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Kuwait committed to UN Charter in its entirety

World peace, security, sovereignty, justice top priority

NEW YORK, Nov 1, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait underlined its firm commitment to the principles and lofty goals of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Humanitarian Law.

Kuwait “also emphasizes the UN Human Rights Council’s pivotal role in promoting these rights at the international and regional levels,” said Wafiqah Al-Mulla, second secretary of the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, at a special session of the UN General Assembly on the Human Rights Council’s report.

She added that Kuwait, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, is fully committed to the values of international peace and security, respect for the sovereignty of states, the promotion of justice and equality, and the defense of humanity.

Al-Mulla emphasized that the State of Kuwait attaches particular importance



Al-Mulla

aimed at promoting and protecting fundamental rights and freedoms. Al-Mulla noted that the State of Kuwait received 290 recommendations in the last review, from which it accepted 206, partially accepted 35, and took note of

to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism as a key tool of the Human Rights Council for promoting dialogue and constructive cooperation among member states in the field of human rights.

Kuwait, since its election in 2024 to the membership of the UN Human Rights Council, has organized more than 24 workshops and 9 panel discussions on pivotal issues such as the rights of the child and persons with disabilities, women’s empowerment, peace and security, and combating human trafficking, she unveiled.

She stated that Kuwait reaffirms its commitment to full cooperation with this mechanism to enhance exchange of expertise and best practices and support national efforts

49 others.

“This reflects the State of Kuwait’s commitment to practically addressing actionable recommendations and aligning them with its national plans, foremost among them the development of legislation and institutions within the framework of Kuwait Vision 2035,” she clarified.

Al-Mulla indicated that these efforts “come within the framework of close cooperation with the United Nations system, the international community, and relevant regional organizations, reflecting the State of Kuwait’s commitment to its pledges and adherence to an approach based on dialogue, capacity building, and international cooperation as a means to achieve genuine and sustainable progress in promoting and protecting human rights.”

She stated the State of Kuwait is looking forward to continuing this constructive approach by seeking re-election to the Human Rights Council for the 2027-2029 term.

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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

King Mohammed VI, may Allah bless your wisdom...

NO right is lost as long as there is someone demanding it. The Kingdom of Morocco has proven this through a long history of diplomacy, wisdom, and patient and diligent work. Throughout the blessed Moroccan march, the Kingdom of Morocco aimed first and foremost to maintain good relations with its closest neighbor, Algeria, and to uphold the principles of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), which are based on achieving consensus among member states, establishing close diplomatic cooperation based on dialogue, and contributing to the maintenance of peace based on justice.

Therefore, the United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution issued recently reinforces these principles, which Rabat has never deviated from. Since the launch of the Green March, led by the late King Hassan II, may Allah have mercy on him, in 1975, Morocco has been working hard to serve common Arab interests without being embroiled in military conflict. Thus, Morocco chose diplomacy as its favorite path in spite of the numerous difficulties.

In 1989, the Kingdom strengthened the AMU, which emerged from the Marrakesh Summit of the five countries, with the aim of promoting joint development among member states. However, some sought to undermine this through baseless claims, by raising the Western Sahara issue once again and using a group of misguided individuals, thereby, causing problems for both countries.

Consequently, once the UN Security Council adopts the Moroccan autonomy plan for Western Sahara, it puts an end to many attempts to sabotage and destabilize Morocco, which focuses on development based on regional cooperation and support for everything that serves the Maghreb countries.

On this basis, the remarks made by King Mohammed VI of Morocco regarding his country’s plan and its acceptance by the Security Council should be considered. Two-thirds of the UN member states now consider the autonomy initiative the only framework for resolving this conflict.

In his speech recently, King Mohammed VI emphasized this point, saying, “Today, thanks be to Allah, we are entering a decisive phase at the international level.” The Security Council resolution established the principles and foundations necessary for finding a final political solution to this conflict, within the framework of the legitimate rights of Morocco.

Given the commitment of Rabat to maintain the best possible relations with its neighbors, King Mohammed VI was very clear when he stated, “Despite the positive developments in the issue of our territorial integrity, Morocco remains committed to finding a solution that is neither victorious nor vanquished, one that preserves the dignity of all parties.”

The primary objective is not to achieve any victory, but rather to achieve the desired benefit, which can be translated into an invitation to the Algerian leadership for “a sincere and fraternal dialogue between Rabat and Algiers to overcome differences and build new relations based on trust, brotherhood and good neighborliness.”

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King eyes Algeria as trustworthy, good neighbor

Time for Morocco to unite: Mohammed VI

RABAT, Nov 1, (Agencies): Moroccan King Mohammed VI called on Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune to engage in “fraternal and sincere dialogue” between Morocco and Algeria in order to overcome their differences and build new relations based on trust, brotherhood and good neighborliness.

King Mohammed VI affirmed the commitment of his country to continue exerting efforts to revive the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) on the basis of mutual respect, cooperation and integration among its five member states.

In a televised address to the Moroccan people, following the United Nations (UN) Security Council’s vote in favor of a US-backed resolution supporting the initiative of Rabat regarding the Western Sahara issue, the King stressed that history and geography dictate unity, not division.

He said “I call on President Abdelmadjid Tebboune to engage in a sincere and fraternal dialogue between Morocco and Algeria to overcome differences and build new relations based on trust and good neighborliness.”

The Moroccan monarch welcomed the UN Security Council resolution supporting the autonomy plan presented by Morocco in 2007, considering the resolution a “new breakthrough” in the process of consolidating Moroccan sovereignty over the Sahara and putting a definitive end to the fabricated conflict surrounding it.

He pointed out that “the international community recognized the credibility of the autonomy initiative as the only viable and consensual solution to the conflict,” adding that the Kingdom is approaching this historic shift with confidence and responsibility, following 50 years of national sacrifices.

He considers the adoption of the UN resolution a culmination of the process that began with the Green March in 1975 and a reinforcement of the gains achieved by Morocco in defending its territorial integrity and full sovereignty over its southern



KUNA photo

King Mohammed VI

provinces.

He expressed his pride that this important international development coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Green March and the 70th anniversary of Morocco’s independence, emphasizing that the Kingdom will continue working to promote comprehensive development in the southern provinces and consolidate Moroccan sovereignty over the Sahara in all international forums.

He confirmed his country’s determination to update the autonomy initiative and present it to the UN as the sole basis for negotiations on the Sahara region and the only solution. He stated that despite the positive developments

in the Sahara issue, Morocco remains committed to finding a win-win solution that satisfies all parties. He added “we will update the autonomy initiative and present it to the UN to be the sole basis for negotiations, as it is the only solution to the Sahara issue.” He emphasized that his country is experiencing a new breakthrough in the process of consolidating Moroccan sovereignty over the Sahara.

He said “we are pleased with the UN Security Council resolution,” adding that he shares his people’s satisfaction with the resolution. He continued “we are living through a pivotal moment and a decisive turning point in the history of modern Morocco. There is a period before Oct 31, 2025, and there is a period after it. After 50 years of sacrifices, we are, with the help of Allah, beginning a new chapter in the process of consolidating Moroccan sovereignty over the Sahara and definitively resolving this fabricated conflict through a consensual solution based on the autonomy initiative.”

He added “the time has come for unified Morocco -- from Tangier to Lagouira, whose rights and historical borders will not be infringed upon by anyone. Our country neither considers these changes a victory nor exploits them to fuel conflict and disputes.”

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Kuwait tops list

PMI choices to curtail smoking

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Philip Morris International (PMI) recently held a conference in Dubai on the implementation of the Global South for a Smoke-Free Future vision.

The conference included several activities, including a conversation with Fred de Wilde, President of the SSEA, MEA & CIS Region at PMI, and a discussion with PMI CEO Jacek Olczak.

Presentations exploring the transformative power of disruptive innovation, its impact on reshaping industries, redefining economic landscapes, and reimagining how people live and work were given.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Arab Times held an interview with Tommaso Di Giovanni, Vice President of Communications & Engagement at PMI.

Below are details of the interview:

Question: Would you please explain Philip Morris International’s vision for a smoke-free future in simple terms for ordinary people?

Answer: Our vision is to give every adult smoker a better alternative to cigarettes. We all know that smoking is addictive and causes disease. But today, thanks to technology and science, we can offer smokers choices that are significantly better if they are not able to quit.

Of course, quitting altogether remains the best option. However, for those who don’t, products like heated tobacco or nicotine pouches provide less harmful alternatives. This is because these products don’t burn. Combustion in cigarettes creates thousands of chemicals found in smoke,

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KNPC ... 65 years of leadership and excellence



KUNA photo

Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila welcomes the visiting Governor of Tokyo, Yuriko Koike at the Women’s Cultural and Social Society.

Panel to draft bylaws for cooperative sector

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila has issued a resolution forming an extraordinary committee to draft bylaws for the cooperative sector.

The commission, to be chaired by the undersecretary Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, will group a number of ranking personnel of the ministry of social affairs tasked with handling cooperative affairs.

Minister Al-Huwaila said in a statement on Saturday that he decision was compatible with instructions of the sagacious political leadership for overhauling the sector, boosting its role at the development and social levels.

It also affirms the ministry’s keenness on upgrading the legislations and regulations that back up the cooperative field.

The said commission will study and revise the current cooperative regulations, enact new rules for enhancing governance and transparency, the minister indicated.

It is also tasked to prepare a final report about its mission, along with the proposed bylaws, in no longer than 60 days, with possibility to extend the grace period for a single month.

UAE lauds Kuwait move to host event on falcons

ABU DHABI, Nov 1, (KUNA): Kuwait’s hosting of the inaugural UAE World Falcon Racing Cup reflects the strength of relations and keenness on preserving heritage, said Emirati officials on Saturday.

The upcoming tournament from December 4 to 7 will be held in several categories, with the prizes totaling Dirham 500,000 (around KD 40,000).

Speaking to KUNA, the UAE Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi, affirmed that the UAE and Kuwait were eager to preserve Gulf history and the heritage, noting that ventures like the 1977-established Nabat Poets Diwaniya was founded by the late Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, with the late UAE President Sheikh Zayed Al-Nahyan attending the inauguration.

The upcoming World Falcons Racing Cup adds to the long tradition of joint cooperation, he affirmed.

For his part, the UAE Falconry Federation Secretary General and also Secretary General of the International Federation for Falconry Sports and Racing (IFFSR), Rashed bin Markhan Al-Ketbi, said that Kuwait has a strong base in the sport of falconry, and many participate in events held in the UAE. He called on Gulf youths and citizens to preserve this sport and hand it down to future generations to maintain its history and tradition.

In a previous statement, Kuwait’s Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi affirmed Saturday that all necessary resources have been mobilized to ensure the success of the inaugural UAE World Falcon Racing Cup, set to be hosted in Kuwait from December 4 to 7 under the supervision of the UAE and International Falcons Federations.

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Falcons used in hunting will be confiscated.

Hunting strictly prohibited: Mol

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior warned on Saturday against entering, hunting or wandering in nature reserves in the country, billing this as a breach of law that necessitates necessary legal action.

The warning is part of ongoing efforts to preserve natural environment and protect wildlife from any violations or illegal practices, the ministry said in a press release.

It underlined that vehicles, tools and falcons used in hunting in nature reserves would be impounded, and that legal action would be taken against lawbreakers, in collaboration with concerned bodies.

Therefore, it asked citizens and residents alike to absolutely abide by law and guidelines and steer away from nature reserves in a bid to preserve environment and safeguard natural resources.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:40	Asr	14:39
Sunrise ..	06:01	Maghrib ..	17:02
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:20

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-35 km/h.			
By Night: Rather cold with light to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas north-			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	34	23	
Kuwait Airport	33	20	
Abdaly	33	16	
westerly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h.			
Bubyan	30	11	
Jahra	33	21	
Failaka Island	32	20	
Salmiyah	32	24	
Ahmadi	32	20	
Nuwaisib	33	19	
Wafra	33	19	

Two-day event to boost innovation and digital services in electricity and water sectors

Kuwait to host 7th Gulf Customer Services Forum on Monday

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy announced that the country will host the 7th Gulf Customer Services Forum on Monday at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre for two days.

Spokesperson for the Ministry of Electricity, Eng. Fatima Hayat, said in a press release on Saturday that hosting the forum is a proactive step to strengthen co-operation among GCC countries by exchanging expertise and best practices to

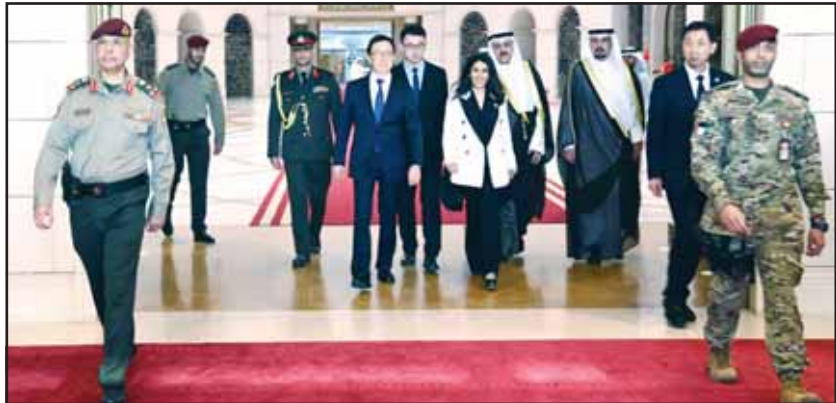
enhance customer services.

She said that the forum will feature dialogue sessions for representatives of customer service entities across the Gulf region, providing participants with practical experiences and insights to enhance service methods and promote innovation.

She added that the sessions will address several topics, including customer experience in the digital age, achieving customer satisfaction and improving service

quality, legislation and policies in customer services, innovation, information security and data protection, and building a national team specialized in customer services.

Hayat explained that the forum sessions will offer an effective opportunity to apply best practices in improving customer service and enhancing the experience of obtaining electricity and water services in line with the highest standards and latest technologies.



KUNA photo
The Vice President of the People's Republic of China arrives in the country on an official visit.

China Vice President Han Zheng arrives in Kuwait on official visit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): The Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng arrived in Kuwait on Saturday on an official visit.

Receiving the Chinese official at Kuwait International Airport were Minister

of Public Works and Head of the Honorary Delegation Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Hayat, and Kuwaiti Ambassador to the People's Republic of China Jassem Al-Najem.

Kuwait to witness astronomical phenomena events in November

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): A series of remarkable astronomical phenomena will be observed in Kuwait during November bringing together spectacular planetary conjunctions, various phases of the Moon, and meteor showers which are considered among the most beautiful phenomena observable with the naked eye, Al-Ajiri Scientific Center (ASC) announced on Saturday.

In a press release, the center said November will be the richest month of events throughout the year.

These phenomena will appear as of Sunday with the conjunction of the Moon and Saturn, as they come closer to each other,

passing at a distance of approximately three degrees, it noted.

On November 5, the Moon will reach its full phase, known as the "Beaver Moon", a name historically associated with the season when beavers build their dams during this time of the year, the Moon will be full, it pointed out.

These phenomena will conclude on November 20 with the appearance of the new Moon and the beginning of the crescent of the month of Jumada al-Akhirah, when the Sun and Moon are aligned in a single line, the center elaborated.

Kuwait calls for protection of essential workers in conflicts

Ambassador Al-Bannai highlights law enforcement

WASHINGTON, Nov 1, (KUNA): Kuwait has called for protecting essential services providers in conflict areas, stressing the need of holding accountable violators.

This came in a speech delivered by Kuwait's Delegate to the UN Ambassador Tariq Al-Bannai during a ceremony held by Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the UN that focused on "Essential Services' Providers and Their Safety in Contemporary Armed Conflicts."

The ceremony was held as part of the United Nations' annual International Law Weekend, taking place this year from October 27 to 31.

"Our discussion today does not address abstract theoretical principles, but rather focuses on the practical protection of engineers, technicians, water operators, electricians, sanitation teams, and healthcare workers who keep civilians alive when conflicts threaten to bring their daily lives to a halt," Al-Bannai noted.

Essential services providers are civilians that must be respected and protected, and enabled to achieve safely their mission, he noted.

International humanitarian law obliges parties to the conflict not to attack, destroy, or disrupt water facilities and other essential infrastructure, and to exercise constant care to ensure the safety of individuals responsible for maintaining these facilities, he said.

The UN Security Council affirmed these obligations in its resolution No. 2573 and the need of safeguarding civil infrastructure and those operate and reform it, he emphasized.

There are binding duties, and Kuwait's wide involvement boosts concentration on life-sustaining services.



KUNA photo
Ambassador Tariq Al-Bannai – Kuwait's Delegate to the UN

He called for the protection of providers, practical implementation of law and holding accountable violators.

Kuwait has been ready to closely work with member states, UN agencies, humanitarian partners and civil society organizations to help service providers achieve safely their duties and ensure offering water, electricity, sewage and healthcare to those affected, Al-Bannai pointed out.

The ceremony was organized by members of the Global Alliance to Spare Water from Armed Conflicts, in the presence of the Deputy Director of the Division of Field Operations (DFO) Florence Poussin, and Cordula Droege the chief legal officer and head of the legal division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and others.

Minister Al-Mutairi inaugurates tournament

Kuwait Asian Shooting Championship kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi inaugurated Friday the Kuwait Asian Shooting Championship at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Shooting Complex, bringing together participants from 17 countries.

The tournament, a significant regional sporting event, will run until November 8.

In a statement to the press, Minister Al-Mutairi extended his best wishes of success to all participating teams and athletes.



KUNA photo
Asian Football Confederation President Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah presents a commemorative shield to Minister of Information and Youth Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

Humoud praised the wise political leadership's support for the continental federation, noting that Kuwait has hosted the Asian Shooting Confederation's headquarters for 21 years.

He expressed appreciation to Minister Al-Mutairi and the Public Authority for Sport for their support of this major sporting event.

Sheikh Salman pointed out that Asian shooting has made remarkable progress in recent years, which was crowned by winning 21 of 45 possible medals at the Paris Olympics last year, surpassing all

other continental federations.

He welcomed the ISSF President's support and commended organizational efforts.

ISSF President Rossi noted the rising strength of Asian and Kuwaiti shooting under the current leadership. He attributed Kuwait's shooting successes to the federation's efforts.

Rossi added that Asia has become one of the strongest continents in the sport thanks to the high level of its shooters, emphasizing the main achievement that Asian athletes won more than 20 medals at the Paris Olympics last year.

He thanked Kuwait for hosting the Asian tournament and commended its contributions to peace and cooperation.

Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi highlighted the growth of Kuwaiti shooting and the federation's continued ambitions.

Al-Otaibi confirmed ongoing preparations for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, aiming to secure the maximum number of qualification slots.

He thanked Minister Al-Mutairi for his strong support and ISSF President Luciano Rossi for the ongoing cooperation with continental federations.

Gulf States voice firm backing to Palestinian statehood at UN

WASHINGTON, Nov 1, (KUNA): The GCC States underlined on Wednesday their firm backing to the Palestinian state and its people, and abidance by the two-state solution vision.

This came in a statement in the name of GCC members read out by Diplomatic Attaché of Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Mariam Al-Mansouri before the third committee of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Gulf States also stressed commitment to international law principles of human rights and international humanitarian law, including the relevant rules approved by the UN, she noted.

The GCC States thank Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) Francesca Albanese for her appreciated efforts to highlight serious violations committed by the Israeli occupation against Palestinians due to continued aggression and siege imposed on Gazans, she added.

The Gulf group stressed the need of mandate of Albanese in the OPTs, rejecting sanctions imposed on her, Al-Mansouri pointed out.

Such measures undermine the inde-



KUNA photo
Mariam Mansouri, Diplomatic Attaché at the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations

pendence of human rights mechanisms and international efforts aiming to hold accountability, she elaborated.

She referred that the GCC States' firm stance was manifested through tangible steps, mainly during the recent Israeli war on Gaza, during which they provided extensive humanitarian support to Gazans, in line with international organizations, including UNRWA, and through all possible means and channels, along political and legal backing at all levels and in all international arenas.

Economic survival

Lebanon seeks strong ties with Kuwait's API

BEIRUT, Nov 1, (KUNA): Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam has affirmed keenness on deepening cooperation with the Kuwait-headquartered Arab Planning Institute.

Salam made the assertion during his reception of Dr. Adel Wuqayyan, the API Director General, at the government palace in Beirut.

The Lebanese government is ready to offer all needed facilities to activate the cooperation with the API, either through technical partnership, workshops or conferences, Salam said, lauding the institute for supporting sustainable development and devising socio-economic policies.

Dr. Al-Wuqayyan said during the session that his current visit to Lebanon aimed at boosting cooperation with Arab states in the realm of socio-economic planning and development, adding that he sensed strong will on part of the Lebanese state to revive the economy, affirming the API readiness to aid Beirut at this level.

Other Voices

Minister of Education, cauterization is the last resort!

By Ahmad alsarraf

I believe that nations are built by engineers, as in China, and minds are shaped by creative thinkers, as in the United States and other countries. However, the engineer or educator, who is the subject of this article, has failed to fulfill either role.

At the start of this academic year, Minister of Education Engineer Jalal Al-Tabtabaei announced that he had assigned 150 education experts, even though I doubt we have that many, and most are unknown to the public, to develop the curriculum. He had only three or four months to complete what was essentially an impossible task.

The limited time frame resulted in new curricula that were "rare" rather than "well-crafted," with noticeable shortcomings in content, quality, and timing.

Parents and teachers are still waiting for the printing of the remaining new curriculum books, which contain a large number of political, technical, and linguistic errors, as well as typos that have sparked controversy and ridicule.

In response, the minister met with teachers at the Kuwait Teachers' Society and raised several points, some of which could alone justify his dismissal.

He noted, for example, that those who developed the curricula, not merely amended them, worked 17-hour days. This, in itself, is a serious concern. The objective should have been to create material that engages students' minds, not simply to demand exhaustive work. It appears that these individuals were forced to work

based on a decision that lacked logical planning.

The minister surprised attendees at the meeting by claiming that an electronic transfer system for teachers was being developed by a "global company" free of charge.

But who today provides such a service for free? What if serious social or financial errors arise from such a system? Would those offering it at no cost be held accountable?

The minister also criticized any premature judgment or challenge to the curricula's effectiveness before they had been tested.

In response, Professor Suad Al-Moajel posted a widely praised statement on social media - "Educational curricula are not subject to trial and error; they are the result of a cumulative evaluation process guided by academic and investigative principles."

Testing curricula is not like testing new medications, which are first tried on animals, then on volunteers, followed by a period of observation to monitor health effects and side effects. Trial and error cannot be applied to curricula or to educating young minds by simply overwhelming them with a mass of books and waiting to see the impact years later. By then, it may be too late to correct any resulting damage.

The minister refused to appoint individuals with a file in the



alsarraf

psychiatric medicine hospital to supervisory positions, yet he did not bar them from working as teachers.

It is important to note that not everyone with such a file is inherently unfit for employment in all capacities.

In a move that reflects inexperience and contradicts his stated goals, the minister abolished the Education Development Center instead of revitalizing it. This decision reveals a lack of belief in the need for educational development.

Due to space constraints and out of respect for the minister in question, this article will not delve into the minister's highly inappropriate remarks regarding wives, cancer patients, individuals with psychiatric histories, or his predecessors. In addition, his statement, "We want to return Kuwait to number one, regardless of anyone's opinion," was inappropriate and should not have been made by a Minister of Education in a public setting.

I would like to remind the minister that quality education is not a wheel that needs to be reinvented. It is a system already in place in several leading countries, such as Singapore and Scandinavian nations like Sweden and Finland. All that is required is to learn from their experiences and adapt them to suit our local environment.

As the Arabs say, "Cauterization is the last resort"... or perhaps dismissal from office.

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diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Lebanon politically, economically weakened, paralyzed by militant group

“SINCE Iran established Hezbollah in Lebanon, the country has suffered from extensive Iranian control and interference in its internal affairs, turning its territory into an active battleground against Israel. This involvement is not aimed at liberating Palestine, but rather at keeping the region locked in ongoing military conflicts, thereby reinforcing Iran’s dominance and influence in regional affairs,” columnist **Hamed Salem Al-Marri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Hezbollah has repeatedly dragged Lebanon into wars with Israel. Each time, parts of the country are devastated, while Hezbollah leaders continue to deliver fiery speeches, issue threats, and make sweeping promises, even as Israel continues to bomb and destroy Lebanese territory.

“Despite the assassination of some of Hezbollah’s political and military leaders by Israel, including attempts on former Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, its expulsion from Syria after devastating the country and causing widespread casualties, and its designation as a terrorist organization internationally, Hezbollah continues to wield significant influence over Lebanon’s political arena.

“Hezbollah’s refusal to recognize the Lebanese army’s monopoly on weapons, insisting on retaining arms under the pretext of national strength and sovereignty, reveals its allegiance to Iran rather than Lebanon.

“It is widely recognized that stable countries do not allow armed factions or militias, and that weapons are controlled exclusively by the army and official security forces.

“The Lebanese government is working to disarm Hezbollah and reduce



Hamed Al-Marri

its influence over the political arena. It has taken measures against the group, including tightening controls on financial transfers, blocking funds from reaching the party, and prohibiting dealings with its affiliated financial institutions, such as Al-Qard Al-Hasan and Ta’awuni.

“In response, Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem criticized Lebanese Justice Minister Adel Nassar and Central Bank Governor Karim Saad. Despite these efforts, Hezbollah continues to smuggle funds from various countries, including in Latin America, and engages in drug trafficking and money laundering to compensate for its financial losses and fund its military activities.

“The cell arrested in Kuwait on charges of financing Hezbollah is just one of many channels used to funnel money to the group in the region. Some of these networks have been uncovered, while others continue to operate and fund Hezbollah.

“Hezbollah’s presence in Lebanon acts like a cancer that weakens the body. If left untreated, it can be fatal. For years, Hezbollah has politically weakened and paralyzed Lebanon, driving it toward economic collapse. Delaying the end of Hezbollah’s control and its severing of ties with Iran risks plunging Lebanon into a crisis even deeper than the years of the civil war.”

Also:

“In light of the rapid changes our world is witnessing today, governments require greater efficiency and flexibility in their performance, especially in the public sector, which is the backbone of any state. This underscores the need to reconsider the role of some unions within ministries and government institutions, particularly when these entities transform from being tools for defending workers’ rights to platforms for political discourse, or something akin to a parliament, where slogans abound but

results are lacking,” columnist **Abdullah Sahoud Al-Fadhli** writes for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“There is no doubt about the importance of having unions that represent employees’ voices, protect their rights, and help build bridges of understanding between workers and management.

“The reality in some ministries and institutions reveals an imbalance, where unions have become tools of pressure that disrupt workflow and impose demands inconsistent with the requirements of reform and development.

“Some view these unions as a source of administrative chaos and an arena for side conflicts that hinder work.

“Some unions have become more like electoral battlegrounds, producing leaders who treat the union as a populist platform, seeking media attention or personal and political privileges. In these unions, there is much noise but little tangible results.

“The call for the government to adopt a project to abolish or restructure unions within certain ministries is not intended to end union activity, but rather reflects a desire to activate their true role. Perhaps the best solution is to regulate these unions, establish strict legal frameworks to oversee their performance, or replace them with independent professional bodies that work according to merit-based standards and are held accountable for tangible results.

“In conclusion, the public interest must take precedence. Whenever any institution - union or otherwise - becomes a burden on the state and its citizens, review and reform are essential. Re-examining the reality of unions within some ministries is not an attack on union activity, but a call for its correction for the benefit of the nation and its citizens.”

— **Compiled by Simi K.Kutty**



Mol photo

The accident victims still in the car.

Two Asians dead, three hurt in Al-Liyah mishap

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Two Asians died and three others were injured when a vehicle overturned on Al-Liyah Road. The bodies of the deceased were transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department, while the injured were taken to the hospital.

A security source told the newspaper that the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received information about the accident, affirming that security patrols and ambulance teams were immediately dispatched to the scene. He indicated that investigations are underway to determine the causes and circumstances leading to the fatal accident.

Supervisor, 3 officials probed in graft case

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has referred a supervisor and several other officials from the Ministry of Public Works to the Public Prosecution, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, Nazaha emphasized that this action is part of its ongoing efforts to combat corruption, mitigate its risks and impacts, and hold perpetrators accountable, in line with its mandate under Article 5, Paragraph 2 of its founding law.

The authority explained that as soon as the reports are verified as constituting a suspected crime, they will be referred to the relevant investigative body for suspected forgery, which is a crime punishable under Penal Code No. 16/1960, as well as for embezzlement and facilitating the embezzlement of public funds.

The Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah announced the referral of several successive boards of directors of the Kaifan Cooperative Society to the Public Prosecution following the discovery of suspected financial violations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Al-Huwailah stressed that the ministry will not tolerate any misuse of public funds or shareholders’ money.

She affirmed that the rule of law, accountability, and transparency are the pillars of the ministry’s oversight of cooperative societies.

The minister revealed that the ministry is implementing a comprehensive plan to rectify the situation of cooperative societies, strengthen governance, and ensure sound management.

Drug peddlers 15 yrs jail overruled

Cassation court acquits trio

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Court of Cassation acquitted three young men of possessing narcotics with the intent to distribute, after the Criminal Court and the Court of Appeals upheld the 15-year prison sentence imposed on them.

According to the investigating officer, one of the defendants possessed narcotics for personal use, so he obtained a warrant from the Public Prosecution to arrest him. He sent a secret agent to purchase hashish from the suspect. The transaction was arranged to take place in front of a tourist facility.

The officer added that he and the secret agent went to the location. During the transaction, the secret agent gave the agreed signal, leading to the arrest of the accused while his companion fled. The officer then proceeded to the residence of another accused, where eight cigarettes and a small quantity of marijuana were found. He discovered that all three defendants were accomplices in obtaining the drugs.

Earlier, the Court of First Instance sentenced the defendants to 15 years imprisonment for drug trafficking and the Court of Appeals upheld the verdict. However, Attorney Bashar Al-Nassar, lawyer for the accused, appealed to the Court of Cassation, asserting that the proceedings were marred by a violation of the defendants’ right to a fair trial. He argued that the court based its ruling solely on the testimony of the investigating officer which,

he maintained, was merely an opinion, subject to error or falsehood, unless corroborated by other material evidence.

The Court of Cassation acquitted the defendants of drug trafficking, explaining it was not convinced by the investigation or the officer’s testimony regarding the trafficking incident, since it was based on statements unsupported by conclusive evidence.

□ □ □

Officer wins right: The Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling granting a retired military officer the right to have his study period at Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences counted as part of his active service.

The plaintiff filed a lawsuit against the Ministry of Interior and the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), demanding that his study period at the academy from September 1999 to June 2000 be calculated as part of his active military service, with all the resulting financial benefits in terms of his pension and service bonuses.

Attorney Mishari Al-Marzouq, lawyer for the defendant, stated that he submitted documents to the court, including his client’s graduation certificate from the academy, proving that his client successfully completed the study period and graduated, and that he continued his active service without interruption after graduation.

Al-Marzouq pointed out that the court based its ruling on the fact that Military Pensions and Retirement Benefits Law No. 69/1980 does not prohibit including the period of academic study in the calculation of active service period if it is necessary for the preparation and qualification of the military officer.

Savings gone as Iranian expat falls victim to electronic theft

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: An Iranian fell victim to an intricate scam, through which he lost a huge amount that the perpetrators stole from his bank account without him knowing the stages of the operation, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed that the Iranian filed a report at Hawally Police Station, stating he is the victim of electronic theft, as a total amount of KD3,820 was withdrawn from his bank account through five separate transactions without his knowledge.

The source confirmed that the case was

referred to the Public Prosecution and registered as ‘bank document forgery’.

After questioning the complainant at the Commercial Affairs Prosecution, the case was transferred to the Financial Crimes Department for further investigation.

The source added the Criminal Investigation Department was requested to conduct an investigation into the incident to identify the perpetrator and determine the circumstances, which led to the electronic theft utilizing modern technology.



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received Assistant Director General for Coordination and Education at the General Traffic Department Brigadier General Khaled Al-Adwani, Director of Farwaniya Traffic Department Colonel Raed Al-Sulaiman.

Smooth flow of traffic, safety of public stressed in meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received Assistant Director General for Coordination and Education at the General Traffic Department Brigadier General Khaled Al-Adwani, Director of Farwaniya Traffic Department Colonel Raed Al-Sulaiman, and Engineer Khaled Waleed Al-Ghanim from the Roads Engineering Department.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, they discussed aspects of joint cooperation and reviewed plans and initiatives aimed at enhancing traffic safety and raising awareness among various segments of society, in line with national efforts to improve the quality of life and public services.

Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser praised the General Traffic Department’s role in regulating traffic flow and ensuring the safety of road users.

Brigadier General Al-Adwani expressed his gratitude to the governor for the warm reception and his commitment to supporting all efforts that contribute to improving the traffic system in Farwaniya Governorate.

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Tokyo Governor YuriKo Koike listening to a briefing during her tour of KISR.

Empowering science for Kuwait 2035

Tokyo Governor visits KISR to bolster scientific cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): Tokyo Governor YuriKo Koike and her accompanying delegation on Thursday visited Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), where they were received by KISR Director General Dr. Faisal Al-Humoudan.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Humoudan said the visit marks an important milestone in research and scientific cooperation between KISR and Japanese institutions, and a catalyst for qualitative partnerships in sustainability, environment, energy, innovation and womens empowerment in science and technology.

“We value this visit as reflecting the depth of historical ties between KISR and its Japanese counterparts, and we look forward to launching new initiatives for scientific and technological cooperation,” he added.

Al-Humoudan noted that KISR’s relationship with Japan goes back to the Institutes founding roots, as KISR was established in 1967 under the New Oil Concession Agreement in the onshore Neutral Zone signed in 1958 between the Government of the State of Kuwait and the Arab Oil Company (Japan), with its first headquarters located at the companys premises in Kuwait City.

He said cooperation between KISR and Japanese institutions has continued over the decades through joint research projects, exchange of expertise and learning from Japans experiences in advanced technology, energy, water management and institutional quality, affirming the partnership has con-



KUNA photos
Tokyo Governor YuriKo Koike signing the VIP guest book at KISR.

sistently inspired advanced research projects and the adoption of nanotechnology.

The Tokyo Governors visit, he affirmed, is an opportunity to broaden cooperation and explore new horizons in applied research and technological development in line with KISR’s new strategy and “New Kuwait 2035,” which places scientific research and innovation at the heart of socioeconomic development.

Concluding his remarks, Al-Humoudan stressed that KISR welcomes all initiatives that enhance research and technological cooperation with advanced nations, especially Japan, and believes that integrating global expertise with Kuwaits research and development efforts will open new avenues for development and sustainability and strengthen Kuwaits R&D presence on a broader global scale.

Kuwait Science Club, Arab League boost joint scientific cooperation

Partnership aims to empower inventors, drive innovation

CAIRO, Nov 1, (KUNA): A delegation from the Kuwait Science Club met Thursday with the Arab League’s Assistant Secretary General and Head of Economic Affairs, Ambassador Ali Al-Maliki, to discuss ways of enhancing joint cooperation in the fields of scientific research, innovation, and intellectual property rights.

Secretary General of the Kuwait Science Club and head of the delegation, Ali Al-Jumaa, told KUNA that the meeting builds on the participation of the Arab League and its specialized organizations in the 2025 International Inventions Exhibition in the Middle East, held earlier this year in Kuwait.

Al-Jumaa added that both sides seek to support Arab inventors through the Arab League and its specialized bodies, including the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, and the Arab Labor Organization, by allocating awards to Arab participants in the exhibition.

He also highlighted the prizes presented by the GCC General Secretariat and international organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Feder-



KUNA photo
Kuwait Science Club and Arab League discuss strengthening cooperation in scientific research.

ation of Inventors’ Associations, noting that such support helps promote innovation and facilitates the path from invention to production and commercialization.

Al-Jumaa pointed out that the exhibition, now in its 18th year, witnessed distinguished participation from the Arab League in its 2025 edition.

The meeting discussed expanding this coop-

eration to benefit Arab inventors by establishing comprehensive frameworks covering scientific, economic, and intellectual property fields.

Al-Jumaa noted that this cooperation marks the first of its kind between a non-profit public association and the Arab League, aiming to expand Arab cooperation in science and innovation rather than competition.

Online platform eases tuition aid

MoE opens digital charity fund for needy students

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Time Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Ministry of Education announced the completion of the electronic charity fund service, which was developed through the coordinated efforts of the General Directorate of Private Education and the Information Systems Department.

In a press statement on Thursday, the ministry

pointed out that the service is a vital step toward developing the operational mechanisms and expanding the reach of the charity fund. It said the new service is part of the efforts of the General Directorate of Private Education to enhance transparency and streamline procedures for parents and private Arabic schools (national and model schools). It added that the new electronic system will enable beneficiaries to submit and track applications digitally, contributing to faster processing,

accurate documentation, and effective communication between the ministry, schools and parents.

According to the ministry, the service aims to support stateless and needy students who face financial difficulties that prevent them from paying tuition fees, thus, enabling them to continue their education in a stable and suitable learning environment. It affirmed that this initiative is a manifestation of the humanitarian and educational roles it plays to support students from all backgrounds.

Digital soil data key to urban safety

KISR plans landmark geotechnical database to boost smart city plans

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): Head of Geotechnical Database Project at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research **Dana Al-Enezi** said KISR aims to establish a national digital geotechnical database, a strategic and inevitable step to support digital infrastructure of smart city visions, enhance crisis response capabilities and develop independent national engineering codes.

In an interview with the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Enezi, of KISR’s Environment and Life Sciences Research Center, said that her current project focused on highlighting importance of managing and digitally archiving geotechnical data, a core element in the design and implementation of infrastructure.

She explained that the absence of a unified national digital database leads to repeated mistakes, delays in decision-making, and increased risks in major urban projects, noting that digitalization and integrated data management have become essential components of modern infrastructure amid the global shift toward smart cities.

Al-Enezi cited the historical case of the Dhahar area in the late 1980s, saying that the region experienced major ground collapse problems in 1988 and 1989, which prompted the Public Authority for Housing Welfare to seek experts to assess damages, and KISR to conduct extensive investigations.

“This incident illustrates the dangers of lacking a national database, as it led to a slow response and greater losses due to reliance on ad-hoc studies instead of a permanent knowledge system that could be quickly accessed,” she said.

Al-Enezi pointed out that despite past research efforts, Kuwait still lacks a national geotechnical database or detailed maps showing soil characteristics at different depths.

She praised the leading Gulf experiences that have advanced significantly in the digital transformation of national data management, stressing that these examples prove the importance of investing in digital infrastructure.

She said Saudi Arabia “is a leading regional model in geological data infrastructure,” referring to the digital platforms and services provided by the Saudi Geological Survey through its official portal, which offer national geological maps and data sup-

porting major development projects and infrastructure planning, while also facilitating controlled access to subsurface records and layers for decision-makers and technical authorities.

“This progress has been reflected in Saudi Arabia’s mega projects, especially future cities that rely on the Digital Twin concept and subsurface modeling linked to verified geological and geotechnical data, enhancing design efficiency, implementation, and risk management throughout the project life cycle,” said Al-Enezi.

She emphasized that having a specialized national database under the supervision of an official geoengineering authority was a cornerstone of any rapidly developing urban project.

She also noted that the United Arab Emirates has presented successful examples of geo-digital transformation, highlighting Abu Dhabi’s Department of Municipalities and Transport’s initiatives in modeling, which enable more precise planning, better geotechnical risk anticipation and broader integration with smart city platforms.

Al-Enezi explained that addressing geological hazards (Geohazards) requires adopting a comprehensive geotechnical and geological data system based on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to collect detailed data on terrain, physical and chemical soil properties and historical incidents.

She added that “this system allows predicting problems before they occur, establishing early warning mechanisms, and enabling engineers, designers, and decision-makers to understand subsurface conditions accurately - even before the feasibility study stage.”

She emphasized that the role of the database extends beyond urban planning and crisis management, serving as a key reference in developing national engineering codes.

She said, “Preparing a national seismic code relies on precise data about soil nature and dynamic behavior, as well as on determining seismic risk factors for each region.” She added that it also provided the basis for developing a national geotechnical code based on local data instead of full reliance on foreign codes.

Engineer Al-Enezi noted the critical importance of this database for major national projects, such as the Al-Mutlaa Residential City and development projects on Boubyan Island.

Al-Mutlaa City, she said, “with its extensive construction works, needs a main reference to help understand soil distribution, reduce risks, and ensure infrastructure safety.”



Al-Enezi



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PAAET's field training applications for second semester of 2025/2026 open

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Field Training Office at the College of Technological Studies, affiliated with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), announced the start of receiving applications for field training for the second semester of the 2025/2026 academic year, from November 2 to December 4, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the office explained that all students wishing to register must adhere to the deadlines and ensure they submit all required documents. The

basic documents include:

- Two 4 x 6 cm personal photographs
- A colored copy of the civil ID card, valid until 2026
- A printout of completed academic units from the electronic advisor system

Some majors require additional documents. Students in the Chemical Engineering Department must submit a colored personal photograph printed on A4 paper. Students in the Petroleum Engineering Department are required to submit a copy of their passport.

LOCAL

Almutairi reviews plans for 48th Kuwait Int'l Book Fair

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): The steering committee of Kuwait International Book Fair held its fourth meeting on Thursday under chairmanship of the Minister of Information, Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Almutairi.

The meeting was held to examine preparations for the forthcoming 48th chapter of the annual fair.

Minister Almutairi affirmed, according to a ministry statement, necessity of pursuing co-operation among the participating government departments and cultural institutions, noting that



KUNA photo
Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs

the upcoming event would bring into light Kuwait's status as the 2025 Capital of the Arab Culture and Media.

Initiative follows ISO certification

Social Affairs starts refresher courses for certified auditors

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Assistant Undersecretary for Financial, Administrative and Cooperative Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Sayed Issa confirmed the start of refresher courses for certified auditors in the ministry, indicating this step was taken a year after the ministry obtained the ISO 9001:2015 certificate for all of its 35 departments.

Issa revealed that the refresher



Dr. Issa

courses are being conducted in light of the new organizational structure of the ministry, which included the elimination and merging of several departments.

He explained this necessitates a re-audit to ensure that the necessary administrative procedures are being followed, taking into consideration the new responsibilities of each department.

He added that the aim of these courses is to prepare specialized teams to begin field visits to audit the departments through periodic inspections to ensure the maintenance of service levels and administrative quality achieved by the ministry.

He added the field visits will begin on Sunday, covering the departments under the new organizational structure, which now number 25, down from 35.

AU students demonstrate excellence with 2nd-place win at GPCA Carbon Neutrality Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Engineering students from the Australian University (AU) secured second place at the 2025 Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) Carbon Neutrality Cup, a regional competition that brings together top university innovators from across the GCC to develop practical solutions supporting the region's transition toward net-zero emissions.

Held in Bahrain during the Responsible Care Conference, this year's edition drew more than 70 project entries from over 20 universities. Following the preliminary evaluation, five teams from the undergraduate category, including two teams representing AU, were

shortlisted as finalists, and invited to present their work through poster exhibitions and oral pitches before judges composed of leading GCC industrial experts.

Following the judges' deliberation, the second-place award was granted to AU students Tesnim Bouhanna and Nourah Al Shaibani, under the supervision of Dr. Jean El Achkar, Assistant Professor of Petroleum Engineering at AU's College of Engineering. AU's other participating team, composed of students Shahad Albathali and Anfal Al-Mutawa, and supervised by Dr. Rana Malhas, Assistant Professor of Petroleum Engineering, was also selected among the Top 5 finalists, marking a strong represen-



Australian University students Tesnim Bouhanna and Nourah Al Shaibani, the runners-up in the undergraduate competition.

tation for the university at the regional level.

The students' outstanding achievement reflects AU's commitment to nurturing innovation, hands-on learning, and environmental responsibility. Their projects offered creative and practical approaches to reducing emissions and promoting sustainable practices—ideas that align closely with Kuwait's long-term sustainability goals and the broader GCC vision for a cleaner, greener future.

Commenting on this achievement, Dr. Mortadha Al Saba, Head of the Petroleum Engineering Department at AU, commented: "We are proud of our students' success, especially given that AU does not offer

a Chemical Engineering program. Their achievement highlights the adaptability and excellence of our Petroleum Engineering students and reflects the strong interdisciplinary foundation provided by AU's engineering education."

Earning recognition at such a high-level regional platform reinforces the strength of AU's academic programs and the dedication of its faculty to mentoring students beyond the classroom. The accomplishment adds to AU's expanding record of regional and international achievements, highlighting the university's role as a leading contributor to research and innovation in engineering education.

Continued from Page 1

King Mohammed VI,

In this vast Maghreb region, with its immense resources, development cannot occur as long as a sense of unease persists. Stability is the only natural path to prosperity. It is on this basis that King Mohammed VI of Morocco calls not only opening a new chapter between the two neighbors, but also for "continuing efforts to revitalize the AMU on the basis of mutual respect, cooperation and integration among its five member states."

One noteworthy observation is the fact that the UN Security Council resolution coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Green March and the 70th anniversary of Morocco's independence. This underscores that rights will not be lost as long as those entitled to them act with wisdom and a commitment to preserve fraternal and neighborly ties. The most crucial factor is equality among all Moroccan citizens, especially given the royal guarantees based on what King Mohammed VI stated in his speech, "All Moroccans are equal. There is no distinction between those returning from the Tindouf camps and their brothers and sisters within the homeland."

PMI choices

many of which are harmful. By removing the burning process, we drastically reduce exposure to those substances.

Take nicotine pouches, for example. They are simply placed between the lip and gum, delivering nicotine without producing smoke or toxic chemicals. Our ultimate goal is to replace cigarettes with these less harmful options. That's the essence of our smoke-free vision.

Q: To achieve this vision, what role does Kuwait play? What is the role of the government?

A: Kuwait has roughly one million smokers, which is a big number. It is important for us because we want to help every smoker switch to a better alternative if they are unable to quit.

Governments have a key role to play. They can ensure there is a platform to provide smokers with accurate information about the benefits and risks of alternatives. The message should always be clear - quitting is best, and non-smokers should not start, but for those who continue smoking, better alternatives should be available. This is the most important thing governments can do to improve public health.

Q: How long do you think it will take to fulfill this vision? Do you believe we will ever see a world without cigarettes?

A: I hope so. Change takes time, and people are naturally skeptical of innovation. But rationality prevails. When an innovation improves lives, adoption eventually follows.

Our journey is still young, but globally, over 40 million consumers have adopted better alternatives, and 72 percent of them have completely abandoned cigarettes. Countries like Sweden and Japan have achieved historically low smoking rates, and New Zealand has reduced smoking incidence to seven percent through progressive policies.

So yes, it is feasible. It will take time, but we will see a day when cigarettes are a thing of the past and people live healthier lives, thanks to better alternatives.

Q: Do you think the Gulf region, especially Kuwait, is capable of reaching this target?

A: I do. While the cost of switching may be a barrier for some, this region is progressive and accustomed to adopting innovation. Countries here often set global examples in innovation, and there is no reason why the same approach could not apply to tobacco and nicotine. With supportive policies, I believe Kuwait can follow in the footsteps of Japan and Sweden and become a success story in smoke-free adoption.

During the conference, Fred De Wilde, President of the SSEA, MEA & CIS Region, said, "Bringing smoke-free alternatives to developing economies comes with unique challenges. Many smokers remain unaware of the health risks, and economic barriers often limit access to new technologies. High upfront costs can be daunting, but by developing a diverse product portfolio, we aim to make smoke-free choices accessible to people from all income levels."

Our mission is clear. No one should be left behind on the journey to a smoke-free future. By understanding local needs and purchasing power, we are making better alternatives available to a wider audience."

Meanwhile, Director, Scientific Engagement, SSEA CIS & MEA, PMI, Tomoko Iida, said, "Harm reduction is about minimizing the negative consequences associated with risky behaviors, such as smoking."

Effective harm reduction requires that reduced-risk products are actually used; otherwise, they will have no impact on public health. That is why it is essential for these innovations to be widely accessible and affordable to smokers everywhere.

Tobacco harm reduction is not a theoretical concept but a pragmatic policy approach that is already delivering results. In Japan, cigarette volume decreased by 50 percent after the introduction of heated tobacco ten years ago. In Sweden, the increase in oral nicotine products has contributed to the country having one of the lowest rates of smoking-related diseases in Europe."

Furthermore, Vice President, Smoke-Free Products Category, SSEA, CIS & MEA, PMI, Christos Kiritis, said, "We know that no single product will meet all consumers' needs. That is why our multi-category portfolio offers adult smokers a diverse range of smoke-free products tailored to individual preferences and lifestyles."

Our vision is clear - Replace every cigarette for all adult smokers who are unable to quit.

Our success stems from relentless innovation and experience design, always with our consumers in mind."

In addition, Managing Director, Lower Gulf & Iraq, PMI, Richa Rustagi, said, "The overwhelming response to our smoke-free alternatives among consumers in the GCC region is a testament to the countries' visionary spirit and appetite for innovation, a forward-thinking leadership that mirrors our own commitment to a smoke-free future."

UAE lauds

Al-Mutairi, who also chairs the tournament's Supreme Organizing Committee, highlighted the strong governmental support for this heritage event, which will be held at the Kuwait Camel Racing Club.

Similarly, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports Bashar Abdullah told a press conference that Kuwait's hosting of the inaugural tournament was an honor and a huge responsibility.

He revealed that the tournaments opening would witness a ceremony worthy of the event's status.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Board for the Kuwaiti Falconers' Association Saif Al-Shalabi commended the organization of the upcoming tournament, saying it would add to the cultural heritage of both countries and help boost the status of the sports regionally and internationally.

Other editions of the tournament will be held around the world during the 2025-26 season, with Kuwait being the first to host the event.

Time for

He expressed his gratitude to the countries that contributed to this change with their constructive stances like the United States of America, Britain, Spain, France, and the Arab and Islamic countries.

Two days ago, thousands of Moroccans participated in public celebrations that erupted in several cities following the UN resolution.

The celebrations began in Rabat, Casablanca, Tetouan and Laayoune in the Western Sahara region. Participants waved national flags alongside images of the Western Sahara, chanted slogans and sang songs in jubilation over the UN decision.

The UN Security Council voted in favor of a US-drafted resolution supporting Morocco's autonomy initiative for the Western Sahara.

The Moroccan News Agency reported that the Security Council adopted Resolution 2797, extending the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) mandate until Oct 31, 2026.

Eleven countries voted in favor, while Russia, China and Pakistan abstained. Algeria did not participate in the vote. The resolution reaffirmed its support for Morocco's autonomy initiative for the Western Sahara.

Tokyo Gov.

Koike praised the Society's mission and record in promoting women's status and enhancing their cultural and societal role, highlighting that women's empowerment is a pillar of inclusive development and prosperity, saying, "I am confident that expanding women's participation in positions of influence and decision-making enriches society and accelerates progress."

She pointed to positive developments in Japan regarding women in leadership, stating that the coming phase will see wider utilization of women's capacities in economy, governance and innovation.

She added that cooperation between Kuwait and Japan in women's empowerment, education and culture "constitutes a practical bridge that translates shared values into initiatives with meaningful impact."

Koike expressed her aspiration to deepen exchanges of experience and joint programs among women's institutions in the two friendly countries, to support capacity-building for the

Kuwait champions education as pillar of human rights in Geneva

Al-Khaldi emphasizes inclusive schooling, AI and lifelong learning

GENEVA, Nov 1, (KUNA): During the Social Forum held in Geneva, the Kuwaiti delegation reaffirmed the vital role of education as a key driver of sustainable development and a fundamental pillar for advancing human rights for all.

This came in a statement delivered by the head of the Kuwaiti delegation Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Mohammad Al-Khaldi during the Human Rights Council's Social Forum convened on October 30-31.

Al-Khaldi emphasized that investment in education extends beyond developing minds it builds an inclusive society founded on justice equality and human dignity.

He re-affirmed Kuwait's unwavering commitment to the core principles upheld by the Human Rights Council particularly the right to education without discrimination. He stressed that human development and capacity-building lie at the heart of the country's development strategy.

He noted that Kuwait actively supports both national and international efforts to strengthen the role of education in promoting civil social economic cultural and political rights while empowering individuals to participate effectively in building a democratic and equitable society based on freedom justice and equality.

Al-Khaldi highlighted that Kuwait provides free mandatory and inclusive education for all segments of society at the pre-university level including adult education literacy programs and inclusive education for persons with disabilities aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals and the principles of equality and fairness enshrined in the Kuwaiti Constitution.

He further underlined Kuwait's ongoing efforts to keep pace with global advancements by integrating artificial intelligence digital learning and innovation into the national curriculum with a strong focus on science and technology disciplines



KUNA photo
The State of Kuwait's delegation participating in the Social Forum of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

to equip future generations with the skills needed for the labor market.

He pointed out that the Ministry of Education has recently revamped curricula from kindergarten to middle school introducing 143 new textbooks for the 2025 academic year. These materials incorporate concepts that promote awareness of rights and responsibilities reinforce citizenship and national identity and foster analytical and creative thinking among students.

Al-Khaldi explained that Kuwait places human capital investment at its core by supporting lifelong learning opportunities for all. Adult education and literacy centers he noted play a central role in realizing this goal.

He also pointed to Kuwait's strong commitment to the inclusion of persons with disabilities and integrated students emphasizing the government's

efforts to equip public schools to accommodate their needs provide specialized educational psychological and social support staff and design appropriate curricula that respect individual differences.

Al-Khaldi reiterated Kuwait's dedication to boosting the concepts of sustainability within the education sector, expressing the country's eagerness to enhance international cooperation and exchange experiences to promote justice and human dignity through education.

The Kuwaiti delegation also included Shatha Almarri from the Educational Support Services Department at the Ministry of Education Bashar Almuwaizri First Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with representatives from Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

People are stressing: Sen Murkowski

Republican leaders reject Trump’s demands to scrap Senate filibuster to end shutdown

WASHINGTON, Nov 1, (AP): Back from a week abroad, US President Donald Trump threw himself into the shutdown debate, calling on the Senate to scrap the filibuster and reopen the government, an idea swiftly rejected Friday by Republican leaders who have long opposed such a move.

Trump pushed his Republican Party to get rid of the Senate rule that requires 60 votes to overcome objections and gives the minority Democrats a check on GOP power. In the chamber that’s currently split, 53-47, Democrats have had enough votes to keep the government closed while they demand an extension of health care subsidies. Neither party has seriously wanted to nuke the rule.

“THE CHOICE IS CLEAR - INITIATE THE ‘NUCLEAR OPTION,’ GET RID OF THE FILIBUSTER,” Trump said in a late night social media post Thursday.

Trump’s sudden decision to assert himself into the shutdown now in its 31st day - with his highly charged demand to end the filibuster - is certain to set the Senate on edge. It could spur senators toward their own compromise or send the chamber spiraling toward a new sense of crisis. Or, it might be ignored.

Republican leaders responded quickly, and unequivocally, setting themselves at odds with Trump, a president few have dared to publicly counter.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune has repeatedly said he is not considering changing the rules to end the shutdown, arguing that it is vital to the institution of the Senate and has allowed them to halt Democratic policies when they are in the minority.

The leader’s “position on the importance of the legislative filibuster is unchanged,” Thune spokesman Ryan Wrasse said Friday.

A spokeswoman for Wyoming Sen John Barrasso, the No. 2 Republican, said his position opposing a filibuster change also remains unchanged. And former GOP leader Mitch McConnell, who firmly opposed Trump’s filibuster pleas in his first term, remains in the Senate.

House Speaker Mike Johnson also defended the filibuster Friday, while conceding “it’s not my call,” from his chamber across the Capitol.

“The safeguard in the Senate has always been the filibuster,” Johnson said, adding that Trump’s comments are “the president’s anger at the situation.”

Even if Thune wanted to change the filibuster, he would not currently have the votes to do so in the divided Senate.



US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-SD, (right), during a lunch with Republican Senators on the Rose Garden patio at the White House on Oct 21, in Washington. (AP)

“The filibuster forces us to find common ground in the Senate,” Republican Sen. John Curtis of Utah posted on X Friday morning, responding to Trump’s comments and echoing the sentiments of many of his Senate Republican colleagues. “Power changes hands, but principles shouldn’t. I’m a firm no on eliminating it.”

Debate has swirled around the legis-

lative filibuster for years. Many Democrats pushed to eliminate it when they had full power in Washington, as the Republicans do now, four years ago. But ultimately, enough Democratic senators opposed the move, predicting such an action would come back to haunt them.

Trump’s demand comes as he has declined to engage with Democratic leaders on ways to end the shutdown, on track to become the longest in history.

He said in his post that he gave a “great deal” of thought to his choice on his flight home from Asia and that one question that kept coming up during his trip was why “powerful Republicans allow” the Democrats to shut down parts of the government.

But later Friday, he did not mention the filibuster again as he spoke to reporters departing Washington and arriving in Florida for a weekend at his Mar-a-Lago home.

While quiet talks are underway, particularly among bipartisan senators, Trump has not been seriously involved. Democrats refuse to vote to reopen the government until Republicans negotiate an extension to the health care subsidies. The Republicans say they won’t negotiate until the government is reopened.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said on CNN that Trump needs to start negotiating with Democrats, arguing the president has spent more time with global leaders than dealing with the shutdown back home.

From coast to coast, fallout from the dysfunction of the shuttered federal government is hitting home. SNAP food aid is scheduled to shut off. Flights are being delayed. Workers are going without paychecks.

And Americans are getting a first glimpse of the skyrocketing health care insurance costs that are at the center of the stalemate.

“People are stressing,” said Sen Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, as food options in her state grow scarce.

“We are well past time to have this behind us.”

The White House has moved money around to ensure the military is paid, but refuses to tap funds for food aid. In fact, Trump’s “big, beautiful bill” signed into law this summer, delivered the most substantial cut ever to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, projected to result in some 2.4 million people off the program.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said Friday the agency cannot release contingency funds to keep SNAP running, but two judges ruled nearly simultaneously Friday that the administration must continue to fund the food aid program. How quickly that might happen remains to be seen, as further consultation with the courts is expected on Monday.

Trump, in a social media post, said administration lawyers will be asking the courts “to clarify how we can legally fund SNAP as soon as possible.”

Obama to rally Dems in Virginia and NJ in weekend campaign push before Election Day

RICHMOND, Va., Nov 1, (AP): Former US president Barack Obama was to headline rallies Saturday for Democrats running for governor in Virginia and New Jersey, corralling voters ahead of elections that may signal the national mood 10 months into Donald Trump’s second presidency and a year ahead of midterm elections that could reshape it.

Republicans in those states are stumping as well on the final weekend of campaigning before Tuesday’s elections, but without the national star power.

And on the west coast, California advocates are making a final push ahead of a statewide referendum over whether to redraw the state’s congressional map in Democrats’ favor. The effort backed by Gov. Gavin Newsom is part of a national redistricting battle that began when Trump urged GOP-run states to help him keep a friendly House majority in 2026.

Obama, the Democrat whom Trump succeeded when he first assumed the presidency, will appear first Saturday with Virginia’s Democratic gubernatorial nominee Abigail Spanberger in Norfolk. Obama then travels to New Jersey for an evening rally with Democratic gubernatorial nominee Mikie Sherrill in Newark. Both events put the nation’s first Black president in areas where Black voter turnout is key for Democratic victories.

Virginia Republican nominee Winsome Earle-Sears, the current lieutenant governor, and New Jersey Republican Jack Ciattarelli, a former state lawmaker, have busy itineraries, as well.

The Virginia contest ensures the election of the first woman to lead the Commonwealth since its 1776 founding. If elected, Earle-Sears would be the first Black woman elected governor of any state.

Democratic Virginia House Speaker Don Scott brushed off questions about whether Obama was needed to help turn out Black voters who are key to Democrats’ coalition of voters, saying his popularity spans racial lines.



US President Barack Obama speaks at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., on Dec 6, 2016. (AP)

America

2 die in flooded NYC basements: Two people died in flooded New York City basements Thursday during a rain-storm that shut down roadways and caused airport delays, authorities said.

A scuba team recovered the body of a 39-year-old man after firefighters received a call of a person trapped in the flooded basement of a three-story townhouse in Brooklyn at about 4:30 p.m., police said.

A video posted online showed firefighters carrying the victim away through calf-deep water on the street.

In Manhattan, a 43-year-old man was found dead inside the flooded basement boiler room of an apartment building, police said. The cause of death was under investigation.

Some spots around the city saw record rainfall. Preliminary reports showed 1.8 inch (4.57 centimeters) of rain fell in Central Park on Thursday, which would surpass the record of 1.64 inches (4.17 centimeters) set for the park in 1917, the National Weather Service said. LaGuardia Airport recorded 1.97 inch (5 centimeters) of rain, which would break the 1955 record of 1.18 inches (3 centimeters) for that airport.

New York saw hours of rainfall of varying intensity Thursday leading into the evening commute. Photos and video on social media showed water rising to the bumpers of cars and pouring into subway stations.

“When you look at the amount of water that was coming down, our sewer systems are just not built to handle that. It was a steady rain, throughout,” Mayor Eric Adams told radio station 1010 WINS. (AP)

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Explosion at New Mexico oil refinery: Emergency crews responded Friday to an explosion at an oil refinery in New Mexico as thick smoke emerged from the plant and drifted across parts of the city of Artesia before crews were able to extinguish the flames.



A cyclist rides through floodwaters during a rain-storm in New York on Oct 30. (AP)

Navajo Refinery operator HF Sinclair said that the fire had been extinguished and that three people were transported off-site for medical attention. No other injuries were reported.

Air monitoring on the perimeter of the refinery and in a nearby community showed no risk to public safety, said Corinn Smith, a spokesperson of HF Sinclair. It was unclear whether refinery production was affected.

Artesia Police Commander Pete Quiñones said that police and other first responders scrambled to the site before the fire was contained.

Authorities said the smoke had dissipated by Friday afternoon and roads were reopened. The New Mexico Environment Department said it was sending a team to Artesia to assess conditions and monitor air quality.

The refinery sits adjacent to Artesia’s main intersection, which serves as an artery from the Permian Basin in the southeastern corner of the state to the rest of New Mexico. The company’s website notes that the facility has a crude oil capacity of 100,000 barrels per day, making it the largest in New Mexico, but it wasn’t immediately clear how full the plant was at the time of the incident. (AP)

Federal judge rules Trump can’t require citizenship proof on federal voting form

NEW YORK, Nov 1, (AP): US President Donald Trump’s request to add a documentary proof of citizenship requirement to the federal voter registration form cannot be enforced, a federal judge ruled Friday.

US District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in Washington, DC, sided with Democratic and civil rights groups that sued the Trump administration over his executive order to overhaul US elections.

She ruled that the proof-of-citizenship directive is an unconstitutional violation of the separation of powers, dealing a blow to the administration and its allies who have argued that such a mandate is necessary to restore public confidence that only Americans are voting in US elections.

“Because our Constitution assigns responsibility for election regulation to the States and to Congress, this Court holds that the President lacks the authority to direct such changes,” Kollar-Kotelly wrote in her opinion.

She further emphasized that on matters related to setting qualifications for voting and regulating federal election procedures “the Constitution assigns no direct role to the President in either domain.”



Voters wait in line to cast their ballot at a polling station at Rowan College in Mt Laurel, NJ on Oct 27. (AP)

Kollar-Kotelly echoed comments she made when she granted a preliminary injunction over the issue.

The ruling grants the plaintiffs a partial summary judgment that prohibits the proof-of-citizenship requirement from going into effect. It says the US Election Assistance Commission,

which has been considering adding the requirement to the federal voter form, is permanently barred from taking action to do so.

In a statement, Sophia Lin Lakin of the ACLU, one of the plaintiffs in the case, called the ruling “a clear victory for our democracy.”

Royal exit latest crisis for Britain’s monarchy

King Charles III strips Prince Andrew of titles

LONDON, Nov 1, (AP): King Charles III stripped his disgraced brother Prince Andrew of his remaining titles and evicted him from his royal residence after weeks of pressure to act over his relationship with Jeffrey Epstein, Buckingham Palace said.

After the king’s rare move, which follows years of shameful scandals, he will be known as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor and not as a prince, and he will have to vacate his Royal Lodge mansion near Windsor Castle.

Demand had been growing on the palace to oust the prince from Royal Lodge after he surrendered his use of the title Duke of York earlier this month over new revelations about his friendship with Epstein and renewed abuse allegations by one of Epstein’s victims, Virginia Roberts Giuffre, whose posthumous memoir hit bookstores last week.

But the king went even further to punish him for serious lapses of judgment by removing the title of prince that he has held since birth as a child of a monarch, the late Queen Elizabeth II.

“These censures are deemed necessary, notwithstanding the fact that he continues to deny the allegations against him,” the palace said. “Their Majesties wish to make clear that their thoughts and utmost sympathies have been, and will remain with, the victims and survivors of any and all forms of abuse.”

It is almost unprecedented for a British prince or princess to be stripped of that title. It last happened in 1919, when Prince Ernest Augustus, who was a UK royal and also a prince of Hanover, had his British title removed for siding with Germany during World War I.

Giuffre’s brother declared victory for his sister, who died by suicide in April at the age of 41.

“Today, an ordinary American girl from an ordinary American family, brought down a British prince with her truth and extraordinary courage,” her brother Skye Roberts said in a statement to the BBC.

Andrew faced a new round of public outrage after emails emerged earlier this month showing he had remained in contact with Epstein longer than he previously admitted.

Andrew, 65, has long denied Giuffre’s claims, but stepped down from royal duties after a disastrous November 2019 BBC interview in which he attempted to rebut her allegations.

Although Charles was involved in discussions with Andrew before he announced he would relinquish his dukedom two weeks ago, the king had largely managed to steer clear of the scandal until this week.



Britain's Prince Andrew, left, and Britain's King Charles III leave after the Requiem Mass service for the Duchess of Kent at Westminster Cathedral in London on Sept 16. (AP)

‘Russia 170,000 troops in Donetsk’

Ukraine hits key fuel pipeline near Moscow

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 1, (AP): Ukrainian forces hit an important fuel pipeline in the Moscow region that supplies the Russian army, Ukraine’s military intelligence said Saturday, a claim that came amid a sustained Russian campaign of massive drone and missile attacks on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure.

The operation was carried out late Friday, according to a statement on the Telegram messaging channel. The agency, which is known by its acronym HUR, described it as a “serious blow” to Russia’s military logistics.

HUR said its forces struck the Koltsevoy pipeline, which spans 400 kilometers (250 miles) and supplies the Russian army with gasoline, diesel and jet fuel from refineries in Ryazan, Nizhny Novgorod and Moscow.

The operation, which targeted infrastructure near Ramensky district, destroyed all three fuel lines, HUR said.

The pipeline was capable of transporting up to 3 million tons of jet fuel, 2.8 million tons of diesel and 1.6 million tons of gasoline annually, HUR said.

Meanwhile, Russia’s defense ministry on Saturday claimed its forces defeated a team of Ukrainian special forces that were rushed to the eastern front-line hotspot of Pokrovsk in a bid to stop Russian troops from pushing further into the city.

Russia and Ukraine have presented conflicting accounts of what is happening in Pokrovsk, a key Ukrainian stronghold in the eastern Donetsk region. Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed last week that his forces had encircled the city’s Ukrainian defenders.

But Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last week that Russia had deployed around 170,000 troops in Ukraine’s eastern Donetsk region, where Pokrovsk lies, in a major push to capture the city and claim a major battlefield victory.



In this image made from video provided by the Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Oct 31, 2025, a Russian ‘Grad’ self-propelled 122 mm multiple rocket launcher fires towards Ukrainian positions on an undisclosed location in Ukraine. (AP)

Serbia marks anniversary of deadly train station disaster with large demonstration

NOVI SAD, Serbia, Nov 1, (AP): Tens of thousands of people from all over Serbia gathered on Saturday in the northern town of Novi Sad to commemorate the victims of a railway station disaster a year ago. The rally was also a massive display of boiling discontent with the government of autocratic President Aleksandar Vucic.

The collapse of a concrete canopy at the Novi Sad train station last Nov. 1 killed 16 people. The tragedy triggered youth-led street protests and a nationwide movement demanding political changes that have seriously shaken Vucic’s tight hold on power.

The protesters believe that the concrete construction at the renovated station building in Novi Sad collapsed because rampant corruption and nepotism in state infrastructure projects with China led to fatal disregard of safety rules.



People fill the streets near the train station before observing 16 minutes of silence for the victims on the first anniversary of the disaster that killed 16 people, in Novi Sad, Serbia on Nov 1. (AP)

President Xi, PM Carney try to rebuild China-Canada relations

GYEONGJU, South Korea, Nov 1, (AP): The leaders of China and Canada took a step toward mending the long-fractured ties between their countries on Friday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, meeting in South Korea during an Asia-Pacific summit, called for improving ties in a pragmatic and constructive manner, according to both sides.

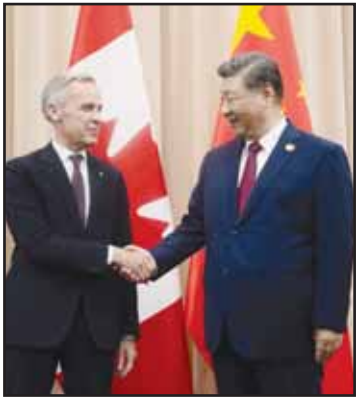
“The leaders agreed that their meeting marked a turning point in the bilateral relationship,” a Canadian statement said.

Xi was quoted as saying that relations are showing signs of recovery, thanks to the joint efforts of both sides.

“We are willing to work together with Canada to take this meeting as an opportunity to promote the return of bilateral relations to a healthy, stable and sustainable track as soon as possible,” Xi said, according to an official report distributed by China’s state media.

Carney, who became prime minister in March, accepted an invitation from Xi to visit China, the Canadian statement said, without specifying any date.

Carney also later told reporters he was “very pleased” with the outcome.



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, left, shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the start of a meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea on Oct 31. (AP)

“We now have a turning point in the relationship, a turning point that creates opportunities for Canadian families, for Canadian businesses and Canadian workers, and also creates a path to address current issues,” he said.

Relations took a nosedive in late 2018 after Canadian authorities arrested a senior executive of Chinese tech giant Huawei as a part of its extradition agreement with the United States. China then arrested two Canadian citizens and charged them with espionage.

Sing meets Hegseth, signs 10-year defense framework

US vows to ‘stoutly defend’ Indo-Pacific interests in talks with China

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Nov 1, (AP): The US secretary of defense said Friday he told his Chinese counterpart during talks in Malaysia that Washington would “stoutly defend” its interests in the Indo-Pacific. He also signed a new agreement aimed at strengthening security ties with India.

Pete Hegseth described as “good and constructive” his meeting with Chinese Admiral Dong Jun, held on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations defense ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur. He said he raised US concerns over Chinese activities in the South China Sea, around Taiwan and toward US allies and partners in the region.

“I highlighted the importance of maintaining a balance of power in the Indo-Pacific,” Hegseth wrote on social media platform X. “United States does not seek conflict (but) it will continue to stoutly defend its interests and ensure it has the capabilities in the region to do so.”

China’s defense ministry issued a cautious response, emphasizing its longstanding positions. Dong Jun stressed the reunification of China and Taiwan is an “unstoppable historical trend” and urged the US to be cautious in its words and actions on the Taiwan issue, the statement said.

“We hope the US will translate its



From left: Brunei’s Defense Minister Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Cambodia’s Defense Minister Tea Seiha, Indonesia’s Defense Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin, Laos’ Defense Minister Khamlieng Outhakaisone, Myanmar’s Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Aung Kyaw Moe, Malaysia’s Defense Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Philippine’s Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, Singapore’s Defense Minister Chan Chun Sing, Thailand’s Defense Minister Natthaphon Narkphanit, East Timor’s Defense Minister Donaciano da Costa Gomes, Vietnam’s Defense Minister Phan Van Giang, and ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn hold hands as they pose for a group photo during the opening session of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defense Ministers’ Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Oct 31. (AP)

statements of not containing China and not seeking conflict into action, and work with China to inject positive energy into regional and global peace and

security,” according to the statement. Their meeting follows a Sept 9 video call between Hegseth and Dong and reflects ongoing efforts to manage

tensions in the Indo-Pacific even as strategic differences, particularly over Taiwan and freedom of navigation, remain pronounced.

Hegseth also met with India’s Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, and they signed a 10-year defense framework aimed at expanding military and technological cooperation.

Washington has long sought to develop a deeper partnership with New Delhi, which is seen as a bulwark against China. India is a major defense partner of the U.S and has in recent years embedded advanced American jets, helicopters, missiles and military gear into its armed forces.

“This advances our defense partnership, a cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence,” Hegseth wrote on X. “Our defense ties have never been stronger.”

Singh said the US-India partnership is crucial for ensuring a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. “It is a signal of our growing strategic convergence and will herald a new decade of partnership,” he said on X.

The framework agreement comes amid renewed strains in bilateral ties after President Donald Trump imposed a 50% import tariff on Indian goods in August and criticized New Delhi for continued purchase of discounted Russian oil. India is the second biggest buyer of Russian oil after China.

‘7,500 refugees to be admitted to US’

S.Africa slams Trump’s refugee policy

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 1, (AP): South Africa’s government on Friday criticized the US refugee policy shift that gives priority to Afrikaners, the country’s white minority group of Dutch descent.

The Trump administration on Thursday announced a ceiling of 7,500 refugees to be admitted to the United States, a sharp decrease from the previous 125,000 spots and said Afrikaners would be given preference over other groups.

US President Donald Trump has claimed that there is a “genocide” against Afrikaners in South Africa and that they are facing persecution and discrimination because of the country’s redress policies and the levels of crime in the country.

It’s one of the contentious issues that has seen diplomatic relations between South Africa and US hit an all-time low, with Trump suspending all financial aid to South Africa and setting one of the highest tariffs for the country’s exports to the US.

The South African government’s international relations department said Friday that the latest move was concerning as it “still appears to rest on a premise that is factually inaccurate.”

“The claim of a ‘white genocide’ in South Africa is widely discredited and unsupported by reliable evidence,” spokesman Chrispin Phiri said.



Afrikaner refugees from South Africa arrive on May 12, 2025, at Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Va. (AP)

Phiri said that a program designed to facilitate the immigration and resettlement of Afrikaners as refugees was deeply flawed and disregarded the country’s constitutional processes.

“The limited uptake of this offer by South Africans is a telling indicator of this reality,” Phiri said.

The U.S. notice, which signifies a huge policy shift toward refugees, mentioned only Afrikaners as a specific group and said the admission of the 7,500 refugees during the 2026 budget year “justified by

humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest.”

Trump’s asylum offer for Afrikaners has sparked divisive debate in South Africa, but has been largely rejected even by many in the Afrikaner community.

This week, a group of prominent Afrikaners including politicians, activists, writers and businesspeople penned an open letter rejecting the notion that Afrikaners needed to emigrate from South Africa.

UN human rights chief says US strikes on alleged drug boats ‘unacceptable’, must stop

GENEVA, Nov 1, (AP): The UN human rights chief said Friday that US military strikes against boats in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean allegedly carrying illegal drugs from South America are “unacceptable” and must stop.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, called for an investigation into the strikes, in what appeared to mark the first such condemnation of its kind from a United Nations organization.

Ravina Shamdasani, a spokeswoman for Türk’s office, relayed his message Friday at a regular UN briefing: “These attacks and their mounting human cost are unacceptable. The U.S. must halt such attacks and take all measures necessary to prevent the extrajudicial killing of people aboard these boats.”

She said Türk believed “airstrikes by the United States of America on boats in the Caribbean and in the Pacific violate international human rights law.”

President Donald Trump has justified the attacks on the boats as a necessary escalation to stem the flow of drugs into the United States, but the campaign against drug cartels has been divisive among countries in the region.

The strikes and the U.S. military’s growing presence near Venezuela have stoked fears that the Trump adminis-



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk addresses attendees on the activities of his Office and recent human rights developments around the globe, during the 60th session of the Human Rights Council, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on Sept 8. (AP)

tration could try to topple Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, who faces charges of narcoterrorism in the United States.

Asked Friday if he’s considering land strikes in Venezuela, Trump said, “No.” He did not elaborate as he spoke to reporters aboard Air Force One as he heads to Florida for the weekend.

Speaking earlier this week from

the USS George Washington aircraft carrier in Japan, Trump noted the US attacks at sea and reiterated that “now we’ll stop the drugs coming in by land.”

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday announced the latest US military strike in the campaign, against a boat he said was carrying drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean.



This photo released by The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), shows displaced families from el-Fasher at a displacement camp where they sought refuge from fighting between government forces and the RSF, in Tawila, Darfur region, Sudan on Oct 31. (AP)

Top diplomats from Germany, Jordan and UK call for immediate ceasefire in Sudan war

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Nov 1, (AP): The foreign ministers of Germany, Jordan and the United Kingdom jointly called on Saturday for an immediate ceasefire in the war in Sudan, describing the situation there in stark, apocalyptic terms after a paramilitary force seized the last major city in the East African nation’s Darfur region.

United Nations officials have warned that fighters with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have rampaged through the Darfur city of el-Fasher, reportedly killing more than 450 people in a hospital and

carrying out ethnically targeted killings of civilians and sexual assaults. While the RSF have denied killing people at the hospital, those who have escaped el-Fasher, satellite images and videos circulating social media provide glimpses of what appears to be mass slaughter taking place in the city.

At the Manama Dialogue security summit in Bahrain, British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper on Saturday spoke in grim words about events in el-Fasher, where a paramilitary force known as the Rapid Support Forces has seized the city.

“Just as a combination of leadership and international cooperation has made progress in Gaza, it is currently badly failing to deal with the humanitarian crisis and the devastating conflict in Sudan, because the reports from Darfur in recent days have truly horrifying atrocities,” Cooper said.

“Mass executions, starvation and the devastating use of rape as a weapon of war, with women and children bearing the brunt of the largest humanitarian crisis in the 21st century. For too long, this terrible conflict has been neglected, while suffering has simply increased.”

Lat/Am

Protesters call for Rio gov resignation: Hundreds of protesters on Friday marched through one of the favelas targeted in Rio de Janeiro’s most lethal police raid that left more than 100 dead, calling for Rio state Gov. Cláudio Castro to resign amid continued outrage over the deadly operation.

Locals, politicians, activists, grieving mothers who lost their sons in prior operations and people from other Rio neighborhoods gathered to voice their fury in Vila Cruzeiro, part of the Penha complex of favelas, where days prior residents laid out scores of bodies they had collected from a nearby green area following the raid. (AP)

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UK extends funding to Caribbean: UK government is mobilising a £5 million (USD 6.5 million) in emergency funding on top of £2.5 million (USD 3.2 million) announced earlier this week, to support the Caribbean regions recovery from the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa.

“More information is now coming through on the scale of devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, with homes damaged, roads blocked and lives lost,” Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper said in a recent statement.

“That is why the UK Government is now increasing our funding for humanitarian support to ensure we can get shelter kits, solar lamps and sanitation products to those who need it most,” she said. (KUNA)



A line of cargo trucks bound for Pakistan is stranded on the Afghan side of the Torkham border crossing, which remained closed after clashes, in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan on Oct 14. (AP)

Pakistan partially reopens Torkham border crossing

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Nov 1, (AP): Pakistan on Saturday partially reopened the Torkham border crossing with Afghanistan to allow thousands of stranded Afghan refugees to return home, officials said.

Restrictions remain on all other cross-border movement, including trade.

Pakistan closed all border crossings with Afghanistan on Oct. 12 following deadly clashes in which both sides claimed to have killed dozens of troops.

Kids taken hostage in Mumbai

India temple stampede kills at least 9

NEW DELHI, Nov 1, (Agencies): A crowd surge at a popular temple in southern India left at least nine people dead and dozens injured, local authorities said Saturday.

The incident occurred at the Swamy Venkateswara Temple in the Sri-kakulam district of Andhra Pradesh state where hundreds of devotees had gathered to mark “Ekadashi,” senior police officer K. V. Maheswra Reddy told the Associated Press.

An initial investigation suggests that an iron grille meant to maintain the queue of worshippers at the temple broke, leading to the uncontrolled crowd surge, Reddy said.

Senior local government official Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar said more casualties were feared. “Initially, we had reports of seven deaths, but two more people have succumbed to their injuries while the condition of two others is critical,” he said.

Also:
NEW DELHI: Over 15 children aged between 11 and 15 years were taken hostage by a man at a studio in India’s financial capital Mumbai, confirmed a local police over the phone.



Relatives stand outside a hospital as the injured from a temple stampede were brought, in Haridwar, India on July 27. (AP)

The hostage drama continued for several hours before the local police arrived to successfully rescue all the children and nab the culprit. The incident occurred at the R.D. Studio in Mumbai’s Pawai area, said the police. Around 100 children had gone to

the studio for an audition. Suddenly, a worker of the studio, identified as **Rohit Arya**, held around 15-20 children hostage. The children’s parents were present outside the studio. On learning about the hostage incident, the parents called the police.

‘Rare landslide victory’

Tanzania’s Hassan wins election

DODOMA, Tanzania, Nov 1, (AP): Tanzanian President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** won the country’s disputed election with more than 97% of the vote, according to official results announced early Saturday, in a rare landslide victory in the region.

The result is likely to amplify the concerns of critics, opposition groups and others who said the election in Tanzania was not a contest but a coronation after Hassan’s two main rivals were barred or prevented from running. She faced 16 candidates from smaller parties.

The Oct 29 election was marred by violence as demonstrators took to the streets of major cities to protest the vote and stop the counting of votes.

The military has been deployed to help police quell riots. Internet connectivity has been on and off in the East African nation, disrupting travel and other activities.

The protests have spread across Tanzania, and the government has postponed the reopening of universities, which had been set for Nov 3.

There was a tense calm in the streets of Dar es Salaam, the commercial capital, on Saturday. Security forces manning roadblocks asked to see the identity cards of those who went out.



Hassan

Kuwait oil surges to \$68.08 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti crude oil rose by 51 cents to USD 68.08 per barrel on Friday from USD 67.57 pb a day earlier, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

(KPC) on Saturday. The prices of Brent crude globally went up by seven cents to USD 65.07 and West Texas Intermediate rose by 41 cents to USD 60.98 pb.

Business

Gulf Bank holds its third quarter 2025 Earnings Webcast

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Gulf Bank held its third quarter 2025 earnings webcast on Wednesday 29th October 2025, to present and discuss the Bank's financial performance. The webcast was organized by EFG Hermes and presented by **Sami Mahfouz**, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Bank, and **Mr. David Challinor**, Chief Financial Officer of Gulf Bank. The discussion was moderated by **Ms. Dalal AIDousari**, Head of Investor Relations at Gulf Bank.

Operating Environment

Mr. Sami Mahfouz, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Bank, commenced the webcast with key updates regarding Gulf Bank's operating environment during the third quarter of 2024. Mahfouz stated: "Gulf Bank's performance over the first nine months of the year demonstrates continued progress in strengthening the Bank's financial position. This was driven by steady loan growth, stable asset quality, and a robust capital base. These results reflect the resilience of our business model, the strength of our franchise, and the prudence of our credit risk management."

Mr. Mahfouz added "The broader operating environment in Kuwait is gradually becoming more favorable. The Central Bank of Kuwait's recent decision to lower the discount rate to 3.75%, in line with the Federal Reserve's recent 25-basis-point interest rate cut, is expected to foster a more supportive climate for credit expansion and stimulate business activity."

Furthermore, Kuwait's successful return to debt markets both locally with regular issuances and globally with an issuance of a US \$11.25 billion sovereign bond which has been met with a very strong investor demand and priced at one of the lowest spreads re-



Sami Mahfouz



David Challinor



Dalal AIDousari

Sami Mahfouz:

- Gulf Bank's results over the first nine months of the year reflect the resilience of our business model, the strength of our franchise, and the prudence of our credit risk management.
- Gulf Bank continues to advance its strategic transformation toward becoming a fully Sharia-compliant institution.

David Challinor:

- The NPL ratio remains very low at 1.4%, and we continue to have significant total coverage including collaterals of 324%.
- There was a strong performance in fee income, which is a strategic area for the Bank.

corded for an emerging market sovereign issuance."

He added: "Gulf Bank continues to advance its strategic transformation toward becoming a fully Sharia-compliant institution. Following the most recent Central Bank of Kuwait's preliminary approval to begin Sharia compliant conversion activity. The Bank has established dedicated governance structures and cross-functional teams to manage the conversion process across all operational, legal, and product-related areas. At the same time, the Bank continues to evaluate the potential merger with Warba Bank. Independent financial and legal advisors have been appointed to conduct a comprehensive as-

essment under the supervision of the Board of Directors and the relevant regulatory authorities. Any future developments will be communicated in accordance with disclosure requirements."

Asset Yields

In terms of the shift from CBK bonds to Kuwait government bonds and its effect on asset yields Mr. Mahfouz mentioned: "We are seeing a migration in issuances from the CBK to the Kuwait government and the government takes back this task. As far as the effect on asset yield, it's very marginal because the issuances are small in nature and as I said it's a migration, so it's not an additional sup-

ply to have an impact on asset yield so far. This may change in the future but so far it's a pure migration."

Asset Quality

During the financial commentary on the Bank's asset quality for the third quarter of 2025 Mr. David Challinor, Chief Financial Officer of Gulf Bank stated: "Year to date credit costs were down 22% versus last year. And this continues to reflect the excellent asset quality of our loan book and compares very favorably both historically and to other banks in the system. Overall, the NPL percentage remains very low at 1.4% which was the same as H1, and broadly similar to the

levels this time last year. And we continue to have significant total coverage including collaterals of 324%."

Margins

In response to questions raised regarding the net interest margins and the trend during Q3, Mr. Challinor remarked: "In Q3, we saw the overall net interest margin fall from Q2 by 9 basis points although we still remain 5 points above Q1 levels. Now, the income yields were flat from Q2 to Q3, so the margin compression in the quarter was entirely driven by the cost of fund increase. As we know, we had a 25-point rate cut in both KD and USD in mid-September but the impact in Q3 on both income yields, and cost of funds was negligible. But we'll see larger impacts flow through the full quarter in Q4."

Loan Growth

In regard to loan growth, Mr. Challinor noted: "Our loan book was basically flat for Q3, with both the corporate and retail books being around the same levels as at H1. But in total we have a 4% growth year to date. Now, in terms of corporate, we do have a significant pipeline in this space and would expect Q4 to be a strong quarter in terms of corporate loan growth."

And even though we had a flat quarter in terms of corporate loan growth there was a strong performance in fee income, which is a strategic focus area for the bank. When we look at retail, even though Q3 was flat it was a relative turnaround from the prior quarters where we saw degrowth. Looking ahead, we gave guidance at the beginning of the year that full year loan growth would be around mid-single digit, but we could expect to exceed this if the strong corporate pipeline converts."

Earnings per share surge from 71.85 fils to 114.82 fils during the first nine months of the year

Boursa Kuwait net profit climbs 59.81% to KD 23.05 million

KUWAIT CITY, Nov, 1: During a meeting of its Board of Directors on Thursday, October 30, 2025, Boursa Kuwait announced that it has achieved strong consolidated financial results for the period ended September 30, 2025 as the company recorded a net profit of KD 23.05 million for the first nine months of the year, marking a notable increase of 59.81% compared to the KD 14.43 million reported for the same period in 2024.

Operating Performance and Key Growth Indicators

Boursa Kuwait's results reflect the strength of the Group's operational performance, as the company recorded substantial growth across its key performance indicators:

■ **Operating Revenues:** Operating revenues reached KD 37.06 million, representing an increase of 41.45% compared to KD 26.20 million recorded during the same period in 2024.

■ **Operating Profit:** Operating profit grew by 58.16%, reaching KD 28.36 million compared to KD 17.93 million in the corresponding period of 2024.

■ **Earnings Per Share (EPS):** Earnings per share witnessed a significant jump, rising from 71.85 fils in the first nine months of 2024 to 114.82 fils per share for the period ended September 30, 2025 – mirroring the 59.81% growth in net profit.

Strong Financial Position and Balance Sheet Growth

The Group's balance sheet continued to strengthen, reflecting the sustained growth in both assets and shareholders' equity:

■ **Total Assets:** The Group's total assets stood at KD 132.96 million as of September 30, 2025, representing an increase of 11.74% compared to KD 118.99 million in 2024.

■ **Shareholders' Equity:** Total equity attributable to shareholders of the parent company rose to KD 74.14 million as of September 30, 2025, up 16.21% from KD 63.80 million a year earlier, underscoring the Group's solid financial standing and continued balance sheet resilience.

Chairman of the Board: Strategic Direction and Strong Performance

Commenting on Boursa Kuwait's financial results for the third quarter of 2025, Chairman **Mr. Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi** said, "Our financial results for the first nine months of 2025 reflect the company's solid performance and the effectiveness of its operating model. Boursa Kuwait achieved remarkable growth in net profit, driven by higher revenues and operating income, a strong performance that comes despite the ongoing geopolitical and economic tensions that continue to weigh on capital markets across the globe."

Al-Kharafi stated that these indicators reinforce Boursa Kuwait's capacity to deliver sustainable value to its shareholders in line with its ambitious strategy to enhance its role as a key driver of the growth and development of Kuwait's capital market, adding that the rise in earnings per share highlights Boursa Kuwait's dedication to its shareholders and its role in boosting confidence in the local market.

Driving Transformation and Supporting the National Vision

"Boursa Kuwait continues to play

a pivotal role in the transformation of Kuwait's capital market and the development of an integrated financial ecosystem," emphasized Al-Kharafi. "By continuously advancing market infrastructure, enhancing efficiency and transparency, and aligning with international best practices, the company aims to foster an attractive investment environment that reinforces Kuwait's position as a leading regional financial hub and supports sustainable growth in line with the nation's development goals."

He added that the company's efforts highlight the vital role of the private sector as a strategic partner in driving innovation and market depth through close collaboration with regulatory authorities, enhancing competitiveness and supporting the inflow of global capital.

Commitment and Appreciation

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our valued shareholders, executive management and all Boursa Kuwait employees for their dedication and exceptional efforts. I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Capital Markets Authority and Kuwait Clearing Company for their constructive support, which has played a key role in enhancing market efficiency," said Al-Kharafi.

"We view the trust placed in us by all market participants as a shared responsibility that motivates us to continuously strengthen market efficiency and transparency and advance the diversification of products and investment tools. This commitment reflects our central role in supporting Kuwait's national vision and the State's broader development agenda," he added.

Historic Growth in Operating Performance

The Kuwaiti capital market sustained its positive momentum throughout the first nine months of 2025, supported by notable improvements across key performance indicators. Total traded value increased by 89.73%, rising from KD10.20 billion in the third quarter of 2024 to KD 19.35 billion for the period ended September 30, 2025, while traded volume grew by 92.17% to reach 84.23 billion shares during the corresponding period last year.

Average daily traded value (ADTV) also rose by 91.82%, reaching KD 106.91 million compared to KD 55.74 million in the same period of 2024, while total market capitalization stood at KD 52.61 billion, reflecting an increase of 24.67% from KD 42.20 billion in the first nine months of 2024.

As such, market velocity, which measures traded value related to total market capitalization, for the Kuwaiti capital market continued an upward trajectory, exceeding 45% and outpacing its peers across the GCC. The All-Share Index also reported the highest growth compared to other regional indexes, with a performance of 19.47% in the nine months ended September 30, 2025.

The "Premier" Market maintained its position as the cornerstone of trading activity at Boursa Kuwait, recording a strong 49.82% increase in traded value from KD 7.32 billion to KD1.96 billion. The market also



Chairman Bader Al-Kharafi



CEO Mohammad Al-Osaimi

Al-Kharafi:

- "Boursa Kuwait continues to play a leading role in transforming Kuwait's capital market and contributing to the development of an integrated financial ecosystem, strengthening the country's position as a leading regional financial hub and driving sustainable growth in support of national development."

Al-Osaimi:

- "The strong momentum and remarkable performance of Kuwait's capital market reflect the tangible impact of the operational and regulatory reforms and enhancements implemented by Boursa Kuwait and the broader market apparatus."



saw traded volume rise by 44.61% to 31.38 billion shares, compared to

21.70 billion shares in the same period last year, while market capitali-

zation grew by 24.37% to reach KD 43.16 billion, reinforcing its standing as a preferred investment destination for local and international investors.

The "Main" Market achieved exceptional growth in a particularly strong performance, underscoring its key role in expanding the investor base and enhancing liquidity. Traded value surged by 191.32%, climbing from KD 2.88 billion to KD 8.38 billion for the period ended September 30, 2025. This was accompanied by a 136.38% rise in traded volume to 52.21 billion shares, while market capitalization increased by 26.04% to KD 9.45 billion, reflecting the "Main" Market's growing attractiveness and its central role in Boursa Kuwait's broader market-deepening strategy.

Chief Executive Officer: Strength of Regulatory and Operational Frameworks

"The positive momentum and exceptional results of the Kuwaiti capital market for the period ended September 30, 2025, are a direct reflection of the tangible impact of the operational and regulatory reforms implemented by Boursa Kuwait and the broader market apparatus," said Boursa Kuwait CEO **Mr. Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi**. "The performance reaffirms the strength of the company's regulatory and operational frameworks and demonstrates the success of Boursa Kuwait and the market apparatus in developing the underlying infrastructure to enhance trading efficiency and improve the overall investor experience."

Market Development Program 3.2: A Strategic Turning Point

The launch of the second phase of Part Three of the Market Development Program (MD 3.2) in July marked a strategic milestone for Kuwait's capital market and reflected the collective efforts of Boursa Kuwait, the capital market apparatus and the Central Bank of Kuwait to enhance and modernize market infrastructure.

The program's key initiatives included the implementation of the Central Counterparty (CCP) clearing system to mitigate risk and enhance clearing and settlement processes in line with international standards, the upgrade of brokers to "Qualified Broker" status and the introduction of sub-accounts to promote greater transparency.

Technical infrastructure upgrades were completed to ensure full readiness for the listing and trading of Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) and fixed-income instruments such as bonds and sukuk, diversifying investment tools and strengthening market depth.

"The launch of MD 3.2 represents a pivotal development in strengthening the depth and resilience of Kuwait's capital market. The market apparatus has successfully established advanced frameworks that ensure full readiness to introduce a comprehensive suite of new products and instruments, further enhancing the market's infrastructure and creating an efficient investment environment. This achievement also stands as a model for advancing the country's development objectives," said Al-Osaimi.

Flexibility and Amendments to Main Market Listing Rules

Boursa Kuwait has amended its rulebook to ease listing require-

ments for the "Main" Market, decreasing the minimum fair value of freely traded shares not owned by the controlling shareholder group from KD 15 million to KD5 million, while maintaining the requirement that free-float shares must represent at least 20% of total capital.

These amendments aim to encourage more companies, and family-owned businesses in particular, to list, providing greater flexibility that allows them to retain control while accessing the capital market. This initiative will further diversify the listed company base, stimulate new listings and enhance overall market liquidity.

Strengthening Partnerships and Upholding Commitment

At the conclusion of his remarks, Al-Osaimi expressed his sincere appreciation to the Capital Markets Authority, Kuwait Clearing Company, and all market participants for their continued trust and support, reaffirming Boursa Kuwait's commitment to expanding its range of products and services, enhancing market efficiency and accessibility and upholding the highest standards of governance and transparency to strengthen investor confidence and attract greater investment to Kuwait's capital market.

Boursa Kuwait's strong financial and operational performance in 2025 is testament to its leadership in developing the Kuwaiti capital market. Guided by a clear strategic vision rooted in transparency, governance, and innovation, the company has built a reliable and efficient trading ecosystem supported by advanced infrastructure and a liquid, resilient, and growth-oriented financial market since replacing the former Kuwait Stock Exchange and assuming responsibility for the operation and management of the market in 2016. These efforts form part of a comprehensive series of reforms and modernization initiatives that have strengthened Kuwait's regional and international competitiveness.

The privatization of Boursa Kuwait in 2019 marked a defining milestone in the company's history, as it became the first government entity in the country to be fully privatized, leading to higher levels of efficiency and corporate governance. This was followed by the company's self-listing in 2020, a move that underscored its commitment to transparency and further reinforced investor trust.

As part of its ongoing development strategy, Boursa Kuwait has launched a series of initiatives to enhance market infrastructure and diversify investment tools, working closely with the capital market apparatus to reclassify the Kuwaiti capital market as an Emerging Market in the world's leading index providers. The company has also continued to collaborate with regulatory and supervisory authorities to advance the next phases of the Market Development Program.

The company continues to support listed companies and strengthen their access to global investors through its series of roadshows and corporate days in major investment capitals, positioning the exchange as a dynamic, attractive and sustainable investment platform and supporting Kuwait's national vision and development agenda.

Attended by 31 graduates and a group of distinguished bank leaders

NBK celebrates graduation of 2025 Moody’s Advanced Credit Program trainees



NBK celebrates the graduation of a new batch of trainees from Moody’s Advanced Credit Certification Program.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: National Bank of Kuwait celebrated the graduation of a new batch of trainees from Moody’s Advanced Credit Certification Program for the year 2025. Organized by the bank in collaboration with Moody’s Credit Rating Agency, this program aims to enhance the bank employees’ skills and elevate the quality of its human capital.

The graduation ceremony was held at NBK headquarters, attended by Mr. Salah Al-Fulaij, Chief Executive Officer of NBK– Kuwait, Mr. Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Deputy CEO, NBK-Kuwait, Mr. Mohammed Al-Othman, Chief Executive Officer of Consumer & Digital Banking Group at NBK, Mr. Zaid Al-Sager, Deputy CEO – International Banking Group at NBK, Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer at NBK, Mr. Ahmed Bourisly, CEO – Corporate and Transactional Banking Group, and a group of distinguished bank leaders, who commended the graduates’ efforts and dedication in completing this program, which is the third and final edition of the three certification levels offered by the bank.

The program was delivered to two separate groups of employees representing vital sectors within the bank, including corporate banking and transactions, personal banking, international banking, foreign companies, and risk management.

Moreover, the participants received training covering a comprehensive range of

specialized topics, including syndicated loans, advanced credit, advanced financial statement analysis, liquidity risk assessment, and corporate debt restructuring, ensuring that graduates are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet contemporary banking challenges.

On this occasion, Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer at the National Bank of Kuwait, commented: “We are extremely proud of the graduation of this distinguished batch of trainees from the Moody’s Advanced Credit Certification Program, which is an embodiment of our philosophy that believes in the importance of investing in human capital and preparing competent future leaders who are equipped with a strategic vision, innovation, and the highest international qualifications”.

Al-Ablani added: “At NBK, we don’t simply provide training programs; we build sustainable career paths and instill a culture of practical empowerment. This program is part and parcel of our comprehensive strategy to develop and enhance the capabilities of our employees across all Group levels, ensuring they keep pace with the latest developments and trends in the banking sector”.

He continued: “We firmly believe that investing in our employees is the cornerstone of achieving sustainable growth and enhancing the bank’s leadership. Therefore, we are committed to providing the best training and development programs

in collaboration with prestigious global institutions”.

Furthermore, Al-Ablani pointed out that the Moody’s Advanced Credit Certification Program is designed to provide participants with in-depth knowledge and practical skills in vital areas, enhancing their ability to make enlightened financial decisions. He also emphasized that the graduates’ dedication to completing this advanced program reflects their passion for learning and development, and that NBK is confident that they will effectively contribute to supporting its future aspirations and enhancing its market leadership.

Through these training initiatives, Al-Ablani highlighted, NBK confirms its commitment to building qualified national banking professionals capable of spearheading the future of the financial sector in Kuwait and the region, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

It is worth noting that NBK’s training partnership with Moody’s reflects its plan to lay a strong foundation for the professional development of its employees across the Group. This partnership, in collaboration with the world’s most prestigious universities and educational institutions, contributes to qualifying banking leaders and aiding them with sufficient experience, in addition to training them to face the various challenges of banking.



Khalid AlRukhayes speaking during the panel discussion.

AlRukhayes: KFH drives financial sustainability

Kuwait Finance House participates in the 2025 Kuwait Capital Market Conference

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the 2025 Kuwait Capital Market Conference, organized by the Gulf Capital Market Association (GCMA) at the Four Seasons Hotel, Kuwait. The event brought together a wide range of financial institutions, investment firms, financial markets specialists and executives from both the private and public sectors.

Through its participation, KFH aimed to exchange its well-rooted expertise in the capital markets, while shedding light on the Bank’s growth and success, in addition to its contribution to developing the capital markets by innovating various financial offerings. The Bank also showcased its pioneering role in the financial sector in the region as a major banking entity and a reference in Islamic banking.

During a panel discussion titled “Achieving Objectives through the Debt Capital Market”, Deputy General Manager Global Markets Trading and Investments at KFH, Khalid AlRukhayes, highlighted the key achievements of Sukuk issuance in Kuwait and the region. He stressed the significance of Sukuk market as a sustainable financing instrument, indicating that KFH attaches importance to this vital market, driven by increasing investor demand and its vital role in supporting corporate growth and expansion plans.

He also discussed the innovative structures in issuing Sukuk, contributing to diversifying financing sources, at-

tracting investment flows and enhancing the efficiency of capital markets in Kuwait and the region.

AlRukhayes affirmed that KFH enjoys strong competitive advantages, including market share, the volume of its transactions, advisory capabilities, effective structuring expertise, innovative pricing approaches, post-issuance market performance, and the institution’s distinguished market reputation.

He further emphasized the importance of continuous communication with investors and customers, sharing issuance plans in a manner that promotes transparency and broadens available investment options.

AlRukhayes explained that KFH’s participation aligns with its leading role in supporting initiatives that enhance the efficiency and sustainability of the financial sector in Kuwait and the GCC and contribute to the growth and integration of capital markets in support of the region’s comprehensive development.

It serves to note that the 2025 Kuwait Capital Market Conference is a premier platform designed to explore the evolving landscape of capital markets. With a focus on debt and equity markets, leading experts provide insights into the adoption of global best practices and strategies. It acts as a key center for collaboration among influential stakeholders in Kuwait’s financial market.

Reinforcing Kuwait’s financial growth and innovation

Markaz sponsors and participates in the 2025 Kuwait Capital Market Conference

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” concluded its sponsorship and participation in the Kuwait Capital Market Conference 2025, organized by the Gulf Capital Market Association (GCMA) and held at the Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait. The high-profile forum convened more than 150 industry leaders, policymakers, and institutional investors to explore pathways for advancing Kuwait’s capital markets in alignment with New Kuwait Vision 2035. Markaz’s sponsorship reflects its commitment to promoting growth and innovation in the financial sector and supporting the continued evolution of the capital markets ecosystems in Kuwait and the region.

The Kuwait Capital Market Conference 2025 served as a pivotal platform for dialogue on pressing market priorities, including fostering investor participation, strengthening regulatory alignment, and enhancing the competitiveness of Kuwait’s financial sector. Markaz participated in three panel discussions, represented by leading experts from the Investment Banking and MENA Real Estate Investment teams. These sessions shed light on growth opportunities and emerging challenges, while underscoring the importance of public-private collaboration in driving sustainable economic development.

Mr. Ahmed F. Al Falah, Managing Director – Investment Banking at Markaz, said during his panel titled “Kuwait’s Capital Markets: Building Out the Vision”: “Kuwait’s stock market has delivered strong performance, supported by major government-led infrastructure projects, active engagement in capital markets, and meaningful regulatory reforms. Developments such as extended trading hours and enhancements to market structure are boosting investor confidence. With a growing pipeline of listings across key sectors, Kuwait is increasingly positioning itself as a compelling destination for both regional and global capital. Family businesses and prominent



The photo from right to left: Ahmed F. Al Falah, Managing Director – Investment Banking, Rasha A. Othman, Executive Vice President – Investment Banking (Capital Markets), Milad A. Elia, Executive Vice President – MENA Real Estate.

companies in Kuwait should consider accessing the capital markets and partnering with Markaz to unlock long-term growth opportunities.”

In another session titled “Achieving Objectives Through the Debt Capital Market”, Ms. Rasha A. Othman, Executive Vice President – Investment Banking (Capital Markets) at Markaz, shared her insights, saying: “Sovereign and government-related entity issuances continue to anchor the GCC’s Debt Capital Market, driving liquidity and investor confidence across the region. Kuwait’s recent return to the market through a landmark sovereign issuance has been a pivotal development, re-establishing its presence and setting a benchmark yield curve for future issuances. The DCM plays a critical role in providing governments and corporates with diversified funding options beyond traditional bank lending, while promoting greater transparency and financial discipline. At Markaz, we remain committed to supporting issuers in accessing efficient financing solutions and

advancing the maturity of Kuwait’s and the region’s capital markets.”

In a panel titled “Enabling Future Growth by Investing in Critical Infrastructure”, Mr. Milad A. Elia, Executive Vice President – MENA Real Estate at Markaz, stated: “An emerging opportunity in social infrastructure is the shift in the approach towards the undersupply in housing in Kuwait. The government recently adopted a partnership with the private sector model to close the 100,000-housing unit gap through the developer law. This partnership does not stop at the development of housing units for sale; it also elevates the quality of housing supply by attracting quality developers who would develop well designed and serviced communities. In addition, with the expected mortgage law, banks, and investment companies have the opportunity to provide mortgage financing to home buyers and have the ability to package these mortgages into Mortgage backed securities to be offered as investment opportunities.”

Agreement supports cargo transport and employee travel via Kuwait Airways

Kuwait Airways signs cooperation protocol with LuLu Hypermarket

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen commercial partnerships and expand cooperation across multiple sectors, Kuwait Airways has announced the signing of a joint cooperation protocol with LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait. The agreement aims to enhance trade exchange, which will positively impact the local economy, and open new opportunities in various fields that serve the interests of both parties, while positively impacting their customers.



Protocol signed by Kuwait Airways Chairman and LuLu Hypermarket Director

The protocol was signed by Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Salem Al-Fagaan, and the Director of Operations at LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait, Mr. Sreejith Kolantra Sreerajan, in the presence of the Acting Chief Executive Officer at Kuwait Airways, Captain Abdulwahab Ibrahim Al-Shatti, along with several senior officials from both companies.

Under the protocol, LuLu Hypermarket will be able to transport its goods from various destinations around the world via Kuwait Airways. Additionally, Kuwait Airways will serve as a carrier for LuLu Hypermarket’s employees and customers.

The protocol aims to establish a general framework for joint cooperation to strengthen bilateral and institutional relations, that contribute to the exchange of cargo and various commercial services between the two parties, in addition to participation in campaigns, events, and various activities that serve all parties.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Al-Fagaan stated, “Kuwait Airways is pleased to sign this memorandum of understanding with LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait, one of the leading retail entities in the region. With its strong presence across all governorates of Kuwait, LuLu Hypermarket is an ideal partner for implementing joint initiatives that enrich the customer experience and enhance business cooperation.”

Al-Fagaan stated, “This protocol represents a new step in Kuwait Airways’ strategy to expand its partnerships with private sector institutions in the country, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of the national economy and supporting the

Al-Fagaan:

- LuLu Hypermarket is ideal for implementing joint initiatives that enrich and enhance mutual cooperation.

Sreerajan:

- This partnership with Kuwait Airways embodies our commitment to commercial cooperation and distinguished customer experience.

shared vision of building a diversified and sustainable economy.”

Al-Fagaan added, “This protocol consolidates the principle of effective partnerships with both public and private sector institutions, reflecting Kuwait Airways’ firm belief in the importance of integration among various entities to support the economic development process in the State of Kuwait. It also demonstrates Kuwait Airways’ commitment to establishing frameworks for joint cooperation with

various organizations, governmental and private, in ways that stimulate the national economy and support the State of Kuwait’s ambitious development plans.”

Al-Fagaan emphasized that the signing of this protocol aligns with the “New Kuwait 2035” vision, which aims to strengthen Kuwait’s position as a regional financial and commercial hub by fostering partnerships that create added value and promote sustainable development across various sectors.

Al-Fagaan concluded by stating that this represents the beginning of future joint projects aimed at enhancing the standing of both institutions, and services to their valued customers, while contributing to the development of Kuwait’s commercial and service sectors in line with future aspirations.

On his part, Mr. Sreejith Kolantra Sreerajan, Director of Operations at LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait, stated, “This partnership with Kuwait Airways embodies our commitment to business collaboration and superior experience to customers. Together, we will explore innovative solutions that provide tangible benefits to the communities we serve.”

He added, “We are pleased to partner with Kuwait Airways, the national carrier of the State of Kuwait with a long and distinguished history in aviation. This partnership paves the way for us to implement innovative initiatives that benefit our customers and support our joint efforts to deliver added value to the local market.”

Celebration of the 65th anniversary

KNPC ... 65 years of leadership and excellence



The late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad inaugurating the Clean Fuels Project.



HH the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad launching Al-Zour Refinery operations.



Minister of Oil Tareq Al-Roumi, CEO Wadha Al-Khateeb, and Deputy CEOs at KNPC's 65th anniversary celebration.

For over six decades, Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) has been instrumental in driving national development and prosperity. A few days ago, the company celebrated its 65th anniversary, marking an extraordinary journey of innovation and leadership in Oil refining, both regionally and internationally.

Established on October 5, 1960, as a public shareholding company, KNPC was jointly owned by the Kuwaiti government (60%) and the private sector (40). The Company was founded through a decree by the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, following an initiative by the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, then serving as Minister of Finance.

Historical Milestones

KNPC's inaugural decade featured several landmark achievements, including the launch of its first brand, the establishment of its Head Office in Mubarakia area – a renowned commercial and cultural landmark – and the fuel filling stations ownership transfer. The most pivotal milestone occurred in 1968 with the commissioning of Shuaiba Refinery, affectionately called “Umm Al-Khair.” Boasting a capacity of 200,000 barrels per day, the refinery became the Arabian Gulf's first fully nationally-owned and operated refinery. Remarkably, it was also the world's first refinery to employ hydrogen technology, producing superior, low-sulfur fuels – a groundbreaking innovation that positioned Kuwait at the forefront of the global refining industry.

Refining Operations and Petroleum Products

Currently, KNPC operates Mina Al-Ahmadi Refinery (346,000 bpd) and Mina Abdullah Refinery (454,000 bpd), following the closure of Shuaiba Refinery in 2017 for economic reasons.

Additionally, Al-Zour Refinery, with a capacity of 615,000 bpd, was integrated into KNPC through a sector-wide restructuring project. As the operator of the refinery, the project encompassed the integration of Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) into KNPC, bringing the Company's total refining capacity to 1.415 million bpd.

The Company produces a wide range of petroleum products, including Fuel Oil, Ethane, LPG, Naptha, Gasoline, Kerosene, Diesel, BunkerFuel, Bitumen, Petroleum Coke, and Sulfur products – demonstrating KNPC's comprehensive capabilities in meeting domestic and international energy demands.

Gas Processing

Gas processing forms an essential component of KNPC's operations. The Company owns a Liquefied Gas Plant at Mina Al-Ahmadi. Inaugurated in February 1979, the Plant currently features five production trains with a combined daily capacity of 3.125 billion standard cubic feet of Gas and 332,000 barrels of Condensate.

Fuel Filling Stations

Since its inception, KNPC has overseen the construction, operation, and maintenance of fuel filling stations across Kuwait. In 1961, the Company acquired 14 stations from Kuwait Oil Company, progressively expanding to manage all stations nationwide, reaching 119 by 2004. Following a 2005 privatization decision initiated by the Supreme Petroleum Council, some stations were transferred to Al-Oula Fuel Marketing Company and Al-Sour Fuel Marketing



The Fifth LPG Train at Mina Al-Ahmadi.



New fuel-filling stations feature modern designs and comprehensive services.



A New Logo Reflecting Core Values

In 2005, KNPC introduced a new corporate logo, replacing the original design. In September 2021, the company unveiled a revamped logo and corporate identity guide, aligning with its vision, mission, and values.

Leadership over the years

 Ahmed Al-Sayed Omar Chairman and Managing Director 1960–1971	 Mohammed Ahmad Al-Shammali Chairman and Managing Director July–December 1971	 Ahmad Abdulmohsen Al-Mutair Chairman and Managing Director 1972–1998	 Hani Abdulaziz Hussain Chairman and Managing Director 1998–2004	 Sami Fahad Al-Rushaid Chairman and Managing Director 2004–2007	 Farouk Hussain Al-Zanki Chairman and Managing Director 2007–2011
 Fahad Salem Al-Ajmi Chairman and Managing Director 2011–2013	 Asaad Ahmad Al-Saad Chairman 2013–2016	 Jamal Abdulkhaleq Al-Nouri Chairman 2016–2019	 Mohammed Ghazi Al-Mutairi CEO 2013–2019	 Waleed Khaled Al-Bader CEO 2019–2022	 Hamza Abdullah Bakhsh Chairman 2019

Company, while KNPC retained the remainder, continuing its vital role in Kuwait's fuel distribution network.

Establishment of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

Following Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) establishment in 1980 to oversee national oil operations, KNPC became a principal subsidiary.

The Company undertook oil refining across three refineries – Shuaiba, Mina Al-Ahmadi, and Mina Abdullah – alongside gas liquefaction operations, domestic fuel and lubricant distribution, and comprehensive management of fuel filling stations throughout Kuwait.

Clean Fuels Project – Global Environmental Standards

In a groundbreaking achievement marking a transformative milestone for Kuwait's refining industry, the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah inaugurated the Clean Fuels Project (CFP) on March 22, 2022. This initiative elevated KNPC's products to meet global environmental standards (Euro-4 and Euro-5), aligning with specifications in the United States, Europe, and Asia while minimizing pollutants and impurities.

Fifth LPG Train

A major recent achievement includes KNPC's Fifth LPG Train at Mina Al-Ahmadi, which boosted Kuwait's energy security and advanced sustainable growth. The facility produces 805 million standard cubic feet of gas and 106,000 barrels of condensate daily, serving domestic demand and export markets with high-quality products.

Modern Head Office Reflecting Heritage

In 2006, after decades in Mubarakia, KNPC relocated to its new Head Office in Ahmadi City, closer to operational facilities and partner companies. The environmentally sustainable building showcases contemporary architecture inspired by ocean waves, symbolizing Kuwait's maritime heritage and honoring ancestral legacy.

Al-Zour Refinery – A Landmark Achievement

On May 29, 2024, His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, officially inaugurated Al-Zour Refinery's full operations at 615,000 bpd capacity. As the largest refinery in Kuwait, it processes diverse Kuwaiti Crude types, including heavy oil, significantly strengthening the nation's global refining standing and operational capabilities.

Integration and Expansion Journey

Aligned with KPC's comprehensive restructuring initiative and 2040 strategic vision, KNPC advances its integration and expansion journey, which commenced in 2024. The integration encompasses the merger with KIPIC and ownership transfer of LPG Cylinders Filling Plants in Shuaiba and Um Al-Aish, previously managed by Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC). By August 1, 2025, the plants became under the direct responsibility of KNPC.

A New Era for a Bright Future

Today, having accomplished these significant milestones across its operations, KNPC demonstrates enhanced capability to pursue promising future opportunities. The Company strengthens its position and reputation while maintaining industry leadership through God's blessings and the dedicated, sincere efforts of its entire workforce and employees who drive continued excellence and success.

What's On

SPOTLIGHT

Got a birthday or event?



Share your story and snapshots with Arab Times!
Email your write-up and photos to
arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com
We'll feature it on our What's On page!

As part of its efforts to develop national talent and empower the next generation of leaders

KIB launches Waed Talent Program for Middle Management in collaboration with IE University

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the official launch of the Waed Talent Program for Middle Management in collaboration with Spain's IE University, one of the world's leading institutions in executive education, during a special ceremony at its headquarters. The program comes as part of the strategic partnership KIB signed with the university earlier this year. It represents a pivotal step in the Bank's efforts to nurture Kuwaiti talent and empower the next generation of leaders, underscoring its firm commitment to investing in Kuwaiti human capital and supporting the realization of the 'New Kuwait 2035' vision.



Siham AlKhorayef

The nine-month program is structured into three intensive training modules, specifically designed to align with the Bank's long-term strategic objective of investing in its human capital. Combining theory with practical application, the program equips participants with a comprehensive set of skills in self-leadership and leadership for the future, leading the organization, leading teams, and leading beyond the organization. It aims to prepare them



Group photo during the program.

for future leadership roles while enabling them to keep pace with the rapid transformations in the banking and financial sector, both locally and globally.

Commenting on the launch of the new program, Siham AlKhorayef, Senior Manager - Learning and Development

of Human Resource Department at KIB, said: "The launch of the Waed Talent Program dedicated for the development of mid-level management employees, in collaboration with IE University, marks a pivotal step toward building a new generation of qualified national leaders ready to take

on more impactful roles within the Bank and beyond. We firmly believe that investing in our people is the cornerstone of sustaining success and strengthening our long-term competitiveness."

AlKhorayef highlighted that the Waed Program reflects the Bank's ongoing commitment to investing in the future of Kuwait's banking sector, while reinforcing KIB's position as a 'Bank for Life'.

She added: "Through the development of Kuwaiti talent, KIB aims to ensure its workforce is fully equipped to meet the evolving demands of the banking industry and to contribute meaningfully to Kuwait's broader economic vision. Our objective is to build a highly skilled Kuwaiti talents that are innovative and forward-looking, capable of driving economic growth and advancing Kuwait's development."

It is worth noting that KIB remains committed to continuously providing development opportunities and fostering a culture that attracts outstanding talent in the Kuwaiti banking sector, helping to both attract and retain them. Through its KIB Life Academy, the Bank's main platform for human capital development, KIB has launched numerous programs that ensure the ongoing personal and professional growth of its employees and Kuwaiti talent alike.



Photo during the inauguration.

International Optique opens its 5th branch in Hessa Al-Mubarak District

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: As part of its expansion strategy in the Kuwaiti market, International Optique, one of the oldest and leading local companies in the optics industry, opened its fifth branch in Hessa Al-Mubarak District. The opening was attended by a number of loyal customers, representatives of local media, and prominent women and business leaders.

The founder of International Optique, optician Rolf Habig, recounted to Al-Seyassah the story of the company's founding 47 years ago, specifically in 1978. At the time, it was a landmark in the optical industry. Over the years, and with the accumulation of expertise built on scientific and precise principles in eye care services, the company grew and solidified its position as a prestigious and multicultural entity. It now boasts a team of over 70 employees from more than 10 countries worldwide, and branches throughout Kuwait, including a main branch in Salmiya at the Central Plaza Mall, as well as branches in Al-Kout, Al-Raya, and Hessa Al-Mubarak District. Additionally, there is the branch "Eye-Q" in Alassema Mall, which offers an exclusive and modern collection of eyeglasses, lenses, and accessories that align with global fashion trends and evolving tastes.

Habig added, "I am very proud of the satisfied clients we have helped over the years, and of our efforts that have contributed to the development of the eye care market in general, and at the company level in particular. Our company is distinguished by its team of highly qualified and trusted professionals who are always up-to-date

with the latest trends and innovations, and who strive to serve the people of Kuwait with the utmost care and expertise. This stems from our deep belief that eye care services should be unique, precise, and personalized."

International Optique is distinguished by being the preferred and direct partner with the most renowned international eye care providers. The company is at the forefront of bringing the latest eye care technologies from Germany, Japan, and Italy to ensure precision at every step, from accurate eye examinations to custom-fitted spectacle lenses. Furthermore, the company stands out for providing comprehensive eye care services, including examinations for prismatic correction, correction of special visual impairments with low vision aids, contact lens fittings including for Keratoconus, and optical consultations by qualified specialists.

International Optique also works with a select group of exclusive collections from leading designers and independent eyewear brands, offering styles and quality to suit all tastes and budgets. The elements of success are evident in the journey of the eyewear company, where vision, innovation, excellence and exceptional quality meet, to be the first and leading destination in Kuwait for eye care and luxury eyewear, and to gain the trust of generations of customers that extend for more than four decades.

International Optique also takes pride in being a trusted partner in the field of optometry and vision correction for the majority of specialized ophthalmologists in the State of Kuwait.

Burgan Bank concludes 2025 Breast Cancer Awareness campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Upholding its commitment to participating in the annual global movement for raising awareness about breast cancer throughout October, Burgan Bank concluded its month-long Breast Cancer Awareness campaign, under the theme 'Driven by You'. The multi-faceted campaign included several events designed to engage, inform, and empower employees as well as the Bank's community, expanding on its comprehensive social responsibility program and cementing its committed adherence to international environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards.

"As our most valued resource and pillar of our sustainable growth, our employees' and their families' health remains at the top of our priorities, and fostering a work environment that supports and encourages their overall well-being continues to be a primary driver of our institutional decision-making," commented Ms. Zahra Boarki, Senior Manager - Internal Communication at Burgan Bank. "Given the gravity of breast cancer and the heavy emotional and physical burden it puts on patients and their families, it is of the highest importance that we resume our annual contribution to the global Breast Cancer Awareness Month efforts by educating our staff and spreading awareness across our community. This year, we were proud to witness high engagement among our employees and wider community with the various aspects of the initiative, which gives us hope that we can beat breast cancer together as educated and aware women who continue to stand together and raise one another up."

For the campaign launch, Burgan Bank illuminated its Head Office building in pink, in an expression of solidarity with and support for all breast cancer fighters and survivors. The Bank also organized a workshop for its female employees hosted by Dr. Noha Al-Saleh, Consultant - General Surgery and Surgical Oncology; Dr. Anny Qaisser, Consultant - Family Medicine; and Mrs. Laila Jamal, Breast Cancer Survivor from Royale Hayat Hospital who delivered engaging presentations and discussions around healthy habits for reducing the risk of breast cancer as well as early detection, self-screening, and treatment protocols. To guarantee that awareness translated to action, Burgan Bank, in collaboration with IMAGS, encouraged employees to get

Zahra Boarki

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The workshop for Burgan Bank female employees hosted by Dr. Noha Al-Saleh, Consultant - General Surgery and Surgical Oncology; Dr. Anny Qaisser, Consultant - Family Medicine and Mrs. Laila Jamal, Breast Cancer Survivor from Royale Hayat Hospital.



The Burgan Bank team at the Breast Cancer Awareness Internal Workshop.

free screening at the mobile screening clinic conveniently stationed on-site.

Besides the open discussions and presentations, Burgan Bank and Royale Hayat Hospital launched the "Tree of Hope" initiative at the bank's headquarters, where all female staff were encouraged to share messages of hope in support of all fighters and survivors.

In line with its culture of inclusivity and equity, the Bank ensured that all staff, including female workers and cleaning staff, were invited and welcomed to attend all presentations and discussions, as well as benefit from the free screening and consultations, confirming their integral role as part of the Burgan Bank Family.

In addition, Burgan Bank offered free annual mammogram screening in collaboration with IMAGS for all fe-

male employees as well as the employee's wives through its insurance coverage, and 50% discount on screening for first and second-degree female relatives of staff members.

To expand the campaign's reach, Burgan Bank also hosted a dedicated podcast series in partnership with Kuwait Hospital, featuring Dr. Zahra Ismail, general surgery consultant; Dr. Shatha Al-Najdi, radiologist specializing in breast tumor detection; Clinical Dietitian and Exercise Specialist, Ms. Dalal Al-Nukhailan; and Mrs. Bibi Al-Bannai, breast cancer survivor and Manager - Branch Sales at Burgan Bank. The podcast interviews, moderated by Ms. Zahra Boarki, covered numerous vital topics that address everything from leading a healthy lifestyle to overcoming fear of screening, battling cancer, and supporting women

on their journeys to surviving the malicious disease.

The educational content and wellness tips were also shared across the Bank's internal and external social media platforms throughout October, alongside motivational activities designed to encourage early detection and healthier lifestyles. The Bank distributed badges and giveaways that served as reminders for prioritizing health and wellness.

As part of its commitment to prioritizing employees' health and wellbeing, and in line with its extensive CSR and ESG agenda, Burgan Bank remains committed contributor to raising awareness in Kuwait about social causes such as diseases like prostate cancer and diabetes while also promoting the importance of mental health.



The Burgan Bank podcast

Actor Kalyani unveils Kalyan Jewellers' all-new showroom

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Kalyan Jewellers, one of the most trusted and leading jewellery brands, inaugurated its brand-new showroom in Fahaeel, on Friday. The grand launch was graced by actor Kalyani Priyadarshan, who inaugurated the showroom in the presence of loyal customers and enthusiastic fans. This new addition marks a major milestone in Kalyan Jewellers' expansion strategy in the GCC region, strengthening its footprint across key markets.

The showroom, located at Kalyan Jewellers, Makkah Street, Ground Floor, Muneera Building, Fahaeel, offers patrons a luxurious shopping experience with a thoughtfully designed ambience and an extensive array of jewellery collections across gold, diamonds, uncut, platinum and precious stones. The grand inauguration witnessed a massive turnout of admirers and customers who gathered to greet the celebrity and be part of the celebration.

At the launch event, Kalyani Priyadarshan said, "It is a pleasure to be part of Kalyan Jewellers' prestigious showroom launch in Kuwait. The brand has always stood for trust, heritage and exceptional craftsmanship. I am delighted to see the overwhelming response from the people here, and I am confident that this showroom will become a preferred destination for jewellery lovers in Kuwait."



Kalyani with Team Kalyan.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director of Kalyan Jewellers, said, "We are delighted to announce our expansion in Kuwait with the launch of this new showroom in Fahaeel. This region holds immense significance for us, and the overwhelming response from patrons reinforces our commitment to providing a world-class jewellery shopping experience backed by transparency and service excellence. As we continue to grow our footprint in the GCC, we remain dedicated to offering customers unmatched designs, superior quality and maximum value."

In celebration of the showroom launch, Kalyan Jewellers has introduced exclusive offers for its patrons. Customers can enjoy making charges starting from only 5.5% onwards and benefit from a special gold coin giveaway, wherein they will receive a 2-gram gold coin free on diamond or polka jewellery purchases worth KWD 600 and above, up to 1-gram gold coin free on diamond or polka jewellery purchases between KWD 350 and KWD 599, and a 1-gram gold coin free on uncut, precious stone or platinum jewellery purchases worth KWD 600 and above. These offers are valid until 10th November 2025.

Customers enjoy flat 50% discount

LuLu Hypermarket celebrates 24th anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: LuLu Hypermarket, the leading retail chain in Kuwait, marked its 24th Anniversary with great fanfare and overwhelming participation from customers across all its branches in the country.

The celebration kicked off on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, and will continue until Tuesday, November 4, 2025, featuring exclusive discounts of flat 50% across a wide range of categories and products.

The event was officially inaugurated with a cake-cutting ceremony led by LuLu Kuwait's top management team in the presence of a large gathering of loyal customers, partners, and well-wishers. The management expressed heartfelt gratitude to all LuLu patrons for their continued support and trust over the years.

This year's anniversary celebration offers customers, 50% off on selected grocery items, including food and non-food essentials, fresh fruits and vegetables, delicatessen products, fish, meat, and health & beauty ranges. Adding to the excitement, customers can also enjoy a Big Brand Sale on footwear with discounts from 50% to 70%, a Factory Clearance Sale on garments with up to 70% off, a Special Fish Fiesta and Meat Festival featuring premium selections, and a Spin the Wheel and Win promotion offering exciting gifts from October 30 to November 1, 2025, at all LuLu outlets. Additionally, Daily Deals feature 24 special products at unbeatable prices, while Mega Anniversary Offers bring up to 70% off on electronics, IT accessories, home appliances, household items, home linen, luggage, toys, ladies' bags, eyewear, and more.



Photo during the event.

LuLu's 24th Anniversary campaign underscores the brand's commitment to delivering exceptional value, quality, and variety to its customers, reinforcing its position as Kuwait's favorite shopping destination. The management extended sincere thanks to all shoppers, well-wishers, and partners for making LuLu Hypermarket's 24-year journey a story of success and trust - and invited everyone to join the ongoing celebrations before the offers conclude on November 4, 2025.

LuLu's 24th Anniversary campaign underscores the brand's commitment to delivering exceptional value, quality, and variety to its customers, reinforcing its position as Kuwait's favorite shopping destination. The management extended sincere thanks to all shoppers, well-wishers, and partners for making LuLu Hypermarket's 24-year journey a story of success and trust - and invited everyone to join the ongoing celebrations before the offers conclude on November 4, 2025.

‘Crime of opportunity, and not a targeted art theft’

California museum’s collection looted: Over 1,000 items stolen

OAKLAND, Calif., Nov 1, (AP): Police in California are investigating the theft of more than 1,000 items from a museum’s collection including metalwork jewelry, Native American baskets and everyday items like athletic trophies that tell the story of the Golden State.

The burglary occurred in the early morning hours of Oct. 15 at an off-site storage facility of the Oakland Museum of California, Oakland Police said in a news release Wednesday.

Lori Fogarty, the museum’s director, said Thursday the investigation was going public because the artifacts might show up at flea markets, antique stores or pawn shops.

“They’re not just a loss to the museum,” she said. “They’re a loss to the public, to our community and we’re hoping our com-



This undated photo provided by the Oakland Museum of California, Oct. 30, 2025, shows the Reversible Marine Necklace by Florence Resnikoff at the Oakland Museum of California, in Oakland, Calif. (AP)

munity can help us bring them home.”

Fogarty said it appeared to be a crime of opportunity, and not a targeted art theft.

“We think the thieves found a way to enter the building, and they grabbed what they could easily find and snatch and get out of the building with,” she said.

Stolen items include neckpieces by the late artist and metalsmith Florence Resnikoff, a pair of scrimshaw walrus tusks and Native American baskets. But she said much of it was historical memorabilia from the 20th century such as campaign pins and athletic awards.

The mission of the Oakland Museum of California is to document the art, history and natural environment of California, and its collection includes works by California artists from the late 18th century to the present, as well as artifacts, photographs, natu-

ral specimens and sound recordings. The museum has mounted shows dedicated to the Black Power movement and student activism.

John Romero, a retired Los Angeles Police Department captain who led the department’s commercial crimes unit, told the Los Angeles Times that the items may already have been sold since the burglary occurred two weeks ago. He expects detectives are looking at resale platforms such as Craigslist and Ebay, and networks that specialize in historic or collectible antiques.

“These people are interested in fast cash, not the full appraisal value,” he told the Times. “They need to get rid of it quickly.”

In January 2013, an Oakland man broke into the museum itself and got away with a California Gold Rush-era jewelry box.

Fogarty said the the item was traced to a pawn shop with help from the public, and she hopes the community can help again.

The Oakland Police Department declined to provide further details, but said in its news release that police are working with a unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that specializes in art crime, including theft, forgery or antiquities and cultural property trafficking.

The theft occurred four days before thieves made off with priceless Napoleonic jewels from the world’s most-visited museum, the Louvre, in broad daylight. Authorities have made arrests but the jewels have not been recovered.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Oakland police at (510) 238-3951 or submit a tip to the Art Crime Team online or by calling (800) 225-5324.

Ode to tragedy

Lightfoot’s ballad keeps the Edmund Fitzgerald alive

NASHOTAH, Wis., Nov 1, (AP): Without Gordon Lightfoot’s song, the Edmund Fitzgerald could have faded from memory along with the names of the roughly 6,500 other ships that went down in the Great Lakes before it.

Lightfoot was inspired to write his ode to the Fitzgerald and the 29 men who died on board after reading the first Associated Press story about the wreck and a Nov. 24, 1975, article in Newsweek magazine. The song was released in August 1976, less than a year later.

Lightfoot’s mournful storytelling propelled the tragedy into infamy. Affection for the song and interest in the wreck has sustained for half a century, though it wasn’t even the deadliest recorded on the Great Lakes. The deadliest wreck on open waters was the Lady Elgin in 1860, which historians estimate killed nearly 400 people.

“The song has made this by far the most famous Great Lakes shipwreck,” said John U. Bacon, author of “The Gales of November,” a recently published book coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the wreck. He said the Edmund Fitzgerald trails only the Titanic and possibly the Lusitania as the most famous shipwreck in the world.

Rick Haynes, 80, played bass on the single and in Lightfoot’s band for 55 years. He said the first recorded take of the song was what they released on the album “Summertime Dream.”

“When you listen to the record Edmund Fitzgerald, it’s like he’s putting you right there, like he was right there,” Haynes said in a telephone interview from his home in Canada. “And that’s pretty hard to do with a tragedy like that, you know?”

Debbie Gomez-Felder was 17 when her father, Oliver “Buck” Champeau, died on the Fitzgerald. She couldn’t bear to listen to the song at first.

“I put it on the record player and I thought, ‘Oh no, this music is eerie,’” she said. “I turned it off.”

But she came to love it.

“The part that says ‘All that remains are the faces and the names of the wives and the sons and the daughters,’ I thought there wasn’t a word he missed,” Gomez-Felder said. “There wasn’t anything he didn’t recognize.”

Lightfoot died in 2023. His widow, Kim Lightfoot, said in a statement to The Associated Press that “the Edmund Fitzgerald was always present in Gordon’s mind.”

“Just as he eulogized the tragedy in song for the world, he also kept the memory alive in our home; Paintings, models and tributes adorned the walls and followed us from room to room as we went about our daily lives,” Kim Lightfoot said. “If Gordon were with us today, he would have been intent on helping keep the candle of memory lit.”

Lightfoot met regularly with family members and famously changed one of the lyrics at their request, removing a reference to a disproven theory that unsecured hatch covers caused the wreck. The exact cause remains a mystery.

That mystery and the song continue to draw people to the wreck, including a new generation encountering the story through TikTok and social media. Bruce Lynn, executive director of the Great Lake Shipwreck Museum, said children visit the museum wearing costumes of the Fitzgerald.

“There’s something about the Fitzgerald that really draws that attention,” he said.

Haynes estimated that he has played “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald” more than two thousand times without tiring of it. Lightfoot’s band still tours and plays it at every concert.

Haynes remembers flying with Lightfoot to Whitefish Point, Michigan, to mark an anniversary of the wreck. They met with victims’ families then Haynes took a walk along the shores of Lake Superior, looking out toward where the Fitz sank, about 17 miles away.

Museum



Reporters before the opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, Egypt, Saturday, Nov. 1. (AP)

GEM dedicated to Egypt’s ancient civilization

Egypt unveils the world’s largest museum

CAIRO, Nov 1, (AP): Egypt was inaugurating the long-delayed Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) on Saturday, the world’s largest museum dedicated to its ancient civilization - a megaproject also aimed at boosting the country’s tourism industry and troubled economy.

Two decades in the making and located near the Giza Pyramids on the edge of Cairo, the museum showcases over 50,000 artifacts detailing life in ancient Egypt.

World leaders, including monarchs, heads of states and governments, were to attend the grand opening ceremony in the Egyptian capital, according to a statement from the presidency, which touted the museum as “an exceptional event in the history of human culture and civilization.”

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi wrote on social media that the museum will bring “together the genius of ancient Egyptians and the creativity of modern Egyptians, enhancing the world culture and art with a new landmark that will attract all those who cherish civilization and knowledge.”

The museum is one of several megaprojects championed by el-Sissi since he took office in 2014, embarking on massive investments in infrastructure with the aim of reviving an economy weakened by decades of stagnation and battered by the unrest that followed the 2011 Arab Spring uprising.

Preparations for the grand reveal have been shrouded in secrecy.

A stage was built in the museum courtyard where an orchestra and musicians would later preform what the Egyptian media described as a “global symphony of humanity.”

Security around Cairo was tightened ahead of the opening ceremony, with the government announcing Saturday would be a public holiday. The museum, which has been open for limited visits over the past few years, was closed for the final,

two-week preparations.

The government has revamped the area around the museum and the nearby Giza Plateau that holds the pyramids and the Sphinx. Roads were paved and a metro station is being constructed outside the museum gates to improve access. An airport, Sphinx International Airport, has also opened west of Cairo - 40 minutes from the museum.

The \$1 billion facility had faced multiple delays, with construction beginning in 2005 but interrupted due to political instability.

The museum, known as GEM, boasts a towering, triangular glass façade imitating the nearby pyramids, with 24,000 square meters (258,000 square feet) of permanent exhibition space.

It opens to a granite colossus of Ramses the Great, one of ancient Egypt’s most powerful pharaohs who reigned for around 60 years, from 1279 B.C. to 1213 B.C., and is credited with expanding ancient Egypt’s reach as far as modern Syria to the east and modern Sudan to the south. The statue greets visitors once they step inside the museum’s angular atrium.

From the atrium, a grand six-story staircase lined with ancient statues leads up to the main galleries and a view of the pyramids. A bridge links the museum to the pyramids, allowing tourists to move between them either on foot or via electric vehicles, according to museum officials.

The museum’s 12 main galleries, which opened last year, exhibit antiquities spanning from prehistoric times to the Roman era, organized by era and by themes.

Two halls are dedicated to the 5,000 artifacts from the collection of King Tutankhamun - a boy pharaoh who ruled from 1361 B.C. to 1352 B.C. - that will be displayed in its entirety for the first time since British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered King Tut’s tomb in 1922 in the south-

ern city of Luxor.

Zahi Hawass, Egypt’s most renowned archaeologist and former minister of antiquities, said the Tutankhamun collection is the museum’s masterpiece.

“Why this museum is so important, and everyone is waiting for the opening?” he told The Associated Press. “Because of Tutankhamun.”

The collection includes the boy pharaoh’s three funeral beds and six chariots, his golden throne, his gold-covered sarcophagus and his burial mask, made of gold, quartzite, lapis lazuli and colored glass.

The government’s hopes the museum will draw more tourists who will stay for a while and provide the foreign currency needed to shore up Egypt’s battered economy. The state-run Al-Ahram daily said the museum is expected to attract 5 million visitors annually.

The tourism sector has suffered during years of political turmoil and violence following the 2011 Arab Spring uprising. In recent years, the sector has started to recover after the coronavirus pandemic and amid Russia’s war on Ukraine - both countries are major sources of tourists visiting Egypt.

A record number of about 15.7 million tourists visited Egypt in 2024, contributing about 8% of the country’s GDP, according to official figures. Tourism and Antiquities Minister Sherif Fathy has said that overall, Egypt expects about 18 million tourists this year, with authorities hoping for 30 million visitors annually by 2032.

This will translate into more jobs and pump foreign currency into the economy, said Walid el-Batouty, a tour guide.

“It will be boost the economy of Egypt tremendously not just the hotels and the museum itself,” he said. Whenever a tourist rides a cab or even just buys a bottle of water, “that is pumping money” into Egypt’s coffers, he added.

A viral teen expression... what does it mean?

Dictionary.com names ‘6-7’ its 2025 word of the year

NEW YORK, Nov 1, (AP): Go ahead and roll your eyes. Shrug your shoulders. Or maybe just juggle your hands in the air.

Dictionary.com’s word of the year isn’t even really a word. It’s the viral term “6-7” that kids and teenagers can’t stop repeating and laughing about and parents and teachers can’t make any sense of.

The word - if you can call it that - exploded in popularity over the summer. It’s more of an inside joke with an unclear meaning, driven by social media.

Dictionary.com says its annual selection is a linguistic time capsule reflecting social trends and events. But the site admitted it too is a bit confused by “6-7.”

“Don’t worry, because we’re all still trying to figure out exactly what it means,” the site said in its announcement this week.

It all seems to trace back to rapper Skilla’s song from 2024 called “Doot Doot (6-7).”

That song started appearing in TikTok videos with basketball players, including the NBA’s



This Dictionary.com page shows the newest word of the year ‘6-7’ on a computer screen, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025, in Chicago. (AP)

LaMelo Ball who stands 6-foot-7.

Then a boy, now known as “The 6-7 Kid,” shouted the ubiquitous phrase while another kid next to him jiggled his hands in a video that went viral this year.

That’s all it took.

The real answer is no one knows.

And sometimes it depends on who’s on the receiving end of “6-7.”

Even how to write “6-7” is up for debate - is it “6 7” or “six seven?”

According to Dictionary.com, the phrase could mean “so-so,” or “maybe this, maybe that” when combined with the juggling hands gesture.

Merriam-Webster calls it a “nonsensical expression used especially by teens and tweens.”

Some simply use it to frustrate adults when being questioned.

“It’s meaningless, ubiquitous, and nonsensical. In other words, it has all the hallmarks of brainrot,” Dictionary.com said. “Still, it remains meaningful to the people who use it because of the connection it fosters.” Parents and teachers have created their own videos trying to explain the sensation.

Some offer tips on how to stop their kids from repeating it all day long. Others suggest embracing it - even making “6-7” Halloween costumes - so it will become uncool.

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Kuwait to host Otolaryngology and Facial Surgery Conference Nov 4-6

Conference to explore global expertise in ENT, facial reconstruction

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Dr. Mutlaq Al-Sihan, Head of the ENT Departments Council and Head of the ENT Department at Zain Medical Center, announced that the 47th Annual Conference on Otolaryngology and Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery will be held from November 4-6 under the patronage and in the presence of Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi.

He explained that the conference will include an intensive and specialized scientific program. The first day will cover the latest advancements in facial plastic

and reconstructive surgery, the second day will focus on recent developments in ear microsurgery and cochlear implantation, and the third day will include a workshop on balance disorders.

Dr. Al-Sihan affirmed that this year's conference will focus on the latest international scientific research and modern surgical techniques, featuring a select group of international experts from France, Canada, Turkey, England, the Netherlands, and India, alongside Arab participants from Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, as well as distinguished lecturers from Kuwait.

He noted that the conference will include discussions on more than 40 scientific and research papers, along with several specialized panel discussions, adding that

participating physicians will receive 22 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits.

Dr. Al-Sihan also highlighted a workshop on balance disorders, hearing impairments, and speech difficulties, held alongside the conference, as well as several major surgical procedures in rhinoplasty and ear microsurgery performed by visiting consultants from abroad.

He emphasized the Ministry of Health's strong commitment to continuing medical education, stressing that organizing such conferences helps transfer global expertise and enhances the skills of medical personnel, thus improving the quality of healthcare services in Kuwait.

11 sickened

Salmonella tied to supplements

NEW YORK, Nov 1, (AP): At least 11 people have been sickened, including three who were hospitalized, with salmonella infections linked to powder supplements sold at Sam's Club stores nationwide and online, federal health officials said Friday.

Member's Mark Super Greens Powder Supplements have been pulled from store shelves because they contain moringa leaf powder that may be contaminated with salmonella bacteria, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Infections were confirmed in seven states: Florida, Kansas, Michigan, North Carolina, New York, South Carolina and Virginia. Illnesses were reported between May and September.

The source of the salmonella was traced to a single lot of organic moringa leaf powder imported from Vallon Farm Direct in Jodhpur, India, according to an investigation by the US Food and Drug Administration. State health officials in Virginia and Michigan collected and tested samples of the product from the homes of people who fell ill.

Moringa is a plant native to India and other countries prized for essential nutrients including protein, amino acids, vitamins and minerals, according to research published by the National Institutes of Health. Its leaves can be dried and powdered.

Consumers should not eat the supplements and should throw them away or return them to the store for a refund.

Symptoms of salmonella poisoning include diarrhea, fever, severe vomiting, dehydration and stomach cramps. Most people who get sick recover within a week. Infections can be severe in young children, older adults and people with weakened immune systems, who may require hospitalization.



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi delivers his speech during the conference.



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi during the inauguration of the genetics laboratory.



A group photo of the participants at the conference.

'Early detection boosts 5-year cancer survival to 99%'

Kuwait conference on breast cancer constitutes scientific platform: Minister

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): Kuwait breast cancer conference is a scientific and humanitarian platform that cements a culture that prioritizes humans and their health, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said on Friday.

In an inaugural speech at the conference, Al-Awadhi added efforts focused on early detection and comprehensive treatment of this disease in a manner that aligns with global medical developments.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) reports in 2022, more than 2.3 million females were diagnosed with breast cancer across the globe, he stated.

This ratio is expected to reach about 38 percent by 2050, according to The Lancet Magazine, the minister elaborated.

These figures pushed to early detection which highly raises the percentage of recovery as the five-year survival rate when disease is detected in its early stages exceeds 99

percent, according to American Cancer Society, he said.

The Ministry of Health has launched the national early detection program on breast diseases in the six governorates nationwide, he pointed out.

The ministry established rapid diagnosis clinics at Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC) that offers the results of tests during 48 hours.

Additionally, oncology service has been launched at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, and there are surgeons of breast cancer diseases, he explained.

Meanwhile, head of the conference Dr. Anwar Al-Nouri said holding this event is to confirm the ministry's commitment to upgrading healthcare quality based on scientific evidence and keeping pace with developments in breast cancer treatment.

Breast cancer makes up 13 percent of mortalities of cancer, he noted.

Limited benefit cited

US restricts fluoride use for children over health risks

WASHINGTON, Nov 1, (AP): The Food and Drug Administration on Friday moved to limit the use of fluoride supplements used to strengthen children's teeth, the latest action by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and his deputies against a chemical that is a mainstay of dental care.

The FDA said that the products are no longer recommended for children younger than 3 and those who are older but don't face serious risks of tooth decay. Previously, the products have been prescribed for children as young as six months.

The action stopped short of FDA statements in May suggesting regulators would seek the removal of the products from the market. Instead, the agency sent letters to four companies warning them not to market their products outside the new limits.

Fluoride tablets and lozenges are sometimes recommended for children and teens at increased risk of tooth decay or cavities because of low fluoride in their local drinking water. Companies also sell drops for babies.

The FDA released a new scientific analysis Friday, concluding that fluoride supplements have limited ben-



efits for children's teeth and may be linked to emerging safety concerns, including gut issues, weight gain and cognition.

"For the same reason fluoride may work to kill bacteria on teeth, it may also alter the gut microbiome, which may have broader health implications," the agency said in a statement.

The agency also sent a form letter to dentists and other health providers warning about the risks of the products.

Those claims have been disputed by the American Dental Association, which has said there are no significant health problems associated with fluoride when used at the levels prescribed by dentists.

Blood pressure drug pulled over potential cancer risk

NEW YORK, Nov 1, (AP): The US Food and Drug Administration says drugmakers have recalled more than a half-million bottles of the blood pressure medication prazosin hydrochloride over concerns it may include a cancer-causing chemical.

New Jersey-based Teva Pharmaceuticals USA and drugs distributor Amerisource Health Services issued voluntary nationwide recalls earlier this month of more than 580,000 bottles of various strengths of prazosine capsules, according to the FDA.

Doctors prescribe prazosin, which relaxes blood vessels, to help lower blood pressure. It also is sometimes prescribed for nightmares and other sleep disturbances caused by post-traumatic stress disorder.

The FDA said in enforcement orders posted online that it has given the affected lots of the drug a Class II risk classification because some of the recalled medication may have nitrosamine impurities that are considered potentially cancer causing.

According to the FDA, N-nitrosamine impurities are a class of potentially cancer-causing chemicals that can form during manufacture or storage of a drug.

Researchers studying the surprising link

People abused by intimate partners experience worse asthma: experts

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

By Anne P. DePrince, University of Denver
and **Eileen Wang,** University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Asthma is a common, serious and difficult-to-manage chronic health condition. In the US, 1 in 7 people are diagnosed with asthma, and that number is rising.

Over the years, researchers have identified a mix of individual and environmental factors that play a role in asthma. For instance, obesity and alcohol use increase a person's risk for asthma. And more extreme weather is linked to worse asthma symptoms.

In that mix of research, a new pattern has emerged pointing to links between asthma and abuse by a current or former romantic partner. As surprising as that might sound, these links are important because intimate partner abuse is common in the US. An estimated 47% of women and 44% of men are physically or sexually victimized or stalked by intimate partners at some point in their lives.

As a psychologist and an asthma specialist, we have teamed up to learn more about asthma and intimate partner abuse.

And what we're seeing has important implications for treatment.

To understand how factors such as obesity or extreme weather can result in asthma, researchers have focused on inflammation. Inflammation plays a key role in keeping humans and other animals healthy.

When pathogens such as viruses attack the body, or the body suffers an injury, the immune system responds with

inflammation. This immediate, short-term response helps the body minimize damage to cells and fight infection. It's also what causes the red hotness that surrounds a skin injury or bothersome symptoms when fighting a cold.

While short-term inflammation is critical to good health, the inflammation system can go awry. Chronic inflammation contributes to many kinds of diseases, including asthma.

Uncontrolled inflammation drives asthma development and symptoms. Over the years, a better understanding of different types of inflammation that can worsen asthma has led to the identification of critical targets for asthma medications and important advances in care.

Because of this inflammation-asthma connection, most drug treatments for asthma today target overactive inflammation in the airways.

Despite significant advances in drug treatments for asthma, a majority of adults with the condition have uncontrolled asthma, which means more flare-ups and an increased chance of dying from the disease.

As researchers and medical providers have figured out that not everyone responds to common medications, they've turned to more personalized approaches to understanding asthma predictors.

That more personalized approach led one of us, Dr. Wang, to wonder whether intimate partner abuse might play a role in asthma for some of her patients. After all, intimate partner abuse is linked with a host of health problems and health care costs.

Using a large database that was representative of the US population, one of us (Dr. Wang) led a team in 2021 that discovered intimate partner abuse was associated with worsened asthma attacks and symptoms. That study included over 2,600 adults and found that having asthma along with a history of intimate

partner abuse meant significantly greater odds of asthma attacks, more frequent symptoms and greater impact of symptoms on daily life.

This pattern was true even for adults who were out of the abusive relationships for a year or more, suggesting a persistent effect of intimate partner abuse on asthma.

Over time, other research teams also found links between intimate partner abuse and increased rates of having or developing asthma for adults.

In addition, research showed that intimate partner abuse also affects the next generation. Multiple studies have shown increased rates of asthma in children of women who were abused by their intimate partners.

So, does this mean that intimate partner abuse leads to chronic over-inflammation, which in turn causes asthma? Not necessarily, according to another study we did.

We worked with a team of researchers to recruit 60 adults with uncontrolled asthma into our study and examined many different markers of inflammation in the blood. Importantly, about half of those adults told us they had been abused by an intimate partner at some time in their lives. And about half said they had not.

First, we looked at the traditional types of inflammation studied in prior asthma research, including those targeted by currently available treatments. On measure after measure, our team found that patients with histories of intimate partner abuse had lower inflammation than those without histories of abuse, despite having uncontrolled asthma.

Surprised by this finding, we tested whether other factors that have been linked with asthma could better explain what we found. However, the pattern was still there - even when we took into account factors such as gender, obesity, anxiety and depression. (AP)

China's youngest astronaut heads to space

China's Shenzhou 21 docks with space station, sets country's speed record

JIUQUAN, China, Nov 1, (AP): China announced Saturday that its Shenzhou 21 spaceship docked with China's space station with its latest three rotation crew at the country's own record speed after a successful launch.

The entire docking process lasted around 3.5 hours - three hours shorter than the previous missions, according to China Manned Space Agency.

The Shenzhou 21 spaceship took off as planned at 11:44 p.m. local time Friday from the Jiuquan launch center in northwestern China. The three astronauts on Shenzhou 21 are planned to enter the Tianhe core module of the space station after the dock.

The crew includes pilot and mission commander Zhang Lu, who also was on the Shenzhou 15 mission to the space station two years ago.

The other two are flying for the first time. Wu Fei, 32, an engineer, is the country's youngest astronaut to join a spaceflight. Zhang Hongzhang is a payload specialist who was a researcher focusing on new energy and new materials before becoming an astronaut.

Zhang said the team would turn the space station into a "utopia" by doing tai-chi, gardening and appreciating poetry on the Tiangong space station. Like those before them, they will stay at the station for roughly six months.

While in space, the astronauts planned to conduct 27 scientific and applied projects in biotechnology, aerospace medicine, materials science and other areas.

For the first time, China is sending mice to its space station. Four in total, two males and two females, will be monitored to study how weightlessness and confinement affect their behavioral patterns, said Han Pei, an engineer at the Chinese Academy of



This image captured at Beijing Aerospace Control Center on Nov. 1, shows a group picture of the crew of Shenzhou-20 and Shenzhou-21 spaceships. The three astronauts aboard China's Shenzhou-21 spaceship have entered the country's space station and met with another astronaut trio early Saturday morning, starting a new round of in-orbit crew handover. (Xinhua)

Sciences.

"This will help us master key technologies for the breeding and monitoring of small mammals in space and make a preliminary assessment of the mice's emergency responses and adaptive changes in space environments," Han said.

The "space mice" were selected from 300 candidates after more than 60 days of intensive training, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency. State media China National Radio reported that the mice are expected to stay five to seven days in the space station and hitch a ride in Shenzhou 20 coming back to Earth.

China's space program is a source of enormous national pride and a hallmark of the nation's technological advances over the past two decades. China launched its first crewed mission in 2003, becoming only the third nation to do so after the former Soviet

Union and the United States.

Zhang Jingbo, a spokesperson for the China Manned Space Agency, said the research and development work is progressing smoothly for the agency's plans to send an astronaut to the moon.

"Our fixed goal of China landing a person on the moon by 2030 is firm," Zhang said at a news conference a day ahead of the launch.

The Tiangong, or "Heavenly Palace," space station has helped make China a major player in space. It was entirely Chinese-built after the country was excluded from the International Space Station over U.S. national security concerns. China's space program is controlled by the People's Liberation Army, the military branch of the ruling Communist Party.

In a collaboration with Pakistan, China is in the process of choosing two Pakistani astronauts to come to China for training.



This photo provided by Cornell Lab of Ornithology shows a Common Cuckoo on Oct. 24, 2025 in Woods at Cherry Creek Suffolk, N.Y. (AP)

Birders going 'cuckoo' after unexpected sighting in NYC area

NEW YORK, Nov 1, (AP): A bird sighting on New York's Long Island has avian enthusiasts flocking to the region in hopes of spotting a feathered friend that has never been seen before in the state.

The common cuckoo is typically found from Europe to Japan, with the majority of the population wintering in Africa. But one was recently spotted in Riverhead - a town on the north shore of Long Island about 75 miles (120 kilometers) from New York City - by a golfer who snapped a photo and sent it to his nephew, a birding enthusiast.

The information eventually was shared with the Cornell

Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York. Once the bird was confirmed as a common cuckoo, birders quickly shared the news in their communities.

The bird has since been spotted more than 200 times by enthusiasts who have noted their sightings on the birding site ebird.org and various social media sites, including the American Birding Association. Many people in other parts of the U.S. also have reported making special treks to the region in hopes of seeing it for themselves. The last confirmed sightings came late Sunday afternoon.

It's not clear how or why the bird ended up in southern

New York, or if it's even still in the region. Experts say it's a juvenile - meaning it hatched this spring or summer - so it's reasonable to conclude it was trying to migrate for the winter but somehow got lost or blown off course.

The common cuckoo has been found only three other times in the eastern U.S. and Canada, experts said.

Jay McGowan, a curator at the Cornell Lab's Macaulay Library, said Thursday that the bird may still be in the area, but if it has relocated, it may be unlikely anyone will happen across it again. He urged anyone who does see it to report their sightings to the birder community.

Sisson and Seidel are the top Americans in field

Kipchoge and Hassan to make New York Marathon debuts against strong competition

NEW YORK, Nov 1, (AP): Eliud Kipchoge and Sifan Hassan are at different ends of their marathon careers.

Kipchoge, who turns 41 next week, is wrapping up a historic run as one of the most accomplished marathoners in the sport, while the 32-year-old Hassan is in the prime of her career, coming off a victory at Sydney two months ago.

The two are taking on the New York Marathon for the first time Sunday, with Hassan looking to pull off the incredible double after winning in Australia.

To accomplish that feat, the Dutch star will have to beat the last three champions Sheila Chepkirui of Kenya (2024) , Hellen Obiri (2023) and Sharon Lokedi (2022), who set the Boston Marathon course record in April.

"I have respect for the course which I haven't done," Hassan said. "I have big respect for the athletes going to run with me. I'm not going to say I'm going to win, it's very hard."

Hassan has the best time of the group, running a personal best 2 hours, 13.44 minutes at the Chicago Marathon in 2023, but she'll have to deal with the 26.2-mile course that is full of bridges and hills.

"I remember last year after Paris it made me so scared of how hard this course (is)," said Hassan, who broke the Olympic record in the marathon last year. "I wasn't ready last year."

This is Hassan's first trip to the city and she knows how she'll celebrate after finishing the race - by having her "first slice of New York pizza."

U.S. record holder Emily Sisson and Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist Molly Seidel are the top Americans in the field. An American woman hasn't won the race since Shalane Flanagan did it in 2017. It's been 16 years since an American man won.

Kipchoge sees New York as a victory lap after his illustrious career in which he's won 11 major marathons and set two world records. His last major marathon victory came in Berlin in 2023.

"I'm really saying thank you because this is the only way that I can do that," he said.

He has spent the last few days in New York and has been running around iconic Central Park, where the race finishes.

"Going down the streets everyone is happy, it's a beautiful (running) culture," he said. "I realized that over a million people run in Central Park every year."

Kipchoge will be part of a strong men's field that includes defending champion Abdi Nageeye of the Netherlands. He's looking to be the first repeat winner since Geoffrey Mutai in 2011 and 2013. The 2012 race was cancelled because of Superstorm Sandy.

"It would be a dream come true, but I know how tough this race course is," Nageeye said. "This is my fifth time (running it), every time was different then I expected. It would be amazing if that happens."

Nageeye said that he'll wait to see how the race unfolds before figuring out his strategy.

"Each race is different, a few kilometers in you get a feel for what might happen," the 36-year-old runner said.

He could have to contend with 2024 London Marathon winner Alexander Mutiso and Albert Korir, who won New York in 2021.

Marcel Hug, known as the Silver Bullet, returns to New York looking for his seventh victory in the wheelchair division. He most recently won in 2023. Defending champion Daniel Romanchuk isn't competing this year because of a shoulder injury he suffered at the Sydney Marathon. Susannah Scaroni will look to defend her title.



Sifan Hassan, of the Netherlands, celebrates after crossing the finish line to win the gold medal at the end of the women's marathon competition at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

New Zealand completes whitewash as England's batting collapses again

Poms head to Ashes series in low form

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Nov 1, (AP): England will head to the five-test Ashes series in Australia low on form and confidence after being bowled out for 222 in a two-wicket loss to New Zealand in the third one-day international Saturday and a 3-0 series defeat.

New Zealand was desperate at the end, with two wickets remaining and 28 runs still needed to win. But Zak Foulkes, with 14 not out, and Blair Tickner, with an unbeaten 18, saw New Zealand home with 32 balls to spare and a total of 226-8.

New Zealand won the first match by four wickets and the second by five wickets.

England captain Harry Brook bowled out Jofra Archer, Brydon Carse and Jamie Overton, leaving Sam Curran and Adil Rashid to bowl the critical final overs.

The problem for England was its batting. For the third time in the three-match series, England was bowled out inside 50 overs as its top order faltered against quick and accurate swing bowling.

New Zealand's run chase was impeded by two runouts at the non-striker's end, but Daryl Mitchell's 44 took it close to victory.

Overton had scores of 46 and 42 in the first two matches of the series and has been outstanding batting at No. 8, outshining England's specialist batters. He is unavailable for the Ashes, having chosen not to play test cricket.

On Saturday, England slumped to 44-4 at the end of the first 10-over



Jacob Duffy, left, Nathan Smith, and Devon Conway of New Zealand celebrate the wicket of Joe Root of England during the One Day International cricket match between New Zealand and England, in Wellington, New Zealand. (AP)

power play before being saved by the middle and lower order.

"That's one thing we've spoken about. We didn't get big enough scores for us to be able to defend them and to give the bowlers big enough chances to win us the games," Brook said. "We'll go back, we'll take the learnings we've made from this trip here, and we'll try our best to be better in the future."

Jamie Smith, Ben Duckett, Joe Root, and Jacob Bethell will all head to Australia with a few runs under

their belt.

Smith was out for 5 Saturday, Duckett for 8, Root for 2, Bethell for 11, and Brook, who has been England's mainstay in the series, was dismissed for 6. Brook scored 175 runs in his three innings in the series.

The late resistance came first from Jos Buttler, who made 38 and put on 53 in a partnership for the sixth wicket with Sam Curran (17), which more than doubled England's total.

Overton and Brydon Carse then put on 58 for the eighth wicket. Carse hit four sixes in his 36 while Overton reached his half-century from 50 balls with consecutive fours off Blair Tickner. He hit 10 fours and two sixes.

England bowled well in defense of an inadequate total, though Jofra Archer conceded 53 runs from 10 overs without taking a wicket. His fifth over cost 24 runs.

Overton took 2-32 to add to his outstanding batting performance.

Qadsia heads to Bahrain for crucial Champs League clash

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Qadsia departs today for Bahrain to face Al-Sitra on Tuesday in the third round of Group A of the Gulf Champions League at Hamad City Stadium.

The Kuwaiti side currently sits fourth in the group after losses to Iraq's Zakho (1-3) and UAE's Al Ain (0-1), while Al-Sitra holds third place with one point. Zakho leads with four points, and Al Ain tops the group with six.

The team's morale has been boosted by a 3-0 victory over Al-Tadamon in the seventh round of the Zain Premier League, ending a tough run that included five winless matches across domestic and regional competitions. Recent results included losses to Kuwait (1-2) and Kazma (0-1), a 0-0 draw against Al-Salmiya, and defeats to Al Ain and Zakho.

The league win raised Qadsia's points total to 11, placing it temporarily in second place, just behind Kuwait Club (13 points), which has two games in hand.

Congolese striker Nisskins Kipano celebrated scoring all three goals, highlighting the team's fighting spirit.

However, Qadsia faces multi-



Congolese striker Nisskins Kipano celebrates scoring all three goals.

ple challenges, including underperforming foreign players and injuries to key squad members, such as Mubarak Al-Faneni, Abdullah Mataw, Jassim Al-Matar, and Eid Al-Rashidi. Additionally, disciplinary issues have hit the squad: Abdulaziz Wadi and coach Nabil Maaloul received four-match suspensions, and Libyan Mohamed Soula was banned for eight matches for biting Al-Salmiya's Brazilian player Alex Lima.

These difficulties have kept Qadsia out of title contention for ten seasons, and if the current situation continues, the team risks relegation to the first division for the first time in its history.

'Kuwait's hosting of Sports Press GA underscores regional influence'



Al-Mutairi meets with Asian Sports Press officials.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi has highlighted that Kuwait's hosting of the 2026 General Assembly of the Asian Sports Press Federation underscores the nation's leadership in sports journalism across Asia and reflects its prominent role in the regional media landscape.

Speaking after a meeting with the Chairman and members of the Kuwaiti Sports Media Committee at the Public Authority for Sport, Minister Al-Mutairi emphasized that Kuwait's ability to organize major sports and tourism events stems from its highly skilled administrative and technical teams, particularly its youth, considered a vital national asset.

He added that holding such sports media gatherings enhances institutional and administrative excellence, which is essential for the success of these events and in promoting Ku-

wait's modern and sophisticated image on the regional and international stage.

The minister confirmed that the government will provide full support and facilitation to the Kuwaiti Sports Media Committee to ensure the success of the assembly, praising the committee's dedicated preparation efforts.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sattam Al-Suhaili, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Sports Media Committee and President of the Asian Sports Press Federation, expressed his gratitude for Minister Al-Mutairi's unwavering support of Kuwaiti media, especially sports journalism, which plays a crucial role in covering local and international sporting events.

Dr. Al-Suhaili added that the committee, in coordination with the Asian federation, began preparations early for the assembly, which will welcome some of the most prominent sports media figures from Asia and around the world, further highlighting Kuwait's leading role in regional sports media.

Best of the Rest

Russian athletes get legal win: Russian luge athletes were given hope of competing at the 2026 Winter Olympics after sport's highest court ruled against a blanket ban on the country's athletes because of the war on Ukraine.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport's judgment requiring the International Luge Federation (FIL) to start assessing Russian athletes for approved neutral (AIN) status could yet lead to skiing's governing body doing the same ahead of the Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo Winter Games in February.

CAS said its judges partially upheld appeals by the Russian luge federation and six athletes, but denied their request to resume competing immediately in international events. (AP)

□ □ □

Paqueta reprimanded and warned: Brazil international Lucas Paqueta has been reprimanded and warned about his future conduct despite being cleared of spot-fixing allegations this year.

An independent commission imposed sanctions after the Premier League player was found to have failed to co-operate with an English Football Association investigation into the original charges.

West Ham forward Paqueta, acting on legal advice, responded "No comment" to numerous questions when interviewed. (AP)

Change Name

I, NOOR AHMED SHABUDDIN KADRI holder of Passport No. P1096909 do hereby change my name to NOOR (as Given name) KADRI (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name NOOR AHMED SHAHABUDDIN KADRI and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents

Choi maintains 'tourney-long' lead in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Nov 1, (AP): Maintaining the lead she has held since the opening round and looking for her first win on the LPGA Tour, Hye-Jin Choi will take a four-stroke advantage into the final round of the Maybank Championship after shooting a 5-under 67 Saturday.

Choi, who played on the South Korea team in last week's International Crown, had a 54-hole total of 19-under 197 on the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country club course. She started the day with a five-stroke lead.

The 26-year-old Choi has 28 career top-10 finishes and placed second at the 2017 U.S. Women's Open as a 17-year-old amateur. It is the first time in her career she has led after the first three

rounds of play and the third time she has led a tournament heading into the final round. The previous two times she finished runner-up.

"I've been waiting for this a really long and I'm going to try my best tomorrow," Choi said. "I think I will feel like I'm making the dream and I just imagine on it. I'm just looking for a victory tomorrow." China's Liu Yan (65) was in second place after a bogey-free round and Hannah Green, a member of the winning Australia team at the International Crown last weekend, was in third after a 67, four strokes behind Choi.

A Lim Kim was the biggest mover with a 64 that left her in a tie for fourth place, six strokes off the lead. Kim's round included an eagle on 18 and six birdies.

Hino leadership honors ALSAYER's Bahrah team for exemplary after-sales service, teamwork, and customer commitment

Bahrah Trading Company clinches Best Service Team Award at 2024 Hino Motors Middle East ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Bahrah Trading Company (BTC), part of the ALSAYER Group of companies, proudly announced its top recognition at the 2024 Hino Motors Middle East Distributors Service Team Awards. This prestigious achievement underscored BTC's unwavering commitment to providing world-class after-sales support for Hino customers in Kuwait.

The awards ceremony, which celebrated service excellence across the Middle East, was graced by senior representatives from both the regional and global leadership of the Hino brand:

- Mr. Tsukasa Musashi – General Manager, Overseas Marketing & Service Division, Hino Motors Japan
- Mr. Shigeharu Miyamoto – General Manager, Hino Motors Middle East (Dubai)
- Mr. Prajesh Bhaskaran – Manager, Hino Motors Middle East

Bahrah Trading Company's Triumph

The top accolade, the "Best Service Team Award 2024", was received by Mr. Elie Andraos, General Manager and Mr. Sayed Anwar Raja Sales Manager from Bahrah Trading Company, recognizing the team's all-around excellence in leadership, collaborative teamwork, and customer service delivery.

In special recognition to the individuals driving this success, key members of the service team were also recognized with distinct awards:

- Best Service Manager - Mr. Krishnaraja Sanjeeva Shervergar
- Best Supporting Staff - Mr. Raja Sekaran Sathesh Kannan



Best Technician - Mr. Ranju Orayampurath Rajan

Hino team extended a special appreciation to Mr. Elie Andraos for his continuous guidance, motivation, and leadership, which have been instrumental in fostering the culture of quality and service excellence.

According to Elie Andraos: "This remarkable achievement reflects our team's deep dedication to quality, customer satisfaction, and service excellence. We are extremely proud to partner with Hino Motors and dedicate ourselves every day to moving forward with pride and passion to serve our customers better."

ALSAYER Group and Bahrah



Top and above: Photos from the event

Trading Company proudly represent the esteemed Hino trademark in Kuwait, a partnership founded on the shared values of Quality, Durability, and Reliability (QDR). The team's continuous training and adherence to global Hino standards ensure that every vehicle maintains peak operational efficiency.

The award ceremony reiterated the collective mission to not only provide the best range of Hino products but also to ensure robust, industry-leading after-sales services that sustain the productivity of businesses across the nation. This outstanding achievement further solidifies BTC's position as a benchmark for Hino service excellence in the Middle East region.

Bid to educate fans and inspire greater match attendance

FIFA Arab Cup tour sparks soccer passion among fans in Avenues



Fans cheer for Kuwait team.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): Kuwait kicked off the promotional tour for the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025 at The Avenues Mall, featuring a press conference and a special booth dedicated to promoting the tournament. The four-day campaign, which concludes today, aims to engage football fans across the region.

Ali Al-Mahmoud, Executive Director of Planning and Execution for the tournament's organizing committee, said the tour's goal is to provide fans with detailed information about

the championship and encourage them to attend matches in support of their national teams. The event also displayed the Arab Cup trophy and offered fans insights into the upcoming fixtures.

The campaign is timed ahead of Kuwait's qualifier against Mauritania on November 25, with organizers urging fans to come out and cheer for the team. Al-Mahmoud emphasized that the Arab Cup fosters friendly competition among Arab nations and noted that the previous edition created a strong sense of unity and fam-

ily spirit among fans.

He also praised Qatar's preparedness to host the tournament, highlighting the country's world-class infrastructure and experienced organizing team, which has successfully managed numerous major sporting events.

The FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025 will take place from December 1 to 18, featuring 16 national teams. A victory for Kuwait against Mauritania will place the team in Group C, alongside Egypt, Jordan, and the UAE.

Hunting & Equestrian Club ready for racing season



Sheikh Dhari Fahad Al-Ahmad and Sheikh Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah at season prep meeting.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Hunting and Equestrian Club has finalized preparations for the 2025-2026 horse racing season, with the first meeting set to start on Sunday. The opening day will feature seven races, including Egyptian Arab, local-bred, Arab-bred, and imported horses.

The final race of the event, the Late Sheikh Nasser Fahad Al-Sabah Cup for beginner horses, will be run over 1,400 meters with a prize of 3,000 Kuwaiti dinars.

A preparatory meeting was held with Sheikh Dhari Fahad Al-Ahmad, Chairman of the Board; Sheikh Sabah Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Head of the Supreme Racing Authority; and the club's General Manager

of Racing along with track directors. During the meeting, the official race schedule for the season across all Kuwaiti tracks was approved.

Sheikh Dhari Fahad Al-Ahmad confirmed that the club's racetrack is fully prepared to host the new season, with all arrangements carefully addressed to ensure smooth operations.

Sheikh Sabah Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah highlighted that the season promises highly competitive races as jockeys and horses vie for top positions. He also noted that Kuwaiti equestrian sports have seen significant development, aided by the collaboration between all racing tracks in the country.

Salwa faces Tunisia's Sahel in Arab Championship opener

By Khaled Al Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

TUNIS, Nov 1: The Salwa Women's Handball Team begins its journey in the Arab Clubs Championship for League and Cup Winners in Hammamet, Tunisia, running from November 1 to 9, with a clash against Tunisia's Sahel Club at 5:00 PM today. Kuwait's second women's team, Qurain, kicked off their campaign yesterday against Hammamet Club.

The tournament draw placed Qurain in Group A alongside Moknine, Hammamet, and Syria's Qasioun, while Salwa was drawn in Group B with Africain, Sahel, and Syria's Nabk.

To strengthen its squad, Salwa Club enlisted four Tunisian players—Saida Sassi, Salma Bousaheeh, Aya Zaidi, and Safa Dal-lous—while Qurain included three Egyptian players and a professional Serbian athlete.

Bahraini coach Mohammed Mirza stressed that Salwa is focused on delivering a strong performance and representing Kuwaiti women's handball with excellence, combining the energy of young talents with the experience of seasoned players.



A Salwa Women's Handball team player holding a jersey during the presentation ceremony.

Best of the Rest

Villarreal up to second: Villarreal scored three goals in nine minutes to rout Rayo Vallecano 4-0 in La Liga on Saturday and move up to second in the stand-

ings.

Villarreal led 1-0 by halftime after Gerard Moreno's 22nd-minute goal and then unleashed a flurry after the break. Alberto Moleiro doubled the lead in the 56th, and two minutes later it was 3-0 when Santiago Comesana struck. (AP)

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NEWS



Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon (32) defends against Portland Trail Blazers forward Jerami Grant (9) during the second half of an NBA Cup basketball game in Portland, Ore. (AP)

Sports

Leaders commend Amir's enduring support as ASC holds General Assembly

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): The Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC) held its General Assembly in Kuwait under the chairmanship of Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, with the attendance of Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President Luciano Rossi.

In a press statement, Al-Otaibi described the meeting as successful, noting that it produced several key resolutions aimed at advancing the sport of shooting across the Asian continent.

Al-Otaibi explained that the assembly approved decisions regarding the allocation of qualification slots for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, following the outstanding performances of Asian shooters in the past two Olympic editions. The meeting also reviewed preparations for the 20th Asian Games, scheduled to take place next year in Nagoya, Japan, and discussed the readiness of the upcoming championship host nations, including China and Qatar.

The assembly further resolved to send a message of gratitude and appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in recognition of his generous support for shooting sports in Asia, which has significantly contributed to the sport's growth and success.

For his part, Rossi stated that his attendance reflected the importance of continued coordination between the

international and Asian shooting bodies to promote the sport's development. He commended the strong progress made by Asian shooters, describing them as a "formidable force" thanks to the dedication of national federations. Rossi also praised the Kuwait Shooting Federation for its leading role in supporting and hosting the Asian body.

Earlier, the ASC Executive Committee held its 42nd meeting. The meeting was attended by the deputy chairman and committee members representing national federations from across Asia.

According to Sheikh Salman, the session discussed a series of topics aimed at developing shooting sports throughout the continent and enhancing the confederation's role in supporting both male and female athletes. The committee also reviewed initiatives designed to increase the number of Asian shooters qualifying for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, following the remarkable performances of Asian teams at the Paris 2024 Games.

Sheikh Salman concluded by expressing his appreciation to Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and the Public Authority for Sport for their unwavering support of the confederation and its ongoing efforts to promote the sport.



Asian Shooting Confederation General Assembly in progress.

Kuwait Club reaches Asian Challenge League quarterfinals



Kuwait Club and Bangladesh's Bashundhara Kings vie for the ball.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Kuwait Club advanced to the quarterfinals of the Asian Challenge League after a convincing 2-0 win over Bangladesh's Bashundhara Kings in their final Group B match at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium.

With this victory, Kuwait Club topped the group with 7 points, while Bashundhara Kings eliminated. Lebanon's Ansar also

progressed as the best second-place team after overturning a 1-0 deficit to defeat Oman's Al-Seeb 2-1.

In contrast, Al-Arabi's campaign ended after a 1-1 draw against Kyrgyzstan's Muras United, allowing the latter to advance to the quarterfinals. The quarterfinals are scheduled over two legs on March 4 and 11, with Kuwait Club set to face Oman's Al-Shabab, and Muras United taking on Ansar.

Montenegrin coach Nebojša Jovović praised his squad's determination, emphasizing that

Kuwait Club delivered strong performances despite a hectic schedule of four matches in just 11 days. He noted that fatigue and minor injuries forced him to rest some players but applauded the team's resilience.

Player Mohammed Daham, who earned Man of the Match honors, said receiving the award for the second time in three games reflected the collective effort of the team. He added that with Bashundhara Kings already eliminated, the team could play with less pressure and still secure the win.

Al-Arabi bows out

Kuwait intensifies training ahead of inaugural Arab Challenge Cup

By Khaled Al Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Kuwait is set to kick off its preparations ahead of the first-ever Arab Challenge Cup for Men, scheduled in Amman, Jordan, from November 26 to December 8. Training sessions will be held at the Volleyball Federation Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Dr. Jaber Al-Murray, President of the Kuwait Volleyball Federation, confirmed that the tournament will feature national teams from Kuwait, Egypt, Bahrain, Tunisia, Oman, Iraq, Libya, and the host nation Jordan.

He added that following the Arab Challenge Cup, the league will commence on December 11, featuring nine clubs: Kuwait, Qadsia, Kazma, Al-Arabi, Burgan, Al-Shabab, Al-Sulaibikhat, Al-Nasr, and Al-Yarmouk, in a single round-robin format.

Assistant coach Zaid Al-Kazemi explained that under Argentinian head coach Julian, the team's month-long training program will include two main phases: domestic training in Kuwait and an overseas training camp featuring friendly matches. The camp's location and duration will be finalized after approval from the Public Authority for Sport.

Al-Kazemi emphasized that participation in the Arab Challenge Cup aligns with the federation's long-term strategy to develop the national team, providing critical exposure against top Arab teams with rich experience in regional and international competitions. He noted this approach will raise the technical level of the players and lay the groundwork for future international successes.

The preliminary squad includes: Adhbi Al-Anzi, Abdullah Bouftain, Omar Al-Anzi, Nawaf Al-Sanea, Mohammed Al-Dhafiri, Ibrahim Safar, Abdullah Al-Mouainah, Abdullnasser Al-Anzi, Fares Siraj, Bader Al-Attar, Rashid Anbar, Ahmed Al-Munees, Nasser Dashti, Abdullah Al-Anzi, Youssef Mandel, Talal Abdulrazzaq, Abdulrahman Al-Mulla, Fahad Saad Yaqoub, Hassan Al-Qattan, Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa, and Saud Al-Dweisan. In domestic volleyball action, Kuwait Club clinched the Federation Championship title last Thursday after a thrilling 3-2 victory over Qadsia in the final, with Kazma securing third place following a 3-0 win against Burgan. The winners were crowned by Dr. Jaber Al-Murray and Kuwait Club President Khaled Al-Ghanem.



Kuwait Club players celebrate after winning Federation Championship.

Kuwait qualifies for Archery World Cup

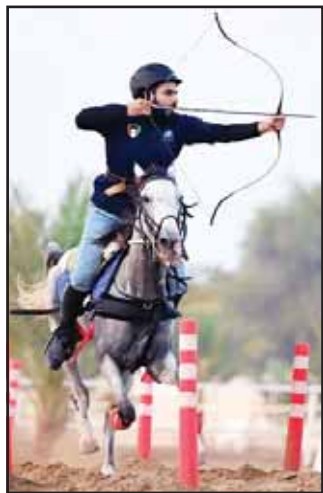
BARKA, Oman, Nov 1: Kuwait's national mounted archery team has officially qualified for the Archery World Cup, finishing second behind Saudi Arabia in the qualifiers held at Al-Rahba Farm in Barka, Oman.

Hani Al-Fassam, head of the Kuwaiti team, described the

achievement as the result of teamwork, dedication, and meticulous preparation. "Our second-place finish reflects intensive training, careful planning, and the sacrifices made by our riders. This is not just chance – it is the outcome of collective effort, and the team is now celebrating a well-earned victory," he said.

Al-Fassam noted that the qualifiers were highly competitive, with all seven participating nations vying for World Cup spots. Despite the intensity, the event maintained a friendly and sportsmanlike atmosphere.

Looking ahead, Al-Fassam confirmed that preparations for the upcoming World Cup will be conducted at the highest level, with the goal of not only competing strongly but also showcasing the skill and honor of Kuwaiti riders on the international stage. He emphasized that the team is focused on raising Kuwait's profile in global mounted archery.



A Kuwaiti in action.

Brown leads Celtics past 76ers for third straight win

Lakers' Doncic has third 40-point game to start season

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov 1, (AP): Luka Doncic reaching the 40-point mark in a game is becoming a common theme through the early weeks of this season.

Doncic, returning after missing three games with injuries, had 44 points in the Los Angeles Lakers' 117-112 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies, topping 40 for his third straight game to start the season.

The only other player in NBA history to do that was Wilt Chamberlain. Twice.

"He just continues to get where he wants to go, and he takes what the defense gives him," Lakers coach JJ Redick said with Doncic sitting in the back of the interview room.

Doncic, who shot 14 for 27 from the field, including 6 for 15 from 3-point range, scored 43 in the Lakers' opening night loss to Golden State. He had 49 against Minnesota in the second game. He then missed the next three game with a left finger sprain and a lower left leg contusion.

Friday was his return to action, and he continued his scoring pace.

Celtics 109, 76ers

In Philadelphia Jaylen Brown scored 32 points, Anfernee Simons added 19 and the Boston Celtics never trailed in a 109-108 win against the Philadelphia 76ers.

Payton Pritchard and Derrick White had 15 points apiece for the Celtics, who evened their record at .500 by winning their third straight after beginning the season with three consecutive losses. Boston evened a 117-116 season-opening defeat to the 76ers on Oct. 22.

Tyrese Maxey scored 26 points to lead Philadelphia, which entered as one of four unbeaten teams in the league.

The game was the first as part of the NBA Cup for both teams.

Maxey's drive with 20.8 seconds to play pulled Philadelphia to 109-108. After a Boston turnover on its ensuing possession, Maxey missed on an underhand scoop shot from the lane with 4 seconds left that would have given Philadelphia the lead.

Boston's Josh Minott then missed both free throws with 3.8 seconds left, but Joel Embiid was long on a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Boston led by 20 points in a dominating first half. Maxey's drive with 6 1/2 minutes left in the third tied it at 72-all, but Philadelphia never was able to go in front.

Bulls 135, Knicks 125

In Chicago, Josh Giddey scored a career-high 32 points with 10 rebounds and nine assists, Nikola Vucevic added 26 points, and the Chicago Bulls beat the New York Knicks to stay undefeated and get out to their best start in nearly three decades.

Ayo Dosunmu came off the bench to score 22 points with nine assists for the Bulls, who improved to 5-0 and are off to their best start since the 1996-97 season when they opened 12-0 and went on to win the NBA Championship. Billy Donovan earned his 200th coaching win with Chicago.

Suns 118, Jazz 96

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 36 points and had nine assists to lead the Phoenix Suns to a 118-96

win over the Utah Jazz in NBA Cup group play.

Grayson Allen scored 14 points, Royce O'Neale and Ryan Dunn had 13 points each and Dunn grabbed 10 rebounds for the Suns, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Trail Blazers 109, Nuggets 107

In Portland, Jerami Grant made a pair of free throws with 1.4 seconds left and the Portland Trail Blazers rallied for a victory over the Denver Nuggets.

In Denver led 81-71 going into the fourth quarter. With 27.7 seconds left and the Nuggets in front 107-105, Grant hit a pair of free throws for the Blazers to tie it.

After a scramble on the other end, Shaedon Sharpe blocked Aaron Gordon's jumper and the Nuggets were called for a shot clock violation, giving Portland the ball with three seconds left.

A foul was called on Gordon and Grant made the free throws. Nikola Jokic missed a 13-foot jumper as the clock ran out.

Clippers 126, Pelicans 124

In Inglewood, Kawhi Leonard made a buzzer-beater and finished with 34 points to give the Los Angeles Clippers win over the New Orleans Pelicans.

Leonard pump-faked to get Jeremiah Fears up in the air and then rose up for a long 2-point shot to win it after Zion Williamson had tied it with 9.6 seconds remaining by making two free throws.

James Harden had 24 points and 14 assists, and the Clippers have won all three home games to start the season. Derrick Jones Jr. scored 16 points, and Ivica Zubac had 14 points and 11 rebounds.