to, as well as awareness and affordability of, smokeless alternatives to cigarettes.

Sweden is on target to meet the EU's 'Beat Cancer 2040 plan' 16 years ahead of the deadline. It's been reported that if Sweden's mortality rates were applied to the rest of the EU, there would be 3.5 million fewer deaths over the next decade. Sweden also now has the lowest lung, trachea, and bronchus mortality rates in the EU.

The 'Swedish model' pursues harm reduction via regulated access to smokeless alternatives with reduced risk potential. Following in the footsteps of Sweden, New Zealand's experience also presents a compelling case study for the effectiveness of this model in achieving significant decline

in smoking rates – now dropped to 6.8% as of 2022/23. For adults who are not able or not willing to quit smoking, New Zealand and Sweden are powerful, real-life examples of the benefits of switching to smokeless alternatives.

Meanwhile, in the Middle East, consumer sentiment, in particular across the GCC countries, indicates varying levels of amenability to a transition to non-combustibles amongst adult smokers.

Local research conducted by Kantar, a global data, insights, and consulting company, shows that in the UAE, where 7.5% of consumers are currently using non-combustible products, a remarkable 83% of individuals surveyed are open to making the switch from combustible to non-combustible products. On the other hand, in Saudi Arabia, the number of consumers using reduced risk* alternatives is at 14%, and the number of people surveyed who are willing to give up conventional tobacco is significantly closer to worldwide figures and lies at 37% as of 2023.

Global public perception, however, does not seem to be synonymous with expert opinion and research findings. In a telling, large-scale, international survey of 27,000 smokers from 28 countries, Ipsos, a multinational leader



Overhead view of pipetting DNA sample into microcentrifuge tubes.

in market research and consulting survey, found that 74% of smokers across the world believe that vaping is at least as harmful as smoking cigarettes. In fact, misinformation is so rampant in countries such as Brazil, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Kazakhstan that 80% of smokers polled consider vaping to be more harmful than tobacco.

These statistics illustrate the scale of the challenge facing public health officials, as well as the educational efforts and messaging needed to change perspectives.

Significant misperceptions about reduced risk* alternatives and the role of THR policies in public health continue to prevail, particularly on the global

stage. Yet, we are presented with a unique opportunity to ensure multi-stakeholder collaboration on pragmatic and evidence-based approach to tobacco control that prioritizes harm reduction and public health outcomes.

BAT's Director of Research and Science, and one of Omni™'s lead authors, Dr James Murphy, said: "With Omni™, BAT is showcasing its world-class research. Omni means all, and we are committed to opening it up to all stakeholders in the THR policy discussion so that we can seize this opportunity to build a smokeless world.

We're conscious that this will only be possible through genuine dialogue. That's why we're inviting anyone who shares our vision – including those who might disagree with us – to review the evidence and join the conversation."

He also added: "A smokeless world will only be achieved through the adoption of tobacco harm reduction, and this will require more dialogue and whole-of-society solutions. We're ready to lead and be part of that dialogue. It's too important not to".

□ □ □

* Based on the weight of evidence and assuming a complete switch from cigarettes smoking. These products are not risk free and are addictive.

The Conversation

AI spots resistance genes, drug blockers

Machine learning helps experts fight 'antibiotic resistance' at the source

By Abdullahi Tunde Aborode
Mississippi State University

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

□ □ □

Antibiotic resistance is a growing public health problem around the world. When bacteria like E. coli no longer respond to antibiotics, infections become harder to treat.

To develop new antibiotics, researchers typically identify the genes that make bacteria resistant. Through laboratory experiments, they observe how bacteria respond to different antibiotics and look for mutations in the genetic makeup of resistant strains that allow them to survive.

While effective, this method can be time-consuming and may not always capture the full picture of how bacteria become resistant. For example, changes in how genes work that don't involve mutations can still influence resistance. Bacteria can also exchange resistance genes between each other, which may not be detected if only focusing on mutations within a single strain.

My colleagues and I developed a new approach to identify E. coli resistance genes by computer modeling, allowing us to design new compounds that can block these genes and make existing treatments more effective.

To predict which genes contribute to resistance, we analyzed

the genomes of various E. coli strains to identify genetic patterns and markers associated with resistance. We then used machine learning algorithms trained on existing data to highlight novel genes or mutations shared across resistant strains that might contribute to resistance.

After identifying resistance genes, we designed inhibitors that specifically target and block the proteins these genes produce. By analyzing the structure of the proteins these genes code for, we were able to optimize our inhibitors to strongly bind to these specific proteins.

Genome

To reduce the likelihood that bacteria would evolve resistance to these inhibitors, we targeted regions of their genome that code for proteins critical to their survival. By interfering with how bacteria carry out important functions, it makes it more difficult for them to develop mechanisms to compensate. We also prioritized compounds that work differently from existing antibiotics to minimize cross-resistance.

Finally, we tested how effectively our inhibitors could overcome antibiotic resistance in E. coli. We used computer simulations to assess how strongly a number of inhibitors bind to target proteins over time. One inhibitor called hesperidin was able to strongly bind to the three genes in E. coli involved in resistance that

we identified, suggesting it may be able to help combat antibiotic-resistant strains.

The World Health Organization ranks antimicrobial resistance as one of the top 10 threats to global health. In 2019, bacterial antibiotic resistance killed an estimated 4.95 million people worldwide.

By targeting the specific genes responsible for resistance to existing drugs, our approach could lead to treatments for challenging bacterial infections that are not only more effective but also less likely to contribute to further resistance. It can also help researchers keep up with bacterial threats as they evolve.

Our predictive approach could be adapted to other bacterial strains, allowing for more personalized treatment strategies. In the future, doctors could potentially tailor antibiotic treatments based on the specific genetic makeup of the bacteria causing the infection, potentially leading to better outcomes.

As antibiotic resistance continues to rise globally, our findings may provide a crucial tool in the fight against this threat. Further development is needed before our methods can be used in the clinic. But by staying ahead of bacterial evolution, targeted inhibitors could help preserve the efficacy of existing antibiotics and reduce the spread of resistant strains. (AP)

Research leads to new blood test for cancer

New British cancer treatment trial shrinks 'aggressive tumor' by half

LONDON, Oct 30, (Agencies): A man's brain tumor has shrunk by half in a matter of weeks thanks to a new radioactive therapy, BBC reported on Tuesday.

Patient Paul Read, aged 62, was the first to take part in a trial aimed at treating glioblastoma, a type of cancer that kills most patients within 18 months.

The therapy, executed at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH), involved injecting low levels of radioactivity directly into the tumor to kill off cancer cells.

The doctor who designed the trial said the results were "remarkable for somebody whose tumor is so aggressive."

Surgeons first removed as much tumor as possible before implanting a small medical device, called an Omaya reservoir, under the scalp, the BBC said.

The drug ATT001, which is given weekly for four to six weeks, is potent over short distances, causing lethal damage to cancer cells while sparing

healthy tissue.

□ □ □

Australian researchers have identified a diagnostic marker that they say could lead to a new blood test to monitor cancer patients, according to a landmark study published on Tuesday.

A team from Melbourne's Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) and La Trobe University discovered a new diagnostic marker that can be used to better detect levels of tissue damage in the human body.

The world-first research revealed the link between levels of extracellular vesicles (EVs) in the blood and tissue damage caused by diseases such as leukemia.

EVs are small particles released by all cells that distribute important materials, including proteins, fats and genetic information, to other cells.

Research into how they form and their link to the progression of diseases has proved challenging because of their small size but the new study

was able to make a breakthrough by using high-resolution microscopy to image live EVs inside the bone marrow of mice.

"In this study, we've shown that the development of leukemia can degrade healthy blood vessels in the bone marrow. Mice with extensive blood vessel damage in their bone marrow had elevated levels of EVs in their blood, while healthy mice did not," Georgia Atkin-Smith, first author of the study and WEHI cell biologist, said.

"This revealed, for the first time, that there is a link between EVs in the blood and tissue damage during cancer," she said.

The team is hopeful that the discovery will lead to a new blood test to monitor cancer patients with tissue damage and enhanced treatment strategies for patients with blood cancers and other diseases.

The link between EVs and tissue damage was first theorized in 2018 by WEHI Laboratory Head Edwin Hawkins, a senior author of the study.

Early cancer detection made easy

AI breast-cancer screening on phones

BEIJING, Oct 31, (Xinhua): A team of Chinese doctors has been developing an artificial intelligence-based infrared thermography (AI-IRT) system for breast-cancer screening, enabling users to easily check their levels of cancer risk through an app by linking infrared cameras to their smartphones.

According to the research team from the Beijing-based Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH), the system is composed of an infrared camera, an AI algorithm, and a big-data platform.

After linking the infrared cameras to their smartphones, users can use the cameras to capture thermal images of their breasts. These are then uploaded

to a phone app and automatically processed by the AI algorithm, with the results showing different levels of cancer risk.

The research team expects the system to serve as a more convenient, accurate and cost-effective breast cancer pre-clinical screening solution for Chinese women. Currently, breast self-examination is the main pre-clinical screening method, yet most women do not perform breast self-examinations regularly or employ the correct techniques.

Breast cancer is a major female health issue in China. In 2022, China recorded 357,200 new cases of breast cancer, the second most prevalent malignancy among females in that year,

and 75,000 deaths from the disease.

"Early screening and diagnosis are key to the treatment of breast cancer," said Sun Qiang, a chief breast physician at the PUMCH and a core member of the research team.

Compared with major clinical screening methods such as ultrasound examination, mammography and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), the AI-IRT system as a large-scale pre-clinical screening method has the advantages of being non-invasive, radiation-free, quick and more affordable. IRT is also regarded as an effective technique in screening dense breasts, which are more common among Asian women.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For
your
ads on
this page

Call: 24813805 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE
الفروانية FARAWANIYA

Dermatology - Cosmetology Dept.

Dr. Abdul Nazer
MBBS, MD (DVD)
Skin & Dermatology
Specialist

Dr. Faizan Kalekhan
MBBS, MD, DNB
Dermatology,
Venereology & Leprosy

Our Services
PRP | Peels | Painless laser hair removal | Treatment for scars, acne scars, wrinkles, Aging, Skin Tightening, Stretch marks | Cellulite, fat, warts, moles, corn | Mesotherapy | Crystal Peel & diamond Microdermabrasion | Carboxytherapy | Dualpeel | Whitening treatment (Localized & Whole body) Botox | Fillers | Hair loss treatment | Nail surgeries | Skin biopsies | Cryotherapy | Dermapen

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police Station - Farwaniya
www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Ph: 2473 4000

Valuable cash prizes to the top 12 winners in the 5km and 10km race for both females and males

Online registration for National Bank of Kuwait Run continues

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The registration for National Bank of Kuwait's (NBK) Run continues online through Suffix website. NBK Run is scheduled to kick off on Saturday 14th, December 2024.

The race for both the female and male participants will start at 8:30 am with two distances beginning and ending at Kuwait Towers. The starting point of 10 km, heads toward Souq Sharq before turning and continuing along the Gulf Road to 200 meters before the Green Island intersection, then looping back to Kuwait Towers and the starting point of 5 km, will follow a similar route, reaching the Army Officers' Club before heading back to Kuwait Towers.

Participants can still register until spots are filled. Applicants can then collect their assigned T-shirt and number next to Kuwait Towers from December 12 to December 13, between 1:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

NBK will award the top 3 winners (women and men) in the 10 km race with KD 1000, KD 700, KD 500 cash prizes. The top3 winners (women and men) in the 5 km race will win KD



500, KD 400, KD 300 cash prizes..

NBK Public Relations and Event Management Executive Manager, Talal Al Turki said: "As the first sports event in Kuwait and the GCC, NBK Run continues its long tradition in supporting its community". "Every

year, people wait for NBK's Run. We are keen to meet people's expectations every year because it's our duty and commitment. he stressed. "Over the past 30 years, our aim was not only to encourage people to participate but also to enjoy the event."

Al Turki also commented on the great collaboration of various partners and institutions that contribute to the success of this sports festival and commended the continuous support of different ministries and governmental institutions, headed by Health-Medical Emergency, Kuwait Fire Force and the Ministry of Interior.

The event is also marked by a special partnership with EQUATE Petrochemicals, with the paraathletes category, including three groups: wheelchair users, the visually impaired, and those with leg prosthetics. EQUATE will offer cash prizes to the top five winners in the men's and women's categories for the 5 km race, with awards of KD 500, KD 400, KD 300, and two prizes of KD 100 accordingly.

Strategic partner Ooredoo will also provide iPhones, Apple Watches, and "Shamel" packages to the top

- Al Turki
- Our responsibility at NBK is to promote a healthier and more active lifestyle for members of the community
 - Valuable cash prizes to the top 12 winners in the 5KM and 10KM race for both females and males
 - Grand draws include strategic partners' prizes:
 - Prizes for the top three finishers in the 10 km category (men and women): KD 1,000, KD 700, and KD 500.
 - Prizes for the top three finishers in the 5 km category (men and women): KD 500, KD 400, and KD 300.
 - A Nissan X-Trail will be raffled off, courtesy of strategic partner Al Babbain Group.
 - EQUATE sponsors the Para athlete category, offering 30 cash prizes worth KD 8,500 in total
 - A chance to win iPhones, Apple Watches, and Ooredoo's "Shamel" packages, including a KD 5,000 Platinum Line
 - Touristic Enterprises Company is offering 18,000 entry tickets to their facilities for all participants
 - Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa offers prizes from their brands "Intersport" and "Joe & The Juice" for both winners and participants
 - CHIPS Store provides unique Apple prizes

three winners of the Run. Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa will offer valuable vouchers to the top 12 winners of all categories.

Closing Ceremony Raffles

The closing ceremony will feature special raffles open to all registered participants. Al Babbain Group, a strategic partner, will raffle off a 2024 Nissan X-Trail. Ooredoo will offer an exceptional prize of a KD 5,000 Platinum Line. Touristic Enterprises Company will provide 18,000 entry tickets to its parks and facilities (including Winter Wonderland and South Sabahiyah Park) to all participants. Additionally, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa will offer prizes from their "Intersport" and "Joe & The Juice" brands to raffle participants. CHIPS Store will also offer two lucky winners Apple devices.

People who registered in NBK Run will be eligible to enter the grand draw and have the chance to win one of these prizes and rewards. The draw will take place under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce. NBK Run is part of NBK's ongoing commitment to social initiatives. The bank consistently organizes various social, humanitarian, charitable, educational, sports, and environmental events, all aimed at benefiting the community and contributing to its development.

Botafogo advances to 1st Copa final



Damian Suarez of Brazil's Botafogo, right, and Maximiliano Olivera of Uruguay's Penarol battle for the ball during a Copa Libertadores semifinal second leg soccer match at Centenario stadium in Montevideo, Uruguay. (AP)

Loss at Penarol could not stop Brazil team

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Oct 31, (AP): Brazil's Botafogo advanced to its first Copa Libertadores final despite a 3-1 loss at Uruguay's Penarol. The Rio de Janeiro side had won the first leg of its semifinal 5-0.

Botafogo's rival in the Nov. 30 decider in Buenos Aires will be fellow Brazilian side Atletico Mineiro, which reached the final after a 0-0 draw at Argentina's River Plate on Tuesday and after a 3-0 win in the first leg.

Botafogo rested many of its starters because of the big advantage, including national team strikers Luiz Henrique and Igor Jesus.

Jaime Báez scored Penarol's first two goals. The first came from long distance in the 31st minute and the second in the 66th from the edge of the box. By then, the hosts were one man down due to an

unusual red card.

Goalkeeper Washington Aguerre was sent off during the break after intentionally stepping on the foot of Botafogo goalie John. Botafogo lost a player in the 69th minute when Mateo Ponte received his second yellow only seconds after he got his first.

World Cup champion Thiago Almada was brought in by Botafogo in the second half and scored for the visiting team from close range in the 88th minute. One minute later, also from close range, Penarol's Facundo Batista netted the third goal for the Uruguayan team.

Brazilian teams have won the tournament for the past five years. The final will be played at the Monumental de Nunez Stadium in Buenos Aires.

Atletico's win on Tuesday also affected the race to be the last South American qualifier for the 2025 Club World Cup, as it eliminated Olimpia of Paraguay from contention.

Olimpia would have advanced to the 32-team tournament in the United States had River Plate won this Copa Libertadores edition. River Plate already qualified based on its consistent results in the continental competition across four seasons.

FIFA will make the draw for the June 15-July 13 tournament on a date in early December it has not yet confirmed.

Also on Wednesday, Brazil's Cruzeiro advanced to the Copa Sudamericana final with a 1-0 win at Argentina's Lanus. Their first leg ended 1-1 last week.

Cruzeiro could face another Brazilian team in the decider of South America's second most prestigious club tournament.

Corinthians, the club of Dutch striker Memphis Depay, will take on Argentina's Racing in Buenos Aires on Thursday. Their first leg in Sao Paulo finished 2-2.

Proteas sweep test series 2-0

South Africa beats Bangladesh by an innings

CHATTOGRAM, Bangladesh, Oct 31, (AP): South Africa beat Bangladesh by an innings and 273 runs inside three days and swept the two-test series on Thursday.

The series victory was South Africa's first in Asia since 2008.

Bangladesh lost 16 wickets on day three and fell to its second worst defeat, behind the innings and 310 runs loss to West Indies in 2002.

In reply to South Africa's 575-6 declared, Bangladesh was all out for 159 just after lunch, forced to follow on, and bowled out again for 143 in 44 overs.

Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada took 5-37 in the first innings and left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj 5-59 in the second innings. Left-arm spinner Senuran Muthusamy grabbed a career-best 4-45 in his fourth test to play a perfect foil to Maharaj.

South Africa won the first test in Mirpur last week by seven wickets for its first victory on the subcontinent since 2014. It earned its biggest innings win ever in Chattogram.

"We played some really good cricket, considering the conditions we are not used to," South Africa stand-in captain Aiden Markram said.

He praised Tony de Zorzi, Tristan Stubbs and Wiaan Mulder for their maiden test centuries and the bowlers.

"That was special," Markram said. "The three of them, to get stuck in when it was tough to score at times ... to get



New Zealand captain Tom Latham takes part in a practice session before the third test match against India, in Mumbai, India. (AP)

the team in a strong position, was immense. Taking wickets with the new ball, no matter where you play, is important. KG was special. Then others made the impact."

Resuming the day at 38-4, Bangladesh was reduced to 48-8 with Rabada grabbing his 15th five-for in tests.

A 103-run ninth-wicket partnership between Mominul Haque and Taijul Islam delayed the inevitable. Mominul

made a team-best 82 and Taijul 30.

Leading by 416 runs on the first innings, South Africa enforced the follow-on and its bowlers justified the decision by wrapping up Bangladesh in less than two sessions.

No. 10 batter Hasan Mahmud was 38 not out and captain Najmul Hossain Shanto scored 36.

But the Bangladesh batters' injudicious shots led to their downfall.

After negotiating Rabada (7-1-17-0) with some luck in the second innings, Bangladesh crumbled against spin.

Rabada's new ball partner, Dane Paterson, struck first. Shadman Islam chased a delivery outside off to edge behind on 2. He was similarly dismissed in the first innings for a duck.

Muthusamy got the outside edge of the other opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy for 11.

Mominul Haque fought in the first innings for 82, but coming to bat for the second time in less than 30 minutes, he was removed for a duck while trying to dominate Maharaj.

Muthusamy extended Mushfiqur Rahim's lean patch by trapping him leg before on 2. After an epic 191 against Pakistan in August, Mushfiqur Rahim has gone 10 innings without a half-century.

Shanto counterattacked but Muthusamy and Maharaj continued chipping away with wickets to leave Bangladesh in danger of being all out for less than 100.

Muthusamy baffled Shanto with a delivery that spun sharply to take the inside edge.

Debutant Mahidul Islam scored 29 and Hasan Mahmud played some big shots to help Bangladesh go past 100.

But Maharaj dismissed Mahidul and Nahid Rana in quick succession to complete his 10th test five-for and wrap up Bangladesh.

OCA president attends countdown event

Harbin 2025 will be pinnacle of Asian winter sports

HARBIN, Oct 31, (Xinhua): Harbin 2025 will be the pinnacle of winter sports events in Asia, said Raja Randhir Singh, President of the Olympics Council of Asia, at the 100-day countdown event for the 9th Asian Winter Games here on Wednesday.

Singh said he had visited Harbin during the 3rd Asian Winter Games in 1996 and was deeply impressed by the city.

"Harbin will become the second city to have hosted two editions of the Asian Winter Games, which will be a significant honor for the city, and also a brilliant milestone in the history of the Asian Winter Games," he said.

Singh highlighted that China has rich experience in hosting major sports events, and Harbin has demonstrated professionalism, efficiency and outstanding work in preparing for the Asian Winter Games.

Singh stated that Harbin 2025 would welcome the highest number of participating countries and regions and athletes in the history of the Asian Winter Games, adding that he had full confidence that Harbin would host a splendid event.

"As the theme 'Dream of Winter, Love among Asia' suggests, this event will be a grand gathering for people across Asia to share the dreams and future of winter sports," he added.

The 9th Asian Winter Games, which will open in Harbin on February 7, 2025, is the first major international ice and snow event hosted by China since the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

More than 1,500 athletes from 34 countries and regions have registered to participate in the Games, with the number of participating delegations and athletes expected to reach a record high.

Focus on global unity

ANOC General Assembly opens

CASCAIS, Portugal, Oct. 31, (Xinhua):The 27th General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) opened, with a strong emphasis on Olympic solidarity and a forward-looking vision for sports innovation.

IOC President Thomas Bach addressed delegates from over 200 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), underscoring the role of the Olympic Movement in fostering peace and unity amid geopolitical challenges.

Reflecting on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, Bach commended the Organizing Committee's efforts, calling the Games "a symbol of peace in a world increasingly marked by tension and conflict." "In a world with growing tension, the Olympic Games are among the few places where humanity can come together in peace," he said, adding that Paris 2024 exemplified the inclusivity and diversity central to the Olympic vision.

Bach applauded the organizing team for delivering Games that were "younger, more urban, and more sustainable," reflecting key reforms from the Olympic Agenda 2020+5.

The IOC president's remarks also highlighted the impact of the Olympic Solidarity Fund, which saw a 10% budget increase this year to 650 million U.S. dollars. He explained that this expansion aims to ensure athletes from all backgrounds can access training and competitive opportunities, noting that the Paris Olympics saw 91 NOCs earn medals, with several countries winning their first-ever Olympic golds.

"Our mission is to level the playing field," Bach said, reaffirming the commitment to provide resources that bridge the competitive gap between developing and developed countries.

Turning to technology, Bach urged NOCs to embrace artificial intelligence (AI) and other innovations as tools to further Olympic goals. He outlined the IOC's "Olympic Artificial Intelligence Agenda," which promotes AI applications to support fair play and enhance sports equity across nations.

"If we do not seize these opportunities, others will define the future of sport, potentially undermining our values," Bach noted, stressing the importance of proactively steering technology in line with Olympic values.

He said the AI Agenda is designed to identify talent, personalize training, and support fair adjudication in sports, ensuring that AI serves athletes worldwide rather than just privileged countries.

ANOC President Robin Mitchell echoed Bach's call for unity, noting that the General Assembly provides an invaluable opportunity for NOCs to share strategies and collaborate on challenges specific to their regions.

"Together, we are stronger," Mitchell said, adding that collaboration among NOCs is essential to the

Olympic Movement's growth and its ability to address new global challenges.

Olympic Committees (ANOC) here on Wednesday, recognizing his exceptional achievements and contributions to the sport.

Ma, 36, has competed in four consecutive Olympic Games since London 2012. Over his Olympic career, he has won six gold medals, becoming China's most decorated Olympian.

In the 2016 Rio Olympics, he clinched his first singles gold, completing a career Grand Slam. Five years later in Tokyo, he defended his title, becoming the first male table tennis player to claim back-to-back Olympic singles titles and achieving the status of the first "double Grand Slam" champion in the sport.

"It's a great honor to receive this award and to be recognized by ANOC," Ma told Xinhua. "This award represents not only my efforts but also those of the Chinese table tennis team. Four of my six Olympic gold medals came from the team event, which reflects our collective strength, and I am very grateful to my teammates." The award ceremony was held in the coastal town of Cascais, Portugal, where the 27th General Assembly of the ANOC is taking place.

During the ceremony, a video montage highlighted memorable moments from Ma's career. Watching the footage, the Chinese veteran remarked on how quickly time had passed, saying, "It feels like my Olympic journey has flashed by in the blink of an eye." Ma added that his success comes not only from his love for table tennis, but also from the support of his team and family who encouraged him throughout his career.

The female recipient of the Outstanding Sporting Career Award was New Zealand's kayaking star Lisa Carrington. Like Ma, Carrington began her Olympic journey at London 2012 and has since won multiple medals, including eight golds, solidifying her status as one of the sport's greatest athletes.

The ceremony also honored other standout performances from the Paris Olympics. Botswana's track star Letsile Tebogo received the Best Male Athlete award after winning the men's 200m, earning Botswana's first Olympic gold. The Best Female Athlete award went to Saint Lucia's Julien Alfred, who won gold in the women's 100m and silver in the 200m, making history as her country's first Olympic medalist.

IOC executive board member Li Lingwei presented the Best Men's Team in individual sports award to Japan's gymnastics team, while the British women's cycling sprint team won the Best Women's Team in individual sports.

‘A genuine effort to change lifestyle habits within our community’

Gulf Bank invites community to participate in upcoming marathon on Nov 30 during press conference with Suffix

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Gulf Bank is excited to announce the upcoming Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, scheduled for Saturday, November 30, 2024. The annual event welcomes athletes, beginners, and community members to take part in one of Kuwait's largest sporting and social events, recognized as the only marathon in the country with international certification.

During a press conference, attended by representatives from the event organizer, Suffix, and various sponsors, Gulf Bank's Chief Marketing Officer, Mrs. Najla Aleisa, conveyed her enthusiasm for the upcoming event. "We are excited to extend this invitation to all community members, as well as athletes and fitness enthusiasts, to take part in the 10th edition of the Gulf Bank Marathon. This milestone makes the event a significant highlight of Kuwait's annual sporting calendar."

Mrs. Aleisa highlighted the Bank's ongoing support for the marathon, stressing its importance in cultivating a sports culture within the community. "Our sponsorship reflects our commitment to sustainable development by investing in the capabilities of our society and empowering its members."

"The marathon represents a genuine effort to change lifestyle habits within our community, encouraging both individuals and families to integrate exercise into their daily lives," she noted, addressing the growing concerns of diabetes, obesity, and heart disease.

She also noted the marathon's role in supporting youth and national initiatives through collaboration with the organizing company and by creating opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses. The event aims to showcase Kuwaiti talent and professional runners, enabling them to compete in international marathons.

In conclusion, Mrs. Aleisa remarked, "Sports goes beyond physical activity; it's about cultivating resilience, both physically and mentally, and overcoming challenges. Every step we take towards a healthier lifestyle brings us closer to our goals. I wish all participants a wonderful day filled with sportsmanship, and we are dedicated to ensuring that



A group photo of the Gulf Bank and Suffix teams, with Najla Aleisa and Ahmed Al-Majed in the middle.

this 10th edition is a memorable experience!"

Celebrating Growth and Community in the Heart of Kuwait City

On behalf of Suffix Sports Management Company, Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Ahmed Al-Majed, expressed pride in partnering with Gulf Bank to host this popular community sports event, which continues to grow each year. "We're thrilled to see more participants from both Kuwait and the region. Over the past nine editions, more than 53,000 runners from over 90 nationalities have taken part, and we're expecting a record number of participants for this milestone event."

He described the marathon route, noting that it is the largest local sporting event held in the heart of Kuwait City. The course takes runners past iconic landmarks, including the Kuwait Towers, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, the Grand Mosque, Souq Al-Mubarakiya, and Gulf Bank headquarters. Participants will have the opportunity to



Najla Aleisa speaking at the press conference.

win medals and exciting prizes.

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon offers four categories to accommodate all skill levels: a 5-kilometer walk or run, a 10-kilometer run, a half marathon (21 kilometers), and a full marathon (42 kilometers). Participants can register for the 5-kilometer race starting at age 11, the 10-kilometer race at age 16, and the half marathon at age 18.

Family-Friendly Activities and Exclusive Services at the Marathon

Mrs. Aleisa also mentioned the various entertainment activities scheduled to create a family-friendly environment during the marathon. Gulf Bank will set up a one-day digital branch at the finish line in Souq Sharq, allowing participants

Najla Aleisa

- "We wish all participants a wonderful sports day and promise to make the tenth edition of the marathon an unforgettable experience."
- "We support the government's efforts to cultivate a culture of sports within the community, viewing it as a key pillar of sustainable development."
- Ahmed Al-Majed: "The marathon continues to succeed year after year, and we anticipate a record number of participants for this milestone event."
- "The categories available for participants include the 5-kilometer and 10-kilometer races, as well as the half marathon (21 kilometers) and the full marathon (42 kilometers)."

and their families to easily open an AlDanah account.

Registration Open

Registration is currently open for all routes. Interested participants can sign up at www.gulfbank642marathon.com.

International Recognition

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is

the only marathon in Kuwait to receive a Road Race Label from the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and is recognized as an international event by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS). Additionally, participants aged 40 and above can earn points toward the Abbott World Marathon Majors Wanda Age Group World Rankings.

Sulaibikhat makes strong start to basketball league



Al-Sulaibikhat and Kazma players challenge for the ball.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Sulaibikhat Club made a strong start to the 62nd basketball league by securing 85-75 victory over Kazma at the Union Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. In the day's other match, Al-Arabi defeated Al-Yarmouk 85-66, with the winners receiving two points and the losers one.

Under the guidance of Fahad Burjas, Al-Sulaibikhat delivered a solid performance against Kazma, one of Kuwait's leading basketball teams, coached by Montenegrin Igor Jovovich. Al-Sulaibikhat, also known as the "Red of the North," set the pace early on, leading the first quarter by three points (16-13) and extending its lead to 35-32 by halftime, thanks in part to the impressive play of American import Mickey Dixon, who scored 30 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Kazma rallied in the third quarter, with contributions from Abdulrahman and Saho Al-Saho, both recent transfers from Kuwait, but Al-Sulaibikhat's high energy and strong teamwork allowed them to maintain a 57-47 lead going into the final quarter. The last quarter was action-packed, with each team scoring 28 points, sealing Al-Sulaibikhat's well-deserved victory and marking the first upset of the league.

The first round of the league, which includes nine teams, continues this evening with two matches: last season's cup champion Al-Qadisiya faces Al-Tadamon at 5:00 pm at the Ittihad Hall, followed by Al-Qurain vs. Al-Nasr at 7:30 pm in the same venue.

Bayern eases past Mainz in German Cup

BERLIN, Oct 31, (Xinhua): Jamal Musiala's first-half hat-trick paved the way for Bayern Munich's 4-0 win over Mainz, advancing them to the last 16 of the German Cup.

Bayern started brightly against Mainz and needed just two minutes to break the deadlock, with Musiala finishing off a fine combination involving Alphonso Davies and Harry Kane at the far post.

The visitor continued to dictate the tempo and control possession but was unable to create clear-cut chances against a deep Mainz defense.

The crowd had to wait until the

half-hour mark to see more action, with Serge Gnabry hitting the woodwork with a rebound before Leroy Sane was denied by Mainz goalkeeper Robin Zentner.

As Mainz began to come to life, with Anthony Caci hitting the side-netting with a volley on the half-hour mark, Musiala doubled Bayern's lead seven minutes later by nodding the ball past Zentner.

Bayern broke Mainz's resistance in the closing stages of the first half, with Sane finishing off a counterattack, and Musiala sealing his hat-trick after latching onto Konrad Laimer's build-up.

Man Utd responds to Ten Hag firing by routing Leicester in League Cup

Tottenham ousts Man City

LONDON, Oct 31, (AP): Manchester United responded to the firing of Erik ten Hag by scoring four goals in the first 38 minutes on the way to a 5-2 thrashing of Leicester in the English League Cup, while Tottenham eliminated Manchester City in the last 16.

Also advancing to the competition's first all-Premier League quarterfinals lineup in 14 years were defending champion Liverpool, Arsenal, Newcastle and Crystal Palace.

Two days after Ten Hag's exit, United displayed the cutting edge so often lacking under the Dutchman with Brazil midfielder Casemiro scoring two of the team's first-half goals - one a curling strike into the top corner from 30 meters.

Alejandro Garnacho and Bruno Fernandes also netted in that early flurry of goals, while Fernandes added a fifth in the 59th.

Ruud van Nistelrooy, United's former star striker, took charge of United having been Ten Hag's assistant, and enjoyed what might be his only game at the helm. United appears close to bringing in Sporting Lisbon coach Ruben Amorim as the replacement for Ten Hag.

"It is clear that this is going to be short term," Van Nistelrooy said, "so for me today was the most important day after what happened. In such short notice ... credit to the players, they were fantastic."

It was a night to forget for Premier League leader Man City, which not only lost the match to Tottenham 2-1 but also lost Savinho and Manuel Akanji to injuries to further deplete Pep Guardiola's ravaged squad.

Goals by Timo Werner and Pape Sarr in the opening 25 minutes put Tottenham two goals clear before Matheus Nunes reduced the deficit in first-half stoppage time for City.

Akanji was injured in the warmup and didn't start the game, while Savinho hurt his ankle and was in tears as he was carried off the field on a stretcher in the 63rd minute. City is already without Rodri, Kevin De Bruyne, Kyle Walker, Jeremy Doku and Jack Grealish because of injuries.

"We are in a difficult position with the amount of players," Guardiola said.

Tottenham, which also sustained injuries to Micky van de Ven and Werner, was drawn to play Man United in the quarterfinals.

Liverpool continued its title defense with a 3-2 win over Brighton that was sparked by a double from Cody Gakpo.

The Netherlands international scored in the 46th and 63rd minutes at Amex Stadium, while Luis Diaz added a third in the 85th after Brighton had pulled a goal back through Simon Adingra.

Liverpool held on after Tariq Lamptey scored Brighton's second goal in the 90th and will need to make another trip to the south coast in the last eight to play Southampton.

Liverpool has won the League Cup a record 10 times, most recently last season with a victory over Chelsea in the final.

Newcastle beat Chelsea 2-0 thanks to Alexander Isak's close-range strike and an own-goal by Axel Disasi and next faces Brentford, while Palace - fielding American goalkeeper Matt Turner for his debut and his first club appearance since April 2 for Nottingham Forest - defeated Aston Villa 2-1 thanks to goals by Eberechi Eze and Daichi Kamada. Jhon Duran netted for Villa.

Palace's reward is a last-eight match against Arsenal, which was a 3-0 winner at second-tier Preston after goals by Gabriel Jesus, Ethan Nwaneri and Kai Havertz.

Tottenham vs Manchester United
Arsenal vs Crystal Palace
Newcastle vs Brentford
Southampton vs Liverpool



Newcastle United goalkeeper Nick Pope, left, and Chelsea's Christopher Nkunku battle for the ball during the English League Cup fourth round soccer match between Newcastle United and Chelsea at St James' Park, Newcastle, England. (AP)



Manchester City's Bernardo Silva, front, duels for the ball with Tottenham's Richarlison during the English League Cup fourth round soccer match between Tottenham and Manchester City, at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London. Tottenham won 2-1. (AP) — See Page 15

Sports

Kuwait opens Arab Volleyball Championship campaign against Jordan



Kuwait delegation arrives in Manama.

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

MANAMA, Oct 31: Kuwait will begin its campaign in the 23rd Arab Volleyball Championship on Saturday against Jordan at 4 pm at Isa bin Rashid Hall in Riffa, Bahrain. Qatar to face Saudi Arabia at 6:30 pm in other Group B game

The Arab Men's Volleyball Championship starts today in Bahrain and will run until the 10th of the month. Group A matches kick off with Oman facing Tunisia at 4:00 pm, followed by a clash between Bahrain and Iraq at 6:30 pm. Kuwait arrived in Manama two days ago after completing a 10-day training camp in Cairo, where it played several friendlies. It secured victories against Shams and Al-

Tayaran, but suffered defeats against Petrojet and Tala'ea Al-Geish, and drew with Sporting. The Kuwaiti delegation is headed by Hamoud Al-Badali, Assistant Treasurer of the Volleyball Federation, and includes team manager Mohammed Al-Balushi. The technical staff comprises Argentine head coach Julian Alvarez, assistant coach Zaid Al-Kazemi, fitness coach Kozak

Germoral, statistician Lux Al-Burg, and physical therapist Ahmed Al-Aqrabi. The 14-player roster features Saud Al-Duwaisan, Mohammed Suwaid, Abdullah Fares, Rashid Anbar, Fahd Saad Yaqoub, Ahmed Al-Munais, Ibrahim Mandeel, Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa, Ali Saadoun, Mishaal Al-Omar, Abdullah Bouftin, Adhbi Malik Al-Enezi, Omar Abdulrahman Al-Enezi, and Abdulaziz Najm.



Hassan Hamdan fights for the ball with Maziya Sports players.

Al Arabi set for crucial match against Arkadag in the Asian Challenge League

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Al Arabi will showcase multiple objectives when it faces Turkmenistan's Arkadag today at 5:30 pm at Kuwait Club Stadium, marking the third and final round of Group 2 in the Asian Challenge League. In the same group, Kyrgyzstan's Abdish Atta will take on Maziya Sports from the Maldives at 9:30 pm at the same venue. Currently, Arkadag leads the group with 6 points, while Al Arabi sits in second place with 3 points, ahead of Abdish Atta on goal difference. Maziya has been eliminated from the competition after suffering two defeats. To qualify at the top of the group, Al Arabi must win by two goals, provided that Abdish does not secure a victory by four goals. If it wins by just one goal, it will need to monitor Abdish's result as well as those from the first and third groups. A draw or loss would result in its elimination from the tournament. Al Arabi finds itself in a challenging position following a disappointing start against Abdish, where it suffered a narrow defeat. This has complicated its qualification chances, making it reliant on results from other groups. Under the guidance of national coach Nasser Al-Shatti, Al Arabi knows that the matchup against Arkadag will be tough, as its opponents have demonstrated impressive form in its previous matches, winning all. Al-Shatti has a roster of capable players, including Moroccan Hamza Khaba, Nigerian Anabio Iwala, Youssef Majed, Bandar Al-Salama, Hassan Hamdan, Ali Khalaf, Ali Aziz, Hussein Ashkanani, and Mauritanian Abdullah Mahmoud. However, the team will miss Algerian professional Sofiane Bouchar, who is serving a three-match suspension after receiving a red card in their initial tournament match against Abdish.

Boston suffers first loss

OKC remains unbeaten; Cavaliers blow out Lakers

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct 31, (AP): Pascal Siakam scored the last of his 29 points on a 3-pointer with 6.1 seconds left in overtime to give the Indiana Pacers a 135-132 victory over the previously unbeaten Boston Celtics on Wednesday night.

Siakam tied his single-game career high with six 3s and grabbed 11 rebounds. Benneidict Mathurin scored 21 of his 30 points in the second half, and Tyrese Haliburton had 17 points and 12 assists. The victory ended Indiana's three-game losing streak. Boston charged back from a 19-point fourth-quarter deficit to force overtime and led 132-130 after Derrick White's layup with 39.7 seconds to go. But Indiana scored the final five points to win. Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 37 points. Jaylen Brown added 25 points and had a chance to tie the score but his 3 in the waning seconds was off the mark. White finished with 23 points in the first matchup between these teams since Boston swept Indiana in last season's Eastern Conference finals. Thunder 105, Spurs 93 In Oklahoma City, Lu Dort scored 20 points, Chet Holmgren added 19 and the Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the San Antonio Spurs to remain the only unbeaten team in the Western Conference. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 18 points, and Jalen Williams had 12 points, eight assists and seven rebounds

for the Thunder. Oklahoma City has won all four of its games by at least 12 points. Harrison Barnes scored 18 points, Jeremy Sochan had 17 points and nine rebounds, and Chris Paul added 14 points and nine assists for the Spurs. San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama was held to six points on 1-for-5 shooting in his matchup with Holmgren, a fellow second-year big man. Wembanyama also had eight rebounds and three blocks. Cavaliers 134, Lakers 110 In Cleveland, Evan Mobley scored 25 points, Donovan Mitchell added 24 and the Cleveland Cavaliers improved to 5-0 with a 134-110 win over the Los Angeles Lakers in a game that included a special homecoming for LeBron James and his son, Bronny. The win marks the first time the Cavs have started 5-0 since the 2016-17 season, led by LeBron, and the third time in franchise history. In the final minutes, Bronny played for the second time as a pro and was inserted with 5:16 left. The younger James, who grew up in the arena, made a 14-foot jumper with 2:03 to play for his first NBA points. Jarrett Allen added 20 points and 17 rebounds for Cleveland. LeBron scored 26 and Anthony Davis had 22 and 13 rebounds for the Lakers, who were unable to cut into Cleveland's lead after falling behind by 23 in the first half. Warriors 104, Pelicans 89 In San Francisco, Buddy Hield scored 21 points, Trayce Jackson-Davis had 15 points and nine rebounds, and the Golden State Warriors beat the New Orleans Pelicans for the second straight night. Golden State, committed to a 12-man



New York Knicks guard Jalen Brunson (11) goes to the basket as Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo (13) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami. (AP)

rotation, again received contributions from throughout its deep roster as Stephen Curry missed his second straight game with a left ankle injury. He is scheduled to be re-evaluated Friday. Andrew Wiggins also sat out consecutive nights because of low back tightness. Draymond Green had 14 points and six assists. Jackson-Davis is shooting 22 for 27 (77.7%) over the first five games. Trail Blazers 106, Clippers 105 In Los Angeles, Anfernee Simons scored 25 points, Deandre Ayton had 15 points and 12 rebounds and the Portland Trail Blazers rallied to beat the Los Angeles Clippers. Deni Avdija had 13 points and 10 rebounds and made a game-saving block when he stuffed Norman Powell on a

fast break with 29 seconds remaining to preserve a one-point lead. Nets119, Grizzlies 106 In Memphis, Dennis Schroder had 33 points and eight assists, Cam Thomas added 19 points and the Brooklyn Nets beat the Memphis Grizzlies. Ziaire Williams, who started his NBA career with Memphis before an offseason trade, had 17 points. Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with 30 points, connecting on 10 of 12 shots, including all three of his 3-pointers. Ja Morant had 14 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds, but was 5 of 16 from the field and made only one of his six shots from outside the arc. Bulls 102, Magic 99 In Chicago, Coby White scored 21 points, Josh Giddey added 20 and the Bulls beat the Magic.

Kuwait International Championship set for Nov 6-9; 4 teams to compete

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Kuwait Handball Federation has announced the schedule for the first Kuwait International Championship, set to take place at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall during the international break from November 6-9. Four teams – Bahrain, Tunisia, Cape Verde, and Kuwait – will compete in this event. On November 6, two matches will be held: Tunisia faces Bahrain at 5:00 pm followed by Kuwait taking on Cape Verde at 7:00 pm. The action continues on the next day with Tunisia playing Cape Verde, while Kuwait meets Bahrain. The tournament will conclude on November 9 with Bahrain facing Cape Verde and Kuwait squaring off against Tunisia. This championship serves as preparation for Kuwait's national handball team as it gears up for the 29th World Cup, scheduled from January 14 to February 2 in Croatia, Denmark, and

Norway. Kuwait will open its World Cup campaign on January 16 against Austria in Group Three, followed by matches against France and Qatar. Meanwhile, the Kuwait Handball League's sixth round starts today with three games. Al-Sahel (0 points) faces Al-Sulaibikhat (6 points) at 4:30 pm, followed by Al-Fahaheel (4 points) against Al-Yarmouk (0 points) at 6:00 pm, and Khaitan (4 points) playing Al-Nasr (also 4 points) at 7:30 pm. The sixth round will continue tomorrow, with Al-Qurain (4 points) taking on Al-Tadamon (0 points) at 5:00 pm and Al-Salmiya (8 points) competing against Al-Qadisiya (4 points) at 6:30 pm in the group's top match. Both Al-Qadisiya and Al-Salmiya come from recent defeats – Al-Qadisiya fell to Al-Sulaibikhat, and Al-Salmiya was edged out by Burqan in penalty kicks after a 23-23 draw in the fifth round. Both teams are eager to bounce back and strengthen their standings in the race for Premier League spots.

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The ninth round of the Zain Premier League begins with a single matchup between Al-Qadisiya and Khaitan at 5:30 pm at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium. Tomorrow, two games are scheduled: Al-Tadamon will face Kuwait at 5:30 p.m. at Al-Sadaka and Al-Salam Stadium, followed by Kazma hosting Al-Yarmouk at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium at 7:50 pm. On Sunday, Al-Nasr will take on Al-Fahaheel at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium at 6:50 pm. The round concludes next Wednesday with Al-Arabi playing Al-Salmiya at Thamer Stadium, as Al-Arabi has commitments in the Asian Challenge League. In today's match, Al-Qadisiya, currently fourth in the standings with 13



Al-Qadisiya suffers from injuries before facing Khaitan.

points, aims to keep up its winning momentum under Montenegrin coach Zeljko Petrovic, as they look to close

the 11-point gap with league leader Kuwait Club. After a challenging start to the season, Al-Qadisiya is showing

renewed form, coming off a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Al-Fahaheel, marked by Eid Al-Rashidi's standout performance and Libyan striker Mohammed Soula's decisive goal in the 91st minute. However, Al-Qadisiya will be without Moroccan player Ismail Khafi and Ahmed Shabib due to injuries, while the participation of Bader Al-Mutawa, who missed the previous game, remains uncertain. Khaitan, currently in eighth place with just five points, is hoping to secure its second win and move closer to safety in the league standings. Following this round, the league will pause for 60 days as the Kuwaiti national team prepares for Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup, with matches against South Korea and Jordan scheduled for November 14 and 19. Additionally, Kuwait will host the "Gulf 26" tournament from December 21 to January 3.