



PM Diwan photo

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah arrives in Egypt.

Amir's Rep arrives in Egypt on official trip

CAIRO, Oct 29, (KUNA): The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Egypt on Wednesday on an official visit to attend the inauguration of the Grand Egyptian Museum.

Upon arrival, His Highness the Amir's Representative was received by Egypt's Prime Minister Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, a number of Egyptian ministers and senior officials, and Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Ghanim Al-Ghanim and Embassy's staff.

In a press release after his arrival, His Highness the Amir's Representative extolled sisterly distinguished relations between Egypt and Kuwait that are based on firm bases of reciprocal respect and collaboration.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah also commended big cooperation and mutual projects, which show the wise directives of the two countries' leaderships toward further integration and understanding, and achieving the interests of two countries and their brotherly peoples.

'Joint GCC efforts vital to face climate change'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation Duaij Al-Otaibi affirmed the GCC leaders' support for regional efforts in meteorology and climate, emphasizing their role as key pillars in sustainable development and future planning.

Speaking at the 17th meeting of the GCC Permanent Committee for Meteorology and Climate, Al-Otaibi said the gathering reflects the commitment to joint Gulf cooperation in realizing the aspirations of GCC leaders and citizens.

He noted that the adoption of the unified meteorology law for GCC states demonstrates this commitment and strengthens collective efforts to address growing climate challenges.

Al-Otaibi highlighted the importance of establishing an advanced regional early warning network for weather and climate hazards to enhance preparedness and protect lives and property. GCC Secretariat's Head of Human and Environment Affairs Abdullah Al-Rubei underscored the Secretariat's efforts to coordinate among member states.

Strategies revamped to serve Kuwait '35 vision

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal said on Wednesday the National Bureau for Academic Accreditation and Education Quality Assurance (NBAQ) is seeking to update policies and strategies as a contribution to attaining Neo Kuwait 2035 Vision.

These schemes aim at promoting the educational system to ensuring sustainability and investment in the human resources, said the minister after chairing an NBAQ's session, attended by the apparatus acting director general, Dr. Jassem Al-Ali, and board members, held at the ministry's headquarters.

For his part, Dr. Al-Ali said the discussions dealt with adopting criteria for selecting higher

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KUNA photo

World Down Syndrome Awareness Day is celebrated at the Kuwait Medical Genetic Center (KMGC) at Ghanima Al-Ghanem Hospital.

4,330 Down syndrome cases registered since '80: minister

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi reaffirmed Wednesday Kuwait's commitment to supporting individuals with Down syndrome on the occasion of World Down Syndrome Awareness Day, noting that 4,330 cases have been registered with the ministry since 1980.

Speaking to KUNA during an awareness event organized by the Kuwait Medical Genetic Center (KMGC) at Ghanima Al-Ghanem Hospital in the Sabah Health Zone, Al-Awadhi expressed his happiness at attending the national humanitarian celebration, saying that seeing children and youth with Down syndrome showcase their abilities and creativity.

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'Drug smuggling by sea is almost non-existent'

Women active partners in peace, dev't: Sheikha Jawaher

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Director General of the General Directorate of Coast Guard Brigadier General Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Yousef said the State of Kuwait has made remarkable progress in curbing maritime smuggling, achieving a rate of up to 90 percent or almost zero.

Sheikh Mubarak made the statement to journalists on the sidelines of the annual meeting of Directors General of Coast Guards in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, hosted by Kuwait and held at Sabah Al-Ahmad Naval Base, with the participation of ambassadors and high-level delegations from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Bahrain.

He pointed out that the Directorate operates as a unified team, from

the lowest to the highest ranks, and that the coastal surveillance system and patrol boat project will be fully operational by 2026.

He stated that "we are proud to host this meeting today, which serves as an annual platform for exchanging successful experiences and laying the foundations for joint planning. The joint Gulf efforts have resulted in standardized equipment, establishment of unified maintenance workshops, and exchange of technical information."

He also revealed that a specialized seminar was held during the meeting, with the participation of women from the Gulf countries, who discussed the challenges and available opportunities.

He stressed that "Kuwait is a pioneer in women's empowerment, thanks to the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah, with the support of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef. We have female students at the top international colleges in Britain. The first Kuwaiti female police officer has joined the Combined Maritime Forces at the American base in Bahrain, making her the first female officer from the Gulf countries."

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Photo by Rizk Taufiq

Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, Director General of the General Directorate of Coast Guard Brigadier General Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Yousef, ambassadors and senior Kuwait Navy officials at the Sabah Al-Ahmad Naval Base.

Doctors face jail for issuing psychotropic substances without valid medical reason

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Amid the official and public support for the decision of the Cabinet to approve the draft decree-law on combating drugs and psychotropic substances in its recently concluded weekly session and the submission of the draft to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, an analysis of the new amendments reveals that the legislature adopted a stricter legal approach towards drug traffickers, while adopting a therapeutic and humane approach towards users who are often in need of treatment.

The draft decree-law includes the merging and enactment of a unified text that replaces the existing laws on combating drugs and psychotropic substances, thus, unifying provisions into one updated legal framework.

The new draft law strengthens oversight on the use of psychotropic substances for medical purposes by establishing strict controls on prescriptions and medical reports. Doctors are prohibited from prescribing psychotropic substances without a valid medical justification. Any doctor who prescribes these substances without a medical permit faces a prison sentence of up to three years. Pharmacies are held more accountable, with fines of up to KD100,000 and the possibility of closure for up to five years if they fail to secure these substances.

The new law regulates the cases of patients arriving from abroad. It stipulates that their prescriptions must be approved by Kuwaiti authorities before the prescribed substances are allowed entry. Electronic approval from abroad is permitted. Travelers carrying narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances are required to present their prescriptions to the designated official at the port of entry to verify that the quantities brought match the amount authorized in the prescription. These procedures ensure that psychotropic medications are not misused and to prevent fraud through falsified importation or prescriptions.

Significant

The draft law includes significant additions not found in previous legislation — a major step forward in combating drugs. Among the important new provisions is the establishment of a Supreme Council for Combating Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It allows mandatory drug testing for specific categories of individuals like those who are about to get married, applicants for driving license and firearms permit, and those applying for public sector jobs. For the first time, periodic random drug tests can be imposed on employees in government agencies. It grants new powers to police officers, such as the right to make immediate arrests on suspicion of drug use without waiting for a warrant, thus, closing loopholes that some have exploited to evade detection.

In terms of social deterrence, the law criminalizes associating with drug users with the intent of preventing the spread of drugs. Anyone who knowingly associates with a drug user will be punished with three years imprisonment. Inciting, promoting or encouraging drug use is criminalized with a three-year prison sentence.

The new provisions include penalties of up to 15 years imprisonment for anyone who plants drugs on another person or coerces the latter into using drugs without his knowledge. The punishment can reach the death penalty if the victim is convicted of drug-related offenses and sentenced to death.

The new law indicates a move towards digital transformation in licensing and monitoring procedures for narcotics and psychotropic substances. Instead of traditional paper-based transactions, the draft law permits the use of electronic means in most monitoring procedures. It mandates doctors and healthcare institutions to electronically report to the relevant authorities the quantities and reasons for dispensing any narcotic drugs to patients, within the approved digital records.

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47 supervisory jobs vacant in 18 coops

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs, has announced the launch of the second phase of the Kuwaitization of Supervisory Positions in Cooperative Societies Plan. This phase encompasses 47 vacant supervisory roles with various job titles in 18 co-operatives.

In a press statement, Al-Ajmi clarified that this initiative is in line with the directives of Dr. Amthar Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs. He underscored the ministry's dedication to empower qualified national professionals and strengthen their leadership presence in the cooperative sector.

He revealed that applications for these positions will be open electronically from Nov 16-30 through the 'Fakhruna' platform of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM).

He said the applicants will undergo a thorough electronic test as a prerequisite for personal interview.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Kuwaitization Committee at PAM have been praised for organizing evaluation processes and overseeing electronic submission and auditing.

The ministry is committed to an integrated institutional approach to enhance national personnel efficiency and expand their involvement in cooperative work, aligning with the administrative reform and job localization goals of the State.

Expat gets ten years jail for falsifying HIV and hep tests

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge Nasr Salem Al-Haid, with Judges Mutaib Al-Aradhi and Mohammad Al-Sanea as members, sentenced an expatriate to 10 years in prison with hard labor for paying KD200 bribe to expatriate employees in order to manipulate blood samples for HIV and hepatitis tests, and issue forged 'good health' certificates.

In February 2022, the Court of Appeals sentenced three expatriate employees to 10 years in prison for manipulating and falsifying blood samples in chronic disease tests in exchange for bribes from expatriates applying for residency permits. In December 2023, the same court imposed the same punishment on another individual for falsifying test results.

It is worth noting that the ministries of Health and Interior first discovered the anomaly. The Ministry of Health received a call from the General Directorate for Monitoring Expatriates at the Ministry of Interior, and four expatriates underwent urgent re-examinations (comprehensive examinations) including blood tests for hepatitis B and C, HIV, and chest X-rays for tuberculosis at the Tuberculosis Control Unit. The results were positive for hepatitis (two positive for hepatitis B and two positive for hepatitis C), while the chest X-rays for tuberculosis were negative for all four expatriates.

After this, a gang was apprehended for manipulating medical test results by tampering with blood samples during transport between the sample collection site and the laboratory. This was done with the complicity of a security guard and the involvement of a health inspector from the Ministry of Health. The forgery started in the expatriates' home country, perpetrated by a woman who forged the official stamps on the test results, affixing negative result stamps to contaminated samples. While three defendants were apprehended and four others fled or were found outside Kuwait, the Criminal Court sentenced all defendants to 10 years in prison, then the Court of Appeals upheld the 10-year prison sentence with hard labor for five of the defendants who appeared in court.



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

The day the white bull was eaten ... What's the lesson?



A lion coveted the bulls' meat but could not devour them all at once.



The lion said, "That white bull draws the enemy's attention and reveals our location."



"If you let me eat him, life will be much easier for us afterward."



"My color matches yours. Let me eat the black bull, and we will be rid of him."



On every visit, he wanted to test how his sons' wives treated him.



He asked his eldest son's wife for water and poured it on the bed.



She scolded him harshly and demanded that he wash it himself.



She told her husband, but he did not reprimand her and stayed silent.



This is my daughter, the one I will rely on in my old age.

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KU committed to legal purchase of textbooks

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: In response to a report published recently by the daily on complaints about indirect attempts to pressure students into purchasing textbooks and linking the purchases to grades, Kuwait University Director Dr. Dina Al-Mailam issued a circular mandating strict compliance with regulations governing the sale and purchase of approved textbooks, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The circular highlights KU's commitment to regulating textbook sales and protecting students' rights.

Dr. Al-Mailam emphasized that the sale and purchase of textbooks must be conducted exclusively through the student bookstore.

She warned that any violations or transactions outside this framework would hold those responsible legally accountable, in accordance with the regulations governing textbooks and Law No. 76/2019 on public sector universities and its executive regulations.

Dr. Al-Mailam affirmed KU administration's commitment to protecting students from practices that violate laws and regulations, stressing that adherence to the circular reflects academic responsibility and helps preserve KU's reputation and standing among educational institutions.

Markaz Report: GCC Fixed Income market sees \$38.74 bln in primary issuances during Q3 2025 representing a 32% increase from the same period last year

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Gulf Bank celebrates 65 years of excellence, growth, and community connection

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

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Rather hot with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h.
By Night: Mild to rather cold with light variable wind to light

Weather			
to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 06-24 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	36	24	
Kuwait Airport	35	16	
Abdaly	35	18	

Bubyan	34	13
Jahra	36	20
Failaka Island	32	18
Salmiyah	31	25
Ahmadi	33	20
Nuwaisib	34	20
Wafra	36	18

Crown Prince, PM extend warm greetings

Amir congratulates Turkiye on Nat’l day



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

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

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

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to the President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his country’s national day.

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

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

Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah attends Austrian Embassy’s National Day celebration in Kuwait



H.E. Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah with H.E. Ulrich Frank attended, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria in Kuwait during a reception hosted by the Embassy on the occasion of Austria’s National Day.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: H.E. Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah attended the reception hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Austria in Kuwait on the occasion of Austria’s National Day. The event was held at the residence of H.E. Ambassador Ulrich Frank and his wife, Mrs. Regina Frank, in the Al-Rawda area.

The celebration was attended by a number of senior officials, members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the State of Kuwait, as well as prominent cultural and economic figures.

During the event, Sheikh Mubarak and the Austrian Ambassador exchanged cordial conversations highlighting the depth of the historical relations between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Austria, and ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, cul-

ture, and education. Both sides reaffirmed the strength of the friendly ties that unite the two countries.

In a statement on this occasion, Sheikh Mubarak said: “We join our friends from the Republic of Austria in celebrating their National Day as a reaffirmation of the deep friendship between our two nations and in recognition of the strong relations that connect Kuwait and Austria across various sectors. Cultural and economic exchange between peoples forms the true foundation for building a future rooted in understanding and peace.”

The celebration concluded with the cutting of a cake decorated in the colors of the Kuwaiti and Austrian flags, symbolizing the spirit of friendship and mutual respect shared between the two countries.

‘Visit Kuwait’ and Jazeera Airways launch strategic tourism initiative

Agreement to attract visitors and boost economy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi affirmed on Wednesday that the signing of a cooperation agreement between the national “Visit Kuwait” platform and Jazeera Airways marks a new step toward strengthening Kuwait’s position as a distinguished tourism and cultural destination in the region and the world.

In his speech during the signing ceremony, Minister Al-Mutairi said the agreement embodies the integration between the public and private sectors in supporting the goals of New Kuwait Vision 2035, and reflects the forward-looking vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

He added that the agreement aligns with the Ministry of Information’s strategic direction to develop the digital tourism communication system, enhance cooperation, and unify promotional efforts under a national umbrella that showcases Kuwait’s civilizational



Signing of a cooperation agreement between the national ‘Visit Kuwait’ platform and Jazeera Airways.

and humanitarian identity.

“We believe that developing domestic tourism can only be achieved through genuine partnerships with the private sector based on innovation, shared responsibility, and investment in Kuwait’s unique cultural, historical, and geographic assets,” the minister said.

Al-Mutairi stressed that the cooperation with Jazeera Airways highlights the importance of employing technology and digital platforms to facilitate the visitor experience and promote the diverse tourism and cultural events hosted throughout the year in Kuwait.

“The success of the tourism ecosystem depends on the integration of roles and joint efforts across all sectors,” he added. “Every institution can be an active partner in enriching the visitor’s experience in Kuwait - whether

through services, events, or creative initiatives that add value and enhance the overall quality of the experience.”

He called on all private-sector partners to make use of this national platform and contribute within their fields to building a comprehensive tourism experience that reflects Kuwait’s cultural and humanitarian image.

The minister also extended his sincere appreciation to the “Visit Kuwait” team and Jazeera Airways management for their efforts in completing this agreement, describing it as an important milestone in advancing the national tourism sector and strengthening Kuwait’s presence on the regional and international tourism map.

For his part, Jazeera Airways Chairman Marwan Boodai said that this event, which brings together the public

and private sectors, reflects the fruitful collaboration between both sides and the outcome of great efforts by the State and the private sector’s positive response.

He noted that the agreement represents a practical implementation of the government’s New Kuwait 2035 vision, which aims to diversify the national economy, stimulate overall growth, and enhance Kuwait’s standing on the global tourism map.

Boodai explained that the goal of the agreement is to launch a “Stopover Package” in Kuwait, enabling travelers to stay for several days and explore the country’s heritage and culture - something that was not possible before. He praised the Ministry of Interior’s recent efforts to ease entry procedures and expand visa accessibility, making it easier for visitors to enter the country in accordance with the law.

He stressed that tourism is one of the most vital sectors for creating job opportunities, noting that it has become a major economic driver in the Gulf region and an essential contributor to national income. “Statistics show that tourists in the region spend no less than USD 2,500 per visit, a significant figure that benefits the local economy,” he said, urging Kuwaiti youth to explore job and investment opportunities in tourism, aviation, hospitality, and related services.

Boodai praised the “Visit Kuwait” platform as a major national project brought to life by the dedicated efforts of its team, expressing gratitude to Minister Al-Mutairi for his continuous support of the tourism and media sectors and for empowering national initiatives that enrich Kuwait’s cultural, civilizational, and tourism landscape.



Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel inaugurates the Second Gulf Industrial Exhibition.

Unified Gulf platform unveiled

Kuwait hosts key GCC industrial exhibition to boost cooperation

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel inaugurated the Second Gulf Industrial Exhibition in Kuwait recently, with the participation of several ministers and undersecretaries of industry in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and in the presence of a select group of industry leaders, investors and innovators.

In his speech, Al-Ajeel expressed his pleasure at the launch of the exhibition, emphasizing that it embodies cooperation and integration among the Gulf countries and reflects their special attention to developing the industrial sector and activating its role in achieving sustainable economic development.

He confirmed that the exhibition is a leading Gulf platform that brings together industrialists and investors in a single environment aimed at stimulating investment and encouraging manufacturing industries as the main driver of economic growth, as well as supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and opening new avenues for partnerships and integration among Gulf companies.

entitled, “Localizing Industry in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries: Towards Sustainable Industrial Security,” with the participation of undersecretaries of industry ministries in the GCC countries, as part of the efforts of the GCC Secretariat General to strengthen industrial integration and support localization and innovation policies in the region.

The session concluded with honoring the factories that won the 2025 Gulf Industrial Excellence Award, in recognition of their contributions to industrial development and the promotion of competitiveness and innovation.

The session tackled several topics like the organization of industrial supply chains, linking localization to the concepts of economic, environmental and social sustainability, and exploring opportunities for unifying efforts among GCC countries to achieve a shared Gulf industrial base that serves regional industrial security.

Shamlan Hamoud Al-Jahdali, acting Director General of the Public Authority for Industry in Kuwait, talked about the details of the Kuwaiti Industrial Strategy 2023-2035, which includes 10 measurable objectives and 48 implementation projects.

The strategy aims to increase added value, raise the percentage of manufacturing industries, boost non-oil exports, establish advanced knowledge-based industries, develop new industrial zones, and attract investments.

Al-Jahdali explained that the food, pharmaceutical and chemical industries are among the most essential targeted sectors, citing the offering of 10 new investment opportunities in cooperation with the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting.

He also revealed that Shaddadiyah Industrial City has been allocated an area of 50 square kilometers to be an integrated logistics and industrial city, in addition to allocating new plots to support food security, waste recycling, and the establishment of an industrial technology complex for industrial research.

Kuwait joins global leaders at FII 2025

RIYADH, Oct 29, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhalizeem, took part on Tuesday in the inauguration of the ninth edition of the Future Investment Initiative conference, representing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The conference, themed “the key to prosperity,” kicked off officially amid participation of many leaders, ranking economic decision makers, senior executives and pioneers in the sectors of technology, energy and health care.

The conference, due until October 30, tackles employment of artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, geopolitical impact and matters related global communications.



Representing His Highness the Amir of the country, the Minister of Finance and Investment participates in the opening of the ‘Future Investment Initiative 2025’ in Riyadh.

Committee discusses stronger Gulf cooperation

Kuwait chairs GCC economic meeting in Riyadh

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Kuwait chaired the 14th meeting of the Senior Officials Committee at the Economic and Development Affairs Authority in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting was presided over by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance Aseel Suleiman Al-Saad Al-Munifi, with the participation of the undersecretaries of finance and economy in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and Director General of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority Khalid bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh.

At the beginning of the meeting, Al-Munifi welcomed the committee members, while emphasizing the importance of intensifying efforts and unifying visions towards economic integration among the GCC countries, in line with the aspirations of the leaders of these countries.

During the meeting, the committee members discussed ways to develop and activate the tasks of the Authority, proposed mechanisms for developing the work of the Permanent Preparatory



The Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance chairs a meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Gulf Economic and Development Affairs Authority in Riyadh.

Ministerial Committee at the Authority and enhancing its role, and preparing a joint vision that improves the effectiveness of the Authority, contributes to achieving the economic and development goals of the GCC countries, and supports the process of joint Gulf

cooperation.

The Senior Officials Committee agreed to submit its recommendations to the Permanent Preparatory Committee at the ministerial level for discussion and adoption at the next ministerial meeting.

The committee members expressed their appreciation to the State of Kuwait for spearheading the work of the committee in the previous period, while commending its role in continuing to support the GCC process and strengthening joint Gulf cooperation.

Database

He also announced the launch of the first unified Gulf industrial platform for showcasing Gulf industrial projects in a comprehensive database. He said this platform allows investors and decision-makers to access available opportunities in each Gulf state, indicating that it is a significant step towards strengthening Gulf industrial cooperation, improving the interconnectedness of supply chains, and enabling national factories to reach partners, suppliers and investors in GCC countries, all within a unified vision for Gulf economic integration.

He disclosed that the exhibition activities include an extensive panel discussion on localization, economic, environmental and social sustainability issues. He commended the efforts of the GCC Secretariat General and all organizing bodies, stressing that the exhibition is a new catalyst for Gulf industrial and economic integration and improves the standing of Gulf industries on both the regional and global stages.

On the other hand, Assistant Secretary General for Economic and Development Affairs at the GCC Khalid bin Ali bin Salem Al-Sunaidi affirmed that the exhibition reflects the ambitious vision of the GCC leaders to build a strong, diversified and sustainable Gulf economy based on innovation and advanced technology. He said the Gulf industrial sector contributes around 12.7 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP), with expectations of this percentage rising due to the expansion in manufacturing, advanced technologies, energy, pharmaceuticals and defense fields.

He added the exhibition is a leading Gulf platform for showcasing investment opportunities and strengthening cooperation in the fields of production, value chains, research and development and artificial intelligence. He was quick to clarify that it is not limited to mere display, as it presents an opportunity to build collaborative networks and launch joint industrial initiatives.

The Gulf Industrial Exhibition included an extensive panel discussion

Comprehensive

Osama Al-Suwaidi, Assistant Undersecretary for the Industrial Accelerators Sector at the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), presented the experience of his country in developing the National Content Program, which began in the energy sector through ADNOC and then transformed in 2020 into a comprehensive national program covering various industrial sectors within the 300 Billion Dirham Project.

He added that the UAE is working hard to localize more than 4,800 industrial products with an estimated value of AED 168 billion over 10 years, indicating that more than 35 government and private entities have adopted the application of national content within their procurement policies.

Iman Al-Dosari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in the Kingdom of Bahrain, discussed the features of the 2022-2026 Industrial Strategy, which aims to increase the industrial sector’s contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP), boost national exports, and enhance localization rates.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



The day the white bull was eaten ... What’s the lesson?

Once, three bulls lived in a forest - one white, one black, and one red.

A lion coveted them but could not devour them all at once. He said to the black and red bulls, “Look, the white bull alone draws the enemy’s attention and reveals our location because his color is different from ours and from all the other animals in the jungle. If you let me eat him, we can live in peace afterward.”

The bulls agreed, and the lion devoured the white bull.

Later, the lion grew hungry again and told the red bull, “My color matches yours. Let me eat the black bull, and we will live in peace afterward.”

The red bull consented, and the lion devoured the black bull.

Then, after a few days, the lion turned to the red bull and said, “I will surely eat you.”

The red bull bowed his head and asked for one last wish - a single moment to speak his mind. The lion, curious, granted it. With a trembling voice, the red bull cried out, “I was already eaten the day the white bull was eaten!”

All our bulls have been eaten, in all colors. Some were roasted over blazing fires, and others perished in the cold, frozen and dull, stripped of feeling.

Some bulls chose to become the lion’s servants, and their only task was to betray their own kind. Only cows now remain on our farms.

But one day, a bull will be born from the womb of these cows to rewrite the rules of the game. For every revolution, there comes a bull that all beasts must fear.

An old man’s test of his daughters-in-law

There was an old man who had three married sons. One day, he decided to visit each of his sons, staying with them for one day, to see how their

● **A lion coveted the bulls’ meat but could not devour them all at once.**

● **The lion said, “That white bull draws the enemy’s attention and reveals our location.”**

● **“If you let me eat him, life will be much easier for us afterward.”**

● **“My color matches yours. Let me eat the black bull, and we will be rid of him.”**

● **On every visit, he wanted to test how his sons’ wives treated him.**

● **He asked his eldest son’s wife for water and poured it on the bed.**

● **She scolded him harshly and demanded that he wash it himself.**

● **She told her husband, but he did not reprimand her and stayed silent.**

● **This is my daughter, the one I will rely on in my old age.**

wives would treat him.

He first visited his eldest son and asked to spend the night there. The next morning, he requested his daughter-in-law for some water to perform ablution. After completing it, he deliberately poured the remaining water onto the bed.

When his daughter-in-law brought him tea, he

said, “My dear daughter, please forgive me, I have wet the bed.”

She became very angry and scolded him harshly. Then she told him to wash the bed himself and warned him never to do it again. The old man pretended to be calm and washed the bed.

The next day, he visited his second son and repeated the same act. When his daughter-in-law discovered what had happened, she was angry and told her husband, but he did not reprimand her and stayed silent.

Finally, the old man visited his youngest son and repeated the same test. When he told his youngest daughter-in-law that he had wet the bed, she replied gently, “It’s alright, father. This often happens to old people. When we were children, we wet our parents’ clothes, and they always cared for us.”

The youngest daughter-in-law took the bed, washed it, and perfumed it without showing any distress or annoyance.

The old man then asked his youngest daughter-in-law for her hand size, claiming he wanted to buy jewelry for a friend.

He then went to the market and spent all his money on gold. The next day, he gathered his three sons and their wives and said, “I did not wet the bed. It was only a test to see who would care for me in my old age.”

He gave the gold to his youngest daughter-in-law, saying, “You are the daughter I will rely on in my old age.”

The two eldest sons and their wives were shocked and filled with regret. The old man concluded, “What you do for me today, your children will do for you in the future. My youngest son will live a life of dignity because his wife values and respects parents.”

This is how one should honor and care for their parents, especially in their old age. Remember, everything we give today will return to us one day.

If you want to rent an apartment, you must be married and have no outstanding fines.

If you have a dispute with someone, or if you are subject to a court ruling, or if your wife has passed away, you must remarry.

If you are unmarried due to illness, you are expected to live in a public park.

These are the conditions imposed by some building owners, who claim they are for security reasons.

● ● ● ●

In our country, landlords sometimes have their own rules. You must either accept them submissively or leave.

If a court ruling was issued against you, even fifty years ago, you are not allowed to rent a flat.

If you have unpaid government fees, you are also barred from renting.

These are the rules of some landlords, not all.

Those landlords seem to think their properties are paradise, rather than cramped apartments and buildings with no parking.

● ● ● ●

O God, by whose command the morning awakens, and by whose generosity sustenance is provided, grant us the highest ranks in this life and the loftiest abodes in the Hereafter.

O God, make this a pleasant morning filled with Your hidden blessings and glad tidings.

● ● ● ●

O God, I seek Your protection from sadness, fear, and stinginess.

I seek refuge in You, O Lord, from helplessness and laziness.

I seek refuge in You, O God, from debt and oppression.

Gallows for drug kingpins, gangs, networks face life imprisonment

Gov’t move to curb spread wins societal praise

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (Agencies): A draft law on combating drugs and psychotropic substances that aims to regulate their use and clamp down on trafficking is significant to up the fight against narcotics, Kuwait’s acting Justice Minister Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi said on Tuesday.

Discussing the intricacies of the draft law, Al-Wasmi, who doubles as acting minister for Islamic Affairs, told KUNA that all acts that run counter to the rule of law are “punishable by death or life imprisonment,” in addition to a fine of no more than KD two million.

Listing actions prohibited by the new draft law, the acting justice minister cited the smuggling of narcotics or psychotropic substances with “the intent to traffic,” in addition to “promoting or bartering” these substances or offering any of them in exchange for cash as cases in point.

On other acts punishable by death, he said that it includes “managing a local or foreign criminal organization,” with the purpose of pursuing out-

lawed activities, while all individuals who join such gangs or networks face life imprisonment or a fine not exceeding KD 50,000, added the acting Kuwaiti justice minister.



Dr. Al-Wasmi

Earlier Kuwait’s cabinet gave the thumbs up to a draft law aiming to combat drugs and psychotropic substances through the prevention of trafficking, referring it to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, pending his approval.

In another development, Chairman of the Kuwait Society Against Violence, Ali Mohammad Al-Ali, praised the Cabinet’s decision to approve the law on the mandatory treatment of drug addicts and drug testing, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, he affirmed that this decision reflects the commitment of the political leadership and government to protecting Kuwaiti society from one of the most serious challenges facing youth and families, which is the spread of drugs and their destructive impact on individuals and the social fabric.

Al-Ali explained that the Kuwait Society Against Violence had previously submitted the draft law to the Cabinet based on studies and field observations indicating increasing rates of drug use. The law’s approval is the fruit of the outcome of cooperation and coordination between state institutions and civil society organizations, reflecting a strong will to address the problem at its roots through balanced preventive and therapeutic measures.

The new law will help rehabilitate drug addicts by enrolling them into a mandatory treatment system, while also strengthening early detection procedures to curb the spread of drug use among all segments of society.

Al-Ali affirmed that this legislative achievement fulfills the hopes of every Kuwaiti family to protect their children from falling into addiction.

He expressed his gratitude to the Cabinet and all government bodies that contributed to reviewing and amending the law’s provisions.



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah chairs the meeting.

Greening of Farwaniya discussed

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah on Tuesday met with Mohammed Al-Dhafiri, representative of Abdulrahman Walid Al-Osaimi, the owner of the beautification planting initiative, and officials from the Green Fields Agricultural Company, which is working on the Fifth Ring Road intersection development project with Airport Road.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the meeting was attended by Governorate Council member Falah Al-Enezi, representing the Public Authority for Ag-

riculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), as well as Governorate Council members Lieutenant General Eng. Ali Al-Shanfa, Saad Al-Hadba, and Hessa Al-Mutawa.

During the meeting, Al-Dhafiri presented the initiative’s vision and proposed implementation phases, explaining that it aims to enhance the aesthetic landscape and improve the urban environment in Farwaniya Governorate.

The governor expressed his appreciation for the ideas presented, affirming the governorate’s support for initiatives that contribute to the development of public services.

GTD issues 638 traffic tickets near hospitals

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The continuous campaign carried out by the General Traffic Department around hospitals to apprehend violators of traffic laws recently resulted in the issuance of 638 traffic violation citations, most of which were for ‘no parking’ and ‘obstructing traffic’ violations.

This campaign was conducted over a 24-hour period on Monday. A security source disclosed that 288 violation citations were issued in Sabah Medical District, 20 at Jaber Hospital, 55 at Al-Farwaniya Hospital, 179 at Adan Hospital and 96 at Jahra Hospital.

The source reiterated that such traffic campaigns are ongoing in all hospitals to monitor violators of traffic laws and regulations, urging drivers to park in designated areas, especially since most hospitals have multi-storey parking buildings.

Cleanup drive launched in Fintas

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: As per the directives of acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng. Manal Al-Asfour and Director of Ahmadi Municipality Branch Saad Al-Khurainj, the Fahaheel Cleaning Center conducted a cleanup drive along the coastal strip in Fintas under the supervision of its head, Mohammad Al-Hajri, reports Al-Anba daily.

The campaign resulted in the removal of five food trucks and nine abandoned vehicles, and issuance of four violation citations for non-compliance with sanitation regulations, five written pledges and four warnings, in accordance with Article 12 of Resolution No. 354/2023 on Municipal Waste Management and Public Sanitation Regulations.

7 years jail, KD1m fine in forgery

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Criminal Court, presided over by Counselor Nasser Al-Bader, on Tuesday sentenced two Gulf nationals to seven years in prison with hard labor and fined them KD1 million each, for forging Kuwaiti citizenship by falsely claiming kinship to a deceased citizen in order to benefit from the privileges granted to citizens.

The court ordered one of the defendants to reimburse KD3,710 and the other was ordered to return KD362,000, in addition to fining

them double the amounts they illegally obtained in the form of financial and social benefits through the forged citizenship.

The ruling was issued after investigations revealed that the defendants submitted forged data and documents, and falsely claimed kinship to a Kuwaiti family whose head died years ago. This enabled them to obtain Kuwaiti citizenship illegally and benefit from the associated advantages.

They were then arrested by the competent authorities and their cases were referred to the Public Prosecution.

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Council approves amendments to Abdullah Al-Ahmad Center project

Hotel standards get major overhaul

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Municipal Council's Technical Committee, headed by Munira Al-Amir, approved the amendment of the decision of the Council about the educational, cultural and entertainment center project on Abdullah Al-Ahmad Street in its recently concluded meeting.

This revision was initiated by the Projects Sector at Kuwait Municipality.

Major amendments include the approval of building and rental areas for the project, which will cover three plots. These plots will feature multi-use buildings for a hotel, administrative offices, and various educational, cultural, recreational and commercial activities, as well as a park and free play areas for children.

New rental percentages have been established, mandating that commercial activities occupy not more than 60 percent of the rental area, while educational, cultural and recreational activities must constitute at least 40 percent.

A new provision permits the inclusion of service floors as required by project specifications. These service floors will not be counted within the designated built-up area of the project.

Relevant departments are authorized to update activity names to align with those approved by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Furthermore, adherence to Ministerial Resolution No. 930/2019 — Temporary Exhibitions Regulations, and its subsequent amendments is required.

The committee decided to retain on its agenda the proposal of member Alia Al-Farsi regarding the provision of restrooms in public areas, stressing that the proposal is a necessity and a basic requirement, not optional.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi
The main session of the Municipal Council in progress.

In its session on Monday, the Municipal Council approved the final version of the proposed amendment to Table No. 12 regarding the requirements and specifications for hotel buildings in various parts of the country.

The new requirements for hotels include more flexibility in building ratios, and facilities for people with special needs in accordance with the Accessibility Code adopted by Kuwait.

The amendment includes deletion of the term 'motels' from the table, and the adoption of modern definitions for hotels and hotel services. It stipulates the allocation of 10 percent of the rooms for people with special needs as per the approved standards. Building ratios were reorganized to suit the nature of investment and commercial areas, along with the addition of spaces for public services ranging from 40 percent to 100 percent of the total plot size.

The most important requirements are as follows:

■ Minimum plot size in Kuwait City: 750 square meters for investment plots and 500 square meters for commercial plots.

■ Minimum plot size outside the city: 1,000 square meters for investment plots and 750 square meters for commercial plots.

■ Plots smaller than 1,500 square meters in the city are allowed to add 50 percent of the building size for public services, while plots larger than 1,500 square meters can add up to 100 percent.

■ Outside the city, the increase ranges from 40 percent to 70 percent in investment plots, and between 70 percent and 100 percent in commercial plots.

The council also approved a special regulation for hotels integrated with separate commercial activities that are licensed independently, provided the commercial areas do not exceed 40 percent of the total plot size, with a minimum area required for establishing this type of project set at 1,500 square meters in the city and 3,000 square meters outside it.

The regulations stipulate that the size of a hotel unit should not be less than 20 square meters, and that the width of the corridors between the units should not be less than two meters and not more than three meters, with full adherence to Accessibility Code standards. The administrative office space for the hotel should be a maximum of 300 square meters.

Hotels are allowed to apply to the Kuwait Municipality to convert 25 percent of the unused surplus of general hotel services into hotel units and their sanitary facilities, as long as the application is reviewed and confirmed to comply

with the general requirements issued by the competent authorities in the field of tourism.

On the other hand, Director of the Planning Department at the Municipality Hadi Al-Dhafiri attributed the delay in implementing the wedding and event halls project to the failure to finalize the locations in Ahmadi Governorate due to conflict with services provided by the Ministry of Public Works.

He indicated that the Municipality has specified the locations of wedding halls in Jahra and Farwaniya governorates, explaining that the new regulations allow for the establishment of eight to 10 halls in each governorate.

In contrast, the Council referred to the Legal and Financial Affairs Committee the request of some members regarding the failure to complete the wedding and event halls project, especially since it led to a shortage of wedding halls and burdened the citizens.

The Council also retained on the agenda of its regular session the statement of Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei on Oct 16 about the failure to receive sites for private schools in private residential areas, at a time the Municipality informed the Council that it had handed over 14 sites.

The Council approved the reorganization of a part of Mubarakiya suburb (formerly Bayan, Block 15), and the allocation of a fuel station site in West Sabah Al-Ahmad residential area. It also requested the allocation of alternative sites for fuel stations in Mina Abdullah, Arifjan and North Wafra Agricultural Area, and canceled its previous decision to allocate a site for the construction of a fuel station along the Mina Abdullah and Wafra roads.

The committee recommended referring the proposal to the executive branch for further technical and regulatory studies before a final decision is made.

The committee also discussed the letter of a citizen, proposing to amend the restaurant clause to add areas exceeding 1,000 square meters to the same requirements currently in effect.

Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

Kuwait HH Amir congratulates Pres of Czech Republic on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable to the President of the Czech Republic, Petr Pavel, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the President and his people further progress and prosperity.

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

of congratulations to the President of the Czech Republic, Petr Pavel, on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince expressed wishes for prosperity and progress to the President and the Czech people.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the President of the Czech Republic, Petr Pavel, on his country's Independence Day.

Trading shifts to smaller deals

Kuwait real estate liquidity drops 35% in 3rd wk of Oct

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Real estate trading liquidity decreased by 35 percent in the third week of October, with a total trading value of about KD80.2 million for 137 transactions, compared to KD123.4 million for 143 transactions in the second week.

This slight decrease in the number of transactions, not exceeding four percent, is a reflection of the continuous trading activity for smaller and lower-priced transactions.

The weekly report of the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Departments at the Ministry of Justice for the period Oct 19-23 showed a decline in most real estate sectors, with a slight exception in the commercial sector.

Trading resumed in the shops sector after a hiatus of several months with two transactions worth KD660,000.

Liquidity in private transactions decreased by 24 percent, with the trading value falling to KD32.6 mil-

lion compared to 43 million, while the number of transactions decreased to 93 deals from 97 deals (four percent decrease) in the second week, indicating continuous demand for small residential properties.

The investment sector recorded a remarkable decline to KD32.1 million for 36 transactions compared to KD50.2 million for 40 transactions in the previous week – 36 percent decrease in value and 10 percent in the number of transactions. It reflects the slowdown in purchasing activity by investors and the tendency of some to adopt a wait-and-see approach towards the end of the last quarter of the year.

In contrast, commercial transactions increased by 100 percent, with four deals worth KD14.8 million, compared to only two deals worth KD21.4 million in the previous week. This is a 30.8 percent decrease in value, showing continuous activity in this sector, but at lower values due to the varying sizes of the properties traded.

Microsoft pledges support

Capital Governor eyes technology investment to fuel national vision

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali highlighted the importance of empowering both public and private sector institutions to adopt the latest digital solutions and modern technologies for supporting the country's vision for a more innovative and sustainable future, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He said this during a meeting held at his office Monday morning with Microsoft Kuwait's General Manager, Alaa el-Din Karim.

They discussed areas of cooperation in digital transformation and reviewed Microsoft's important initiatives in technology and smart systems. These efforts aim to enhance government services, improve institutional efficiency, and elevate the quality of services provided to citizens and residents.

The governor affirmed the importance of adopting strategies that reinforce Kuwait's position as a regional hub for technology and innovation, while also developing programs to train national talent and enhance the country's digital capabilities to meet citizens' aspirations and align with labor market demands.

Karim, for his part, expressed his appreciation to the governor for the warm welcome and cooperation, highlighting that the company considers Kuwait a strategic partner in the region and is committed to supporting its digital transformation plans



Capital Governorate photo
Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali with Microsoft Kuwait's General Manager.

in line with New Kuwait 2035 vision.

He noted that Microsoft is implementing innovative digital projects in the education, health, and government sectors, as well as developing information security systems and cloud infrastructure.

Karim affirmed the company's commitment to transferring global knowledge and expertise to national talent to help build an advanced digital economy.

At the end of the meeting, the Capital Governor praised Microsoft's pioneering role in promoting innovation and supporting national initiatives.



Kuwait University photo
Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Osama Al-Omair, received a delegation from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom.

KU hosts University of Birmingham delegation

A delegation from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom was received by a number of Kuwait University officials, including acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Prof. Osama Al-Omair, acting Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum Dr. Adel Malallah, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Development Prof. Huda Mahmoud, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Development Dr. Dalal Al-Tawil, Assistant Vice President for Strategic Planning Dr. Meshari Al-Nahedh, acting Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Dr. Osama Al-Yousef, and Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Dr. Shaikha Al-Ibrahim.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait University (KU), the visit aimed to enhance academic and research collaboration between the two universities and facilitate the exchange of expertise in higher education, engineering, and institutional development.

On the British side, the meeting was attended by the Dean of the Faculty of En-

gineering at the University of Birmingham Professor Karl Dearne, along with faculty members Dr. Ali Sedgiani and Dr. Omid Doostdar. The delegation also included Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Kuwait Stuart Summers, Director of the British Council in Kuwait Tony Skinner, and Project Coordinator at the British Council Iman Mahmoud.

The visit was initiated by Prof. Abdulwahab Al-Musallam from KU's Department of Chemical Engineering and Dr. Shaikha Al-Ibrahim from the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

During the meeting, the two universities discussed prospects for future collaboration, including signing a joint cooperation agreement, exchanging students and faculty members, and conducting joint research projects in the fields of energy and sustainable engineering.

This step affirms KU's commitment to enhancing its research and academic standing by expanding international partnerships and supporting its vision of innovation and scientific excellence.



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Experts stress data governance, training and regulatory support

KCCI, ILO explore AI's role in boosting Kuwaiti productivity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), in collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO), held an elaborate discussion session on Monday, October 27, to review the preliminary findings of a joint report on artificial intelligence and productivity in the Kuwaiti private sector.

According to a press release issued by KCCI, the session, which was held at the KCCI headquarters, was attended by business leaders, economic experts, and technical specialists representing more than 35 companies from important sectors, including finance and investment, energy and heavy engineering, manufacturing, automotive, food, logistics, and related real estate and industrial activities.

The joint report, still under preparation, offered a preliminary overview of how Kuwaiti companies are adopting artificial intelligence technologies in their businesses.

Preliminary findings indicate that large companies are leading in readi-



The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry is holding a discussion session on artificial intelligence and productivity in the Kuwaiti private sector.



KCCI photos

ness, supported by clear policies, training programs, and advanced data management systems.

The report noted that small and medium-sized enterprises are rapidly adopting artificial intelligence to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

It highlighted that most compa-

nies have begun integrating AI into their works processes and customer service, but only a few have effective tools to measure its impact on productivity.

The report also identified data governance and security as major challenges, with companies calling

for clearer regulations on data ownership, protection, and cloud storage.

According to the report, nine out of ten leaders believe that AI will enhance human roles rather than replace them, enabling workers to focus on more creative and valuable tasks.

During the session, participants discussed ways to turn this trend into real productivity gains, highlighting the importance of coordination between private sector institutions and relevant authorities to create a legislative and regulatory framework that keeps pace with technological trans-

formation.

KCCI stressed that such cooperation allows the private sector to play an active role in shaping the future of AI in the workplace, emphasizing that the ultimate goal is for technology to serve people for enhancing production efficiency.

It stated that, based on the report's findings, a joint policy paper with ILO will be prepared, including practical recommendations to enhance data governance, develop skills, and boost productivity.

KCCI emphasized that artificial intelligence is no longer just a future topic, but has become a main driver of the global economy.

It insisted that AI in the Gulf countries has become a cornerstone of economic diversification and digital transformation plans.

KCCI noted that its collaboration with the ILO comes at a critical time, as the Kuwaiti economy experiences growth in technology initiatives, training programs, and discussions on innovation and data regulation.



Volunteers from Zain and the Kuwait Dive Team after cleaning the shoreline of Um Al-Maradim Island.



Zain has supported hundreds of environmental missions that removed thousands of tons of debris.

Under a strategic partnership spanning more than 28 years

Zain, Kuwait Dive Team carry out mission on Um Al-Maradim Island to protect biodiversity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Zain Kuwait organized a trip to Um Al-Maradim Island in cooperation with its strategic partner, the Kuwait Dive Team, as part of its commitment to supporting environmental initiatives and achieving sustainability goals. The mission included installing marine moorings to designate safe anchoring zones, monitoring coral reef health, and a beach clean-up on the island.

This step aims to strengthen the protection of biodiversity in Kuwait's environment, as Um Al-Maradim Island is one of the main nesting grounds for sea turtles. It serves as a natural refuge relied upon by thousands of marine organisms and faces challenges caused by pollution, unsustainable coastal activities, and rising sea temperatures due to climate change.

The trip included the installation of marine moorings to designate safe anchoring zones and the monitoring of coral reefs to track the health of marine ecosystems, in addition to cleaning the island's shores. The Zain Youth & Partnerships team took part alongside young volunteers and cadets from



Kuwait Dive Team cadets helped install the moorings.

the Kuwait Dive Team, in a step that embeds sustainability values in the next generation from an early age.

These efforts continue within a strategic partnership that has extended for more than 28 years between Zain and the Kuwait Dive Team. During this period, the company has provided four fully equipped boats to support the team's volunteer operations, which have resulted in hundreds

of environmental missions, the removal of thousands of tons of waste, and the protection of tens of thousands of marine creatures.

The Zain boat also contributes to tasks that include installing and maintaining moorings around coral reefs, lifting fishing nets, waste, and debris, monitoring coral condition on a regular basis, and submitting reports to the relevant authorities.

Marine moorings are an environ-

mentally friendly method that facilitates the safe anchoring of boats and yachts and preserves seabeds and reefs, which reduces the negative impact of traditional anchoring methods on wildlife around Kuwait's islands and coasts.

Zain's environmental initiatives are grounded in its comprehensive sustainability strategy, which focuses on reducing the impacts of climate change and achieving carbon neutrality through practical initiatives that include supporting local environmental partnerships, coral reef monitoring programs, empowering youth with sustainability skills, and integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards across the supply chain.

The company also continues to invest in innovative environmental technology solutions such as the BeBot beach-cleaning robot, which combs and sifts sand, collects buried litter, gathers seaweed, and levels beach areas. It runs on electricity powered by renewable energy, and its previous activations have resulted in the collection of large quantities of waste from various beaches in Kuwait.

Kuwait 'pledges' inclusive growth

SDG commitment reaffirmed

GENEVA, Oct 29, (KUNA): Kuwait on Tuesday reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in line with its national development plan (neo Kuwait vision 2035) that aims to strengthen the countrys role as a leading financial commercial and cultural hub in the Gulf region.



KUNA photo

The affirmation came in a statement delivered by Diplomatic Attache at the Department of Human Rights of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hanan Al-Sultan, during the 12th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, held in Geneva, marking the 40th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development.

Al-Sultan stressed that development is not merely an economic objective but a comprehensive process encompassing economic social cultural and political dimensions; all aimed at promoting individual and societal well-being while upholding human dignity and social justice.

She reaffirmed Kuwaits determination to pursue its development agenda through national policies that foster active participation of all citizens on the principles of equality and non-discrimination, ensuring a fair distribution of resources and opportunities.

Al-Sultan also renewed Kuwaits pledge to fulfill its commitments as a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the 2024-2026 term, underscoring the countrys dedication to meeting its international human rights obligations and cooperating closely with the United Nations and the global community to advance the right to development.

The diplomat highlighted the vital contributions of Kuwaiti women and

Hanan Al-Sultan, Diplomatic Attaché at the Department of Human Rights of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs

youth and their growing role across diverse fields reflecting Kuwaits aspirations toward inclusive and sustainable growth, as well as its spirit of innovation and civic responsibility in building a progressive and prosperous society.

She further emphasized Kuwaits active role in supporting international development efforts recognizing the challenges faced by developing and least-developed nations. In this regard, she cited the key role of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, established in 1961, which has financed development projects in 107 countries.

Al-Sultan explained that these initiatives reaffirm Kuwaits deep-rooted belief in international solidarity and humanitarian cooperation as well as its commitment to providing essential support to countries in need, thus contributing to global security stability and sustainable development.

She reiterated Kuwaits steadfast commitment to working alongside its international partners to promote the right to development, reinforce justice, equality and equal opportunity and build a sustainable and inclusive future that safeguards human dignity and paves the way for prosperity and security for future generations.

Continued from Page 1

'Drug smuggling

He affirmed that women are inspiring and capable leaders who have proven their value in training, administration and field work. He said "Kuwait is at the forefront of major maritime security projects, urging the submission of inquiries to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) regarding the prices of narcotics smuggled by sea. He added "there is no price tag and smuggling has become almost nonexistent, thanks to Allah and the efforts of the Coast Guard, from the lowest to the highest ranks."

Similarly, Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah explained that the meeting is not limited to empowering women in the security sector, as it also reflects the vision of Kuwait on the role of women as active partners in achieving peace and sustainable development.

She disclosed that the United Nations (UN) studies indicate that the presence of women in security agencies, particularly at borders and in maritime areas, is a crucial factor in combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling, due to their unique communication, monitoring and humanitarian capabilities.

She added that cooperation among the GCC countries in the coast guard field extends beyond protecting borders and territorial waters, because it also presents an opportunity to strengthen humanitarian and human

rights partnerships, exchange expertise in training and capacity building, and empower women to serve their countries on the front lines.

Manal Al-Baghdadi, representative of the Ministry of Information and member of the Standing Committee on Women, Security and Peace, which is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that the committee that was established over a year ago is committed to organizing events and meetings regularly. "Each meeting or session focuses on a certain aspect of the roles of women in all sectors. The committee serves as a national beacon, highlighting the role of Kuwaiti women in supporting their male colleagues, affirming their status, increasing their number and showcasing their effective contributions to building the Kuwaiti society," she elaborated.

She clarified that while women's roles existed previously, but their number was limited. "Today, with the support of the political leadership, their participation in leadership positions has steadily increased. Kuwaiti women understand their responsibilities, exert their utmost efforts, and are worthy of this trust," she concluded.

Doctors face

This digitization enables the creation of centralized databases and ensures real-time monitoring of all dispensing and distribution of narcotics, thereby, facilitating inspection and periodic review. Such

mechanisms were not present in the old laws issued in the 1980s and are now introduced to keep pace with the technological age and enhance transparency and effectiveness in law enforcement.

The draft law significantly increased penalties for various drug-related crimes, making them more deterrent and commensurate with the severity of the offense. It stipulates the death penalty as the maximum punishment for drug traffickers and those dealing in psychotropic substances, in addition to fines that can reach KD2 million in major trafficking cases. The scope of the death penalty has been expanded to include those who smuggle narcotics and psychotropic substances into prisons, as well as anyone who facilitates their entry to inmates. The death penalty is also applied if the crime occurs within rehabilitation or addiction treatment centers, places of worship or sports clubs. Public officials who exploit their positions for trafficking will be punished by death as well.

The harsher penalties include death for those who distribute narcotics and psychotropic substances without charge (such as those who distribute free samples for promotional purposes) if they target more than one person with the intent to entice them.

The draft law introduces new prison sentences, such as imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years for those who refuse to undergo drug testing without a valid excuse or justification.

Despite the strict penalties im-

posed on drug dealers and traffickers, the new law adopts a more humane approach towards drug users, recognizing their need for treatment. It guarantees the complete confidentiality of addicts' data to prevent social stigmatization and imposes a prison sentence of up to two years and a fine not exceeding KD10,000 on anyone who discloses information related to addiction cases or the identities of those admitted to treatment centers. It encourages users to seek treatment voluntarily without fear of prosecution, stipulating that no criminal charges will be brought against those who voluntarily seek treatment for addiction. It introduces a mechanism for compulsory admission for treatment based on confidential reports on drug use. This allows the placement of an addict in a rehabilitation and treatment center for up to six months by order of the authorities to ensure they are given the necessary care.

4,330 Down

He highlighted the country's comprehensive system that is designed to meet their diverse needs, praising the growing social awareness and the progress made in providing and enhancing services and care system for citizens with Down syndrome.

He stressed that the ministry is keen to deliver integrated healthcare by enhancing preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic services, as well

as strengthening coordination with other government agencies to ensure the best quality of life for them and their families.

He concluded by expressing appreciation to all participating entities and commending the dedication of medical and educational professionals in supporting people with Down syndrome, stressing the importance of ongoing cooperation to promote awareness and social inclusion.

Strategies revamped

education institutions and distinguished programs in Australia and New Zealand, examined according to international classifications and standards, as part of the approach to ensure compatibility of graduates' specializations with the labor market needs.

Dr. Al-Ali expressed appreciation to the minister for his support and guidance to ensure quality at the teaching institutions, indicating that the apparatus has pursued cooperation with the higher education institutions or sake of harmony of the academic programs.

He, along with the fellow conferees, during the meeting, examined a new mechanism for canceling some academic programs as a result of coordination with the cultural attaches in the United States of America (Washington and Los Angeles) as well as the United Kingdom, for conformity with the international criteria.

Regional integration

GASERC explores AI for education

DUBAI, Oct 29, (KUNA): The Arab Center for Educational Research in the Gulf (GASERC) held a regional meeting in Dubai for officials from member states' education research centers and departments today.

The meeting, titled "Educational Research in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges," focused on the impact of AI tools on research methodologies and instruments across educational contexts in the Gulf region.

Dr. Mohammad Al-Sharika, the Center's Director, thanked the UAE Ministry of Education for hosting the meeting, emphasizing that it aims to boost gulf integration.

He explained that discussions analyzed ongoing transformations in educational research and explored opportunities provided by artificial intelligence to enhance research practices while addressing ethical and methodological challenges in Gulf educational systems.

Participants also reviewed emerging Gulf experiences in applying AI tools to educational research and discussed strategies for building national research capacities and strengthening cooperation and integration among member states in this vital field.

Dr. Al-Sharika pointed out that Gulf educational systems face growing challenges due to rapid technological advances, especially the difficulty of adapting traditional systems to the new digital reality and preparing qualified personnel.

US troops will be paid: Vance

White House shakes up ICE leadership across country in major overhaul, say officials

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29, (AP) — The Trump administration is reassigning at least half the top leadership at Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices around the country in a major shake-up of the agency responsible for carrying out the president's vision for mass deportations, according to one current and one former US government official.

The current official, who was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity, said 12 ICE field office directors — the officers who run the network of field offices around the country responsible for immigration enforcement — were being reassigned.

Half are to be replaced by existing or retired Customs and Border Protection staff, while the other half would be replaced by ICE officers, both the current and former officials said. The changes were initiated by the Homeland Security Department, the current official said, without specifying which cities were impacted.

The former official, who has direct knowledge of the changes and spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss information that was not intended for public release, said on top of the 12 reassignments, leaders in another four cities were being swapped out through retirements or other circumstances. He said the cities include major immigration enforcement targets such as Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington.

He added that ICE leadership has

been discussing the changes with other Trump administration officials for some time as part of a broad review of the agency.

The reason for the personnel changes wasn't immediately clear. But they indicate a greater integration of Border Patrol agents in ICE at a time when Customs and Border Protection has been accused of using heavy-handed tactics in its immigration enforcement.

With a total of 25 field offices around the country, the reassignments amount to turnover of about half or more of the top staffers carrying out the president's headline immigration enforcement plans, which has seen a major deployment of law enforcement in major American cities, thousands of arrests and surging fear among residents, especially in immigrant communities.

Homeland Security and the White House did not comment on the reassignments and each instead highlighted that all elements of immigration enforcement were working as one team.

Putting Customs and Border Protection officers into top positions within Immigration and Customs Enforcement would create an expanded role for an agency that is already at the forefront of many of the aggressive tactics seen in both Los Angeles and now in Chicago.

CBP officers — specifically Border Patrol agents — have carried out some of the most controversial operations as part of immigration crackdowns in



A US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent takes part in an early morning operation in Park Ridge, Ill., on Sept. 19. (AP)

both of those cities, including a recent raid in Chicago where officers rappelled down onto a building in an apartment complex from a helicopter. Border Patrol agents have also popped out of a moving truck and chased after people and conducted patrols through downtown Chicago.

Border Patrol agents protect the land and water between the official border crossings to prevent human trafficking, drug smuggling or other types of contraband from entering the U.S. ICE, since its creation in 2003, is the main

agency responsible for immigration enforcement inside the country.

But during the Trump administration, Border Patrol agents have been taking part in immigration enforcement operations around the country, far from their more traditional duties.

Gregory Bovino, the Border Patrol sector chief from California who has been heading the Border Patrol's operations in both cities, is himself accused of throwing tear gas canisters at protesters and took the stand Tuesday as a defendant in a federal lawsuit about

whether federal officials are using excessive force in Chicago.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement says its agents carry out "targeted enforcement operations," which often involve hours of time staking out people they're trying to remove from the country.

This is the third shake-up at ICE since Trump took office, reflecting the importance of the agency's role in executing the president's vision.

In February, Homeland Security reassigned Caleb Vitello, the acting director of ICE, to another position. Todd Lyons, a veteran ICE agent, was later announced as the new acting head of the agency, a position he still holds.

Then in May, ICE announced the reassignment of the two top officials heading the agency's main branches.

A spokesperson for Homeland Security, Tricia McLaughlin, did not comment Tuesday on the personnel changes but said in a statement that the department remained "laser focused on RESULTS and we will deliver."

"This is one team, one fight," she said. "President (Donald) Trump has a brilliant, tenacious team led by Secretary (Kristi) Noem to deliver on the American people's mandate to remove criminal illegal aliens from this country."

White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said in an e-mailed statement: "The President's entire team is working in lockstep to implement the President's policy agenda, and the tremen-

dous results from securing the border to deporting criminal illegal aliens speak for themselves."

Also:

WASHINGTON: US Vice President JD Vance said Tuesday he believes US military members will be paid at the end of the week, though he did not specify how the Trump administration will reconfigure funding as pain from the second-longest shutdown spreads nationwide.

The funding fight in Washington gained new urgency this week as millions of Americans face the prospect of losing food assistance, more federal workers miss their first full paycheck and recurring delays at airports snarl travel plans.

"We do think that we can continue paying the troops, at least for now," Vance told reporters after lunch with Senate Republicans at the Capitol. "We've got food stamp benefits that are set to run out in a week. We're trying to keep as much open as possible. We just need the Democrats to actually help us out."

The vice president reaffirmed Republicans' strategy of trying to pick off a handful of Senate Democrats to vote for stopgap funding to reopen the government. But nearly a month into the shutdown, it hasn't worked. Just before Vance's visit, a Senate vote on legislation to reopen the government failed for the 13th time.

Trump's decision to send aircraft carrier to S.America will leave ME, Europe with none

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29, (AP) — US President Donald Trump's decision to shift the nation's most advanced aircraft carrier to South America in his campaign against drug cartels is pulling the ship out of the Mediterranean Sea at a time when a tenuous ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has been threatened by new strikes in Gaza.

The US is set to be in the fairly unusual position of having only a single aircraft carrier deployed and none in the waters off both Europe and the Middle East. The change is especially stark after the U.S. joined Israeli strikes on Iran in June and has engaged in some of the most intense combat operations since World War II against Yemen's Houthi rebels in the Red Sea.

Aircraft carriers, with their thousands of sailors and dozens of warplanes, have long been recognized as one of the ultimate signifiers of US military might and the nation's foreign policy priorities. There have been five carrier deployments to the Middle East since the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, including two carriers in the region at multiple points this year and last.

The new orders for the USS Ger-

ald R. Ford illustrate the Trump administration's increasing focus on the Western Hemisphere and mark a major escalation of firepower as the US military ramps up fatal strikes on alleged drug boats. With a buildup of warships, aircraft and troops already in the region, Trump himself has signaled what could be next.

Speaking from another aircraft carrier, the USS George Washington, in its home port of Japan, Trump noted the U.S. attacks at sea and reiterated that "now we'll stop the drugs coming in by land."

Mark Cancian, a senior adviser with the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a retired Marine colonel, questioned how long the Ford would be able to remain in South America, when only three of the 11 US aircraft carriers are typically out to sea.

"It's such a powerful and scarce resource, there will be a lot of pressure to do something or send it elsewhere," Cancian said. "You can imagine the peace negotiations breaking down in the eastern Mediterranean or something happening with Iran."

The USS Nimitz also is deployed

but is heading home from the South China Sea to the West Coast before being decommissioned. It recently lost two aircraft — a fighter jet and a helicopter — in separate crashes that are under investigation. A third carrier, the USS Theodore Roosevelt, is not deployed but is conducting exercises off the coast of San Diego.

The shift is happening just as violence has flared up again in Gaza despite a ceasefire that Trump helped broker after two years of war. The Israeli army launched a barrage of attacks Tuesday as tensions with Hamas grew two weeks into the fragile ceasefire.

Meanwhile, the US military's growing presence near Venezuela and its 13 fatal strikes on alleged drug boats have stoked fears that Trump could try to topple authoritarian President Nicolás Maduro, who faces charges of narco-terrorism in the US.

In response to questions about the speculation, Secretary of State Marco Rubio insisted Saturday that the US is taking part in a counterdrug operation. And he again accused Maduro's government of participating in the shipment of narcotics.



The American aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford, on its way into the Oslofjord, at Drobak in Norway on Sept. 12. (AP)

America

Trump-appointed attorney disqualified: A federal judge disqualified acting US Attorney **Bill Essayli** in Southern California from several cases after concluding Tuesday that the Trump appointee has stayed in the temporary job longer than allowed by law.

US District Judge J. Michael Seabright disqualified Essayli from supervising the criminal prosecutions in three cases, siding with defense lawyers. Essayli has been unlawfully serving as acting US attorney for the Central District of California since July 29, Seabright wrote. But he may continue to serve as a First Assistant United States Attorney, Seabright ruled, effectively leaving him as the office's top prosecutor.

"Nothing is changing," Essayli wrote in a social media post Tuesday evening, saying he looked forward to advancing President Donald Trump's agenda.

The decision represents another setback to the Trump administration's effort to extend handpicked acting US attorneys beyond the 120-day limit set by federal law. A judge ruled in September that acting US attorney of Nevada, Sigal Chattah, was serving in her position illegally. Another judge disqualified acting US attorney in New Jersey, Alina Habbu, in August. (AP)

□ □ □

Florida man executed: A Florida man convicted killing his neighbor decades ago was put to death Tuesday evening in a record 15th execution in Florida this year.

Norman Mearle Grim Jr., 65, was pronounced dead fol-

lowing a three-drug injection at Florida State Prison near Starke. He was convicted of battery and first-degree murder in the July 1998 death of Cynthia Campbell.

The curtain to the death chamber went up promptly at the scheduled 6 p.m. execution time. Grim was already strapped to a table with his arm extended and an IV in place. Asked if he wished to make a final statement, he said, "No sir."

The lethal injection began about a minute later, followed by Grim closing his eyes, breathing heavily and twitching slightly.

The inmate eventually stopped moving and a warden shook him several times and yelled his name, with no response from Grim. A medic was called in at 6:13 p.m. to check Grim's vitals, and the man was declared dead a minute later. (AP)

□ □ □

Winds raise wildfire risk in S. California: An autumn heat wave accompanied by gusty winds raised the wildfire risk for Southern California starting Tuesday, with forecasts warning that grass and brush are still dangerously dry despite recent rains.

The National Weather Service issued red flag warnings for increased fire danger in mountain and foothill areas of Los Angeles and Ventura counties through Wednesday evening.

The region's notorious Santa Ana winds could bring gusts of up to 45 mph (72 kph) at elevation, with slightly lower speeds through valleys, said Rose Schoenfeld, a meteorologist with the NWS office for LA.

Santa Anas are typical for this time of year, Schoenfeld said, but expected temperatures in the low 90s (34 C) will be hotter than normal for late October, with some record highs possible.

Schoenfeld said moisture from rainstorms two weeks ago has had time to mostly dissipate. "The rain certainly didn't hurt, but the fuels are still very flammable," she said. (AP)

US President Trump says 'it's too bad' he's not allowed to run for third term

GYEONGJU, South Korea, Oct. 29, (AP) — US President Donald Trump said Wednesday that "it's too bad" he's not allowed to run for a third term, conceding the constitutional reality even as he expressed interest in continuing to serve.

"If you read it, it's pretty clear," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One enroute from Japan to South Korea. "I'm not allowed to run. It's too bad."

The president's comments, which continue his on-again, off-again musings about a third term, came a day after House Speaker Mike Johnson said it would be impossible for Trump to stay in the White House.

"I don't see the path for that," he told reporters at the US Capitol on Tuesday.

Johnson, the Republican leader who has built his career by drawing closer to Trump, said he discussed the issue with the president, and he thinks Trump understands the situation.

"He and I have talked about the constrictions of the Constitution," he said.

The speaker described how the Constitution's 22nd Amendment does not allow for a third presidential term and changing that, with a new amendment, would be a cumbersome, decade-long process winning over states and votes in Congress.

"But I can tell you that we are not



going to take our foot off the gas pedal," he said. "We're going to deliver for the American people, and we've got a great run ahead of us — he'll have four strong years."

Trump stopped short of characterizing his conversation with Johnson, and his description of the prohibition on third terms was somewhat less definitive.

"Based on what I read, I guess I'm not allowed to run," he said Wednesday. "So we'll see what happens."

Trump has repeatedly raised the idea of trying to stay in power. Hats saying "Trump 2028" are passed out as souvenir keepsakes to lawmakers and others visiting the White House, and Trump's former 2016 campaign chief-turned-podcaster Stephen Bannon has revived the idea of a third Trump term.

Dutch vote in knife-edge election focused on housing and Geert Wilders

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Oct. 29, (AP) — Voters and leading contenders cast their ballots across the Netherlands on Wednesday in a close-run snap election called after lawmaker Geert Wilders brought down the last four-party coalition in a dispute over a crackdown on immigration.

The campaign echoed issues that resonate across Europe, focusing on how to rein in migration and tackle chronic shortages of affordable housing.

But in a country where coalition governments are the norm, it's unclear if parties will work with Wilders again, even if his Party for Freedom repeats its stunning victory from two years ago.

Mainstream parties have already ruled that out, arguing that his decision to torpedo the outgoing four-party coalition in June in a dispute over migration underscored that he is an untrustworthy partner.

"It's up to the voters today," Wilders said after voting in the cavernous atrium of The Hague City Hall, surrounded by security guards. "It's a close call ... four or five different parties. I'm confident."

Frans Timmermans, the former European Commission vice president



who now leads the center-left bloc made up of the Labor Party and Green Left, took his black labrador to a polling station in his home city of Maastricht in the southern Netherlands.

"It's going to be so close so let's hope we come out as first, because that

is the only guarantee to avoid a right wing government," he told reporters.

The vote comes against a backdrop of deep polarization in this nation of 18 million, violence at a recent anti-immigration rally in The Hague and protests against new asylum-seeker centers.

Russia successfully tests nuclear-armed underwater drone, says President Putin

MOSCOW, Oct. 29, (AP) — Russia has conducted a successful test of a new atomic-powered and nuclear-capable underwater drone, President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday, declaring that the new weapon can't be intercepted.

Putin's statement, which comes three days after he praised a test of a new nuclear-powered cruise missile, appears to be another message to US President Donald Trump that Russia is standing firm in its maximalist demands on Ukraine.

Speaking at a meeting with soldiers wounded in Ukraine, Putin said the Poseidon drone was tested while running on nuclear power for the first time Tuesday, describing it as a "huge success." Poseidon is unmatched in speed and depth, he said, and "there is no way to intercept it."

He said the nuclear reactor that powers Poseidon is "100 times smaller" than those on submarines, and the power of its nuclear warhead is "significantly higher than that of our prospective Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile."



Russian President Vladimir Putin, (center), shakes hands with sergeant Ruslan Kolyvanov, as Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov, (left), stands near while visiting the Mandryk Central Military Clinical Hospital, in Moscow on Oct. 29. (AP)



Tourists are evacuated by boat from flooding in Hoi An, Vietnam on Oct 28. (AP)

Vietnam floods kill 10

Floodwaters swept through central Vietnam this week after record-breaking rains, leaving at least 10 people dead and five missing, officials said, as cities, farmland and transport networks were battered by the onslaught.

Six deaths and four missing people were reported in the coastal city of Danang, where 19 others were injured and homes, crops and thousands of livestock were washed away, according to local authorities.

The city is seen as a future growth engine for Vietnam, heightening concern over the damage.

In Hue, the former imperial capi-

tal, one person drowned and a 5-year-old girl was reported missing after falling into floodwaters, state media said. Much of the city remains underwater, with rivers overflowing after rainfall reached 1,085 millimeters (42 inches) in 24 hours by late Monday, the highest amount ever recorded in Vietnam, according to the national weather agency.

At least three people died in Quang Ngai province, which recorded more than 120 landslides along major highways, state media said. Some routes remain blocked, trapping 50 people in 37 vehicles for three days. (AP)

US defense secretary welcomes Japan’s arms spending increase

TOKYO, Oct 29, (AP): US Defense Secretary **Pete Hegseth** on Wednesday welcomed Japan’s determination to accelerate its ongoing military buildup and defense spending.

During a visit to Japan, Hegseth said he hopes to see those pledges implemented as soon as possible, noting China’s increasingly assertive military activity.

“The threats we face are real, and they are urgent. China’s unprecedented military buildup and its aggressive military actions speak for themselves,” he said. “Make no mistake about it, our alliance is critical to deterring Chinese military aggression, to responding to regional contingencies, and keeping our countries safe.”



Hegseth

Hegseth said he was “glad” to see Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi - speaking alongside US President Donald Trump this week - make a commitment to increase Japan’s defense spending, calling it “wonderful.”

He said the US government had not demanded Japan’s spending in-

crease.

His comment comes a day after Takaichi, who became prime minister only last week, explained to Trump during their first summit that her government will raise Japan’s defense spending to 2% of its gross national product by March, two years ahead of initially planned. Japan also plans to revise its ongoing national security strategy several years ahead of schedule.

“It’s an important step forward, and one that we hope would be implemented and believe will be as soon as possible,” Hegseth told a joint news conference after holding talks with Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi. “The result, through our shared strength, will deter threats.”

“We’re going to invest now and invest quickly while we still have time,” Hegseth said.

Koizumi welcomed the agreement between the two governments to move up deliveries of US-made Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile, or AMRAAM, though he did not give further details.

Japan is seeking to create a more self-sufficient military as a deterrence against China’s increasingly assertive military activity in the region, and has concentrated on defense buildup on its southwestern islands.



Ta'ang National Liberation Army troops march in Mar Wong Village, northern Shan state during a celebration marking the 52nd anniversary of their insurrection against successive Myanmar governments on Jan 12, 2015. (AP)

Myanmar rebels sign ceasefire with army

A major ethnic rebel group in Myanmar announced Wednesday it signed a cease-fire with the military following China-mediated talks, easing months of intense fighting in the country’s northeast near the Chinese border.

The ceasefire with the Ta’ang National Liberation Army, or TNLA, marks a significant victory for Myanmar’s military government, which has regained territories ahead of elections scheduled to start Dec 28. Critics see the polls, which exclude the main opposition parties, as an attempt to legitimize and maintain the military’s rule.

The ceasefire was signed during talks mediated by China on Monday and Tuesday in Kunming, a Chinese provincial capital about 400 kilometers (250 miles) from the border with Myanmar, the TNLA said in a statement Wednesday on the Telegram messaging platform.

Beijing has major geopolitical and economic interests in Myanmar and is deeply concerned about instability along its borders. China is also the most important foreign ally of Myanmar’s military, which took power after ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021. (AP)

‘Latest display of growing military capabilities’

North Korea conducts successful cruise missile tests as US president visits South Korea

GYEONGJU, South Korea, Oct 29, (AP): North Korea said Wednesday that it has conducted successful cruise missile tests, the latest display of its growing military capabilities and one that comes while US President Donald Trump visits South Korea.

Trump has repeatedly expressed a desire to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his trip but acknowledged difficulties in arranging a meeting with Kim.

“I know Kim Jong Un very well. We get along very well,” Trump said at the beginning of his meeting with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung in the South Korean city of Gyeongju. “We really weren’t able to work out timing.”

Speaking with reporters earlier aboard Air Force One en route from Japan to South Korea, Trump appeared to downplay the significance of the latest North Korean missile test activities.

“He’s been launching missiles for decades, right?” Trump said.

North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency said its sea-to-surface missiles fired Tuesday flew for more than two hours before accurately striking targets in its western waters. It said the weapons would contribute to expanding the operational sphere of the country’s nuclear-armed military.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said that South Korea and the United States were analyzing the weapons and maintaining a combined defense readiness capable of a “dominant response” against any North Korean provocation.

North Korea’s latest launches followed short-range ballistic missile tests last week that it said involved a new hypersonic system designed to strengthen its nuclear war deterrent. They were North Korea’s first ballistic



This photo provided by North Korean government shows what it says a test of a sea-to-surface cruise missile at an undisclosed place in North Korea on Oct 28. (AP)

missile tests in five months.

North Korea hasn’t made a direct response to Trump’s overture as it has shunned any form of talks with Washington and Seoul since Kim’s high-

stakes nuclear diplomacy with Trump fell apart in 2019 due to disputes over US-led sanctions. The two leaders met three times during the American president’s first term, and their third and last meeting happened at the Korean border village of Panmunjom.

Many experts say North Korea won’t likely return to talks with Trump anytime soon unless it’s assured it would get big U.S. concessions like extensive relief of sanctions. But others say North Korea would find it difficult to ignore Trump’s repeated outreach because doing so could make it a less important foreign policy agenda for Trump.

Trump earlier said he would be willing to extend his Asian trip - South Korea is his final scheduled stop - if there was an opportunity to talk with Kim. Trump even suggested that sanctions relief could be discussed if the meeting is realized.

Last month, Kim said he wouldn’t return to talks with the United States unless Washington drops its demand for North Korea’s denuclearization.

Kim’s top foreign policy priority is now Russia. In recent months, he has sent thousands of troops and large quantities of military equipment to help fuel President Vladimir Putin’s war in Ukraine, while embracing the idea of a “new Cold War” and positioning his country as part of a united front against the US-led West.

Trump is in South Korea for talks with Lee and Chinese President Xi Jinping ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders’ summit set to open on Friday. Trump will likely skip the APEC summit.

During his meeting with Trump, Lee, a liberal who espouses greater reconciliation with North Korea, said that he thinks Kim hasn’t understood Trump’s sincerity but the American president’s outreach itself could help foster peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Hurricane Melissa weakens as it churns across Cuba as Category 2 storm

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Cuba, Oct 29, (AP): Hurricane Melissa was grinding across Cuba on Wednesday as a Category 2 storm after pummeling Jamaica as one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes on record, the US National Hurricane Center said.

At least one death was reported in Jamaica, where Melissa roared ashore on Tuesday with top sustained winds of 185 mph (295 kph). A tree fell on a baby in the island nation’s west, Abka Fitz-Henley, a state minister, told Nationwide News Network, a local radio station, adding that most of the destruction was concentrated in the southwest and northwest.

Melissa had top sustained winds of 105 mph (165 kph) and was moving north-northeast at 14 mph (22 kph) according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. The hurricane was centered 45 miles (70 kilometers) northwest of Guantánamo, Cuba, and 205 miles (335 kilometers) south of the central Bahamas.

Preparations for the storm in the Bahamas “should be rushed to completion,” the agency said.

Hundreds of thousands of people in Cuba had been evacuated to shelters. A hurricane warning was in effect for Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo,



Children are evacuated on a bus before the arrival of Hurricane Melissa in Canizo, a community in Santiago de Cuba on Oct 28. (AP)

mo, Holguin and Las Tunas provinces as well as the southeastern and central Bahamas.

Melissa was forecast to continue weakening as it crossed Cuba but remain strong as it moves across the southeastern or central Bahamas later Wednesday. It is expected to make its way late Thursday near or to the west

of Bermuda. Haiti and the Dominican Republic also braced for its effects.

The storm was expected to generate a surge of up to 12 feet (3.6 meters) in the region and drop up to 20 inches (51 centimeters) of rain in parts of eastern Cuba. Intense rain could cause life-threatening flooding with numerous landslides, US forecasters said.

Huge Brazilian raid on Rio gang leaves at least 64 people dead and 81 under arrest

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 29, (AP): About 2,500 Brazilian police and soldiers launched a massive raid on a drug-trafficking gang in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday, arresting 81 suspects and sparking shootouts that left at least 60 suspects and four police officers dead, officials said.

The operation included officers in helicopters and armored vehicles and targeted the notorious Red Command in the sprawling low-income favelas of Complexo de Alemão and Penha, police said.

The police operation was one of the most violent in Brazil’s recent history, with human rights organizations calling for investigations into the deaths.

Rio’s state Gov. Claudio Castro said in a video posted on X that 60 criminal suspects were “neutralized” during the massive raid that he called the biggest such operation in the city’s history. Some 81 suspects were arrested, while 93 rifles and more than half a ton of drugs were seized, the state government said, adding that those killed “resisted police action.”

Rio’s civil police said on X that four officers died in Tuesday’s operation. “The cowardly attacks by criminals



Police walk past a burned car used as a roadblock during a police operation against alleged drug traffickers in the Complexo do Alemão favela where the criminal organization ‘Comando Vermelho’ operates in Rio de Janeiro on Oct 29. (AP)

against our agents will not go unpunished,” it said.

An unknown number of people were wounded.

The United Nations’ human rights

body said it was “horrified” by the deadly police operation, called for effective investigations and reminded authorities of their obligations under international human rights law.

Africa

Tanzania’s net interrupted on election day: Internet connectivity was disrupted across Tanzania as the country on Wednesday held an election marked by concerns from human rights groups and the detention of opposition members.

Netblocks, an internet access advocacy group, confirmed the outage, saying on X that “live network data show a nationwide disruption to internet connectivity.” Just before the disruption was confirmed, users noted an internet slowdown in the African country.

President **Samia Suluhu Hassan**, who is seeking a second term, belongs to the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party that has governed the country since it gained independence in 1961.

Lines formed at three polling stations visited by Associated Press journalists. Voting officially began at 7 a.m. local time and was scheduled to end at 4 p.m., after which vote tallying will begin. Preliminary results were expected within 24 hours, but the electoral commission has up to seven days to announce the final outcome.

The leader of the main opposition CHADEMA party, Tundu Lissu, is in prison and faces treason charges after calling for electoral reforms, while the second largest opposition party’s candidate was barred from running. (AP)

Madagascar announces new gov: Madagascar’s army announced the formation of a new government comprising mostly civilian members and several figures from the opposition to former President Andry Rajoelina, as part of the transitional phase overseen by the

country’s military ruler, Colonel Michael Randrianirina. According to local media reports, the new government, led by Prime Minister Hirintsalama Rajaonarivelo, includes 29 ministers; 25 civilians and four military officers.

Colonel Randrianirina stated that a military-led council will govern the country for a maximum of two years before holding general elections, emphasizing that the transitional phase aims to restore political stability and revive the national economy.

The army seized power earlier this month following large-scale youth protests that forced President Rajoelina to leave the country.

No immediate reaction has been issued by protest leaders regarding the new appointments, while the African Union continues to suspend Madagascar’s membership, urging a swift return to constitutional rule. (KUNA)

Cameroon opp’n leaders contest results: Opposition leaders in Cameroon Tuesday contested the official results of the Oct 12 presidential election after the country’s top court declared the world’s oldest leader Paul Biya winner as protests continued across the country.

Citizens began protesting in mid-October after opposition leader Issa Tchiroma Bakary claimed victory as the official results were still being tallied. Since then, security forces have clashed with angry protesters in many cities including Douala and Garoua - opposition strongholds - and in the capital, Yaounde. At least four people have been shot and hundreds arrested as opposition supporters demanded credible results.

The Constitutional Council on Monday said Biya won the election with 53.66% against his former ally-turned challenger, Tchiroma, who received 35.19%. The results are final and cannot be appealed.

International bodies and human rights organizations on Tuesday condemned the violent response to the protests. (AP)

Peace talks with Afghanistan’s Taliban government in Istanbul failed: Pakistan

ANKARA, Turkey, Oct 29, (AP): Peace talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan have failed in Istanbul after four days of negotiations, Pakistan’s information minister said early Wednesday, accusing the Taliban government in Kabul of refusing to act against militants blamed for deadly cross-border attacks.

The talks followed an earlier round in Doha that produced a ceasefire on Oct 19 after deadly border clashes between the two sides left dozens dead, including soldiers, civilians and militants.

However, the ceasefire was still holding and no new clashes were reported between Pakistan and Afghanistan hours after the talks collapsed.

Pakistan accuses the Taliban of harboring militants linked to a surge in attacks, while Kabul denies its territory is being used against Pakistan.

Before dawn Wednesday, Pakistan’s Information Minister Attaullah Tarar took to social media platform X, saying the dialogue “failed to bring about any workable solution,” despite mediation by Qatar and Turkey.

Kabul had no immediate comment. The latest development came hours after state media in both countries said there was an impasse in the talks, with



Afghan refugees sit beside trucks loaded with their belongings as they wait their turn to leave for their homeland through a border crossing point which partially opens following Oct 19 ceasefire, on the outskirts of Chaman, a border town on the Pakistan Afghan border on Oct 29. (AP)

the state media from the both sides blaming each other for the failure to reach a deal.

Tarar said Pakistan at the request of brotherly countries Qatar and Turkey gave peace a chance and engaged with the Afghan Taliban government first

in Doha and then in Istanbul. He accused the Taliban of being “indifferent to Pakistan’s losses” even though “Pakistan has always desired, advocated and immensely sacrificed for peace and prosperity for the people of Afghanistan.”

Kuwait oil plunges to \$66.21 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil dropped USD 2.59 during Tuesday’s trading to reach USD 66.21 per barrel compared with USD 68.80 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corpora-

tion (KPC) said Wednesday. Brent futures also lost USD 1.22 to USD 64.40 pb and West Texas Intermediate declined USD 1.16 to USD 60.15 pb.

KPC plan to reach 4 mln barrels per day by 2035

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) relies on five main axes for the growth of its profits in the coming years. Reliable sources disclosed that the first axis is mobilizing all resources to increase the production capacity to four million barrels per day by 2035. So far, KPC has invested billions of dollars to increase and expand off-shore exploration, especially after the success of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) in discovering three offshore fields within only 15 months, in addition to discovering the onshore Mutriba field. These discoveries will be added to the giant or major fields belonging to the corporation. At the same time, these discoveries will be the corporation’s leverage to demand an increase in its share in OPEC+.

Sources said the second axis focuses on supporting and incentivizing the foreign subsidiaries of the corporation to support the objectives of Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC), which manages the Wafra and Khafji fields in partnership with Saudi Arabia, to continue and intensify joint operations efforts by utilizing modern technologies to increase the production capacity of both companies.

The corporation also relies on Durra field in the joint zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which intends to complete this project in 2029. Focus on Durra field is due to the ability to contribute to increasing gas production, especially since its recoverable gas reserves are estimated at 200 billion cubic meters, in addition to its reserves estimated at more than 300 million barrels of oil.

Sources affirmed that the corporation, through Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI), intends to expand its diverse foreign projects, especially fuel stations. Through Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), it also intends to expand its exploration activities and withdraw from countries that do not achieve the desired returns, especially after overcoming the losses it incurred for several years and beginning its golden age, achieving net profits of KD 226.2 million for the year 2024. It gained KD 172.8 million in 2023, and reached peak profits in 2022 amounting to KD 308 million.

Sources indicated that the third axis revolves around the endeavor of the corporation to increase non-associated gas production to reach around two billion cubic feet per day, especially since the last three offshore discoveries will reduce the gas imports of Kuwait in the future.

The fourth axis focuses on increasing the refining capacity of domestic and international refineries, especially since the corporation currently owns six refineries – three are domestic: Zour, Mina Al-Ahmadi and Mina Abdullah, and three are international: Nghi Son in Vietnam, Milazzo in Italy and Duqm in the Sultanate of Oman. The corporation disclosed that it is expanding the production capacity of its domestic refineries to meet the global demand for petroleum products, particularly since its petroleum products are preferred due to their quality and adherence to clean environmental standards.

Sources added the fifth axis is expanding petrochemical industries locally and globally to realize its vision to reach an annual production of 14.5 million tons of petrochemicals as part of its 2040 strategy. They stated that the corporation concluded partnership agreements with Chinese and other companies in the petrochemical industry to further its leadership and excellence despite the continuous fluctuation of petrochemical prices due to changes in global markets. The increase in supply has led to lower prices amidst a slowdown in global demand, in addition to the volatility in energy prices.

Following is a breakdown of these axes:

1. Increase oil production capacity
2. Encourage foreign companies
3. Increase gas production
4. Increase refining capacity
5. Expand the petrochemical industry

Net profit up 2% year-on-year

Al-Tijari reports KD 90.2m net profit for nine months

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced a net profit of KD 90.2 million for the nine months period ended 30 September 2025 compared to KD 88.5 million for the same period last year is higher by 2%. Earnings per share for the current period is 45.7fiis (September 2024: 44.9 fiis).

Operational Performance:

Sheikh Ahmad Duaij Al Sabah, the Bank’s Chairman, presented the Bank’s results for the first nine months of 2025 with a Net Profit of KD 90.2million, reflecting a year-on-year growth of KD 1.7 million (1.9%). Operating profit before provisions grew by KD 3.8 million (4.3%) reflecting healthy performance amidst the ongoing global economic challenges and lower benchmark interest rates. The operational performance was aided by 4.0% growth in loans and 9.0% increase in fee income, partly offset by higher operating expenses. Loans and advances grew by KD111.0 million compared to September 2024.

Regulatory Ratios:

Regulatory ratios remained strong and continue to be well above the Central Bank’s statutory requirements. Capital Adequacy Ratio is at 17.7%, Liquidity Coverage Ratio 184.3%, Net Stable Funding Ratio 109.0% and Leverage ratio 10.4%.

Performance Ratios:

Sheikh Ahmad emphasised that Al-Tijari continues to report stable performance ratios considering the global economic uncertainties. Net interest margin for YTD September 2025 at 2.60%, Return on Equity 16.1% and Return on Assets 2.5% which reflects strong performance and efficient management. Cost to income ratio 33.5% remains to be one of the lowest amongst Kuwaiti banks.

Business updates:

Sheikh Ahmad added that Al-Tijari recently concluded a syndication loan which was heavily oversubscribed. Bank raised USD 500 million funds for a tenor of 5 years. The financing witnessed participation from 23 Asian investors across 8 Asian countries.



Sheikh Ahmad Duaij Al Sabah

A multi-currency Certificate of Deposit program is established with a total value of USD 1 billion. Fitch assigned long term rating of ‘A’ to the program. The tenor of the Certificate of Deposits shall range between minimum one week and maximum five years.

Sheikh Ahmad hailed these developments as a major leap forward for Al-Tijari, as it would help towards funding diversification and establishment of a strong working relationship with a leading group of Asian investors.

In addition, the Bank actively leveraged its electronic channels to raise awareness about cybersecurity. Through targeted communication, the Bank educated customers on the importance of safeguarding their banking information and staying vigilant against potential fraud as part of the flagship campaign “Let’s Be Aware”. The campaign also aimed at educating customers about different types of frauds, electronic crimes and scams, which target customers viaemail, SMS messages, phone calls and various applications.

Thank You Note

Sheikh Ahmad concluded by extending his sincere gratitude and appreciation the management, employees and all the regulatory authorities, especially the Central Bank for their continuous support and guidance to the banking industry. Sheikh Ahmad also expressed his heartfelt appreciation to Bank’s customers for choosing Al-Tijari as their banking services provider and hoping that Al-Tijari will always remain as “Customers’ Bank of Choice”.

Financial highlights:	(KD Million)		
	Nine months 2025	Nine months 2024	Change
Net profits attributable to Shareholders of the Bank	90.2	88.5	1.9%
Operating profit before provisions	92.9	89.1	4.3%
Net Interest Income	90.7	88.6	2.3%
Fee and Commission Income	38.2	35.1	9.0%
Total Assets	5,021.4	4,617.2	8.8%
Loans and advances	2,858.2	2,747.2	4.0%

Business



Al-Fagaan and Al-Tuwaijri mediate between officials from both sides.

Partnership aims to enhance services and customer experience

Kuwait Airways, Boubyan Bank sign cooperation protocol

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen its bilateral relations with various state entities, Kuwait Airways signed a joint cooperation protocol with Boubyan Bank to enhance partnership and expand mutual services. The signing ceremony was attended by Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Salem Al-Fagaan, and the Chief Executive Officer of Consumer, Private, and Digital Banking at Boubyan Bank, Mr. Abdullah Abdulkareem Al-Tuwaijri, along with several officials from both sides.

On this occasion, Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Al-Fagaan, stated, “Kuwait Airways is pleased to sign this joint cooperation protocol with Boubyan Bank, one of the leading financial institutions in the country that has demonstrated excellence and leadership in the banking sector. This protocol aims to strengthen bilateral relations between the two parties and enhance the operational efficiency of the services provided to our customers.”

Al-Fagaan added, “Kuwait Airways places great importance on strengthening its ties with leading national institutions and fostering bridges of cooperation with them. This represents an important step toward expanding the horizons of our strategic partnerships with various entities in both the public and private sectors. Such collaboration contributes to achieving integration across Kuwait’s vital sectors, reflecting our shared commitment to delivering distinguished services that enhance the customer experience and support the national economy.”

He added, “At Kuwait Airways, we believe that strengthening our cooperation with Boubyan Bank will yield positive outcomes for both parties. We look forward to seeing this partnership bear fruit in the near future, further enhancing the position of both institutions, while serving the customers of both parties and meeting their needs and aspirations. We are confident that this partnership will provide an added value for them.”

Al-Fagaan pointed out that Bou-



Al-Fagaan and Al-Tuwaijri after signing the protocol.

Al-Fagaan:

- Expanding mutual services to contribute to strengthening the national economy
- The protocol will enhance services provided to joint cardholders within the Oasis Club membership program

Al-Tuwaijri:

- “Boubyan” believes in the importance of integration between the public and private sectors to enhance customer services and provide added value to the national economy

byan Bank has a significant customer base of co-card holders within the Oasis Club Members Program, noting that signing this protocol will contribute to and enhance the services offered to them and provide a range of benefits.

Al-Fagaan stated that the protocol encompasses the exchange of technical expertise, the expansion of the scope of services, and increasing options, all of which contribute to the development of the aviation sector and the enhancement of operational frameworks for both parties. He further explained that the

protocol also outlines ways to develop joint cooperation in terms of loyalty programs, participation in sponsorships, awareness campaigns, and various events, in addition to strengthening technological systems and enhancing banking services and facilities.

Al-Fagaan concluded his statement by expressing his sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the relevant departments at Boubyan Bank for their dedicated efforts in finalizing this protocol, asking Almighty God to grant continued success to all in serving the best

interests of the beloved homeland, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of the country and His Highness the Crown Prince, may God protect and preserve them.

For his part, Abdullah Al-Tuwaijri, Chief Executive Officer of Consumer, Private, and Digital Banking at Boubyan Bank, stated, “We are delighted to sign a memorandum of understanding between Boubyan Bank and Kuwait Airways, Kuwait’s first national carrier, which we are proud to support as a strategic partner. This step reflects the cooperation between two leading national institutions that share a common vision of enhancing customer services and providing added value to the national economy. This cooperation aligns with Boubyan Bank’s commitment to strengthening national partnerships that support the path of sustainable development and Kuwait’s future vision.”

He added, “Our partnership with Kuwait Airways began with the Boubyan Rewards Program and the Oasis Club prepaid card, which have achieved remarkable success and popularity among our customers. This success has been a key incentive to expand our cooperation. Through this partnership, we aim to continue developing innovative banking solutions and advanced experiences that link the world of travel and financial services, offering our customers exclusive benefits and more distinctive, seamless experiences at various stages of their journey.”

Al-Tuwaijri concluded by saying, “The signing of the memorandum of understanding marks the beginning of broader, long-term initiatives aimed at enhancing customer benefits and developing a shared services framework between both parties. We look forward to working alongside with Kuwait Airways to deliver quality products and services that enrich the travel experience and strengthen the competitiveness of Kuwait’s aviation and tourism sectors, both regionally and internationally.”

Warba Bank launches ‘Ignite’ to empower future leaders

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Warba Bank has announced the launch of “Ignite”, a strategic leadership development program designed to strengthen leadership capabilities across all levels of the organization. The program reflects Warba Bank’s firm commitment to investing in human capital and developing a new generation of leaders capable of driving transformation and achieving institutional excellence.

The program reaffirms Warba Bank’s commitment to nurturing future leaders through an integrated approach that combines advanced interactive learning, tailored executive coaching and development based on comprehensive assessments. This enables participants to enhance their leadership skills, strengthen their ability to lead teams effectively and achieve the Bank’s strategic objectives.

Investing in Leaders: Investing in the Future

On this occasion, Ms. Maali Abdullah AlRasheed, Chief Human Resources and General Services Officer at Warba Bank, stated that the launch of the program stems from the Bank’s firm belief that investing in people is an investment in the future, emphasizing that leadership is not merely a position or a title, but a mindset and a behavior that require continuous growth and specialized development.

She said: “The program directly supports Warba Bank’s strategic goals by developing leadership capabilities that foster innovation, collaboration and accountability. It aligns with the Bank’s core values of integrity, empowerment and excellence, ensuring that our teams are equipped to lead with purpose and deliver lasting impact.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Thamer Fawzan Alseif, Director Talent Development & Planning at Warba Bank, emphasized that leadership develop-



Group photo during the ‘Ignite’ program.

ment is a fundamental pillar of organizational success, and that Warba Bank’s investment in its people reflects its long-term commitment to excellence, innovation and quality of service; all values that resonate deeply with its clients, partners and the wider community.

He added: “Warba Bank is committed to building a corporate culture based on excellence, agility, and authenticity, empowering its people to ‘own tomorrow’ by equipping them with the skills, knowledge and tools required to lead transformation and innovation in the banking sector.”

A Comprehensive Leadership Development Program

The program adopts an integrated methodology that combines multiple elements to ensure maximum impact on leadership development. It includes advanced interactive training that offers a transformative learning experience, strengthening participants’ ability to lead teams, foster collaboration and contribute to achieving the Bank’s strategic goals through hands-on workshops and real-world case studies that simulate real leadership challenges.

In addition, participants will receive personalized executive coaching from internationally certified trainers with extensive global experience. This one-on-one coaching helps participants identify their strengths and development opportunities and build personalized leadership development plans that align with their professional ambitions and the Bank’s strategic priorities.

Strategic Partnership with the National Leadership Institute

The program is being implemented in collaboration with the National Leadership Institute, a globally recognized organization in the field of leadership development, ensuring that participants gain a world-class learning experience that integrates global best practices with local context.

The initiative is fully supported by Warba Bank’s Human Resources Group and executive leadership, reflecting the Bank’s institutional commitment to leadership development and the creation of a continuous learning culture.

“Let’s Own Tomorrow” Through Leadership Empower-

ment

The launch of this program comes as part of Warba Bank’s comprehensive strategy to develop its national workforce, provide a stimulating work environment that fosters continuous learning and professional growth, and enable employees to realize their full potential while contributing to the Bank’s ambitious vision.

This initiative embodies Warba Bank’s vision, “Let’s Own Tomorrow,” which focuses on empowering people to lead the future and make a positive impact on their organization and community.

Warba Bank has achieved significant success in a short period, establishing itself as a pioneer in Islamic digital banking services. It is also among the local banks with the largest number of shareholders, bringing it closer to all segments of society. This achievement further reaffirms the Bank’s position as a trusted financial partner that combines innovation with social responsibility in delivering best-in-class services and products.

2026 annual budget discussed at 67th meeting

Gulf Chambers Board reviews Gulf Guarantee Project

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): The Board of Directors of the Federation of Gulf Chambers discussed during its 67th meeting, held on Wednesday at the headquarters of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), the Gulf Guarantee Project and the estimated annual budget for 2026, in addition to launching the new logo of the Federation's General Secretariat.

The KCCI said in a press statement that the meeting was followed by the 14th periodic consultative meeting between the Ministers of Commerce and Industry and the chairpersons of chambers and federations from GCC member states.

The Chamber explained that the Gulf Guarantee Project is a document designed to facilitate the movement of goods in transit, allowing them to enter through the first entry point in any GCC state and pass through one or more other member states, with customs clearance completed only at the final destination in accordance with the approved GCC transit mechanism. This process eliminates the need to



Gulf Chamber's 67th meeting discusses Gulf Guarantee project, 2026 annual budget.

KUNA photo

submit documents or pay taxes, fees, or other customs procedures during transit.

The statement added that the participants also discussed the items on the meeting's agenda, including the membership and working mechanisms of sectoral committees, emphasizing that the meeting comes as part of the ongoing GCC cooperation efforts toward

a new phase of economic integration based on innovation, digital transformation, and resource sustainability amid the rapid global changes.

It further noted that GCC countries are witnessing qualitative transformations in diversifying their economies, enhancing food and energy security, and developing national human resources in line with a global wave

driven by artificial intelligence and the knowledge economy, adding that what unites us here is our deep belief in the unity of purpose and destiny, and that the success of any member state is a success for all, and that our economic integration is the true guarantee for the sustainability of our prosperity and stability.

'Stronger cooperation vital for growth'

GCC to boost economic and trade integration

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): The Gulf Cooperation Council plans to ratchet up efforts aiming to ensure greater economic and trade integration within the six-member bloc, its chief Jasem Al-Budaiwi said on Wednesday.

A robust and sustainable economy can only be built through greater cooperation and integration efforts across the Riyadh-based bloc, he told the GCC trade cooperation committee talks in Kuwait, citing the goal of transforming member states into financial and investment hubs.

He went on to attribute a spate of varied accomplishments seen in the wider Gulf Arab region to the committee's diligence and perseverance, emphasizing the need to eliminate any

impediments to smoother and more seamless trade within the GCC, added the official.

Citing official data, he said that GCC member states reported in 2024 a gross domestic product (GDP) worth USD 2.3 trillion, making the six-member bloc the ninth largest in the world in terms of GDP value, a statistic that is a testament to the bloc's "perpetual" economic growth, he added.

On the bloc's future goals, he said that increasing the region's industrial output and market value were among the perennial objectives, all of which are instrumental in keeping economic growth on an upward trajectory, he underlined.



GCC chief Jasem Al-Budaiwi

584.4 million shares traded, worth KD 184.4 million

Boursa Kuwait closes higher on Wed

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): The Kuwait Stock Exchange closed higher on Wednesday, with the general index rising by 69.62 points, or 0.78%, to 8,974.42 points. Trading volume was 584.4 million shares, executed through 32,867 transactions, valued at KD 184.4 million (approximately USD 562.4 million).

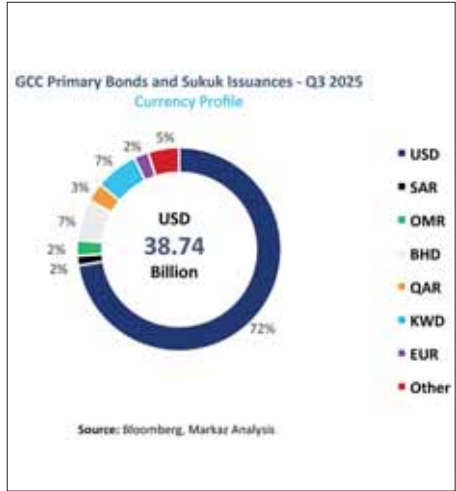
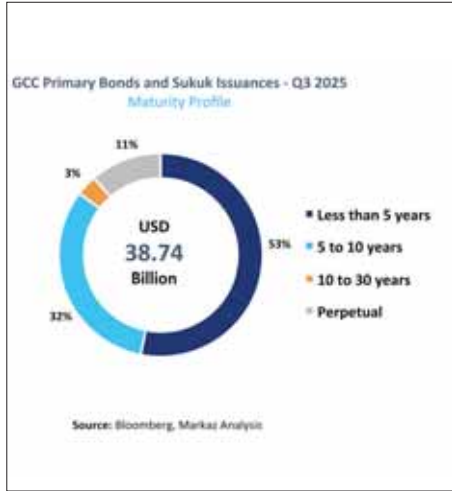
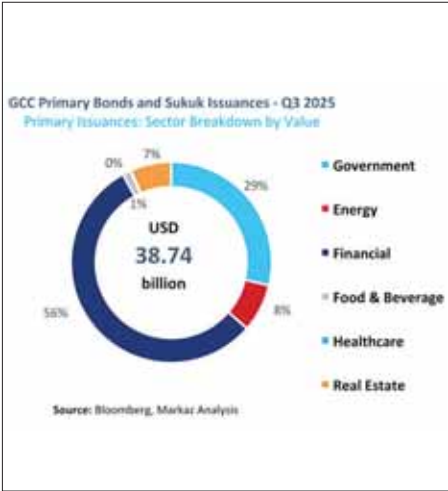
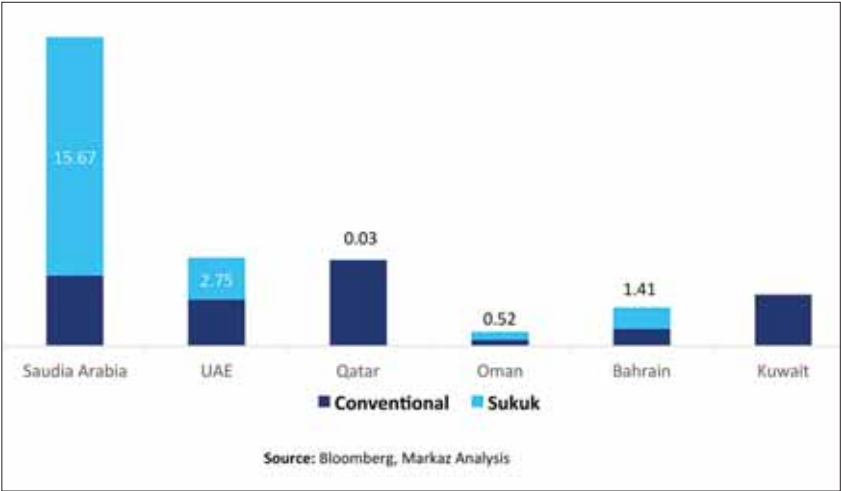
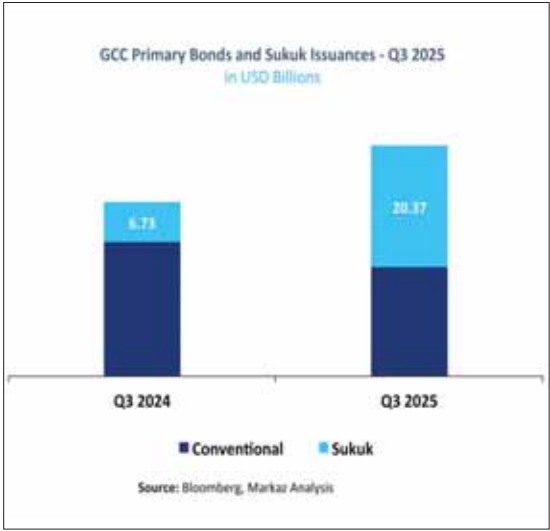
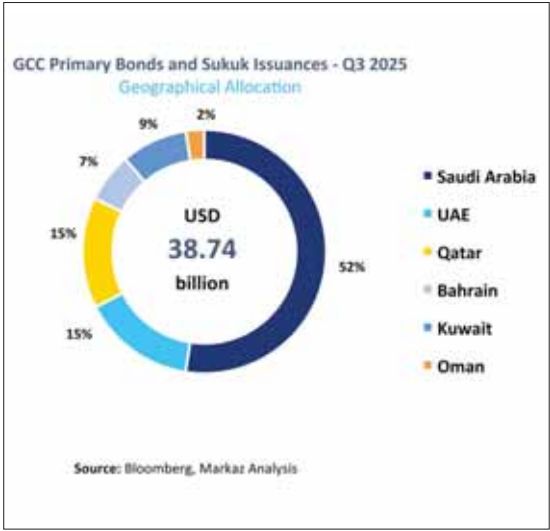
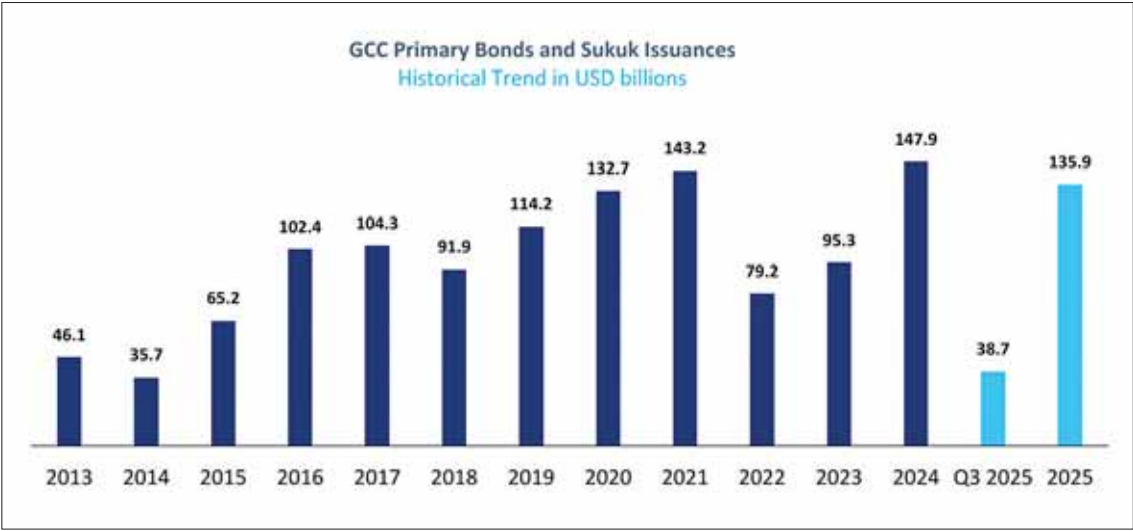
The main market index gained 43.78 points, or 0.51%, closing at 8,549.38

points. It saw 283 million shares traded over 20,609 transactions, worth KD 61.8 million (around USD 188.4 million).

Meanwhile, the premier market index increased by 79.51 points, or 0.84%, reaching 9,523.89 points. It recorded 301.4 million shares traded through 12,258 transactions, with a value of KD 122.6 million (approximately USD 373.9 million).

Kuwaiti issuances record a 118% increase from the same period last year, to a total value of \$3.42 bln through 8 issuances

Markaz Report: GCC Fixed Income market sees \$38.74 bln in primary issuances during Q3 2025 representing a 32% increase from the same period last year



KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: In its Fixed Income Report, Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" states that primary debt issuances of Bonds and Sukuk in the Gulf Cooperation Council ("GCC") Countries amounted to USD 38.74 billion through 137 issuances during Q3 2025, a 32.28% increase from the same period last year, where issuances in Q3 2024 amounted to USD 29.29 billion.

Issuances by Geography: Saudi-based issuances led the GCC during Q3 2025, raising USD 20.32 billion through 36 issuances, up from USD 12.49 billion in Q3 2024, an increase of 62.8%, and representing 52.5% of issuances during the year.

UAE- based issuances ranked second, with USD 5.82 billion through 57 issuances, representing 15.0% of the market, a decrease of 47.3% from the same period last year.

Qatari entities were the third largest issuers in terms of value, with USD 5.69 billion issued through 29 issuances, representing 14.7% of the issuances over the period. Kuwaiti issuers follow, with a total issuance size of USD 3.42 billion through 8 issuances, a 118.4% increase from the same period last year.

Bahraini issuances recorded a 539% increase from the same period last year, recording a total value of USD 2.55 billion through 4 issuances.

Omani entities recorded the lowest value of issuances during the year, with USD 0.94 billion raised through 3 issuances, representing 2.4% of the total value of issuances.

Sovereign vs. Corporate: Total GCC corporate primary issuances increased by 4.0% in Q3 2025, amounting to USD 26.59 billion raised, compared to USD 25.57 billion raised in Q3 2024. Corporate issuances represented 68.6% of total issuances for the third quarter of 2025, in line with the preference of issuances in Q3 2024 where more corporates issued than sovereigns (Corporate issuances Q3 2024: 87.3%).

Government related corporate entities raised USD 3.1 billion through 3 issuances during the quarter, an increase of 57% from Q3 2024 (USD 2.0 billion through 2 issuances). Total GCC sovereign primary issuances increased by 227% in Q3 2025, raising USD 12.14 billion throughout the year, representing 31.4% of total issuances.

Conventional vs. Sukuk: Conventional issuances decreased by 18.6% in Q3 2025 compared to Q3 2024, raising a total of USD 18.37 billion for the quarter. Sukuk issuances, meanwhile, increased by 202.7% in Q3 2025, resulting in a total value of USD 20.37 billion for the year so far.

As for issuance preferences, Q3 2025 saw an increased appetite for sukuk issuances in the GCC, representing 52.6% of total issuances for the year. This is a change in issuance preferences from Q3 2024, where more conventional bonds were issued.

Sector Segmentation: The Financial sector led the bond and sukuk issuances in Q3 2025, with total value of USD 21.53 billion through

113 issuances representing 55.6% of total issuances. Government issuances follow, with USD 11.1 billion through 15 issuances, representing 28.7% of total issuances. This represents an increase for both the financial sector (115.3%) and for government issuances (199.0%) when compared to the same period last year.

The energy sector follows, with USD 3.0 billion through 2 issuances, representing 7.7% of total issuances, with the remaining sectors together representing a small portion of total issuance (8.0%).

Maturity Profile: In Q3 2025, primary issuances with less than 5-year tenors represented 53.1% of GCC debt capital markets with a total value amounting to USD 20.6 billion through 100 issuances. Primary issuances with 5-10-year tenors followed, raising USD 12.5 billion through 26 issuances, representing 32.2% of total issuances.

Primary issuances with 10-30-year tenors represented 3.3% of GCC debt capital markets with a total value of USD 1.3 billion through 3 issuances during the year. No issuances came in with a maturity greater than ("GT") 30 years, while perpetual issuances saw an increase in both the size and number of issuances when compared to Q3 2024, with a total value of USD 4.4 billion through 8 issuances.

Issue Size Profile: During Q3 2025, GCC primary issuances ranged in size from USD 3.0 million to USD 3.25 billion. Issuances with issue size of USD 1 billion or greater raised the largest amount, totaling USD 17.1 billion through 11 issuances and representing 44.0% of the total amount issued in the GCC.

Issuances sized between USD 500 million and USD 1 billion followed, with a total issuance size of USD 12.4 billion through 20 issuances. The highest number of issuances was under USD 100 million issue size, where there were 81 issuances that raised a total amount of USD 2.9 billion during Q3 2025.

Currency Profile: US Dollar-denominated issuances led the GCC Bonds and Sukuk primary market again in Q3 2025, raising a total of USD 28.1 billion through 74 issuances, representing a substantial 72.5% of the total value raised in primary issuances during the quarter.

The second largest issue currency was the Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD), where KWD denominated issuances raised a total of USD 2.6 billion through 7 issuances. As for currencies bucketed under "Other" which totaled USD 2.0 billion, the Hong Kong Dollar (HKD) represented 1.79% of total issuances with a total value of USD 694 million through 19 issuances.

Rating: In terms of value, a total of 68.4% of GCC Conventional and Sukuk bonds were rated in Q3 2025 by at least one of the following rating agencies: Standard & Poor's, Moody's, Fitch and Capital Intelligence, a decrease from Q3 2024 (77.0% of all issuances rated). Issuances rated within the Investment Grade accounted for 61.0% of the total issuances during the year, while Sub-Investment Grade accounted for 7.4% of rated bonds.

المركز

MARKAZ

Kuwait Financial Centre K.P.S.C.

Announcing Nominations
for Candidacy to the
Election of the Board

Kuwait Financial Center K.P.S.C. ("Markaz") announces the start of candidacy for election to the Board of Directors for a period of one month from the date of this announcement.

Anyone interested in nominating themselves for a position on the Board of Directors may apply by completing the CMA's Nomination Form, as long as they satisfy the Fit and Proper requirements outlined in CMA Law No. 7 of 2010, the Companies Law and the Articles of Association of the Company.

The Nomination Form should be submitted along with the required supporting documents to the Company at the following address:

Kuwait Financial Center K.P.S.C. "Markaz"
Al Qibla - Al Soor Street - Burj Alshaya - 8th floor.
8:00 AM until 3:00 PM
From 2nd November 2025 until 1st December 2025

Note that the Nomination Form is available on the Company's website www.markaz.com

For further queries, please contact the Board Secretariat office on
2224 8036 - 2224 8041

A legacy intertwined with Kuwait's progress

Gulf Bank celebrates 65 years of excellence, growth, and community connection



Gulf Bank first board members.



A picture in front of the old Gulf Bank building.

- Since its establishment on October 29, 1960, Gulf Bank has been a steadfast partner in the infrastructure and socioeconomic renaissance of the State of Kuwait.
- Gulf Bank is regarded as one of the principal supporters of Kuwait Vision 2035, distinguished by its pivotal role in financing major national development projects.
- Gulf Bank continues to receive international accolades and recognitions, ranking among the top 100 listed companies in the Middle East.
- It is ranked among Kuwait's top ten strongest brands and fourth among local banks, with a brand value of USD 244 million.
- The Bank provides a comprehensive portfolio of banking services through an extensive network of over 50 branches and more than 300 ATMs across Kuwait.
- Leading international rating agencies affirm the Bank's creditworthiness and financial strength, supported by its solid capitalization, profitability, and high-quality asset base.
- The Bank's headquarters is recognized as one of the most prominent architectural landmarks in the heart of Kuwait City, symbolizing its history, heritage, and enduring legacy.
- The Al Danah Millionaire Account, launched in 1998, has evolved into the largest cash prize linked to a bank account worldwide, reinforcing Gulf Bank's reputation for innovation and customer engagement.
- Since 2014, Gulf Bank has organized the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, which has become Kuwait's largest and only internationally certified marathon, reflecting the Bank's commitment to promoting health, wellness, and community engagement.

Sixty-five years ago, a modest dream took shape on Fahad Al-Salem Street in the heart of Kuwait City. In a small rented apartment, with only fifty employees and a capital of twenty-four million rupees – equivalent to 1.8 million Kuwaiti Dinars – twelve visionary merchants laid the foundation of what would become one of Kuwait's most enduring institutions: Gulf Bank.

From those humble beginnings in 1960, Gulf Bank embarked on a journey that would soon intertwine with the story of Kuwait itself – its progress, its people, and its future.

On November 27, 1960, Amiri Decree No. (44) officially recognized Gulf Bank as a Kuwaiti shareholding company, marking the beginning of a remarkable era of banking excellence and national contribution.

A Journey of Growth and Transformation

Over the decades, Gulf Bank transformed from a small local establishment into a pillar of Kuwait's economy and one of the region's most trusted financial institutions.

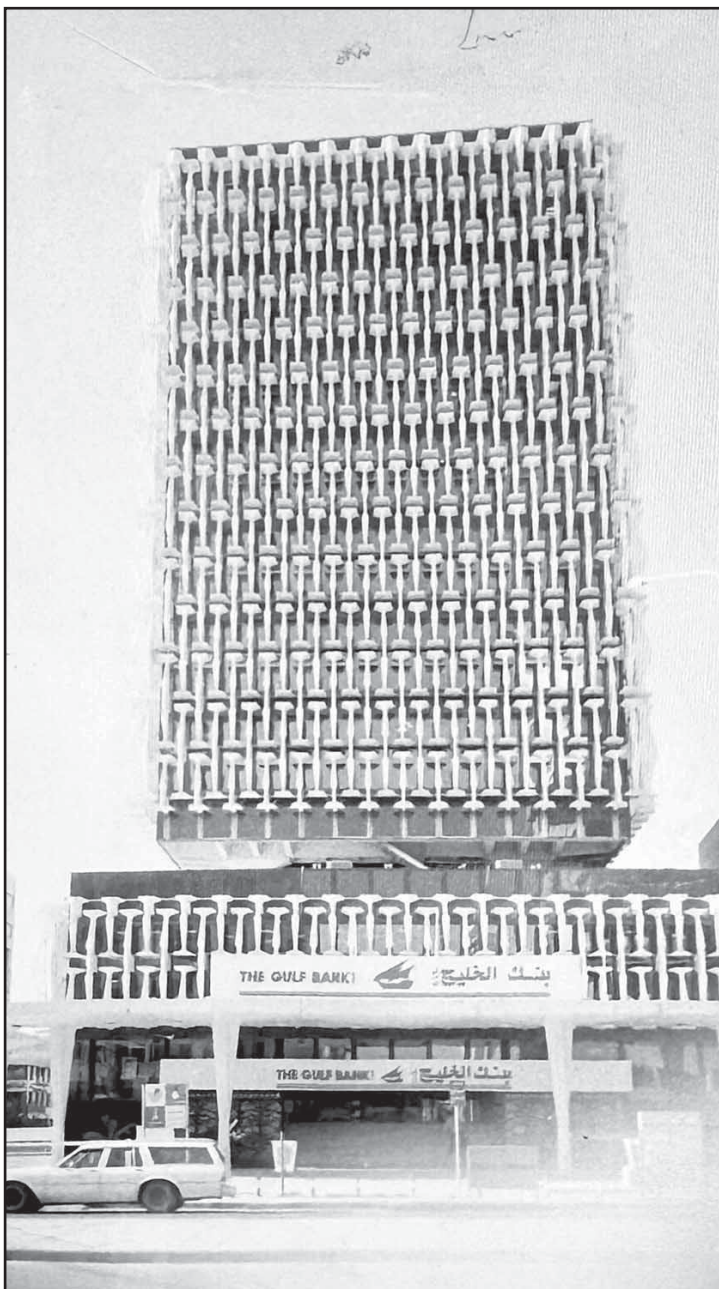
With total assets reaching KD 7.3 billion as of June 2025, the Bank today provides a comprehensive range of consumer, corporate, and treasury services through a network of over 50 branches and more than 300 ATMs spread across the country.

Behind this growth lies a steadfast philosophy- one rooted in careful expansion, digital innovation, and a deep commitment to sustainability. Gulf Bank's strategy has always balanced progress with responsibility, ensuring that every step forward aligns with the economic, environmental, and social pillars of Kuwait's vision for the future.

Financial Strength, Proven Trust

Gulf Bank's reputation for financial soundness has long been recognized by international rating agencies. Its ratings; A3 from Moody's, A from Fitch, and A+ from Capital Intelligence, all with Stable Outlooks reflect the Bank's prudent management, strong capitalization, and resilient profitability.

These achievements are not merely financial milestones, but a testament to Gulf Bank's unwavering commitment to stability and excellence, even in times of



A picture of Gulf Bank's headquarters in the mid-1980s

change.

A Legacy Carved in Stone

The Bank's enduring presence is perhaps best symbolized by its headquarters in Kuwait City, a masterpiece of mid-century architecture that remains one of the city's most recognizable landmarks.

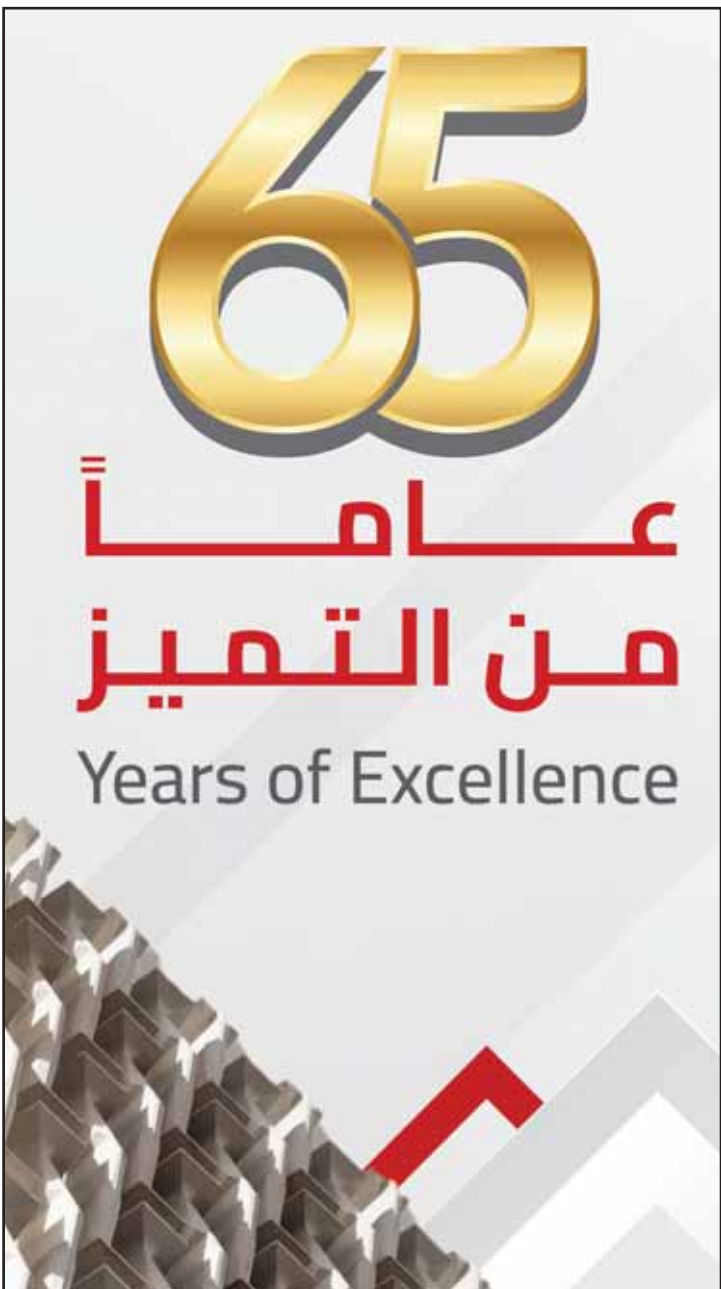
Designed in 1961 by the renowned French architect Jean Robert Delb, the nine-story building combined innovation and elegance, using precast concrete elements to manage sunlight and distinctive columns that gave the structure its bold, modern identity.

Recently restored to preserve its historical essence, the building now stands as both a heritage icon and a model of green design, reflecting the Bank's respect for the past and its readiness for the future.

Financing Kuwait's Vision

Throughout its history, Gulf Bank has stood as a partner in Kuwait's national development, helping build the foundations of the nation's infrastructure and prosperity.

The Bank has financed many of the country's most transformative projects – from Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Bridge, Sabah Al-Ahmad



Gulf Bank: Six and a half decades of excellence and success.

Residential City, and Farwaniya Hospital, to the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem and Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centers, Sabah Al-Salem University City, and the Clean Fuels and Al-Zour Refinery projects.

Through these partnerships, Gulf Bank has not only supported the nation's Vision 2035 but also played an active role in shaping a Kuwait that is more connected, sustainable, and forward-looking.

At the Heart of the Community

If the Bank's financial achievements define its strength, its relationship with the community defines its soul. For six and a half decades, Gulf Bank has remained the closest to the people, organizing initiatives that touch lives and create opportunities. From education and youth programs to environmental and cultural initiatives, every effort reflects the Bank's belief that true success lies in serving society, not just shareholders.

Among its most celebrated contributions is the Al Danah Millionaire Account, launched in 1998. What began as a simple savings initiative has become a Kuwaiti phenomenon, recently earning recognition from Guinness World Records as the largest cash prize linked to a bank account worldwide.

Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, Al Danah Millionaire Account continues to transform lives with prizes totaling over KD 2 million annually, making dreams come true for hundreds of loyal customers every year.

Running Toward a Healthier Nation

Beyond banking, Gulf Bank has championed the values of wellness and inclusion through the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon- Kuwait's only internationally certified marathon.

Since its first edition in 2014, the marathon has grown into a national celebration of unity and perseverance, welcoming more than 10,000 runners each year – from children and professionals to people with special needs.

It is more than a race; it is a testament to the Bank's belief that progress is achieved step by step, together.

A Trusted Brand, A Progressive Vision

Today, Gulf Bank stands proudly among Kuwait's Top Ten Strongest Brands and fourth among local banks, with a brand value of USD 244 million, according to Brand Finance.

This recognition underscores the Bank's sustained growth, market leadership, and reputation for trust, innovation, and customer-centricity.

Equally, Gulf Bank takes pride in its people. Women now represent 42% of the workforce, while youth under 35 comprise more than 58% – a reflection of the Bank's culture of diversity, empowerment, and equal opportunity.

65 Years Forward

From a single rented office in 1960 to a nationwide network serving generations of Kuwaitis, Gulf Bank's story is one of vision, resilience, and belonging.

For sixty-five years, it has grown with Kuwait – through prosperity and change, challenges and triumphs – always guided by one enduring promise: to move forward together.

As Gulf Bank looks ahead, it does so with renewed confidence and purpose committed to innovation, sustainability, and progress, as it continues to shape the financial future of Kuwait for generations to come.

A Legacy of Transformation The Evolution of Gulf Bank's Logo Since 1960



Evolution of Gulf Bank logo.

Ongoing effort to foster knowledge and community health

ABK engages female customers breast cancer awareness discussions

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: As part of its continuous engagement with female customers, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) organized an interactive session revolving around breast cancer awareness, in collaboration with Dr. Mona Yousef and the (“Be Strong”) team.

The session highlighted the importance of early detection in reducing the spread of the disease and significantly improving recovery rates, reflecting the Bank’s ongoing commitment to the well-being of its customers and its proactive interaction with them on various occasions.

The awareness initiative, attended by **Johair Marafi**, General Manager – Retail Banking at ABK and a group of ABK’s female customers, featured open discussions on breast cancer prevention and treatment, answering questions related to recommended screenings, and emphasizing the importance of maintaining a healthy and balanced lifestyle to reduce the risk of the disease.

Commenting on the initia-



Johair Marafi, General Manager - Retail Banking

tive, Marafi said, “At ABK, we believe our role is not limited to providing banking and financial services; it extends to promoting health awareness on issues that affect the daily lives of our customers.

Through this discussion, we have once again reaffirmed our commitment to engaging with our clients and providing



A group photo of the panelists.

beneficial, knowledge-based sessions across various areas of interest, underscoring our dedication to their satisfaction as a leading banking institution in Kuwait.”

Marafi added that hosting this session reflects ABK’s commitment to transforming its cus-

tomer relationships into genuine partnerships aimed at enhancing their quality of life, fulfilling the Bank’s ethical responsibility to alleviate concerns, provide safe spaces for dialogue, and increase public awareness on important topics.

She further stated, “We recognize that we are an important partner in our customers’ lives, and therefore, we are committed to continuously encouraging them to adopt healthy and balanced habits as part of our role as a responsible banking institution in the country.

In conclusion, Marafi said, “This initiative stems from our firm belief that knowledge is power and that providing accurate, reliable information can save lives and safeguard the health of our community.”

This session forms part of a series of ongoing initiatives by ABK designed to engage with customers, better understand their interests and needs, and work alongside partners across various sectors to meet them effectively within the local market.

Seamless access to hundreds of online games without downloading or installing

stc partners with Mobile Arts to enable Blacknut cloud gaming service to its customers in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its strategic partnership with Blacknut, a leading global provider of cloud gaming solutions.

The collaboration aims to introduce a new cloud-based gaming service for stc customers, expanding the Company’s portfolio of value-added services (VAS), especially under stc’s selection of entertainment solutions.

This partnership is supported by Mobile Arts through its platform, MobiBox, which connects global content providers like Blacknut with telecom operators through direct carrier billing and helps ensure a smooth, accessible experience for users.

Through this partnership, stc customers can enjoy a seamless cloud-based gaming experience through Blacknut’s global platform, which allows users to play over 500 premium video games directly through a web browser without needing to download or install any applications on their devices.

One of the primary benefits of the platform is that it eliminates the need for storage space on a device, especially for large sized video games that require lengthy download times.

Additionally, the platform instantly pro-



stc x Blacknut

vides users with unlimited access to a wide library of the latest video games across multiple genres, all through a contract-free monthly subscription.

Mobile Arts plays a central role in this collaboration, managing payment integration through MobiBox to deliver frictionless subscriptions through direct carrier billing.

It allows stc users to access Blacknut’s cloud gaming catalog, while also supporting targeted advertising campaigns to boost engagement and expand the service’s

reach.

The Blacknut cloud gaming service will be available as an add-on subscription to stc’s customers bill, offering flexible payment options and simplified access for gamers of all ages.

The initiative aligns with stc’s commitment to deliver innovative digital solutions that go beyond traditional connectivity.

Such services are introduced by stc under its strategic direction to continuously enhance the lifestyles choices of its customers through innovative and more integrated experiences.

Additionally, stc emphasized its ongoing commitment to partnering with local and international businesses that can assist the Company in enhancing and evolving the experiences provided to its growing customer base.

With its focus on online entertainment solutions, as well as other market segments, stc aims to offer a range of services that fulfill the demands of its diverse customer base, whether individuals or corporates.

Forming strong partnerships with industry leaders of all sizes has enabled stc to consistently introduce new experiences that keep pace with the evolving needs of today’s connected world.

stc will continue to explore new opportunities and solutions that aim to enhance the overall experience delivered to its customers.

K. Priyadarshan to grace grand opening

Kalyan Jewellers set to open new showroom in Fahaheel

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Kalyan Jewellers, one of the leading and most-trusted jewellery brands, will be launching a new showroom in Kuwait, at Makkah Street, Ground Floor, Muneera Building, Fahaheel. The grand opening will take place on 31st October at 7 30 PM, and will be graced by renowned actor Kalyani Priyadarshan, marking yet another milestone in the brand’s expansion in the region.

This strategically located showroom aims to enhance accessibility for customers in and around Fahaheel, offering an exquisite range of jewellery designs across gold, diamonds, uncut, platinum, and precious stones in a luxurious, world-class retail environment.

Celebrating the launch, Kalyan Jewellers has introduced an exciting Gold Coin Giveaway, offering valuable rewards on jewellery purchases. Customers will receive a 2-gram gold coin free on diamond or polki jewellery purchases worth KWD 600 and above, up to 1-gram gold coin free on purchases of diamond or polki jewellery between KWD 350 and KWD 599, and a 1-gram gold coin free on purchases of uncut, precious stone or platinum jewellery worth KWD 600 and above. Additionally, patrons can benefit from making charges starting from only 5.5% onwards. These exclusive offers are valid until 10th November 2025.

Speaking on the announcement, Mr. Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director of Kalyan Jewellers, said, “The launch of our new showroom in Fahaheel further reflects our commitment to expanding our footprint in Kuwait. We are focused on offering customers an

enhanced retail experience backed by our core values of transparency, trust and service excellence.”

Kalyan Jewellers continues to uphold its commitment to transparency and quality. All jewellery goes through multiple purity tests, and shoppers receive the brand’s 4-Level Assurance Certificate with every purchase. This certificate guarantees purity, free lifetime maintenance of ornaments, detailed product information, and transparent exchange and buy-back policies. The certification is part of the brand’s commitment towards offering the very best to its loyalists.

The showroom will also stock Kalyan’s popular house brands such as, Muhurat – Wedding Jewellery Line, Mudhra - handcrafted antique jewellery, Nimah – temple Jewellery, Glo – dancing diamonds, Ziah – Solitaire like diamond jewellery, Anokhi – uncut diamonds, Antara – wedding Diamonds, Hera – daily wear diamonds, Rang – precious stones jewellery, and the recently launched Lila – coloured stones and diamond jewellery.

For more information on the brand, its collections and offers, visit <https://www.kalyanjewellers.net/>

T&C Apply*

About Kalyan Jewellers

Headquartered in Thrissur in the state of Kerala, Kalyan Jewellers is one of the largest jewellery retailers in India with a presence in the Middle East. The company has enjoyed a long-standing presence in the Indian market for nearly three decades and has set industry benchmarks in quality, transparency, pricing and innovation.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the National Diwan of Human Rights

talabat launches the 15th edition of the Road Safety Week for delivery riders

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Reaffirming the private sector’s pivotal role in leading constructive community initiatives, talabat, the leading on-demand online ordering platform in the MENA region, announced the launch of the 15th edition of the Road Safety Week for Delivery Riders.

This vital national initiative is the result of a strategic talabat-led partnership in cooperation with government entities and prominent community organizations, namely: the Ministry of Interior, the National Diwan of Human Rights, and Metro Medical Group (MMC), along with talabat’s logistics partners.

This campaign aims to reinforce the principle that the safety, health, and rights of all delivery riders are a shared responsibility, requiring concerted efforts to ensure a safe working environment.

“We believe that delivery riders are the backbone of our business and the first line of defense for our customers. To this end, the 15th edition of the Road Safety Week initiative reaffirms our unwavering commitment to their protection and safety,” commented Bader Al-Ghanim, Vice President and Managing Director of talabat Kuwait.

“Beyond providing a leading technology platform, we strive to be a driving force for awareness and training in collaboration with our partners from various entities to foster a fair and safe work environment that adheres to the highest labor standards.”

He added: “By providing air-conditioned rest stops, distributing water, and organizing specialized workshops on safety, health, and labor rights, we aim to establish a model of comprehensive care that guarantees riders’ safety on the road as well as the respect and appreciation they deserve.”

On its part, the Ministry of Interior’s General Department of Traffic and General Directorate of Security Relations and Media participated in the event, represented by Major Sara Jamil, First Lieutenant Alhanouf Alenzi, and Lieutenant Ghalia Alsalem, who discussed strategies to reduce traffic risks for riders in congested areas, as well as procedures for enforcing traffic laws to raise awareness of safe driving practices.

Commenting on this annual event, Major Sara



Representatives from talabat, the Ministry of Interior, the National Diwan of Human Rights, and Metro Medical Group in a group photo.



Major Sara Jamil speaking during the event.

Jamil at the Ministry of Interior said: “The Ministry of Interior confirms its central role in en-



Conducting medical examinations for talabat riders on the sidelines of the event.

hancing traffic safety for delivery riders, who represent an essential part of daily life in Ku-

wait. In response to the challenges accompanying the sector’s growth, we continue to adopt an integrated strategy and ensure compliance with safety standards. Our strategic partnership with talabat Kuwait is an ideal model of fruitful cooperation that has enabled us to raise riders’ awareness through regular safety lectures. We have witnessed a tangible improvement in rider behavior following the implementation of new regulations and awareness programs. We believe that protecting riders and ensuring their safety is a shared responsibility between the government entities, the private sector, and society, and our priority remains to develop legislation and intensify awareness campaigns that ensure safer roads for all.”

Meanwhile, Anan Al Mutawa from the National Diwan of Human Rights said: “Preserving the dignity of workers and ensuring their fair treatment is a cornerstone of the National Diwan of Human Rights vision, and we view delivery riders as an integral part of this vision. Our role is to ensure the highest standards are applied in the work environment and promote fair treatment for riders and their logistics partners. Hence, our strategic collaboration with talabat and our partners from the public and private sectors is of great importance, serving as a model for raising riders’ awareness of their rights and responsibilities and promoting a work environment that effectively respects human dignity.”

As part of its appreciation and motivation, talabat Kuwait honored the top ten riders for their commitment to traffic safety regulations. It also honored participating government agencies and other entities, such as the Metro medical teams, for their contributions to the campaign’s success. The regional tech leader upholds its commitment to contributing to riders’ welfare by organizing workshops focused on their health, safety, and rights, and providing educational programs and digital tools to train them on safety guidelines.

It serves to note that this national initiative targets decision-makers, government agencies, the business sector, the general public, and media institutions, and seeks to enhance awareness and cooperation with delivery riders who serve the community on a daily basis.

Singer declares himself ‘Mr. More Baseball’

Paisley makes history singing at World Series marathon game

LOS ANGELES, Oct 29, (AP): Country superstar Brad Paisley made history Monday night - and this time, it wasn't for platinum records.

The singer performed the national anthem during a landmark World Series game - an 18-inning matchup between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Toronto Blue Jays. The Dodgers won 6-5 on Freddie Freeman's homer than ended Game 3 nearly seven hours after Paisley performed.

That marathon tied the record for longest World Series game, and Paisley performed the anthem before the previous one, too. That was seven years and one day prior, when the Dodgers outlasted the Boston Red Sox, also in a Game 3. He also performed the anthem before an 11-inning Game 2 at the 2017 World Series and a 10-inning Game 1 in LA last year.

In an interview over Zoom with The Associated Press on Tuesday, Paisley declared himself "Mr. More Baseball" and discussed his adoration for the Dodgers. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

AP: How does a country superstar from West Virginia become a Dodgers superfan?

Paisley: Living out here part of the time, marrying an actress in - we got married in 2003 and had a little place in Santa Monica and then a place in the Palisades, the first place we ever bought together was in the Palisades and it's since burned down this year ... I've been invested

out here since then. And that was the club that, you know, that's the local team for one of the places we live. Like we don't have anything in Nashville except the Sounds (a Triple-A team), which are great. That's fun, but that's not major league. And so, yeah, I would take the kids to these games. I got to know so many people there. ... It was just an easy transition into that. I grew up going to Pirates games. My dad liked the Indians.

To have had a team to invest in, and then become really good friends with Clayton Kershaw, Justin Turner and these guys ... they're great people. Dave Roberts has become a good friend. A lot of the front office people, Andrew Friedman ... we've had adventures together. ... It's a slow progress to where you're addicted to something. And I got there pretty quick a while back.

AP: And now you hold a record — having sung the national anthem at the two longest games in World Series history.

Paisley: I have a friend who introduced me to (Hall of Fame catcher) Johnny Bench a while back, and I've gotten to know Johnny a little bit. And I said, "Hey, tell Bench I got one on him in the record books." But it's weird. It's a great feeling, actually, to have been a footnote in something.

It's kind of cool to know that I sang the anthem at a couple, at the two of the four total Dodger walk-off games that ever happened. The other two were before my time



Recording artist Brad Paisley performs the national anthem prior to Game 3 of baseball's World Series between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Los Angeles Dodgers, Monday, Oct. 27, in Los Angeles. (AP)

anyway. ... And especially the one that was 18 innings. Then last night around, the 16th inning, I was going "There's no way this is happening again." And here we

go. And it was really neat. I sat there in the in the seat when it ended last night, just staring, like, "OK, what does this even mean?" And then I didn't even realize 'til today when a couple of these statisticians started compiling stuff, I've never done this and it didn't go extras. So I said today, I'm available for football games, too. If anybody wants, you know, another quarter or two out of their team.

AP: Given your track record, did you expect last night's game to go extra innings?

Paisley: No, I fully, I fully expected this to actually be over in nine for maybe the first time in a while, you know.

I am cursed. No, I don't think so. ... It's wild. It's fun. I think it's a really fun thing.

AP: Not a curse, but a trend.

Paisley: Yeah, let's definitely not call it a curse because to me, it's like, it's definitely, it's one of those weird fun facts that baseball excels in. It is so weird. Just like last night, there's always something that you've never seen before. Like (Shohei) Ohtani gets on base nine times. That's got to be the first time in history that's ever happened.

It's what Brad Pitt says in "Moneyball." It's like, "How can you not be romantic about baseball?"

AP: Absolutely.

Paisley: I should be "Mr. More Baseball." There's the new nickname.

Music

Hiatus ends

Angst, anger fuel Miguel's 'CAOS'

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): If you wondered why Miguel didn't release a studio album for nearly a decade, his response is simple: life.

"I needed to do some growing. I had to get my (expletive) together."

Since 2017's "War & Leisure," the world has experienced a variety of globally-impactful events: a second Donald Trump presidency, a coronavirus pandemic, an American social justice movement, an ongoing three-year war between Russia and Ukraine, and a two-year Israel-Hamas war that recently entered a ceasefire.

"We're just seeing, I think, a big question mark of humanity being asked in real time every day," Miguel said. "I needed to go away and recalibrate and just get in touch with my anger and figure out how best to move forward with that in a productive way ... I'm really glad that I did because it's what informed this album."

"CAOS" is a sharp departure from the superstar's vibey, sensual sound that made him a hit-making staple in R&B. The singer-songwriter's fifth studio project, morphed from his 2023-scrapped "Viscera" LP, dropped last week, coinciding with his 40th birthday. He wrote on all 12 tracks and handled the bulk of production with Ray Brady. The lone feature belongs to the legendary George Clinton of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame honorees Parliament-Funkadelic.

Singles

Led by the singles "RIP," "New Martyrs (Ride 4 U)," "El Pleito," and "Angel's Song," the album radiates his trendsetting fusion of alternative rock, R&B and electronic sounds, but in unfamiliar, darker tones. The music evokes feelings of urgency, protest and rebellion.

"This album is the most angsty, angry album I've ever made. But I think underlying and underwriting the message and the themes is this core need to express discontentment in a healthy way that creates the feeling and the future that I want."

Miguel also faced internal plights: divorce, family death and industry disillusionment.

"The value of my work became about outside appreciation as opposed to internal gratitude," said the artist who's earned four top 20 tracks on the Billboard 100. The admission comes from a Grammy winner who's created new-day classics such as "Adorn," and "Sure Thing" and fan favorite mood-setters like "All I Want is You" and "Skywalker."

During his hiatus, Miguel and Nazanin Mandi divorced. The singer began dating Mandi at 19 years old before marrying in 2018. They divorced four years later.



Miguel poses for a portrait on Tuesday, Oct. 14, in New York. (AP)

Film



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Christopher Lloyd, (left), and Michael J. Fox in a scene from the 1985 film 'Back to the Future.' (AP)

Actor looks back on 40 years of Marty McFly magic

Fox travels 'Back to the Future'

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): Michael J. Fox has been living with "Back to the Future" for a long time.

"I'll be on the street and some kid will go, 'There's Marty McFly!'" Fox says. "No, this is an old man."

It's been 40 years since "Back to the Future" debuted in theaters, but neither time, nor Parkinson's disease has done much - regardless of what he says - to diminish Fox's boyish good nature. For Fox, traveling through time with "Back to the Future" has been part of life. It's the film that strapped a flux capacitor to his career and has, ever since, stayed in his rear view.

"Sometimes I look at it and think about my family," Fox, 64, said in a recent interview by Zoom from his apartment in New York. "I think about how I have a 37-year-old son who wasn't born yet. It's a long time ago."

On Friday, "Back to the Future" is, again, back in theaters. The anniversary celebration also includes a new 4K trilogy gift set that comes complete with an OUTATIME license plate. Fox, himself, has just released "Future Boy: 'Back to the Future' and My Journey Through the Space-Time Continuum," a book he penned with Nelle Fortenberry.

While anniversary re-releases are commonplace for cherished classics, the occasion is a little different for Robert Zemeckis' sci-fi landmark. On the one hand, the movie's turn-back-the-clock nostalgia is indelibly linked to its 1980s moment. After its release on July 3, 1985, "Back to the Future" was the No. 1 movie in theaters for 11 of its first 12 weeks. Then-President Ronald Reagan was among its biggest fans.

But what was once so firmly lodged in the space-time continuum has, over the years, turned curiously timeless. Watch "Back to the Future" now and you might be astonished at how effects-free most of it is, despite its director's predilection for pushing film technology. Instead, "Back to the Future" conjures its magic with a DeLorean, some Calvin Klein briefs and its most special effect: Christopher Lloyd's eyebrows.

"The distance between now and 1985 is greater than the distance between 1985 and 1955," Fox says. "In a way, that makes it more accessible. People aren't locked into their time period. They're not saying: This is real, this isn't real. It's all fantasy."

Even more harrowing than pondering the distance from now to 1985 is recalling the flying-car future of the 1989 sequel. That movie was set in the faraway time of 2015. Say it with me now: Doc, this is heavy.

But what most definitely hasn't aged is Fox's live wire performance in the original. His Marty McFly is like the Everykid ur-text: a seminal, guitar-playing, big-screen teenager trying to keep his family together.

Voice

"I found my voice changing. This kind of squeaky incredulity came out," Fox says. "I get into the time machine, the DeLorean. I just felt comfortable in there. Very different than Alex (P. Keaton). Alex was harder because he knows everything. Marty knows nothing and knows he knows nothing. Everything is a new day to him."

Fox was 24 at the time of the film's making. He was thrown into the role while in the midst of playing Keaton on "Family Ties." "Back to the Future" famously began with Eric Stoltz in the part, but Stoltz was fired after several weeks of shooting. Fox, stepping right onto the set, brought a more screwball energy.

"No time for neurosis. No time for self-indulgent bulls---," Fox says. "I didn't have time to investigate what happened with Eric. I had no rehearsal. I had no pep talk. I just showed up and then I was in a parking lot in the City of Industry. It's all lit for days, this parking lot. It's wet, with pockets of streaky luminescence. I remember looking at it and thinking: This must have cost more than the entire budget of 'Family Ties.'"

For Fox, Marty's time-traveling confusion matched the whirlwind he was experiencing off set. "Sitting around with (executive producer) Steven

Spielberg was not where I thought I'd be," recalls the Edmonton, Canada, native.

Fox had no choice but to take the ball and run - even if he sometimes found himself mistakenly searching for Marty's camcorder on the set of "Family Ties." Most remarkably, he and Lloyd found their chemistry on the fly.

"He's like a father figure and a little brother to me, in a weird way," Fox says, chuckling. "I love him a lot. But at that time, I didn't know him very well. I got to know him on part three. We jokingly call that 'Brokeback to the Future.'"

As time has moved on, "Back to the Future" has meant different things to Fox at different times. Right now, in his fight for a cure for Parkinson's, what resonates is "the whole sense about this clock that's ticking," he says. In January, Fox was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by then-President Joe Biden. The Michael J. Fox Foundation, founded in 2000, is the world's largest nonprofit funder of Parkinson's research.

"My kids are grown up and they're doing well and getting married one by one," says Fox, who has four children with his wife, Tracy Pollan. "Exhaustion is my biggest issue. But I feel good. And I love rolling around in this movie because I know how much it means to people."

Often, "Back to the Future" recedes in Fox's busy life. After five years of acting retirement, he'll make a guest appearance on the upcoming third season of the Apple TV+ series "Shrinking." But every now and then, like Doc emerging out of thin air in the DeLorean, "Back to the Future" suddenly reappears.

"I tell this one story about one Christmas when we were decorating the tree, I went to get some popcorn and heard the opening on the TV," Fox says, smiling. "I sat down and watched it. An hour later, my wife said, 'Where are you?' I said, 'I'm watching 'Back to the Future.' And, you know, it's really good. I'm good in it.' Watching it on Christmas Eve, with a bowl of popcorn, I really loved it."

Musk launches Grokipedia to rival online encyclopedia Wikipedia

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): Elon Musk has launched Grokipedia, a crowdsourced online encyclopedia that the billionaire seeks to position as a rival to Wikipedia.

Writing on social media, Musk said that Grokipedia.com is "now live" and its goal is the "truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

Musk has previously criticized Wikipedia for being filled with "propaganda" and called for people to stop donating to the site, which is run by a nonprofit. In September he announced that his artificial intelligence company xAI was working on Grokipedia.

The Grokipedia site has a minimalist appearance



Elon Musk

with little beyond a search bar where users can type in queries. It states that it has 885,279 articles. Wikipedia, meanwhile, says it has more than 7 million articles in English.

Like Wikipedia, users can search for articles on various topics such as Taylor Swift, the baseball World Series, or Buckingham Palace.

While Wikipedia is written

and edited by volunteers, it's unclear how exactly Grokipedia articles are put together. Reports suggest the site is powered by the same xAI model that underpins Musk's Grok chatbot, but some articles are seemingly adapted from Wikipedia.

The San Francisco-based Wikimedia Foundation said in a statement Tuesday that it is "still in the process of understanding how Grokipedia works."

As a huge trove of well-constructed sentences with little restriction on how it's used, Wikipedia has been a key source used to train AI chatbots, including Grok's rivals ChatGPT and Google's Gemini.

Variety

NEW YORK: A newly discovered Dr. Seuss manuscript featuring the Cat in the Hat and celebrating the United States will be published next year, just in time for America's 250th anniversary.

"Sing the 50 United States" is the first full manuscript written by Dr. Seuss - born Theodor Geisel - to be discovered since the posthumous release of "What Pet Should I Get?" in 2015.

The new book aims to teach readers the names of the states. "To sing the 50 United States, you have to use your brain," the Cat in the Hat advises. "Massachusetts. Minnesota. Missouri and Montana. M-i-s-s-Mississippi. Maryland! Michigan and Maine!"

"Uncovering a new work from Ted is like finding a time capsule of his imagination," says Susan Brandt, president and CEO of Dr. Seuss Enterprises. "Sing the 50 United States" celebrates his boundless creativity, genius with words, and enduring ability to inspire young readers everywhere. We're honored to share this new Dr. Seuss treasure with readers across America during such a meaningful milestone year." (AP)

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LOS ANGELES: Kelsey Grammer, 70, announces the birth of his 8th child: 'Isn't that lovely?'

It's a boy - named Christopher - for 70-year-old actor Kelsey Grammer and his wife Kayte Walsh.

The "Frasier" star announced his latest baby news on Monday's edition of the "Pod Meets World" podcast.

The child is the fourth for Walsh and Grammer. The actor also has four older children from previous relationships, including two with ex-wife Camille Grammer, an original cast member of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills." (AP)

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LONDON: Actor Prunella Scales, best known as acid-tongued Sybil Fawcett in the classic British sitcom "Fawlty Towers," has died, her children said Tuesday. She was 93 and had lived with dementia for many years.

Scales' sons, Samuel and Joseph West, said she died "peacefully at home in London" on Monday.

"Although dementia forced her retirement from a remarkable acting career of nearly 70 years, she continued to live at home," her sons said. "She was watching 'Fawlty Towers' the day before she died."

Scales' career included early roles in a 1952 television version of "Pride and Prejudice" and the 1954 film comedy "Hobson's Choice," followed by her TV breakthrough starring opposite Richard Briers in "Marriage Lines," a popular 1960s sitcom about a newlywed couple. (AP)

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TOKYO: The China Film Week of the 38th Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) has concluded, with the Golden Crane Awards ceremony being held here on Tuesday.

Chinese and Japanese guests and film industry figures at the event highly praised the development and influence of Chinese films in recent years and expressed their anticipation for future cooperation between the film industries of the two countries.

As part of the festival, the China Film Week was held in Tokyo from Oct. 21-28. Over 10 outstanding Chinese films were screened during the event, covering a variety of themes including family, love, fantasy and history. (Xinhua)

Campaign guides families on helping ADHD children thrive

KALD aims to support and empower people with ADHD in Kuwait

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Founder and President of Kuwait Association for Learning Differences (KALD) Amal Al-Sayyer revealed that the Association is focusing on individuals with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), adding that the focus in previous years was on raising awareness, while this year's focus will be on supporting and empowering this group in various fields.

In a press statement on the sidelines of the launch of the annual awareness campaign for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) recently, Al-Sayyer pointed out that the society urgently needs to raise awareness on the nature of this disorder and how to deal with affected children, asserting that the Association strives to utilize all its resources to support and enable them to integrate into society and achieve their ambitions.

She said the families with children affected by ADHD need guidance and education to understand their needs and deal with them effectively, which contributes to developing their abilities and making their lives easier. She disclosed that



Photos from the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences's awareness campaign on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) at The Avenues.

this year, the Association will focus on educating families, schools and the community about effective support methods, believing in the importance of accepting these children and creating a suitable environment for them.

She explained that the support aspect is the second pillar of the five-year plan of the Association, pointing out that KALD always seeks to keep pace with the latest developments in this field. "We fo-

cus on addressing attention deficit disorder through training programs for teachers and parents to enable them to deal with their children properly and promote positive communication that reduces emotional outbursts, anxiety and depression," she elaborated.

She called for harnessing modern technology to better serve this group through the use of educational and guidance applications that help them manage their time and develop their



KUNA photos

skills.

She also confirmed the ongoing cooperation with the ministries of Health and Education, indicating that the Ministry of Health provides diagnostic and guidance services through the Developmental Medicine Center, while the Ministry of Education allows the Association to access the schools to hold various activities, such as the Distinguished Teacher Award and the Persevering Student Award. She is hoping to ex-

pand this cooperation for the greater benefit of the children.

Addressing the executive authority, she said "consider us your right hand, as we are fully prepared to work with you, considering we have one goal -- to support our children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder."

Regarding cooperation with the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA), Al-Sayyer affirmed the existence of a fruitful partner-

ship, stressing that the Authority assisted the Association during the COVID-19 pandemic in communicating with parents to assess the psychological and educational impact of the crisis on the children, expressing her aspiration for further cooperation in the coming period.

She also announced that the Association is currently designing a post-secondary rehabilitation program aimed at integrating students into society and preparing them for the job market, adding that the integrated educational program that the Association has been implementing since 2019 covers the academic, social and psychological aspects of students, considering them interconnected and inseparable.

Furthermore, member of the Board of Trustees of KALD Award for the Persevering Student Salman Al-Lafi praised the efforts in of the Association in raising public awareness about ADHD. He emphasized the importance of the awareness campaigns implemented by the Association in guiding families towards optimal ways of dealing with their children, and supporting them in a way that enhances their self-confidence and helps them succeed and integrate into society.

AI to detect disease genes

AI ECG improves heart attack detection, saves lives: studies

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 29, (AP): PMcardio, a leader in AI-powered heart diagnostics, has announced that its Queen of Hearts algorithm demonstrated breakthrough accuracy in detecting acute heart attacks, known as STEMIs, in a major, multi-center US validation study. The results, presented at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics (TCT) 2025 conference and published in JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions, showed that the AI tool can significantly improve heart attack recognition while reducing unnecessary procedures—achieving the best of both worlds: higher accuracy and fewer false alarms.

In one of the largest real-world studies of its kind, researchers at Harvard's Beth Deaconess Medical Center (Boston), UC Davis (Sacramento), and UTHealth (Houston) reviewed more than 1,000 patients treated emergently for acute heart attack suspicion. The Queen of Hearts AI correctly identified 92% of true heart attacks on the first ECG—compared with 71% using standard triage—while cutting false alarms from 42% to just 8%, representing a fivefold reduction.

"These results show that AI ECG analysis can help clinicians diagnose heart attacks faster and more accurately, getting patients to treatment sooner," said Dr. Timothy D. Henry, Director of Clinical Research at The Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, "this is especially important for patients transferred from smaller or rural hospitals that don't perform emergency heart procedures, where only 17% currently receive timely treatment."

The findings build on encouraging results from the ongoing DIFO-CCULT-3 clinical trial—the largest randomized study of AI in cardiology—enrolling 6,000 patients across 18 hospitals in Turkey. Early data show that patients in the AI-assisted group received treatment up to five hours faster and experienced improved short-term outcomes. Data on the impact on long-term survival are expected next year.

"These consistent results from both real-world and randomized studies highlight how AI could improve long-term outcomes," said Dr. Robert Herman, PhD, Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder of Powerful Medical, "since up to 40% of heart attacks present with atypical ECGs, our technology helps ensure these patients receive

lifesaving care in time."

The Queen of Hearts algorithm, trained on millions of ECGs, also provides visual explanations that show clinicians which parts of the ECG most influence its decisions—helping them better understand and trust the AI's findings. Together, these studies underscore the platforms potential to transform emergency cardiac care by improving diagnostic accuracy, reducing unnecessary procedures, and saving more lives worldwide.

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AI foundation models can advance genetic research to uncover more disease-causing mutations in clinical settings.

In an advancement for genomic research, Chinese biotech firm BGI-Research and Zhejiang Lab specializing in AI technology launched Thursday an AI model "Genos," hailed as the world's first deployable genomic foundation model with 10 billion parameters. Science and Technology Daily reported.

The model is designed to analyze sequences of up to one million base pairs and achieves single-base resolution, promising to accelerate the functional understanding of the human genome.

Although a total of 3 billion base pairs in human genome have been sequenced, interpreting specific functions of those individual bases remains a monumental challenge. Most existing AI models are trained on just one or two reference genomes, failing to capture the vast diversity of human genetics.

Genos addresses this fundamental limitation head-on, being trained on a comprehensive set of 636 "telomere-to-telomere" high-quality human genomes that incorporate genomes from diverse global populations.

Technically, the model's massive scale is managed efficiently through a Mixture-of-Experts (MoE) architecture. This innovative design allows it to utilize only the most relevant "expert" networks for a given task, thus reducing computational costs and resource consumption.

In a test for interpreting the disease-causing mutations, Genos achieved an accuracy of 92 percent. When combined with a scientific foundation model, its accuracy soared to 98.3 percent.

Migrating cranes hit hard as virus flares up

Virologist warns of pandemic risk as bird flu spreads across Germany

BERLIN, Oct 29, (Agencies): German virologist Klaus Stoehr on Wednesday cautioned that the growing spread of bird flu across Germany could carry the potential for another pandemic.

"The H5N1 virus has all the characteristics necessary to trigger a pandemic," Stoehr, former head of the World Health Organization's influenza program, told the German newspaper Mitteldeutsche Zeitung.

Stoehr urged to step up preparedness efforts. "Pandemics have always occurred. Good pandemic planning is the best form of protection," he said, calling for the development of new vaccines, the global updating of pandemic response plans, and stronger monitoring of animal populations.

Bird flu has been spreading rapidly across Germany in recent weeks. The Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI), Germany's federal animal health agency, reported on Monday that about 500,000 poultry, including chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys, have been culled nationwide.

"It is impossible to predict how the situation will develop, but the FLI is expecting a further increase in outbreaks and cases," institute head Christa Kuehn said.

While the risk of human infection remains very low, Stoehr advised caution. "Anyone who comes across dead animals, for instance, while walking outdoors, should not touch them, keep their distance, restrain their dogs, and notify local veterinary authorities," he said.

According to the virologist, the H5N1 virus has now become widespread among wild birds worldwide. "That means there are infinitely more opportunities for the virus to spread and adapt to humans," Stoehr warned. "This danger should not be underestimated."

German media recalled that the 2020-2021 winter season saw the country's most severe bird flu outbreak on record, when more than two million animals were culled.

In a spot outside Berlin that's usually a paradise for birdwatchers, volunteers have recovered nearly 2,000 dead cranes in recent days as bird flu has hit the migrating birds hard.

Linum, a small village about an hour's travel from the German capital, is known in summer for its many nesting storks. In the fall and spring, it's a popu-



Environmental workers collect the bodies of birds that have died from bird-flu in a lake in Linum, Brandenburg, Germany, Monday, Oct. 27. (AP)

lar resting spot for thousands of cranes as they migrate between the Baltic and Nordic regions and southern Europe. But this month, many of the birds' journeys have ended in the ponds and fields that surround it, as well as at other spots in Germany.

Bird flu has flared up early and quickly in the country this year. Since early September, the Friedrich Loeffler Institute, Germany's national animal health authority, has recorded 30 outbreaks at poultry farms as well as cases among wild birds in various parts of the country, and more than 500,000 chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys so far have been slaughtered as a precaution.

Over the past week the majestic gray-and-white cranes, unusually, have been at the center of attention. It's not clear where they were infected. Norbert Schneeweiss, an expert with Brandenburg state's environment office, said that such a severe impact from bird flu hasn't previously been seen in cranes on this migration route, though there was an outbreak among cranes in Hungary two years ago.

This week, volunteers in full-body protective overalls waded through the water and reeds outside Linum and stuffed the limp, floating bodies of the large birds into sacks.

A sick bird stood listlessly by a path

nearby, failing to fly away as people approached. Others have been seen staggering and then collapsing. Still-healthy birds flew overhead and pecked for food in the fields.

By Monday evening, volunteers had picked up 1,875 dead cranes and expected the total to top 2,000 in the coming days.

"There's not a lot more we can do here other than gather up the birds," Schneeweiss said. He added that experts have made an effort to make the area less attractive for migrating birds, for example by limiting the water flow to reduce the size of the resting area - but noted that "resting places are rare in Central Europe."

In earlier years, "we were glad of every crane - it was a natural spectacle every evening when thousands of cranes fly in; a lot of visitors came," he said. Now, however, the usual guided tours for bird fans have been cancelled.

Schneeweiss said the situation appears to be under control locally for now, with the number of dead cranes slowing and no other wild birds yet showing symptoms.

Collecting the birds is hard and depressing work. "We try to convince ourselves that we're doing something good for conservation and that it's important," volunteer Lara Weinmann said. "But of course, it does affect you."

Deceptive ads

Drugmakers hid autism risk: suit

TEXAS, Oct 29, (AP): Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Tuesday accused the companies behind Tylenol of deceptively marketing the pain reliever to pregnant mothers in a lawsuit that asserted unproven claims that early exposure to acetaminophen increased risk of autism and other disorders.

Paxton, an ally of President Donald Trump and a Republican candidate for US Senate, announced the suit against Johnson & Johnson and Kenvue weeks after Trump and Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. asserted an unproven link between the pain reliever and autism while announcing a wide-ranging effort to study the causes of the complex brain disorder.

The suit alleges that the companies violated Texas consumer protection laws by hiding the danger that acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol, posed to fetuses and young children and "deceptively marketed Tylenol as the only safe painkiller for pregnant women."

It also alleges that Johnson & Johnson fraudulently transferred liabilities arising from Tylenol to Kenvue to shield assets against lawsuits.

In 2021, New Brunswick, New Jersey-based J&J announced that it would turn its consumer health business, which makes Tylenol and other products, into a separate company now known as Kenvue. It referenced that divestment in a statement Tuesday, saying "all rights and liabilities associated with the sale of its over-the-counter products, including Tylenol (acetaminophen), are owned by Kenvue."

"Big Pharma betrayed America by profiting off of pain and pushing pills regardless of the risks. These corporations lied for decades, knowingly endangering millions to line their pockets," Paxton said in a statement. "Additionally, seeing that the day of reckoning was coming, Johnson & Johnson attempted to escape responsibility by illegally offloading their liability onto a different company."

Fear of climate change's impact on future generations

Climate anxiety leading some to skip parenthood

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): Amanda Porretto isn't sure she'll ever have children.

At 27, she is the average age of new mothers in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She's feeling the pressure as an only child. Her father wants to be a grandfather and her mother, before she died, always told Porretto that she would eventually want to be a mom.

"Some people think it's a bad thing" not to have a child, said Porretto, who works in advertising. "I just don't think I need to bring more people into (the world) when there's so much here currently that we need to fix."

Younger generations of Americans are increasingly citing climate change as making them reticent to have children, according to several studies. They are worried about bringing children into a world with increasing and more intense extreme weather events, a result of climate change, which is caused by the release of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide when oil, gas coal are burned. And they are concerned about the impact their offspring will have on the planet.

In a 2024 Lancet study of people 16 to 25 years old, the majority of respondents were "very" or "extremely" worried about climate change. The study also found that 52% said they were hesitant to have children because of climate change. Adults under 50 years old without children were four times more likely than adults over 50 without children to say that climate plays a factor in their decision, according to a Pew Research Center report published last year. And a study published this year in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found more than half of respondents said "yes" or "maybe" to whether climate change made them question having children.

Parenthood and climate change are related not just because of fears for a child's well-being, but also by concern for the



A person holds up a child while walking in a park at sunset, Wednesday, Oct 15. (AP)

planet's well-being.

Compared to the carbon emissions of all the other decisions, "having a child is by far, by orders of magnitude, larger," said Nandita Bajaj, executive director of Population Balance, which is a nonprofit focused on humans' environmental impact.

Unlike other choices, procreation comes with something that bioethics professor Travis Rieder of Johns Hopkins University calls "carbon legacy."

"You're not only doing carbon expensive activities like buying a larger house and a larger car and diapers and all that," said Rieder. "You're also creating someone who is going to have their own carbon footprint for the rest of their lives."

That child might have children, and those children might have children, creating an impact that lasts generations, Rieder added. Of course, the logical extreme of minimizing an environmental footprint means having no children, Rieder said, which he is not advocating.

Cosmic evolution clues

Abu Dhabi observatory snaps photo of distant 'Lion Nebula'

ABU DHABI, Oct 29, (Xinhua): The Al Khatim Astronomical Observatory in Abu Dhabi has captured an image of the distant "Lion Nebula," a vast region of ionized gas and dust located about 10,000 light-years from Earth, UAE local media Gulf News reported on Tuesday.

Situated in the constellation Cepheus, the Lion Nebula spans roughly 270 light-years across and is named for its lion-like shape. Using special optical filters to reduce light pollution, astronomers at the observatory enhanced the visibility of faint structures, producing one of the most detailed portraits of the deep-space formation ever captured from the UAE.

The image, produced following a 32-hour observation session, reveals intricate details of the nebula's glowing clouds, shaped by ultraviolet light from two massive stars roughly 20 times the mass of the Sun. According to the report, the red and blue hues in the image result from hydrogen and oxygen atoms that have been ionized by stellar radiation.

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An international study, including researchers in Australia, has detected "two remarkable black hole collisions," offering new clues to cosmic evolution and dark matter.

The pair of gravitational-wave events GW241011 and GW241110, detected one month apart in late 2024 during the O4b phase of the global LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA observing run, were announced Wednesday by the Australian Research Council Center of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery, in a partnership between collaborating organizations in Australia and overseas.

Each signal was produced by the violent merger of two rapidly spinning, unequal-mass black holes, forming an even more massive remnant and sending ripples through space-time, each travelling for hundreds of millions to billions of years before reaching Earth, providing a window into how black holes form and evolve.

Bosch claims four wickets

South Africa dominates Pakistan as Babar goes for duck in T20 comeback

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Oct 29, (AP): Babar Azam was dismissed for a duck in his comeback to T20 cricket as under-strength South Africa romped to a 55-run win over Pakistan in the opener of a three-match series.

Pakistan couldn't recover from Corbin Bosch's twin strike that included the wicket of Babar before South Africa bowled out the home team for 139 to the disappointment of 16,000 home fans at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

South Africa had earlier made 194-9 after captain Donovan Ferreira lost the toss and was asked to bat first. Opening batter Reeza Hendricks scored 60 off 40 balls and George Linde added 36 off 22 balls.

Babar, who last played a T20 in December 2024 against South Africa, lasted only two balls and offered a tame catch to Hendricks in the covers inside the power play. Pakistan had recalled Babar at No. 3 for the series after giving Fakhar Zaman rest to gear up for next month's one-day international series against the Proteas.

Babar was cheered loudly by the capacity crowd as he walked out to bat, needing nine runs to break Rohit Sharma's all-time record of 4,231 runs in T20 internationals. But there was pin-drop silence in the stands as Babar couldn't clear Hendricks in the covers and walked back.

Pakistan's chase never gained momentum after it lost two wickets inside the first six overs. Saim Ayub should have been dismissed without scoring in Nandre Burger's first over, but was dropped by Matthew Breetzke at third before the left-hander top-scored with 37 off 28 balls.

Pakistan could have been bowled out more cheaply, but Mohammad Nawaz made 36 off 20 balls and was one of the four batters to reach double figures.

Bosch claimed two more wickets in his return spell to finish with 4-14,



South Africa's Tony de Zorzi plays a shot during the first T20 cricket match between Pakistan and South Africa, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. (AP)

"Reeza held it together nicely for us, which allowed George license to explode, and he (Bosch) had really good energy on the ball," Ferreira added. "He usually goes for the yorkers, but he hit the deck today and got something out of the deck. Four wickets are an amazing achievement."

Unlike Babar, Quinton de Kock was aggressive in his return to the sport's shortest format since last playing at the T20 World Cup.

Hendricks and de Kock provided a blazing start of 44 runs off 23 balls, with de Kock smashing five boundaries in his 23 before getting caught at backward point in Ayub's first over.

Debutant Tony de Zorzi kept the momentum going with his 33 off 16 balls as South Africa cruised to 74-1 in the first six overs with Shaheen Shah Afridi (1-45) consistently missing his lengths and Naseem Shah (1-34) off target in his first T20 in 11 months.

The Proteas continued to push the

scoring rate and were 111-3 by the halfway mark before Pakistan spinners pulled them back. Left-arm spinner Nawaz picked up 3-26 and Ayub ended up with 2-31, but Hendricks kept one end intact before falling to leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed (1-42) in the 18th over.

Linde showed some late intent and smacked Afridi for 18 runs in the 17th over that included a life when Babar dropped a sitter at mid-on that eventually rolled over the boundary.

"We just need to bat properly," Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha said. "We are missing partnerships (and) if we have partnerships, we can chase such totals. We also didn't bowl well in the power-play. Bowling top of off stump would've been good enough, but the positive is how we pulled it back later."

Lahore will host the remaining two games (Friday and Saturday) before the teams play a three-match ODI series at Faisalabad from Nov. 4-8

New Zealand wins second ODI by 5 wickets, England top-order fails again

Hosts take unassailable 2-0 lead

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Oct 29, (AP): Another top-order failure saw England dismissed for 175 and New Zealand win the second one-day cricket international by five wickets Wednesday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.



New Zealand's Zak Foulkes takes a catch to dismiss England's Jacob Bethell during their T20 cricket match in Hamilton, New Zealand. (AP)

England's innings lasted only 36 overs and New Zealand reached the target in 33.1 overs with Daryl Mitchell making an unbeaten 56 and Rachin Ravindra scoring 54. Mitch Santner finished 34 not out.

Mitchell also led New Zealand to a four-wicket win in the series-opener on Saturday with an unbeaten 78 after England was bowled out for 223.

One positive for England was the return of fast bowler Jofra Archer, who bowled at pace and took 3-23 from 10 overs. Archer took 1-8 in his first spell of five overs.

He averaged 141 kph (88 mph) and seamed the ball sharply, looking fully fit ahead of the Ashes test series in Australia which starts in less a month.

In his first over, Archer dismissed Will Young with a 143 kph (89 mph) delivery which jagged back and hit the batter on the back pad in front of middle stump.

"He's an awesome bowler. Everyone loves watching him," England captain Harry Brook said. "He bowls 90-95 mph and he hoops it both ways. He's a valuable asset for us and for him to take 3-23 off 10 overs is amazing. It's awesome to have him back."

Ravindra and Kane Williamson steered New Zealand to 32-1 at the end of the first 10-over power play and Ravindra, then Mitchell, completed a run chase which required New Zealand to score at only 3.5 runs per over.

Williamson was out for 21 from 39 balls and New Zealand was 118-5 before Mitchell and captain Santner completed the run chase.

Earlier, New Zealand won an advantageous toss and chose to bowl on a pitch which had been covered in recent days and produced variable

bounce, some slow seam movement and even turn later in the innings. England slumped to 56-6 in the first ODI on Saturday before Brook's 135 lifted them to 233. New Zealand won that match by four wickets. On Wednesday, England was 105-6 when Brook was dismissed by Santner for 34.

Of the rest of the England top order, Jamie Smith made 13, Ben Duckett 1, Joe Root 25, Jacob Bethell 18 and Jos Buttler 9.

Jamie Overton, who batted at No. 8, top-scored with 42 from 28 balls. Overton made 46 in a partnership of 87 with Brook in the first match.

Blair Tinkner, who was recalled to play his first ODI for New Zealand since 2023, was the top wicket-taker for the hosts with 4-34.

"It was disappointing to say the least," Brook said of the loss. "But we have to come back stronger and better for the third match on Saturday and hopefully get at least one win."



New Zealand's bowler Nathan Smith successfully appeals for a LBW decision to dismiss England's Jos Butler during their T20 cricket match in Hamilton, New Zealand. (AP)

and Smith hit a six off Zak Foulkes in the next as the England batters felt compelled to keep up a high scoring rate.

Smith was caught by Williamson off Foulkes in the sixth over and England was 49-2 at the end of the first power play.

Root was caught down the leg side by Latham off Tickner in the 12th over. The two previous balls from Tickner passed outside leg stump but were not called wide because Root had stepped inside the line and both balls were inside the wide line. Root attempted to flick the third ball on a similar line but only managed a fine touch to Latham.

Bethell was caught by Foulkes from the bowling of Nathan Smith from the first ball after the drinks break and Butler was trapped lbw by Smith.

Brook fell to an excellent diving catch by Will Young off a ball from Santner which gripped and turned away from the batter.

Duckett was the first batter to fall in the third over, caught by wicketkeeper Tom Latham from the bowling of Jacob Duffy.

Root hit two fours in the same over

American Magic pulls out

America's Cup will not have American boat for first time

PENSACOLA, Florida, Oct 29, (AP): There will be no American boat in the America's Cup for the first time in the event's 175-year history.

The team representing the New York Yacht Club announced that it will not enter its boat, American Magic, when the regatta is held in Naples, Italy, in 2027.

Doug DeVos, the team principle for American Magic, said in a release that while the group cares "deeply" about the America's Cup, the climate isn't right for the team to race.

"For a team committed to long-term excellence, alignment around financial viability and competitive performance is essential," DeVos said. "At this time, we don't believe those conditions are in place for American Magic to challenge."

American boats have won the America's Cup a record 25 times and held it from its first race in 1851 all the way through 1983, when an Australian syndicate won it.

"Our focus now shifts to the future," Mike Cazer, CEO of American Magic, said in a statement. "That means athlete and technology development, international competition, and continuing to drive advanced manufacturing and design innovation from our base in Pensacola."

The announcement came several months after American Magic's team issued a statement saying America's Cup defending champion Team New Zealand "has been unwilling to commit to the transparency and cooperation necessary" regarding its plans for Naples.

Team New Zealand responded to the American Magic statement by publicly releasing the latest draft version of the 2027 protocols "as an illustration of complete transparency."

British team Athena Racing, representing all challengers, issued a statement last spring criticizing what it called the lack of information provided by Team New Zealand on the deal with Italian organizers.

American Magic backed up Athena's position at the time by saying that "without the meaningful changes they (Athena) are advocating, it is difficult to see how NYAC American Magic can participate in the 38th America's Cup."

It's unclear whether the complaints played a factor in the group's decision not to race. American Magic has represented the U.S. in the America's Cup twice, losing in the semifinals both times.

Best of the Rest

Germany to face Spain in Nations League final: Germany will face defending champion Spain in the Women's Nations League final next month in a repeat of this year's European Championship semifinal.

Germany drew 2-2 with France to progress 3-2 on aggregate, while Spain completed a 5-0 aggregate win over Sweden. The final will be held over two legs with Germany hosting Spain on Nov. 28 before the return match at the Wanda Metropolitano in Madrid, four days later.

Having lost 1-0 in Germany on Friday, France immediately got back into the semifinal on Tuesday when Melvine Malard - starting in place of the injured Marie-Antoinette Katoto - headed in a cross in the third minute.

But Nicole Anyomi leveled just nine minutes later and Klara Buhl gave Germany the lead with an angled drive early in the second half.

France's Clara Mateo headed in a cross from fellow substitute Kadidiatou Diani in the 89th minute to set up a tense finale but Germany held on.

It was much less nervy for Spain, which had routed Sweden 4-0 at home on Friday.

Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas scored the only goal of the game in Sweden in the 75th minute for her third goal of the semifinal.

Spain beat Germany 1-0 at Euro 2025, but the World Cup champion went on to lose to England in the final. (AP)

Unseeded Cameron advances

Early exit for top-ranked Alcaraz at Paris Masters

PARIS, Oct 29, (AP): Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz looked out of rhythm in his 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 loss to unseeded Cameron Norrie in the second round of the Paris Masters.

The six-time Grand Slam winner even had an animated discussion with a coach Juan Carlos Ferrero after losing the second set.

"I'm really disappointed about my level," Alcaraz said. "I didn't feel well today. A lot of mistakes."

Norrie sealed victory on his second match point with a strong first serve that Alcaraz returned long. It was his first career win against a No. 1-ranked player.

Alcaraz made 54 unforced errors and won only 64% of his first-serve points as he slipped to a third loss in eight matches against Norrie.

It was their first meeting indoors.

The defeat also ended Alcaraz's 17-match winning run in Masters events and means second-ranked Jannik Sinner will move to the top of the ATP rankings if he wins the tournament.

Alcaraz has won eight titles this season - including three Masters tournaments to go with the French Open, thanks to a big comeback, and the U.S. Open.

He was at a loss to explain this defeat.

"I had a lot of practices (where) I was feeling great, feeling amazing, moving on the court, hitting the ball.

I had all the ideas clear, all the goals clear," he said. "Even in the first set, even that I won, I just felt like I could do much more. I tried in the second set just to be better, but it was totally the opposite."

He praised Norrie.

"I have to give credit to Cam," Alcaraz said. "He didn't let me stay or come back (in) to the match."



Norrie

Vacherot beat 14th-seeded Jiri Lehecka 6-1, 6-3 in the first round earlier on Tuesday. Vacherot faces Rinderknech a little more than two weeks after beating him in the Shanghai Masters final. Vacherot made an against-the-odds run from qualifying in China to win his first career tournament and soar into the top 40.

Preparations will be a little different this time.

"We'll stay in our own bubbles. We're cousins, yes, but we're not on the same team so we're not going to have dinner together tonight," said Vacherot, who is from Monaco.

"In Shanghai we had breakfast together, we warmed up together, because we were far from everyone and everywhere," Vacherot added. "(This time) all our families are here so we'll stick to our sides, and I hope that we're going to deliver a wonderful match."

Fifth-seeded American Ben Shelton reached the third round with a 7-6 (4), 6-3 win over Flavio Cobolli. He faces Andrey Rublev next. In the late match, fourth-seeded Taylor Fritz played Aleksandar Vukic.

In remaining first-round play, there were wins for ninth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime and No. 11 Daniil Medvedev.

The indoor tournament moved from its long-standing home at the Bercy Arena - which hosted the men's and women's basketball finals at last year's Paris Olympics - to La Defense Arena.

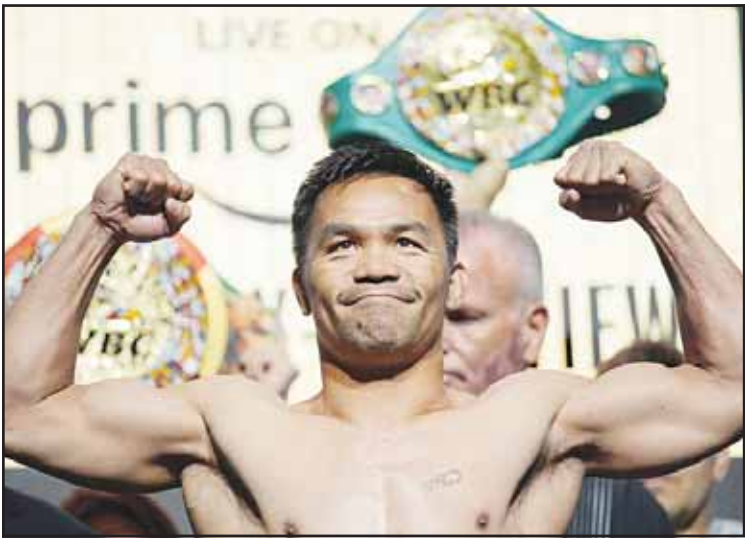
The multisport venue is home to a rugby team and fans here witnessed swim star Léon Marchand's gold-medal rush at the Paris Games, as well as a Taylor Swift concert in May last year.

Sinner appreciates it.

"It's much more comfortable. Bigger center court and also court 1 and court 2 (are) great courts," the four-time Grand Slam champion from Italy said. "We have some great facilities where we can practice."

'Love to have another fight'

Pacquiao hints at possible rematch with Floyd



In this file photo, Manny Pacquiao poses on the scale during a ceremonial weigh in Las Vegas. (AP)

MANILA, Philippines, Oct 29, (AP): Manny Pacquiao has hinted a rematch of his 2015 blockbuster with Floyd Mayweather Jr. could be on the cards next year.

"Right now we have a lot of negotiations about my next fight - there's a possible rematch with Floyd Mayweather," Pacquiao told a news conference Wednesday. "There's a lot of ongoing negotiations right now, so it's hard to plan what fight I'm going to post. I'm waiting for the final negotiation."

A world champion in eight divisions from flyweight to super welterweight, Pacquiao was enshrined in the International Boxing Hall of Fame in June.

A month later, he emerged from retirement and fell just short of regaining a title at the age of 46, with Mario Barrios retaining the WBC welterweight championship after a majority draw.

Pacquiao initially retired in 2021 with a record of 62-8-2 with 39 KOs, fighting in some of the biggest blockbusters of the 2000s. He said he'd always sought the toughest opponents so he could continue testing himself.

He also served his country as a senator from 2016-22.

Pacquiao lost to Mayweather

in 2015 in a bout that had been billed as the "fight of century," but he later disclosed he'd been hampered by a shoulder injury.

"I'd love to have another fight, a rematch with Floyd Mayweather," Pacquiao said. "So I hope that in the negotiations, we can understand each other and we can negotiate well."

Mayweather, 48, could be in for a busy 2026.

CSI Sports, the live boxing production company, last month announced an exhibition between unbeaten Mayweather and

Mike Tyson next year. No date or site was provided in the announcement.

In the meantime, Pacquiao will be focusing on the next generation.

His son, Jimuel Pacquiao, will make his pro debut against American Brendan Lally on Nov. 29 in California.

"I'm excited, but I'm worried about my son," the former senator said. "He started late ... but that is his passion, so I will support him. I'm praying for him for a safe fight."

Kuwait Club eyes another title

'Qualification is in our hands'

Qadsia hunts first trophy of new season

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The stage is set for an exciting conclusion to the Volleyball Federation Championship, as Kuwait Club and Qadsia clash in the final at 7:00 p.m. at the Volleyball Federation Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Earlier, at 5:00 p.m., Kazma will face Burgan in the third-place play-off.

In the semifinals, Kuwait Club swept Burgan 3-0, while Qadsia overcame Kazma 3-1 to set up a high-stakes final. Qadsia enters the final eager to capture its first title of the new season, after finishing the previous campaign empty-handed. The team's last triumph came in the 2023-2024 Federation Cup, and both club management and fans are hoping for a strong start to the new season. Qadsia's confidence is bolstered by its earlier 3-1 victory over Kuwait Club in the group stage and the consistent form shown throughout the tournament. Led by Serbian coach Siniša, the "Yellow" side features Brazilian professionals Uveiro and Milo, alongside a balanced lineup of experienced veterans and emerging young players. Meanwhile, Kuwait Club aims



Kuwait Club volleyball player spikes the ball as Qadsia players prepare to defend.

to continue its golden run after a highly successful 2024-2025 season, during which it captured the Super Cup, the Cup Championship, and the League title. Under the leadership of Brazilian coach Carlos Schwanke, the defending champions are determined to kick off the new season with another trophy. The squad features Estonian star Oliver Venno, Canadian standout Nicholas Hoag, and a core of seasoned Kuwaiti players.

The championship followed a single round-robin format with nine participating clubs: Al-Kuwait, Qadsia, Kazma, Arabi, Burgan, Shabab, Sulaibikhat, Nasr, and Yarmouk. After the conclusion of the tournament, the Kuwait national volleyball team will begin preparations for the Arab Challenge Cup, to be held in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from November 28 to December 8, followed by the start of the National League in December.

Kuwait Club, Al-Arabi chase Asian Challenge League knockout berths

By Hasan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi are wrapping up their final training sessions ahead of tomorrow's third and last group-stage matches of the Asian Challenge League. Kuwait Club will face Bangladesh's Bashundhara Kings, while Al-Arabi takes on Kyrgyz side Ramos United.

Kuwait Club currently leads Group B with 4 points, tied with Oman's Al-Seeb on points and goal difference after a 1-1 draw earlier this week. A win is essential for Kuwait Club to secure qualification to the next stage. Al-Arabi, who recently beat Tajikistan's Regar-TadAZ 2-1, also needs a victory to progress. The team sits second in Group C with 4 points, behind Ramos United on goal difference, after the Kyrgyz side defeated Safa 2-0 in the same round. Both teams face pressure to win as Turkmenistan's FC Ten Asir and Oman's Al-Shabab have already claimed 6 points in Group A, edging closer to the top qualifying positions. In their previous clash, Al-Seeb opened the scoring against Kuwait Club at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium through Abdulaziz Al-Ansari in the 34th minute, before Abdel-Fattah



Kuwait Club players Duham and Al-Dhafiri exchange greetings on the field.

equalized in the 43rd minute. Montenegrin coach Nebojša Jovović described the Al-Seeb match as "tough against a strong opponent" and confirmed that Kuwait Club will reorganize and prepare carefully for its final group match. "Qualification is in our hands. We need to win without worrying about other results," he said, expressing confidence in his team's ability to continue their successful campaign. Kuwait Club player Abdel-Fattah,

named Man of the Match, stressed that proper preparation is key and affirmed the team's determination to compete for the title. Al-Arabi's Portuguese coach Marco Felis praised his players' resilience and determination, noting that their efforts helped the team secure a crucial win. Al-Arabi standout Aziz Nasari, also awarded Man of the Match, highlighted that the squad's unity and focus on victory were key to achieving the three points.

Kobel makes vital save as Dortmund tops Frankfurt

Holstein Kiel upsets Wolfsburg

FRANKFURT, Germany, Oct 29, (AP): Gregor Kobel sent Borussia Dortmund into the third round of the German Cup with a diving save to win a penalty shootout against Eintracht Frankfurt.

Midfielder Farès Chaïbi stepped up to take Frankfurt's fourth penalty needing to score after Ritsu Doan had fired his shot over the bar earlier. Chaïbi shot low to Kobel's right and the Swiss goalkeeper got down to hold the ball, giving Dortmund a 4-2 shootout win that sparked flare-waving celebrations from Dortmund's away fans. The loss continues a troubled run for Frankfurt, with one win from its last six games in all competitions. Extra time finished with the score at 1-1 after Julian Brandt's goal for Dortmund canceled out ex-Dortmund player Ansgar Knauff's opener for Frankfurt.



Frankfurt's Mario Goetze, right, and Dortmund's Karim Adeyemi, left, challenge for the ball during a German soccer cup second round match between Eintracht Frankfurt and Borussia Dortmund in Frankfurt, Germany. (AP)

Leipzig's 4-1 win over third-tier Energie Cottbus was overshadowed when it was announced part-way through the game that a Leipzig fan had died following a medical incident. Both clubs said the supporter

had been taken ill on the way into the stadium. The game continued in a hushed atmosphere after the incident was announced. St. Pauli and Hoffenheim took nine penalties each in their

shootout before a save by Ben Voll gave St. Pauli an 8-7 win. Their game had ended 2-2 after extra time. Hauke Wahl, who had scored in the first minute for St. Pauli, converted his team's ninth penalty before Hoffenheim defender Albian Hajdari hit a shot that lacked power and was saved by Voll, who's normally his team's backup keeper. Second-tier Holstein Kiel upset Bundesliga team Wolfsburg 1-0 thanks to Alexander Bernhardsson's penalty. Wolfsburg played most of the game with 10 men after Jenson Seelt was sent off in the 36th minute for picking up two bookings in quick succession. Another top-tier club was eliminated as Augsburg lost 1-0 at home to Bochum, which is second from last in the second division. Borussia Moenchengladbach bested second-tier Karlsruhe 3-1, and Robert Glatzel's 83rd-minute penalty lifted Hamburger SV to a 1-0 win over 10-man Heidenheim. Hertha Berlin beat Elversberg 3-0 in a game between two second-division teams.

Napoli overcomes Lecce as Milan draws with Atalanta

MILAN, Oct 29, (AP): Despite mounting injury problems, Napoli moved clear at the top of Serie A with a 1-0 win at Lecce on Tuesday. Kevin De Bruyne was the latest player sidelined and the talismanic midfielder will most likely not return until February after a serious thigh injury in Saturday's 3-1 win over Inter Milan. Frank Anguissa scored the only goal of the match at Lecce after Napoli goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic had saved a penalty from teenager Francesco Camarda. Defending champion Napoli moved three points clear of Roma, which hosts Parma on Wednesday. AC Milan moved level on points with Roma after a 1-1 draw at Ata-

lanta. Milan hosts Roma on Sunday. Lecce was two points above the relegation zone. Napoli struggled to break Lecce down and the home side had a great opportunity to take the lead when it was awarded a penalty early in the second half following a lengthy video review as Juan Jesus was adjudged to have touched Kialonda Gaspar's header with his hand. Milinkovic-Savic is known as somewhat of a penalty specialist and he lived up to his reputation by denying Camarda. The Serbian has saved five of the last nine spotkicks he has faced. The 17-year-old Camarda, who is on loan from Milan, looked distraught and was seen in tears on the bench after being substituted in the 70th minute.

Kuwait Club bounces back with victory against Al-Ula

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Kuwait Club bounced back with a 113-108 victory over Saudi Arabia's Al-Ula in a thrilling match held at the Basketball Federation Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. The game was part of Round 2 in Group B of the West Asia Super League (WASL) Gulf Zone. The win allowed the Kuwait Club to re-

cover from its opening-round loss to Qatar's Al-Arabi and move to the top of the group with 3 points, edging Al-Ula on point difference. Al-Arabi follows with 2 points, while UAE's Sharjah sits at the bottom with one point. Al-Arabi will face Sharjah next Tuesday in another key group clash. Kuwait Club will next play Sharjah at home on November 18. In the first round, Kuwait narrowly lost to Al-Arabi 78-83, while Al-Ula secured a 108-74 win over Sharjah.



Kuwait Club player aims for the basket.

Bank reaffirms commitment to youth, sports, and Vision 2035

Burgan Bank: Platinum sponsor of the FIP World Cup Pairs 2025 – marking a milestone for padel in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: As Kuwait prepares to welcome the world's top-ranked padel players for a landmark event, Burgan Bank proudly announced its Platinum Sponsorship of the FIP World Cup Pairs 2025 – the first-ever edition of the championship to be hosted in Kuwait. The highly anticipated tournament will bring together 176 of the world's top padel athletes, with 48 men's teams and 40 women's teams competing for global glory in a seven-day tournament, held at the country's leading world-class sporting and events venues, the Rafa Nadal Academy and The Arena. As the event's sole Platinum Sponsor from the banking sector, Burgan Bank once again reaffirms its unwavering commitment to holistically promoting sports, wellness, youth empowerment, and community engagement, as key pillars of the Bank's comprehensive social responsibility and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy, and core drivers of its contribution to Kuwait Vision 2035. A Global Sporting Landmark, Putting Kuwait on the Map Following the tremendous success of the 2024 Premier Padel event, Kuwait has been chosen to host the inaugural FIP World Cup Pairs – a new global tournament that places the nation firmly on the international sporting map. The



Flyer of the sponsorship



championship's venues will include: The Rafa Nadal Academy, featuring three match courts that will host games from Day One through the Quarter Finals; The Arena, transformed into a 5,000-seat center court serving as the tournament's beating heart; and the Grand Hyatt Hotel, the official players' and staff residence offer-

ing seamless proximity between competition and comfort. Celebrating the True Champions: The Fans In a special activation accompanying its sponsorship, Burgan Bank will unveil a creative surprise that celebrates Kuwait's deep love for sport, its welcoming spirit, and the collective pride that defines its community. Designed to capture the excitement and emotion of the FIP World Cup Pairs 2025, this initiative pays tribute to the fans whose passion continues to elevate Kuwait's presence on the global sporting stage. Complementing this, Burgan

Bank will host a series of interactive and entertaining installations in the Fan Zone, which will be open to the public throughout the tournament - offering a vibrant space where families, friends, and fans can gather to enjoy activities, experience the excitement, and connect through their shared enthusiasm for the game. Together, these initiatives highlight Burgan Bank's enduring mission to celebrate national pride and community connection through engaging, human-centered experiences, reinforcing its role as a brand deeply attuned to the pulse of Kuwait's evolving identity. Driving Purpose Through Sport Burgan Bank's sponsorship of the FIP World Cup Pairs 2025 is the latest expression of its enduring commitment to empowering youth, advancing social well-being, and supporting the nation's cultural and athletic landscape. From educational initiatives and digital inclusion programs to sports and wellness campaigns, the Bank continues to invest in initiatives that inspire a healthier, more connected, and forward-looking society. As the excitement builds for the world's finest padel athletes to compete in Kuwaiti, Burgan Bank stands proudly as a partner in shaping this historic moment, one where Kuwait's sporting passion meets global prestige.

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NEWS



Charlotte FC midfielder Brandon Cambridge, right, battles New York City FC midfielder Andres Perea (8) for the ball during the second half of Game 1 in the first round of MLS soccer's Eastern Conference playoffs in Charlotte, N.C. NY-CFC beat Charlotte 1-0 to begin best-of-3 series. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait handball team eyes ‘historic’ gold against Saudi Arabia at Asian Youth Games



Kuwait players celebrate after their dramatic victory over Bahrain at the Asian Youth Games.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, Oct 29: Patience often brings great rewards – and for Kuwait’s youth handball team, that moment has arrived. Blues stand on the verge of history as they face Saudi Arabia tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the final of the 3rd Asian Youth Games. Earlier in the day, hosts Bahrain will meet China at 5:00 p.m. in the battle for third place.

Kuwait’s rising stars have delivered a remarkable campaign, showcasing skill, determination, and teamwork. In the group stage, they topped Group B with convincing victories over the UAE (37–21), Kazakhstan (42–26), and Thailand (43–15), losing narrowly

to China (35–37). Their journey continued with a dramatic 23–21 semifinal win over host nation Bahrain, propelling them into the championship final and within reach of a historic gold.

Speaking on the achievement, Shabib Al-Hajri, Vice President of the Kuwait Handball Federation and head of the delegation at the Asian Youth Games, said the team’s success was no surprise given the tremendous support provided to Kuwaiti sports — especially handball — by Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser, President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, and Captain Ali Al-Merri, head of Kuwait’s delegation to the Games. “Their constant backing and efforts to ease all chal-

lenges for our players were key to this impressive performance,” Al-Hajri said. “Our boys lived up to expectations and made Kuwait proud.”

He also expressed deep appreciation to Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, for the warm hospitality and exceptional organization of the event, which reflected Bahrain’s commitment to sporting excellence.

Al-Hajri noted that the Federation and national team staff have been preparing this youth squad for nearly two years. “That long-term investment is now paying off,” he said. “The players’ performance and spirit have been outstanding, and we hope to crown our efforts with the gold medal — a gift to the people of Kuwait.”

Kuwait to host Asian Shooting Championship with 17 teams

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): The Kuwait Asian Shooting Championship is set to begin on Friday at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Shooting Complex, featuring 17 national teams and running until November 8.

Duaij Al-Otaibi, President of the Kuwaiti and Arab Shooting Federations, stated at a press conference on Wednesday that hosting the championship underscores the strong support Kuwait’s leadership provides to the sport. He highlighted that the tournament will showcase high-level competition among elite shooters and serves as an important preparatory event ahead of

the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic qualification tournaments.

Al-Otaibi also confirmed that 15 Kuwaiti referees will officiate the event, alongside officials from Qatar, the UAE, Morocco, and other Asian nations. In addition, the championship will host the Asian Shooting Confederation’s General Assembly, chaired by Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, Obeid Al-Osaimi, Secretary-General of the Kuwait Shooting Federation, emphasized that the Kuwaiti national team is fully prepared after intensive training, expressing confidence in the shooters’ ability to secure medals and podium finishes.



Officials address the media.

Real to seek compensation from UEFA after court ruling

MADRID, Oct 29, (Agencies): Real Madrid will seek compensation from UEFA after a Spanish court dismissed appeals filed by the European soccer organization against a ruling that said the governing body breached EU competition law when it blocked plans for a breakaway Super League.

On Wednesday, the court in Madrid dismissed the appeals that were also filed by the Spanish league and the national soccer federation.

The Court of Justice of the European Union had ruled in 2023 that soccer’s governing bodies UEFA and FIFA acted contrary to EU law and abused their market dominance.

Madrid said in a statement it was “delighted” with the ruling, “confirming that UEFA, in the Superliga matter, seriously infringed the European Union’s free competition rules ... by abusing its dominant position.”

“The club announces that it will continue to work for the good of global football and fans, while claiming substantial damages from UEFA,” Madrid said.

The Spanish league said it respected the new court ruling but downplayed its significance, saying “the decision does not approve or endorse any specific competition format, nor does it refer to the initial project announced in 2021, which has since been modified by its promoters.”

“The court’s decision focuses exclusively on procedural aspects, establishing that authorization systems must be based on transparent, objective and reviewable criteria, without making any statements regarding the substance or viability of potential alternative tournaments,” the league said.

Madrid did not specify the damages it would seek.

The club added that this year it “held numerous discussions with UEFA to seek solutions, without reaching any compromise on more transparent governance, financial sustainability, protection of players’ health and improvements to the fan experience, including free and globally accessible broadcasting models as was the case at the FIFA Club World Cup.”

The breakaway Super League project that was originally launched in 2021 quickly collapsed after protests by fans across Europe.

Third-tier Ourense produced the first big upset of the Spanish Copa del Rey, knocking La Liga side Oviedo out of the first round with a 4-2 win.

Ourense was seconds from elimination after Josip Brekalo and then Luka Ilc put Oviedo ahead twice, but Omar Ouhdadi and Aymane Jelbat twice canceled out the lead, with Jelbat heading in seconds from time.

Ourense was the better side in extra time. Ouhdadi put them ahead in the 98th minute and Amin Abaradan made it 4-2 with a 114th-minute penalty. It could have been 5-2 had Adrian Guerrero converted a last-kick penalty.

Fifth-tier Constancia took La Liga’s bottom team Girona to extra time before losing 3-2 after 120 minutes.

Elsewhere, top-flight sides had few problems against lower-league rivals. Valencia overcame a difficult first half to win 5-0 away to Maracena. Sevilla came from an early goal down to win 4-1 in Toledo, while Real Sociedad made hard work of its 3-0 win away to sixth-tier CD Negreira. Getafe had no such issues, defeating Inter de Valdemoro 11-0.

Best of the Rest

Grimsby loses to Brentford: Fourth-tier Grimsby’s impressive run in the English League Cup came to an end with a thrashing by Premier League team Brentford.

Brentford won 5-0 at Blundell Park, the scene of Manchester United’s stunning loss to Grimsby in the second round in August.

Grimsby then beat second-tier Sheffield Wednesday in the third round but got overwhelmed by Brentford, which had five different scorers - Mathias Jensen, Keane Lewis-Potter, Reiss Nelson, Fabio Carvalho and Nathan Collins.

Fulham became the second Premier League club to advance by beating third-tier Wycombe Wanderers 5-4 in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw. Wrexham, the team owned by Hollywood celebrities Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney, missed out on making the last eight after losing 2-1 at home to fellow Welsh team Cardiff City.

The other five last-16 matches are on Wednesday, including defending champion Newcastle at home to Tottenham, Liverpool hosting Crystal Palace and Premier League leader Arsenal at home to Brighton. (AP)

□ □ □

Mineiro reaches Copa final: Brazil’s Atletico Mineiro secured a place in the Copa Sudamericana final with a 3-1 home win over Ecuadorian side Independiente del Valle.

Guilherme Arana gave the hosts the lead in the second leg of the semifinal at Arena MRV with a close-range strike after Dudu’s cross from the left byline.

Bernard doubled the advantage just before halftime, running onto Dudu’s through ball and lifting a shot over goalkeeper Guido Villar.

Claudio Spinelli reduced the deficit by tapping home from close range but Hulk finished clinically on the counterattack to restore Atletico’s two-goal cushion.

The result gave Atletico a 4-2 win on aggregate after the teams drew 1-1 in last week’s first leg.

“It was a game in which everything went according to plan,” Atletico manager Jorge Sampaoli told a post-match news conference.

“We were clearly the superior team and the way we played in the first half was the best I’ve seen from this group since I arrived [in September].”

Atletico will meet the winner of the other semifinal between Argentina’s Lanus and Universidad de Chile in the final in Asuncion on November 22. The teams drew 2-2 in the first leg in Santiago, with the return fixture to be played in Argentina on Thursday. (Xinhua)

76ers, Thunder remain unbeaten

Butler, Curry provide 1-2 punch as Warriors rout Clippers

WASHINGTON, Oct 29, (AP): Tyrese Maxey scored 39 points with 10 assists, and the Philadelphia 76ers stormed back with Joel Embiid on the bench, beating the Washington Wizards 139-134 in overtime on Tuesday night to remain unbeaten.

Embiid scored 25 points in a season-high 23:02, but with the 76ers managing his minutes, it was Adem Bona who turned the game around late. He blocked four shots in the fourth quarter and another in OT as Philadelphia rallied from a 16-point deficit after three to improve to 4-0.

Alex Sarr scored 31 points for the Wizards, who had 110 points in the first three quarters then only 16 in the fourth. When Khris Middleton missed from the left elbow in the final seconds for Washington, the game went to overtime tied at 126.

The Wizards then scored the first five points of overtime before conceding a 9-0 run, including a follow dunk

by Bona with 27.6 seconds left that gave the 76ers the lead. A 3-pointer by Kyshawn George made it 135-134 with 7 seconds remaining, but after Maxey made two free throws, Middleton forced a pass into heavy traffic that was intercepted.

Thunder 107, Kings 101

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 31 points, and the Oklahoma City Thunder stayed undefeated by rallying to beat the Sacramento Kings.

Gilgeous-Alexander went 1 for 9 from the field in the third quarter, but bounced back and went 4 for 6 with nine points in the fourth to help the defending NBA champs improve to 5-0.

Aaron Wiggins and Ajay Mitchell each scored 18 points for the Thunder, one of four unbeaten teams in the league.

Zach LaVine scored 23 points, DeMar DeRozan scored 19 and Domantas Sabonis added 10 points and 18 rebounds for the Kings. Former Thunder star Russell Westbrook had 16 points and nine rebounds in his first start of the season for Sacramento.

Warriors 98, Clippers 79

In San Francisco, Jimmy Butler had 21 points, five rebounds and five as-

sists, Stephen Curry added 19 points and eight assists, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

Curry shot 7 for 15 a night after four Warriors players scored 20 or more points to beat Memphis - but it marked just the sixth time in Curry’s 17 seasons he wasn’t one of them.

Butler and Moses Moody each hit 3-pointers late in the third quarter as the Warriors used a 10-2 burst over the final 2:07 to go ahead 78-63 starting the fourth.

Brandin Podziemski followed up a 23-point performance against the Grizzlies with 12 points, while Quinten Post had 12 points on 4 3-pointers and eight rebounds.

Heat in 144, Hornets 117

In Miami, Jaime Jaquez Jr. scored 20 of his 28 points in the first half to keep up his hot-shooting start to the season, and the high-scoring Miami Heat beat the Charlotte Hornets.

Bam Adebayo had 26 points and Andrew Wiggins added 21 for the Heat, who won their third straight game after losing the season opener to Orlando. They played without leading scorer Norman Powell, who had 29 points in the win over New

York on Sunday and was scratched because of a groin injury he felt during the morning shootaround.

Jaquez led the Heat to a 58-33 advantage in bench points, going 9 for 14 from the floor while posting a plus-43 rating. The third-year guard, drafted with the 18th pick by the Heat in 2023, is shooting 69% through four games (31 for 45). The Heat, who were just 24th in the NBA last season in scoring, are averaging 132 points.

Bucks’ 121, Knicks 111

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 37 points, eight rebounds and seven assists as the Milwaukee Bucks erased a 12-point halftime deficit and beat the New York Knicks.

Milwaukee’s Ryan Rollins added a career-high 25 points. New York’s Jalen Brunson scored 36 points but hurt himself midway through the fourth quarter in a play that sparked Milwaukee’s winning rally.

Brunson appeared to injure his leg initially while scrambling for a loose ball in the fourth quarter. He remained on the floor but was moving gingerly. Then, he was dribbling behind the 3-point line near Milwaukee’s bench when he fell backward in clear pain and lost the ball.



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Ajay Mitchell steals the ball against Sacramento Kings guard Malik Monk (0) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City. (AP)