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# AMIR JOINS WORLD LEADERS IN CONGRATULATING TRUMP

## Trump triumphs as 47th US president

### Opinion

## From the Middle East to Donald Trump: Welcome

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

THE remarkable return of Donald Trump to the White House is not merely a continuation of his previous presidential term but rather a clear signal of a shift in the outlook of American citizens.

His victory announcement sent economic and financial indicators soaring, reflecting optimism on the local front. Internationally, the Middle East also has a large stake in this victory. The region already tested Trump during his first term and understands his approach. His previous administration sought to ease tensions while maintaining firmness on certain issues.



Al-Jarallah

Trump had already been aware of the implications for American strategic interests if the two previous presidents - Obama and Biden - had pursued policies that exacerbated conflicts in the Middle East in an attempt to bring about radical changes that conflicted with the region's cultural, social, political, and economic realities.

There is no doubt that the Middle East entered a dark tunnel since 2010 under two consecutive Democratic administrations. It was marked by bloodshed, destruction, deliberate impoverishment, and the imposition of visions that the Arab World, particularly the Gulf states, could not accept.

In response to this, Trump's first presidency focused on undoing the damage caused by the Democratic administrations, particularly their destabilizing influence in the region, including the creation of ISIS and the strengthening of the terrorist axis.

This axis, from the Houthi militia in Yemen to sectarian militias in Iraq and Hezbollah in Lebanon, fueled instability and fanned the flames of conflict in every Arab country without exception.

The first Trump administration played a pivotal role as a peacemaker, curbed terrorism and prevented the strengthening of "axis of evil" countries, particularly by blocking their path to nuclear capabilities.

This was especially true with Iran, which benefited from the nuclear agreement brokered by Obama. The deal released billions of dollars to Iran, which were then used to support sectarian militias and obstruct the

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US President-elect Donald Trump arrives at an election night watch party at the Palm Beach Convention Center, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, in West Palm Beach, Fla. (AP)

### Victory validates bare-knuckle approach to politics

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (Agencies): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahamd Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Wednesday a cable to US President-elect, Donald Trump, congratulating him on the trust placed upon him by the American people, electing him president.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir praised the longstanding and strong historical relations between the two countries, affirming Kuwait's commitment to strengthening these ties and expanding cooperation in all fields for the shared interest and strategic partnership between the

two.

His Highness the Amir also congratulated Vice-President-elect, James Vance, wishing him success.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent Wednesday, a cable to the US President-elect, Donald Trump, congratulating him on the trust placed upon him by the American people, electing him president.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished the United States further progress and prosperity, and the President-elect success in his endeavors and good health.

His Highness the Crown Prince also congratulated Vice-President-elect James Vance wishing him success.

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■ Voter anxiety over economy, desire for change return Trump to White House

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■ Republicans take Senate majority and eye unified power with Trump

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■ Stocks, bond yields, bitcoin surge on Trump comeback

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PM Diwan photo

Kuwait's Cabinet holds its weekly session at Bayan Palace on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

### Newswatch

**MANAMA:** Bahrain's Minister of Youth Affairs **Rawan Tawfiqi** expressed his aspiration to pursue joint action with the State of Kuwait for supporting and empowering the youth.

The minister, who was speaking during inauguration of the global network for supporting youth competition, "Al-Amal Network," said that Kuwait's participation in the activity constitutes a new leap forward in the two countries' cooperation. "We are proud of the State of Kuwait's participation as a founding member in Al-Amal Network," she said, lauding Kuwait's noticeable actions for supporting the juniors. (KUNA)

**KUWAIT CITY:** The visiting South Sudan Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Hon. **Albino Akol Atak** on Wednesday lauded the State of Kuwait's efforts for relieving nations in difficulties worldwide.

In a statement to KUNA as he emerged, along with an accompanying delegation, from a meeting with Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society **Khaled Al-Meghames**, said the society has always been in the front of humanitarian associations that provide relief services in many countries. (KUNA)

## Cabinet okays Social Security board with a 3-year mandate

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): The Cabinet held on Wednesday its weekly session at Bayan Palace under the chairmanship of the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Following the session, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereedah Al-Mousherji stated that the ministers lauded the statement by the Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahamd Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at the inaugural session of the fourth senior-level conference on bolstering global cooperation in fighting terrorism and building flexible mechanisms for border security -- the Kuwait phase of the Dushanbe process, held on Monday.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled, in his address at the conference, affirmed that the

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## Kuwait rejects global silence on Israeli occupation crimes

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait deemed the double-standard approach and silence over the Israeli occupation crimes against Palestinians as unacceptable, stressing that international law must be respected by all members of the global community.

This came in a speech delivered by second secretary at the Kuwaiti Permanent Mission to the UN headquarters in New York Wafaeqa Al-Mulla to the UNGA late Tuesday.

The Kuwaiti diplomat affirmed that human rights violations in various parts of the world

required from the international community an unwavering stance against such crimes.

She reiterated Kuwait's utter condemnation of the Israeli occupation's horrific crimes in the Gaza Strip, Palestine, and Lebanon, saying that it reflected the inhumane and aggressive policies of the occupiers.

She deemed the Israeli occupation killing of innocent civilians and the destruction of their houses and dwellings as shameful crimes against all of humanity.

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### Revoked citizens lose housing rights

## Kuwait enacts stricter rules for non-citizen property ownership

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Kuwait has established a set of specific regulations and controls governing real estate ownership by non-citizens, with differentiated rules depending on the nationality of the individual. These rules are designed to balance the interests of the state while maintaining economic and legal stability in the real estate market, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Regulations for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Citizens -- GCC nationals, including citizens from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman are treated the same as Kuwaiti citizens in terms of property ownership. This means they are allowed to own real estate in Kuwait without any additional conditions or requirements, reflecting the close economic and political ties between GCC countries.

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KUNA photo

The late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahamd Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during the celebration of extinguishing the last burning oil well. — See Page 5

3 74 street vendors in Capital get citations

3 Jleeb hell-hole gets noticed at long last

8 Warba receives 'Insightful Leadership and Pioneering Cards Services' award

9 Zain signs MoU with Kuwait University to foster knowledge economy

9 NBK named 'Market Leader in Digital Payment Acceptance'

### Day by Day

THE decision to suspend residency renewals for expats over the age of 60 who don't hold graduation certificates had indeed sparked significant controversy, leading to disruptions in various businesses and the broader economy.

Many have pointed out that this move, which primarily impacted non-graduate expat professionals, has caused a detrimental ripple effect, especially in sectors where specialized skills are scarce.

Reiterating a common concern, the question remains: 'Who is behind these decisions, and who is responsible for implementing regulations that inadvertently hinder economic growth and disrupt commercial activity?'

This decision, as it has been proven, has had negative consequences, and the call for reform or even complete cancellation of the policy is growing louder.

The issue at hand is not just about removing the restrictions but addressing the broader consequences -- such as the loss of skilled expat workers who contribute greatly to sectors where expertise is rare.

The government's acknowledgment of the need to "correct" the terms of this decision is a step in the right direction, but many argue that it requires a more fundamental revision, not just a mere tweak.

As the saying goes, "The more haste, the less speed," meaning that decisions should be given adequate time for careful deliberation before being issued.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:43	Asr .....	14:37
Sunrise ..	06:04	Maghrib ..	16:59
Zohr .....	11:32	Isha .....	18:17

# Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.			
By Night: Mild to rather cold			
and partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-42 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	30	21	
Kuwait Airport	30	21	

Abdaly	31	19
Bubyan	33	22
Jahra	31	21
Failaka Island	32	23
Salmiyah	28	22
Ahmadi	30	20
Jal Aliyah	30	18
Nuwaisib	30	21



Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah in talks with the South African Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Manelisi Genge.



Photos by Rizk Taufiq  
Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah receives the South African envoy and his delegation. Saud Al-Farhan attended the meeting .

## Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times, Al-Seyassah newspapers Al-Jarallah receives S.African envoy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah received the South African Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Manelisi Genge at his office within the press premises on Wednesday.

The ambassador was accompanied by the Political Counselor at the South African Embassy Busisiwe Mpungose, and the Trade and Information Assistant Aiman Al-Akhras. During the meeting, they discussed various matters and developments of

mutual interest, particularly in the media field. The discussions reflected the keenness of both sides to strengthen cooperation, enhance mutual understanding, and present an accurate and realistic portrayal of current affairs.

# ‘Kuwait Declaration anti-terror blueprint’

Cooperation needed to face border security challenges

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya said on Tuesday endorsing “Kuwait Declaration” on border security and management during the international conference on “strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation” is a guideline document of anti-terror effort and building potential in this regard.**

Al-Yahya made the statement during a joint news conference with his Tajikistan counterpart Sirodjidin Mukhriddin, and UN Under-Secretary General for Counter Terrorism, UN-OCT, Vladimir Voronkov, at the end of the High-Level International Conference on “Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms -- The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process”, held in Kuwait on November 4-5 under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

### Platform

The conference was a pivotal platform for boosting international and regional cooperation on border security in combating terror, he said. It was an opportunity to share expertise and lessons, and discuss means of facing threats and bolstering international and regional collaboration in combating terror, he added.

Hosting the event was based on Kuwait’s keenness on its international and regional role in combating terror and its funding, and backing regional and UN efforts to eradicate this scourge, which has posed a threat to international and regional security, he stated.

Spreading terror and ideological extremism featured high on the talks, he said, stressing the need of supporting international efforts to combat terrorist groups and all factors of fueling extremist though.

The conferees agreed on the importance of unifying efforts in order to reach desired goals, and achieve security and stability of the region and world’s security, Kuwait’s top diplomat said.

There is a need for intensive international and regional efforts to counter terrorism in all its forms, the minister said.

He pointed to the need of continued collective efforts in countering terrorism and its criminal groups as well as facing extremist thought that run counter to religion, and all religious, moral and humanitarian values.

He expressed Kuwait’s appreciation to all representatives of friendly and sisterly countries participated in the conference.

Meanwhile, Tajikistan’s minister said the ‘Dushanbe Process’ is imperative in terms of its expansion beyond to Central Asia.

The conferees discussed over two days the issues related to borders’ security in the context of countering terror and other world challenges, he noted.

Tajikistan is paying special attention to boost and develop international cooperation, and launch permanently initiatives aiming to taking common measures, he said, thanking His Highness the Amir for hosting this key conference.

In addition, Voronkov said ‘Kuwait’s Dushanbe Process’ shows new means of cooperation and partnership among the regions of Central Asia, the Arab League, Africa and ASEAN.

“Kuwait Declaration”, issued at the end of the conference on “strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation” on Tuesday, stressed the necessity of boosting collaboration on all levels to overcome border security challenges.

The participants of the High-Level Conference on “Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms - The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process”, was held in Kuwait on 4-5 November under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process” Kuwait City, Kuwait, 4-5 November 2024, acknowledged the evolving global security landscape and the need to enhance and align collaborative efforts among the countries of our diverse regions and other international partners.

“We express our support for the relevant principles and actions outlined in the United Nations Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1), as adopted by the General Assembly on 22 September 2024, which aims to protect the needs and interests of present and future generations, including addressing the drivers of terrorism, and we reaffirm to pursue a future free from terrorism,” according to the declaration.

They underscored the critical role of multilateralism in addressing the global threat of terrorism and enhancing border security. No single country can address terrorism by itself. Multilateral cooperation enables coordinated and unified actions, ensuring that international, regional, and local stakeholders can share intelligence, best practices, expertise, and resources to effectively counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

They expressed support to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, a framework between the Secretary-General and the heads of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities.

They encourage UNOCT to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, particularly its Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism, with a view to maximizing synergies, achieving greater efficiencies, and avoiding duplication in their work, according to the statement.

They emphasized the need to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism activities, underlining the importance of strengthening counter-terrorism efforts undertaken by United Nations entities, and encourage the UNOCT to continue its collaboration with Member States and those entities,” it noted.

The conferees underscored the importance of strengthening international, regional, and national border security mechanisms to prevent the movement of terrorists, foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), the and regional and sub-regional coordination

They also underscored the need to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit use and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, conventional munitions, and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials by terrorists, including their diversion to unauthorized recipients.

### Participants

The participants emphasized the critical role of the UNOCT-UNCCT Global Programme on Border Security and Management (BSM), which provides technical expertise to Member States and regional bodies in developing comprehensive border security strategies that integrate counter-terrorism measures and equip beneficiaries to tackle challenges and emerging threats at their borders.

The High-Level Conference on “Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms - The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process”, was held in Kuwait on 4-5 November under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

## UN official appreciates Kuwait for hosting anti-terror confab

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): UN Undersecretary General for Counter-terrorism Office Vladimir Voronkov expressed on Tuesday appreciation to Kuwait for hosting the High-Level Conference on “Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms - The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process”.



Voronkov

In an interview with KUNA and the Kuwait TV News Channel, Voronkov said: “It was a big, big positive feeling that a big number of member states decided to participate in this conference. The invitation was sent to 115 countries. Some 92 of them decided to participate.”

He noted that “it’s absolutely the evidence that counter-terrorism is still a very high priority in every national agenda. And it means that, unfortunately, the threat of terrorism is still high.”

Voronkov said that the member states of the United Nations “are looking for the better action, more united efforts with regard to countering terrorism”.

He pointed out that the conference is very timely and it is designed to have a substantive answer on difficult questions, adding that the discussions were very intensive and result-oriented and the outcome is absolutely obvious.

“We have a new declaration on Dushanbe process Kuwait phase, and this declaration is a composition of a very practical engagement to be taken together with the State of Kuwait in the next period of time,” Voronkov said.

One of the tasks of the conference in New York will be to understand how fast “we are moving forward in implementation of our efforts” in more effective countering of terrorism, he elaborated.

“These are numbers, which prove that we are on the right track, that we are working together with member states. We are listening to member states and we’re trying to accommodate our agenda to the demands and needs of member states.

“Our hectic world, our very dramatic development in many parts of the world created not a very good atmosphere for international relations and international politics,” Voronkov exclaimed. “But speaking about counter-terrorism, I can assure you, you saw that there is still a very strong will to cooperate.”



KUNA photo  
Commander of the 94th Brigade, Brigadier General Barrak Al-Farhan and the British Ambassador Belinda Lewis witnessed the event.

## Kuwait-UK joint military drill ‘Iron Shield 2’ sees conclusion

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Kuwait-UK joint military exercise, ‘Iron Shield 2-2024’, concluded, Wednesday, at the 94th Al-Saleh Al-Mohammad Mechanized Brigade, in the presence of the British Ambassador to Kuwait, Belinda Lewis, and Commander of the 94th Brigade, Brigadier General Barrak Al-Farhan.

In a statement, Ministry of Defense said that the exercise is part of the ongoing cooperation between the Kuwait and British forces.

It is one of the scheduled military drills between the Kuwaiti army and its friendly countries, aimed at enhancing joint training, command and control operations, unifying operational concepts, and exchanging expertise, in addition to boosting the combat readiness of both sides, the statement added.

According to the statement, Ambassador Belinda Lewis said, “As the United Kingdom celebrates the 125th

anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Kuwait; Iron Shield 2 serves as a demonstration of our unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of Kuwait. It also reinforces our intention to strengthen our defense ties, which have always been a cornerstone of our partnership.”

The exercise is of great importance as it provides an opportunity to test and improve readiness to counter the wide-ranging threats both nations face together, she added.

The United Kingdom looks forward to further deepening its military cooperation with Kuwait, she said.

For his part, Brigadier General Barrak Al-Farhan said, “This joint exercise reflects the strong relationship between Kuwait and the United Kingdom and enhances cooperation with British forces, contributing to the improvement of combat readiness for both sides.”

### ‘Lives of millions at stake’

## Kuwait wins UN praise for sustainable development

CAIRO, Nov 6, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Mishari discussed on Tuesday with Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Anaclaudia Rossbach, urbanization issues.

This took place during a meeting between Minister Al-Mishari and Rossbach while he was participating in the 12th World Urban Forum held in Cairo. Minister Al-Mishari reviewed Kuwait’s efforts in supporting countries and achieving sustainable development goals, pointing out that Kuwait supports the main objective of the UN-Habitat programme in promoting social development and sustainable environmental practices in cities and communities.

For her part, Rossbach praised Kuwait’s efforts in its pursuit of development goals, especially in urban development and housing provision, stressing the importance of focusing efforts on areas such as development, reconstruction, and building.

At the end of the meeting, Minister Al-Mishari presented the UN official with a commemorative plaque in appreciation and recognition of her constructive role in development and urban issues.

The World Urban Forum, organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Program (Habitat), offered opportunities to exchange experiences and best practices on urban development issues and methods to improve the lives of millions of people.

The exhibition, which accompanied the 12th edition of the World Urban Forum (WUF12), reflected the interest of national and local governments, private companies, non-governmental organizations and academics to display pioneering projects, innovations and new technologies in the fields of architecture and urban development.

The exhibition area, held at the Egypt International Exhibition Center in Cairo, was about 20 thousand square meters, and included 136 pavilions for countries and international and local organizations participating in the Urban Forum.

The exhibition would provide an opportunity for visitors to learn about the latest housing solutions, urban planning and smart technology applications in cities, in addition to introducing models of successful projects in the fields of renewable energy and sustainable transportation.



Al-Mishari

## KEPS laments negative impacts of Israel-Gaza conflict on environment

**By Najeh Bilal**  
**Al-Seyassah/Arab Times**  
**Staff**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Head of the Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) Dr. Wajdan Al-Aqab expressed sorrow over the ongoing suffering of the people of Gaza, as more than 43,000 people have died and over 130,000 others have been injured so far in this conflict, which has turned Gaza into a model of destruction of houses, environment, and nature.

During her speech at an event held yesterday at the Four Seasons Hotel to mark the International Day for Preventing the Use of the Environment in War and Armed Conflicts under the slogan “The Impact of Weapons, Projectiles, and Explosives on the Environment” by KEPS under the patronage of the CEO of Kuwait Oil Company Ahmed Al-Eidan, Dr. Al-Aqab affirmed that all this devastation is the result of excessive use of force against people, nature, infrastructure, and the environment.

She referred to international reports from 2023, which documented that 97 countries are involved in around 56 conflicts and wars, costing the global economy an estimated \$19 trillion last year.

Dr. Al-Aqab highlighted the alarming rise in the number of refugees and displaced persons, which poses a growing and dangerous threat.

She indicated that the Arab world, in particular, is the most affected by wars and conflicts, which have created complex environmental issues that will impact generations to come.

Meanwhile, the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Resident Coordinator for the United Nations in Kuwait Dr. Ghada Hatem

Al-Taher said, “Preserving the environment in the face of wars and armed conflicts is a top priority for the United Nations worldwide, particularly in Kuwait.

Our focus is on the environment, peace, and security, all of which are essential for achieving the goals of sustainable development and the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

The world has witnessed the long-term and devastating effects of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. These weapons have had a catastrophic impact on people, crops, and nature. We have seen how once-thriving green spaces and cities have been reduced to ruins due to the irresponsible use of internationally banned weapons.”



Dr. Al-Aqab



Dr. Al-Taher

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

# Corruption days over, Kuwait on way to its rightful owners

“SINCE the climate crisis emerged in 1982, unknown groups began to infiltrate the Kuwaiti society. Over the years, their numbers grew, and remarkably, many of them gained Kuwaiti nationality,” columnist, constitutional expert **Dr Mohammad Al-Moqatei** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“These individuals, with backgrounds ranging from Iranian, Syrian, Iraqi, Saudi, to Pakistani origins, can be easily distinguished by their dialects, behaviors, and even their clothing.



Dr. Al-Moqatei

“Their presence was initially subtle, but over time, they became more prominent, assuming high-ranking and even sensitive government positions, sometimes even gaining membership in the National Assembly and the Municipal Council.

“What is most concerning is their ability to exert influence on state institutions and decision-making circles. Some of them have audaciously seized public funds, using any means necessary, including bribery, blackmail, and fraud.

“This has opened doors for thousands to infiltrate society -- be it through employment, residency, or even falsifying marriages to gain citizenship or siphon off national wealth. Names have been changed, false identities assumed, and individuals added to citizenship files through deceitful tactics and financial exchanges.

“This phenomenon of political naturalization, once a limited and exclusive process for certain members of the ruling family, has expanded into the hands of politicians, influential figures, and those in charge of citizenship-related institutions. Since Kuwait’s liberation, this practice has not only persisted but flourished, becoming the new norm.

“The numbers are staggering: from 1994 to 2024, nearly 968,000 individuals were granted Kuwaiti citizenship, doubling the number of Kuwaitis from 1992.

“Statistically, the natural growth of the Kuwaiti population should not have exceeded 389,000 during this period, suggesting that at least 579,000 individuals infiltrated citizenship illegally. If we also consider those who gained citizenship illegally before 1990, that figure rises to 830,643 individuals, a worrying development indeed.

“These methods of infiltration have evolved, with new, creative techniques emerging that continue to shock those investigating them.

“However, there is hope: His Highness Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad, the leader and “captain” of Kuwait, has made purifying this file a top priority. Under His Highness’s direct supervision, efforts are underway to cleanse Kuwait of those who have fraudulently obtained citizenship.

“His commitment to revoke the citizenship of undeserving individuals, including forgers and infiltrators, aims to restore Kuwait to its rightful citizens.

“Indeed, many of those who have represented Kuwait in the National Assembly and the Municipal Council, as well as those in leadership positions, were in fact infiltrators.

“They have unfairly taken jobs, scholarships, and other state benefits that should have gone to deserving Kuwaitis. Thanks to the swift actions of the government, guided by the Amir’s directives, Kuwait is on its way to being returned to its rightful people after nearly four decades of manipulation and corruption.”

## Also:

“The global movement towards progress, striving to elevate societies to a better life, is one of the key benefits of establishing connections and intertwining relations with various nations around the world,” columnist **Dr Adel Rida** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

“Among them, the Republic of Cuba has undoubtedly been a cornerstone of Kuwait’s diplomacy in engaging with the “South American” region.

“Cuba holds significant popularity across many countries and is well known for its continuous humanitarian efforts, such as sending medical teams to nations in need, and its commitment to the cultural principle of ‘justice’, working to alleviate oppression and support nations in their balanced development.

“Cuba has a long history of ‘friendship’ with Kuwait, marked by diplomatic and economic cooperation spanning over 50 years.

“These relations are also based on fundamental principles, with Kuwait consistently standing with Cuba and voting annually against the economic blockade imposed on the island.

“The United Nations General Assembly has consistently adopted resolutions calling for the lifting of the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed on Cuba.

“Cuba’s experience in achieving ‘true’ independence from foreign exploitation serves as a model of development across various sectors, particularly in building a ‘comprehensive’ welfare state that prioritizes the well-being of its citizens.

“The country has achieved remarkable successes in healthcare, especially in disease prevention, boasting one of the world’s most effective health systems.

“Cuba provides comprehensive, ‘free’ healthcare to all citizens, dis-

tributing doctors and nurses equitably across both rural and urban areas based on population size.

“This system emphasizes disease prevention, particularly chronic and infectious diseases, and public health education, in addition to immediate care and treatment, ensuring high levels of health equity.

“Cuba’s advancements extend to biotechnology, particularly in the production of therapeutic medicines and vaccines.

“The country achieved self-sufficiency in these fields, producing its own vaccines against the COVID-19 pandemic and generously offering them to countries in need without seeking financial gain. Cuban medical teams have also traveled globally to offer their expertise wherever it is required.

“In such a context, we hope to further develop Kuwait-Cuba relations, particularly in establishing direct flight routes between the two countries.

“We also aim to benefit from Cuba’s expertise in public health, disease prevention, and early intervention, which could significantly reduce costs for Kuwait’s public healthcare system.

“Additionally, we look forward to organizing special visits for Kuwaiti economists to explore trade cooperation, the exchange of goods, and coordinating efforts for Kuwait’s potential inclusion in the BRICS group, which recently welcomed the UAE and Bahrain.

“We must also recognize the role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in financing joint projects between the two nations, promoting the creation of Cuban-Kuwaiti joint ventures.

“These partnerships could pave the way for Kuwait to enter the South American market, particularly in sectors such as oil, gas, agriculture, and tourism, through the beautiful gateway of Cuba.”

□ □ □

“In a press statement, the Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said, “The reconstruction of southern Lebanon will cost 15 billion dollars”. We are unsure how he arrived at the exact figure, as the number seems exaggerated and astronomical. Nevertheless, he plans to tour the Gulf countries to raise this amount of 15 billion dollars, even though it is certain that not all of it will go toward the reconstruction of south Lebanon,” columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Speaker Nabih Berri, in an effort to provide reassurance, confirmed that he will form and personally head a committee to ensure transparency and honesty. This committee will be responsible for overseeing the spending on the reconstruction of southern Lebanon, all at the expense of the Gulf countries!

“Once the travel arrangements are made, Speaker Berri will board the plane and return with the 15 billion, preferably in cash!

“The strange thing is that those who had yesterday loudly applauded the speech of the deceased and spoke out boldly about the shedding of Saudi blood without fear or shame are today demanding the “shedding” of Saudi money, and by extension, Gulf money, in the name of rebuilding their homes!

“What they conveniently forget is that we have seen nothing good from them. They flooded our country with all types of drugs that they cultivate. They smuggle them into all Gulf countries without exception, with the intent to destroy our youth and fund their extremist, sectarian ideology, which we had never encountered before. They also worked on recruiting vulnerable individuals in the name of the doctrine against us, and convincing them to stockpile weapons, as we saw with the “Abdali Cell”. The members of that cell themselves admitted they were trained in southern Lebanon under the supervision of Hezbollah with the aim of becoming a thorn in our side and targeting our regimes.

“Thankfully, our rule has spared us from their evil, and their plans failed. Our countries continue to enjoy stability, thanks to God Almighty.

“Today, all Gulf countries are required to pay the price of the weapons that Israel either destroyed or seized. Those weapons that were stockpiled underground were intended to be fired at us, not at Israel!

“Will our governments ask Speaker Berri where the billions collected in the “good loan” fund are? The assets of this fund reached hundreds of billions, and were sourced from donations, Khums and Zakat funds, the looting of Syria, and Iranian support. That money alone is more than enough to rebuild southern Lebanon, unless the real goal is to rebuild the “Hezbollah” army.

“I do not rule out that the Gulf countries, especially the State of Kuwait, will end up paying this exaggerated bill. This is something we sincerely hope does not happen. We are far more deserving of our own money to rebuild our country, and it is wrong to take the bread from our mouths to give it to others, especially when it is just cold and refrigerated!

“Let all the Gulf countries ask themselves: Where did the aid provided in the past go, including the enormous sums that Saudi Arabia paid to arm the Lebanese army?

“Our suggestion is that the president return as he came, because a believer is not bitten from the same hole twice. Enough said.”

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes / Mahmoud Attiyeh

# 74 street vendors in Capital get citations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Public Relations Department of the Kuwait Municipality reported that recent inspections by the General Cleanliness and Road Occupancy Department in the Capital Governorate branch led to the issuance of 74 street vendor violations, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

This is in addition to the issuance of 37 warnings and pledges of rectifying the situation received by the Municipality.

Also 48 licenses were processed and 271 vehicles were released from seizure as part of the operation.

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**Ban on chemical import:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued a ministerial resolution banning the import, sale, purchase and trade of all materials containing Isobutyl Nitrite (Propyl Poppers) -- all types, derivatives and products, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The resolution issued by Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajil is based on Import Law No. 43/1964 and the letter of the Interior Ministry undersecretary dated Sept 16, 2024 regarding Isobutyl Nitrite, which is used in many industries.

It is worth noting that Isobutanol is a mixture of alcoholic substances produced from the corruption of organic materials. Isobutanol alcohol is the basic material for the production of Isobutyl acetate. It is believed that consuming Isobutanol weakens the central nervous system.

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**Cafe put up in public place:** The Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality announced that the inspection team from the Farwaniya Governorate Municipality branch has carried out an order to close a café for violating regulations, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The café was found to be illegally using a public square next to a mosque in the Khaitan area. The closure follows the municipality’s efforts to ensure compliance with local regulations and maintain the proper use of public spaces.



Sewage water on one of the broken roads in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.



Undersecretary of the Kuwait National Guard Lt Gen Hashem Al-Rifai presents a memento to the Chief of the Qatari delegation.

## Al-Rifai hosts Qatar military team

Undersecretary of the National Guard, Lieutenant General Hashim Al-Rifai, welcomed a military delegation from Qatar’s Joaan bin Jassim Academy for Defense Studies. The delegation was led by Major General Fahd bin Mubarak Al-Khayarin, with the Assistant for Operations and Training, Major General Dr. Faleh Shujaa, also in attendance, according to **Al-Seyassah** daily.

During the meeting, Al-Rifai extended greetings on behalf of Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf, Deputy Chief of the National Guard, and emphasized the significance of such visits for enhancing expertise exchange and fostering cooperation between the National Guard and military academies in allied nations.



KFF photo

A lone fireman is seen tackling the blaze.

## 1 hurt in gas blast

# Huge material loss as fire guts many shops

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Fire engulfed a number of shops in Shuwaikh Industrial Area on Tuesday evening, resulting in huge material loss but no casualties.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), when the Control Room of KFF received information about several shops on fire in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, firefighting teams rushed to the location and successfully controlled the fire within a short time.

Investigations have been launched to determine the cause of the fire.

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**One hurt in blast:** Fire engulfed the kitchen of an apartment in Rigga due to the explosion of an LPG gas cylinder, resulting in injuries to an individual.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), when the Control Room of KFF received information on Tuesday evening about an apartment on fire in Rigga, firefighters rushed to the location, and extinguished the fire before it spread further. The injured victim was referred to the nearest hospital for treatment. Investigations have been launched about the incident.



KUNA photo

Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, during his sponsorship and attendance at the ‘Kazma Drill 9’.

# Military drill ‘Kazma 9’ concludes

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Under the patronage and attendance the Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Army Major General Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the “Kazma nine” military drill of the Logistic and Supply Authority concluded, Wednesday.

The drill director Brigadier General Khaled Al-Adwani explained to the Deputy Chief the objectives and activities of this drill, as well as the need for integrated coordination between different operation centers, General Staff said in a press statement.

Deputy Chief Al-Sabah toured the opera-

tion center and other facilities where he observed how each unit work during the drill, the statement added.

Deputy Chief Al-Sabah extended his thanks to all participants, stressing the importance of such drills in maintaining high readiness, as well as emphasized the need for further training and readiness for developments.

“Kazma nine” drill is part of a series of exercises conducted by the authority aiming to improve the skills of military personnel to train them on facing crises and dealing with emergencies.

# Jleeb hell-hole gets noticed at long last

## Twisted road to implementation

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Chairperson of the Technical Committee in the Municipal Council Munira Jassim Al-Amir said the committee discussed a number of items in its agenda, most notably the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh file, in its 11th meeting for the third term on Tuesday.**

Representatives of government agencies in charge of this issue -- Kuwait Municipality, Environment Public Authority (EPA), and the ministries of Finance, Public Works and Interior -- attended the meeting.

Besides reviewing the suggestions of the committee members and responding to their questions, the discussion centered on the agencies’ proposals as per their capacity to address the issue from every angle. Positive aspects of this meeting included the diversity and thoroughness of proposals covering all relevant topics.

In a press statement after the meeting, Al-Amir disclosed that the committee’s current tasks include working with the concerned authorities, refining and monitoring the proposed concepts and putting them in the approved form for submission to the council, which will then forward them to the Kuwait Municipality’s executive body to finalize the implementation plans, while taking into consideration all the issues raised.

“Given that the committee’s action

is the first step, the Municipality must directly order the implementation of higher directives to resolve the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh issue through official channels. This can be achieved by considering all of the points raised and recommended by the concerned authorities to guarantee the creation of integrated plans upon implementation, and by providing other authorities the chance to operate without barriers or administrative meddling,” Al-Amir explained.

In her closing remarks, Al-Amir emphasized that “the current work methods of the council and the Municipality are characterized by a more distant vision, because they avoid areas where coordination with other agencies is lacking. They also ensure and monitor the council’s outputs -- a journey that already started and will be solidified by bolstering the mechanisms of cooperation between the two parties in order to achieve the desired results.”

Moreover, the committee referred to the executive body the proposal it received from a citizen through the Tawassul platform to allocate areas for parking caravans, similar to other Gulf countries, in order to conduct a detailed study on it.

The committee also suggested sending the request of some council members about the issues in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh to the executive body for coordination with the Municipality’s Structural Plan Department and other government agencies like the ministries of Finance, Public Works, Interior, Electricity, Water, Renewable Energy and Justice (Real Estate Registration Department), as well as the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) and Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI).

This will allow them to prepare a comprehensive vision to find solutions to the problems in the area and determine future uses in line with its unique location in the urban district.



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# MoE rolls out question bank to elevate student readiness

Ministry aiming for academic excellence

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: In preparation for the first semester exams of the 2024-2025 academic year, the Ministry of Education has initiated steps to support students through a comprehensive “question bank” for all academic stages.

Huda Al-Mutairi, Director of the Information Systems Department, urged the Assistant Undersecretary



Al-Mutairi

copy of which has been obtained by Al-Seyassah. Al-Mutairi emphasized the importance of utilizing the ques-

tion bank, particularly for middle and secondary students, to draw from materials and questions available in the Ministry's electronic library.

This initiative, she said, aims to help students in understanding academic content by offering multiple models and types of questions to enhance their learning experience.

Al-Mutairi highlighted that this effort is part of the Ministry's broader strategy to elevate students' academic performance and better prepare them for exams, underscoring a commitment to providing effective educational tools and resources.



Leaders from all six governorates convene in Farwaniya.

## Governors push for project acceleration

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah hosted a coordination meeting at his office in Farwaniya Governorate.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the meeting was attended by Hawally Governor Ali Salem Al-Asfar, Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem

Al-Sabah, Jahra Governor Hamad Jassem Mohammad Al-Habashi, Ahmad Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Director General of the General Department of Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Interior Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

The discussions during the meeting were focused on a range of issues related to the administration of Kuwait's governorates, with an em-

phasis on ongoing projects in all six governorates.

The participants discussed strategies to ensure the successful completion of these projects in order to serve the public interest and improve services in Kuwait's areas.

They stressed on the need to enhance cooperation among the governorates to expedite the execution of projects, in order to achieve comprehensive development throughout the country.

### Traditional crafts, cuisine take center stage

## Kuwait showcases rich heritage at UNESCO's first Arab Week in Paris

PARIS, Nov 6, (KUNA): The first Arab Week at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris marks close cooperation between the Arab world and the UN body, said the Kuwaiti Embassy in France on Tuesday.

This Arab cultural event, held under the auspices of Saudi Arabia, reflects Arab heritage and tradition and shows Arab countries' cultural and human potential, the embassy said in a press release.

Kuwait's participation in the first-of-its-kind Arab Week at the UNESCO is primarily meant to highlight rich Arab cultural diversity through literature and arts, it added.

Kuwait partook in a pavilion showcasing handicrafts, traditional costumes and traditional dishes, along with a debate on nonmaterial cultural heritage, the embassy pointed out.



KUNA photo

Kuwait participates in a pavilion displaying handicrafts, traditional costumes and authentic Kuwaiti dishes.

## Hawally Governor calls for collective effort on rationalizing resource use

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Hawally Governor Ali Al-Asfar affirmed the importance of rationalizing electricity and water consumption, highlighting that it is a collective responsibility that requires everyone's cooperation, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He said, "Water and electricity are national wealth that must be preserved for future generations by adopting simple practices in our daily lives to achieve a sustainable environment and ensure the availability of these vital resources."

During an open meeting organized by Hawally Governorate under his patronage in collaboration with the Hafeedh Team from the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Al-Asfar stated



Al-Seyassah photo

Hawally Governor Ali Al-Asfar during an open meeting .

that raising awareness about the importance of consumption rationalization should extend beyond individuals

to include institutions and companies.

He called for organizing awareness events and workshops aimed at promoting a responsible consumer culture within society.

Al-Asfar stressed that rationalizing consumption is not just an economic necessity but a national duty that helps protect the environment and ensures the sustainability of resources for future generations through cooperation and commitment.

A number of ministry leaders and citizens participated in the discussions, which centered on educating the public about the importance of rationalization and providing tips on how to reduce energy consumption in daily life.

### Other Voices

## Queries on safety of 'biometrics'

By Ahmad alsarraf

In response to my previous article on the necessity of accepting fingerprint procedures, a reader shared the following concerns:

"I personally am not afraid of biometric fingerprinting itself. My worry centers on the potential for misuse in the future. As I mentioned, these systems rely on facial physiology, but there's no guarantee that, someday, someone won't devise a fake face that mimics anyone's dimensions using micromechanics.

"I'm also wary of the procedures and locations used to store this sensitive personal information, as well as the measures to protect it from external breaches or misuse. Who is overseeing this data, and with what authority? What legal guidelines ensure its confidentiality and prevent unauthorized access?"

"The reader also pointed out that in some countries, companies are authorized to collect and store users' fingerprints on their own servers. But can these companies be trusted with such sensitive data?"

Additionally, he raised a critical gap in legislation, noting the lack of regulations that require both public and private sectors to follow specific protocols for storing, retrieving, and handling personal data — whether fingerprints, medical records, employment files, or civil information.

For example, what consequences would a private-sector doctor face if they leaked a patient's record, revealing a psychological condition that could impact employment opportunities?

Ultimately, the reader concluded that while most people may act with good intentions, there seems to be limited recognition of the importance of safeguarding personal information.

For various cultural and educational

reasons, these issues don't receive widespread attention. Sadly, it's often all too easy to access and expose someone's medical file, which could irreparably harm their life without justification.

The reader's questions are indeed valid, and they highlight an important need for legislation that protects personal data stored by various entities and prevents unauthorized access.

The hacking incidents targeting government servers — including civil information databases — underscore these concerns.

For example, hacks have led to changes in residential addresses, resulting in identity cards reflecting false addresses, which has impacted election results and other critical matters.

Given these incidents, it's understandable why many feel uneasy about the security of their personal information and question whether it is genuinely protected by state agencies, accessible only to highly authorized personnel. This issue clearly requires urgent attention.

However, we must also consider the reality of the world we live in -- a world fraught with threats and challenges. Complete privacy is no longer feasible; it is often unavoidable to share personal information with entities like hospitals or embassies.

While this necessity exists, it should not detract from our continuous and firm demands that relevant authorities, including the civil information office and Ministry of Health, adopt the highest standards in data protection to prevent misuse of personal information. Balancing security needs with data privacy will be essential in moving forward.

**Note:** Former MP Al-Muwaizri appeared in a recorded tape, in which he tried to defend his weak position on the biometric fingerprint. He should have been objective and reduce the statements that reveal the shallowness of many things he has!

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## Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor honors Al-Jalal

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Sheikh Sabah Bader Al-Salem, Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate, hosted a ceremony to honor retired Major General Ibrahim Saud Al-Jalal in recognition of his dedicated service upon his retirement, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event was attended by prominent officials, including the Director of Public Security and the Directors of the Traffic, Rescue and Fire departments.

This gathering highlighted Al-Jalal's long-standing contributions to public safety and his commitment to the community, with distinguished guests expressing their appreciation for his years of service.



Al-Seyassah photo

Retired Major General Ibrahim Saud Al-Jalal honored for his dedicated service.

## Kuwait’s HH Amir congratulates Moldovan Prez for second term

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday sent a congratulatory cable to President of Moldova Maia Sandu on her re-election for second presidency term.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished Sandu success and long lasting health, and Moldova further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Wednesday

sent a congratulatory cable to President of Moldova Maia Sandu on her re-election for second presidency term.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished Sandu success and long lasting health, and Moldova further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Wednesday sent a congratulatory cable to President of Moldova Maia Sandu on her re-election for second presidency term.

# Kuwait applies to join 2016 Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol

Step forward in curbing climate-warming HFCs

**NEW YORK, Nov 6, (KUNA): The Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations tabled the instrument of joining the 2016 Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Office of UN**

**Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.**

The move is a formal measure under the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, providing that UN Secretary-General is the depository of the Convention, Kuwait mission noted in a statement to KUNA on Tuesday evening.

It signals a step forward by the State of Kuwait

towards reducing the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), according to the statement.

Under the Kigali Amendment, actions to limit the use of HFCs are expected to prevent the emissions of up to 105 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gases, helping to avoid up to 0.5 degree Celsius of global temperature rise by 2100.

## Legacy of resilience and recovery

# Kuwait marks 33 years since Iraqi-torched oil well extinguished

By Reem Al-Deraawy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Kuwait marked on Wednesday some 33 years since the last oil well set ablaze by Iraqi forces was put out, after the complete withdrawal of the invaders who were overwhelmed by the US-led international coalition in February of 1991.

The highly emblematic event back in 1991 is commemorated in Kuwait each year given its sheer significance in the nation’s history, as the country was ultimately liberated from a large-scale invasion by its larger neighbor, with Iraqi forces setting fire to 737 oil wells, while 54 others were completely destroyed, triggering an environmental calamity.

In addition to the raging fires, which in and of itself induced an environmental impact, the blaze resulted in an oil spill of mammoth proportions, in which some 23 million barrels were wasted in a loss worth USD 120 million per day.

The damage sustained by Kuwaiti oil facilities, which required endless time and effort to repair, proved detrimental to the global economy, which slipped into recession for nearly seven months in the aftermath of the destruction.

After Kuwait’s liberation, state bodies leapt into ac-



KPC team members were tasked with extinguishing the burning oil wells.

KUNA photo

tion to assess the scope of the damage, putting together short and long-term solutions that centered on immediate efforts to put out the blazing oil wells, simultaneously re-supplying a starving global oil market with much needed Kuwaiti crude.

Reconstruction efforts that stretched through day and night hours, were not a national endeavor alone, rather, Kuwait partnered with global bodies with vast knowledge on the matter in a bid to restore proper conditions to the damaged oil facilities.

The daunting task, as explained by state-run Kuwait Oil Company’s (KPC) soil rehabilitation department chief Sami Al-Yaqout, conventionally requires at least five years to complete, while it was done in eight months thanks to the strenuous efforts of the Kuwaiti national workforce and their international partners.

In September of 1991, KPC formed a team tasked with extinguishing the burning wells, who despite limited resources and a lack of expertise, managed to get it done in an effort praised by senior firefighter back then Ishaq Al-Qaed.

Upon putting out the last blazing oil well, Kuwait organized a lavish ceremony to mark the occasion, attended by the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, an event that will forever live in the annals of the nation’s history.

## From the

Continued from Page 1

prospects for lasting peace in the Middle East.

The damage caused by Democratic administrations is perhaps best illustrated in the memoirs of Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and Bill Clinton.

If this is the state of the Middle East during the eras of Obama and Biden, the United States itself was not spared from economic and social devastation. In addition, these administrations inadvertently fueled the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which escalated to the point of threatening global peace, particularly when the rhetoric around a potential Third World War and the use of nuclear weapons intensified.

In this context and in all honesty, the Arab world and the Middle East were delighted with the victory of President Donald Trump for a second term.

The current occupant of the White House realizes today that there is no lasting solution for the region except by curbing the influence of certain evil nations without resorting to war, as well as returning to a firm, strategic policy - one that avoids bloodshed and destruction, but is rooted in sound principles. This is a vision that Arab countries, especially the Gulf states, have long hoped for.

There is no doubt that everyone in the region longs to see the America of George Washington, James Madison, John Adams, Abraham Lincoln, and Dwight Eisenhower. These are leaders who helped build this great nation, which is known for its unwavering commitment to freedom and democracy.

Welcome to the leader of the “new-old” White House, from whom the Middle East hopes for the restoration of strong relations and tireless efforts to bring peace to the region.

## Trump triumphs

Continued from Page 1

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent, Wednesday, a cable to the US President-elect, Donald Trump, congratulating him on the trust placed upon him by the American people, electing him president.

High Highness the Prime Minister also congratulated Vice-President-elect James Vance.

Donald Trump was elected the 47th president of the United States on Wednesday, an extraordinary comeback for a former president who refused to accept defeat four years ago, sparked a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, was convicted of felony charges and survived two assassination attempts.

With a win in Wisconsin, Trump cleared the 270 electoral votes needed to clinch the presidency.

The victory validates his bare-knuckle approach to politics. He attacked his Democratic rival, Kamala Harris, in deeply personal - often misogynistic and racist - terms as he pushed an apocalyptic picture of a country overrun by violent migrants. The coarse rhetoric, paired with an image of hypermasculinity, resonated with angry voters - particularly men - in a deeply polarized nation.

“I want to thank the American people for the extraordinary honor of being elected your 47th president and your 45th president.” Trump told throngs of cheering supporters in Florida even before his victory was confirmed.

In state after state, Trump outper-

formed what he did in the 2020 election while Harris failed to do as well as Joe Biden did in winning the presidency four years ago. Upon taking office again, Trump also will work with a Senate that will now be in Republican hands, while control of the House hadn’t been determined.

“We’ve been through so much together, and today you showed up in record numbers to deliver a victory,” Trump said. “This was something special and we’re going to pay you back,” he said.

In his second term, Trump has vowed to pursue an agenda centered on dramatically reshaping the federal government and pursuing retribution against his perceived enemies.

The results cap a historically tumultuous and competitive election season that included two assassination attempts targeting Trump and a shift to a new Democratic nominee just a month before the party’s convention. Trump will inherit a range of challenges when he assumes office on Jan. 20, including heightened political polarization and global crises that are testing America’s influence abroad.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte congratulated Trump, saying - likely more in hope than in certainty - that “I look forward to working with him again to advance peace through strength through NATO” in the face of “a growing number of challenges globally,” including “the increasing alignment of China, Russia, North Korea and Iran.”

No congratulations were forthcoming from Moscow, where President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, declared that Russia-U.S. relations were at the “lowest point in history.”

European leaders rushed to congratulate Trump even before his victory was officially declared - some more effusively than others.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer called it a “historic election victory” and said that “as the closest of allies, the U.K. and U.S. will continue to work together to protect our shared values of freedom and democracy.”

Like governments of U.S. allies around the world, Starmer’s center-left administration has worked hard to forge ties with Trump and his team. Starmer had dinner with Trump at Trump Tower in September.

France’s centrist President Emmanuel Macron offered congratulations, “respect and ambition.” Social democratic German Chancellor Olaf Scholz congratulated Trump and said he wanted continued close ties, even if “surely many things will be different under a Donald Trump-led administration.”

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, whose far right-led government is in some ways close to Trump politically, said Italy and the U.S. had a “strategic bond, which I am sure we will now strengthen even more.”

European leaders are keen to stress that the trans-Atlantic relationship transcends individual politicians, but Trump’s protectionist economic leanings are causing concern. During his last term he slapped tariffs on European steel and aluminum, roiling the bloc’s economy.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stressed that the EU and the U.S. “are bound by a true partnership between our people, uniting 800 million citizens. Let us work together on a transatlantic partnership that continues to deliver for our citizens.”

Europe’s populist politicians, meanwhile, welcomed the victory of a politician they consider a kindred spirit.

“They threatened him with prison, they took his property, they wanted to kill him ... and he still won,” said

Hungary’s nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

On Thursday, Orbán, will hold a summit in Budapest for some 50 other European leaders - many of whom feel much more apprehensive about the impact of a second Trump presidency on Europe’s economy and security.

During his first term, Trump pushed to remake the Middle East by reconciling Israel and Saudi Arabia, and all eyes now are on how he intervenes in the region’s raging conflicts between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Trump’s election win “history’s greatest comeback.”

“Your historic return to the White House offers a new beginning for America and a powerful recommitment to the great alliance between Israel and America. This is a huge victory!” he wrote on social media.

Trump and Netanyahu - a fellow conservative nationalist -- had a tight relationship during the former president’s first term, but the ties soured when Netanyahu congratulated President Joe Biden for winning in 2020.

Netanyahu’s inner circle hopes Trump will allow Israel free rein against its enemies, but the president-elect is famously unpredictable, and the Israeli leader faces strong opposition at home. On Tuesday he fired popular Defense Minister Yoav Gallant amid divisions over the conduct of the war, a surprise announcement that sparked protests across the country.

Hamas issued a terse statement saying “our position on the new U.S. administration depends on its positions and practical behavior towards our Palestinian people, their legitimate rights and their just cause.”

Washington is one of the key mediators of so-far unsuccessful Gaza cease-fire talks and has publicly accused Hamas of turning down several deals. Hamas has denied this, instead blaming Israel for demanding last minute changes to the proposals.

There was no immediate reaction from the Chinese government to Trump’s victory, but analysts were pessimistic, citing the likelihood of escalating tariffs and an intensifying confrontation over Taiwan.

## Kuwait enacts

Continued from Page 1

Regulations for other Arab nationals: For non-GCC Arab citizens wishing to own property in Kuwait, several conditions must be met such as there must be a reciprocal agreement between Kuwait and the applicant’s home country regarding property ownership; the applicant must obtain approval from the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers; the property must be in a residential area designated for private housing.

This is in addition to the applicant must have lived in Kuwait for at least ten years; submit a clean legal and criminal record is required; the applicant must demonstrate the financial capacity to own the property; the property should not exceed 1,000 square meters and the applicant must not own another property in Kuwait.

If non-GCC and non-Kuwaiti heirs inherit property in Kuwait, they must sell the property within one year unless they obtain exceptional permission to retain it. This law ensures that property ownership remains in line with the regulatory framework and prevents non-citizens from holding real estate in the long term without legal exceptions.

When a Kuwaiti woman loses her citizenship, her real estate rights de-

pend on her new nationality; if the woman becomes a citizen of a GCC country, she retains her real estate rights and is treated as a Kuwaiti national for ownership purposes.

If the woman becomes a citizen of another Arab country, she is subject to the same conditions that apply to non-GCC Arabs (e.g., residency, approval from the Council of Ministers, and a clean legal record).

Meanwhile, the housing applications submitted by individuals who have had their Kuwaiti citizenship revoked will be cancelled and treated as if they never existed, reports Al-Seyasah daily quoting PAHW sources.

This decision follows the implementation of the provisions outlined in Article 1 of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) regulations, which specifies that the law applies to “the Kuwaiti family consisting of a Kuwaiti husband, his wife or wives, and their unmarried children.”

Moreover, Article 3 of the same regulations requires that the head of the family must hold Kuwaiti nationality in order to register a housing application.

Since individuals who have had their citizenship revoked no longer meet this essential condition for housing eligibility, their housing applications will be invalidated.

Regarding the process of handling these cases, the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice is responsible for organizing and managing such situations. The department is equipped with the necessary mechanisms to address these cases and ensure proper implementation of the legal requirements.

If the woman becomes a citizen of a non-Arab foreign country, she loses her entitlement to own property in Kuwait. If she inherited property, she must sell it within a year unless she has a child from the deceased, in which case she can keep the property under certain exemptions.

If the woman is stateless, Kuwaiti laws prohibit her from owning real estate. She must dispose of any property she owns, either by selling or relinquishing it, following the appropriate legal procedures.

These regulations reflect Kuwait’s effort to regulate real estate ownership by non-citizens, ensuring that ownership rights align with national interests and maintain the balance between legal requirements and diplomatic relations.

The rules seek to control the extent of foreign ownership while allowing for some flexibility under specific conditions, such as reciprocity and exceptional approvals, in an effort to safeguard Kuwait’s real estate market and legal framework.

The recent announcement by the Supreme Committee for Nationality Investigation, which revealed the withdrawal of Kuwaiti citizenship from 489 individuals, has led to significant discussions regarding the consequences of this decision.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice also issued a circular requiring notaries in real estate and family sectors to verify the civil IDs of service applicants using the “Sahel” or “My Identity” applications.

Real estate professionals have hailed the decisions as a positive move to stop individuals who obtained Kuwaiti citizenship fraudulently from benefiting from state resources such as residential homes.

Real estate experts emphasized that the authorities swiftly intervened when those whose nationalities were revoked attempted to sell or transfer their residential properties to relatives or others. The concerned authorities successfully halted such attempts to manipulate real estate ownership, in-

cluding residential, commercial, and investment properties.

Experts have also dismissed rumors about significant price reductions in residential properties linked to the withdrawal of nationalities, clarifying that real estate prices remain stable.

They cautioned against suspicious offers and advised potential buyers to verify sellers’ documentation with the Ministry of Justice’s Real Estate Registration Department before proceeding with any transactions.

Real estate analyst Ahmed Al-Ahmad highlighted the issue of forgers benefiting from state services, noting the importance of distinguishing between two groups: forgers who illegally attach themselves to Kuwaiti families and dual nationals holding foreign citizenships.

He supported the decision to prevent individuals whose citizenship was revoked from trading in real estate, emphasizing the importance of protecting state property.

Al-Ahmad also clarified that the withdrawal of citizenship has not impacted real estate prices but rather served to tighten control over fraudulent activities.

He called for a clear government plan to manage the seized properties and ensure transparency in how the government handles them. The decision, he argued, would ensure that properties are not manipulated by those who illegally obtained them, benefiting those who are genuinely entitled to these resources.

Additionally, the circular issued by the Ministry of Justice mandates the verification of the civil ID via the “Sahel” or “My Identity” applications for real estate transactions involving individuals whose nationalities have been revoked, ensuring tighter controls over property dealings in Kuwait.

## Cabinet okays

Continued from Page 1

State of Kuwait’s hosting of the important convention and its unwavering adherence to the multi-polar action constitute the basis for facing emerging challenges emanating from terrorism. He had stressed on the pivotal role undertaken by the UN program for combating terrorism and the UN Counter-Terrorism Center with respect of the borders security and management, considering that they provide the needed technical expertise for the member states and regional agencies for crafting full scale strategies for the borders security.

He had renewed the State of Kuwait’s commitment to the security data swap protocol of 2008, in line with its keenness on combating the cross-border terrorist and criminal groups in the un-demarcated marine frontier zones with Iraq, calling on Baghdad to resume abidance by the protocol.

Al-Mousheri added that the Cabinet lauded the Kuwait Declaration issued at the end of the Dushanbe process conference, hosted by Kuwait on Nov. 4-5 under His Highness the Amir’s sponsorship, where the conferees called for enhancing the cooperation at international and regional levels to face the border security challenges, affirming the necessity to adhere to the implementation of the UN strategy for combating terrorism and the future charter, in addition to the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the following principles and rules, stipulated by the international law and the UN charter, along with the other resolutions issued by the UNSG and the UN General Assembly.

The Cabinet called for adherence to boosting the multi-party, regional and bilateral cooperation to confront the threats emanating from terrorism and the organized crimes, in addition to pursuing enhancing the information swap to identify the terrorist networks and their funding, bar extremism that leads to violence and bolstering the capacities of the international security, judicial cooperation, the legal frameworks, updating the border security measures through the enlistment of the anti-terrorism factors in the national strategies.

The Cabinet reviewed outcome of the official visit to the country by President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emamoli Rahmon, his meetings with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

The ministers were apprised of the accords and MoUs that had been signed by the State of Kuwait with the Republic of Tajikistan during the president’s visit.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet examined outcome of the fifth Gulf conference for cyber security challenges, hosted by Kuwait on Tuesday, under sponsorship of the acting premier, where the conferees tackled cyber strategies, global hazards and threats.

The Cabinet also approved forming a board for the Public Institution for Social Security for a three-year mandate, chaired by the Minister of Finance. Members are the institution director general and representatives from the ministries of interior, defense, social affairs, the Civil Service Diwan, the Union of Kuwait Workers and experts.

## Kuwait rejects

Continued from Page 1

Al-Mullah called for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and allowing the entry of humanitarian aid as well as holding those behind horrific violations and crimes accountable.

She said that Kuwait welcomed the decision by the Human Rights Council to open an independent investigation into the Israeli occupation’s war crimes, calling on the international community to aid Palestinians against their oppressors.

On Lebanon, the Kuwaiti diplomat called for an international effort to stop the Israeli occupation from further attacking the fellow Arab state, saying that the Israeli aggression against UNIFIL troops was a stark violation of international law.

The diplomat reflected her country’s commitment to human rights, saying that Kuwait had submitted this year its sixth review over ending all kinds of discrimination against women in addition to other actions aimed at bolstering human rights globally namely laborers rights.

Meanwhile, Lebanese rescuers pulled 30 bodies out of the rubble after a late night Israeli strike on an apartment building in the town of Barja, Lebanon’s Civil Defense service said Wednesday as the Mideast wars press on with no signs of abating.

It remained unclear if there were any survivors or bodies still trapped under the rubble following the Tuesday night airstrike, which came without warning. There was no statement from the Israeli military and the strike’s intended target also was unknown.

Barja, a town just north of the port city of Sidon in central Lebanon, has not been regularly targeted so far in the conflict.



Supporters watch returns at a campaign election night watch party for Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump at the Palm Beach Convention Center on Nov 6 in West Palm Beach, Fla. (AP)

## Voter anxiety over economy, desire for change return Trump to White House

WASHINGTON, Nov 6, (AP): A disaffected electorate wanted former US president Donald Trump to return to the White House, a blatant rejection of Vice President Kamala Harris and her nearly four years with President Joe Biden.

The Republican's victory came from a public so put off by America's trajectory that they welcomed his brash and disruptive approach. About 3 in 10 voters said they wanted total upheaval in how the country is run, according to AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide. Even if they weren't looking for something that dramatic, more than half of voters overall said they wanted to see substantial change.

Both nationwide and in key battleground states, the Republican won over voters who were alarmed about the economy and prioritized more aggressive enforcement of immigration laws. Those issues largely overshadowed many voters' focus on the future of democracy and abortion protections - key priorities for Harris' voters, but not enough to turn the election in her favor.

Trump's victory, however, wasn't a total mandate. Even as Trump prevailed in the electoral college, there were concerns about how he could wield his power. Most voters said they were very or somewhat concerned that electing Trump would bring the U.S. closer to being an authoritarian country, where a single leader has unchecked power. Still, more than 1 in 10 of those voters backed him.

Anxiety about inflation was high nationally, and voters broadly believed that Trump would be better equipped than Harris to handle the economy and jobs. The key swing states of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan largely mirrored the mood of the nation.

The share of voters who said their family's financial situation was "falling behind" rose to about 3 in 10, up from roughly 2 in 10 in the last presidential election. Many voters were still reeling from inflation that spiked to a four-decade high in June 2022. About 9 in 10 voters were very or somewhat concerned about the cost of groceries, and about 8 in 10 were concerned about their health care costs, their housing costs or the cost of gas.

Trump picked up a small but significant share of younger voters, Black voters and Hispanic voters, many of whom were feeling down about the economy. Majorities of younger Black voters and Latino voters said the economy is not working well.

The economy carried more prominence than in the 2020 election, including for these groups. Four years ago, COVID-19 and racism were important issues for Black and Latino voters. But this time, they were more focused on the economy, and Trump managed to make inroads with both groups even as the majority stayed with Harris.

Among voters under 30, slightly less than half went for Trump, an improvement from his 2020 performance.

### Former US president praises House Speaker Johnson

# Republicans take Senate majority and eye unified power with Trump

WASHINGTON, Nov 6, (AP): Republicans have taken control of the US Senate and are fighting to keep their majority in the US House, which would produce a full sweep of GOP power in Congress alongside President-elect Donald Trump in the White House.

A unified Republican grip on Washington would set the course for Trump's agenda. Or if Democrats wrest control of the House, it would provide an almost certain backstop, with veto power over the White House.

Trump, speaking early Wednesday at his election night party in Florida, said the results delivered an "unprecedented and powerful mandate" for Republicans.

He called the Senate rout "incredible." And he praised House Speaker Mike Johnson, who dashed from his own party in Louisiana to join Trump. "He's doing a terrific job," Trump said.

Vote counting in some races could go on for days, and control of the House is too early to call.

The rally for Republicans started early on election night in West Virginia, when Jim Justice, the state's wealthy governor, flipped the seat held by retiring Sen. Joe Manchin. From there, the Republicans marched alongside Trump across the Senate map.

Republicans toppled Democrat Sen. Sherrod Brown in Ohio, the first incumbent senator to fall, with GOP luxury car dealer and blockchain entrepreneur Bernie Moreno. They chased Democrats in the "blue wall" states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, where Vice President Kamala Harris strained to carry the party forward.

Democratic efforts to oust firebrand Republicans Ted Cruz of Texas and Rick Scott of Florida collapsed. The unexpected battleground of Nebraska pushed Republicans over the top. Incumbent GOP Sen. Deb Fischer brushed back a surprisingly strong challenge from independent newcomer Dan Osborn.

One of the most-watched Senate races, in Montana, was decided early Wednesday. Democrat Jon Tester, a popular three-term senator and "dirt farmer" in the fight of his political career lost to Trump-backed Tim Sheehy, a wealthy former NAVY Seal, who made derogatory comments about Native Americans, a key constituency in the Western state.

All told, Senate Republicans have a chance to scoop up more seats, potentially delivering their most robust majority in years - a coda to outgoing GOP Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, who made a career charting a



US Sen Ted Cruz, R-Texas, speaks during a watch party on election night on Nov 5 at the Marriott Marquis in Houston. (AP)

path to power, this time by recruiting high-wealth Republicans aligned with Trump. The Senate races that topped \$2 billion.

The fight for control of the House became a state-by-state slog, much of which unfolded far from the presidential race.

House races are focused in New York and California, where Democrats

are trying to claw back some of the 10 or so seats where Republicans have made surprising gains in recent years.

Other House races are scattered around the country, with some of the most contentious in Maine, the "blue dot" around Omaha, Nebraska, and in Alaska.

To gain control of the House, Democrats need to flip four seats from Republicans, while holding all of their

own, a tall task especially in congressional districts where Trump has won.

It could come down to just a handful of seats, or as little as one, to determine House control.

Harris ignited enthusiasm for her party when Biden dropped out of the race, and she stepped in atop the ticket, a head-spinning development barely 100 days from the election. But Democrats watched their own hopes for a sweep of Washington fizzle.

Voters said the economy and immigration were the top issues facing the country, but the future of democracy was also a leading motivator for many Americans casting ballots in the presidential election.

AP VoteCast, an expansive survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide, found a country mired in negativity and desperate for change as Americans faced a stark choice between Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris.

This is the first presidential election since the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, when Trump sent a mob of his supporters to "fight like hell" against the 2020 election. Many Republicans in Congress voted against President Joe Biden's victory. Congress will again be called on next year to certify the 2024 election.

Even still, the election followed

one of the most chaotic congressional sessions in modern times as the Republican-led House kicked out its speaker, Kevin McCarthy, threatened government shutdowns and had difficulty conducting the basic operations of governance.

Johnson has said Republicans in the House and Senate have been working on an "ambitious" 100 day-agenda - cutting taxes, securing the U.S. border and taking a "blowtorch" to federal regulations - if they sweep the White House and Congress.

Trump himself has promised mass deportations and retribution on his perceived enemies. Republicans want to push federal agencies out of Washington and restaff the government workforce, Johnson said, to bring the federal government "to heel."

Trump is "thinking big" about his legacy, Johnson said.

Several states will send history-makers to the new Congress.

Voters elected two Black women to the Senate, Democrat Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware and Democrat Angela Alsobrooks, who defeated Republican Larry Hogan, the former governor, in Maryland. Just three Black women have served in the Senate, and never before have two served at the same time.



Pedestrians walk past the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa. on Nov 19. (AP)

### GOP wins Pennsylvania's attorney general race

Pennsylvania Republicans won the state attorney general's race and kept the other two statewide row offices Tuesday, while several legislative races were close and the partisan control of the state House hung in the balance.

York County District Attorney Dave Sunday, a Republican, beat former Auditor General Eugene DePas-

quale to become Pennsylvania's top prosecutor.

Republicans had once seemed to have a lock on the job, but Democrats had won three straight elections before Sunday's win. Sunday, a Navy veteran, emphasized his prosecutorial experience in the campaign against Democrat DePasquale. The attorney general oversees hundreds of lawyers. (AP)

## Democrat-backed justices keep majority on Michigan's state Supreme Court

DETROIT, Nov 6, (AP): Michigan Democrats have successfully defended control of the state Supreme Court after an expensive campaign with reproductive rights as a key issue.

Court races are nonpartisan but candidates are nominated at party conventions. Republicans had hoped to flip the Democrats' 4-3 majority and regain a margin of control after being in the minority in Michigan's state government for the past two years. But they needed to win both seats to do so.

Justice Kyra Harris Bolden defeated Republican-backed Judge Patrick O'Grady, winning the seat outright two years after Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed her to fill a vacancy. She's the first Black woman to sit on the bench and is now the first to be elected to Michigan's highest court. O'Grady campaigned on his experience as a state trooper, prosecutor and longtime circuit judge.

Now Bolden will serve out the remaining four years of the eight-year



Michigan Supreme Court Justice Kyra Harris Bolden attends the Michigan Democratic Party convention on Aug 24, in Lansing Michigan. (AP)

term vacated by Justice Bridget McCormick.

University of Michigan law professor Kimberly Ann Thomas, backed

by Democrats, secured the other open seat, which is being vacated by Republican-backed Justice David Viviano. Her Republican-nominated challenger was state Rep. Andrew Fink. Now she will serve an eight year term.

The four candidates largely spent their official campaign resources on touting their various career experiences as the Democratic Party and its allies far outpaced Republicans in fundraising and spending to define the issues.

Fink and O'Grady argued they would restore balance to a court they accused of "legislating from the bench" in favor of liberal causes and Democratic policies.

Democrats framed the race as a defense of reproductive rights, saying the court has the potential to rule on abortion in the future even though voters enshrined abortion access in the state constitution in 2022. Republicans rejected this idea as a misrepresentation, saying the amendment finalized abortion protections that cannot be undone.

## EU summit to focus on how to accommodate Trump during his 2nd term as US president

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Nov 6, (AP): Dozens of European leaders will be assessing a new global outlook on Thursday, during a one-day summit bound to center on the dread of many and the joy of a few in the wake of the election of Donald Trump as the next US president that could have far-reaching consequences for the continent.

During his election campaign, Trump has threatened anything from a trade war with Europe, a withdrawal of NATO commitments to a fundamental shift of support for Ukraine in its war with Russia - all issues that could have groundbreaking consequences for nations across Europe, especially the 27-nation European Union.

It was already beyond doubt that the trans-Atlantic relationship would change after Tuesday's vote. But under a Democratic president, that was expected to be gradual. Under Trump's second presidency, it might be politically seismic.

And for the EU, where populist and hard-right forces have already cracked open fissures with the political establishment, the election of Trump can only embolden them further.

For summit host and ardent Trump fan, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Wednesday marked a beautiful day - even if EU relations were extremely turbulent during his first 2017-2021 presi-

dency.

"I see a brilliant victory. Perhaps the biggest comeback and giant struggle in Western political history," Orbán exuded. "For the world, it means the hope for peace."

Serbia's populist leader Aleksandar Vučić will also be a high-profile guest at Thursday's summit in the Hungarian capital and was equally gushing.

"Serbia is committed to cooperation with the USA on stability, prosperity and peace," Vučić said.

The EU had prepared for months for a potential return of Trump, and

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen congratulated him once his victory became clear.

She said that the EU and the United States "are more than just allies. We are bound by a true partnership between our people, uniting 800 million citizens."

"Let us work together on a transatlantic partnership that continues to deliver for our citizens. Millions of jobs and billions in trade and investment on each side of the Atlantic depend on the dynamism and stability of our economic relationship," she said.



Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto, (rear left), and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, (rear right), attend a meeting with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov at Yntymak Ordo State Residence in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on Nov 5. (AP)

### America

**Iowa teen gets life:** Another Iowa teenager was sentenced Monday to life in prison for a fatal 2022 drive-by shooting near Des Moines East High School.

Alex Santiago Perdomo, 17, pleaded guilty last year to first-degree murder. He was 15 at the time of the shooting, according to the Polk County prosecutor, who said Perdomo will have a chance at parole. His public defense attorneys did not immediately respond to calls seeking comment Monday.

Police say Perdomo was among 10 teens ages 14 to 18 armed with at least six guns who drove in multiple vehicles to a neighborhood near East High School, only a half mile from the Iowa Capitol. The specifics of their plan aren't clear, but police say the teens were out to settle a grudge and fired on Jose Lopez, his sister, one of her friends and two other teens standing on a sidewalk nearby. (AP)

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**Ex-officer guilty in shooting:** A former police officer was convicted of murder Monday in the shooting of Andre Hill, a Black man who was holding a cellphone and keys when he was killed.

Officer Adam Coy, who served nearly 20 years with the Columbus police force, shot Hill four times in a garage nearly four years ago. Coy, who is white, was fired after the shooting. He told jurors that he thought Hill was holding a silver revolver that turned out to be keys. (AP)



Russian President Vladimir Putin, (third right), and North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, (second left), attend talks at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia on Nov 4. (AP)

### Russia ratifies North Korea pact

The upper house of Russian parliament on Wednesday ratified a treaty with North Korea envisioning mutual military assistance, a move that comes as the US has confirmed the deployment of 10,000 North Korean troops to Russia.

The "comprehensive strategic partnership treaty," which Russian President Vladimir Putin signed with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on a visit to Pyongyang in June, obliges Russia and North Korea to immediately provide military assistance using "all means" if either is attacked. It marked the strongest link between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War.

The pact's endorsement by the upper house, the Federation Council, follows its ratification by the lower house, the State Duma, on Oct 24.

On Monday, US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters that up to 10,000 North Korean soldiers were in Russia's Kursk region and were preparing to join Moscow's fight against Ukraine in the coming days. If they engage in combat, it would be North Korea's first participation in a large-scale conflict since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Moscow and Pyongyang have responded vaguely to South Korean and Western claims of the North Korean troop deployment to Russia, emphasizing that their military cooperation conforms with international law, without directly admitting the presence of the North's forces in Russia. (AP)

## China’s top political advisor meets Hungarian Nat’l Assembly speaker

BEIJING, Nov 6, (Xinhua): China’s top political advisor Wang Huning met with Laszlo Kover, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, in Beijing on Wednesday.

Wang, chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, said that under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China-Hungary relations have been elevated to an all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership for the new era, with fruitful cooperation in various fields and tangible benefits for the two peoples.

China is willing to work with Hungary to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, carry forward the traditional friendship, and jointly open up a broader future for bilateral relations, Wang said, adding that the CPPCC is willing to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Hungary and contribute to the development of China-Hungary relations.

Kover said although Hungary and China are geographically far apart, the two countries share common values and similar views, and both adhere to the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and non-interference in each other’s internal affairs.

Hungary appreciates China’s achievements in economic develop-

ment and efforts in promoting world peace and common development, Kover said, adding that Hungary looks forward to closer bilateral cooperation and international multilateral coordination. The Hungarian National Assembly is willing to contribute to that end.

Meanwhile, Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday met with Mongolian Prime Minister Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene, who is in Shanghai to attend the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE).

Li said that under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China and Mongolia have maintained sound, stable momentum in their bilateral relations in recent years. China values its friendly cooperation with Mongolia highly, and considers Mongolia a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy, he noted.

He said that both sides should implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state to deepen practical cooperation for the benefit of the two peoples.

Li noted that China will synergize its development strategy with Mongolia further, step up trade and investment cooperation, and enhance cooperation on infrastructure construction in such areas as port connectivity, mining and hydropower stations.



Wang Huning, chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, meets with Laszlo Kover, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, in Beijing, capital of China on Nov 6. (Xinhua)

## North Korean test of ICBM condemned by two-thirds of UN Security Council members

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 6, (AP): A US-led statement approved by 10 of the 15 UN Security Council members has condemned a recent North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile launch and called on Pyongyang to return to negotiations and abandon its missile programs.

The statement follows a series of recent North Korean missile launches, including the test Thursday of the country’s newest ICBM that is designed to reach the United States.

The 10 Security Council members said that launch - in addition to more than 100 North Korean ballistic missile launches since 2022 - violates multiple Security Council resolutions prohibiting the North from using ballistic missile technology and jeopardizes international peace and security.

The foreign ministers of the Group of Seven wealthy democracies also decried last week’s launch in a statement Tuesday, saying North Korea “con-

tinues to advance its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities and to escalate its destabilizing activities.” The G7 is Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the US.

At the United Nations, US deputy ambassador Robert Wood read the statement to reporters surrounded by diplomats from the nine other nations that signed on - Ecuador, France, Japan, Malta, South Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. They were joined by representatives from three countries that will join the council in January - Denmark, Greece and Panama.

Five Security Council nations didn’t support the statement - Russia, China, Algeria, Mozambique and Guyana.

In the statement, the 10 council members said the United States sought the required approval of all 15 council members for a press statement condemning the ICBM test and calling for

North Korea to adhere to the Security Council’s legally binding sanctions.

But the statement said two countries - identified by council members as North Korea’s allies Russia and China - refused to join the denunciation of Pyongyang’s actions.

The 10 members stressed that all council nations are obligated to implement sanctions on North Korea, urging all the nations on the Security Council to abide by that responsibility, maintain international peace and security, and uphold the treaty banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

While Russia and China were not named, the statement appeared aimed especially at Russia, which has reportedly received munitions and troops from North Korea for its war against Ukraine.

At a Security Council meeting Monday, the U.S. and its allies sparred with Russia, China and North Korea over Pyongyang’s ICBM tests and troop deployment to Russia.



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)

## Kashmir legislature passes resolution asking India to restore its partial autonomy

SRINAGAR, India, Nov 6, (AP): Indian-controlled Kashmir’s regional legislature passed a resolution on Wednesday demanding the federal government restore the disputed region’s semi-autonomy that was scrapped by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s administration in 2019.

The assembly passed the nonbinding resolution by a majority vote to noisy scenes in the house.

“This assembly calls upon the Government of India to initiate dialogue with elected representatives of people of Jammu and Kashmir for restoration of special status,” the resolution read.

Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party, which has 29 members in the 90-seat assembly, rejected the resolution. It requires the approval of Lt. Gov. Manoj Sinha, New Delhi’s appointed top administrator in Kashmir.

The National Conference party, which sponsored the resolution, came to power last month in the region’s first vote in a decade and the first since Modi’s Hindu nationalist government scrapped its semi-autonomy. The federal government also downgraded and divided the former state into two centrally governed union territories, Ladakh and Jammu-Kashmir.

The move - which largely resonated in India and among Modi support-



National Conference lawmakers shout inside the Jammu and Assembly in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir on Nov 6, as the resolution was passed in the assembly to restore the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, which was revoked on Aug. 5, 2019. (AP)

edge with civil liberties were curbed and media freedoms restricted.

The region continues to remain a “union territory” - directly controlled by the federal government with India’s Parliament as its main legislator.

India and Pakistan each administer a part of Kashmir, but both claim the territory in its entirety. The nuclear-armed rivals have fought two of their three wars over the territory since they gained independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

Militants in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir have been fighting New Delhi’s rule since 1989. Many Muslim Kashmiris support the rebels’ goal of uniting the territory, either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country.

India insists the Kashmir militancy is Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Pakistan denies the charge, and many Kashmiris consider it a legitimate freedom struggle. Tens of thousands of civilians, rebels and government forces have been killed in the conflict.

Modi and his powerful home minister, Amit Shah, have repeatedly stated that the region’s statehood will be restored after the election, without specifying a timeline. However, they vowed to block any move aimed at undoing the 2019 changes.



Philippine Navy Fast Attack Interdiction Craft Domingo Deluana passes by a Chinese Navy ship during a Philippine military multi-service joint exercise on Nov 6 at Loaita island locally called Kota island at the disputed South China Sea, Philippines. (AP)

### Philippine forces retake island in mock combat as China navy watches

Philippine forces practised retaking an island in the South China Sea Wednesday in the first such combat exercise in the disputed waters as Chinese navy ships kept watch from a distance, the Philippine military chief said.

Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., who witnessed the drills from a navy frigate, said the exercise underscored the readiness of Filipino forces to defend the country’s sovereignty at all costs.

“We are warning our neighbors or whoever or any external forces that we are capable of defending our islands,” Brawner told a small group of journalists invited to the exercises, including The Associated Press.

There were no immediate comments from Chinese

officials, but they have opposed past war drills in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety.

The long-seething territorial disputes that also involve other claimants are a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China rivalry in Asia and likely will remain a major foreign policy concern for the next American president.

China has rapidly expanded its military and become increasingly assertive in pursuing territorial claims in the South China Sea. The tensions have led to more frequent confrontations, primarily with the Philippines and Vietnam, though the Chinese coast guard has had recent territorial tiffs with Indonesia and Malaysia. (AP)

### Asia

**‘Relocate Indonesians’:** The Indonesian government will likely proceed with a permanent relocation of thousands of residents from a high-risk zone following the fatal eruption of Mount Lewotobi in East Nusa Tenggara province earlier this week, which claimed 10 lives, a top disaster agency official said on Wednesday.

Head of the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) Suharyanto stated that this relocation aims to prevent future tragedies in the event of similar eruptions.

Mount Lewotobi, standing 1,584 meters tall in East Flores regency, began erupting late Sunday night, injuring 63 people and damaging hundreds of houses and buildings, according to BNPB reports. (Xinhua)

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**Bushfire forces evacuation:** Residents of a town in the Australian state of Queensland have been evacuated due to a threat posed by a fast-moving bushfire.

Queensland Police on Tuesday night declared an emergency situation for the town of Dirranbandi, 500 km southwest of the state capital of Brisbane, and ordered the approximately 600 residents of the town to leave immediately at 8 p.m. local time. (Xinhua)



This satellite image provided by NOAA shows weather systems on Nov 3. (AP)

### Hurricane Rafael becomes Category 2 storm

Hurricane Rafael strengthened into a Category 2 storm on Wednesday just hours before it was forecast to make landfall on Wednesday in western Cuba.

It was another stroke of bad news for Cuba, which has been struggling with blackouts while recovering from another hurricane two weeks ago that killed at least six people in the eastern part of the island.

The storm was located about 90 miles (140 kilometers) east-southeast of the Isle of Youth, and

around 160 miles (260 kilometers) south-southeast of Havana. It had maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (160 kph) and was moving northwest at 14 mph (22 kph), according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Forecasters warned that Rafael was expected to slam into Cuba on Wednesday after dumping rain on Jamaica and the Cayman Islands on Tuesday. The center warned of floods, storm surges and mudslides. (AP)

### Refugees fled fighting

## ‘War, instability stall progress of Sudan and S.Sudan’

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (KUNA): UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee has said that war in Sudan and political uncertainty in South Sudan stalled progress on final status of Abyei region and border issues.

“The war in the Sudan continues to have a profound impact on the security, economic and humanitarian situations in both Sudan and South Sudan, including in the Abyei box,” she said in a briefing to the UN Security Council on the implementation of resolution 2046 (2012).

Pobee, of Ghana, urged greater support to be lent to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in fulfilling its mandate, ahead of its expiration on November 14.

Updating the UNSC on the developments in Abyei and UNISFA, including its support to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, she regretted that insecurity in South Sudan had led to disruptions in oil production and exports, worsening its fraught financial situation.

On the humanitarian front, hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled the fighting in Sudan, and crossed into South Sudan, where they - like the South Sudanese - faced dire conditions, with inadequate access to clear water, food and health services.



A man walks by a house hit in recent fighting in Khartoum, Sudan, an area torn by fighting between the military and the notorious paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, April 25, 2023. (AP)

Meanwhile, in the Abyei box, Pobee noted a continued proliferation of small arms and heavy weaponry, with South Sudanese officials reporting a 21 October incursion of a group of Rapid Support Forces combatants, who looted Aman-Aguak and Mijak counties.

The movement of armed groups is worsening the fragile security situation

in South Sudan and Abyei, particularly with respect to pre-existing tensions between the Twic Mayardit and Ngok Dinka communities, she continued, adding that climate change-related challenges, including recent heavy rains and flooding, have displaced more than 18,000 people in Abyei alone, as well as impacted crops and infrastructure, and disrupted health and education services.

↑	SAUDI	-	TASI	Change	Closing pts	↓	PHILIPPINES	-	PSEI	Change	Closing pts
	DUBAI	-	DFMGI	+78.41	12,093.35		PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	-92.52	7,165.42
	JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	+21.75	4,616.28					-214.82	92,192.13
	EGYPT	-	EGX 30	+1,005.77	39,480.67						
				+251.32	31,045.26						

# Business



His Excellency the Minister of State for Communications Affairs, Eng. Omar Saud Al-Omar, and stc Kuwait CEI, Eng. Muataz Abdullah Aldharab at the company's booth.

## Over 500 participants attend cybersecurity conference

## ‘solutions by stc’ sponsors fifth Gulf Cybersecurity Conference in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: solutions by stc, the specialized business arm of Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, announced the conclusion of its participation as a main sponsor in the ‘5th Gulf Cybersecurity Conference and Exhibition’, one of the most anticipated cybersecurity conferences in the region inviting experts from the government and private sectors. Held under the patronage of Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Interior, the conference was held at the Arraya Ballroom, Courtyard by Marriot. The event was in cooperation with the National Cyber Security Center and the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), gathering over 500 participants from across the region to address critical topics in cybersecurity.

The conference was opened by His Excellency the Minister of State for Communications Affairs, Eng. Omar Saud Al-Omar, on behalf of Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, in the presence of stc Kuwait CEI, Eng. Muataz Abdullah Aldharab, Mr. Mohammed N. Al-Nusif, CEO of solutions by stc Kuwait, and Eng. Fahad Al-Ali, Acting CEO of e-Portal Holding Company, along with a number of leading figures from stc Kuwait and its subsidiaries.

The executive team’s attendance aligns with the strategic objective of stc Kuwait and its subsidiaries solutions by stc and e-Portal holding when it comes to exploring innovative platforms to discuss industry focused trends and network with like-minded professionals.

The 5th Gulf Cybersecurity Conference provided a vital platform for experts and industry leaders to discuss the latest developments in cybersecurity, focusing on the increasing threat of cyberattacks and the growing importance of protecting sensitive data and digital infrastructures. The event featured high-level international speakers, expert panel discussions, and exhibitors showcasing cutting-edge cybersecurity solutions.

During the conference, solutions by stc exhibited its comprehensive range of cybersecurity solutions tailored to meet the needs of businesses and governments. The Company’s team of cybersecurity specialists were present at the event to engage with government officials, technical experts, and other attend-

ees, providing insights and addressing concerns regarding the latest cyber threats and protection strategies.

The Company also highlighted several key solutions at its booth, including its Managed Detection and Response Services (MDRS), AI-powered proprietary platform, and extended detection and response (XDR) services designed to secure complex hybrid environments. Visitors at the booth had the opportunity to explore solutions by stc’s innovative offerings, which are designed to proactively identify and mitigate cybersecurity risks, ensuring a robust defense against potential breaches.

As part of the conference’s agenda, solutions by stc also participated in a panel discussion titled ‘Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Solutions’, discussing the growing role of artificial intelligence in enhancing cybersecurity measures, exploring how AI-driven platforms can detect and respond to emerging cyber threats more efficiently. The panel also covered key topics such as cybersecurity governance, data protection, and the role of leaders in fostering greater cybersecurity awareness within organizations.

In a statement, solutions by stc highlighted that by participating in key conferences and initiatives, the Company aspired to contribute towards building a secure and resilient digital environment in line with Kuwait’s Vision 2035. With the rapidly evolving digital world, solutions by stc actively explores the latest technological tools and systems to keep pace with advanced cybersecurity threats and possible malicious attacks. Moving forward, the Company will continue to introduce the latest cybersecurity solutions to support and provide 360-protection to its B2B customers.

solutions by stc has also built and solidified its reputation as one of the key players in the market offering comprehensive internet, data communication, ICT, IoT, M2M, and enterprise solutions to support network, infrastructure, and application needs. Through its active and progressive approach, the Company has since grown into a powerful one-stop shop for business and wholesale solutions, catering to the needs of government and corporate entities nationwide and across the region.



‘Network International’ awards Warba Bank for ‘Insightful Leadership and Pioneering Cards Services’.

## Warba receives ‘Insightful Leadership and Pioneering Cards Services’ award

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Network International awarded Warba Bank for “Insightful Leadership and Pioneering Cards Services”, reflecting Warba Bank’s recent implementation of innovative services, including instant issuance of credit and prepaid cards to allow clients to request and receive the card ready for use within just 5 minutes, in addition to interactive communication solutions for chargeback and fraud prevention.

The Network International team that awarded Warba Bank was presented by the Group’s CEO Nandan Mir, Regional Manager Girish Nanda, and Senior Account Manager Adnan Hadla. Those honored from Warba Bank were: CEO Shaheen Al-Ghanem, Chief Retail Banking Officer Ahmed Al-Qatami, Chief Digital Officer Nasser Al-Mutawa, Deputy Chief Retail Banking Officer Musaed Al-Mazyad, and Cards Director Sherif El-Bagoury.

Warba Bank CEO Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem stated: “We are proud of this honor that comes from a well-established institution with a long history spanning over 30 years, providing innovative solutions that increase revenues and profitability for clients and help companies and economies thrive by simplifying trade and payments.”

Al-Ghanem added that Warba Bank has succeeded in recent years in providing a range of diverse services and products that suit the aspirations and ambitions of clients and meet their desires, stressing that the Bank has been able to attract many new clients from all segments of society and all categories and levels to be the leading Bank in attracting clients, whether individuals or companies.

Al-Ghanem continued by saying: “We consider this awarding as a certificate of merit to gain the trust of prestigious international financial entities, and the result of our hard work to provide a range of distinguished banking solutions that our valued clients greatly welcomed, as they meet their banking aspirations and are in line with their needs, reflecting our constant commitment to them.”

Al-Ghanem explained that the awarding confirms our success in achieving our goal of providing a distinguished banking services based on studying clients’ aspirations and providing services that express the clients and are specifically designed to gain their satisfaction, and providing safe and innovative solutions to their banking needs, through a smooth and secure account opening process that takes only few minutes through our digital channels.

Al-Ghanem praised the success of Warba Bank’s strategy

in growing clients who rely on digital channels, in addition to managing the Bank’s social media through a team of the best specialists in this field, promoting products, services, awareness activities and distinguished campaigns launched through the Bank’s social media, as well as using social media as a means of entertainment by providing useful and interesting interactive content for followers and linking the Bank to the community, through participation in social events and activities.

Al-Ghanem stated that this awarding is not the first and will not be the last for the Bank, as the Bank has won many awards from different prestigious international bodies, and these awards include many of the banking sectors, which confirm its many achievements and strong presence in the Islamic banking sector in Kuwait.

Network International is one of the largest global companies and a leader in the field of electronic payment solutions, and plays an important and major role in helping companies and economies to flourish for more than 30 years, as it has provided innovative solutions that work to increase revenues and profitability for clients and simplify trade and payments, until it became the largest provider of electronic payment services in the United Arab Emirates and the leading name in digital commerce in the Middle East and Africa region.

It offers a robust suite of payment products and services that are at the forefront of technology development. In 2023, the company processed more than \$59 billion in payment volumes for more than 130,000 merchants and processed more than 1.6 billion transactions on more than 18 million payment cards for more than 250 financial institutions.

Its management team has an average of 20 years of industry experience in the financial services, payments and technology sectors, a proven track record of implementation in leading regional and international organizations and provides its services in more than 55 countries in the Middle East and Africa, including key markets in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Nigeria and South Africa.

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.

## Expectations for oil GDP growth of 3.4% in 2025

## Kuwait’s non-oil recovery continues in Q2, while OPEC+ cuts weigh on oil sector GDP

By National Bank of Kuwait

Preliminary estimates published by the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) for Q2 2024 show non-oil growth accelerating versus Q1, led by the manufacturing sector. Oil GDP growth, though, remained in negative territory, weighed down by Kuwait’s OPEC-linked production cuts. This has adversely affected headline economic growth, which came in at -1.5% y/y in Q2, better than Q1’s reading of -3.7%. The outlook for 2025 is broadly positive, supported by further steady non-oil sector growth and rising oil production as OPEC+ unwinds its voluntary cuts by year-end.

**Non-oil activity expands for second quarter in a row; solid prospects for 2024-2025**

Non-oil GDP growth picked up to 4.2% y/y from 2.7% in Q1, the latter downwardly revised from 4.7% previously. (Chart 1.) Although these figures are also preliminary and subject to revision, sectoral data reveal that the expansion was led by robust growth in the ‘other services including real estate’ subcomponent (6.2% y/y) and the manufacturing sector (5.7%), in which oil refining has become ever more important as a contributor following the ramping up of crude refining at the Al-Zour refinery. (Chart 2.) Also helping was the less negative reading for the ‘taxes less subsidies’ adjustment. These gains contrasted negative growth in other sectors in Q2, including ‘public administration and defense’ (-2.4% y/y), the largest segment in the non oil economy, telecommunications (-0.7%) and hotels & restaurants (-4.2%).

Overall, the non-oil economy appears to be finally recovering after two years of contraction (including -2.9% in 2023). Official growth averaged 3.5% in the first half of 2024, and while we are targeting full-year growth of around 2.3%, we think broad trends point towards a moderate acceleration in growth next year.

These include a potential recent bottoming-out of consumer spending growth, and pick-ups in bank credit, real estate and project awards. The commencement of monetary easing following the Central Bank of Kuwait’s 25 bps cut to the discount rate in September should also be positive for growth. Therefore, we see non-oil GDP growth rising to 2.6% in 2025. For Kuwait to realize

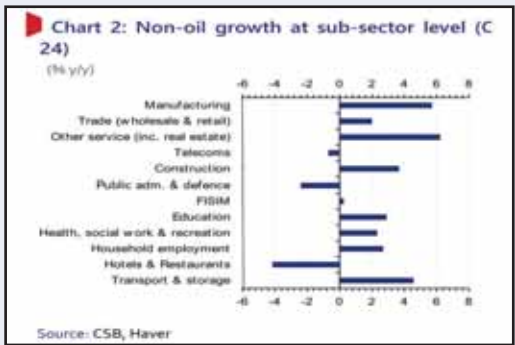
greater non-oil output gains, potentially exceeding the pre-Covid annual average of 3.3% (2011-2019), we would look to execution of the government’s forthcoming economic reform agenda and to much higher domestic investment rates.

**Oil sector remains in contraction, but growth should turn positive in 2025 as OPEC+ unwinds supply cuts**

Oil GDP remained in year-on-year contraction territory for the fifth consecutive quarter in Q2 2024, weighed down by OPEC-linked crude production cuts and especially the additional voluntary cuts that Kuwait signed up to in May 2023. Growth clocked in at -6.8% y/y in Q2, easing slightly from -9.8% in Q1. In H1 2024, oil GDP was down 8.3% y/y, with Kuwait maintaining its crude oil production level at 2.413 mb/d, in line with its OPEC+ quota. Crude output is not expected to increase before January after OPEC+ agreed initially in September and then again in November to roll over the voluntary cuts amid global oil demand softness. From January 2025 onwards, according to the current OPEC+ schedule, Kuwait’s crude production will rise at a monthly rate of 11 kb/d to reach 2.548 mb/d by year-end. Oil GDP growth will turn positive in Q1 2025. In 2025, we expect oil GDP to rise by around 3.4%, assuming that OPEC+’s voluntary cuts are fully unwound.

**Total growth to turn positive in 2025, risks to the outlook center on oil prices and reform momentum**

In sum, although total GDP contracted at a slower rate (year-on-year) in Q2 than in Q1, it still recorded a sixth consecutive quarter of predominantly oil sector-linked decline. Economic growth should, however, turn positive in 2025, as the recovery in the non-oil economy gains momentum and as OPEC-mandated supply cuts begin to unwind. Downside risks to the outlook center on lower than anticipated oil prices, which could reflect weaker global oil demand fundamentals, and which could reduce oil revenues and perhaps induce the government to adopt a more cautious fiscal stance, while upside risks could be higher than expected oil prices and a confidence-boosting, more rapid roll out of economic reforms and investment.



## Non-Oil GDP in Gulf trio expected to rise above 3%

## Economic growth in Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar to accelerate in the 2025

By National Bank of Kuwait

Economic growth in Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar will pick up in 2025 with non-oil GDP rising more than 3% on average supported by government initiatives and projects along with a drop in interest rates. Bahrain is expected to continue recording a fiscal deficit in 2025 on the back of lower oil prices, with ongoing fiscal consolidation efforts expected. Meanwhile, reform efforts in Oman over the years have brought down debt-to-GDP levels and its next 5-year plan may combine further diversification initiatives with attention on sustainability issues. In Qatar, the 2022 post-FIFA World Cup slowdown continues to fade and growth is picking up on the back of strong visitor arrivals and huge LNG capacity expansion plans currently underway.

**Bahrain: Growth to improve, fiscal deficit still a challenge**

GDP grew 2.3% y/y in H1 2024 on the back of a solid rise in non-oil GDP (3.1%), outweighing a contraction in oil (2.1%). We expect 2024 growth at 1.8% (2.5% in 2023). Next year could see a significant acceleration to 3.9% driven by easier financial conditions due to interest rate cuts and a recovery in the hydrocarbon sector given the winding down of oil production cuts. The non-oil sector, worth 86% of GDP as of Q2 24, will continue to be the major driver of growth reflecting continued efforts towards boosting key sectors including manufacturing and tourism. The BAPCO refinery upgrade is expected to be completed mid-2025 with capacity rising by 40% to 380 kb/d giving a boost to non-oil GDP. Meanwhile, the GCC development fund-financed projects awarded reached \$6bn in total through Q1 24 (since 2017), mainly focused on housing. We also expect credit growth to further edge up in 2025 (from 3% y/y in 2024) on cheaper borrowing costs, giving a boost to consumers and corporates. Inflation should remain low at 2% in 2025 from 1% in 2024.

A drop in global and regional interest rates will also have a major role in containing the debt-to-GDP ratio which has ballooned and is expected at a little less than 130% in 2024 from 100% in 2020. However, we still expect the fiscal deficit to widen in 2025 to 6% of GDP on the expected drop in oil prices. Given structural issues (including still high oil revenue dependence and interest costs having a major 35% share of all expenses), further consolidation measures as needed to restore fiscal balance over the medium term and put the debt-to-GDP ratio on a downward path. The government’s credit rating has been unchanged this year (B+ non-investment grade), with agencies expecting more fiscal adjustment over coming years but citing delays in related reforms as a risk to the outlook.

**Oman: Improved fiscal resilience delivers rating upgrades**

In Oman, non-oil growth is projected at 2.7% and 3.5% in 2024 and 2025 respectively, helped by macro-economic reforms and low levels of inflation which averaged just 0.6% y/y in Jan-Sep 2024 (1.0% in CY2023). The lower interest rate environment will play a role in improving non-oil growth momentum, with policy rates potentially falling

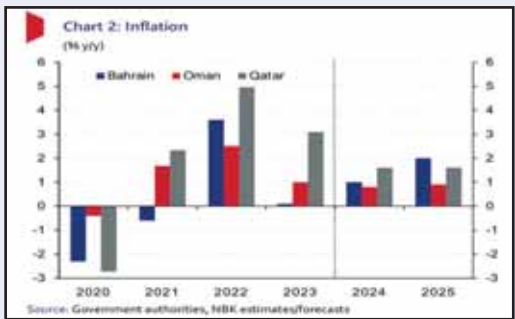
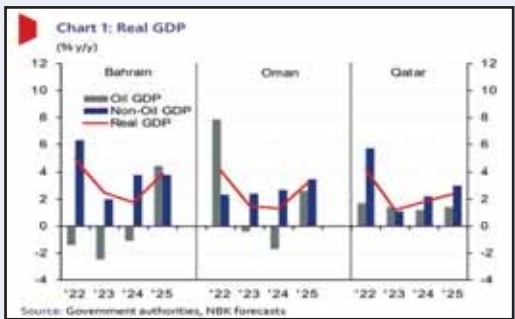
close to 4.0% by end-2025 versus the current 5.5%. Overall economic growth will remain subdued at around 1.3% in 2024 (1.5% in 2023) as hydrocarbon GDP contracted by around 1.7% on the back of the OPEC+ production cuts of which Oman was a part. Moving forward, we expect to see an average increase in oil production of around 2.6% in 2025 as OPEC+ productions cuts unwind which would lift Oman’s economic growth close to 3.2%.

The fiscal position remains a key positive turnaround story, and we expect another (albeit reduced) surplus in 2024 of 1.4% of GDP (2.4% in 2023), despite a drop in hydrocarbon revenues and strong growth in expenses of about 8%. Lower oil prices will pressure revenues in 2025, but a small deficit of 0.8% of GDP is forecast – still well below pre-Covid levels. Financial resilience has also been improved by a sharp drop in government debt to 34% of GDP (from a peak of 64% in 2020), contributing to 2 sovereign rating upgrades by S&P over the past 2 years from BB to BBB-, back to investment grade. As the government’s 10th five-year plan comes to a successful end in 2025, the next plan covering 2026-2030 will likely re-iterate the focus on development including economic diversification, employment, and tourism, with growing attention to sustainability issues and coping with geopolitical tensions in the region.

**Qatar: Moderate growth backed by government efforts**

Economic growth is expected to strengthen to 2.4% in 2025 from 1.8% in 2024, as the 2022 post-FIFA World Cup slowdown fades further. Non-hydrocarbon GDP is forecast to grow by 2-3% in 2024-2025 from 1.1% in 2023, benefiting from further growth in visitor arrivals, the labor force and bank credit, plus lower interest rates and government measures to boost non-oil activity. In Qatar’s third National Development Strategy, the authorities target average non-hydrocarbon growth of 4% per year during 2024-2030 with a focus on three growth clusters: logistics, manufacturing and tourism. Manufacturing especially will benefit from the country’s enormous LNG expansion plans (greater and cheaper feedstock for downstream processes), which will generate a 40% increase in LNG capacity by 2026 (to 110 mtpa) and ultimately an 85% increase by 2030 (142 mtpa). Until then, however, the contribution of oil and gas production to GDP growth will be limited.

The government is expected to continue running healthy, albeit narrowing fiscal surpluses over 2024-25 of about 4.2% of GDP on average. This will be on the back of lower – though still elevated – hydrocarbon revenues due to softer energy prices, and limited expenditure growth (+1.4% in 2025). The budget surplus could be used to lower outstanding public debt to below 40% of GDP by 2025 from 73% in 2020, of which 52% is foreign liabilities. Risks to the outlook are skewed marginally to the upside, with the positive ongoing domestic growth dynamic outweighing the negative risks from steeper-than-anticipated declines in energy prices next year or expanded regional military conflict that could significantly deter labor, capital and trade flows.



Bid to promote collaboration in innovation, science, technology & youth upskilling

## Zain signs MoU with Kuwait University to foster knowledge economy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Zain has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kuwait University to contribute to fostering the knowledge economy in Kuwait. Through this partnership, both entities aim to enhance collaborative efforts in the fields of innovation, science, and technology, while also building youth capacities, particularly in digital skills, to prepare them for success and excellence in their future careers.

The MoU was signed at Sabah Al-Salem University City in Shadadiya, attended by Acting President of Kuwait University, Prof. Osama Al-Saeed; CEO of Zain Kuwait, Nawaf Al-Gharabally, Vice President for Academic Support Services at Kuwait University, Prof. Mohammed Al-Mulla; Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer of Zain Kuwait, Waleed Al-Khashti; Assistant Dean for Planning, Consultation, and Training, Dr. Fares Al-Azmi; Acting Head of the Computer Science Department, Zaid Dashti; and Zain Kuwait Innovation and Entrepreneurship Expert, Haya Al-Mana.

This step builds on the longstanding strategic collaboration between Zain and Kuwait University, which over the years has led to numerous successful initiatives and community programs that embody their shared



Al-Gharabally and Al-Saeed with officials from Zain and Kuwait University.

vision of advancing Kuwait's innovation ecosystem. Together, they aim to drive growth in science, technology, and innovation – sectors that are now fundamental to modern job markets.

Under this MoU, Zain and Kuwait University will intensify their joint efforts to accelerate the knowledge economy in Kuwait, which relies heavily on knowledge, information, and innovation as primary drivers for growth and development.

The two organizations will launch initiatives that focus on education,

training, and skill development to foster creativity and innovation. By leveraging modern technologies and information-sharing platforms, they aim to make knowledge more accessible, support scientific research, and advance technological development to enhance competitiveness, especially among youth, students, and graduates.

This collaboration reflects the combined efforts of the public and private sectors to support national development goals, primarily by invest-

ing in human capital to achieve sustainable economic and social growth.

This MoU also adds to Zain's series of programs under its Innovation Nation initiative, aligned with its strategic vision for sustainability. These programs aim to support innovation, entrepreneurship, empower startups, share private sector expertise, promote a creative environment, and invest in digital skills, particularly in STEM fields.

This collaboration builds on the ongoing partnership between Zain and



Nawaf Al-Gharabally and Prof. Osama Al-Saeed sign the MoU.

Kuwait University, resulting in successful programs such as Zain's strategic partnership with the Kuwait National Robotics Competition (KNRC) for the second consecutive year. This initiative comes in collaboration with the Computer Science Department at Kuwait University's College of Science, the Youth Public Authority, and the Ministry of Education.

The competition aims to ignite a passion for technology among Kuwaiti students, foster creative thinking, and help them chart a clear career

path in STEM fields. This initiative is a testament to the effective, direct collaboration between public and private institutions to prepare the next generation of technology leaders in Kuwait.

The company has seen remarkable success following its support of the previous edition of this initiative after months of hard, creative work, which culminated in Kuwait University's team winning the Build Award at the VEX Robotics World Championship held in the United States.

## NBK named 'Market Leader in Digital Payment Acceptance'

Award announced at the Mastercard EDGE Forum 2024 in Dubai

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) received the "Market Leader in Digital Payment Acceptance" Award at the Mastercard EDGE Forum 2024 in Dubai.

This award acknowledges NBK as a leader in the digital payments space, recognizing its role in shaping the future of commerce and financial services. Mastercard grants this distinction to financial institutions that demonstrate exceptional leadership in promoting digital payment adoption, strengthening merchant networks, and delivering innovative, customer-centric payment solutions.

NBK's broad range of payment acceptance solutions enable merchants to grow and thrive in the digital economy where they benefit from secure, efficient payment options that enhance customer experiences and improve business operations.

With its forward-looking digital roadmap, NBK has established itself as a leader in bringing advanced payment solutions to market, becoming the first bank in Kuwait to launch Apple Pay.

NBK further expanded its offerings with the introduction of fully digital wallets, including Google



Photo taken during the forum in Dubai.

Pay, Samsung Pay, Fitbit Pay, and Garmin Pay.

With a strategic focus on building an agile and inclusive pay-

ments ecosystem, NBK remains committed to delivering excellence for customers, merchants, and partners. This award strength-

ens its resolve to continue innovating, expanding its digital footprint, and contributing to the economic prosperity of Kuwait.

**A New Milestone**

This latest accolade reflects the dedication and collaboration of the

entire NBK team, whose relentless efforts allow the bank to adapt and innovate in a rapidly changing financial environment. The recognition from Mastercard also reflects NBK's commitment to enabling seamless, secure and inclusive payment experiences, underscoring employees' hard work and customers' continued trust.

As NBK continues to push the boundaries of innovation, it remains focused on supporting businesses in their journey toward digital transformation and contributing to a more connected financial ecosystem in Kuwait."

**NBK's Roadmap**

NBK has a comprehensive roadmap for payment solutions, and the bank's commitment to developing advanced payment solutions is a vital strategic initiative aimed at delivering the best cutting-edge technologies to the broader market and to the bank's clients in particular. NBK operates the largest network of branches and ATMs in Kuwait, featuring 72 branches. The bank also offers the most extensive portfolio of credit and prepaid cards in the country, designed to accommodate the diverse lifestyles of its customers.

NBK customers can swiftly and easily complete their banking transactions at any time through the bank's digital channels, with the NBK Mobile Banking App leading the way. The bank continually enhances and updates this platform to align with the evolving needs and aspirations of its customers.

Under the patronage of HE Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah

## Burgan Bank concludes sponsorship of the 5th Gulf Cyber Security Conference and Exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Burgan Bank recently concluded its sponsorship of and participation in the fifth edition of the Gulf Cyber Security Conference and Exhibition, which was held on November 5-6 at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Kuwait. The Bank's participation in this event, alongside a number of high-level international speakers and cybersecurity experts, confirms its commitment to supporting cybersecurity fortification within the banking sector. It also echoes Burgan's unyielding efforts to reinforce cooperation with all relevant authorities on their shared mission to protect sensitive data against evolving fraud and hacking operations.

Commenting on the Bank's participation, Fadel Mahmoud Abdullah, CEO of Burgan Bank – Kuwait, said: "We are proud to have participated in such an important conference that united the GCC market leaders and decision-makers for the common goal of



Fadel Mahmoud Abdullah, CEO of Burgan Bank – Kuwait

devising a regional strategy to combat cyber-attacks and data theft by utilizing the latest cybersecurity technologies and risk management systems. As leaders in banking cybersecurity, we were delighted to share our market insights and success in safeguarding our

customers' data against ever-evolving scams and fraud attempts, under the supervision and guidance of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), as well as to highlight the collaborative efforts towards preserving the stability of the Kuwaiti banking sector."

The conference agenda covered numerous vital topics, including the latest digital security technologies, cooperation opportunities across the GCC for combating cyber vulnerabilities and threats, as well as the best approaches to raising awareness across the public and private spheres about the latest threats to cybersecurity and the most advanced means to combat them.

On the sidelines of the conference, the first phase of the Innovation and Excellence Competition for Scientific Research was launched, honoring outstanding students who continue to develop innovative information and cybersecurity solutions,

especially using recent technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI). The competition aims to create an atmosphere that fosters creativity and innovation in the technical fields and equips motivated male and female students with the necessary scientific research skills, enabling them to excel in their research and development endeavors.

Contributing to the discussion sessions on cyber and intelligence information were Andrew Christopher Singh, Group Chief Risk Officer, and Dr. Ali Abdulhamid Al Kazimi, Chief Information Security Officer – Group Risk Management at Burgan Bank. They shed light on the Bank's efforts to safeguard its customers' data against safety breaches or theft attempts.

It is worth noting that Burgan continues to be among the first banking and financial institutions to adopt the latest cybersecurity technologies and data protection systems in Kuwait.



A group photo of the Burgan team with HE the Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar.



Andrew Christopher Singh, Group Chief Risk Officer, and Dr. Ali Abdulhamid Al Kazimi, Chief Information Security Officer – Group Risk Management at Burgan Bank, receiving an honorary shield for their participation.

## Stocks, bond yields, bitcoin surge on Trump comeback

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): The U.S. stock market, Elon Musk's Tesla, banks and bitcoin are storming higher as investors bet on what Donald Trump's return to the White House will mean for the economy and world.

Stock prices, bond yields and cryptocurrencies like bitcoin surged in the U.S. Wednesday as voters returned former President Donald Trump to the White House and the Republican party gained control of the Senate.

Many investors expect Trump's victory to lead to faster economic growth and more market-friendly policies.

Futures for the S&P 500 gained 2.2% before the bell and futures for the Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 3.2%. Nasdaq futures rose 1.6%.

Futures tied to the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies, which tend to rely more heavily on the U.S. economy for their income, soared more than 6%.

The price of bitcoin jumped nearly 8% to a record \$75,345 before falling back slightly. Trump pledged support for cryptocurrencies during the campaign. Shares of the crypto exchange Coinbase rose 13% in premarket and almost all cryptocurrencies surged higher, including dogecoin, which jumped 18%.

Bank stocks, which could benefit from less restrictive regulations, rose in premarket trading. JPMorgan, the world's biggest bank by assets, gained nearly 7%. Capital One rose 11.3%.

Tesla, led by Trump supporter Elon Musk, jumped nearly 13%. The company's size gives it a big advantage in the electric vehicle market if, as expected, Trump does away with rebates and tax incentives for EVs, says Dan Ives of Wedbush.

Shares of Tesla's competitors largely fell.

Trump is likely to undo some of the Biden administration's effort to fight

climate change. Renewable energy stocks such as First Solar and Enphase are down by double-digits in premarket trading. First Solar has been a big beneficiary of the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act.

"The markets are scrambling to figure out what happens next, but for the time being, the market is pricing in a higher growth and higher inflation outlook," Peter Esho of Esho Capital said.

Trump Media & Technology Group, the company behind the former president's Truth Social platform, spiked 36% overnight as it became increasingly evident that Trump was returning to the highest elected office in the U.S.

Trump shares had tumbled 10.4% in after-hours trading Tuesday before many polls closed and the results of the election were still uncertain. The stock tends to move more with Trump's reelection odds than on its prospects of turning a profit.

In midday European trading, Germany's DAX climbed 0.4%, while the CAC 40 in Paris advanced 0.9%. Britain's FTSE 100 was up 1%.

Markets worldwide have been fixated on what the election will mean for U.S. economic, monetary and trade policy, as well as geopolitics. The House has not yet been decided and a split in Congress between political parties would complicate policymaking. A Trump White House is likely to have far reaching ramifications given his support for sharp increases in tariffs, especially on imports from China.

Robert Halver, head of Capital Market Analysis at Baader Bank in Germany said that, "since Donald Trump stands for the economy, it can be assumed that stock markets around the world will go up. With one exception: China, because he will definitely impose tariffs at least on China. That will certainly make life difficult for the Chinese."



Defence Attaché, Col. Michele Rega speaking at the event.



Cake cutting ceremony from left Col Rega, Brigadier General Pilot Al-Hamdan and Ambassador Morini.



The dignitaries who attended the event pose for a photo with the Italian envoy.

### Ceremony pays tribute to fallen Kuwaiti pilot

## Italian Embassy in Kuwait commemorates ‘Unity and Armed Forces Day’

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Italian Embassy in Kuwait commemorated Italy’s Unity and Armed Forces Day -- observed annually on Nov 4 – at the Regency Hotel on Nov 5. This event was part of a series of events celebrated by the embassy from Oct 28 to Nov 5.

In his address Italian Defence Attaché, Col. Michele Rega, standing alongside the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Lorenzo Morini, highlighted the deep historical significance of November 4 for Italy, remembered for the events of 1918, when Italy’s victory in World War I brought the nation’s long journey toward unification to completion.

This triumph, he said, is seen not only as a military achievement but as a testament to the resilience, courage and collective will of the Italian people. Each year, November 4 serves as a symbol of Italy’s unity and as a tribute to the courage and sacrifices of its soldiers.

The event honored Italy’s armed forces, whose dedication embodies the values of peace, freedom, and unity. Acknowledging the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between Italy and Kuwait, Col Rega noted that the relationship between the two countries -- founded on mutual respect, shared

values, and a commitment to security and stability -- extends beyond diplomacy into a deep, long-standing defense alliance spanning over 30 years.

He went on to say, “In recent years, defense collaboration has become a cornerstone of the Italy-Kuwait relationship. Through joint training programs, exchange initiatives, and cooperative exercises, the two nations’ armed forces have not only strengthened their skills but also deepened their ties.

“This cooperation goes beyond formalities, representing a shared resolve to confront complex global challenges together.

“Italy’s expertise in defense technology and Kuwait’s dedication to regional stability have transformed their partnership into a model of meaningful international cooperation.

“The Italy-Kuwait alliance reflects a mutual vision for a secure and peaceful world. Together, the two countries contribute to the safety and stability of the region, addressing global issues such as humanitarian aid, peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism.

“They stand united not merely as allies but as true partners, dedicated to fostering peace, development, and prosperity,” Col Rega added.

During the event, Col Rega on behalf of Italy also expressed heartfelt condolences for the recent loss of Kuwaiti military pilot Mohammed Mahmoud

Abdulrasoul, who tragically passed away on October 9.

The ceremony concluded with expressions of gratitude toward Italian military personnel for their dedication and professionalism, which exemplify Italy’s commitment to peace, security, and international cooperation.

Their service, both within Italy’s borders and abroad, underscores the essential role of the armed forces in upholding cherished national values.

On the sidelines of the event Kuwait’s Air Force Commander, Brigadier General Pilot Mohammad Al-Hamdan, highlighted the strong military ties between Kuwait and Italy.

Al-Hamdan noted that the Kuwait-Italy partnership encompasses joint air force training, advanced military techniques, and reciprocal courses in specialized fields, as well as collaborations in electronic warfare and other critical defense areas.

These initiatives, he said, aim to enhance the readiness of both Kuwaiti and Italian forces.

The event was attended Kuwait’s Air Force Commander, Brigadier General Pilot Mohammad Al-Hamdan, Undersecretary of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah and several diplomatic dignitaries, invited guests and the media fraternity.

### Chef Deepraj Singh leads flavorful creations at LuLu Kitchen

## LuLu Kitchen debuts in Kuwait with diverse global menu

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: LuLu Hypermarket, the regional leader in retailing, has delved into the culinary world through their LuLu Kitchen. The concept launched by the retailer aims to provide food lovers in Kuwait with an eclectic menu of freshly prepared items delivered right to their doorstep through the food delivery services of Deliveroo.

LuLu Kitchen offers a diverse menu of global flavors that spans Arabic, Indian, Oriental, and Continental cuisines. With this exciting launch, the retail giant brings the world’s flavors directly to customers’ doors, making ordering from LuLu Kitchen a perfect option for parties and home gatherings, or for those times when you feel the need for a change in your daily cooking routine.

Whether in the mood for a hearty



Chef Deepraj Singh

combo meal, a refreshing smoothie, or a comforting soup, LuLu Kitchen has it covered. The extensive menu

includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, and everything in-between, from appetizers to satisfying main dishes,

specialty sandwiches, vibrant salads, and indulgent desserts.

Under the culinary expertise of Chef Deepraj Singh, LuLu Kitchen introduces signature dishes that promise an authentic experience. Try the velvety Dal Makhani, the rich Chicken Tikka Masala, the flavorful Kadai Paneer, the mouthwatering Biryani, and the aromatic tikkas & kebabs. Chef Singh, a respected member of the World Association of Chefs Societies and Emirates Culinary Guild brings his passion for flavor to every dish.

LuLu Kitchen also offers a variety of combo meals and special deals, making it even easier to explore a range of flavors without leaving home. Now available on Deliveroo Kuwait, LuLu Kitchen invites you to discover its expansive menu and elevate your dining experience with every order.

### Up to 2% expected annual profits

## KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza account’s draw

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the monthly and weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account’s 2024 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The monthly and weekly draw, based on customers’ October deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. Khawla Mohammed Abdullah Almesfeer and Manal Yaseen Ibrahim Abdullah were named the lucky winners in the monthly draw, with each customer walking away with a prize of KD 5,000. As for the weekly draw, the KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Zainab Mohammad Falah Alrasheedi, Halah Mohamed Mahdy Hussein, Baqer Sadiq Merza Alsulaimi, Nagy Fahmy Gouda Awad and Abdulrahman Tareq Ahmad Orabi, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Ghada Ali Hussain Alqattan, Sabeekah Ahmad Saleh Alsaleh, Amany Elmorssi Mohamed Ibrahim, Abdulwahab Mohammad Abdulrazzaq Aladsani, Ghaneemah Mohammad Hasan Malek, Khaled Rashed Sultan Alsalem and Hamad Ahmad Mohammad Alkandari.

It serves to note that Al Dirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer’s account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

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

in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

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

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

#### 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.

### To be held in December with prizes of KD 10,000

## KFH launches ‘Mishkat Al-Nubuwwa’ Hadith Memorization Competition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announces the launch of “Mishkat Al-Nubuwwa,” the largest competition of its kind in Kuwait, to be held in December 2024. The competition offers prizes of up to KD 10,000 for memorizing the Prophetic Hadith.

“As part of KFH’s commitment to social responsibility, this initiative aimed to foster religious culture and promote Islamic values derived from the Hadith of the Prophet” said Executive Manager Internal Shariah Audit KFH Kuwait, Abdullah Al-Shuaib.

He added that the competition is divided into three age groups: the first group is for ages 6 to 11 (30 Hadith), the second group is for ages 12 to 17 (60 Hadith), and the third group is for ages 18 and above (90 Hadith). Participants are placed in categories based on their age, and ten winners are chosen from each group, resulting in a total of 30 winners across all three age groups.



Abdullah Al-Shuaib

ners across all three age groups. The competition details and application form can be found on the KFH website (www.kfh.com).

Al-Shuaib pointed out that the competition aims to spotlight the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), preserving and applying it. This endeavor contributes to reinforcing adherence to the Prophet’s Sunnah, fostering a deeper understanding of its objectives, and disseminating Islamic values and teachings within society.



KFH Hadith Competition.

Mishkat Al-Nubuwwah competition is an extension of KFH’s Quran recitation competitions for customers and employees. It aims to promote

the moral and ethical values found in both the Quran and the Sunnah, encouraging adherence to their guidance.

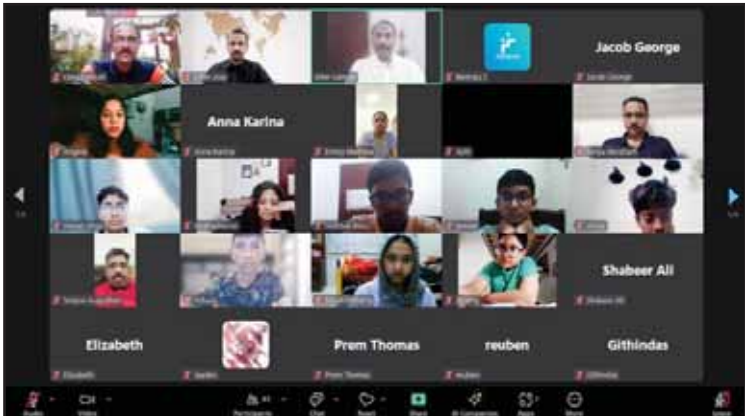
### JS Adoor and Neeraja Janaki guide young students in career planning

## KEA hosts career counseling session for KEF Children’s Club

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Keralite Engineers Association (KEA) held a career counseling session for the newly established Children’s Club of the Kuwait Engineers Forum (KEF). The career counseling session, marking the first major initiative of the Children’s Club since its formation on September 20, 2024, was conducted online on November 2, 2024, from 4 PM to 7 PM.

The session featured two renowned speakers, Mr. John Samuel, also known as JS Adoor, an international expert in public policy, social and human rights activist, and Director of Oxfam International; and Ms. Neeraja Chandrasekaran Janaki, a respected career mentor, life coach, and founder of Mentortz4u.

Both speakers shared their extensive knowledge, offering insights on academic and career planning in a rapidly changing world, tailored



KEA’s career counseling session.

for young students and their parents.

Nearly 100 families from various alumni organizations within the KEF community attended, making it a highly interactive and impactful event. The extensive Q&A session



provided attendees with an opportunity to clarify numerous questions related to higher education, future career prospects, and skill development, addressing the aspirations and concerns of both children and parents.

The program was meticulously coordinated by representatives of the KEF Children’s Club. KEA General Secretary, Mr. Renju Abraham, delivered the welcome address, followed by a presidential address from KEA President Mr. Ebey Samuel.

The KEF General Convener, Ms. Hanan Shan, offered a felicitation speech, and the President of the KEF Children’s Club, Ms. Angela, concluded the session with a vote of thanks.

The Career Counseling session has set a promising precedent for future KEF Children’s Club’s initiatives aimed at empowering and educating the younger generation.



KIB’s Dirwaza account

## Oscar winner on journey from ‘Oppenheimer,’ to new beginnings

## Murphy brings ‘Small Things’ to screen with Big Things

LOS ANGELES, Nov 6, (AP): Cillian Murphy didn't read "Small Things Like These" looking for a film to do. He was simply a fan of the author, Claire Keegan.

Her story, nominated for the Booker Prize, was a work of historical fiction about the Magdalene laundries in Ireland and an ordinary man with repressed trauma who can't force himself to look away over Christmas in 1985. The beauty of the prose and complexities of the themes lingered in Murphy's mind. The Irish actor had also been thinking about starting his own production company. Miraculously, the rights were available.

As a nod to the film, which opened in North American theaters last Friday, Murphy and his producing partner Alan Moloney named their company Big Things Films.

"We were like, if you call it Small Things Films, it would show a real lack of ambition," Murphy said with a little laugh. "We thought better call it Big Things Films."

"Small Things Like These" was made after "Oppenheimer" but before the Oscar win, which Murphy is still processing. Work is keeping him busy, though. His company already has another film in post-production, "Steve," based on Max Porter's novel "Shy." And in September, he started filming the "Peaky Blinders" movie.

Murphy spoke to The Associated Press, before heading off to "Peaky Blinders," about being a "serial re-collaborator," the humbling and passive experience of winning the Oscar and pitching Matt Damon the film during a night shoot on "Oppenheimer." Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

**AP:** What made you want to see Claire's book as



Cillian Murphy poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Small Things Like These' on Oct. 24, 2024, in London. (AP)

a film?

**Murphy:** It's a seemingly simple story, but it's actually incredibly complex the way it talks about

society and complicity and shame and guilt and secrecy and fear and all those things. I felt like it had a lot to offer audiences.

**AP:** And as an actor, what opportunities did you see with your character?

**Murphy:** It's a male protagonist written by a woman, but it's a story about women. That was quite interesting and unconventional. And the story really begins when the film ends. The real drama happens afterwards. And I think that's just so unconventional and quite radical. The reason Bill is the man that he is, is because of what happened to him as a child and this act of charity that his mother experienced. And then these awful acts of cruelty that these other girls are experiencing — that's what's bringing him to this place in his life.

Claire had actually said in a podcast, someone said "oh it's such an heroic act" and she said "no, he's not a hero, he's just someone who's having a nervous breakdown." I thought that was really smart. And that's kind of how I tried to play it.

It all comes back, as it tends to with men, in middle age. They begin to really sense their mortality and they have kids of their own. That's when it all seems to come crashing down on them. And it's so beautifully observed by Claire and Enda (Walsh).

**AP:** There are a lot of people involved in this film that you've worked with before, from the director, Tim Mielants ("Peaky Blinders") to your "Disco Pigs" friends (playwright Enda Walsh and actor Eileen Walsh, who plays Bill's wife). Why did you call on them?

**Murphy:** I'm a kind of a serial re-collaborator. I just love working with people again. And I really firmly believe you got the best work from trust and

from friendship. Enda I've worked with in a theater like four or five times and, and he's just generally brilliant. I knew that he loved Claire's book and that he would understand that world. And Eileen, it's very hard to act 20 years of history, but when you have 28 years of history, you get it for free. She's just a phenomenally powerful actor. She can kind of do anything.

**AP:** Matt Damon also is a producer though Artists Equity. How did that come about?

**Murphy:** My producing partner was working with Matt on the U2 documentary about Sarajevo, and I was working with Matt on "Oppenheimer." It was a pincer movement. I remember it was like a night shoot in the desert somewhere, and we were waiting for the rain to pass or the lights to be fixed. And he was telling me about Artists Equity. I said well, I happen to have this script, and I gave it to him. He's got such great taste. He's such a great filmmaker and actor, just a legend and just a lovely human being. He just really understands these sorts of stories. And immediately he said, yeah, we're on.

**AP:** Do you feel like the Oscar win and success of "Oppenheimer" somehow helped this film get more interest from U.S. distributors?

**Murphy:** I'm not aware of it, really, because it feels so brand new and so fresh. You know, it's very hard to kind of speak about it because it was a hugely humbling and almost passive experience, because you don't really have any control over other people voting on the work that you did. But if it allows us to tell the sorts of stories that I'd like to tell, which have a point of view, which have something to say, then I'll take it.

## Film

Actor ditches rom-coms for monsters, and loves it

## Grant embraces his dark side in 'Heretic'

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): After some difficulties connecting to a Zoom, Hugh Grant eventually opts to just phone instead.

"Sorry about that," he apologizes.

"Tech hell." Grant is no lover of technology. Smart phones, for example, he calls the "devil's tinderbox."

"I think they're killing us. I hate them," he says. "I go on long holidays from them, three or four days at a time. Marvelous."

Hell, and our proximity to it, is a not unrelated topic to Grant's new film, "Heretic." In it, two young Mormon missionaries (Chloe East, Sophie Thatcher) come knocking on a door they'll soon regret visiting. They're welcomed in by Mr. Reed (Grant), an initially charming man who tests their faith in theological debate, and then, in much worse things.

After decades in romantic comedies, Grant has spent the last few years playing narcissists, weirdos and murders, often to the greatest acclaim of his career. But in "Heretic," a horror thriller from A24, Grant's turn to the dark side reaches a new extreme. The actor who once charmingly stammered in "Four Weddings and a Funeral" and who danced to the Pointer Sisters in "Love Actually" is now doing heinous things to young people in a basement.

"It was a challenge," Grant says. "I think human beings need challenges. It makes your beer taste better in the evening if you've climbed a mountain."

"Heretic," which opened in theaters last Friday, is directed by Scott Beck and Bryan Woods, co-writers of "A Quiet Place." In Grant's hands, Mr. Reed is a divinely good baddie - a scholarly creep whose wry monologues pull from a wide range of references, including, fittingly, Radiohead's "Creep."

In an interview, Grant spoke about these and other facets of his character, and his journey from rom-com idol to horror-film villain.

**AP:** Do you have any theories on why horror has been so popular in recent years?

**Grant:** It's fascinating, isn't it? I don't know. Maybe these are the end of times, the end days, the



Hugh Grant poses for a portrait to promote the film 'Heretic' on Oct. 27, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP)

apocalypse. We know it deep down but for some reason we won't confront it. I don't know, but it's wonderful that it sends people into the cinemas.

**AP:** Have you seen many horror films?

**Grant:** I can't. They're too frightening for me. I watched "The Exorcist" when I was too young and I've been in counseling ever since. I watched one by mistake recently, which was "Midsommar." I thought it looked like a jolly, Swedish comedy. I put it on one evening for my Swedish wife who needed cheering up and

she's still very, very traumatized

**AP:** You've spoken before about your affinity for the big screen. Is the seeming decline of theatrical moviegoing a concern for you?

**Grant:** It is. Talk about the end of days. To me, one of the gloomiest signs or omens is the gradual closing of cinemas - and not just that, where I live in London, but the closing of bars. The bar where I met my wife, which was party night every night of the week, is now largely closed. I think the fact that we're all staying in, staring at our devil's tinderboxes is deeply tragic, or watching

things on streaming by ourselves with maybe one or two other family members. These things should be collective experiences.

**AP:** One element that you've said factors into your choice of roles is whether you believe the film will be entertaining. Do you find your gauge for that is still accurate?

**Grant:** My ability to gauge what's entertaining, I used to be very proud of it. In the old days, my old career, I used to say, "I'm not so proud of my acting but I'm proud of the fact that the films I've done, on the whole, have been entertaining and I've been good at choosing them." And then, suddenly overnight, I became very bad at choosing them. I don't know, I lost the zeitgeist, I suppose. That can happen. Now, I feel like I've found something again.

If the character amuses me and I think I'm going to enjoy being that person, then I tend to do the job. Sometimes, when actors are enjoying it, it works.

**AP:** When would you mark this shift for you?

**Grant:** The big shift was after "Did You Hear About the Morgans?" That was sort of officially the end of romantic comedy for me. Nothing much happened after that in showbiz terms. I went off and did political campaigning and I was quite happy, in fact. But in drips and drabs, strange little projects, like the Wachowskis' "Cloud Atlas," then Stephen Fears came along with "Florence Foster Jenkins" and "A Very English Scandal." "Paddington 2." These interesting, complex, often not very nice, narcissistic weirdos started to emerge from the woods.

**AP:** After this role, it might be hard for you to find something darker...

**Grant:** I agree.

**AP:** Does that make you want to push darker still or rebound back in the other direction?

**Grant:** It's a very good question that I do not have the answer to. As a matter of fact, there is one thing sitting on my desk in the other room here which is pretty weird and relatively fresh. I agree, I'm not quite sure where to go from here. Maybe it's song and dance.



Beyoncé appears at a campaign event for Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris in Houston, on Oct. 25, 2024. (AP)

## Singer honors Anderson

## Beyoncé channels 'Baywatch' icon for election day message

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): In a new video posted early Election Day, Beyoncé channels Pamela Anderson in the television program "Baywatch" - red one-piece swimsuit and all - and asks viewers to vote.

In the two-and-a-half-minute clip, set to most of "Bodyguard," a four-minute cut from her 2024 country album "Cowboy Carter," Beyoncé cosplays as Anderson's character before concluding with a simple message, written in white text: "Happy Beyllooween," followed by "Vote."

At a rally for Donald Trump in Pittsburgh on Monday night, the former president spoke dismissively about Beyoncé's appearance at a Kamala Harris rally in Houston in October, drawing boos for the megastar from his supporters.

"Beyoncé would come in. Everyone's expecting a couple of songs. There were no songs. There was no happiness," Trump said.

She did not perform - unlike in 2016, when she performed at a presidential campaign rally for Hillary Clinton in

Cleveland - but she endorsed Harris and gave a moving speech, initially joined onstage by her Destiny's Child bandmate Kelly Rowland.

"I'm not here as a celebrity, I'm not here as a politician. I'm here as a mother," Beyoncé said.

"A mother who cares deeply about the world my children and all of our children live in, a world where we have the freedom to control our bodies, a world where we're not divided," she said at the rally in Houston, her hometown.

"Imagine our daughters growing up seeing what's possible with no ceilings, no limitations," she continued. "We must vote, and we need you."

The Harris campaign has taken on Beyoncé's track "Freedom," a cut from her landmark 2016 album "Lemonade," as its anthem.

Harris used the song in July during her first official public appearance as a presidential candidate at her campaign headquarters in Delaware. That same month, Beyoncé's mother, Tina Knowles, publicly endorsed Harris for president.



Ruby slippers once worn by Judy Garland in the 'The Wizard of Oz,' are displayed at a news conference, Sept. 4, 2018, at the FBI office in Brooklyn Center, Minn. (AP)

Online bidding until Dec 7

## Stolen 'The Wizard of Oz' ruby slippers on sale after 20 years

DALLAS, Nov 6, (AP): A pair of ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz" is on the auction block nearly two decades after a thief stole the iconic shoes, convinced they were adorned with real jewels.

Online bidding has started and will continue through Dec. 7, Heritage Auctions in Dallas announced in a news release Monday.

The auction company received the

sequin-and-bead-bedazzled slippers from Michael Shaw, the memorabilia collector who originally owned the footwear at the heart of the beloved 1939 musical. Shaw had loaned the shoes in 2005 to the Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

That summer, someone smashed through a display case and stole the slippers. Their whereabouts remained a mystery until the FBI recovered them in 2018.

## Variety

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands:** Police arrested a 23-year-old man Tuesday on suspicion of involvement in a botched art heist at a gallery in the southern Netherlands targeting four valuable Andy Warhol screenprints.

The arrest came days after thieves blew open the door of an art gallery in the town of Oisterwijk last week and stole two works from a famous series of Warhol screen prints of the former queens of the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Denmark and Swaziland that is now called Eswatini. Two more prints were left, badly damaged, in the street as the thieves fled.

In a brief statement, police did not say if the missing artworks were recovered in a string of raids in Oisterwijk and nearby towns and cities, including one in Belgium. A spokeswoman de-

clined to give any more details.

The gallery owner, Mark Peet Visser, said the stolen works had not been found, and a restorer is assessing the two damaged prints.

Last week, Visser said video footage of the heist showed that the four prints were "damaged beyond repair" by what he described as "amateurish" thieves who had to leave two of the prints behind because they didn't fit in the getaway car.

Police said the suspect, who was not identified in line with Dutch privacy rules, was detained in Berkel-Enschot,

just six kilometers (four miles) from Oisterwijk. (AP)

**BEIJING:** A symposium commemorating the 130th birth anniversaries of traditional Chinese opera maestros Mei Lanfang and Zhou Xinfang was held in Beijing on Wednesday, highlighting the innovative development of the art form.

Both Mei and Zhou were notable actors in Peking opera, a major genre of traditional Chinese opera, or "Xiqu," that arose in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) in Beijing. Mei, born in 1894, was famous for his female roles ("Dan"), while Zhou, born in 1895, was renowned for his old male roles ("Laosheng").

The attendees, including artists and experts of traditional Chinese opera and the offspring of Mei and Zhou, emphasized the importance of carry-

ing forward the two maestros' enduring contributions to the innovation and promotion of Chinese culture.

They pledged further efforts to preserve and enhance traditional Chinese opera and promote the creative transformation and innovative development of fine traditional Chinese culture.

The attendees agreed that more measures should be launched to encourage the presence of traditional Chinese opera in schools, rural areas and communities, and enhance its international dissemination.

It is also necessary to foster a favorable policy environment for traditional Chinese opera to flourish, according to the attendees.

Li Shulei, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, attended the symposium. (Xinhua)



Tyka Nelson, sister of the late musician Prince, dies at 64. (AP)

Pop singer’s only full sibling

Tyka Nelson, Prince’s sister, dies at 64

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): Minneapolis musician Tyka Nelson, Prince’s only full sibling, died Monday at North Memorial Health in Robbinsdale, Minnesota, her son President Nelson confirmed to The Associated Press. She was 64. A cause of death was not immediately available, and President Nelson said he doesn’t expect to know “for a couple of days.” Born to jazz musician John L. Nelson and Mattie Della Shaw in 1960, two years after Prince, Nelson was a singer-songwriter, releasing four albums across her career,

starting with 1988’s “Royal Blue.” That album produced her biggest hits, “Marc Anthony’s Tune,” which spent 11 weeks on Billboard’s Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart, peaking at No. 33, and “L.O.V.E.,” which spent seven weeks on the chart and topped at No. 52. At the time, she told the Star Tribune of Minneapolis, “The album is basically about love relationships between a man and a woman. I’m royal blue because I can’t find him,” she said. It’s an alternative to her brother’s chosen color of purple. Of their re-

lationship, she said: “The funniest thing is people say, ‘How does it feel to be Prince’s sister?’ They don’t actually realize what they’re saying. I’ve been Prince’s sister ever since I got here on Earth.” The Associated Press described her “Royal Blue” album as “mostly adult-contemporary or easy-listening” material, “far removed from Prince and the so-called Minneapolis sound. Hers is a mature, romantic sound aimed at 25- to 45-year-olds.” Then came 1992’s “Yellow Moon, Red Sky,” 2008’s “A Brand New Me,” and finally, 2011’s “Hustler.”

Family, friends bid farewell

Tito laid to rest at family cemetery

GLENDAL, Calif., Nov 6, (AP): A funeral was held for **Tito Jackson** at the same Southern California cemetery where his brother Michael Jackson and his father Joe Jackson are buried.

Family and friends gathered Monday to mourn the singer and guitarist for the Jackson 5 and the Jacksons at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, about seven weeks after his death at age 70. He lived



Jackson

in Claremore, Oklahoma. Photos from several media outlets showed that mourners included siblings Marlon and La Toya Jackson, as well as Michael’s children Paris and Bigi Jackson. Tito Jackson’s sons said on Instagram that after the service, a smaller family ceremony was held a few miles away at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills, where he was laid to rest. Tito Jackson’s Sept. 15 death was the second among the nine Jackson siblings after Michael Jackson died at age 50 in 2009. Tito Jackson was the third child of Joe and Katherine Jackson. His mother is among his survivors and is now 94.

Books

Smiley in ‘Karla’s Choice’

Harkaway ‘channels’ John le Carré in new spy thriller

LONDON, Nov 6, (AP): George Smiley, the subtle fictional spy-master navigating treacherous Cold War currents, is back. And so, somewhat surprisingly, is his creator, **John le Carré**.

Four years after the spy writer’s death at the age of 89, comes a new thriller, “Karla’s Choice,” billed as “a John le Carré novel,” it was written by Nick Harkaway, whose qualifications for the job include seven published novels, a lifetime of reading le Carré - and the fact he is the late author’s son. After decades avoiding his famous father’s shadow, like Smiley trying to leave the intelligence agency known as the Circus, he was drawn back in.

Le Carré left a note asking his family, as custodians of his estate, to help his works live on and find new readers. They took that as permission to write new books. But Harkaway, who made his name with sci-fi thrillers including “The Gone-Away World,” “Angelmaker” and “Titanium Noir,” was apprehensive about being the one to do it. “I would go so far as to say terrified,” said 51-year-old Harkaway, whose real name is Nicholas Cornwell. Le Carré was the pen name of his father, David Cornwell.

“It’s this piece of 20th-century literature that defines a genre and potentially a historical period. This body of work is immense. And it’s my father’s universe,” he said. “There’s every reason for people to be skeptical.”

Spacious

Sitting in his spacious north London home - in the “very uncomfortable” writing chair that once belonged to his father - Harkaway has relaxed a bit now that the book has been published (by Viking) to largely glowing reviews. The Daily Telegraph said Harkaway’s “recreation of the Smiley milieu is note-perfect,” while The Guardian declared the novel “a treat.” “Karla’s Choice” is set in 1963, months after the end of le Carré’s breakthrough novel, “The Spy Who Came in From the Cold.” It opens with a hitman, dispatched by Moscow to assassinate a Hungarian publisher in London, having a last-minute crisis of conscience.

A recently retired Smiley is pulled in for one last job. He’s assured it will be short and simple. Famous last words.

The peril-filled saga that follows fleshes out the early relationship between Smiley and the Soviet spymaster Karla, who becomes his nemesis in later works like “Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy” and “Smiley’s People.”

Harkaway says that once he got over his terror, capturing Smiley’s voice came easily - he had literally grown up with it. Some of his earliest memories involve his father reading aloud draft pages of his works in progress.

“The formative moment in my

life where I was actually learning to speak, was learning to use language. I was getting 90 minutes or more of George Smiley in my ear every day,” he said. “And so when I came to sit down to do this, I found that I did not have to turn the dial very far to find a voice that is absolutely my own, but which reads to people as being sufficiently of the le Carré mood.” That mood is often dark. Le Carré had been a real-life Cold War intelligence agent, and his thrillers are steeped in the moral murk of the spy world. But bespectacled, understated Smiley - antithesis of that other famous fictional spy, James Bond - offers decency and hope.

Smiley

Harkaway sees Smiley as “this compassionate, anonymous little everyman who can turn up and see the broken pieces of life on the floor and put them back together.” There is a bit more humor in “Karla’s Choice” than in many of his father’s books, and female characters, including Smiley’s wife Ann, get more space and voice.

“I had a flat-out ambition that the Circus and the Circus universe should not just be elderly, straight white men,” Harkaway said.

He acknowledges that women were often on the sidelines in his father’s work - a reflection of the male-dominated era, and of a complicated life. David Cornwell’s mother left when he was 5 years old, leaving him with his father, a charismatic conman. He didn’t see her again until he was 21. As an adult he had two long marriages - the second to Harkaway’s mother, Valerie Jane Eustace - and multiple affairs.

“On a fundamental level for him, his relationships with women were about absence and pain,” Harkaway said. “That got better over time. But when he was writing Smiley, that’s what came through. And that’s not my life.”

Harkaway says working on the book didn’t bring “an Obi Wan Kenobi moment” in which an apparition of his father appeared to offer writing advice. But he found the experience “very moving.”

“Despite the fact that it’s ... slightly a project that has grief attached to it, it’s still a joyful process,” he said.

It seems inevitable that more le Carré thrillers will follow. Harkaway also plans to continue writing under his own name and in his own style, with a sequel to “Titanium Noir” due to be published in April.

“Karla’s Choice” carries a double dedication: To David John Moore Cornwell, “father, husband, brother, son,” and to “John le Carré, novelist.”

“John le Carré was, among other things, a shield that my father created, because he was quite a shy guy,” Harkaway said. “John le Carré was kind of the suit that he put on to be able to do it all. And then David Cornwell was my dad. He was a terrible cook, he was a ping pong player of enormous aggression and flair ... he was the person I lived with. “I wanted with that dedication to thank them both. And also just to remind everybody, he was an awful lot of things to a lot of people.”



British author Nick Harkaway, son of John le Carré, poses for a photograph with copies of his book, during an interview with The Associated Press, at his home, in London, Oct. 24, 2024. (AP)



Jennifer Lopez poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film ‘Unstoppable’ on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, in London. (AP)

Music

Band sticks to their pop-punk roots

State Champs’ latest is enjoyable

LOS ANGELES, Nov 6, (AP): New York pop-punk band State Champs’ self-titled album is one fans of the genre have heard before - a band musing about awkward interactions at parties, overthinking their romantic relationships and scorning the mundane. Across 12 tracks, the album is charming, but unchallenging.

Typically, when an artist chooses to name an album after themselves, they’re communicating something - that this is their most definitive work, the release they most identify with. In the case of State Champs, the album released 14 years into their career stays true to the angsty identity they established in their early music, while expressing a reluctance to branch into something more.

In a collective statement, the band described the record as embodying all of State Champs’ discography, and it’s true. The new album’s tracks could belong to their debut EP in 2010 or their last album, 2022’s “Kings of the New Age.” There’s something to be said for consistency, but overwhelmingly, their matured pop-punk coupled with risk aversion leans more into the safety of pop territory than punk.

A good example of this is

the first song, “The Constant,” all peppy drums, sultry guitars and punctuating tambourines; it launches into an energy that is carried throughout the record. The instrumentals are edgy, but the lyrics are surface level. “Do you think I deserve this/Keeping me in the dark/ While you got what you wanted,” frontman Derek DiScanio sings.

He declares a similar thesis five songs in at “Too Late to Say,” over drum-heavy production: “When there’s a good thing coming/I turn around instead/ I’m getting good at ignoring it.” Influences from iconic bands in the genre like All Time

Low and Blink-182 are heard throughout. Lyrics are generic and universal, avoiding any real controversy. Even profanities are meticulously placed to be affectual and nonthreatening - even more reserved than what you’d find on an Olivia Rodrigo record.

Across the album, State Champs wrestle with self-doubt. It takes on a few forms. On “Just a Dream” and the closer “Golden Years,” the band is stuck on the past, unsure of the future. “Cause now it takes everything in me/Putting the past up on a shelf/And falling in love with something else,” DiScanio sings on the latter track.

But there are standouts, like the palm-muted power chords of “Clueless,” driving bass of “Light Blue” and the explosive, lovesick brooding and gang vocals of “Save Face Story.” They’re not reinventing the wheel here, but in those moments, their customariness works.

Overall, State Champ’s eponymous album colors comfortably within pop-punk’s lines, choosing familiarity over experimentation. It makes for a predictable but enjoyable album, evoking the image of a suburban house party or while practicing tricks at the skatepark.



This cover image released by Pure Noise Records shows the self-titled album for State Champs. (AP)

Variety

**BERLIN:** Munich welcomed the 12th Chinese Film Festival on Monday night, inviting locals to explore China’s cinematic world through a diverse lineup of films.

Organized by the Confucius Institute Munich, the two-week event will showcase 21 feature films, three short films, two animated features, and three animated shorts.

Munich’s mayor, **Dieter Reiter**, emphasized the festival’s role in fostering cross-cultural understanding, highlighting China’s global significance.

The opening night featured a screening of “Five Hundred Miles,” marking the start of an immersive film program. Beyond screenings, the festival offers lectures on the film industry, and the experience of traditional Chinese attire, Hanfu. (Xinhua)



Reiter

**PARIS:** Prosecutors and police investigators who specialize in fighting fraud and corruption raided Netflix offices in France and the Netherlands on Tuesday, in a probe of suspected financial wrongdoing, judicial officials said.

French and Dutch authorities have been working together for many months on the investigation centering on the suspected laundering of tax fraud and off-the-books work, said a judicial official in France who spoke on condition of anonymity because of French secrecy laws that apply to judicial probes.

French police investigators carried out searches of the streaming giant’s French headquarters, the judicial official said. The investigators from a police brigade that specializes in major tax fraud, money laundering, corruption and white-collar financial crime were accompanied by officials from the French national prosecutors’ office that also combats financial crimes, the official said. (AP)

**BEIJING:** China’s central bank announced on Tuesday it will issue a commemorative coin featuring the Chinese Peking Opera art on Nov. 19.

The brass alloy coin, with a denomination of five yuan (about 0.7 U.S. dollars) apiece, features the national emblem of the People’s Republic of China on the obverse side, according to the People’s Bank of China. Below the national emblem is the year “2024” mark.

The reverse side of the commemorative coin showcases images of female roles from the Chinese Peking Opera, with a combination of colored patterns and decorative graphics, and it is inscribed with the Chinese words “Chinese Peking Opera Art” and the denomination “5 yuan,” the central bank said. (Xinhua)

**LIVINGSTONE, Zambia:** Museum directors at an international conference called for solutions to address the challenges confronting museums, particularly regarding management and sustainability amid climate change and other global issues.

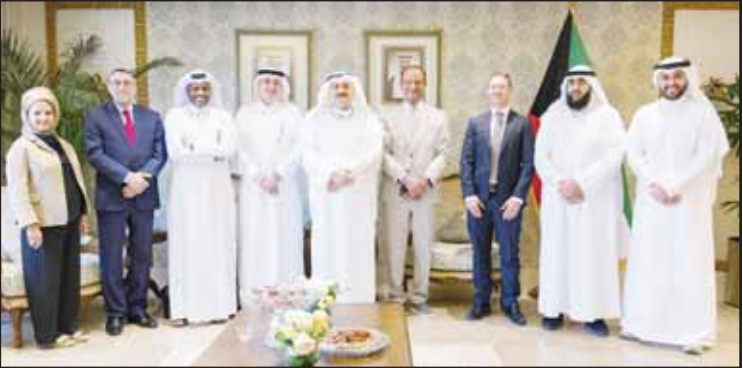
The five-day conference, organized by the International Council of Museums (ICOM), concluded on Tuesday in Livingstone, Zambia’s tourist city. It attracted 90 participants from 25 countries and focused on four thematic areas: digitalization, climate change, strategic planning, and museum management.

Participants noted the conference has provided an important opportunity for museum heads to develop solutions to the challenges confronting these heritage institutions. (Xinhua)

**VIENTIANE:** The ninth ASEAN Traditional Textile Symposium is taking place in Lao capital Vientiane, dedicated to promoting traditional textile practices and the cultural heritage of the region.

With a theme of “Weaving a stronger ASEAN community through cultural heritage and textiles”, the event underscored the profound cultural ties that unite ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member states, the local Pasaxon newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The event will contribute to the preservation of traditional textile arts and highlight the wisdom, dedication and creativity of the women who have safeguarded these invaluable traditions in societies, Naly Sisoulith, the spouse of Lao President **Thongloun Sisoulith**, said at the opening ceremony. (Xinhua)



KUNA photo  
The Minister of Health receives a delegation from Sidra Medicine Center in Qatar to discuss ways of enhancing collaboration.

### Joint training program eyed

## Kuwait and Qatar’s Sidra explore enhanced medical collaboration

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi discussed on Tuesday with a delegation from the Qatari Sidra Medicine, ways to further cooperation in healthcare and scientific research between the two countries.

The meeting reviewed joint training programs aimed at developing the capability of medical cadres and raising their efficiency in both countries, as well as prospects for exchanging experiences and services, said the ministry in a statement.

They discussed the policy of sending Kuwaiti patients to receive treatment at the center, especially cases that require advanced medical technologies not available locally.

The visit is part of a framework to enhance regional cooperation for medical care, especially for children with complex medical issues that require special care.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Hisham Kelendar, Undersecretary for External Health Services Affairs at the Ministry.

### Smoke-free generation

## UK introduces a bill to make purchase of cigarettes illegal

LONDON, Nov 6, (AP): Legislation intended to ban today’s British children from ever legally being able to smoke began its journey through Parliament on Tuesday.

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill would also bar smoking and vaping in some outdoor spaces such as playgrounds and the entrances to schools and hospitals. But a proposed ban on smoking in pub beer gardens has been dropped after opposition from bar owners.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting said the hospitality industry had “taken a real battering in recent years” and it is not “the right time” to ban smoking outside pubs.

The bill also proposes to restrict vape flavors and ban bright vape packaging aimed at children, to combat “a cynical industry that has sought to addict a new generation of children to nicotine,” Streeting said.

It also continues a plan by the previous Conservative government, which was ousted in July’s general election, to raise the minimum age for buying

tobacco by one year each year, so that no one born after Jan. 1, 2009 will ever be able to buy cigarettes legally in Britain.

It is currently illegal to sell cigarettes, tobacco products or vapes to people under 18.

If passed - as is likely because of the governing Labour Party’s large majority in Parliament -- the bill would give Britain some of the toughest anti-smoking measures in the world.

The government said the bill “breaks the cycle of addiction and paves the way for a smoke-free UK.”

The number of people who smoke in Britain has declined by two-thirds since the 1970s, but some 6.4 million people - or about 13% of the population - still smoke, according to official figures.

Authorities say smoking causes some 80,000 deaths a year in the UK, and remains the number one preventable cause of death, disability and poor health.

### Vulnerable populations at risk

## UN migration agency intensifies cholera response in South Sudan

JUBA, Nov 6, (Xinhua): The International Organization for Migration (IOM), a United Nations (UN) migration agency, announced Tuesday that it has intensified its response to a cholera outbreak in South Sudan’s Renk, a primary arrival point for hundreds of thousands fleeing the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

The IOM noted that the outbreak in Renk, declared on Oct. 28 by the Ministry of Health, poses a serious risk to vulnerable populations already facing severe challenges.

“The response team on the ground is working tirelessly to ensure that those affected receive the necessary care and support, while preventive measures

are being implemented to limit further spread,” Aaron Adkins, IOM’s emergency response coordinator in South Sudan, said in a statement issued in Juba, the country’s capital.

The outbreak was declared after six cholera cases were confirmed in Renk, which also hosts a transit center sheltering over 13,000 arrivals. The Ministry of Health has reported 59 suspected cases, underscoring the critical nature of the situation. The IOM said the influx of displaced individuals arriving in overcrowded conditions with limited access to clean water and sanitation has heightened the risk of cholera transmission in transit centers and surrounding host communities.

### Healthcare providers equipped with necessary skills

## CAN campaign trains thousands of clinicians in early cancer detection

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Today, the campaign organized by the Cancer Awareness Nation (CAN) reported the successful training of 3,169 doctors and 2,748 nurses in early cancer detection through a specialized course, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, Chairman of CAN’s Board of Directors, highlighted the participation of 1,564 dentists, 1,605 primary care doctors, and 2,748 nurses in the training initiatives launched earlier this month.

Dr Al-Saleh emphasized the campaign’s continued commitment to advancing early diagnosis skills among healthcare providers.

This initiative, held in partnership with the Ministry of Health and supported by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, targets primary care physicians, dentists and nursing staff across Kuwait, he said.

The course equips dentists with skills to detect early signs of oral cancers, incorporating the latest research in the field, while primary care physicians receive training on recognizing early indicators of breast, colon, rectal, head and neck, thyroid, and prostate cancers.

Al-Saleh noted that early detection is crucial, as it enables swift referrals to specialists, expediting treatment and increasing patient recovery rates.



Chairman of the Board of Directors of (CAN), Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, during the training course.



Several doctors participating in the course.

KUNA photos

### Needle-free oncology tech presented

## Global cancer deaths expected to almost double by 2050: study

SYDNEY, Nov 6, (Agencies): Australian research has forecast that the number of worldwide annual cancer deaths will almost double by 2050, according to a study published on Wednesday.

The study projected that 18.5 million people will die globally from cancer in 2050, an increase of 89.7 percent from 9.7 million in 2022.

Led by Habtamu Bizuayehu from the University of Queensland (UQ), researchers analyzed cases and death rates for 36 types of cancer in 185 countries and projected future cases and deaths by applying the rates to 2050 United Nations (UN) population predictions.

They found that the total number of cancer cases worldwide is expected to grow by 76.6 percent from 20 million in 2022 to 35.3 million in 2050.

Cancer cases and deaths are projected to nearly triple by 2050 in countries with low rankings on the UN’s Human Development Index (HDI), the study said, compared to moderate increases in very-high-HDI countries.

Lung cancer is projected to remain the leading cause of cancer death in 2050, accounting for an estimated 19.2 percent of all cancer deaths globally, up from 18.7 percent in 2022.

The research projected that the number of cancer cases and deaths will increase slightly more for males than for females between 2022 and 2050.

**Oncology solutions:** PharmaJet®, a company that strives to improve the performance and outcomes of injectables with its enabling needle-free technology, has announced their upcoming poster presentation on Nov 8, 2024 at the Society of Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) conference.

The poster will be presented by Gregg Wilson, PhD, RN, Director of Medical and Scientific Affairs, PharmaJet. The SITC conference will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas, bringing together leading cancer immunotherapy researchers, clinicians, scientists and industry leaders in the oncology field.

Immunotherapeutic strategies for cancer treatment include nucleic acid platforms with antigen presenting cell (APC)-targeting to boost T cell activation and the addition of neo-antigenic epitopes. Combined with checkpoint inhibitors (CPI), therapeutic vaccines significantly enhance anti-tumor and clinical responses. PharmaJet needle-free delivery can improve DNA vaccine delivery and has been successfully adopted into multiple vaccine development programs while demonstrating robust immunogenicity, with favorable clinical outcomes for novel therapeutic vaccines.

The poster presentation will highlight recent partner study results showing immunogenicity improvement when delivered with the PharmaJet Stratis® including:

“PharmaJet Needle-free Systems enable DNA cancer vaccine delivery and can be incorporated into both conventional and novel therapeutic strategies to treat various types of cancer,” noted Nathalie Landry, Chief Scientific Officer, PharmaJet. “These study results show that needle-free delivery is safe and well tolerated, induces antigen-specific T cell responses, and leads to favorable clinical outcomes.”

The PharmaJet mission is to improve the performance and outcomes of injectables with our enabling technology that better activates the immune system. We are committed to helping our partners realize their research and commercialization goals while making an impact on public health. PharmaJet Precision Delivery Systems™ can improve vaccine effectiveness and promote a preferred patient and caregiver experience while being safe, fast, and easy-to-use. The Stratis® System has U.S. FDA 510(k) marketing clearance, CE Mark, and WHO PQS certification to deliver medications and vaccines either intramuscularly or subcutaneously. The Tropis® System has CE Mark and WHO PQS certification for intradermal injections. They are both commercially available for global immunization programs.

DHAKA, Nov 6, (Xinhua): The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has called for a multi-sectoral action plan among all relevant Bangladesh ministries to respond to lead poisoning and strengthen laboratory capacity in the health and environment sectors to test heavy metals.

Globally, Bangladesh ranks fourth in the number of children affected by lead pollution, and over 35 million children in the country have dangerously high lead levels in their blood, UNICEF reported in a workshop in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The workshop showcased evidence and findings from previous research that show alarming blood lead levels among children, the sources, and the contamination pathways affecting them and raised the importance of having national representative data on blood lead levels.

### Dengue kills 20

## 35mln Bangladesh kids face lead risk

**Dengue:** Dengue has claimed the lives of 20 people so far this year in Sri Lanka, according to the country’s national dengue control unit (NDCU) on Wednesday. The NDCU said the fatality rate accounts for 0.05 percent of the total cases, and 42,820 patients had been reported during the year.

The Western Province accounts for 42.6 percent of cases, the Northern Province 11.4 percent of cases, and the Central Province 10.6 percent of cases.

Over 88,000 dengue cases were reported with 57 fatalities in the South Asian country last year.

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Martínez is back from suspension

Dybala left out of Argentina squad for World Cup qualifiers

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 6, (AP): Roma striker Paulo Dybala was left out of the Argentina squad for its upcoming World Cup qualifiers, while goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez is back after a suspension.

Coach Lionel Scaloni announced his squad , with the absence of Dybala and the inclusion of Valencia midfielder Enzo Barrenechea the two big surprises.

Martínez was suspended by FIFA for the last two qualifi-

ers for “offensive behavior” in two previous matches in September, but he will be available for the match at Paraguay on Nov. 14 and the home game against Peru five days later.

Argentina leads South American World Cup qualifying with 22 points from 10 matches. The top six teams will get direct spots at the 2026 tournament.

**Squad:**

**Goalkeepers:** Emiliano Martinez (Aston Villa), Walter

Benítez (PSV Eindhoven), Gerónimo Rulli (Marseille).

**Defenders:** Gonzalo Montiel (Sevilla), Nahuel Molina (Atletico Madrid), Cristian Romero (Tottenham), Germán Pezzella (River Plate), Nehuén Pérez (Porto), Leonardo Balardi (Marseille), Nicolás Otamendi (Benfica), Lisandro Martínez (Manchester United), Nicolás Tagliafico (Lyon).

**Midfielders:** Leandro Paredes (Roma), Alexis Mac Allister (Liverpool), Enzo Fernández (Chelsea), Giovanni Lo

Celso (Real Betis), Nicolás Paz (Como), Exequiel Palacios (Bayer Leverkusen), Rodrigo de Paul (Atletico Madrid), Enzo Barrenechea (Valencia).

**Strikers:** Thiago Almadá (Botafogo), Lionel Messi (Inter Miami), Nicolás González (Juventus), Alejandro Garnacho (Manchester United), Julián Álvarez (Atletico Madrid), Facundo Buonanotte (Leicester), Valentín Castellanos (Lazio), Lautaro Martínez (Inter Milan).

BYU rolls past Central Arkansas



Michigan guard Sylla Swords shoots ahead of South Carolina forward Joyce Edwards. (AP)

Arizona State pulls away late to beat Idaho State

**PROVO, Utah, Nov 6, (AP): Egor Demin scored 18 points and had 11 assists and BYU rolled to an 88-50 victory over Central Arkansas on Tuesday night in the season opener for both teams.**

Kanon Catchings scored 12 of his 17 points in the second half for BYU. Richie Saunders finished with 16 points and eight rebounds and Keba Keita grabbed 10 boards to go with six points.

The Cougars scored 24 points off 18 Central Arkansas turnovers.

Elias Cato scored 21 points to lead Central Arkansas.

BYU never trailed and closed the first half on a 28-8 surge for a 46-23 halftime advantage. Demin ended the half with a dunk and 3-pointer and finished with 13 points while Saunders scored 10.

It was BYU coach Kevin Young’s first game with the Cougars. Young

was named BYU’s 19th head coach in April. The former associate head coach for the Phoenix Suns returns to the college game for the first time since working with Dick Hunsaker at Utah Valley during the 2005-06 season.

Central Arkansas also has a new head coach. John Shulman takes over for the Bears after spending last season as head coach at Alabama-Huntsville.

**Arizona State 55, Idaho State 48**

In Tempe, Alston Mason scored 14 points to lead Arizona State to victory over Idaho State in the season opener for both teams.

BJ Freeman added 12 points and eight rebounds for Arizona State. Joston Sanon chipped in 11 points. Mason and Sanon each made two of the Sun Devils’ seven 3-pointers.

Isaiah Griffin scored 12 points to lead Idaho State. Jake O’Neil and Connor Hollenbeck added 10 apiece. O’Neil grabbed 11 of the Bengals’ 46 rebounds.

Arizona State shot 20 of 55 (36%) from the field while the Bengals were just 17-of-67 (25%) shooting.

Arizona State led 39-26 with 13:48 remaining in the game before Idaho State cut the deficit to 45-44 with 5:07 left. Freeman answered with a pair of free throws as the Sun Devils ended with a 10-4 surge. Shawn Phillips Jr. scored on a dunk and Freeman added a jumper down the stretch.

Arizona State is 8-2 in season openers against non-conference opponents in the Bobby Hurley era, having won eight of their last nine. Hurley has 198 wins in his career between Arizona State and Buffalo.

**Washington 79, UC Davis 73**

Seattle, Great Osobor scored 15 points and tied a career high grabbing 17 rebounds and Washington rallied late to beat UC Davis to usher in the Danny Sprinkle era.

In the season opener for both teams, Washington used a balanced

attack with Mekhi Mason scoring 13 points and reserves Zoom Diallo scored 12 and Wilhelm Breidenbach 10 respectively.

The Aggies’ TY Johnson scored a career-high 35 points shooting 10 of 25 and 13 for 16 from the free-throw line.

Washington led 37-33 at half-time before the Aggies seized the lead with a 8-2 start and were up at the 17:52 mark when Leo DeBruhl made a 3-pointer. UC Davis maintained a slim lead until Tyler Harris hit a jumper with 6:03 left to give Washington a 60-58 lead and they never trailed again.

Sprinkle arrives at Washington after having spent just a year at Utah State where he helped lead the Aggies to the Mountain West Conference title and an appearance in the round of 32 at the NCAA Tournament.

He spent four years at Montana State and saw the Bobcats to the NCAA Tournament in 2022 and 2023.



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid looks over the court after an NBA basketball game against the Memphis Grizzlies in Philadelphia. (AP)

**Zheng reaches semis:** Paris Olympic gold medalist Zheng Qinwen of China qualified for the semifinals of the WTA Finals after breezing past Italy’s fourth-seeded Jasmine Paolini 6-1, 6-1 here on Wednesday.

With this victory, Zheng completed the group stage with a 2-1 record, finishing second in the group.

The top place went to top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka, who had already secured her spot in the semifinals prior to Zheng’s match.(Xinhua)

LDU Quito in August.

He was an unused substitute in Ecuador’s World Cup qualifiers against Paraguay and Uruguay in October. (Xinhua)

**England unchanged:** England opted against making any changes in personnel for the visit of Australia on Saturday after being edged by New Zealand last weekend.

A 24-22 defeat by the All Blacks opened England’s autumn series and the same XV has been retained for the second of four tests at Twickenham this month.

England coach Steve Borthwick has made a positional switch in midfield, however, where Henry Slade and Ollie Lawrence have swapped places.

The only adjustments in personnel were made to the bench where Luke Cowan-Dickie replaced Theo Dan at hooker and Ben Curry made way to accommodate a return to a 5-3 split between forwards and backs.

England: George Furbank, Immanuel Feyi-Waboso, Ollie Lawrence, Henry Slade, Tommy Freeman, Marcus Smith, Ben Spencer; Ben Earl, Tom Curry, Chandler Cunningham-South, George Martin, Maro Itoje, Will Stuart, Jamie George (captain), Ellis Genge, Reserves: Luke Cowan-Dickie, Fin Baxter, Dan Cole, Nick Isiekwe, Alex Dombrandt, Harry Randall, George Ford, Ollie Sleightholme. (AP)

Flamengo voices support for Henrique amid match-fixing investigation

SAO PAULO, Nov 6, (AP): Brazilian soccer club Flamengo issued a statement in support of its winger Bruno Henrique on Tuesday amid a match-fixing investigation that brought several federal police agents to the club’s training ground in Rio de Janeiro.

Local media reported that police are investigating a high number of bets that came in expecting Henrique to be booked during Flamengo’s 2-1 loss against Santos in a Brazilian league match last year. The 33-year-old winger received a yellow card near the end of the game and was later sent off.

Flamengo said in a statement that it will give “total support to our athlete Bruno Henrique, who

enjoys our trust and, like anyone else, has a presumption of innocence.”

“The club did not have access to the probe for the case is sealed,” it added. “Our athlete will continue to perform his professional activities as usual.”

Before the probe, Henrique was expected to play at Cruzeiro in a Brazilian league match on Wednesday.

Brazil’s federal police confirmed that agents visited Flamengo’s training ground, but did not say whether Henrique was a target. A spokesman for the player did not comment on the case.

The winger is considered a club hero and was one of his key players in two of Flamengo’s three

Copa Libertadores titles.

In May, another Brazilian player was involved in a match-fixing scandal linked to sports betting.

West Ham and Brazil national team midfielder Lucas Paquetá was charged by English soccer authorities amid allegations he had deliberately received cards during Premier League matches to influence betting markets. Paquetá denies any wrongdoing.

Last year, investigations by prosecutors in the state of Goias brought charges of alleged manipulation of sports competitions against 15 players across the top two tiers and local leagues. Many of them were suspended from playing the sport in Brazil.

Club World Cup rules let FIFA solve disputes between teams who want to select same player

GENEVA, Nov 6, (AP): FIFA will judge any disputes between Club World Cup teams who each want to take the same player to the tournament in the United States next year, according to tournament rules published on Tuesday.

Scheduling a club event that straddles the June 30 date when player contracts typically expire - as Kylian Mbappé’s did when moving in July as a free agent to Real Madrid from Paris Saint-Germain - has pushed FIFA to find solutions for new transfer issues.

The 32-team Club World Cup is played from June 15-July 13 and potential free agents at qualified teams include Manchester City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne, Bayern Munich trio Alphonso Davies, Joshua Kimmich and Leroy Sané, Inter Milan defender Denzel Dumfries and Madrid’s Ferland Mendy.

“Should two clubs wish to include the same player on their respective provisional list, the FIFA general secretariat shall decide for which club the player may be listed, after hearing all concerned parties,” the world soccer body’s tournament rules state.

Club World Cup rules say players must be on a team’s provisional list approved by FIFA before they can be selected in the final squad for the tournament. Madrid and PSG are among the 12 teams from Europe.

Pending free agents can officially start talks in January with other clubs and reach agreements to sign for them next season.

However, the June 15 start of the Club World Cup is technically still this season and FIFA has given member federations the option of opening an exceptional transfer window from June 1-10 to push deals through.

It means players in Europe could play for one team in the Champions League final on May 31 and for a different team 15 days later at the Club World Cup.

FIFA also will let Club World Cup teams change their squad list mid-tournament, from June 27-July 3 to “replace players whose contracts have naturally expired.”

However, players can represent only one team at the Club World Cup and would not be eligible to transfer and play for another in the second half of the tournament.

FIFA has faced issues with its long-term plan to relaunch the Club World Cup as a month-long tournament played every four years and paying elite teams tens of millions of dollars in prize money.

The tournament still has no broadcast deal, just one sponsor - though FIFA has promised others, likely from Saudi Arabia, will soon be announced - and is the subject of a formal complaint to the European Commission in Brussels by players unions and domestic leagues about how it was added to the congested global soccer calendar.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti suggested in June his storied club might be ready to boycott FIFA’s invitation though the European champion walked back that claim.

Any team that formally signs up for the Club World

Cup then withdraws will be fined “at least 250,000 Swiss francs” (\$290,000), FIFA rules said on Tuesday, if the decision is made at least 30 days before the first game. Any withdrawal after mid-May will get a fine of “at least 500,000 Swiss francs” (\$580,000).

FIFA has yet to confirm tournament prize money or details of the tournament draw, which is expected early in December.

The 32nd and last entry, from South America, will be decided on Nov. 30 by the Copa Libertadores final between Brazilian teams Atlético Mineiro and Botafogo in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Teams qualified by winning a continental club championship from 2020 to 2024, or were ranked highly by consistently good results in competitions. Countries were limited to two entries unless they had more than two title winners. Brazil will have four teams in the U.S. and Mexico will have three.

FIFA added Lionel Messi’s club Inter Miami to the lineup last month to represent the host nation based on its regular-season record, rather than wait for the MLS Cup final on Dec. 7. Inter Miami will play in the opening game at the Miami Dolphins stadium.

Tournament rules confirmed there will be no third-place game, and player suspensions for red cards will not carry over to any other competition, such as a domestic league game in August.

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# Ronaldo scores as Al-Nassr routs Al-Ain



Al Nassr player celebrates at end of the proceedings.

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 6, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo scored the second goal as Al-Nassr defeated defending champion Al-Ain of the United Arab Emirates 5-1 in the AFC Champions League Elite to put Saudi Arabian teams in the top three places in the 12-team standings.**

Al-Nassr has 10 points from four games, two behind local

rivals Al-Hilal and Al-Ahli who both have a perfect record with four wins.

Anderson Talisca opened the scoring in Riyadh after just five minutes with a shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the area. Ronaldo then netted his second goal of this season's competition from close range just after the half-hour mark after goalkeeper Khalid Eisa could only parry Sadio Mane's shot from outside the area.

The third came before the break as Angelo's low cross was

deflected into his own net by Fabio Cardoso, but Al-Ain pulled a goal back 10 minutes after the restart as Park Yong-woo's shot hit the post but rebounded off the back of diving goalkeeper Bento and into the net.

Wesley and Talisca added late goals for Al-Nassr to cement the Saudi dominance of the western zone's group. The top eight from each of the two groups progress to the knockout stages.

In the eastern zone, Vissel Kobe of Japan went top of the group with a 2-0 win over South Korea's Gwangju FC, the pre-

vious leader. Taisei Miyashiro scored with a penalty after 15 minutes and Daiju Sasaki sealed the victory after the break.

Johor Darul Tazim of Malaysia went third with a 3-0 win over two-time champion Ulsan HD of South Korea.

Just three days after lifting the Chinese Super League title, Shanghai Port lost 3-1 at Kawasaki Frontale of Japan.

Australia's sole representative Central Coast Mariners picked up its first point with a 2-2 draw with Shanghai Shenhua.

## Kuwait School Sports Federation presents future vision to minister

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei recently welcomed a delegation from the Kuwait School Sports Federation and Higher Education's Board of Directors, led by Federation Chairman Faisal Al-Maqseed. The delegation included Dr. Mutab Al-Mutairi, Vice President and General Supervisor of Physical Education at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Ahmed Abdul Hamid Al-Hamdan, Secretary-General, and Walid Ayesh, Vice President of the Arab Federation for School Sports.

Following the meeting, Faisal Al-Maqseed expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the

Minister, congratulating him on the political leadership's confidence in his appointment to the Ministry of Education and wishing him continued success in his mission.

Al-Maqseed noted that during the meeting, the delegation presented an overview of the Federation's work, its technical committees, and its progress to date. They discussed the future vision outlined in the Federation's "Our Talents in Our Schools 2021-2026" strategy, which aims to foster and enhance school sports. Additionally, they reviewed recent international engagements and various local activities and events initiated by the Federation.



Al-Tabtabaei receiving the school union delegation.

## Kazma signs foreign stars ahead of Asian Championship in Doha

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Kazma Club has signed three international players to strengthen the team for the 27th Asian Club Handball Championship in Doha from November 13-24.

The new additions include Tunisian player Wajdi Sinan from Qatari club Al-Arabi, Argentine players Mascherano Lucas and Gonzalo Felipe, along with Tunisian professionals Anwar bin Abdullah and Mohamed Farad.

Currently, the team is training in Cairo, where it recently won a friendly match against Al-Qanah

with a score of 31-26, following another friendly against the Egyptian Olympic team.

The team is set to return to Kuwait tomorrow, departing for Doha on November 10 for the tournament.

The Kazma delegation for the camp and championship is led by Kazma Club Treasurer Omar Al-Mulla and includes game director Salem Abdul Salam, administrator Tariq Al-Subaie, media coordinator Nasser Al-Fadhli, Serbian head coach Radric Bozo, goal-keeping coach Hamdi Al-Maraq, physical trainer Abdullah Thaqib, physical therapist Darko Antik, and technical analyst Walid Al-Anzi, along with 20 players.



Kazma new signees.

## Kuwait to face Oman in quarters



Great ambition for Al-Azraq against Oman today.

**By Hassan Mosa**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Kuwait will take on Oman at 2:00 PM in the quarter-final round of the 23rd Arab Volleyball Championship, currently underway in Bahrain. In other quarter-final matchups today, Bahrain will face Jordan, Qatar will meet Iraq, and Tunisia will compete against Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait finished second in Group Two during the preliminary round with five points, trailing only Qatar, after

securing victories over Jordan and Saudi Arabia but losing to Qatar.

The Kuwaiti team aims for a strong performance in today's match to reach the semi-finals. Julian, from Argentina, will count on the stellar performances of Rashid Anbar, Omar Al-Enezi, Adhbi Malik, the promising Saud Al-Duwaisan, and libero Abdullah Fares. On the other hand, Oman will look to tackle the challenge posed by Kuwait and fight for a semi-final spot with a victory.

## Best of the Rest

**Huracan heats up race:** Huracan continued its Argentine Primera Division title charge on Tuesday with a 4-2 away victory over Newell's Old Boys.

Rodrigo Cabral and Eric Ramirez struck in the first half for the visitor before Walter Mazzanti and Rodrigo Echeverria added two more goals before the hour.

Juan Manuel Garcia and Ignacio Ramirez were on target for the host, who sunk to its third defeat in four games. (Xinhua)

**Botafogo stretches lead:** Jefferson Savarino scored one goal and set up another as Botafogo extended its lead at the top of Brazil's Serie A standings on Tuesday with a 3-0 home victory over Vasco da Gama.

The Venezuela international winger opened the scoring in the ninth minute with a low finish following a counterattack and he then turned provider as he set up Luiz Henrique for the host's second goal. (Xinhua)

## Citizens must pay \$14.15 million: Judge

## ‘Mendy entitled to majority of his claim against City’



Sporting's Viktor Gyoekeres, left, avoids Manchester City's Jahmai Simpson-Pusey to shoot and score his side's first goal during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Sporting CP and Manchester City at the Alvalade stadium in Lisbon. (AP)

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 6, (AP): Manchester City must pay former player Benjamin Mendy the majority of his 11-million-pound (\$14.15 million) claim for unpaid wages that were withheld after he was charged, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Mendy took Premier League champion City to a two-day employment tribunal in Manchester, claiming the club wrongly stopped his salary after he was charged and remanded into custody in August 2021.

Mendy was cleared by a jury of six counts of rape and one count of assault, relating to four young women or teenagers, following a six-month trial. Jurors failed to reach verdicts on two counts, of rape and attempted rape, leading to a retrial, during which he was

found not guilty.

Joanne Dunlop, the tribunal judge, ruled that City was entitled to withhold Mendy's money when he was remanded in custody due to breaching bail conditions.

But she said there was nothing in Mendy's contract that permitted City to withhold his wages in the event of a suspension by the English Football Association and/or bail conditions preventing him from playing.

During the periods when Mendy was not in custody, he was unable to play primarily because he had been suspended by the FA. The judge ruled the nature of that suspension was "precautionary" and there were no findings of misconduct made by the governing body.

The judge concluded the suspen-



Manchester City's Benjamin Mendy during the English Premier League soccer match between Leicester City and Manchester City in Leicester, England. (AP)

sion was an impediment to him fulfilling his contract to train and play

for City, which was "involuntary" or "unavoidable" on Mendy's part. She said Mendy's bail conditions were influenced, at least indirectly, by the FA suspension and were themselves an involuntary or unavoidable impediment.

The club was, therefore, not entitled to withhold his pay in those instances, the judge said.

The total amount to which Mendy is entitled has yet to be agreed by his lawyers and City.

Former France international Mendy joined City from Monaco in 2017, sustained knee ligament damage in only his fourth game for the club, which kept him out for the majority of the season.

He made 75 appearances for the club. His last was against Tottenham in August 2021.

Mendy now plays for French club Lorient.

## British Embassy to organize Gulf Road ‘car rally’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: As part of the ongoing celebrations to highlight the 125th anniversary of official diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and the State of Kuwait, the British Embassy is organizing a "car rally" showcasing a number of the UK's premier automotive brands from across the

decades.

The rally, stretching from Marina Crescent to the Kuwait Towers, will take place from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Friday, Nov 8, 2024, with members of the public invited to attend.

Her Excellency Belinda Lewis, British Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, said: "I am

delighted to invite all motoring enthusiasts to attend this special one-off event.

A huge range of British-made vehicles will participate in the rally, ranging from 1950s vintage classics to cutting-edge modern supercars. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity to see them up close!



A participant practising for the Crown Prince Shooting Championship.

# Sports

## Kuwaiti shooters in full training for Crown Prince Shooting Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Olympic Shooting Range Complex is buzzing with activity as shooters prepare for the annual His Highness the Crown Prince Shooting Championship, set to begin next Saturday.

The teams from Qatar, Bahrain, and Algeria have already arrived, with the Saudi, Omani, and Syrian teams

expected to join them today.

The Supreme Organizing Committee of the Crown Prince Championship has expressed satisfaction with the event preparations, having monitored both the informal training sessions and the readiness of the complex, which will host the Federation's upcoming sports season.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti archery team continues its intensive training for the competition.

Shooter Saad Khaled Al-Baloud highlighted the championship's significance, honoring His Highness the Crown Prince, and noted that the team has undergone two months of rigorous morning and evening training sessions to reach peak performance.

Al-Baloud emphasized that archery demands consistent practice to sustain technical skill and ensure strong performance in competitions.

Additionally, Kuwaiti national team shooter Abdulrahman Al-Faihan confirmed his readiness to compete in both the Crown Prince Championship and the upcoming Arab Championship.

## Madrid, City humiliated in Champions League

Liverpool enjoys Alonso's return

LONDON, Nov 6, (AP): European heavyweights Real Madrid and Manchester City both suffered big defeats in the Champions League.

Defending champion Madrid was humbled 3-1 at home by AC Milan, while Erling Haaland missed a penalty and City squandered a fourth-minute lead as it lost 4-1 at Sporting Lisbon, whose coach will soon take charge of its crosstown rival.

It was a much better evening for Liverpool, as Luis Diaz scored a hat trick and Cody Gakpo grabbed another goal in a 4-0 win over German champion Bayer Leverkusen at Anfield that marred Xabi Alonso's return to his old home.

The Leverkusen coach was given a warm welcome on his return to the club where he became a fan favorite as a player over five seasons between 2004-09. Alonso won the Champions League with Liverpool in 2005.

Liverpool moved top of the league phase table with four wins from four games, followed by Sporting and Monaco, both on 10 points after three wins and a draw. Under the new 36-team format introduced by UEFA this season, the top eight teams advance directly to the next round, and those from ninth to 24th enter playoffs to reach it, while the bottom 12 are eliminated.

Before their game, Sporting fans displayed a huge tifo thanking Rúben Amorim in his last home game before he takes over Manchester United.

Phil Foden then got City off to a flying start in the fourth minute, only the second goal Sporting has conceded in four games of the competition.

But Swedish forward Viktor Gyökeres scored a hat trick as Sporting came roaring back. Gyökeres first equalized in the 38th after a perfect through ball from Geovany Quenda, before Maximiliano Araújo made it 2-1 right after the break. Gyökeres then made it 3-1 from the penalty spot after Joško Gvardiol was penalized for a shove on Francisco Trincão in the area.

Haaland's penalty hit the crossbar, before Gyökeres showed the Norwegian how it's done with another spot kick at the other end to complete the scoring.

It is the first time since 2018 that City has lost three straight games, coming off a defeat to Tottenham in the English League Cup and a loss to Bournemouth in the Premier League.

"In my seven and a half years at the club, I don't remember losing three games in a row," City midfielder Bernardo Silva said.

In Spain, Christian Pulisic sent in a corner for Malick Thiaw to head Milan into a 12th-minute lead, ensuring Madrid trailed in a third straight game in the Champions League this season. The 15-time champion had already lost to surprise team Lille in its second game.

Vinicius Júnior equalized from the penalty spot in the 23rd after he'd been tripped, but Álvaro Morata pounced on the rebound after Andriy Lunin saved Rafael Leão's shot to restore the visitors' lead against his former club.

Morata had already been given a hostile reception from the home fans, who evidently remember the goal he scored to take Juventus through to the 2015 final at their team's expense.

Tijjani Reijnders scored Milan's third goal as the home fans made their frustrations known at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

"The last two defeats are inexplicable. We have to analyze and react quickly," Lunin said, referring to Madrid's 4-0 loss to Barcelona in its previous Spanish league game.

It's the first time since 2009 that Madrid has lost two successive games at home with at least three goals conceded in each, according to Opta.



Al-Qadisiya and Al-Ettifaq players vie for the ball during the Gulf Championship match.

## Al-Qadisiya seeks justice after disputed penalty in Gulf Championship defeat

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Al-Qadisiya board member Mohammed Marafi announced plans to file an official protest with the Gulf Football Association regarding the refereeing decisions in the team's recent match against Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq in the Gulf Championship.

Al-Qadisiya suffered a 1-0 loss to Al-Ettifaq in the second round of Group Two, leaving it with just one point in the standings. The match's lone goal came from a penalty awarded by Emirati referee Ahmed Darwish, which was converted by Moussa Dembele.

Marafi also highlighted another controversial moment in Al-Qadisiya's opening match against Qatar's Al-Arabi, where a disputed equalizer was allowed despite the ball going out of play before the goal.

He emphasized that while Al-Qadisiyah aims to contribute to the success of the championship, the incorrect refereeing decisions have led to perceived injustice against the club. Marafi stated, "The penalty kick was unfair, and we are left with no choice but to file a protest to address the injustice facing Al-Qadisiya."

German forward Nicolas Kühn scored twice as Celtic defeated Leipzig 3-1 at home, and Juventus drew 1-1 at Lille.

Lille midfielder Edon Zhegrova eluded two defenders before playing a perfect pass for Jonathan David, who fired inside the far post,

but Dušan Vlahović equalized with a penalty for the Italian club.

Donyell Malen scored late for Borussia Dortmund to beat Sturm Graz 1-0 at home, and Thilo Kehrer did likewise for Monaco to win at Bologna 1-0.

United States midfielder Malik

Tillman scored one goal and set up another as PSV Eindhoven beat Spanish team Girona 4-0.

Dinamo Zagreb dealt Slovan Bratislava its fourth straight defeat in the competition as the visitors came from behind to win 4-1 in Bratislava.



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe, right, and AC Milan's Yunus Musah battle for the ball during the Champions League opening phase soccer match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

## Kuwait handball aims for new heights: Al-Balushi



Fouad Al Balushi

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The President of the Handball Federation, Fouad Al-Balushi, emphasized that the Federation's top priority is the development of Kuwait's national handball teams, aiming to make them strong contenders in international competitions.

Al-Balushi noted that, despite being amateurs, Kuwait's players have consistently returned to achieve one success after another, even against fully professional teams from other countries.

He added that Kuwait has a promising generation of male and female players capable of representing the nation with

pride on the global stage. Al-Balushi highlighted the importance of Kuwait's inaugural international friendly tournament, stating that Kuwaiti handball has long been a source of pride and a respected force in the sport worldwide.

Al-Balushi further explained that this first international tournament in Kuwait is designed to bolster the national team's readiness for the upcoming World Championship in Croatia, Denmark, and Norway in January 2025, offering valuable field experience.

He also commended the high caliber of the teams participating in the tournament, expressing his hope that Kuwaiti players will gain valuable experience and wishing all teams success in the event.

## Sauber signs Brazilian driver

HINWIL, Switzerland, Nov 6, (AP): Sauber has signed 20-year-old Brazilian driver Gabriel Bortoleto to make his debut in Formula 1 next year as Nico Hülkenberg's teammate.

The decision means that Sauber's current drivers Valtteri Bottas and Zhou Guanyu are without an F1 seat for 2025. Neither has scored a point all season and Sauber's car has been largely uncompetitive.

Signing Bortoleto, who leads the For-

mula 2 standings with two rounds to go, gives Sauber a blend of youth and experience alongside the 37-year-old Hülkenberg. German automaker Audi is taking over Sauber, which will be rebranded as the Audi works team for 2026.

"This is one of the most exciting projects in motorsport, if not in all of sports. Joining a team that combines the rich motorsport history of Sauber and Audi is a true honor," Bortoleto said in a statement.