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Opinion

Dear gov't, invest in teachers if you want patriotic citizens

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

THE Great Wall, a collection of fortifications, was constructed in the third century BC in response to the frequent invasions of China. Its primary purpose was to protect the Chinese kingdoms from northern tribes such as the Tatars and Mongols, and later from Japan.

During the first century of the wall's construction, three invasions occurred because the invaders bribed the guards to open the gates and allow them to enter without resistance.

This pattern characterized many of China's conflicts with invaders. The most notable of these was the nineteenth-century conflict with Japan, during which Beijing ultimately surrendered despite the vast Chinese population, after the Japanese managed to occupy the country.

Having fought the Opium War for nearly a century, China found itself trapped between the hammer of addiction, the anvil of illiteracy, and the



Al-Jarallah

ignorance of how to address the negative consequences of those invasions. At that time, the Japanese recognized that ignorance and a lack of national education were main factors behind China's weakness.

To avoid falling into the same crisis, Japan focused on strengthening education throughout the empire and granted teachers many privileges.

As a result, the Japanese archipelago, composed of many islands, asserted its influence over several countries in the region and occupied some of them.

During the first and second World Wars, Japan emerged as a formidable force, but eventually faced defeat when the United States dropped atomic bombs to force it to surrender.

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Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

Expats await crucial changes to Kuwait's 'over 60' decision

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait is reportedly considering significant amendments to its labor policies, particularly those affecting expatriate workers aged 60 and above with high school diplomas or less. This potential policy shift has been a topic of discussion for months, with Arab Times and Al-Seyassah reporting on similar plans as early as July 2, 2024.

The probable reconsideration of Decision No. 34/2022, issued by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), comes three years after its implementation. The current policy imposes a substantial financial burden of approximately KD 1,000 annually for residency renewal or transfer, which has led to an exodus of skilled workers and ongoing labor market challenges.

Labor market observers note that the political leadership, particularly First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, is committed to revitalizing the market.

Recent "corrective measures" include:

■ Decision No. 8/2024, allowing government contract workers to work in other sectors under specific conditions.

■ Removal of the university degree requirement for transfers from government to private sector.

Experts have long warned about the negative economic consequences of the "60-year" decision, which failed to consider the valuable experience of older workers. They stress the need for a broader, more comprehensive vision that serves both small and large economic entities.

As discussions continue, observers urge officials to address these policies by either radically re-evaluating or canceling them altogether. The potential reforms could significantly impact Kuwait's economic landscape and its reliance on expatriate labor, addressing ongoing challenges in sectors that have been particularly affected by the current policies.

GCC cybercrime committee meets in Qatar

Kuwait participates in Gulf Arab talks to monitor joint initiatives

DOHA, Nov 3, (KUNA): The general secretariat of the Kuwaiti Cabinet joined talks bringing together Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states in a bid to monitor the progress of joint decisions, the body's acting assistant secretary general said on Sunday.

Such gatherings are instrumental in pushing forward cooperation within the six-member bloc, Sheikh Turki Al-Sabah said in a statement, citing the agenda for the talks as mainly entailing "joint" GCC initiatives, ahead of a forthcoming summit in Kuwait.

Kuwait is eager to ensure that ties among GCC member states remain on an upward trajectory across "various fields," added the official.

Also in Doha, the third meeting for the GCC ministerial cybercrime committee meeting began in Qatar with the participation of Kuwait.

Abdulrahman Al-Malki, President of the Qatar National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), affirmed that the committee had attained many achievements within cyberspace, indicating that technical teams had recently finalized the GCC strategy for cybersecurity, which would be bolstering the GCC standing within this domain regionally



Group photo during the 25th meeting of the Ministerial Committee tasked with following up on the implementation of joint decisions.

and internationally.

He pointed to the recent challenges coming along with Artificial Intelligence (AI), which crisscrossed with the possibility of fraud and misuse despite the untapped potential of this technology.

With the great potential of AI must also come great responsibility that require scrutiny and finding the best

means to utilize the tool through regionally and international cooperation, he added.

He stressed that the importance of holding training courses and exercise, saying that it was one of the means to exchange views and develop technology.

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Education ministry mandates evacuation plans for schools

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Ministry of Education Undersecretary Mansour Al-Daihani has instructed schools to prepare evacuation plans consisting of all the necessary precautionary measures for the protection of students and staff; including raising awareness on emergency situations regularly, ensuring that schools and the concerned security authorities work together to guarantee proper implementation of the evacuation plans, and applying the highest security and safety standards in schools, particularly in emergency situations.

In a circular to the principals of elementary, middle, secondary and kindergarten schools; Al-Daihani stressed the need to lay down safe evacuation procedures to protect students, as well as the academic and administrative personnel.

According to the circular, the ministry has a website containing all the information and resources on this subject; affirming its commitment to take the necessary measures to guarantee a secure learning environment in every school.

In another development, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Affairs Mansour Al-Dhafiri

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KPC floats tender for LPG cylinders

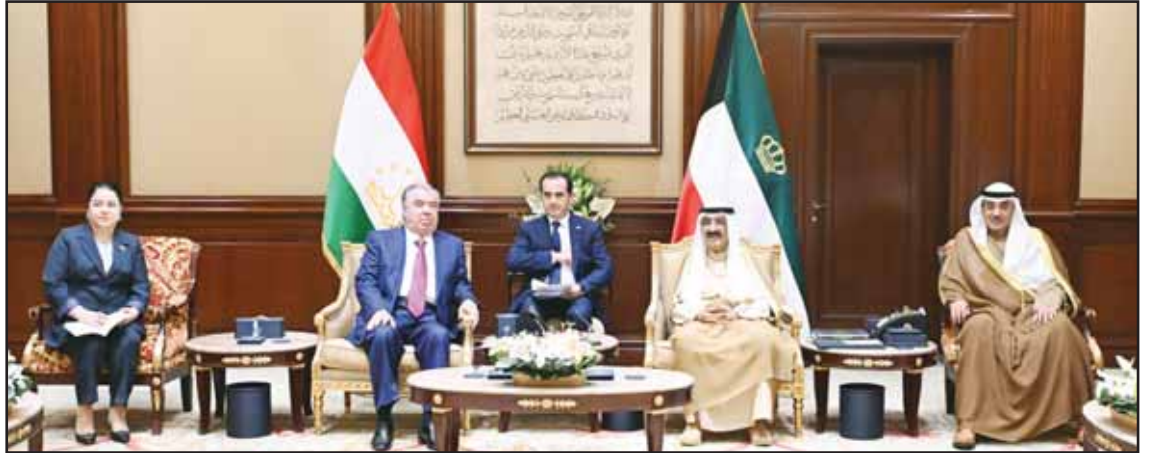
By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Higher Purchasing Committee of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has floated a tender for the supply of 45,000 25-kilogram liquefied gas cylinders for the Shuaiba-Umm Al-Aish liquefied gas filling branches.

This tender, initiated at the request of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, was published in the official gazette, Kuwait Alyawm.

Four companies are invited to participate in this tender, with tender documents available from the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company. Bids must be submitted by

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Top: HH the Amir receives President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and his accompanying delegation. Above: HH the Crown Prince and the Tajikistan president during the signing of several agreements and MoUs.

AMIR, TAJIKISTAN LEADER DISCUSS BILATERAL TIES Kuwait and Tajikistan forge new agreements

Labor exchange MoU signed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, with the attendance of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Sunday the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, both sides touched on the bilateral ties between the two friendly countries and latest regional and global developments.

Acting Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and senior state officials attended the meeting.

Earlier Sunday, Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon and his accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait on an official visit.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh

Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the president at the airport.

The Tajikistan president was also received by Acting Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shireeda Al-Muasherji, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and senior state officials.

The president of Tajikistan is accompanied by an official delegation including Chief of Staff of the President of Tajikistan Rahmon Azade Emomali, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sirodjiddin Muhridin, Assistant to the President for International Relations Azaamsha Sharifi, Minister of Economic Development and Trade Zafiqi Zafizadeh, Minister of Finance Fayziddin Kaharzoda, Minister of Industry and New Technologies Sher Ali Kabir, Minister of Labor and Migration Gulnara Hasanzoda and a number of senior officials in the government.

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Kuwait 5th lowest in FDI flow among GCC nations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The recent Al-Shall Economic Report has highlighted significant challenges facing Kuwait's foreign direct investment (FDI) landscape, pointing to a general investment environment that deters both local and foreign investments, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) has come under scrutiny, though the report emphasizes that the underlying issues lie within the broader investment climate rather than the authority's efforts alone.

According to the authority's annual report, Kuwait attracted only 206.9 million dinars (approximately \$682 million) in inward direct investments during the fiscal year 2023-2024.

Since January 1, 2015, total accumulated foreign direct investments have reached about 1.749 billion dinars (around \$5.8 billion). Over a period of

over nine years, the average annual FDI inflow has been 189.1 million dinars (approximately \$614.8 million), ranking Kuwait as the fifth lowest in FDI flow among the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

In stark contrast, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reports substantial cumulative investments from 2015 to 2023 for other GCC nations: the UAE attracted about \$150.7 billion at an annual rate of \$16.8 billion; Saudi Arabia received \$97.3 billion at \$10.8 billion annually; Oman brought in \$31.5 billion at \$3.5 billion annually; and Bahrain secured \$17.3 billion at \$1.9 billion annually. The discrepancy is evident, particularly between Kuwait and Bahrain, which recorded three times the FDI of Kuwait.

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Gold maintains robust position

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): Gold prices closed at \$2,736 per ounce at the end of last week, maintaining a robust position in the face of looming political and economic events. Investors are closely watching the upcoming US elections and the Federal Reserve's impending interest rate decision, both of which could significantly impact the precious metals market.

According to a comprehensive report released Sunday by Kuwait's Dar Al-Sabayek company, gold futures for December delivery stabilized at \$2,749 per ounce. However, the market faces some headwinds as the dollar index rose by 0.30 percent to reach 104 points against other major currencies, exerting downward pressure on gold prices.

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday Acting Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

TEHRAN: A 4.8 magnitude earthquake shook Garmsar city in Semnan, near Tehran, Iranian health authorities reported, Sunday.

Garmsar's Governor, Reza Khani, confirmed that the earthquake caused power and internet outages, urging citizens to follow safety protocols and stay calm.

The quake occurred at 5:16 am (local time) at a depth of 11 kilometers and was strongly felt by residents in Tehran, Qom, and Alborz provinces. (KUNA)

8 Global inflation trends shift amid central bank decisions



Zain, DCO discuss digital innovation initiatives in Kuwait



KFH wins 'Best SME Bank in Kuwait' award



NBK only Kuwaiti bank in Global Finance's list of the World's 100 Safest Banks for 2024

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:42	Asr	14:38
Sunrise ..	06:02	Maghrib ..	17:01
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:19

Local

Campaign launched to stem growing violence in schools

Reintegration of youth in society targeted



The training course lecture in progress.

KUNA launches video shooting training program

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): The KUNA Center for Media Development launched its “Video Shooting: Beginner Level” training program on Sunday, covering essential topics in video production. Participants will learn foundational skills, key readings, equipment requirements, and video shooting techniques, with a focus on mobile phone applications. Led by professional photography trainer Jaber Al-Hindal, the program

will run until November 7. Attendees include employees from various organizations, such as the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Ministry of Oil, Audit Bureau, National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Public Authority for Sports, Kuwait National Guard, Public Authority for Youth, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and Kuwait Oil Company. Combining both theoretical and practical learning, the course explores drone

videography, covering key controls, shooting settings, and safe operation. Participants will also learn how to create product reports, shoot them effectively, and practice filming specific events. Established in December 1995, the KUNA Center for Media Development is a leading training hub in the region. Over the years, it has offered numerous programs designed to enhance media skills and elevate the professional standards of journalists and editors.

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Rather hot with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.
By Night: Mild to rather cold and partly cloudy with light to

Weather			
moderate	southeasterly	wind	changing to light northwesterly
wind, with speeds of 12-30 km/h with a chance for light fog forming over some areas.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	30	22	
Kuwait Airport	31	21	

Abdaly	29	18
Bubyan	30	18
Jahra	32	22
Failaka Island	26	16
Salmiyah	26	23
Ahmadi	27	16
Jal Aliyah	28	19
Nuwaisib	29	20

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: As part of the Farwaniya Educational District initiative, the Umm Ziad Al-Ashja’iya Girls’ Secondary School in Ishbiliyah in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education, launched the national campaign under the title ‘Together Against Violence’ to address growing violence among youth, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Ali Al-Ali, head of the Kuwaiti Society Against Violence, urged parents to protect and monitor their children, noting that juvenile centers are currently holding up several young offenders. He emphasized the need for solutions through policy amendments with government agencies and suggested schools check students’ bags and restrict phone use. Al-Ali highlighted that the campaign’s mission is to reintegrate youth into society as active, positive contributors. He added that the society’s strategy aligns with Kuwait’s vision for the future, aiming to combat community violence by promoting Islamic values and cultural heritage through tolerance, social cohesion, and respect. Moreover, the society plans to provide vulnerable groups with coping skills and conduct studies to understand and address violence in the community.



The Chargé d’Affaires of the Serbian Embassy Filip Katic (center) with the staff members.



UK Ambassador to Kuwait and other dignitaries signed the condolence book.

Serbian embassy accepts solace over victims of Novi Sad mishap

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: A number of ambassadors, heads of diplomatic and consular missions, and representatives of international and regional organizations accredited to Kuwait gathered at the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Bayan yesterday morning to offer their condolences for the victims of the tragic incident of the train station roof collapse incident in Novi Sad on Friday, which resulted in the deaths of 14 people, including two girls, and left several others injured. The Chargé d’Affaires of the Serbian Embassy Filip Katic expressed gratitude to the ambassadors, diplomats, and citizens who visited the embassy to share in his country’s sorrow and sign the condolence book. He affirmed that this solidarity is a testament to the friendship with Kuwait, add-

ing, “This is not strange from our Kuwaiti friends”. In a press statement issued during the condolence ceremony, Katic explained that Serbian rescue workers successfully recovered two individuals who were trapped under the rubble and rescued a 14-year-old girl. The rescue operations were fully completed by Saturday evening. Despite the rapid response of the Serbian rescue teams, which consisted of about 80 personnel, the number of fatalities unfortunately exceeded the number of injuries. Serbia’s Prime Minister described the day of the incident as a “dark day” for the country. He has ordered an investigation into the incident to determine the causes of the roof collapse and identify those responsible for this tragedy. This call for accountability coincided with mass demonstrations by the victims’ families in demand for justice.

‘Biometrics’ system under review

MoE supervisors can clock in at workplace & other schools

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Ministry of Education had earlier implemented the fingerprint attendance system for all employees in all its departments and schools, in line with the directives from the Council of Ministers and the Civil Service Commission. However, it recently expanded this system to allow technical supervisors to record their attendance and departure using their fingerprints at the schools they oversee, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting educational sources. They explained that the ministry has programmed the fingerprint devices for supervisors, enabling them to record their attendance at both their original workplace and the schools they supervise. Under the new programming, technical supervisors can now register their attendance via fingerprint devices at either their original workplace or any of the schools they oversee, based on a schedule approved by the first technical supervisor and the general subject supervisor. This information is then sent to the relevant authorities to pro-

gram the fingerprint access specifically for the designated schools, in addition to the supervisor’s original workplace. These changes have eased the burden on supervisors, many of whom are assigned to schools located far from their original workplaces, which previously led them to delay their duties until they could complete their attendance fingerprinting. The new procedure allows them to register attendance at any of the schools, reducing the need to return to their primary workplace. The ministry is also in the process of reviewing and evaluating the implementation of the fingerprint attendance system for employees in the Education sector. They are currently monitoring all details related to the fingerprint system, including its execution and the challenges faced by employees in various departments and roles. This assessment will inform a comprehensive study of the situation, enabling the ministry to take appropriate measures in coordination with the Civil Service Commission.



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives Chair of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Sports Club for the Disabled Shafi Muhammad Al-Hajri in his office.

‘Disabled are heroes with abilities’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received in his office on Sunday morning at the Farwaniya Governorate the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Sports Club for the Disabled Shafi Muhammad Al-Hajri. According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, their discussions during the meeting focused on the club’s activities and ways to support sports for people with disabilities with the aim of enhancing the services provided to them and

facilitating their participation in society. Governor Sheikh Athbi affirmed that individuals with disabilities are “heroes with abilities, not merely people with special needs”. He said, “The State of Kuwait, through its various sectors, prioritizes the care of people with disabilities and recognizes them as an essential part of our Kuwaiti society. We are committed to providing them with full support, and I am personally dedicated to advocating for their needs. This is our duty towards them and their rights.”

Declare assets as per law, entities urged

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has urged all relevant entities that are subject to financial disclosure provisions outlined in article 2 of law No. 2/2016 regarding the establishment of Nazaha, to comply with the provisions of articles 12 and 20 of decree-Law No. 300/2016, which governs the law’s executive regulations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

legally defined deadlines for submitting their statements of assets and liabilities at least one month in advance. This requirement also pertains to the two pledge models included in the Civil Service Bureau circular No. 19/2020. Article 20 mandates each entity to inform the authority of the designated official responsible for cooperating with Nazaha. This individual must hold a supervisory position within the administrative affairs and coordinate with the authority.

Entities are also required to provide the authority with a list of officials obligated to file their statements of assets and liabilities within one month of the implementation of these regulations. The list should include each official’s job title, rank, and the corresponding job description as outlined in article 2 of the law. Entities must also promptly inform the authority of any official whose service is terminated or who has lost their capacity for any reason, as well as any changes to the previously provided data.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمَطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي
حَدَّثَنَا اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

Condolences

The members of Board of Directors, partners
and all employees of

Abdulla Abdul Mughni & Partners Company WLL

Mourn with great sadness and sorrow
on the sudden demise of

Mr. Abdulla Abdul Mughni Mohammad Abdul Mughni

We extend our sincere condolences
to Honorable Abdul Mughni’s family members.

We pray to God Almighty to have mercy
on the deceased
and grant him a place in spacious paradise.

On Saturday 2nd November 2024

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ الْجَنَّةَ لِلْجَنَّةِ

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Kuwaiti democracy harbinger of government unity, stability

“THE first generation of Kuwait’s Constituent Assembly, which drafted the Constitution, was deeply committed to establishing a constitutional framework that emphasized national unity and government stability as the backbone of the state,” columnist Counselor **Shafiq Imam** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“Their vision was to construct a nation rooted in justice, freedom, equality, and security, ensuring these pillars would safeguard the well-being and confidence of its citizens. When the Amir ratified the Constitution, his words reinforced this commitment, emphasizing the dual goals of preserving unity and promoting political freedoms. The aim was to provide citizens with more justice, equality and prosperity to solidify the foundations of democratic governance in Kuwait.



Shafiq Imam

“From its inception, Kuwait’s democratic process was marked by earnest engagement, with its Parliament (the National Assembly) actively employing legislative tools for oversight and accountability. Members participated in extensive debates, posed questions, conducted investigations and employed other means to hold the government accountable.

“This transparency and dedication to governance positioned Kuwait as a symbol of democratic hope and progress across the Arab world -- a model that resonated deeply with Arab societies and inspired admiration and debate in the Arab political sphere. “Kuwait’s achievements were widely discussed as an example of parliamentary democracy, making it a focal point of Arab aspirations for political freedom. While some regional rulers, concerned with maintaining power, viewed Kuwait’s openness with skepticism, the country was celebrated for its democratic practices and freedoms, including its vibrant media, which extended across print, audio, and visual platforms.

“This atmosphere of unrestricted debate and public discussion in Kuwait’s National Assembly became a benchmark for parliamentary democracy in the Arab world. Kuwait’s model of democracy not only became a point of pride domestically but also set an example internationally.

“For instance, the former German Chancellor Angela Merkel was known to meet only with heads of state representing elected legislative councils, underscoring Kuwait’s standing in the global democratic landscape. In a testament to this status, Kuwaiti MP Mohammad Jassim Al-Saqr was selected to lead the first Arab Parliament, which included representatives from legislative bodies across the Arab world -- a recognition of Kuwait’s influence and the respect it had earned in promoting democratic principles.

“However, despite the achievements, the right to interpellate ministers, as outlined in Article 101 of the Constitution, has sometimes led to political tensions. This article allows members of the National Assembly to withdraw confidence from a minister through majority support, following interpellation.

“Additionally, Article 102 gives the Amir the power to resolve cases of no confidence in the Prime Minister, either by appointing a new ministry or dissolving the National Assembly if a majority of members votes for non-cooperation with the Prime Minister.

“The frequent use of interpellations has at times destabilized the government, turning what was meant to be a means of accountability into a source of repeated political crises. This overuse of interpellation, often threatened even before the government is fully formed, has become a significant obstacle to government stability, sometimes undermining the Amir’s authority to appoint ministers as outlined in Article 56 of the Constitution.

“In light of this ongoing challenge, some suggest that a temporary suspension of Articles 101 and 102 may be necessary to restore government stability. This suspension would allow the Amir to retain control over government stability by managing ministerial appointments and potential dismissals without the immediate threat of interpellation.

“Meanwhile, Article 100 of the Constitution, which permits members of the Assembly to question ministers on matters within their jurisdiction, would remain in effect, ensuring continued oversight.

“In essence, this proposal aims to balance Kuwait’s commitment to democracy with the need for stable governance, acknowledging that achieving this balance is critical for sustaining the nation’s democratic legacy and fostering a constructive environment for future progress.”

Also:

“The vast majority of Kuwaiti companies are known for their dedication to timely payment of wages. Even during the Covid-19 lockdowns,

they kept their employees on board, absorbing the financial losses alone. These companies maintain precise accounting systems, ensuring that end-of-service benefits are promptly paid upon retirement or termination,” columnist **Tareq Hamada** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

“Notably, reputable companies have not been implicated in residence visa trafficking cases. On the other hand, a small number of fake companies engage in unacceptable crimes, which the Ministry of Interior tackles with targeted operations, apprehending those responsible and their collaborating agents.

“The Ministry of Interior goes beyond merely tracking down these sham companies. It has implemented a smart approach by cataloging data on residency violators, “deported” individuals, and unlicensed laborers. They investigate the companies under which these workers are registered and blacklist them to prohibit further transactions.

“Moreover, the files of these companies are permanently closed at the Public Authority for Manpower, and they face fines and penalties for bringing in labor under false pretenses and allowing them to work outside of sponsorship agreements.

“The popular saying “the good is private, but the bad affects all” is inherently flawed; both the good and the bad should be addressed individually. Each wrongdoer deserves punishment for their actions, while those who do right should be rewarded.

“First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef added fresh impetus to labor regulation during his meeting with company representatives. He emphasized strict action and legal measures against companies that violate the Cabinet’s resolution on the regular payment of wages to employees, stressing that ‘Kuwait’s reputation must not be harmed’, particularly in the area of human rights. Regular inspection tours are also organized for all companies employing labor to ensure that wages are received on time.

“Kuwait, as it facilitates operations for national companies, will not tolerate any harm to its reputation or its long-standing commitment to humanitarian principles. In line with the directives of the political leadership, Sheikh Fahad’s message to all companies is clear: Kuwait’s reputation is a red line, and its standing should not be compromised by anyone.

“May God protect Kuwait, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.”

□ □ □

“The government, the people and the private sector are known to be generous in doing all kinds of good things for the interior and exterior. Its economic and social sectors play a major role in this regard, but sometimes they are stingy with their clients. An example is our suggestion in a previous article that they pave some parking lots in front of banks and co-operative societies to make the clients and visitors comfortable, instead of letting them walk on scattered gravel and small holes in parking lots. It is a national duty to improve services for shareholders. Spending on it is a gain, not a loss. Many thanks if you implement it, if you do not and if you neglect it,” **Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Some women’s social events have become fashion shows. Instead of spending fun time taking souvenir photos and exchanging friendly conversations about the past, present and future, such meetings have started to be dominated by women focusing on what their colleague is wearing -- famous brands like shoes, bags, dresses, jewelry and others to convey what they saw upon returning to their family and friends.

“I apologize to the sisters if I am wrong in this assumption, knowing that I mentioned some.

“Some of those who do not respect their friends and acquaintances have adopted a habit to indicate their loss of morals and the lowest principles of etiquette; that is, when the telephone of someone who does not know the principles rings, after finding out the caller’s name when it appears on the screen and before he answers, he begins to bully and show his discomfort, even his annoyance with this call to draw the attention of those around him without this loyal friend knowing what his friend who does not know the true meaning of friendship said about him. It is nothing but a behavior that lacks all meanings of humanity and self-respect. There is no power or strength except with Allah Almighty.

“When you leave your country and enter another country while traveling by car, it is normal to find the name of the country and sometimes with a welcoming sign for those coming to it. However, it is strange to find such a sign (State of Kuwait) when you leave your country. Does the person leaving Kuwait not know where he was during his stay here? This is evident at Nuwaiseeb border.”

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes / Mahmoud Attiyeh**

Vehicles left on roads will be lifted: Municipality

Abandoned cars used for storing drugs, liquor

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: In response to the growing problem of abandoned vehicles, the Kuwait Municipality has issued a stern warning about the risks posed by these neglected cars, which are increasingly being used as makeshift storage for spoiled goods, temporary shelters for residency violators, and even hideouts for drugs and alcoholic beverages, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

In a letter to the Municipal Council, the Municipality detailed three classifications of abandoned vehicles — neglected cars left behind regardless of condition, end-of-life or scrap vehicles and vehicles requiring maintenance.

To address this issue, the Municipality emphasized the need for Shuwaikh and Al-Rai area garages to ensure ample space for vehicle services on licensed plots.

The vehicles left outside of permitted areas are to be removed and impounded. The

Municipality also proposed seven measures, including increased fines for neglecting vehicles in public places, penalties for violating industrial plot regulations and symbolic fees for plot owners to promote greenery.

Additional steps involve imposing stricter parking regulations in industrial zones, establishing designated truck parking and improving parking management.

The Municipality reported 395 violations in September, including the removal of 61 abandoned cars.

The statistics reveal approximately 5,700 impounded vehicles across two sites, with digital updates provided via the “Sahel” app.

The Municipality stressed the urgency of removing long-term parked vehicles in restricted areas like government buildings, schools and hospitals to protect public spaces and maintain Kuwait’s urban image.



A Municipality worker lifts an abandoned mini-bus to be taken to the Municipality garage.

Death penalty for Kuwaiti, Arab expat upheld in ‘homicide’ case

Conflict of interest leads to manager’s dismissal

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Court of Cassation has confirmed the death sentence for two defendants — a Kuwaiti citizen and an Egyptian national — convicted in the premeditated murder of Mubarak Al-Rashidi. The court upheld the original verdict after verifying substantial evidence proving their involvement in the crime.

During earlier hearings, the court questioned the defendants, who were friends of the victim, about the accusations. Both defendants denied the charges. However, the prosecution delivered a compelling argument, condemning the crime and requesting the harshest penalties be imposed.

The case began after security forces discovered Al-Rashidi’s body in a container in the Salmi desert, more than two months after his disappearance. Investigations revealed that the two defendants allegedly killed him at a campsite in the Kabd area. They are accused of transporting the body and setting fire to the tent. Following the incident, the Egyptian defendant reportedly left the country.

□ □ □

Conflict of interest... : The Court of First Instance has ruled that an individual cannot manage two companies engaged in the same activity due to a conflict of interest, leading to the dismissal of the individual from their management position.

In a lawsuit filed by a citizen in the Commercial Court through his legal counsel Lawyer Jaber Al-Kandari from Dalal Al-Mulla Law Group, he highlighted that his partner, who manages their company, was also managing another company involved in the same field, which is a violation of company Law No. 1/2016.

The lawsuit was filed in pursuit of his partner’s removal from the management position and for demanding compensation for the damages incurred as a result of this violation.

Lawyer Al-Kandari presented evidence to prove that his client’s partner violated the law by managing a competing business, and that his client’s company had incurred huge losses due to these actions.

According to Article 104 of Law No. 1/2016 of the Companies Law, partners are permitted to request the dismissal of

a manager for engaging in unfair competition, causing serious damages, or committing fraud.

Based on this defense, Lawyer Al-Kandari’s arguments led the court to rule on the request for the dismissal of the company’s manager.

□ □ □

Defendant gets reprieve: The Criminal Court has acquitted a defendant who was charged with possessing heroin and psychotropic substances, citing lack of evidence and faulty arrest procedures.

The court’s decision hinged on the argument that the accused being in an “abnormal state” does not give police sufficient grounds for search and arrest without obtaining a warrant from the Prosecutor.

According to case papers a security patrol in the Sabah Al-Nasser area observed a vehicle driven by the suspect, who was later found to be wanted in connection with a drug case.

Police searched the man and found on his person an envelope containing two pills wrapped in tinfoil and a brown substance intended for consumption.

During the proceedings, Lawyer Abdullah Al-Alanda, representing the defendant, argued that the mere observation of the accused in an abnormal state should not be interpreted as conclusive evidence of narcotic use.

He emphasized that the arrest was conducted unlawfully, violating established legal provisions, which rendered both the arrest and subsequent search invalid.

□ □ □

Man acquitted in drugs case: The Court of Appeals has overturned the verdict issued against a Kuwaiti citizen who was accused of possessing narcotic and psychotropic substances for personal use and driving under influence. The court acquitted him of all charges.

According to the case file, the citizen had been arrested at a security checkpoint at the entrance to Saad Al-Abdullah City. He was found with hashish and cocaine, as well as clonazepam, and was also caught driving under the influence of these drugs.

During the court session, his defense counsel Lawyer Zaid Al-Khabbaz insisted on the dismissal of the arrest, search, and related procedures. He contended that the arrest and search were conducted unlawfully and emphasized his client’s denial of the charges.

He requested that the conviction be annulled and that his client be fully acquitted of the accusations against him.



A mobile grocery is carried away by the Municipality.

Mobile grocery stores, unwanted items lifted

By Inaas Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Public Relations Department of the Kuwait Municipality has announced that inspection teams from the General Cleaning and Road Occupancy Departments of the Jahra Governorate have been conducting field tours to ensure compliance with camping regulations.

These efforts are aimed at maintaining order and safety in designated camping areas ahead of the upcoming camping season.

During their recent inspections, the teams identified and removed four ‘illegal’ mobile grocery stores and six pieces of digging equipment that were improperly ‘placed’ in camping sites.

Moreover, two bulldozers were removed from the Kabd area, reinforcing the municipality’s commitment to upholding the regulations surrounding camping activities.

As the camping season approaches, which officially runs from November 15 to March 15, the municipality is urging citizens to respect these timelines.

The Municipality emphasized that no camps should be set up prior to the designated start date. The municipality’s inspection teams are prepared to take action, promptly removing any camps that do not adhere to the specified period.

By ensuring that camping sites remain clear and compliant, the Kuwait Municipality aims to create a safe and enjoyable environment for all camping enthusiasts.

The citizens are encouraged to cooperate with the guidelines and make the most of the upcoming camping season within the established regulations.



The capsules filled with drugs seized by the customs personnel.

60,000 drug pills found in mail bag from Asia

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (Agencies): Customs officials from the General Administration have seized a shipment containing approximately 60,000 capsules of the narcotic substance “Larica.”

The Customs Department reported that, through the Automated Customs System, a suspicious parcel from an Asian country was flagged as it arrived via an express mail service. After halting the shipment, a detailed inspection uncovered around 60,000 capsules containing the banned substance. The seized items have since been handed over to the appropriate authorities for further investigation.

The General Administration of Customs issued a stern warning to anyone attempting to smuggle narcotics or other prohibited goods, emphasizing that such actions lead to severe legal consequences and strict customs enforcement.

□ □ □

Reckless motorist held: The General Traffic Department tracked down the vehicle involved in reckless driving on the Sheikh Jaber Bridge and arrested the motorist, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

With his reckless act the driver endangered both his life and the lives of others. Legal action has been taken and the vehicle has been impounded and taken to the ministry garage.



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Union calls for reforms to support young engineers

Proposal aims for easier entry, quicker approvals

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Chairman of the Union of Kuwaiti Engineering Offices and Consulting Houses, Bader Al-Salman, has announced a proposal aimed at expanding opportunities for young Kuwaiti engineers and enhancing the standards of engineering consultancy in Kuwait.

The proposal was presented to the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Abdul Latif Al-Mishari and calls for changes to project requirements to encourage greater participation from local engineering offices and consulting firms.

Following a meeting with Minister Al-Mishari, Al-Salman suggested an amendment to Ministerial Resolution No. 123 of 2021, which governs the regulations for engineering offices and consulting firms.

The proposed changes aim to adapt to the evolving needs of the engineering sector while maintaining high standards and supporting the continuity of quality consulting work in Kuwait.

A central focus of the proposal is the expansion of supervisory roles for newly graduated Kuwaiti engineers, encouraging them to enter the private sector and helping to alleviate pressure on the public sector budget.

The proposal recommends exempting young Kuwaiti engineers from the usual experience requirements, provided they are registered with the Public Institution for Social Security.

Al-Salman emphasized that by allocating larger supervision areas under the guidance of experienced engineers, these young professionals can gain valuable hands-on experience.

This initiative, he explained, would

help reduce the burden on the state's budget by creating private sector job opportunities and addressing issues of fictitious employment and disguised unemployment.

Al-Salman also urged the activation of existing laws that would allow qualified consulting firms, under the supervision of the union and Kuwait Municipality oversight, to issue building permits electronically without human intervention.

This step, he believes, would speed up project approvals, cut down on exceptions, and ensure adherence to updated building regulations.

The union's proposal also includes provisions to monitor engineering offices and consulting houses, helping curb violations and ensuring compliance with professional standards.

Minister Al-Mishari's responsiveness to these proposals, Al-Salman noted, reflects a commitment to advancing Kuwait's development goals, safeguarding public funds, and fostering youth employment in the private sector.

The union is hopeful that these initiatives will support Kuwait's engineering sector and accelerate the timeline of infrastructure projects, in line with the government's objectives.



Al-Mishari

MoH enhances cybersecurity, medical supply standards

Birth, death registration for premature babies amended

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: A recent amendment in Kuwait's birth and death registration law has reduced the reporting threshold for stillborn infants from 28 to 24 weeks of gestation, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Decree-Law No. 107 of 2024, published in the Official Gazette, modifies Article 7 of Law No. 36 of 1969, aligning Kuwait with neighboring countries and acknowledging advances

in neonatal care.

This amendment requires reporting deceased persons, including stillborn infants after 24 weeks, to the relevant health office within 48 hours of birth or death.

In other developments, the Ministry of Health has launched initiatives to enhance cybersecurity and upgrade medical supplies across various hospitals.

These efforts include renewing in-

formation security protection devices in the Information Systems Department's main operating room and sourcing specific medical supplies.

Among the hospital needs addressed are consumables for cardiac care at Jaber Al-Ahmad and Al-Sadry hospitals, endoscopes for health centers, and specialized supplies for orthopedic and joint surgeries at hospitals such as Jahra, Farwaniya and Al-Razi.



KUNA photo

A joint meeting of members of the Trade Cooperation Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries with the Minister of Trade of the United Kingdom.

KISR names new Director General

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal has issued a decision to assign Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan as the Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Manchester, and currently holds the position of "Scientific Researcher" at the Petroleum Research Center.



Al-Seyassah photo
Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan

GCC meets British Trade Secretary

Kuwait partakes in talks on UK, NZ trade deals in Doha

DOHA, Nov 3, (KUNA): The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Industrial Cooperation Committee met, on Thursday, with British Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds in the Qatari capital, Doha, with the participation of Kuwait.

The Qatari Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani thanked the GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi and the negotiating teams for their efforts to implement the Free Trade Agreement between the GCC countries and the United Kingdom.

He pointed out that much progress was made on many public issues since negotiations began in 2022, and that the volume of trade between the GCC and the UK has reached USD 31.7 billion, reflecting joint efforts and future potential for trade.

For his part, Reynolds expressed that the negotiating teams did well, stressing the importance of providing them with opportunity and room to achieve these negotiations.

On the other hand, Al-Thani add-

ed that the trade exchange between the GCC countries and New Zealand amounted to USD 2.9 billion during 2023, while exports to New Zealand reached USD 1.75 billion, and imports reached USD 1.19 billion.

He assured that these numbers would grow if the free trade agreement was signed.

New Zealand Deputy Foreign Minister and Trade Minister Todd McClay expressed his gratitude for the continuing efforts to sign the free trade agreement between the GCC and New Zealand.

He pointed out that the agreement represents a way to deepen relations, as well as develop many different sectors for both sides, serving the interests of the people.

Al-Budaiwi and McClay signed a joint statement on the ending of negotiations of the free trade agreement between the two entities after the meeting.

The Kuwaiti delegation was headed by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel.



Al-Seyassah photos

Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi on an inspection tour of the Red Palace, accompanied by the Director General of Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Interior, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Jarrah.

Governor reviews Red Palace restoration

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Jahra Governor Hamad Jassim Al-Habashi, along with Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Jarrah, Director General of Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Interior, went on an inspection tour of the restoration and rehabilitation work at the Red Palace, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Red Palace is a significant historical and cultural landmark in Kuwait.

The inspection included the completion of restoration of the palace and the weapons museum building, maintenance activities, asphalt replacement and enhancements to the external square and visitor parking areas.

Registration for Hajj 1446 AH season opens

Enhanced education

PAAET and NZ discuss academic partnerships

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, met with Ed Toare, Director General for International and Cultural Relations in New Zealand's education sector, to discuss enhancing academic partnerships, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Acting Deputy Director General for Planning and Development, Dr. Anwar Hassan, was also present during the meeting.

According to a PAAET press release, the meeting focused on expanding ties between educational institutions in Kuwait and New Zealand, particularly with PAAET.



Dr. Al-Fajjam

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs has officially opened online registration for those interested in performing Hajj this year, reports Al-Seyassah daily. Starting today and running until the 17th of this month, prospective pilgrims can submit their applications via the ministry's electronic platform, integrated with the "My Identity" program.

According to the ministry's statement yesterday, specific requirements have been set for applicants to ensure a fair selection process. Only Kuwaiti citizens who have not previously performed Hajj are eligible to apply, with each application group limited to a maximum of three people who must be family members. Additionally, applicants may include one resident companion, who can be the spouse of a Kuwaiti resident, the children of a Kuwaiti woman, or the mother of a Kuwaiti man.

Applicants are permitted to modify or replace their application details during the registration period. After the verification and selection process, each accepted pilgrim must make an advance payment of 750 dinars. It is important to note that if the application of the eldest member in a group is canceled, the entire group's application will also be voided.

Accepted pilgrims are allowed to switch to another campaign once, and all applications must be finalized by December 31.



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Kuwait Amir congratulates Panama Prez on Nat’l Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable on Sunday to Panamanian President Jose Raul, congratulating him on Panama’s National Day and wishing him good health, as well as continued progress and prosperity for the nation and its people.

His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable to President Raul, expressing his best wishes for his health and well-being.

Additionally, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah conveyed his congratulations to President Raul on Panama’s National Day in a separate cable sent on Sunday.

Call for cohesive public design

KU symposium explores unified architectural identity in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Public Law Department of the College of Law at the Kuwait University organized a symposium titled “Unified Architectural Identity: Steps in Administrative Control” in the presence of the Acting Dean Prof. Abdulrahman Al-Radwan.

According to a press statement issued by Kuwait University, the event was attended by the Municipal Council member Eng. Munira Al-Amir and the Associate Professor in the Public Law Department Dr. Fatima Al-Mohsen.

It was moderated by the Assistant Professor in the Public Law Department at the College of Law on the Shuwaikh campus Dr. Nawaf Al-Dhuwaikh.

At the beginning of the event, Eng. Munira Al-Amir stated that the unified architectural identity of government buildings and facilities in Kuwait serves as a distinctive fingerprint for these structures.

She explained that the modernization of buildings should occur gradually.

Existing buildings could be enhanced with details that reflect this architectural identity while preserving the existing elements and achievements.

The architectural identity of countries serves as a collective memory for their people and the historical eras they have experienced. Buildings typically have a long lifespan, allowing them to be recognized over time.

Meanwhile, the Associate Professor in the Public Law Department Dr. Fatima Al-Mohsen highlighted the relationship between the Unified Urban Identity Project and the law.

She stressed how this project aligns with the concept of public order, emphasizing its goal of enhancing beauty and providing visual nourishment, which is as essential as security, health, and tranquility.

Dr. Al-Mohsen affirmed that the state may need to develop its legal framework to impose restrictions that prevent practices that could distort urban cities.



Participants in the symposium.

Dear gov’t,

Continued from Page 1

Throughout its history, Tokyo has prioritized education, investing in its development and offering teachers the highest salaries and privileges based on the belief that they are the architects of future generations and can produce engineers, doctors, leaders, and loyal citizens.

In all eras and religions, education has been a hallmark of civilization. As a thinker once stated, “To destroy a civilization, start with education. Undervalue the teacher and diminish their status in society so that students end up despising them”. This sentiment resonates in many Arab countries, including Kuwait, where teachers are often regarded as insignificant.

Consequently, teachers frequently find themselves in need, and are forced to seek work in various professions to support their families. They are often not well-groomed, and struggle with financial difficulties.

Today in Kuwait, discussions about development often overlook the most important pillar, which is education. Education is essential for paving the way for societies to progress, and opens up many opportunities for creativity and successful endeavors. It also fosters self-sufficiency in various fields, as it is rooted in critical thinking and motivation rather than perpetuating illiteracy, which becomes a tool of ignorance.

The first setback in education occurred in 1976 when Kuwaiti teachers were permitted to work in the private sector. At that time, teaching was not viewed as a sacred profession or a national mission.

Driven by a natural inclination to seek more wealth, many teachers abandoned their profession to pursue opportunities in private companies and businesses.

Since then, reliance on migrant teachers grew, driven by their salaries and the necessity to support their families and protect them from poverty.

In addition to their teaching duties, many were compelled to take on private tutoring, which became more important than their scheduled classes at school. As a result, education began to produce semi-illiterates and ignorant individuals.

If there is a serious commitment to reform, development, and progress, education must be prioritized as the foundation for building the future.

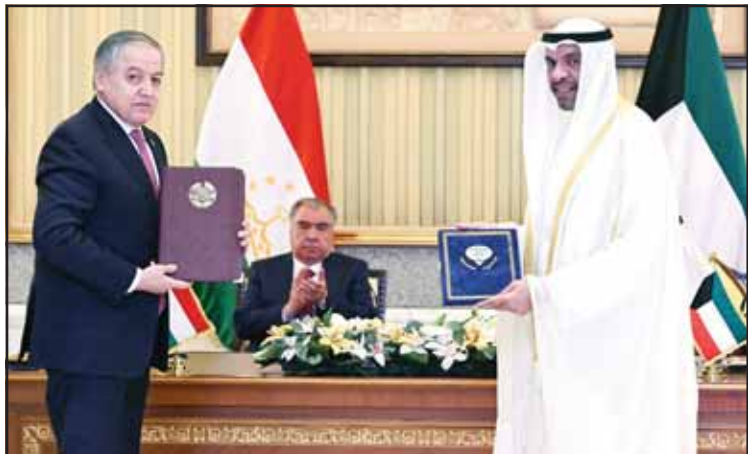
A strong state cannot exist if ignorance prevails on all sides; otherwise, we will continue to struggle aimlessly.

Kuwait and

Continued from Page 1

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received the Tajikistan president and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, both sides held official talks between the two countries, where His Highness the



Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya with Tajikistan counterpart Sirodjidin Muhriddin.



Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Abdullah Al-Ajeel Al-Askar with Tajikistan Minister of Industry and New Technologies Sher Ali Kabir.

Crown Prince headed the Kuwaiti side and the President Rahmon headed the Tajikistan side.

The talks touched on the bilateral ties between the two friendly countries and latest regional and global developments.

Acting Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya and senior officials from the Tajikistan government attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, the State of Kuwait and Tajikistan signed on Sunday several agreements and MoUs in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon.

The two sides signed a memorandum of understanding in labor exchange in the private sector, Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya signed from the Kuwaiti side and Minister of Labor and Migration Gulnara Hasanazoda from the Tajiki side.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and Tajikistan counterpart Sirodjidin Muhriddin signed a memorandum of understanding between Soud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute and



Participants of the 2024 Road Safety and Sustainability Conference in Riyadh.

Kuwait partakes at Road Safety and Sustainability Conference in Riyadh

Al-Mashaan highlights maintenance, safety data initiatives

RIYADH, Nov 3, (KUNA): The Conference and Exhibition of Road Safety and Sustainability kick-started in the Saudi capital, Riyadh on Sunday, with Kuwaiti Minister of Public Works Noura Al-Mashaan partaking.

The conference is co-organized by the Saudi Roads General Authority and the International Road Federation from November 3 to 4.

In a keynote speech, Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistics Services Saleh Al-Jasser said the kingdom has carried out several scientific innovations, including road cooling and rubber roads, and has moved in the road quality indicator to the fourth place among the G20 countries.

He added that Saudi Arabia has registered a drop in the traffic-related death rate by approximately 50 to exceed the defined goals of the kingdom’s national transport and logistic services strategy.



KUNA photos
Kuwaiti Minister of Public Works Noura Al-Mashaan during a tour of the exhibition accompanying the Road Safety and Sustainability Conference 2024.

For his part, Honorary Chairman of the International Road Federation Abdullah Al-Mogbel said the federation had harnessed modern technologies to make roads safer and more sustainable and efficient.

At a ministerial debate on the sidelines of the event, the Kuwaiti minister said Kuwait had signed a contract last month to maintain all roads

in the country, be they highways or inner-city roads.

She added that Kuwait has managed to overcome some challenges in this regard, but efforts were still ongoing to defeat several others.

In this context, the Kuwaiti minister pointed to the data and information problem due to overlapping competences pertinent to traffic safety,

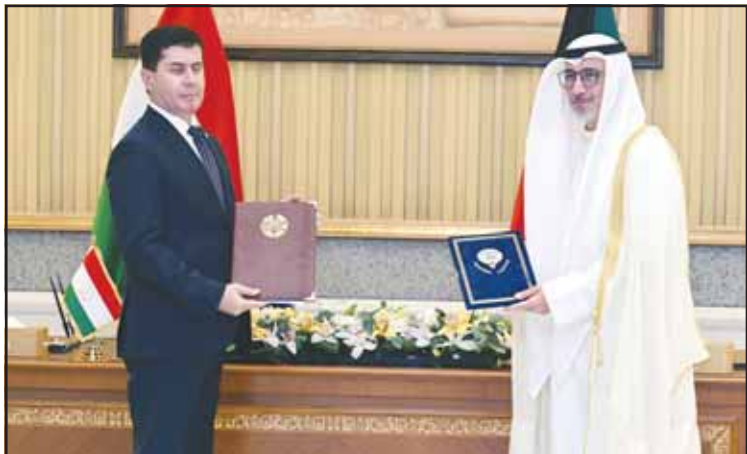
ty, saying that a relevant database was made by the Public Authority for Civil Information.

She added that Kuwait’s temporal and spatial digital map was used to download all data so that it becomes a database for all competent bodies through which this data is analyzed to develop possible solutions for road safety.

Held under the theme: Innovating for Tomorrow, the event is mainly aimed at looking into a host of issues pertinent to traffic safety and road sustainability

It also focuses on international best practices, cutting-edge technological advancements, and the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in shaping future transportation strategies.

The conferees also explore the role of AI and ITS in advancing sustainable mobility and how to use these technologies to optimize traffic management, improve vehicle safety, and reduce environmental impact.



Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Abdullah Al-Ajeel Al-Askar with Tajikistan Minister of Economic Development and Trade Zavqizoda Zavqi Amin



KUNA photos
Minister of Finance and State Minister for Economic and Investment Affairs Noura Al-Fassam with Tajikistan Minister of Finance Fayzidin Kaharzoda

KPC floats

Continued from Page 1

December 10, and a preliminary video call meeting for bidders will take place on November 13 to address inquiries.

Additionally, the committee has announced a separate tender for “oil tankers” concerning the construction, completion, and maintenance of a new security building at the Umm Al-Aish liquefied gas filling branch.

This tender will be open to 68 companies, with bids accepted for 30 days following the publication in Kuwait Today.

Companies not included in the initial invitation may appeal their exclusion or request participation by submitting the necessary documentation to the Chairman of the Higher Purchasing Committee for Tenders.

In a related announcement, Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) has launched a tender for the maintenance of buildings and roads across all its facilities, inviting 22 companies to participate. The tender opened today and will close on December 3.

Furthermore, KIPIC has extended the closing date for its tender for media services to November 19, as reported in Kuwait Today.

Kuwait 5th

Continued from Page 1

The report suggests that the focus for the Direct Investment Promotion Authority and other planning agencies should be on radically reforming the investment environment to make it more attractive without excessive effort. Al-Shall emphasizes that the current FDI levels do not justify the extensive efforts required to attract them, advocating for investments that create substantial job opportunities for citizens and incorporate modern management techniques and competitive products.

Moreover, the report warns against certain types of foreign investments that may prove detrimental to Kuwait’s economy. Specifically, investments reliant on cheap imported labor or subsidized infrastructure could exacerbate demographic imbalances and burden public finances.

Al-Shall concludes that Kuwait’s primary need is not merely capital, but rather safe and sustainable investments that contribute to income diversification and stabilize the national labor force, a necessity that remains unfulfilled.

According to the latest Al-Shall Economic Report, Kuwait is projected to face a potential budget deficit of approximately 3.2 billion dinars

for the fiscal year 2024-2025. This assessment comes as the seventh month of the fiscal year concluded in October, during which the average price of Kuwaiti oil was about \$75.1 per barrel.

Education ministry

Continued from Page 1

has announced the approval of the plan on the disbursement of petty cash advance to scientific departments in the educational districts for academic year 2024/2025 in order to meet the basic needs of intermediate and secondary schools.

The plan includes supporting the Science departments, libraries and educational activities to ensure the continuity of the educational process and to provide the resources needed to improve the schools’ performance.

The decision emphasizes that the petty cash advance is for supporting the basic activities of schools and it should not be spent on educational tools which are not needed directly to continue the educational process or for internal exhibitions or learning models that could be additional financial burdens for the schools.

Kuwait participates

Continued from Page 1

On his part, Secretary General of the GCC Jassem Al-Budaiwi commended the strides by the Gulf countries in cybersecurity, revealing that five of the six members of the GCC were ranked high in the list of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) within cybersecurity in 2024.

He lauded the achievements of the GCC cybersecurity committee since establishment in 2022, saying that it was reflective of the regional countries interest in this vital field.

He added that the agenda of the meeting included many paramount issues including the 2024-28 GCC cybersecurity strategy as well as platform to exchange information on cyber threats.

Kuwait’s delegation to the meeting is headed by Chief of Kuwait National Cyber Security Center Major General (Rtd) Eng. Mohammad A. Boarki.

Gold maintains

Continued from Page 1

The report highlighted a sharp 1.8 percent decline in gold prices last Thursday, attributing this drop to rising US Treasury bond yields and the relative stability of geopolitical concerns in some markets. This volatility underscores the complex interplay of factors influencing gold prices in the current economic climate.

A key element affecting market sentiment is the recent US jobs data. October’s employment figures showed a significant slowdown, with only 12,000 jobs added – far below expectations of over 100,000.



The Capitol is seen in the reflecting pool as lawmakers work into the evening, in Washington on Sept 23. (AP)

It's fight to finish in races that will determine control of US Congress

WASHINGTON, Nov 3, (AP): The final doors are being knocked, ads are blaring and candidates are making a last pitch to voters. Even with the high-energy final push, the races for control of Congress are at a stalemate, essentially a toss-up for the House and fight to the finish for the Senate.

The outcome of Tuesday's election will shape the country's future, determining whether the new White House has allies or skeptics on Capitol Hill - or faces a divided Congress like this past session, which has been among the most tumultuous and unproductive in modern times.

As voters assess their presidential options between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris, they also are sizing up who will represent them in Congress.

"This is why I'm an independent," said voter Gary Motta of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, who isn't happy with either choice for president, as he showed up at an early Sunday morning event for Republican Kevin Coughlin, who is trying to unseat Democratic Rep. Emilia Sykes.

The struggle for control of Congress has gone on for months. Candidates have tussled over the big issues - the economy, the border, reproductive health care and the future of democracy - but also over Congress itself, which had a chaotic session as the GOP-led House ousted its speaker and barely fended off government shutdowns.

This is the first presidential election since the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, and many Republican lawmakers who voted against certifying Democrat Joe Biden's White House win over Trump are up for reelection.

Republican candidates, many backed by the former president, are finding themselves having to answer for him on several fronts. Among them is the decision by the Supreme Court, with three justices who were nominated by Trump, that ended the right to abortion access.

Democrats face tough questions over the Biden-Harris record on the U.S.-Mexico border and on inflation during their time at the White House.

Most of the closely contested House campaigns are being waged beyond the presidential swing states, including in New York and California, where Republican Kevin McCarthy, who was ousted as speaker and then left Congress, had made inroads in his home state. Democrats under New York's Hakeem Jeffries, the party's House leader, are now trying to win them back.

Starting Saturday, California Rep. Pete Aguilar, the Democratic caucus chairman, is making a nine-stop swing through the Golden State to win back seats.

Musk tests role of money in US politics

Harris, Trump focus on Sunbelt states during final weekend push for votes

CHARLOTTE, NC, Nov 3, (AP): Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump zeroed in on the Sun Belt on Saturday as they embarked on one last weekend quest to sway every undecided voter in the battleground states. They pitched rival agendas on the economy - and more - that each insisted is what Americans want.

"We have overcome every attack, every abuse and even two assassination attempts," Trump said at a rally in Gastonia, North Carolina, outside Charlotte. "And now it all comes down to this."

Later, Trump headed to Virginia, which isn't considered a battleground state, but offered a similar message, telling supporters that there is no way he can lose and is on the cusp of "the greatest political victory in the history of our country."

Trump predicted he would win not just the Electoral College count, but a majority of votes cast across the country, which he failed to do in two previous tries.

"We're going to win the popular vote," Trump told the crowd. "I think we have a really good chance to win

the popular vote."

Harris, meanwhile, has been urging her supporters to vote early so she can be elected and provide the "new generation of leadership" that she argues she represents.

"I am ready to offer that leadership as the next president of the United States of America," she said during remarks in a rally at the Atlanta Civic Center parking lot. She had to pause a few times to allow medics to attend to people who had fainted after spending hours in the heat.

"It's hot out here, Atlanta," the vice president said.

Trump confirmed Saturday that he'll vote in person on Tuesday in Florida, despite saying previously he'd vote early.

"Anybody here already voted?" she asked the Atlanta crowd, which cheered loudly in response. "Oh wow. Oh my goodness. Thank you, thank you."

It was part of a final, frenzied push by Harris, Trump, their running mates and their high-profile stand-ins to encourage people to vote early or in person on Tuesday, Election Day.

Harris' campaign hoped for a "high-



Elon Musk and former US first lady Melania Trump listen as Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at Madison Square Garden on Oct 27 in New York. (AP)

impact" moment with a two-minute spot to air Sunday during NFL games on CBS and FOX, including the Green Bay Packers against the Detroit Lions, two swing state teams. It shows Harris interacting with people during the campaign and talking directly to viewers.

Trump, meanwhile, spoke wistfully, as he has at some of his recent rallies,

about how after nearly a decade of campaigning, his final race is nearing its end.

Meanwhile, Elon Musk, the South African-born tech and business titan, has spent at least \$119 million mobilizing Trump's supporters to back the Republican nominee. His social media platform, X, has become a firehose of pro-Trump propaganda. And he's playing a starring role in Trump-style rallies in critical battleground states.

All the while, he's coming under growing scrutiny. He skipped a hearing on Thursday in a lawsuit over his effort to dole out millions of dollars to registered voters, giveaways legal experts liken to vote buying. He's being investigated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. And The Wall Street Journal recently reported that Musk regularly communicates with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a potential national security risk because SpaceX, his aerospace company, holds billions of dollars worth of contracts with NASA and the Department of Defense.

Musk is hardly the only person whose megawealth places him at the

nexus of politics, business and foreign policy. But few are working so publicly for a single candidate as Musk, whose expansive business ties and growing bravado pose a vexing test of one unelected person's political power. His stature is perhaps one of the most tangible consequences of the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision, which eliminated many limits on political giving.

"This is definitely an election brought to you by Citizens United," said Daniel I. Weiner, the director of elections and government at the Brennan Center for Justice, who added that the phenomenon was bigger than just Musk. "What this is really about is a transformation of our campaign finance system to one in which the wealthiest donors are playing a central role."

Musk did not respond to a request for comment made through his attorney. Tesla, his electric car company, and X did not respond to inquiries. SpaceX disputed parts of The Journal's reporting in a statement and said it continues to work in "close partnership with the U.S. Government."

New-look executive assembled in Sept

Lawmakers vet EU Commission prez new team

BRUSSELS, Nov 3, (AP): Five months after the European Union lurched to the political right, the influence of nationalist and populist parties will go on public display in Brussels on Monday when lawmakers vet the proposed new members of the EU's increasingly powerful executive branch.

Over five days of hearings, the EU parliamentarians will grill 26 top officials - nominated by their national governments - to establish whether they are suitable to lead the next European Commission on policies like agriculture, trade, economic affairs, health or migration.

The commission is the only EU body with the power to draft laws which, once passed by the Parliament and the council of member states, apply in all 27 countries of the bloc. They cover everything from water quality to data protection to competition policy.

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen assembled her new-look executive in September, seeking to balance sensitive political, geographical and gender concerns within a team that will lead the European project for the next five years.

The vast majority of the would-be commissioners come from the right of the political spectrum, mostly the European People's Party (EPP), a conservative EU-wide political family that counts von der Leyen



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, (left), walks with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen prior to a meeting at EU headquarters in Brussels on Oct 29. (AP)

as a member and is the biggest in the parliament. That should make things easier for her.

Despite that advantage, the EPP has already worked with hard-right groups - including Italian Premier Georgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy, which has neo-fascist roots, and stridently nationalist lawmakers from Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's ruling Fidesz - to

secure majorities in the European Parliament.

Other pro-European parties were weakened in the June 6-9 EU elections and von der Leyen can operate without them. The second-biggest group - the center-left Socialists and Democrats - seems ready to rubber-stamp her team. Its leaders say it does not have a "kill list" of nominees that it intends to remove.

The commission is akin to a government cabinet, with commissioners instead of ministers. But it proposes laws that influence all aspects of the lives of around 450 million people in the 27 countries that make up the world's biggest trading bloc. Von der Leyen is the boss of more than 33,000 employees.

The commission handles trade talks, sealing agreements with EU partners in the outside world and managing disputes at the World Trade Organization. It's also a powerful competition watchdog, whose influence has been felt by tech giants like Apple, Google and Meta.

Von der Leyen's power is growing. Her team led the European drive to secure COVID-19 vaccines, and whipped up a massive rescue package to help Europe's economies cope with the cost of trying to stop the pandemic spreading. It also helped the EU weather the energy crisis sparked by Russia's war on Ukraine.



Moldova's President Maia Sandu speaks to the media after casting her vote during a presidential election runoff, in Chisinau, Moldova on Nov 3. (AP)

Moldovans choose president in decisive runoff

Moldovans are casting votes in a decisive presidential runoff Sunday that pits pro-Western incumbent Maia Sandu against a Russia-friendly opponent, as ongoing claims of voter fraud and intimidation threaten democracy in the European Union candidate country.

In the first round held Oct. 20, Sandu obtained 42% of the ballot but failed to win an outright majority. She will face Alexandr Stoiianoglo, a former prosecutor general, who outperformed polls in the first round with almost 26% of the vote.

Polling stations opened Sunday at 7 am local time (0500 GMT) and will close at 9 pm (1900 GMT). By noon local time, nearly 700,000 voters - about 24% of eligible voters - had cast ballots, according to the Central Electoral Commission.

A poll released by research company iData indicates a tight race that leans toward a narrow Sandu victory, an outcome that might rely on Moldova's large diaspora. The presidential role carries significant powers in areas such as foreign policy and national security and has a four-year term. (AP)

America

Gov OK's wind farm: Washington Gov **Jay Inslee** has approved a revised plan for a massive proposed wind farm after he rejected a sharply slimmed-down version earlier this year.

Inslee urged permitting officials to work quickly to allow the construction of as many Horse Heaven Wind Farm turbines as possible. The Seattle Times reported. Washington state won't meet its "urgent clean energy needs" if officials take years to authorize the turbines, he said.

The original \$1.7 billion project included up to 222 wind turbines across 24 miles (38.6 kilometers) of hillsides in the Tri-Cities area of eastern Washington and three solar arrays covering up to 8.5 square miles (22 square kilometers).

But then Washington's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, a clearinghouse for permits required by large projects, recommended slashing the proposal in half because nests of the endangered ferruginous hawk were found in the area. It wanted a 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) buffer around each nest.

Most nests were empty, but the hawks can return to them years later.

In May, Inslee rejected the council's recommendation to shrink the project, prompting the panel to suggest a compromise that would examine turbines and nests on a case-by-case basis.



Inslee

Under this plan, which Inslee formally approved Oct. 18, a technical advisory group would recommend whether to reduce individual nest setbacks to 1 kilometer (0.6 mile.) (AP)

□ □ □

Vehicle crash kills 5: Five people died in a fiery vehicle crash in Wisconsin, authorities said Saturday.

The Dane County Sheriff's Office said in a statement that the vehicle crashed into a tree Friday night off a roadway just south of Verona, a town about 11 miles (18 kms) southwest of Madison.

The vehicle caught fire and all five occupants were pronounced dead at the scene, the sheriff's office said.

Authorities have not released their names and ages. The cause of the crash is under investigation. (AP)

VALENCIA, Spain, Nov 3, (AP): Spain's King Felipe VI and top government officials were pelted with mud by a crowd of enraged flood survivors during the first visit by the country's leaders Sunday to the center of the suffering.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez was evacuated from the scene, according to Spanish broadcaster RTVE, when the official contingent started to walk the mud-covered streets of Paiporta, one of the hardest hit areas where over 60 people perished and thousands of lives were shattered.

Police had to step in with some officers on horseback to keep back the crowd of several dozens who hurled mud and wielded shovels and poles threateningly in the air.

"Get out! Get out!" and "Killers!" the crowd shouted among other insults. Body-



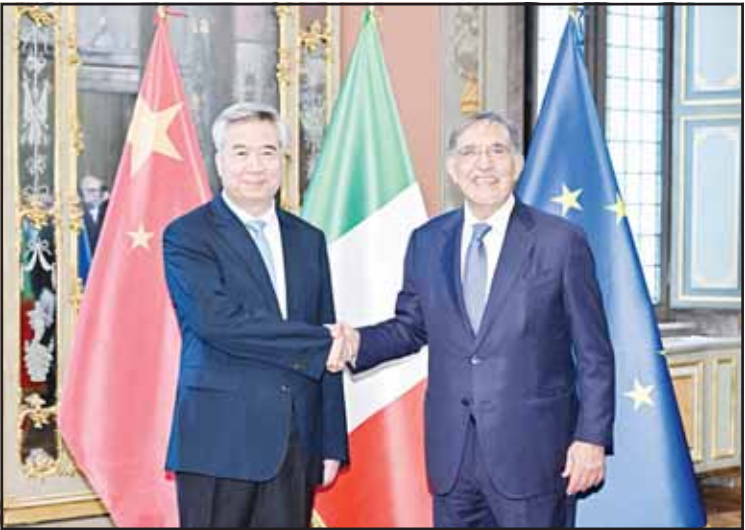
Spain's King Felipe VI, (centre), speaks with protesters in Paiporta, near Valencia, Spain. (AP)

guards opened umbrellas to protect the royals and officials as protestors hurled mud at them.

After being forced to seek protection, the king, with flecks of mud on his face, remained calm and made several efforts to speak to individual residents. One person appeared to have wept on his shoulder. He shook the hand of a man.

It was an unprecedented incident for a Royal House that takes great care to craft an image of a monarch who is liked by the nation. But the public rage over for the haphazard management of the crisis came to a boil on Sunday.

Queen Letizia and regional Valencia President Carlo Mazón were also in the contingent. The queen also spoke to women with small glops of mud on her hands and arms.



Li Xi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, meets with Italy's Senate President Ignazio La Russa in Rome, Italy on Oct 31. (Xinhua)

China vows to further ties with Italy

Chinese senior official Li Xi met with Italian leaders this week to deepen strategic ties, marking the 20th anniversary of the China-Italy comprehensive strategic partnership and advancing cooperation in areas like green energy and digital technology.

Li, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, met with Italy's Senate President Ignazio La Russa, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani in Rome during his visit from Wednesday to Saturday at the invitation of the Italian Senate.

During the meetings, Li highlighted the enduring ties between China and Italy, and called on the two sides to advance the consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in July. (Xinhua)

Japan grounds V-22 Osprey fleet again after flight incident

Robot retrieves 1st melted fuel from Fukushima nuke reactor

TOKYO, Nov 3, (AP): A remote-controlled robot has safely returned with a tiny piece of melted fuel it collected from inside one of three damaged reactors at the tsunami-hit Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant for the first time since the 2011 meltdown.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, which manages the plant, said Saturday that the extendable fishing rod-like robot successfully clipped a gravel as big as 5 millimeters (2 inches), the size of a tiny granola bit, from the top surface of a mound of molten fuel debris that sits on the bottom of the No. 2 reactor's primary containment vessel.

The "telesco" robot, with its frontal tongs still holding the melted fuel bit, returned to the enclosed container for safe storage after workers in full hazmat gear pulled it out of the containment vessel earlier Saturday.

The sample return marks the first time the melted fuel is retrieved out of the containment vessel. But the mission is not over until it's certain that the sample's radioactivity is below a set standard and safely placed into a container.

If the radioactivity exceeds the limit, the robot must go back inside the reactor to find another piece, TEPCO officials said they expect the piece is small enough to meet the requirement.

The mission initially started in August for what was supposed to be a

two-week round trip but had been suspended twice due to mishaps.

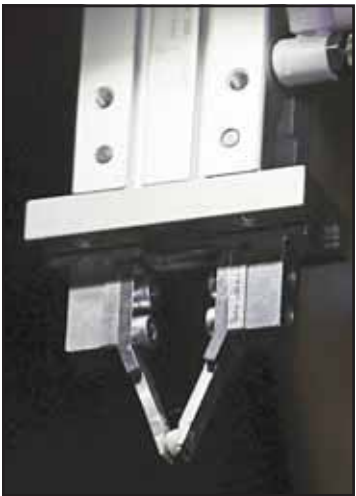
First one was the procedural mistake at the beginning that held up the work for nearly three weeks, then the robot's two cameras designed to transmit views of the target areas for its operators in the remote control room failed. The camera problem required the robot to be pulled out all the way for replacement before the mission resumed Monday.

Fukushima Daiichi lost its key cooling systems during the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, causing meltdowns in its three reactors. An estimated 880 tons of fatally radioactive molten fuel remains in them, and TEPCO has carried out a number of robotic probes to figure out how to decommission the plant.

Telesco on Wednesday successfully clipped a piece presumably measuring less than 3 grams (0.1 ounce) from the planned area right underneath the Unit 2 reactor core, from which large amounts of melted fuel fell during the meltdown 13 years ago, TEPCO said.

Plant chief Akira Ono said only the tiny spec can provide key data to plan decommissioning strategy, develop necessary technology and robots and retroactively learn how the accident had developed.

Meanwhile, Japan has grounded its fleet of V-22 Osprey aircraft again after an incident last Sunday where one



A device to remove debris from a reactor at the damaged Fukushima Nuclear power plant demonstrates to pinch a stone, as revealed in Kobe, western Japan on May 28. (AP)

of the hybrid helicopter-aircraft tilted unexpectedly and hit the ground while trying to take off.

The V-22 was taking part in the joint US military exercise Keen Sword and carrying 16 passengers, including three U.S. service members. During takeoff it "became unstable as it swayed from side to side, and the left wing, the

lower part of the aircraft came into contact with the ground and part of the aircraft was damaged, so the flight was aborted," Japan's Ground Self Defense Forces said in a statement.

It was the first major incident for Japan's V-22 fleet since an Osprey crash last November killed eight Air Force Special Operations Command service members and led to a months long grounding of the entire fleet in both Japan and the US.

The aircraft resumed flight operations earlier this year, but the Osprey's use remains controversial particularly in Okinawa, where residents have questioned its safety record.

The Osprey in last Sunday's incident was able to land and no one was injured, however Japan will keep its fleet of more than a dozen V-22s grounded while it investigates the incident, Defense Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters last week.

"We believe there is no safety problem with Ospreys, although ensuring flight safety is a prerequisite for aircraft operations," Nakatani said.

The Pentagon's V-22 joint program office is supporting Japan's investigation into the incident, spokesman Neil Lobeda said Saturday.

The V-22 was operating on the Japanese island of Yonaguni during the joint exercise Keen Sword. Yonaguni is only 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Taiwan.

US flies long-range bomber in drill with South Korea, Japan in reaction to North missile test

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 3, (Agencies): The United States flew a long-range bomber in a trilateral drill with South Korea and Japan on Sunday in response to North Korea's recent test-firing of a new intercontinental ballistic missile designed to strike the US mainland, South Korea's military said.

North Korea on Thursday tested the newly developed Hwasong-19 ICBM, which flew higher and stayed in the air longer than any other missile it has fired. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called it "an appropriate military action" to cope with external security threats posed by its rivals.

On Sunday, the US flew the B-1B bomber to train with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets near the Korean Peninsula, demonstrating the three countries' firm resolve and readiness to respond to North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile programs, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The trilateral aerial training was the second by South Korea, the US and Japan this year, the statement said.

The US often responds to major North Korean missile tests with temporary deployments of some of its powerful military assets such as long-range bombers, aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered submarines to and near the Korean Peninsula. North Korea typically responds angrily to such US actions, calling them part of a US-led plot to invade the North and performing additional weapons tests.

The US has flown the B-1B bomber over or near the

Korean Peninsula four times this year, according to South Korea's military. A B-1B is capable of carrying a large conventional weapons payload. Thursday's Hwasong-19 test, North Korea's first ICBM test-firing in almost a year, showed progress in North Korea's missile program. But many experts say North Korea still has some technological issues to master to acquire functioning ICBMs that can deliver nuclear strikes on the US mainland. The experts say the Hwasong-19 shown in North Korea's state media photos and videos looked too big to be useful in a war.

The ICBM test was seen as an effort to grab American attention ahead of the US presidential election this week and respond to international condemnation of North Korea's reported dispatch of thousands of troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine, observers say.

F-15K, KF-16 fighter jets from the South Korean air force, at least one B-1B bomber and F-16 fighter jets from the U.S. air force, and F-2 fighter jets from the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force were mobilized for the combined air exercises, said the JCS.

During the drills, the US bomber, escorted by fighter jets from the three countries, struck a simulated target, said the statement, noting that the drills marked the second air exercise between the three countries this year.

The exercise was in response to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on Oct31, said the JCS.



This photo provided by the North Korean government, shows what it says a test launch of new intercontinental ballistic missile 'Hwasong-19' at an undisclosed place in North Korea on Oct 31. (AP)

Bolivia govt accuses supporters of former prez Evo Morales of taking 200 soldiers hostage

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Nov 3, (AP): Supporters of former President Evo Morales in Bolivia have taken more than 200 soldiers hostage, the country's government reported Saturday, as unrest prompted by an abuse investigation of the ex-leader continued for a third week.

Bolivia's Foreign Ministry in a statement identified those involved in the hostage taking as members of "irregular groups" and accused them of also stealing weapons and ammunition. It did not identify the groups, nor did it explain how the soldiers were taken hostage. But a day earlier, President Luis Arce said those protesting and attacking military units were supporters of Morales.

Arce characterized the seizing of three military barracks in a coca-growing area in central Bolivia as "an absolutely reprehensible criminal act that is far from any legitimate social claim of the Indigenous peasant movement."

The conflict broke out three weeks ago when Bolivian prosecutors launched an investigation into accusations that Morales fathered a child with a 15-year-old girl in 2016, classifying their relationship as statutory rape. Morales has refused to testify in court.

Morales has been holed up in the rural area of Chapare, in central Bolivia, since reports of a possible warrant for his

arrest emerged. Loyalist coca growers have kept watch to prevent his arrest, and supporters have threatened to take over police and military barracks, demanding the closure of the judicial cases against the former president.

The Foreign Ministry in its statement Saturday said it is open to dialogue with "all social sectors of the country" but warned that the process "cannot be established while the Bo-

livian people continue to be victims of abuse by these groups who are not interested in the national and popular economy, and who only seek to materialize the personal and electoral interests of a former president."

Last week, 30 police officers were injured and more than 50 protesters were arrested after a standoff between security forces and supporters of Morales.



Police arrive to clear roads blocked by supporters of former president Evo Morales, to prevent him from facing a criminal investigation over allegations of abuse of a minor while he was in office, in Parotani, Bolivia on Nov 1. (AP)



People living in Mexico meet with relatives living in the US, during the annual 'Hugs not Walls' event on a stretch of the Rio Grande, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on Nov 2. (AP)

Nearly 200 families separated by US-Mexico border reunite briefly

Nearly 200 families gathered Saturday along a stretch of the US-Mexico border for heartfelt but brief reunions with loved ones they had not seen for years because they live in opposite countries.

Tears flowed and people embraced as Mexican families were allowed to reunite for a few minutes at the border with relatives who migrated to the US. Adults and children passed over the Rio Grande to meet with their loved ones.

This year, the annual event organized by an immigrant rights advocacy group happened three days be-

fore the US presidential election, whose monthslong campaigns have focused heavily on immigration and border security. It also took place under increased security, according to the Network in Defense of the Rights of Migrants.

"We did not have barbed wire, we did not have so many soldiers deployed in our community," said Fernando Garcia, the organization's director, highlighting the border security changes that the border has seen since the reunions began last decade. "The barbed wire had to be opened so that the families could have this event." (AP)

War rages

‘RSF responsible for large scale violence in Sudan’

GENEVA, Nov 3, (AP): The head of a UN-backed fact-finding team looking into human rights violations and abuses in Sudan said it found the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces responsible for large-scale violence in areas that it controls. Mohamed Chande Othman has denounced "staggering violence" in Sudan since war broke out more than 18 months ago between the Sudanese military and the RSF, starting with open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, that later spread across the country.

"We said in our report that we attribute sexual gender-based violence to RSF in West Darfur, in Darfur, in greater Khartoum, and in al-Gezira (state)," the Tanzanian lawyer said Friday by phone from Zimbabwe, where he was attending a conference.

However, Othman said a renewed mandate from the UN Human Rights Council would allow his team of independent experts to investigate "credible" allegations of sexual exploitation by the Sudanese armed forces as well.

Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023, when long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary leaders broke out in the capital



Sudanese soldiers from the Rapid Support Forces unit, led by Gen Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, the deputy head of the military council, secure the area where Dagalo attends a military-backed tribe's rally, in the East Nile province, Sudan on June 22, 2019. (AP)

Khartoum and spread to other regions including western Darfur. The war has killed more than 24,000 people so far, according to Armed Conflict Location and Event Data, a group monitoring the conflict since it started.

The fact-finding mission on Tuesday released a more comprehensive version of its report presented in September to the rights council, which has 47 member countries. The broader report cited gang rapes, sexual slavery and the abduction of victims in areas the RSF controls. "It's important to highlight the horrendous nature and the widespread nature - the patterns of violence - that were committed," Othman said.

His team found the sexual violence and allegations of enforced marriages and human trafficking across borders for sexual purposes took place mostly during invasions of towns and cities.

"Victims and witnesses consistently reported that perpetrators threatened them with weapons, including firearms, knives and whips to intimidate and coerce them," the latest report said, citing violence like punching, beatings with sticks, and lashing before and during rape.

Subcontinent

4 terrorists killed in Pakistan:

Four terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Saturday, the military has reported.

The security forces conducted the operation in the South Waziristan district of the province on reported presence of terrorists, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan Army, said in a statement on Saturday.

"During the conduct of the operation, the terrorists' location was effectively engaged by our troops," the ISPR said, adding that four terrorists were killed during the operation.

A clearance operation is being carried out to eliminate the presence of other terrorists from the area, the ISPR added. The military said the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the South Asian country. (Xinhua)

Kashmir blast wounds 9:

An assailant threw a grenade at a marketplace bustling with shoppers in the main city of Indian-controlled Kashmir on Sunday, wounding at least nine

people, police said.

Police said an unidentified attacker hurled a grenade from a flyover bridge, apparently targeting a stationed paramilitary vehicle, in the main business center of Srinagar, where Sunday's flea market is visited by thousands of people.

The grenade exploded in the midst of shoppers and vendors, wounding at least nine, police said. All were taken to a hospital and reinforcements of police and paramilitary soldiers launched a search for the attacker.

In the past, Indian authorities have blamed rebels fighting against Indian rule in the disputed region for similar grenade attacks. India's prime minister is Narendra Modi.

"There can be no justification for targeting innocent civilians," Kashmir's Chief Minister Omar Abdullah wrote on the social media platform X. (AP)

Factory fire in Afghanistan:

A

huge fire broke out at a gas factory in Qala-e-Haidar Khan area of Paghman district, west of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, on Saturday afternoon, Khalid Zadran, spokesman of the Kabul police chief, said.

Firefighters arrived at the area. They have been trying to put out the fire, Zadran said on social media.

The cause of the fire and information on any casualties have not yet been reported. (Xinhua)

Lanka bus accident kills 2:

A bus carrying university students on a field trip skidded off a road and tipped over in central Sri Lanka on Friday, killing two students and injuring 39 others, officials said.

Police said the accident occurred when the driver lost control of the vehicle on a curve near the town of Badulla in the country's mountainous tea-growing region, about 330 kilometers (205 miles) north of Colombo, the capital.

Derana television showed residents helping health workers remove the wounded students from the toppled bus. Police and doctors said 39 wounded passengers, including six in critical condition, were admitted to the main hospital in Badulla. Two others were declared dead. (AP)

		Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
SAUDI	- TASI	+26.15	12,048.26			
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+175.13	30,833.13			

Business

US job openings fall by 418k

Global inflation trends shift amid central bank decisions

By National Bank of Kuwait

United States

JOLTS Job Openings Report

Over in the US, job openings fell by 418,000 to 7.44 million in September 2024, marking the lowest level since January 2021 and indicating a cooling labor market. Significant declines were noted in health care and social assistance (-178,000), state and local government (-79,000), and federal government (-28,000), while openings rose in finance and insurance (+85,000). Regionally, the largest decrease was in the South (-325,000). Hires remained steady at 5.6 million, with total separations at 5.2 million, and minimal change in quits (3.1 million) and layoffs (1.8 million).

ADP Non-Farm Employment Change Report

The latest ADP National Employment Report showed a significant increase of 233,000 jobs in U.S. non-farm, private employment, more than double the forecasted 110,000. Job creation has accelerated from the previous month's 143,000 increase, indicating a healthy labor market likely to support consumer spending and overall economic growth. The report's strength could impact Federal Reserve policy, potentially strengthening the case for a 25 bps reduction rather than the previous cut of 50 bps. This data is also seen as a positive indicator for the US dollar as it shows that the labor market remains resilient.

Core PCE Index

The personal consumption expenditure index, watched closely by the Federal Reserve, rose 0.2% in September, following an unrevised 0.1% gain in August. In the y/y figure, the index rose 2.1%, considered the smallest y/y rise since February 2021, after a 2.3% reading in August. Core PCE rose 0.3% for the month, compared to 0.2% previously, while the y/y figure rose 2.7%. The figure, although slightly higher than the previous month, is considered to give the Fed greater confidence in proceeding with interest rates cuts. Markets are currently pricing in 23 bps worth of cuts in November, and 42 bps till year end.

Non-Farm Payroll

The US added only 12,000 jobs in October, as seen by the latest report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The unemployment rate was unchanged for the month at 4.1%. The figure was considered significantly lower than September's 223k figure, as well as below expectations of 106k jobs added. An upward trend in employment was seen in healthcare and government jobs, while decreases were seen in manufacturing employment. The lower than expected figure, although attributed to the recent hurricanes in the US, has increased expectations that the Fed will cut rates in its November meeting, with 24.6 bps worth of cuts currently priced.

The US Dollar index closed the week at 104.28.

Canada

BoC Governor Macklem Speech

Governor Tiff Macklem explained on Monday the rationale behind the Bank of Canada's recent large interest-rate cut, stating it was appropriate after two years of substantial rate hikes aimed at controlling inflation. Since March 2022, the central bank raised the benchmark rate from 0.25% to 5%, and Macklem noted that making larger cuts now aligns with the aggressive increases made earlier. He added that the bank will gradually "discover" the neutral rate—where borrowing costs neither stimulate nor slow the economy—though it's estimated to be between 2.25% and 3.25%. Anticipating a precise neutral rate is unlikely, given it requires stable economic conditions without shocks, inflation at 2%, and growth at full capacity. Although a sharp economic downturn isn't anticipated, the bank took this significant step to aim for a "soft landing." Markets currently expect the policy rate to fall to around 3% by March 2025, with uncertainty over further cuts

Highlights

- US JOLTS Job openings show a 418k drop, down to 7.44 million in September.
- US PCE index y/y rose by 2.1%, lower than the previous 2.3% increase, core PCE rose 0.3% m/m.
- Switzerland CPI m/m at -0.1% versus expectations of 0.0%.
- Bank of Japan keeps interest rates unchanged at 0.25%.
- Inflation in Australia rises to 2.1% in September, lower than expectations of 2.3%, and the previous 2.7% figure.
- China manufacturing PMI at 50.1 versus 49.8 previous month, marking the first expansion in six months.

afterward.

The USD/CAD currency pair closed the week at 1.3950.

Switzerland

Switzerland CPI Report

CPI in Switzerland decreased by 0.1% in October, missing expectations of a flat reading. Meanwhile, inflation excluding food and energy rose 0.1%. Declines were seen in both domestic and imported products, which decreased by 0.1% each. Domestic product's prices decreased from 2.0% to 1.8% y/y, while imported products declined to -3.1%, from -2.7% y/y. On a yearly basis, inflation dropped to 0.6%, down from 0.8% previously. The USD/CHF currency pair closed the week at 0.8699.

Asia-Pacific

BoJ Monetary Policy Statement

The Bank of Japan (BoJ) maintained its key short-term interest rate at 0.25% in October, its highest level since 2008, aligning with market expectations. This decision was made amid political changes in Japan and upcoming U.S. elections. Governor Kazuo Ueda expressed concerns over global economic uncertainty, noting that the BoJ has time to evaluate risks after recent rate hikes in March and July. The BoJ remains open to further rate hikes if economic conditions meet its forecasts. In its quarterly outlook, the BoJ reaffirmed its 2024 core inflation forecast at 2.5%, with inflation expected to be around 1.9% in FY 2025 and FY 2026. GDP growth projections are kept at 0.6% for 2024, with 1.1% for FY 2025 and 1.0% for FY 2026. The USD/JPY currency pair closed the week at 152.98.

Australia Consumer Price Index Report

In September 2024, Australia's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 2.1% year-over-year, below both the forecasted 2.3% and August's 2.7%, marking the lowest inflation rate since July 2021. This keeps inflation within the central bank's target range of 2-3% for the second consecutive month, largely due to the Energy Bill Relief Fund rebate. Key price drops included electricity (-24.1%) and automotive fuel (-14.0%). Price growth also slowed for food, alcohol and tobacco, health, and recreation, though education costs rose (6.4%). Excluding volatile items and travel, the CPI increase was 2.7%, its lowest since November 2021.

The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6559.

China Manufacturing PMI

China's manufacturing output bounced back into expansion territory in October for the first time in six months. The manufacturing PMI index rose to 50.1, up from 49.8 in September, beating forecasts of almost no change in the figure. The non-manufacturing PMI, which includes construction and services, also rose to 50.2, up from 50.0. The figure increased optimism that the stimulus effort announced in September will help drive further growth and bring it closer towards the 5% target.

The USD/CNY currency pair closed the week at 7.1214.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30635.



Al-Gharabally and Al-Yahya with Zain executives and DCO officials.

Secretary-General visited company's headquarters, part of recent Kuwait tour

Zain, DCO discuss digital innovation initiatives in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Zain welcomed the Secretary-General of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), H.E. Deemah Al-Yahya, and her accompanying delegation to the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) at the company's headquarters in Shuwaikh. The meeting was attended by CEO Nawaf Al-Gharabally and other senior executives to discuss initiatives for accelerating the digital economy and enhancing the innovation ecosystem in member states, including Kuwait.

This visit was part of the DCO's recent tour in the country, which included meetings with ministers and key government and private sector officials ahead of Kuwait's upcoming presidency of the organization in 2025.

The meeting featured a showcase and exchange of successful experiences across several development areas, particularly in digital economy acceleration, creating a supportive entrepreneurial environment, empowering innovators, enhancing the culture of innovation, leading women's empowerment initiatives, expanding social responsibility programs, and discussing various efforts to stimulate economic and social growth.

Furthermore, discussions were held on future collaboration between Zain and the Digital Cooperation Organization to serve shared goals, leveraging digital transformation initiatives and private sector expertise to advance digitization strategies in the public sector, and investing in human capital, particularly in modern technological fields such as artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, to achieve sustainable growth.



Nawaf Al-Gharabally and Deemah Al-Yahya during the visit.

tainable growth.

Zain took this opportunity to showcase the success story of its award-winning accelerator, Zain Great Idea (ZGI), which established itself as one of the most impactful business accelerators locally and regionally for over 14 years. ZGI has provided numerous opportunities for hundreds of ambitious entrepreneurs and startups, connecting many with leading tech companies and organizations in places like Silicon Valley, to gain first-hand experience.

Through this program, Zain aims to empower Kuwait's tech startup ecosystem and foster an innovation-driven environment that creates tangible economic and social impact. This step also translates the company's strategic plans as a business that seeks promising opportunities

for diversification and sustainable growth in a highly competitive market.

The Digital Cooperation Organization is a global multilateral entity founded in November 2020, dedicated to fostering inclusive digital prosperity by accelerating the growth of the digital economy.

The DCO brings together the Ministries of Communications and Information Technology of member states, focusing on empowering youth, women, and entrepreneurs, harnessing the accelerating power of the digital economy, and embracing innovation to drive economic growth and enhance social prosperity.

The DCO brings together the ICT ministries of 16 member states, including Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Djibouti, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Rwanda, and Saudi Arabia. Collectively, these nations represent a combined GDP exceeding \$3.5 trillion and a market of approximately 800 million people, over 70% of whom are under the age of 35.

Through cooperation, dialogue, and cross-border policy initiatives, the DCO aims to create optimal frameworks and infrastructure within member states to enable the rapid establishment of inclusive and equitable digital economies where people, businesses, and communities can thrive.

In pursuit of common interests, the DCO collaborates with governments, the private sector, international organizations, NGOs, and civil society to support more inclusive digital transformation and the growth of digital industries.

Kuwait construction financing soars to 467.9 million dinars in September

Local banks grant 2.27 billion dinars in new loans in 2024

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The local banks in Kuwait reported a substantial increase in financing for the construction sector, reaching 467.9 million dinars in September, up by 186.4 million dinars or 66.2 percent from August's figure of 281.5 million dinars, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

On an annual basis, financing soared by 270 million dinars, marking a 136.4 percent increase compared to September 2023, when it was 197.9 million dinars.

Over the first nine months of 2024, total financing to the construction sector amounted to approximately 2.473 billion dinars.

According to the Central Bank of Kuwait's monthly statistics, the cumulative balance of construction financing provided by local banks rose to 3.051 billion dinars in September, an increase of 1.6 percent (49 million dinars) from the previous month's balance of 3.002 billion dinars.

This balance also reflected an annual increase

of 524 million dinars, or 20.7 percent, from 2.527 billion dinars in September 2023.

Throughout 2023, local banks provided a total of 1.754 billion dinars in construction financing, a slight increase of 0.7 percent (14 million dinars) from 1.740 billion dinars in 2022. The financing levels fluctuated throughout 2024, with figures ranging from 156.8 million dinars in January to 467.9 million dinars in September.

Despite the rise in financing, the construction sector faces several challenges, including a decline in project launches and contract signings over the past five years, delays in contractor payments, and rising construction costs due to labor shortages. Real estate experts note that not only is there a lack of quantity in labor, but quality has also been impacted by the departure of experienced workers following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Additionally, local banks granted new loans totaling 2.27 billion dinars to residents and non-residents in the first nine months of 2024, bringing the cumulative balance of credit facilities to 55.83 billion dinars as of September, representing a growth rate of 4.2 percent from December 2023, when it was 53.55 billion dinars.

As of the end of September, loans granted to residents in Kuwait reached 48.86 billion dinars,

reflecting an increase of 1.18 billion dinars, or 2.5 percent, over the first nine months of 2024, compared to 47.67 billion dinars at the end of December 2023. Loans extended to non-residents amounted to 6.97 billion dinars, with a notable growth of 1.09 billion dinars, or 18.6 percent, from the December 2023 figure of 5.88 billion dinars.

This increase in loan volume for both residents and non-residents aligns with an overall growth in credit across various economic sectors. Notably, housing loans -- long-term personal loans with a maximum duration of 15 years provided for purchasing, building, or renovating private residences -- totaled 16.32 billion dinars by the end of September, representing a rise of 312 million dinars, or 1.9 percent, from 16 billion dinars at the end of December 2023.

Additionally, the total consumer facilities extended in Kuwait during the first nine months amounted to approximately 82 million dinars, reflecting a growth of 4.1 percent and bringing the cumulative balance to 2.05 billion dinars, up from 1.96 billion dinars at the end of December.

The overall balance of personal facilities stood at 19.12 billion dinars by the end of September, indicating continued demand for credit in the market.

project has been completed. They also explored various frameworks for experience exchange.

The Kuwaiti delegation met with several national employees, both male and female, working at the Duqm Refinery, and expressed appreciation for the warm welcome from their Omani colleagues.

In related news, sources revealed that Kuwait Petroleum International recently won the Best Gulf Partnership Award for 2024 in collaboration with Oman's Global Integrated Energy Group "OQ" in recognition of their participation in the Duqm Refinery, the largest joint Gulf project.

They indicated that Kuwait Petroleum International is evaluating several promising opportunities in Oman in partnership with a number of Omani oil companies, although they chose not to disclose details about these future projects at this time.

due to its high quality. The strategic location of the refinery, situated away from maritime conflicts, has also contributed to a surge in demand for its products. Since the start of commercial operations, the refinery has been running at full capacity.

Recently, several leaders from the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) visited the Duqm Refinery in Oman to explore various collaboration opportunities. A key focus of the visit was to discuss expanding Kuwaiti oil investments in the Duqm Economic Zone, which has experienced a global investment boom since the refinery began commercial operations. They also aimed to enhance joint cooperation between Kuwait and Oman in the oil and gas sectors.

The discussions also stressed the need to expedite establishing the Duqm Petrochemical Complex, especially since the feasibility study for the

Diesel dominates Duqm Refinery output amid high demand

Kuwait-Oman Duqm Refinery's profits to exceed \$4 bln

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The profits of the Kuwait-Oman Duqm Refinery are projected to exceed \$4.25 billion by the end of 2024. This follows a successful trial operation in 2023, which generated profits of \$2 billion. This reflects the refinery's significance in bolstering both global and regional energy markets.

According to informed sources, partners from both Kuwait and Oman are targeting annual profits of at least \$7 billion before 2030, aiming for a gradual increase in the refinery's capacity.

Currently, the facility processes 230,000 barrels per day, with plans to boost capacity by ten percent each year until 2030.

Diesel produced by the Duqm Refinery accounts for over 50 percent of its output, largely

Previous Week Levels					This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.0882	1.0831	1.0905	1.0834	1.0700	1.1000	1.0854
GBP	1.2899	1.2881	1.2980	1.2926	1.2800	1.3100	1.2928
JPY	152.03	151.77	153.09	152.98	150.00	155.00	151.17
CHF	0.8632	0.8630	0.8713	0.8699	0.8600	0.8800	0.8612

KFH wins ‘Best SME Bank in Kuwait’ award

A new award from Global Finance Magazine

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has been awarded “Best SME Bank in Kuwait” in the fourth annual SME Bank Awards by Global Finance Magazine. The award recognizes KFH’s leadership in Islamic finance, its excellence in digital banking solutions such as online banking, mobile banking, and digital payments, and its significant market share. KFH holds the first place in financing small and medium enterprises. This award is given based on a meticulous assessment by an independent world-class panel of judges.

In addition to its legacy in contributing to the growth of Islamic finance in Kuwait and the world, Global Finance stated that KFH has succeeded in meeting the needs of

Almutawa:

- KFH recognizes the importance of SMEs as the backbone of national economy
- KFH’s SME portfolio has consistently grown annually, characterized by continuous diversification and digitization of services

its SMEs customers through modern and effective channels. The Bank has established a foundation for sustainable growth that brings continuous success and places KFH at the forefront of SMEs support.

KFH General Manager Corporate Banking, Yousef Almutawa, stated that the award recognizes KFH’s successful efforts to enhance its position and achieve sustainable growth. By prioritizing the needs of each customer segment, particularly SMEs as the backbone of the national economy, KFH has demonstrated its commitment to



Yousef Almutawa

supporting and serving both corporate and retail customers.

“KFH’s role as the main financing provider to SMEs intertwines with its commitment towards the community. This role displays our appreciation to this vital segment of enterprises in supporting the national economy and developing the entrepreneurial environment in addition to creating opportunities and new areas for investment and employment,” he remarked.

Almutawa added that KFH has the largest market share in financing SMEs in the local market, with this segment

portfolio growing consistently on an annual basis. This growth underscores the exceptional quality of KFH’s services and financing options, which effectively support the growth and development of SMEs. Thanks to its robust capital base, high solvency, and strong credit rating as well as a wide diverse, flexible and efficient Sharia-compliant financing solutions, KFH is one of the most preferred and trusted institutions in the Kuwaiti banking sector for SMEs.

He also noted that KFH serves as a partner and advisor by exchanging ex-



2025 Best SME Bank Award

pertise, providing consultation and coordinating among the parties involved in the financing process.

Almutawa pointed out that KFH offers an array of banking and financing services that cater to the needs of SMEs including cash financing services such as Murabaha, Tawarruq and Ijara and non-cash finance, such as various types of letters of credit and letters of guarantee. KFH also offers other services such as Point of Sales, e-banking services that facilitate the management of the company’s accounts including balance inquiry, bank transfers, payroll transfer, view PoS

reports and other various online services.

He emphasized that KFH’s focus on SMEs and its commitment to offering top-tier services to this segment reflect the significant role of this segment in the economy and overall development. He also pointed out that the SMEs sector serves as a valuable stepping-stone for small businesses to expand and become larger companies. This growth can generate a wide range of employment opportunities for Kuwaiti youth, while requiring less capital investment.

“SMEs significantly contribute to the use of local resources at a large scale, support self-sufficiency in certain goods and services, reduce reliance on imports, enhance exports, and contribute to the enhancement of the country’s GDP,” added Almutawa.

He reaffirmed KFH’s commitment to continuing its role under all circumstances, drawing on its financing expertise and solid financial standing.

It is worth noting that Global Finance awards are determined through discussions and opinions of bankers, executives, and analysts from around the world. Founded in 1987, Global Finance is headquartered in New York and is considered a trusted source in the world of business and finance in over 193 countries. Its magazine is the legacy of 37 years of experience in international financial markets.

In line with its relentless efforts to enhance customer experiences

Markaz, Hesabe collaborate to launch innovative digital platform for effortless investment growth

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: In its continued pursuit of delivering superior client experiences through cutting-edge innovation and digital transformation, Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” has introduced an advanced digital investment platform in collaboration with Hesabe, a prominent leader in payment solutions. This new platform empowers Markaz clients to seamlessly expand their investments in Markaz investment funds on a periodic basis, providing a smooth, hassle-free process.

Exclusively accessible to current clients, the platform enables investors to top-up their holdings through a fully integrated digital payment system, directly from their accounts with complete electronic functionality. Designed for optimal security and ease, each transaction is safeguarded and streamlined, requiring only a few straightforward steps for verification before completing the payment process.

Highlighting the significance of this partnership, Salman Olayan, Senior Vice President, Strategic Planning at Markaz commented: “We are committed to providing our clients with convenient and technology-driven



Mohammad Al Sumaie



Salman Olayan



Rakan Al Adsani

solutions that meet their evolving wealth management needs. Our collaboration with Hesabe marks a significant milestone in this direction, enabling us to streamline investment top-ups through a secure, efficient, and user-friendly tool. This initiative reflects Markaz’s overarching strategy to embrace digitalization and drive efficiency across all aspects of our services.”

Mohammad Al Sumaie, Assistant Vice President of Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz, stated: “This pioneering platform exemplifies our unwavering commitment to addressing client needs by enriching their investment journey.

It provides them with the tools to capture growth opportunities and realize their financial ambitions, supported by the latest digital innovation. We look forward to continually crafting innovative investment solutions rooted in Markaz’s core values.”

Expressing his pride in this collaboration, Rakan Al Adsani, Chief Executive Officer at Hesabe, stated: “We are thrilled to partner with Markaz in developing this sophisticated digital platform, meticulously crafted to elevate the investor experience. This collaboration highlights Hesabe’s commitment to advancing payment solutions, reflecting our shared vision of delivering effort-

less, secure, and high-quality customer experiences. I am confident that our joint efforts will set new industry benchmarks in financial services.”

Markaz has consistently reinforced its leadership by offering groundbreaking financial solutions that respond to evolving client needs and dynamic market shifts. Innovations like the iMarkaz app, a fully personalized digital investment platform, and the GCC Momentum Fund being the first of its kind in Kuwait based on a momentum strategy, underscore Markaz’s dedication to delivering forward-thinking digital solutions that meet clients’ financial aspirations.

AI-driven shift for industry

Nvidia replaces Intel on the Dow index

NEW YORK, Nov 3, (AP): Nvidia is replacing Intel on the Dow Jones Industrial Average, ending a 25-year-run for a pioneering semiconductor company that has fallen behind as Nvidia cornered the market for chips that run artificial intelligence systems.

Paint-maker Sherwin-Williams will also replace chemical company Dow Inc. among the companies that make up the 30-stock average.

S&P Dow Jones Indices said Friday that the changes that take effect Nov. 7 “were initiated to ensure a more representative exposure to the semiconductors industry and the materials sector respectively.” It added that because the Dow is price-weighted, “persistently lower priced stocks have a minimal impact.”

Dow Inc., a major producer of chemicals and plastics and unrelated to the similarly named company behind the index, has also been the smallest company on the Dow in terms of market capitalization. In another index, the Dow Jones Utility Average, Texas-based energy company Vistra will replace Virginia-based AES Corp.

Warren Buffett is sitting on over \$325 bln cash

OMAHA, Neb., Nov3, (AP): Warren Buffett is now sitting on more than \$325 billion cash after continuing to unload billions of dollars worth of Apple and Bank of America shares this year and continuing to collect a steady stream of profits from all of Berkshire Hathaway’s assorted businesses without finding any major acquisitions.

Berkshire said it sold off about 100 million more Apple shares in the third quarter after halving its massive investment in the iPhone maker last quarter. The remaining stake of roughly 300 million shares was valued at \$69.9 billion at the end of September remains Berkshire’s biggest single investment, but it has been cut drastically since the end of last year when it was worth \$174.3 billion.

Investors will also be disappointed to learn that Berkshire didn’t repurchase any of its own shares in the quarter.

CFRA Research analyst Cathy Seifert said shareholders will wonder why Buffett is continuing to accumulate so much cash. “Are they more pessimistic about the future economic and market picture than perhaps others are?” she said.

Buffett said at the annual meeting in May that part of why he started selling some of his Apple shares is that he expects tax rates to go higher in the future. But Edward Jones analyst Jim Shanahan said he wonders if part of the reason Buffett started selling Apple is tied to last year’s death of Vice Chairman Charlie Munger because the sales started shortly after Munger’s death. Shanahan said Buffett has never been as comfortable with technology businesses as his longtime partner was.

“If Charlie Munger were still alive, perhaps he wouldn’t have sold down the position quite as aggressively - maybe at all,” Shanahan said.

Berkshire said Saturday that investment gains again drove its third quarter profits skyward to \$26.25 billion, or \$18.272 per Class A share. A year ago, unrealized paper investment losses dragged the Omaha, Nebraska-based conglomerate’s earnings down to a loss of \$12.77 billion, or \$8.824 per Class A share.

Buffett has long recommended that

investors pay more attention to Berkshire’s operating earnings if they want to get a good sense of how the businesses it owns are doing because those numbers exclude investments. Berkshire’s bottom-line profit figures can vary widely from quarter to quarter along with the value of its investments regardless of whether the company bought or sold anything.

By that measure, Berkshire said its operating earnings were only down about 6% at \$10.09 billion, or \$7,023.01 per Class A share. That compares to last year’s \$10.8 billion, or \$7,437.15 per Class A share.

The four analysts surveyed by FactSet Research predicted that Berkshire would report operating earnings of \$7,335.11 per Class A share.

Berkshire’s revenue didn’t change much at \$92.995 billion. A year ago, it reported \$93.21 billion revenue. That number was ahead of the \$92.231 billion revenue that three analysts surveyed by FactSet predicted.

Berkshire owns an assortment of insurance businesses, including Geico, along with BNSF railroad, several major utilities and a varied collection of retail and manufacturing businesses, including brands like Dairy Queen and See’s Candy.

One of Berkshire’s insurers, Guard, reported some additional losses on previous years after managers reassessed its policies.

Berkshire did resolve one mystery from the quarter by spelling out how much it paid to acquire the rest of the shares in its utility business from the estate of former Berkshire board member Walter Scott.

Berkshire said it paid \$2.4 billion cash, issued \$600 million in debt and gave the Scott family Class B Berkshire shares worth a little over \$1 billion. So the total compensation was about \$4 billion. That means the Scott family didn’t get nearly as good of a price for their 8% stake in the utilities as when Berkshire Vice Chairman Greg Abel sold his 1% stake in the utility business two years ago for \$870 million.

Abel is slated to succeed the 94-year-old Buffett as CEO in the event of his death.



Shareholder Tina Schmidt of Cozad, Neb., wears a shirt with Warren Buffett’s portrait in the style of an Andy Warhol painting at the Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting on May 4, 2024, in Omaha, Neb. (AP)

A new achievement denoting local, regional and global trust in the bank

NBK only Kuwaiti bank in Global Finance’s list of the World’s 100 Safest Banks for 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: ‘The Bank You Know and Trust’ is not just a slogan raised by National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), but a strategy and approach adopted over long decades, until it became a culture embedded in all its business activities. Acknowledging this, Global Finance magazine has recently named NBK among the World’s 100 Safest Banks for 2024, being the only Kuwaiti bank on the list, and ranking 83rd globally, demonstrating the trust placed in the bank worldwide.

Global Finance rankings are based on collective long-term credit ratings from Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s and Fitch Ratings. Safest Banks rankings are considered as one of global standards to compare the reliability of banks across the world and trusted metric to aid readers in their decision-making processes regarding which bank they deal with.

NBK’s inclusion in the list of the World’s 100 Safest Banks underscores its brand strength as well as sustaining growth and innovation, while continuing to expand its footprint across key regional markets by offering innovative banking services that cater to the needs of customers regardless of their geographical location.

NBK boasts a long record of achievements and global recognitions that endorse its excellence on all levels. Acknowledging the pivotal role of its employees in this excellence, the bank regards them as its most valuable asset, and al-



NBK Tower



2024 - Safest Bank

Highlights

- Inclusion in the list demonstrates the global trust placed in NBK
- NBK’s high credit ratings are underpinned by its solid business foundations and strong financial position
- NBK’s track record of achievements and global recognitions endorse its leadership locally and regionally

ways seeks to develop them and raise their efficiency by offering them the best training and development programs.

Thanks to its strategy and the unwavering dedication of its employees to implement it, NBK has been able to maintain its solid business foundations and strong financial position, thus continuing to collectively enjoy one of the highest credit ratings among most major

banks of the Middle East from the top three international credit rating agencies: Moody’s, Fitch and Standard & Poor’s.

NBK’s long-term ratings are A1 from Moody’s, A+ from Fitch, and A from Standard & Poor’s.

The bank also stands out with a broad global geographical footprint, with branches and subsidiaries covering key regional and global financial and business capi-

In line with its efforts to support education and empower youth, and as part of its social responsibility program

KIB signs MoU with GUST to foster student engagement in banking innovation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) for collaboration on its innovation program. The MoU will create a strong foundation for innovation incubation and acceleration, offering students significant opportunities for growth and development. The new agreement comes as part of the Bank's commitment to its comprehensive social responsibility strategy, as well as its support of education and youth empowerment for a brighter future.

KIB will take the lead in coordinating and overseeing the innovation program, with the support of a globally recognized innovation expert. Through this partnership, GUST students will have the chance to participate in projects aimed at cultivating creative ideas and solutions. These students will benefit from hands-on experience through internships and co-op programs at KIB, where they can apply their academic knowledge in a practical banking context. In addition, KIB will evaluate top-performing students and graduates for potential employment opportunities, reinforcing the Bank's dedication to fostering local talent and supporting their professional growth.

Commenting on the new partnership, Mohamed Atef El-Shareef, General Manager of the Digital Innovation and Data Intelligence Department at KIB, said: "KIB's agreement with GUST marks another important step in its mission to bridge academia and industry, ensuring that the next generation of professionals is equipped with the skills and knowledge to excel in the rapidly evolving banking sector. The collaboration is also a reflection of KIB's efforts to be among top institutions leading the way in innovation within the banking industry."

El-Shareef added: "By forging agreements with academic institutions, we aim to build a robust pipeline of talented professionals who will not only contribute to our business but will also shape the future of banking in Kuwait. We look forward to signing more agreements with other universities in the



KIB partnership with GUST.

near future as part of our ongoing efforts to invest in the youth and the future of the financial industry."

On his part, Professor Bassam Alameddine, President of Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), stated: "We are delighted to cooperate with KIB in this initiative, as it will provide our students with a pioneering opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge in a hands-on industry experience. Through working with experts in the banking industry, our students will be able to develop innovative solutions for the banking sector and acquire the

necessary skills to excel in their careers. This partnership reflects our strong commitment of preparing our graduates to become innovative leaders in the Kuwaiti job market."

Prof. Bassam Alameddine added: "GUST has consistently fostered innovation within its advanced academic programs, ensuring they align with the evolving demands of the Kuwaiti job market. Moreover, GUST actively supports initiatives launched by Kuwaiti youth in the field of startups and their career pursuits within both the private and public sectors. This unwavering commitment is driven by a shared vision of contributing to the advancement and prosperity of Kuwait and its young generation."

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.

The Conversation

50% of special educators leave within 5 years

More kids than ever need special education, but burnout has caused a teacher shortage

By Kimber Wilkerson

University of Wisconsin-Madison

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

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A growing number of students in public schools - right now, about 15% of them - are eligible for special education services. These services include specially designed instruction for students with autism, learning or physical disabilities, or traumatic brain injuries. But going into the current school year, more than half of U.S. public schools anticipate being short-staffed in special education. Dr. Kimber Wilkerson, a professor of special education and department chair at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, explains why there's a shortage and what needs to be done to close the gap.

The Conversation has collaborated with SciLine to bring you highlights from the discussion, which have been edited for brevity and clarity.

Which students receive special education services?

Kimber Wilkerson: Students with a disability label receive special education services. They need these additional services and sometimes instruction in school so they can access the curriculum and thrive like their peers.

What is happening with staffing for special education?

Wilkerson: Since special education became a thing in the '70s, there have always been challenges in filling all the special education positions.

In the past 10 years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, those challenges started to increase. There were more open positions in special education at the beginning of each school year than in previous decades. In the 2023-24 school year, 42 states plus the District of Columbia reported teacher shortages in special education.

What is causing these shortages?

Wilkerson: One, there are fewer young people choosing teaching as a major in college and as a profes-

sion. And special education is affected by these lower rates more than other forms of education.

Also, there's more attrition - people leaving their teaching job sooner than you might expect - not because they're retiring, but because they are tired of the job.

They want to do something different. They want to go back to school. Sometimes it's life circumstances, but the number of people leaving the job before retirement age has increased. And in our state, Wisconsin, about 35% of all educators leave the field before they hit their fifth year.

That number is even higher for special educators. About half of special educators are out of the profession within five years.

Why do special education teachers leave the profession?

Wilkerson: There's not a national study that speaks to that reason. There are some localized studies, and people report things like too much paperwork or too many administrative tasks associated with the job. Sometimes they report the students' behavioral challenges. Sometimes it's a feeling of isolation, or a lack of support from the school.

How are students with disabilities affected when their school does not have enough special educators?

Wilkerson: In a school that's one special educator short, the other special educators have to take over that caseload. Instead of having 12 students on their caseload, maybe now they have 20. So, the amount of individual attention given to each student with a disability decreases.

Also, when teachers with experience leave the profession, they leave behind a less experienced group of teachers. This means the students are losing out on the benefit of those years of wisdom and experience.

What are some strategies to recruit and retain more special education teachers?

Wilkerson: There's a range of strategies that different universities, states and school districts have taken, like residency programs.

In these programs, the person who

is learning to be a teacher, and who is referred to as a teaching resident, works alongside a mentor teacher for an entire year in a school, and they get paid to do so. They're not the teacher of record, but they're learning and getting paid, and they're in that school community.

Can you tell us about your recent study on supporting new special education teachers?

Wilkerson: One thing that made a big difference is when the teachers in our study, which is now under review, had access to a mentor and a group of their peers. We called this facilitated peer-to-peer group of teachers a "community of practice." Every other week, on Zoom, we'd get these new special education teachers from different school districts together, along with experienced teachers. And they would do some sort of work on problems, bringing in the things that were challenging, and work on possible solutions as a group.

We also used Zoom to do one-on-one mentoring. And what people liked about it was that they could talk to someone who wasn't right in their building and right in their district who they could be open and vulnerable with.

Sometimes, special educators can be isolated because they're not necessarily a part of a grade-level team. They work with kids across a lot of classrooms. This gave them an opportunity to have their own kind of community, and that made a difference.

We also surveyed their level of burnout and how good they felt about the job they did. And then we surveyed special education teachers who weren't participating in our community of practice.

At the end of the year, those people who had that mentoring and the community of practice felt less burnt out, and they also felt more effective in the area of classroom management. And that's critical, because burnout is one of the primary reasons people leave the profession.

So if we can make people feel like they're better equipped to handle this challenging position, then that's one strategy to increase the number of people wanting to stay in their job year after year. (AP)



Warba sponsors the Sakan Conference in cooperation with the Kuwait Society for the Promotion of Values.

Bank's digital services align with Sharia principles

Warba Bank sponsors Sakan Conference on family values

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3:

Warba Bank announced its sponsorship of the Sakan Conference (Affection and Mercy) held by the Kuwait Society for the Promotion of Values on Monday and Tuesday, October 28 and 29, 2024 at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center under the patronage of the Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Wasmi.

The Sakan Conference (Affection and Mercy) focused on strengthening the values of the Kuwaiti family, enhancing its unity and protecting it from disintegration. The Conference touched on preserving the unity of the family and assuming educational responsibility, in addition to strengthening the role of women in society and contributing to addressing the negative phenomena that target the status of the Kuwaiti family.

On this occasion, the Chief Marketing and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, Dr. Mohammad Barakat, stated: "Warba Bank's sponsorship of the Sakan Conference and the social activities of the Kuwait Society for the Promotion of Values comes from its policies related to its social responsibilities," noting that the Bank's record is full of supporting and sponsoring social activities closely related to the lives of all members of Kuwaiti society.

Barakat added that sponsoring such conferences became one of the distinctive items on the agenda of sponsorship activities, which constitute a major focus within the Bank's social responsibility, explaining that this

Dr. Mohammad Barakat

- "Warba" succeeded in achieving a tangible impact in society through the innovation of strategic programs and initiatives in sustainability and social responsibility
- The Bank's efforts continue to support initiatives for urgent social issues to ensure the well-being and stability of society and contribute to its sustainable development

support comes from the Bank's keenness to communicate with charitable, humanitarian and health institutions and activities, in order to enable them to perform their mission in the best possible way, and in order to enhance the Bank's policy of continuous communication with various groups.

He continued, "We are proud to always be the closest to interacting and communicating with the community, as we are keen to be present with them on various occasions, whether directly through various events or through various media and social media channels."

Barakat stated that Warba Bank has succeeded in achieving a tangible impact in the community by creating strategic programs and initiatives in sustainability and social responsibility.

He stressed that Warba Bank's efforts continue to support initiatives that address urgent social issues, such as education, healthcare and environmental conservation, to work on ensuring the well-being of the community and contributing to its sustainable development.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that have achieved great successes in a short period of time, as it has occupied a leading position by providing innovative digital banking services in accordance with Islamic Sharia for individuals and companies, and is one of the local banks with the largest number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent elements that make the Bank close to all members of society.

Win big with Al-Muzaini's transfer to India campaign

Al Muzaini Exchange unveils new branch in Bayan co-op 2

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The number one money exchange company in Kuwait, Al-Muzaini Exchange Company recently opened its newest branch in Kuwait in Hawally Governorate in Bayan co-op 2, on October 31, 2024. This opening was extremely significant and the rapid expansion reflects the company's endeavor to always be near its customers. It also reinforces the company's commitment to providing the highest quality of financial services such as money transfers, foreign currency exchange and bill payments with convenience, comfort and safety and at the most competitive prices, seven days a week.

The Head of Operations of Al Muzaini Exchange Company, Mr. Hugh Fernandes and the company's department managers and various senior personnel inaugurated the new branch in Bayan co-op 2 in and Mr. Fernandes stated: "We take great pride in strengthening our leading position in the local market and always place focus in ensuring that we provide the best financial services experience to our customers in order to meet all their money transfer needs. We always want to stay true to our mission; to always be near to our customers and to add to their convenience."

In addition to its strong network

of branches, Al Muzaini application provides simple and safe financial solutions and offers a variety of features to its customers. Customers can also use Al Muzaini self-service kiosks placed at strategic locations to perform transactions.

Customers can also participate in Al Muzaini's new Transfer to India and Win Campaign. Transfer your money through Al Muzaini and use any of Al Muzaini Exchange services for a chance to win incredible prizes up to 2,000,000 INR. Daily prize 10,000 INR, weekly prize 50,000 INR with the grand prize being 1,000,000 INR. The campaign lasts from September 15, 2024 to November 15, 2024.



New branch inaugurated in Bayan co-op 2 by Al-Muzaini Exchange.

US vice president makes a surprise appearance on NBC show

Harris appears on 'SNL' as mirror image of Maya Rudolph

NEW YORK, Nov. 3, (AP): Vice President Kamala Harris made a surprise appearance on "Saturday Night Live" in the final days before the election, playing herself as the mirror-image double of Maya Rudolph's version of her in the show's cold open.

The first lines the candidate spoke as she sat across from Rudolph, their outfits identical, were drowned out by cheers from the audience.

"It is nice to see you Kamala," Harris told Rudolph with a broad grin she kept throughout the sketch. "And I'm just here to remind you, you got this."

In sync, the two said supporters need to "Keep Kamala and carry-on-ala," declared that they share each other's "belief in the promise of America," and delivered the signature "Live from New York it's Saturday night!"

Harris made the surprise trip to New York City with the election looming, briefly stepping away from the battleground states where she's been furiously campaigning in favor of NBC's iconic sketch comedy

show, where she was hoping to generate buzz and appeal to a nationwide audience.

Harris came to New York on Air Force Two after an early evening campaign stop Saturday on in Charlotte, North Carolina. She was scheduled to head to Detroit, but once in the air, aides said she'd be making an unscheduled stop and the plane landed at LaGuardia Airport.

Harris arrived at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in Manhattan, where "SNL" tapes, shortly after 8 p.m., enough time for a quick rehearsal before the show airs live at 11:30 p.m. It is the final "SNL" episode before Election Day on Tuesday.

The visit wasn't previously announced and an official familiar with Harris' planning only officially confirmed it for reporters traveling with the vice president moments before the live airing began. The official insisted on anonymity to discuss plans before they were made public.

Harris departed immediately after the opening segment. She told re-

porters, "It was fun!" as she boarded the plane to leave New York.

Host John Mulaney and musical guest Chappell Roan shifted the show away from politics. Neither addressed the election.

Mulaney, the standup comic and former "SNL" writer, hosted for the sixth time and talked about his kids with wife Olivia Munn, Catholicism, and his stint in rehab.

Some expected Roan, the 26-year-old singer who has become a major star in recent months, to make a political statement in her first appearance on the show. She has previously been harshly critical of the Democratic party and declined to endorse Harris, though Roan has said several times she plans to vote for her.

But she played it straight, or as straight as the wildly theatrical performer gets. She sang her hit "Pink Pony Club," on an all-pink set bathed in pink light.

Senator Tim Kaine also made a surprise appearance, in a game-show sketch where the gag was that no one remembered him despite his being Hillary Clinton's running mate in



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, right, appears on NBC's 'Saturday Night Live,' with Maya Rudolph, Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024 in New York. (AP)

2016.

"It's been less than eight years. What's my name?," he said, as the contestants stood silent and flummoxed.

Rudolph first played Harris on

the show in 2019 and has reprised her role this season, doing a spot-on impression of the vice president, including calling herself "Momala" - a reference to the affectionate nickname her stepchildren gave her.

Her fellow former cast member Andy Samberg appeared again Saturday night as Harris' husband, second gentleman Doug Emhoff, standup comic Jim Gaffigan played running mate Tim Walz, and longtime alum Dana Carvey again played President Joe Biden.

Rudolph's performance has won critical and comedic acclaim - including from Harris herself.

"Maya Rudolph - I mean, she's so good," Harris said last month on ABC's "The View." "She had the whole thing, the suit, the jewelry, everything!"

Jason Miller, a senior adviser to former president and Republican nominee Donald Trump, expressed surprise that Harris would appear on "SNL" given what he characterized as her unflattering portrayal on the show. Asked if Trump had been invited to appear, he said: "I don't know. Probably not."

Politicians nonetheless have a long history on "SNL," including Trump, who hosted the show in 2015 - though appearing so close to Election Day is unusual.

Music

From Beatles to DJ booths

Vinyl thrives as classic records resonate again

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 3, (AP): During the six decades since United Record Pressing stamped out the Beatles' first US single, the country's oldest vinyl record maker has survived 8-tracks, cassettes, CDs, Napster, iPods and streaming services.

Now, the Nashville-based company has rebounded so dramatically that some of its equipment and technology has been retrofitted to keep pace with an ever-growing demand for old-school vinyl.

The 75-year-old company has adjusted its business from filling jukeboxes to helping DJs spin and stocking shelves despite a pandemic. On shelves in its warehouse are master versions by Johnny Cash, Kanye West and The Black Crowes.

When Mark Michaels bought the company in 2007, vinyl was fading - its 38 employees mostly made singles for rap artists, often promos for clubs. Michaels wanted a hands-on chance to build a business and thought he could keep this one steady, but not grow it substantially. It also came with a rich history as the first record pressing plant in the South, including an apartment atop the factory that housed Black artists and music executives during segregation.

"You walked into this building and you just felt 50, 60 years of history and just the importance of what it stood for," said Michaels, the company's CEO and chair. "And yeah, you you get choked up, you get gooseflesh just experiencing that."

Today, United Record Pressing runs a newer factory six times bigger than what Michaels bought, with about 125 employees who

make up to 80,000 records a day. A variety of factors have boosted vinyl in recent years, from independent artists insisting on vinyl albums to big box retailers getting on board again.

In 2023, US revenues from vinyl records grew 10% to \$1.4 billion, the 17th-straight year of growth, according to the Recording Industry Association of America. Records accounted for 71% of revenues from non-digital music formats, and for the second time since 1987, vinyl outpaced CDs in total sold.

United Record Pressing underwent its own evolution. The initial pressing plant was formed in 1949 by Nashville label Bullet Records. In the 1950s, it changed to Southern Plastics Inc. and focused on 7-inch singles preferred by jukebox makers.

In the early 1960s, the company was pressing more than 1 million records per month. It signed a deal to produce singles for Motown Records and moved to a bigger facility that included the apartment that hosted The Supremes, Smokey Robinson and others - and which became known as the "Motown Suite." In 1963, it pressed the Beatles' first U.S. single, "Please Please Me." Then in the 1970s, a restructuring turned the company into United Record Pressing.

In a room farther back in the factory, the whizzing of machinery gives way to music.

That's where Tyler Bryant might listen to 10 records in a shift as the company's quality control lead. Talking over the rhythms of harmonica from a Cash album, Bryant said he discovers many artists and records that wouldn't be on his list, ranging from Harry Styles to **Beyoncé**'s "Cowboy Carter" to indie artists.

"A lot of variety, that's what I appreciate," Bryant said. "I don't like being stuck to just one genre, you know?"



Beyoncé



A bouquet of vinyl flowers are seen as Tannika Benjamin works at the United Record Pressing plant July 11, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

Film

A musical, pulpy crime thriller

'Emilia Pérez' swings for the fences

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 3, (AP): There is so much going on in "Emilia Pérez," the audacious musical/melodrama/crime-thriller from filmmaker Jacques Audiard, it's impossible not to appreciate the sheer ambition of it all.

There is obvious craft and moments of true transcendence, beauty and horror. Set around Mexico City, this is a movie about family, about ambition, about the possibility of change, cartels, human disappearances, gender-affirmation, money and corruption.

Sometimes the characters break into fantastical musical numbers: Some are filled with rage, others with joy and hope. Other times the songs come out in barely a whisper. And yet even with all that life and color and passion on screen, there's a distinct rift between all those big emotions that the characters are cycling through and what the audience is feeling, which is practically nothing. It's almost as if "Emilia Pérez" forgot to invite us along for the ride.

And it is quite a ride: One day a cartel boss named Manitas (Karla Sofia Gascón) has a smart, but undervalued lawyer Rita Mora Castro (Zoe Saldña) kidnapped. Manitas wants gender confirmation surgery, and for Rita to handle the logistics: Hiring the discreet surgeon, faking Manitas' death and transporting the wife, Jessi (Selena Gomez) and two kids to their new home in Switzerland. In return, Rita will get rich. Somehow, this is only the first act.

Four years later, Rita's gotten a glow up.

Gone are her bush eyebrows and frumpy suit, replaced with the kind of grooming only money and genetics like Saldña's can produce. And she's leading a cosmopolitan life in London, something that we get to see all too briefly, when she meets another woman who's gone through a major transformation, Emilia Pérez (Gascón).

Audiard plays briefly with the idea that Rita assumes Emilia is there to kill her, to rid the world of any remaining evidence of those who know what happened. In actuality, she just misses her kids and wants them back in Mexico to live with her. It's up to Rita to get them to move once more, in with Emilia, posing as an aunt they've never met before if you're wondering where all those "Mrs. Doubtfire" comparisons come into play. (The bloody "Sicario" stuff is yet to come).

Captivating

Saldña lends a captivating fierceness to Rita, despite being a terribly underwritten character. It's strange to spend so much time with someone and feel entirely detached from who they are and what they want. She just follows others around, a receptacle for everyone else's decisions with little arc or agency of her own.

Early on in the film Rita debates (in song) with a plastic surgeon in Hong Kong about whether or not changing the body has any effect on the soul. He doesn't think so. She does, and even goes a step further, singing "changing the soul

changes society, changing society changes everything." It's a lovely idea that the film handles clumsily in its maximalist, go-for-broke way that values massive set-pieces and high drama over authentic emotion.

At first Emilia seems entirely changed, no longer the vindictive, jealous, violent cartel leader she once was. She is soft spoken, empathetic and happy. She starts a foundation to find all the disappeared people and give their families the chance of a proper burial and farewell. She even finds love. And yet she can't handle watching Jessi move on. It's the stuff of soap operas - and not necessarily the fun ones. Here, it could even read as dangerously reductive.

Jessi sometimes feels like she's part of an entirely different film, or rather a music video that seems to be paying homage somehow to Pedro Almodóvar, David Lynch and Robert Rodriguez. It is fun and wild at times, and Gomez fully commits to the bit of this woman who is being gaslit into insanity. But she and the film crescendo into absurdity, with little in the way of relief or catharsis. After all those big ideas, all those grand themes and genre-subverting gestures, we're left with shockingly little to hold on to.

"Emilia Pérez," a Netflix released in theaters Friday and streaming on Nov. 13, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "some violent content, sexual material, language." Running time: 132 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Variety

LONDON: British prosecutors say they have been given a file of evidence from police about alleged sexual offenses by comedian Russell Brand and are considering whether to charge him.

The Crown Prosecution Service said late Saturday that "we have been passed a file by the police to consider a charging decision in this case. Any decision to charge is made independently, based on the evidence and in line with our legal test."

Detectives from London's Metropolitan Police force have interviewed 49-year-old Brand three times over "non-recent sexual offenses."

"Our investigation continues and a file has now been passed to the CPS," said Detective

Superintendent Andy Furphy, who is leading the investigation. "We have a team of dedicated officers providing specialist support to the women who have come forward. We are committed to investigating sexual offences, no matter how long ago they are alleged to have taken place."

In September 2023, British media outlets Channel 4 and the Sunday Times published claims by four women of being sexually assaulted or raped by Brand between 2006 and 2013, at the height of his fame. The accusers have not been identified. (AP)

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NEW DELHI: Rohit Bal, one of India's best-known fashion designers, died late Friday after a prolonged illness, the fashion designers association in the country announced. He was 63.

The Fashion Design Council of India, or FDCI, said in a post on Instagram, that they mourned "the passing of (a) legendary designer" who was "known for his unique blend of traditional patterns with modern sensibilities."

Bal was one of India's first designers who pioneered fashion design as a profession in the 1990s. The FDCI said Bal's work "redefined Indian fashion" and "inspired generations."

He had developed a heart condition in 2010. In between Bal took breaks from his work due to ill



Rohit Bal

health but had made a comeback just weeks ago. Bal was born in Indian-controlled Kashmir's main city of Srinagar in 1961. He graduated from New Delhi's St. Stephens College in history and later took a course in fashion design at India's National Institute of Fashion Technology in New Delhi.

In 1990, he launched his own label and designer line which later expanded to several stores across India, the Middle East and Europe. His clientele included celebrities from Hollywood and India's rich and famous.

Sunil Sethi, the FDCI chairman, said on Instagram that his death has left "a void in the fashion design space forever." (AP)

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VLADIVOSTOK: An event promoting traditional

Chinese culture was held here on Saturday, drawing over 100 participants, including Chinese culture enthusiasts, students, and local residents.

Chinese Consul General in Vladivostok, Piao Yangfan, said that the event, entitled Path of Friendship, is part of a series of cultural exchange programs to celebrate the 75th anniversary of China-Russia diplomatic relations and the China-Russia Cultural Year.

Such events will help further unleash the potential for bilateral cultural cooperation, and inject new impetus into the growing bond between the people of the two countries, he added.

Vladivostok Deputy Mayor Daria Stegniyn praised the event for reinforcing the longstanding friendship between the two countries. (Xinhua)

Stars to perform live script reading on Nov 17

‘Scandal’ cast to reunite for hurricane relief effort

LOS ANGELES, Nov 3, (AP): The cast of ABC’s hit political drama “Scandal” may need to brush up on their snappy, speedy delivery known as “Scandal-pace,” because they’re reuniting for a good cause. Its stars including Kerry Washington, Tony Goldwyn and Bellamy Young will take part in a live virtual script reading on Nov. 17 to raise money for hurricane relief in western North Carolina.

Beginning Friday, fans can go online and donate to reserve a spot for the online reading. Proceeds will benefit United Way of North Carolina. Everyone who donates will be able to take part in a virtual pre-event with the cast and Shonda Rhimes will give an introduction.

Additional guest stars will also be announced. The online fundraising platform Prizoo is also holding a contest where one person who donates online via their site will be selected to read a role from the script with the actors. The winner should not worry about

the “Scandal”-pace, assured Young over Zoom.

“Whoever the lucky reader is can read at whatever pace they want,” she said.

Young, who played Mellie Young, the first lady and later Republican presidential nominee on “Scandal,” was born and raised in Asheville, North Carolina. She came up with the idea for the effort with a friend and took it to her fellow “Scandal” actors, who all jumped on board. Young said this is the first script reading the cast has all done together since the show ended after seven seasons in 2018.

Which episode they will be reading has not been announced yet.

Young said it’s “been devastating” to see so many parts of her hometown badly damaged by Hurricane Helene, which ravaged western North Carolina one month ago.

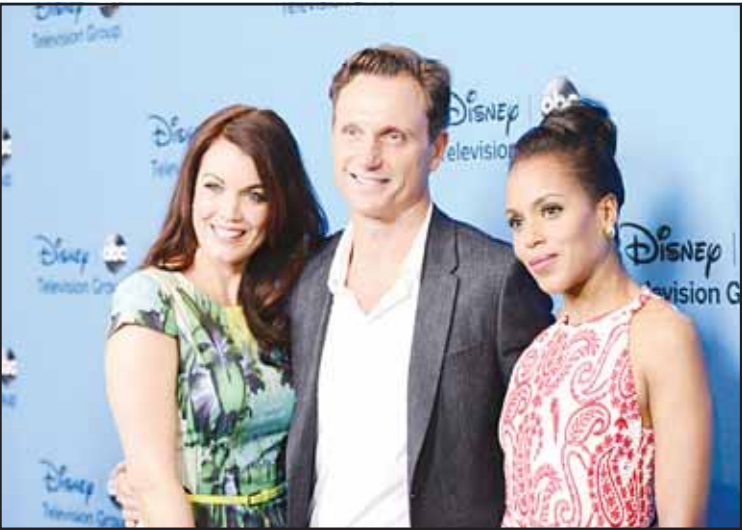
To research the best use for donations, Young

spoke with numerous political leaders, including North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper’s office, Asheville’s Mayor Esther Manheimer’s office and City Council representatives. “We’ve realized that we really transitioned from the period of immediate relief and aid into recovery and rebuilding,” said Young.

The state estimates those efforts will cost \$53 billion, as much of the infrastructure has been destroyed. More than 100,000 residents who use city water remain under an indefinite boil water advisory.

Young says she’s not surprised that her former co-stars all agreed to take part, and she’s certain the fans of the show, known as gladiators, will also want to join in. Now living in New York, Young is “stopped all the time” to talk about “Scandal.” “I just spoke to someone on 53rd Street,” she said Thursday.

Helene was the deadliest hurricane to hit the US mainland since Katrina in 2005.



Actress Bellamy Young, (from left), actor Tony Goldwyn, and actress Kerry Washington arrive at the Disney/ABC 2013 Summer TCA Party at the Beverly Hilton Hotel Sunday, Aug. 4, 2013 in Beverly Hills, Calif. (AP)

Film

Actress opens up about her career and family life

From stage to screen: Coon is still fighting



Carrie Coon poses for a portrait to promote ‘His Three Daughters’ on Sept 5, 2024 in New York. (AP)

shocking!”

Jacobs, the veteran indie filmmaker, delivered scripts for “His Three Daughters” simultaneously to his three stars. Actors are often valued by their box-office appeal, Jacobs notes, but Coon’s worth is harder to define.

“Me telling Natasha and Lizzie that I’m also sending the script to Carrie was a huge, huge factor for them,” Jacobs said. When shooting on “The Gilded Age” delayed Coon’s availability, Jacobs and the co-stars agreed they should all wait for her. Coon, whose films include Sean Durkin’s “The Nest” and the recent “Ghostbusters” movies, is more accustomed to going after what she wants.

Happy

“I’m happy to fight. I’m very scrappy. I’m an athlete. Bring it on!” Coon, a former soccer player, says. “But it’s nice to say: We both want this.”

“I always say: If I’m seeking something, I haven’t read it yet,” Coon says. “Because of where I am in the Hollywood hierarchy, the 10 movies that get made for women don’t include me. I have to fight for that stuff still. So, if I have ambition, it’s in fighting for the things that are good and the filmmakers who are challenging.”

In Coon’s performance, Jacobs sees her subtly playing qualities in Katie that don’t explicitly manifest into well into the film, as her character’s fears and vulnerabilities grow more evident. “You realize there’s been a step into something else, something magical, something that is the soul that I believe Carrie Coon brought to this character,” says Jacobs.

Death hovers over “His Three Daughters,” a subject that inevitably brings Coon to climate change. She worries deeply about its exponentially expanding impact and what it might mean for her children’s lives. Coon starts tearing up while she wonders: “Some of the decisions like, ‘where to go to college’ maybe don’t matter to them. Perhaps what we need to do is maximize our time together.”

Coon just spent six months in Thailand shooting the third season of “The White Lotus” where, she says, “the ocean was a hot bath, with plastic from last summer washing up on the shore.”

For her, it casts a different light on her work.

“On one hand, I’m grateful that I get to provide some joy in the form of ‘The Gilded Age’ for example. But I’m also complicit in the pacification machine that’s keeping people’s heads down. So I’m conflicted about that,” Coon says. “Revolution is what’s called for. But I don’t think the human race is up for it. So I really wrestle with my own inaction in the face of that helplessness.”

Coon can’t stop from laughing at herself. “I’m basically a doomsday prepper without an insulated basement for my supplies or an AR-15 to protect them,” she says.

Another way to look at Coon’s concern is as an extension of her interest, as an actor, in the human condition. The global community is maybe another ensemble that Coon would like to play a role in, and see through to the next act.

“As an artist, I don’t know how you can be ignorant about it,” says Coon. “You have to engage with those questions. It’s life and death. It’s the full scope of human existence.”

Variety

AUCKLAND, New Zealand: The New Zealand Asia Pacific Film Festival (NZAPFF) 2024, showcasing films from China, South Korea, Japan and New Zealand, was launched on Friday night.

Chairman of NZAPFF **Bo Li** stressed the festival’s commitment to diversity in his opening speech.

“At this year’s festival, we have maintained strong international inclusion, inviting filmmakers and artistic panels from all backgrounds to share their unique stories. This commitment to diversity enriches our festival and deepens our understanding of the world through the lens of the film,” Li said.

Glen Katu from the NZ Maori Tourism said the festival is “a remarkable celebration of the diverse cultures and stories that shape our vibrant Asia Pacific region.”

The opening ceremony concluded with lucky draws and a film screening of the award-winning movie “A Place Called Silence.” (Xinhua)

NEEDHAM, Mass.: SharkNinja, Inc., a global product design and technology company, has announced the launch of its first-ever global holiday campaign for its Ninja brand, “Ninja the Holidays,” featuring global brand ambassador, **David Beckham**.



Beckham

The omnichannel campaign will come to life across the full marketing funnel, with the first TV spot airing in the US on Friday, Nov 1, across various streaming partners followed by additional high-profile spots, including football games on Thursday nights. On November 4, TV spots will also appear across the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Nordics, Middle East, and Benelux regions. The campaign will also feature prominently on out-of-home (OOH) platforms, including billboards in Times Square in New York City, downtown Los Angeles and Miami, among others, and will extend across social media and other digital channels. (AP)

LAS VEGAS: A grand jury in Nevada has again indicted Nathan Chasing Horse on charges that he sexually abused Indigenous women and girls, reviving a sweeping criminal case against the former “Dances with Wolves” actor.

The 21-count indictment unsealed Thursday in Clark County District Court, which includes Las Vegas, expands on his previous charges of sexual assault, lewdness and kidnapping to include charges of producing and possessing child sexual abuse materials.

It comes after more than a year of delayed court proceedings that culminated last month in the Nevada Supreme Court ordering the dismissal of Chasing Horse’s original 18-count indictment. The court sided with Chasing Horse, saying in its scathing order that prosecutors had abused the grand jury process. But the court left open the possibility for charges to be refiled.

Clark County District Attorney **Steve Wolfson** quickly vowed to seek another indictment. Neither Wolfson nor a spokesperson for his office immediately responded Thursday to phone or emailed requests for comment. (AP)

LUSAKA: One of China’s most well-known art troupes spiced up celebrations of the 60th anniversary of China-Zambia diplomatic relations with a thrilling performance.

On Thursday night, the Zambia Chinese Association in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in Zambia presented a cultural event as part of celebrations for the bilateral ties by showcasing Chinese dramas and musical compositions.

Presented by east China’s Zhejiang Wu Opera Research Center, the Wu Opera dazzled the audience, comprised of Chinese nationals and Zambian locals, who kept ululating and clapping for an encore.

They couldn’t help but take videos and photos of the intriguing performance.

The event saw the group providing various performances which included “9-Pieced Segment Dragon,” Suona Solo “Picking Dates,” Wu Opera “the goddess of heaven scatters flowers.” (Xinhua)

NEW YORK, Nov 3, (AP): It can be hard to catch Carrie Coon on her own. She is far more likely to be found in the thick of an ensemble. That could be on TV, in “The Gilded Age,” for which she was Emmy nominated, or in the upcoming season of “The White Lotus,” which she recently shot in Thailand. Or it could be in films, most relevantly, Azazel Jacobs’ new drama, “His Three Daughters,” in which Coon stars alongside Natasha Lyonne and Elizabeth Olsen as sisters caring for their dying father.

But on a recent, bright late-summer morning, Coon is sitting on a bench in the bucolic northeast Westchester town of Pound Ridge. A few years back, she and her husband, the playwright Tracy Letts, moved near here with their two young children, drawn by the long rows of stone walls and a particularly good BLT from a nearby cafe that Letts, after biting into, declared must be within 15 miles of where they lived.

In a few days, they would both fly to Los Angeles for the Emmys (Letts was nominated for his performance in “Winning Time”). But Coon, 43, was then largely enmeshed in the day-to-day life of raising a family, along with their nightly movie viewings, which Letts pulls from his extensive DVD collection. The previous night’s choice: “Once Around,” with Holly Hunter and Richard Dreyfus.

Coon met Letts during her breakthrough performance in “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” at Steppenwolf in 2010. She played the heavy-drinking housewife Honey. It was the first role that Coon read and knew, viscerally, she had to play. Immediately after saying this, Coon sighs.

Purpose

“It sounds like something some diva would say in a movie from the ‘50s,” Coon says. “I just walked around in my apartment in my slip and I had pearls and a little drink. I made a grocery list and I just did that all day. I thought how crazy you must go when you’re alone like that, when your sole purpose is to have a baby.”

Coon grew up outside working-class Akron, Ohio, and Honey reminded her of some of her relatives - women either trapped in gender roles like Honey or strong-willed exceptions who defied them. Ever since, Coon has brought to life a wide array of women on screen with acute perceptiveness and fierce intelligence. She may be a character-actor chameleon resistant to movie stardom, but she doesn’t blend in. A movie tends to stand up on its feet when Coon is on screen.

“Celebrities are encouraged to be the star of the show, because that’s what they do. And I’m an actor. I’m not a celebrity,” says Coon. “I’m always going to be part of the ensemble. The storytelling should happen between people. I don’t like the other thing. I’m not interested in selfishness. It’s not fun.”

A conversation with Coon, however, is. She skips easily between self-deprecation and sincere reflection, existential doom and creative belief, book recommendations and parenting laments. As much as she’s an actor head to toe, Coon didn’t do it until her senior year of high school. In between trying half a dozen majors, she performed in plays in

college and was coaxed into applying to graduate programs for acting by a professor.

“It felt like a lark. It felt like: What a great way to spend your 20s,” Coon says, smiling. “I thought: If it doesn’t work out, the world is big and interesting and I’ll just do something else. And it just kept working out. And it’s been really steady and slow and workmanlike.”

Like her character in “His Three Daughters,” Coon grew up with siblings. Her father ran the family auto parts store, and her mother was a nurse who often worked nights. Coon, the middle child of five, often with her older sister babysat the young boys. “There was a lot of re-

sponsibility,” she says. “It was character building. It’s good to do laundry when you’re 8.”

In “His Three Daughters,” which is streaming on Netflix, three very different sisters are brought together in a small New York apartment and, with their ailing father in the next room, argue through some of their old divisions while wrestling with their developing grief. They start out a little like stereotypes - Lyonne is the stoner, Olsen the sweetly naive one and Coon the pushy, presumptuous older sister - but each character grows more nuanced. Coon is eager to praise Lyonne (“At the height of her powers”) and Olsen (“Everything she does is luminous”), and together they form an indelible trio in one of the year’s most

lived-in dramas.

Asked if Coon was thinking about her own family in filming “His Three Daughters,” she lets out a laugh. “I mean, I was thinking of me!” she says. Coon adds that, unlike her character Katie, she’s sensitive and communicative.

“But I also act like an older sibling,” she says. “I’ve worked very hard in my life at things that have been challenging for me. I’ve chosen to go to therapy. I’ve chosen to work on myself. And I’m very successful. So I feel greatly entitled to give my siblings lots of advice whether they want it or not. (Laughs) And I have to say, my husband is so good at not giving unsolicited advice. He gives great advice, but you have to ask. And I find that

Unnerving and surreal story

A man searches for meaning in Fu’s ‘Masquerade’

NEW YORK, Nov 3, (AP): Meadow is coming up on 10 years living in New York, and he’s still adrift. His boyfriend ghosted him, his current residence is actually a housesitting gig, and his bartending job isn’t exactly filling his parents with pride. But this summer, strange things keep happening that will make or break him.

Right at the start of Mike Fu’s debut novel, “Masquerade,” Meadow finds a strange book called “The Masquerade” - written by someone with his same name.

In a rush to catch the plane to visit his parents in Shanghai, he stuffs the book in his bag. As he reads it, he finds uncanny parallels between his life and the novel.

Dream-like, “Masquerade” begins somewhat aimless, introducing small mysteries and oddities that provide an unnerving background hum to an otherwise aimless plot. Like Meadow, we’re not sure where this is all going, or what is going to prove important later, though the occasional foreshadowing reminds us there’s a bigger issue at hand.

There’s a disappearance. There’s an apparent doppelganger, and maybe a ghost, too. And a strange mirror haunts Meadow’s dreams.

Jumping around in time, Fu slowly reveals Meadow’s history - largely revolving around existential dread quieted or swept aside by a constant stream of parties and benders.

In his 20s, Meadow throws himself into

postgraduate studies to avoid the financial crash, and then into office work to avoid the self-important but pointless academic work, then into bartending when he finds office work just as pointless and soul-sucking. Now in his 30s, he’s reckoning with a sort of second coming-of-age.

“Masquerade” is a meandering, surreal, and unsettling search for identity as Meadow examines the masks he’s worn throughout his adult life.

While various oddities turn out to be only mysterious - rather than actual mysteries - the novel’s ending has a hopefulness and purpose that helps counterbalance the main character’s lack of agency throughout most of the story.



This cover image released by Tin House Books shows ‘Masquerade’ by Mike Fu. (AP)



KUNA photo
Head of the Cardiac Catheterization Unit at the Dabbous Center in Adan Hospital, Dr. Ahmed Al-Shatti.

New technologies improve outcomes for patients

Kuwait performs 10 complex pulmonary embolism surgeries

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Head of the Cardiac Catheterization Unit at Dabbous Center in Adan Hospital Dr. Ahmed Al-Shatti disclosed that the hospital performed 10 challenging surgeries to treat pulmonary embolisms, some of which involved the use of the extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) machine.

In a press statement, Al-Shatti confirmed the use of the most up-to-date

treatment methods in these procedures depending on the condition of each patient; indicating the patients came from various hospitals, including Sabah, Farwaniya and others.

He affirmed that the unit witnessed a qualitative improvement in dealing with pulmonary embolism cases; pointing out that two patients were treated using the penumbra Cat 16 flash technology.

Cardiac Surgery Department Head Dr. Riyadh Al-Tarzi and Head of the Intensive Care Unit at Farwaniya Hospital Dr. Mohammad Shamsah joined Al-Shatti

in announcing the recent opening of the Rapid Intervention Unit- Embolism Response Team (Pulmonary) at Dabbous Center.

Al-Shatti went on to say that the state-of-the-art pulmonary embolism treatment technologies at Adan Hospital and Dabbous Center are on par with those used in developed nations. He affirmed the hospital administration's commitment to adopt the latest global medical advancements and implement them in the hospital for the benefit of the patients and to improve staff productivity.

Experts discuss protecting children in wars

Kuwait hosts conference on pediatric ‘disaster response’ and child health

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The 2nd International Conference on Disaster Management in Pediatrics, which took place over three days and attracted approximately 150 doctors from both Kuwait and abroad, concluded on Saturday. Among the participants were 30 doctors from Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, representing various pediatric specialties, including surgery, general medicine, and rare diseases.

The conference chairman, pediatric emergency consultant, and Head of the Kuwait Pediatric Society Dr. Abdullah Shamsah highlighted that children constitute about 30 percent of the global population, due to which all countries need to prepare their various sectors to meet the needs of children during natural disasters and wars.

He also highlighted the devastating

impact of conflict on children, revealing that between 30,000 and 40,000 children in Gaza have been killed or wounded.

Dr. Shamsah lamented the tragedy faced by children in wartime across the globe.

He explained that the conference featured approximately 22 lectures and 12 workshops aimed at discussing social and medical approaches to child care.

These sessions provided insights from doctors across various psychological and medical specialties, including burns, fractures, chronic diseases, and support for both typically developing children and those with special needs, such as autism.

The conference centered on ways to protect children during wars and disasters. Topics included understanding how children perceive and cope with these traumatic situations, how they express fear or anxiety, and effective communication techniques in cases of

injury or the loss of a parent or relative.

The discussions also covered mechanisms for community engagement, involving neighbors and cooperative societies, to better support affected families.

Meanwhile, a pediatric specialist in complex and chronic cases as well as palliative care Dr. Ahmed Jaafar stated that this conference is the first of its kind in Kuwait and the Middle East to shed light on disaster and crisis management in pediatrics.

He stated that the conference featured both theoretical discussions and educational lectures, with a particular emphasis on emergency cases in pediatrics, especially those related to neurology, rare diseases, and respiratory issues.

Dr. Jaafar added that the conference addressed the management of medical cases during crises or emergencies, including effective crisis leadership, patient triage, and the safe transfer of patients from one location to another.

Medical negligence claims spark outrage

10 newborns deaths shake trust in Turkey’s health care system

ANKARA, Turkey, Nov 3. (AP): The mother thought her baby looked healthy when he was born 1.5 months early, but staff swiftly whisked him to the neonatal intensive care unit.

It was the last time Burcu Gokdeniz would see her baby alive. The doctor in charge told her that Umut Ali's heart stopped after his health deteriorated unexpectedly.

Seeing her son wrapped in a shroud 10 days after he was born was the “worst moment” of her life, the 32-year-old e-commerce specialist told The Associated Press.

Malpractice (cross head)

Gokdeniz is among hundreds of parents who have come forward seeking an investigation into the deaths of their children or other loved ones since Turkish prosecutors accused 47 doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers and other medical workers of neglect or malpractice in the deaths of 10 newborns since last year.

Turkey guarantees all citizens health care through a system that includes both private and state institutions: The government reimburses private hospitals that treat eligible patients when the public system is overwhelmed.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party, in power since 2002, has promoted the expansion of private health care facilities to improve access in the country of 85 million people. The case of the newborn deaths has put for-profit health care for the country's most vulnerable - newborns - into the most horrifying light imaginable.

The medical workers say they made the best possible decisions while caring for the most delicate patients imaginable, and now face criminal penalties for unavoidable unwanted outcomes.

Shattered parents say they have lost trust in the system and the cases have prompted so much outrage that demonstrators staged protests in October outside hospitals where some of the deaths occurred, hurling stones at the buildings.

After the scandal emerged, at least



In this photo provided by the Gokdeniz family, Burcu Gokdeniz holds her newborn baby Umut Ali Gokdeniz for the first time moments after the pre-term birth in Istanbul, Turkey, Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2020. (AP)

350 families petitioned prosecutors, the Health Ministry or the president's office seeking an investigation into the deaths of their loved ones, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Prosecutors are demanding up to 583 years in prison for the main defendant, Dr. Firat Sari, who operated the neonatal intensive care units of several hospitals in Istanbul. Sari is charged with “establishing an organization with the aim of committing a crime,” “defrauding public institutions,” “forgery of official documents” and “homicide by negligence.”

Prosecutors say that the evidence

clearly shows medical fraud for profit, although they haven't said how much the defendants allegedly earned. An indictment issued this month accused the defendants of falsifying records, and placing patients in the neonatal care units of some private hospitals for prolonged and sometimes unnecessary treatments in facilities unprepared to treat them.

The indictment and the testimonies of nurses who have come forward suggest that the newborns were sometimes transferred to hospitals that were understaffed and had outdated equipment or insufficient medicine.

Vaccine shortages persist

Congo mpox cases stabilizing, but experts call for urgent vaccination

GOMA, Congo, Nov 3, (AP): Some health officials say mpox cases in Congo appear to be “stabilizing” - a possible sign that the main epidemic for which the World Health Organization made a global emergency declaration in August might be on the decline.

In recent weeks, Congo has reported about 200 to 300 lab-confirmed mpox cases every week, according to WHO. That's down from nearly 400 cases a week in July. The decline is also apparent in Kamituga, the mining city in the eastern part of Congo where the new, more infectious variant of mpox first emerged.

But the U.N. health agency acknowledged Friday that only 40% to 50% of suspected infections in Congo were being tested - and that the virus is continuing to spread in some parts of the country and elsewhere, including Uganda.

While doctors are encouraged by the drop in infections in some parts of Congo, it's still not clear what kinds of physical contact is driving the outbreak. Health experts are also frustrated by the low number of vaccine doses the central African nation has received - 265,000 - and say that delivering the vaccine to where it's needed in the sprawling country is proving difficult. WHO estimates 50,000 people have been immunized in Congo, which has



Two-year-old Emile Miango, who has mpox, lies in a hospital, in Kamituga, South Kivu province, Sept. 4, 2024, which is the epicenter of the world's latest outbreak of the disease in eastern Congo. (AP)

a population of 110 million.

Scientists also say there needs to be an urgent, broader vaccination effort for the entire continent to halt mpox's spread and avoid further worrisome genetic mutations, like the one detected earlier this year in Congo after months of low-level circulation.

“If we miss this opportunity, the likelihood of another significant outbreak increases substantially,” said Dr. Zakary Rihssa, who heads operations in Congo for the charity Alima.

So far this year, there have been roughly 43,000 suspected cases in Africa and more than 1,000 people have died, mostly in Congo.

“We've seen how past outbreaks, such as the one in Nigeria in 2017, can lead to larger global events if not effectively contained,” he said. The 2017 epidemic ended up leading to the 2022 global outbreak of mpox that affected more than 100 countries.

Rihssa said the decline in cases in Kamituga - where mpox initially spread among sex workers and miners - is an opening to put more programs in place for vaccination, surveillance and education.

Georgette Hamuli, an 18-year-old sex worker, hadn't been aware of mpox until immunization teams arrived last week in the poor neighborhood where she works in Goma, the biggest city in eastern Congo.

“They told us we're highly exposed to the risk of infection,” she said. “We insist on condoms with our clients, but some refuse ... if they don't want to use a condom, they double the amount they pay.”

Hamuli said she and other friends who are sex workers each received 2,000 Congolese francs (\$0.70) from a charity to get vaccinated against mpox - but it wasn't the money that swayed her.

1,348 more new infections recorded

Bangladesh sees 10 dengue deaths in single day

DHAKA, Nov. 3, (Xinhua): Bangladesh recorded its highest single-day toll of 10 dengue deaths on Saturday, bringing the tally to 310, said the country's Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The official data showed 1,348 more new infections were recorded in the past 24 hours as of 8:00 a.m. local time Saturday, raising the total number of the cases of the mosquito-borne dis-

ease to 63,165 this year.

The Dengue-related deaths this year included 134 in October, 80 in September, 27 in August and 12 in July.

Bangladesh logged 1,705 dengue-related deaths in 2023, marking the highest annual death toll. In comparison, there were 281 dengue-related deaths reported in 2022 and 179 in 2019.

Dengue fever is a viral disease

transmitted through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes. The disease causes an acute illness with symptoms such as headache, high fever, exhaustion, severe muscle and joint pain, swollen glands, vomiting and rash.

In order to fight the rising number of dengue cases, Bangladeshi health authorities have strengthened measures to check the breeding of mosquitoes and conduct anti-larval operations.

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Chachere accounts for 5 TDs as Portland State beats Sacramento State

Smith and SMU overwhelm previously undefeated Pitt

DALLAS, Nov 3, (AP): Brashard Smith ran for 161 yards with a 71-yard sprint for the first of his two rushing touchdowns and made a nifty tiptoe catch for another score as No. 20 SMU overwhelmed previously undefeated and 18th-ranked Pittsburgh 48-25 on Saturday night to keep the Mustangs tied for the conference lead in their Atlantic Coast Conference debut.

The Mustangs (8-1, 5-0 ACC), last year's champions in The American, are the first team to start 5-0 in their first season in a power conference after moving up from a Group of Five league.

Kevin Jennings was 17-of-25 passing for 306 yards with two touchdowns. He hit tight end Matthew Hibner for an 80-yard score on his final pass for a 48-11 lead, one play after Jonathan McGill's interception in the end zone in the fourth quarter.

Portland State 58, Sacramento State 38

In Sacramento, Dante Chachere threw a touchdown pass and ran for four TDs to help Portland State beat Sacramento State

Delon Thompson scored on 1-yard run to give the Vikings the lead for good with about 4:17 left in the third quarter and, after Sacramento State went three-and-out, Chachere was flushed from the pocket and raced for a 54-yard touchdown that made it 37-24 less than 2 minutes later.

Chachere also scored on runs of 27 yards in the first quarter, 13 yards in the second and 2 yards in the fourth. He finished 14-of-27 passing for 245 yards, including an 18-yard touchdown to Tanner Beman that gave Portland State (2-6, 2-3 Big Sky Conference) a 24-21 lead early in the third quarter.

Rice 24, Navy 10

In Houston, Dean Connors ran for 105 yards and two touchdowns to lead Rice to victory over Navy .

Rice (3-6, 2-3 American Athletic Conference) beat the Midshipmen for first time since 2002.

It was also the second straight loss for Navy (6-2, 4-1), which was ranked 24th when it lost to then-No. 12 Notre Dame 51-14 last week.

Tennessee 28, Kentucky 18

In Knoxville, Dylan Sampson rushed for 141 yards and two touchdowns to lead No. 7 Tennessee to victory over Kentucky.

Tight end Miles Kitselman caught six passes for 97 yards and a touchdown for the Volunteers (7-1, 4-1 Southeastern Conference) as they won their third straight and kept their College Football playoff hopes alive.

The Wildcats (3-5, 1-6) lost their fourth straight game after five starters were out with injuries. During the game, receiver Barion Brown and quarterback Brock Vandagriff were also hurt.

Baylor 37, TCU 34

In Waco, Bryson Washington had career highs with 196 yards and four touchdowns rushing, and Isaiah Hankins kicked a 33-yard field goal on the final play to give Baylor a 37-34 victory over TCU .

The Bears faced fourth-and-9 from the TCU 44 with 16 seconds left when Sawyer Robertson threw a 15-yard pass to Michael Trigg. Washington then ran 13 yards to set up Hankins' kick with five seconds to go.



Baylor kicker Isaiah Hankins (98) celebrates with his teammates after kicking the game-winning field goal to defeat TCU in an NCAA college football game in Waco, Texas. (AP)

Atlanta rallies to beat Messi's Miami to even playoff series



The Minnesota United celebrate after winning a first-round soccer match of the MLS Cup playoffs against Real Salt Lake in St. Paul, Minn. (AP)

Minnesota United sweeps Real Salt Lake

ATLANTA, Nov 3, (AP): Atlanta United finished a whopping 34 points behind Lionel Messi and star-studded Inter Miami during the regular season.

Now, the Five Stripes have a shot at pulling off a stunning upset of the best team in Major League Soccer.

Xande Silva scored with about a minute to go in stoppage time shortly after a goal by Messi was waved off by a clear offside, giving ninth-seeded United a 2-1 victory over Miami on Saturday night to even the best-of-three MLS playoff series at one game apiece.

United managed a wild-card victory at Montreal on penalty kicks just to get a shot at the Supporters' Shield winner, which set an MLS regular-season record with 74 points.

United finished with just 40 points - the fewest of any playoff team - and didn't earn its postseason spot until the final day of the regular season.

None of that mattered when Silva blasted a right-footed shot into the top left corner to beat goalkeeper Drake Callender in the 94th minute.

The Atlanta player celebrated by ripping off his shirt and dancing in front of the supporters section at Mercedes-Benz Stadium while the announced crowd of 68,455 cheered.

"I saw space there and then, boom!" said Silva, who came off the bench in the 89th minute.

Messi had plenty of good scoring chances but only found the back of the net with the flag raised for offside. Atlanta United took off the other way for Silva's game winner. United rallied from a 1-0 halftime deficit, the result of a huge error by keeper Brad Guzan, to force a decisive game next Saturday



The Minnesota United celebrate after winning a first-round soccer match of the MLS Cup playoffs against Real Salt Lake in St. Paul, Minn. (AP)

night in South Florida.

Miami coach Tata Martino, who guided Atlanta United to the MLS Cup title in 2018, bemoaned his current team's lack of a finishing touch.

Williams tied the match in the 58th minute after a corner kick was turned away by the Herons. Pedro Amador sent a cross back into the box from long range and Williams dove to get a head on it, skipping it past Callender.

Messi misfired on at least three shots, going wide a couple of times before blasting one over the net in the 83rd with Miami pressing for the go-ahead goal. He walked away rubbing his beard, clearly frustrated at his lack of accuracy.

Guzan's blunder handed Miami the opening goal in the 40th minute.

After easily grabbing a cross into the box, Guzan went to boot the ball away - only to stumble and loose control with Miami's Federico Redondo running along beside him. Redondo sent the free ball to David Martínez, who casually flicked it over four United defenders into the unguarded goal while

Guzan looked on helplessly.

The 40-year-old keeper claimed he was interfered with by Redondo, but the replay appeared to show Guzan tripping himself up.

In the 89th, United missed a prime chance to grab the lead when Saba Lobjanidze rocketed one off the crossbar. Keltos Slisz collected the ricochet, but fired it over the net.

Silva made sure it didn't matter.

Emeka Eneli scored the equalizer for Real Salt Lake in the 75th minute of a 1-1 tie in regulation, but Dayne St. Clair had two saves in the shootout as Minnesota United came out on top 3-1 to finish off a sweep of Real Salt Lake.

No. 6 seed Minnesota United beat third-seed Real Salt Lake on the road on penalty kicks after a scoreless tie during regulation play in the best-of-three first-round opener.

St. Clair turned away PK shots by Diogo Gonçalves and Diego Luna and had one by Matt Crooks sail over the crossbar. Kelvin Yeboah, Hassani Dotson and Sang Bin Jeong scored for the winners. Cristian "Chicho" Arango

scored the lone goal for RSL on the club's first attempt.

Eneli pulled Real Salt Lake even with his first postseason goal in his fourth appearance after scoring once in 54 previous appearances with the club over the past two regular seasons. Crooks notched his first postseason assist in his first season in the league on the score, and Arango snagged his first in his seventh playoff appearance, the last four with RSL.

Neither club scored until Minnesota United's Joseph Rosales used assists from Kelvin Yeboah and Robin Lod in the 53rd minute to score his first post-season goal in his fourth appearance.

Rosales has one regular-season goal in 78 appearances over the last four seasons. Yeboah's assist was his first in two playoff appearances in his first season in the league and Lod's was his second in eight postseason appearances - all starts.

St. Clair totaled one save for Minnesota United in his seventh career postseason start with the club.

Zac MacMath started in goal for Real Salt Lake for the sixth time in the playoffs and saved four shots. MacMath had two starts in the 2016 post-season for the Colorado Rapids.

Real Salt Lake had played nine straight playoff matches on the road before hosting the opener.

Both clubs scored two goals in four matchups this season. RSL entered the postseason after scoring a club-record 65 goals, eight more than its previous high set in 2013.

Minnesota United will play the second-seeded Los Angeles Galaxy in the next round. The Galaxy swept the Colorado Rapids in a first-round matchup.

Alonso Martínez and defender Thiago Martins scored first-half goals and New York City FC forced a deciding match with a 3-1 victory over FC Cincinnati at Citi Field.

MONTREAL, Nov 3, (Xinhua): Canadian skaters maintained their impressive performance at the second leg of the ISU Short Track Speed Skating World Tour in Montreal, securing three gold medals across four events.

China claimed a bronze in the women's 3,000m relay. However, the country's star skaters Liu Shaolang, Liu Shaolin and Lin Xiaojun did not advance to the men's 500m final. Liu Shaolang finished third in the quarter-finals, Lin withdrew from the competition, and Liu Shaolin placed fourth in the repechage semifinals.

Canada celebrated a 1-2 finish in the men's 500m, with Steven Dubois crossing the finish line in 41.124 seconds, just ahead of William Dandjinou at 41.183 seconds.

"I wanted to control the pace," said Dubois. "I rolled with another 39 (referring to a 39-second performance in the semifinal), so I'm super happy with that. I'm gaining confidence controlling the pace in front, which is a big step in the right direction. I heard Wil-

liam as second, so I pushed as hard as I could. Our training is rigorous, and it's making us faster." Dandjinou, who also won the men's 1,500m the previous week, delivered a tactically astute performance to take gold in 2:17.138.

"I'm very happy because I think I executed a good tactical race," said Dandjinou. "Despite some lingering fatigue from last weekend, I had to be precise with my decision-making and tactics, and I managed to do that well, which led to this result." In the women's 3,000m relay, Canada, Italy, China, and South Korea were in a tight race, with Canada's Kim Boutin securing the win on the final lap. Italy took silver, and China claimed bronze.

South Korea's veteran Choi Min-jeong dominated the women's 1,000m, winning gold with a time of 1:30.496.

The competition continues on Sunday at the Maurice Richard Arena, featuring a full schedule including the women's 500m, women's 1,500m, men's 1,000m, mixed team relay, and men's 5,000m relay.

Best of the Rest

Africans win titles: Ethiopia's Lemi Berhanu Hayle and Kenya's Vicoty Chepngeno claimed the men's and women's titles, respectively, at the 2024 Beijing Marathon on Sunday.

Hayle crossed the finish line first in 2 hours, 9 minutes and 16 seconds, just 14 seconds ahead of runner-up Bethwel Kibet Chumba of Kenya. Chinese runner Chen Tianyu finished third in 2:09:48.

The women's race saw Chepngeno, who clocked 2:21:56, stand atop the podium, while Rahma Tusa of Ethiopia and another Kenyan runner Angela Jamesunde Tanui were in the second and third place, respectively.

In order to enhance the overall race experience for runners, the organizers moved the start line 100 meters north on the eastern side of Tiananmen Square for a more streamlined start this year.

The marathon route, which spans from Tiananmen Square to the Beijing Olympic Park, remains a favorite for runners worldwide. Despite a cap of 30,000 participants, a record 182,949 runners from 43 countries and regions applied within the first three days of registration last month. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Marcelo leaves Fluminense: Former Real Madrid left-back Marcelo has parted ways with Fluminense by mutual consent, the Brazilian Serie A club said. The 36-year-old, who was seen arguing with Fluminense manager Mano Menezes during the team's 2-2 home draw with Grêmio on Friday, had been tied to the Rio de Janeiro club until December 31.

"The institutional and emotional ties between Fluminense and Marcelo continue to be maintained," Fluminense said in brief statement. "Fluminense thanks Marcelo and will continue, as always, to wish him success in all of his endeavors." Marcelo began his professional career with Fluminense in 2005 before earning a move to Real Madrid in January 2007.

He spent more than 15 years at the Spanish club - where his accolades included five Champions League trophies - before having a brief spell at Olympiacos in late 2022. (Xinhua)

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Osasuna dedicates victory to coach and victims of deadly floods in Valencia region

MADRID, Nov 3, (AP): After scoring Osasuna's winning goal, Ante Budimir showed fans a jersey with the words "Be strong Valencia."

He and his teammates dedicated Osasuna's 1-0 win over Valladolid in the Spanish league to the victims of the deadly floods that hit the Valencia region this

week, and especially to Osasuna coach Vicente Moreno, who is from the area and a day earlier gave an emotional interview during his news conference.

Moreno is from Massanassa, one of the cities affected the most by the floods that killed more than 200 people in southern Spain. He cried while talking about this

week's tragedy and those affected by it. The coach was not on the bench during Saturday's match because of a suspension. "We dedicate the victory to Vicente because he is suffering a lot," Osasuna assistant coach Daniel Pendin said. "He deserves it and we dedicate the victory to him."

New Zealand secures historic sweep in India



New Zealand players celebrate with the trophy after winning the three test match series against India at Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai, India. (AP)

Patel bowl Black Caps to victory

MUMBAI, India, Nov 3, (AP): New Zealand secured an historic 3-0 series’ victory in India as it won a dramatic third test by 25 runs on Sunday.

Ajaz Patel took 6-57 to bowl the Black Caps to victory as it became the first visiting side to complete a clean sweep in a minimum three-test series against India.

Glenn Phillips provided great support as he picked up 3-42 as India crashed to 121 all out in 29.1 overs shortly after lunch on the third day.

Rishabh Pant was the lone resistance for the hosts with 64 off 57 balls, including nine fours and a six, but his counter-attacking half century went in vain as India lost its last three wickets in four balls.

India’s previous worst showing was a 2-0 loss to Hansie Cronje’s South Africa in 2000 in a two-test series. It last lost in a home series was to England - 2-1 in a four-test series - in 2012.

Patel’s six wickets took his tally to 25 at the Wankhede Stadium in four innings. He bowled a record 10-119 here in 2021, finishing that game with 14 wickets.

On Sunday Patel finished with 11-160 to go past England’s Ian Botham who had taken 22 wickets at the same ground and was previously the most successful visiting bowler at any venue in India.

New Zealand won the first two tests in Bengaluru and Pune by eight wickets and 113 runs respectively, registering a landmark first test-series win in India, but an greater achievement was to come.

Chasing 147 runs to avoid an unprecedented home series whitewash, India stumbled to lunch at 92-6 with only Pant’s half-century proving a spanner in the works for New Zealand.

Pant put on 42 off 53 balls for the sixth wicket with Ravindra Jadeja (6) to give India some hope of reaching the target after it had earlier slumped to 29-5.

Skipper Rohit Sharma’s poor series continued as he was caught for 11, going after Henry with another ill-judged pull shot to be caught at midwicket.

Patel bowled Shubman Gill for one, the batter leaving the ball only for it to knock back his off stump.

The Sunday crowd at the Wankhede Stadium was stunned when Virat Kohli was caught at slip for one in the following over.

Phillips then sent back Yashasvi Jaiswal for five, out lbw. Sarfaraz Khan (one) hit a full toss straight to the square leg fielder as India collapsed inexplicably.



Kuwait Club holds training session in Manama.

Qadsiya continues to struggle in the league

Kuwait Club strengthens team with Brazilian star Guillermo Santista for Asian Clubs Championship

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait Club has officially signed a contract with Brazilian handball player Guillermo Santista, who currently plays in the French League, to bolster the team’s lineup for the 27th Asian Clubs Championship, set to take place in Doha, Qatar, from November 13-24.

Santista becomes the fifth professional player to join Kuwait Club for the Asian Championship, following the additions of Qatari Frankis Marzo and Portuguese Angel Hernandez, as well as championship veterans Portuguese Semedo and Algerian Osama Jaziri.

The Kuwait Club handball team recently wrapped up its training camp in Bahrain, where they played a friendly match against Al-Ahli of Bahrain. The team is scheduled to return to Kuwait today before departing for Qatar on November 11.

Sameh Al-Hajri, the handball director at Kuwait Club,

noted that the team played only one friendly match during the camp due to nine players joining the national team, which limited its ability to schedule additional matches.

Al-Hajri emphasized that Kuwait Club is committed to competing seriously for the Asian title, supported by the club’s management and the hard work of the technical and administrative staff, as well as the players.

In league action, the Qadsiya handball team continues to struggle, suffering a 23-25 loss to Salmiya in the sixth round of the general league “merge,” held at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall. Meanwhile, Al-Qurain secured a convincing 32-18 victory over Al-Tadamon.

The current league standings are as follows: Al-Salmiya leads with 10 points, followed by Kazma, Kuwait Club, Al-Arabi, and Al-Sulaibikhat with 8 points each, Burgan with 7 points, and Al-Qurain, Al-Nasr, and Al-Fahaheel with 6 points each. Khaitan and Qadsiya have 4 points, while Yarmouk, Al-Sahel, and Al-Tadamon remain scoreless. Note that the match between Kuwait Club and Kazma has been postponed since the fifth round.



International Aquatics Federation President, Captain Hussain Al-Musallam crowns swimming champions.

Al-Musallam crowns champions as Aquatics Asian round ends

The World Aquatics Championships – Asian Round, held across Singapore, Shanghai, and Incheon, concluded with the attendance of International Aquatics Federation President Captain Hussain Al-Musallam, who awarded medals to the winners.

In the men’s category, French world champion Léon Marchand claimed the gold medal and first place, while American world champion Katie Ledecky took top honors in the women’s category.

Warriors outlast Rockets in overtime

Celtics top Hornets, sweep back-to-back in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Nov 3, (AP): Jayson Tatum scored 29 points, Payton Pritchard had 22 points on six 3-pointers and the Boston Celtics beat the Charlotte Hornets 113-103 for the second straight night at the Spectrum Center on Saturday.

Derrick White added 18 points and eight rebounds for the Celtics, who beat the Hornets 124-109 on Friday night. Boston improved to 6-1.

Grizzlies 124, 76ers 107
In Philadelphia, Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 27 points and Memphis rolled to a 124-107 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday night.

Jay Huff added 20 points, and Ja Morant had 18. The Grizzlies have won two straight road games to improve to 4-3.

Tyrese Maxey scored 23 points for Philadelphia. The 76ers lost for the fourth time in five games and fell to 0-3 at home.

Raptors 131, Kings 128, OT

In Toronto, RJ Barrett scored 31 points, Chris Boucher had a season-high 24, and Toronto snapped a four-game losing streak by beating Sacramento.

Toronto’s Ochai Agbaji scored a season-high 22 points, and Grady Dick also had 22.

Warriors 127, Rockets 121, OT
In Houston, Buddy Hield scored 27 points and Golden State squandered a huge lead before outlasting Houston in overtime.

It’s Golden State’s 14th straight-regular season win over the Rockets and the eighth in a row in Houston.

The Warriors led by 31 points in the first half. The Rockets tied it with an 18-2 run to open the fourth quarter.

Golden State scored the first six points in overtime to make it 125-119 and went on to a third straight win without Steph Curry, who is out with a sprained left ankle.

Cavaliers 114, Bucks 113

In Milwaukee, Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points including a jumper with three-tenths of a second left and Cleveland remained unbeaten with a victory over Milwaukee.

The 7-0 Cavaliers are one win away



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Luguentz Dort, right, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers guard James Harden defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

from matching their best start in franchise history. They won their first eight games in 1976-77.

Milwaukee has lost five straight since winning its opener. The Bucks wasted a brilliant performance from Damian Lillard, who had 41 points with nine assists and shot 10 of 15 from 3-point range.

Spurs 113, Timberwolves 103

In San Antonio, Keldon Johnson had 25 points. Chris Paul added 15 points and 13 assists, and San Antonio beat Minnesota without coach Gregg Popovich, who missed the game due to illness.

Jeremy Sochan added 19 points and 10 rebounds from San Antonio, and Victor Wembanyama had 17 points and six rebounds.

Heat 118, Wizards 98

In Mexico City, Bam Adebayo scored 20 of his 32 points in the first half and Miami beat Washington in the 14th NBA regular-season game in Mexico.

Adebayo had 14 rebounds and shot

12 of 24 from the field. Jimmy Butler added 18 points, Tyler Herro had 15 and Terry Rozier 12 to help Miami improve to 3-2.

Kel’El Ware added 15 points coming of the bench. Jaime Jaquez Jr. scored eight points in his first game playing in his father’s country.

Nuggets 129, Jazz 103

In Denver, Nikola Jokic scored 27 points and Michael Porter Jr. had 20 as Denver used a third-quarter offensive surge to beat Utah for their first win of the season at home.

Julian Strawther added 19 points and Christian Braun 17 for the Nuggets, who sent the Jazz to their sixth consecutive loss to start the season. Jokic also had 16 rebounds and nine assists, finishing one assist shy of another triple double.

Suns 103, Trail Blazers 97

In Phoenix, Devin Booker had 28 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and Phoenix used a dominant third quarter to beat Portland.

Kevin Durant scored 21 points for Phoenix, which won its fourth in a row.

The Suns led by as many as 26 points, but the Trail Blazers cut the deficit to 99-97 in the final minute. Booker and Tyus Jones each made two free throws in the final 21 seconds to seal the win.

Grayson Allen scored 18 off the bench, making a team-high four 3-pointers. Jones and Bradley Beal each finished with 15 points, while Jusuf Nurkic had a game-high 15 rebounds.

Thunder 105, Clippers 92

In Inglewood, Calif., Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 25 points and Oklahoma City extended their undefeated start to the season by beating Los Angeles.

All five Thunder starters scored in double figures, and the six straight wins to begin the season marked the team’s best start since moving to Oklahoma City from Seattle in 2008.

Norman Powell scored 24 points and James Harden added 12 points and 13 rebounds, but the Clippers dropped to 0-4 in their new arena despite holding double-digit leads in each of those defeats.

Best of the Rest

PSG moves 6 points clear:

Ousmane Dembélé’s early goal was enough as defending champion Paris Saint-Germain beat Lens 1-0 to move six points clear at the top of the French league.

Winger Bradley Barcola broke free down the left in the fourth minute and set up Dembélé with a low cross to the back post.

Barcola has been PSG’s best attacking player this season. Near the end of the first half, he played a through ball to Marco Asensio but goalkeeper Brice Samba saved his angled shot.

PSG failed to score a second goal, despite Lens having defender Abdou Diallo sent off in the 59th for a reckless foul on Achraf Hakimi.

Dembélé’s return to form is a boost for coach Luis Enrique, whose team has struggled to score in the Champions League. PSG will host Atletico Madrid at Parc des Princes on Wednesday.

PSG took advantage of second-place Monaco’s 1-0 home defeat against struggling Angers on Friday.

Evann Guessand continued his scoring form as Nice won 1-0 at Brest to move up to fifth place, and struggling Saint-Etienne won 2-0 against midtable Strasbourg, with goals from central defender Mickael Nade and forward Ibrahim Sissoko. (AP)

Dalian secures promotion: Zhu Pengyu scored a last-minute winner as Dalian Yingbo beat Shanghai Jiading Huilong 2-1 in the last round of China League One for 2024 season, the country’s second-tier football league, securing a berth for Chinese Super League.

In front of 6,0951 spectators, the new attendance re-

cord for China League One, Brazilian striker Fernando Karanga broke the deadlock for Dalian in the 14th minute, but he missed a penalty later in the 43rd minute.

Brazilian forward Dominic Vinicius equalized for the away side in the 60th minute. 19-year-old forward Zhu became the hero for the home side as his header in the 90th minute secured Dalian’s promotion to the top flight next season. (Xinhua)

River Plate beats Banfield:

Pablo Solari scored twice as River Plate clinched a 3-1 home win over Banfield in Argentina’s Primera Division on Saturday. Solari struck either side of halftime before Leandro Garate reduced the deficit by converting an 83rd-minute penalty.

Colombian striker Miguel Borja put the result beyond doubt when he combined with Pity Martinez before thumping a shot into the far corner from a tight angle.

The result leaves River Plate fifth in the 28-team standings with 30 points, nine points behind leader Velez Sarsfield with seven games remaining. Banfield is 24th, nine points further back.

After the match, River Plate manager Marcelo Gallardo insisted that his team remained in the title race.

“We have to focus on these last seven games and get as many points as we can,” Gallardo said. “The teams above us are starting to drop points and we are going to keep going until the championship ends.”

In other Primera Division fixtures on Saturday, Defensa y Justicia won 2-1 at Belgrano and Deportivo Riestra was held to a goalless home draw by Talleres Cordoba. (Xinhua)



Kuwaiti players train as the coaches look on.

Sports

Fans seek new stars amid ongoing talent scarcity

Kuwaiti soccer needs revival: Experts call for youth development overhaul

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: For several years, Kuwaiti stadiums have seen a scarcity of emerging talents and stars, with promising players becoming increasingly rare. When fans get excited about a new player showing remarkable skills, these abilities often seem to gradually “fade” over time, leaving supporters disappointed.

Kuwaiti football fans continue to dream of seeing players who recall the “golden age” of the 1980s, such as legends like Jassim Yaqoub, “the terrifying,” Faisal Al-Dakhil, “the King,” and Abdullah Al-Balushi, “the artillery.” They also long for players from the 1990s era, including Bashar Abdullah, Adel Aqla, Osama Hussein, and others who captivated audiences. However, the lack of emerging talent has led to declining fan enthusiasm and a noticeable decrease in match attendance.

Al-Seyassah looked into the reasons behind this talent gap.

Clubs at the Core of the Issue

Jawad Maqseed believes that clubs



Jawad Maqseed

bear much of the responsibility, stating, “Unfortunately, clubs lack proper plans to attract and develop young talent, often opting to bring in ready players instead of scouting and nurturing players from a young age.” Maqseed, a member of the Golden Generation’s technical staff, emphasizes that focusing on youth development with comprehensive, professional approaches in clubs is



Fawzy Ibrahim

essential.

Decline in School Support

Coach Fawzi Ibrahim pointed to the “feminization” of primary schools and the rise of private academies as key factors. He suggests limiting youth training within clubs to two age categories, so players can reach the first team by age 17, with partial professional stipends as an



Hussein Al-Makimi

added incentive. He also calls for a state-led approach, with initiatives to develop more sports facilities across Kuwait and an academy similar to Qatar’s Aspire Academy.

A Hostile Sports Environment

Dr. Hussein Al-Makimi, former Kuwait and Al-Qadisiya goalkeeper and current professor at the College of Basic Education, argues that talent



Tawari Madloul

exists in Kuwait, but there is a disconnect in attracting and nurturing it. Al-Makimi explains, “Clubs have become unwelcoming environments for young talent, and traditional scouting methods have largely disappeared.” The shift in elementary school environments has also impacted talent discovery, as scouts now face challenges accessing schools primarily led by women, where they tradition-

ally sought talent.

Despite the hurdles, Al-Makimi sees promise in some academies and the School Sports Federation’s efforts to revive talent scouting. “I was discovered by a coach in third grade,” he recalls. “I, in turn, discovered former Kazma goalkeeper Shehab Kankouni in fourth grade.” He highlights the importance of early motivation and continued support to foster long-term development.

Coaching Quality Concerns

Tawari Madloul, a former Al-Jahra Board member, believes that the quality of coaching at clubs significantly hinders player development. “Foreign clubs hire highly qualified technical staff for youth training, ensuring young players receive the right foundation,” he said. The influence of technology, he added, also diverts the younger generation from sports, and limited resources at many clubs contribute to subpar training conditions.

Madloul calls for greater investment in sports infrastructure, expanded budgets for clubs, and state-of-the-art training centers aligned with international standards to cultivate a new generation of Kuwaiti football stars.

Championship ready to showcase top talent from Arab countries

All eyes on Kuwait for the Crown Prince Shooting Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti and Arab Shooting Federations and Director General of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Shooting Championship, Obaid Al-Osaimi, announced that the eagerly awaited Crown Prince Shooting Championship, featuring a large contingent of shooters from Kuwait, the Gulf, and other Arab countries, will kick off next Saturday.

On behalf of the President and members of the Kuwait Shooting Federation and Club, Al-Osaimi expressed gratitude to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled for his patronage of the championship, describing it as a major motivator for competitive excellence and honorable achievements for Kuwait.

Al-Osaimi added, “We are fully prepared for the start of this prestigious event, which honors the name of His Highness the Crown Prince. We are thrilled to welcome shooters from across the Arab world, all of whom have confirmed their participation.”

He highlighted that the championship will feature all Olympic shooting events for men and women, including shotgun (skeet and trap), air rifle and pistol events, and archery (compound and Olympic). Additionally, the Arab Shotgun Championships in skeet and trap will be organized alongside. Al-Osaimi also noted that the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Range Complex, the event’s venue, is fully prepared, with all organizing committees and state ministries working together to ensure a successful and memorable championship.



Obaid Al-Osaimi

Unstoppable Kuwait Club extends lead

Kazma returns to winning ways

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait Club marked a new milestone in the Zain Premier League, securing its ninth consecutive victory with a commanding 3-0 win over Al-Tadamon. This result sees it conclude the league’s first half with a perfect record of 27 points, sitting nine points ahead of nearest rival Al-Arabi, who still has two postponed matches.

The goals for Kuwait Club were scored by Amr Abdel Fattah (41’), Youssef Nasser (58’), and Mohammed Marhoon (84’).

Today, the “Whites” are set to begin an internal training camp in preparation for its upcoming AFC Champions League 2 clash against Shabab Al-Ahli of the UAE, scheduled for Wednesday in the fourth round of Group 4.

Board Member and Vice President of the Football Department Adel Aqla expressed pride in the team’s latest triumph, noting the high level of competition and hoping Kuwait Club can maintain this form until the end of the season.

Aqla also called for the inclusion of Kuwait Club captain Fahad Hamoud in the national team for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against South Korea and Jordan on November 14 and 19.

Team captain Fahad Hamoud voiced his joy over the club’s accomplishment, applauding the ef-



Players fight for the ball during Zain Premier League match between Kuwait Club and Al-Tadamon.

forts of all players, as well as the technical, administrative, and medical staff. He commended the club’s board for their unwavering support since the season’s start, expressing hopes that the team continues this momentum.

Al-Tadamon’s assistant coach, Jamal Al-Qabandi, commented

on the match, noting that while Kuwait Club capitalized on its opportunities, luck seemed to be against Al-Tadamon. Despite the result, he thanked his players for their effort and noted it was their first match without scoring. Al-Tadamon currently sits with 11 points and will use the upcoming

break to reassess.

In another match, Kazma returned to winning ways with a 2-0 victory over Yarmouk, with goals from John Red (11’) and Youssef Al-Khatib (90’). Kazma now holds 10 points, placing it seventh, while Yarmouk remains in last with 3 points.

Kazma’s coach Saad Al-Shabi

highlighted the early goal as a confidence booster for his players, enabling them to maintain consistency throughout the match. He praised the team for capitalizing on its opportunities and adhering to the technical staff’s guidance, adding that he is adjusting strategies based on each match’s needs.

Atalanta routs leader Napoli

MILAN, Nov 3, (AP): Despite - or perhaps because of - the absence of the league’s top goalscorer from the starting lineup, Atalanta stunned Serie A leader Napoli by winning 3-0 at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona on Sunday.

Mateo Retegui was surprisingly benched but Ademola Lookman netted twice in the first half to inflict what was only Napoli’s second defeat of the season, and the first since the opening day.

Retegui was brought on with 14 minutes remaining and scored in stoppage time for his 11th goal in as many matches.

Atalanta soared into second spot although it could be leapfrogged by Inter Milan if the defending champion beats Venezia later to cut the gap to Napoli to one point.

Napoli visits Inter next weekend.

Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini surprisingly opted to drop Retegui. That was reportedly because he wanted a more unpredictable attack against a Napoli defence that had kept clean sheets in six of its past seven matches and only conceded five goals all season.

Gasperini instead picked Lookman and Charles De Ketelaere in attack with Mario Pasalic behind them and that paid off almost immediately as Atalanta took the lead in the 10th minute.

A cross was cleared by Napoli but only as far as the edge of the area where it was put back in and De Ketelaere nodded it back for Lookman to slot into the near bottom corner.

Napoli almost levelled immediately but Scott McTominay’s powerful effort crashed off the right post.

The Atalanta forwards combined again in the 31st as De Ketelaere raced down the right and squirmed between two players before passing across to Lookman, who slotted a hard shot into the far bottom corner.

Al-Balushi wins motorcycle category

Kuwaiti rider Al-Shatti finishes second at Qatar International Baja

DOHA, Nov 3, (KUNA): Kuwaiti rider Abdullah Al-Shatti secured second place in the motorcycle category at the Qatar International Baja 2024, an important event marking the fifth round of the World Cup for motorcycles, organized by the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation in Doha.

Emirati rider Mohammed Al-Balushi took first place, while British competitor Alex MacInnes finished third.

In an interview with KUNA, Al-Shatti expressed his delight at his second-place finish in the Qatar race, highlight-

ing the challenges he faced. He noted that a motorcycle malfunction affected his positioning in the race. Al-Shatti described the event as tough, with rough terrain and fierce competition spread over 800 kilometers and three stages. He remains determined to enhance Kuwait’s presence in international motorsport.

Al-Shatti completed the 255 km stage on his Kawasaki bike in a time of 4:10:35, finishing ahead of his Slovakian competitor by 11 minutes.

In related news, fellow competitor Salem Al-Dhafiri reported securing first place in the modified car category (T1.1), mentioning that he faced five competitors in this segment. In the FIA car category, Kazakhstan’s Denis Krutov claimed first place, with Portuguese drivers Joao Ferreira and Joao Dias finishing second and third, respectively.

The Qatar International Baja 2024 kicked off on Thursday and concluded today. The event showcased extensive

international participation, underscoring its global appeal. Kuwaiti riders Abdullah Al-Shatti, Salem Al-Dhafiri, and Nasser Al-Ajmi have all made significant contributions to the motorcycle race, while Al-Shatti and Al-Dhafiri also demonstrated their skills in the car category.

The Qatar International Baja serves as the sixth round of the FIA World Cup for automobiles, the fifth round for motorcycles, and the second round of the FIA Middle East Baja Cup for vehicles.