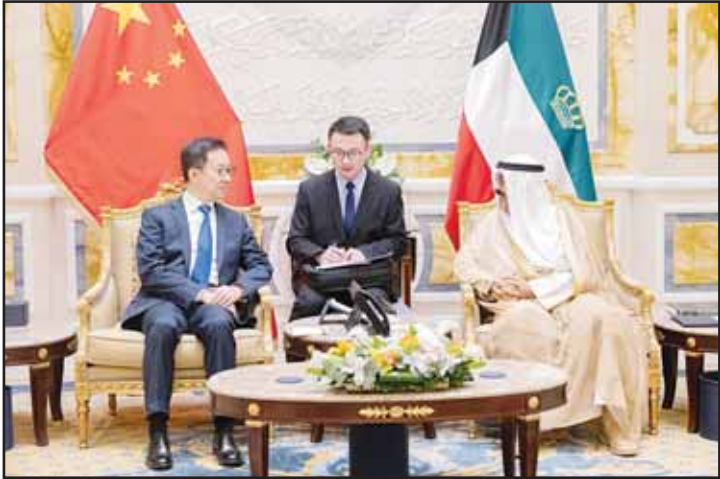




Amiri Diwan photo

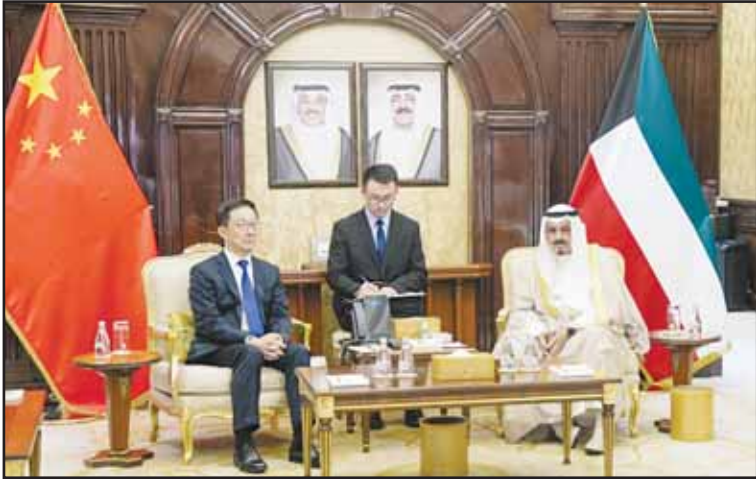
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the Chinese Vice President Han Zheng and his accompanying delegation.

Amir receives Chinese Vice President

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday Chinese Vice President Han Zheng and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of his official visit to the country.

The deep-rooted historical relations between the State of Kuwait and the friendly People's Republic of China were touched on, as well as the latest regional and global developments.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Minister of Public Works and Head of the accompanying delegation of honor, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Director of the Office of His Highness the Amir, Retired Lieutenant General Jamal Al-Dhiyab, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs at the Amiri Diwan, Mazen Al-Issa, and the Ambassador of Kuwait to China, Jassim Al-Najem.



PM Diwan photo

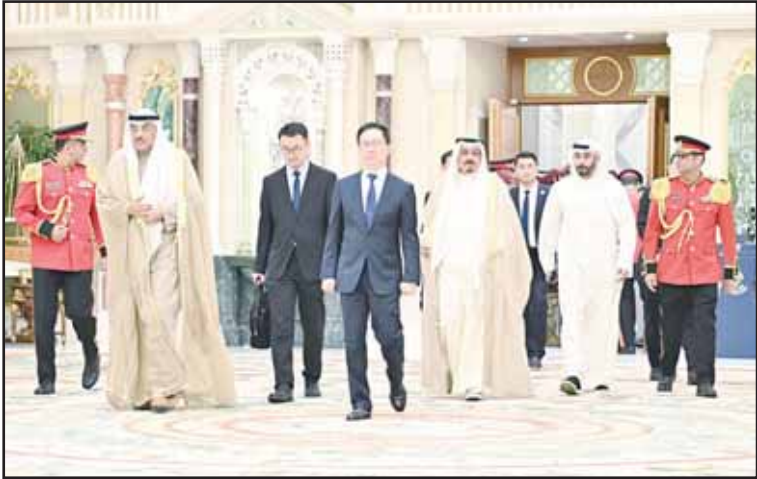
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives Chinese Vice President Han Zheng in his office.

PM receives Chinese Vice President

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Sunday Chinese Vice President Han Zheng on the occasion of his official visit to the country.

The deep-rooted historical relations between the State of Kuwait and the friendly People's Republic of China were touched on. The meeting was attended by the Head of the Prime Minister's Office, Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, the Minister of

Public Works and Head of the accompanying delegation of honor, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Abdullatif Al-Mashari, the Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, Ambassador Sameeh Jawhar Hayat, and the Ambassador of Kuwait to China, Jassim Al-Najem.



Crown Prince Diwan photo

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held a banquet in honor of the visiting Chinese Vice President Han Zheng and his accompanying delegation.

Crown Prince seeks boost in ties in talks with China's VP

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Chinese Vice President Han Zheng held an official round of talks on Sunday.

During the talks, the deep-rooted historical relations between the State of Kuwait and the friendly People's Republic of China were touched on, along with ways to develop and enhance the existing partnership at all levels in a manner that serves the common interests of the two countries and the friendly peoples.

Continued on Page 5

Traffic violations top cases list

Judiciary struggles to tackle massive rise in lawsuits

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Official statistics issued by the Statistics and Research Department at the Ministry of Justice revealed that the total number of criminal cases in the courts of first instance from January to September reached 1,196,356, averaging 4,420 cases daily over 270 actual

working days -- an indicator reflecting the significant momentum of judicial activity in the country.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the statistics, indicating that the number of cases received, reviewed and adjudicated in September alone reached 135,531, an overall completion rate of 36.4 percent. This highlights the substantial workload handled by the criminal divisions in various courts.

Traffic misdemeanor cases topped the list in terms of number, totaling 101,789, but only 2,317 of these cases were adjudicated, a completion rate of 19.3 percent. This trend is indicative of the rising number of daily violations and the procedures associated with the new electronic systems.

Ordinary misdemeanors ranked second, with a total of 14,016 cases. The courts resolved 1,851 of these cases, a completion rate of 40.5 percent. This category includes different offenses such as brawls, petty theft and slander.

Municipal violation cases increased remarkably at 6,918 and 1,961 of which (34.1 percent) were resolved. These cases include violations related to construction, advertising and commercial establishments.

Continued on Page 5

PAM targets private sector

‘Fingerprint entry to work is mandatory’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) confirmed on Sunday that the implementation of Resolution No. 15/2025, concerning working hours regulations in the private sector, is part of efforts to enhance transparency and organize the work environment through modern electronic mechanisms for managing and monitoring working hours and leave, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, PAM explained that the resolution, which came into effect on Saturday following its publication in the official gazette “Kuwait al-Youm”, marks the start of a series of development measures aimed at regulating the labor market. It requires employers to enter all data related to daily working hours, rest periods, weekly rest days, and official holidays into the electronic system adopted by PAM.

PAM emphasized the necessity of updating this data immediately whenever changes occur, adding that the information entered into the electronic system serves as an official reference for PAM inspectors for follow-up purposes.

It stated that employers must print this data and display it in a prominent location at the workplace to allow employees and inspectors easy access, clarifying that the electronic regulations replace the previous paper-based system.

PAM warned that violating the provisions of this decision will subject the employer to the prescribed legal measures, including partial or complete suspension of their file, in accordance with Law No. 6/2010 concerning work in the private sector.

The authority urged all employers to promptly update their data through the electronic system to avoid violations and ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Decrees revoke Kuwaiti nationality of 15 people

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Two decrees and a Cabinet decision revoking Kuwaiti citizenship of 15 individuals, along with those who had acquired it through dependency, were published in the official gazette “Kuwait Al-Youm”, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Decree No. 208/2025 stipulates the revocation of citizenship from two individuals and those who obtained it through dependency.

Decree No. 209/2025 revokes the citizenship of 10 individuals and their dependents.

Cabinet Decision No. 1332/2025 orders the revocation of citizenship from three individuals and those who acquired it through dependency.

Boost ties: media forum

Call for freedom of speech, youth help

BEIRUT, Nov 2, (KUNA): Participants in the 21st edition of the Arab Media Forum recommended integration of the Arab media outlets, protecting freedom of opinion and speech, affirmed support for the youth and called for deepening partnerships between the media institutions, universities and think tanks.



Abulghait

The recommendations came in the final communique of the forum, held on October 29-30, themed “media and development .. coalition of partners of the present and the future. It was sponsored by Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, attended by Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abulghait, Director General of the Arab Planning Institute Dr. Adel Al-wuqayyan, ministers, officials, media figures and academics from various Arab countries.

The final communique called for safeguarding the freedom of opinion and expression as they are the basis for any Arab media venture, called for establishing “a legislative and operating environment that guarantees practicing freedom with professional and national responsibility, staying abreast of the technological development, and the artificial intelligence in the media and digital production realms.

It called for boosting the Arab media merger through mechanisms for exchanging news, other media items, coordinating communication policies for serving causes of the nation, its intelligence and cultural unity.

The conferees during the sessions addressed a host of issues such technological transformation and its role in protecting the national identity, boosting social awareness, future of the career, digital content, development of the communication means and their impact on freedoms, credibility and professionalism.

They advised encouraging joint workshops, the holding of meetings, training courses for expertise swap, updating skills of the personnel in the private and public sectors, dedicating attention to the Arab youth through backing training, launching initiatives, holding contests to stimulate creativity and boost role of the media academies.

Moreover, the participants called for supporting initiatives, establishing a platform for the Arab media creativity, incubating the talented, innovative projects in the sector and urging the Arab League to officially adopt them.

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

THE late Egyptian writer Naguib Mahfouz once said, “A person raised by hardship will not be a lazy student.”

God bless hardships, for they taught me who my true friends are. How quickly some disappear when they sense you are reaching out in need.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahid Matar

Kuwait pavilion at Riyadh show shines with heritage



KUNA photo

Kuwait pavilion at the Riyadh Boulevard.

RIYADH, Nov 2, (KUNA): Kuwait's zone at Boulevard World in Riyadh witnessed a large turnout who gathered to admire its heritage design, inspired by the historic Kuwait, which symbolizes authenticity and reflects the identity of traditional Kuwaiti architecture.

The zone showcases prominent landmarks of Kuwait, including the Kuwait Towers, a renowned cultural and architectural symbol, and features a design that mimics the distinctive heritage style of Souq Al-Mubarakkiya.

It also features the Clock Tower at Seif Palace and the historical gates that were part of the third wall of Kuwait City.

Kuwaiti shops offering local products, perfumes, clothing, and sweets are located within the zone, alongside live performances that embody Kuwaiti heritage and folk arts.

This participation, part of the Riyadh Season 2025, affirms the deep-rooted brotherly relations between Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and strengthens cultural and tourism cooperation between the two nations.

‘Robust global cooperation eyed to combat crime’

Women, kids bear brunt of human trafficking: Kuwait

NEW YORK, Nov 2, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has affirmed that human trafficking is a crime against human dignity not merely a violation of a law. Mariam Mansouri, a diplomatic attaché of the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, made this statement during a special session of the UN General Assembly's Third Committee on the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Kuwaiti diplomat thanked the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights, particularly those of women and children, for her valuable report and her dedicated efforts to highlight the plight of thousands of victims worldwide.

She expressed regret that many women have been deprived of their right to safety and that many children have been thrown into a cycle of exploitation because of this crime.

Mansouri recalled that the UN Human Rights Council resolutions affirm that combating crimes against persons is a collective responsibility requiring robust international cooperation based on

the principles of prevention, protection, and accountability.

“The State of Kuwait believes that this crime can only be eradicated through a vigilant human conscience that prioritizes human life and dignity above all else,” she added.

She emphasized that the State of Kuwait, based on its unwavering commitment to protecting human rights, has taken a series of measures to strengthen the national framework for combating human trafficking.

“These measures include the enacting Law No. 91 of 2013 on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants; establishing the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants; and providing shelters and psychological, social, and legal support services for victims,” she disclosed.

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

‘Meide’ fish abundant as new season opens

KUWAIT CITY: The fish market has had an abundant supply of ‘meide’ fish over the past two days, following the issuance of a decision to allow the fishing of ‘meide’ at Kuwait Bay, reports Al-Rai daily.

Fishermen brought about 1,000 baskets of ‘meide’ within two days, which were sold at prices ranging from KD50 to KD65 per 20-kilogram basket.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Fishermen Union Abdullah Al-Sarheed confirmed that the ministry has been coordinating with the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) to regulate the fish market and curb practices that lead to unreasonable price hikes in auctions.

Al-Sarheed disclosed to the daily “the concerned authorities are keen on apprehending those who violate the law and contribute to the unjustified price hikes in the fish market, in addition to street vendors who buy large quantities of the catch, thus, depriving consumers of obtaining their needs at reasonable prices.”

He explained that “the union is exerting tremendous efforts to provide ample supply of local fish, most importantly the ‘meide,’ which is in high demand for local consumption, as well as to reduce prices in order to achieve market balance.”



KFH explores the future of banks in the digital transformation era

Mohammad Al-Kharafi: NBK is not merely digitizing banking – It is redefining the future of finance by integrating digital services into people's everyday lives



KUNA photo

A staff member is taught how to operate a drone for aerial photography.

Drone photography course launched

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): The KUNA Center for Development of Media began on Sunday a training course on drone operation with the participation of the agency's staff and members of the Qatar News Agency (QNA).

The training course is presented by photographer and content creator Eng. Omar Al-Sayed Omar and it will focus on the basics of

drone operation, photography, and videography. The program will also include visual and practical sessions. The course will continue until November 6.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Center for the Development of Media was established in 1995 with the goal of developing the journalistic skills of news personnel.

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:41
Sunrise .. 06:01
Zohr 11:32

Asr 14:39
Maghrib .. 17:02
Isha 18:20

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h.

By Night: Rather cold with light to moderate northwesterly wind,

Weather

with speeds of 12-35 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	31	21
Kuwait Airport	32	17
Abdaly	33	13
Jahra	33	18

Failaka Island	32	17
Salmiyah	31	23
Ahmadi	34	18
Nuwaisib	32	18
Wafra	33	17
Salmiyah	33	10

Crown Prince and Prime Minister extend sympathies

Kuwait’s Amir offers condolences to Saudi Arabia, Qatar royals

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, sent on Sunday a cable of condolence to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the passing of Prince Khaled bin Mohammad bin Turki bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, wishing the royal family patience and solace.

His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, sent on Sunday a cable of condolence to the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, on the death of Sheikhha Mariam bint Abdullah Al-Attiyah, wishing her family patience and comfort.

His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, sent on Sunday a cable of condolence to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the passing of Prince Khaled bin Mohammad bin Turki bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, wishing the royal family patience and solace.

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His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, sent on Sunday a cable of condolence to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the passing of Prince Khaled bin Mohammad bin Turki bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, wishing the royal family patience and solace.

His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, sent on Sunday a cable of condolence to the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, on the death of Sheikhha Mariam bint Abdullah Al-Attiyah, wishing her family patience and comfort.



His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Prime Minister and Representative of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God protect him, participated on Saturday in the opening ceremony of the Grand Egyptian Museum, which was held under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt, and with the participation of a number of leaders and dignitaries from various countries of the world.

Representative of Kuwait Amir partakes in Grand Egyptian Museum inauguration

The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah participated on Saturday in the inauguration ceremony of the Grand Egyptian Museum.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, and attended by a number of leaders and senior figures from various countries around the world. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi delivered a speech on this occasion, in which he welcomed the guests, recalling the contributions of the Egyptian people to the advancement of civilization and affirming that this achievement came as a result of extensive international cooperation with a number of global companies and institutions.

On this occasion, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah expressed his deep pride in representing His Highness the Amir in this global cultural event which embodies the deep-rooted Egyptian civilization and its contributions to the progress of humanity.

He also praised the museum's unique archaeological treasures and distinguished design, which reflect the spirit of Egyptian creativity and the state's commitment to preserving its ancient cultural heritage.

He affirmed that the inauguration of this great cultural edifice represents a valuable addition to the global civilizational landmarks and reflects the Egyptian leadership's vision of considering history and culture a bridge for communication among peoples and a means of promoting the values of peace and human understanding.

His Highness the Prime Minister praised Egypt's rich cultural and artistic heritage, which has contributed to shaping the conscience of the Arab nation. He emphasized that Egyptian culture and arts will continue to serve as a source of creativity and enlightenment, and inspiration for generations across the Arab world, for their diversity and distinction that reflect Egypt's identity and its pioneering role in the cultural and artistic fields. (KUNA)

See Also Page 12

Kuwait Fund, ICRC sign \$2.5m grant for Somalia’s health, water projects

Agreement aims to address critical infrastructure gaps

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: A Grant Agreement was signed today in the State Kuwait, between the International Committee of the Red Cross and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, whereby the Kuwait Fund will provide a Grant in the amount of USD Two million and five hundred thousand United States dollars (USD 2,500,000/-) in support of Providing Conflict-Affected People with Access to Functional Health Facilities and Clean Water in Somalia.

The Grant Agreement was signed by H.E. Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. Whereas Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric, President of ICRC signed the Grant Agreement on behalf of the International



Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and President of the International Committee of the Red Cross Mirjana Spoljaric after signing the agreement.

Committee of the Red Cross.

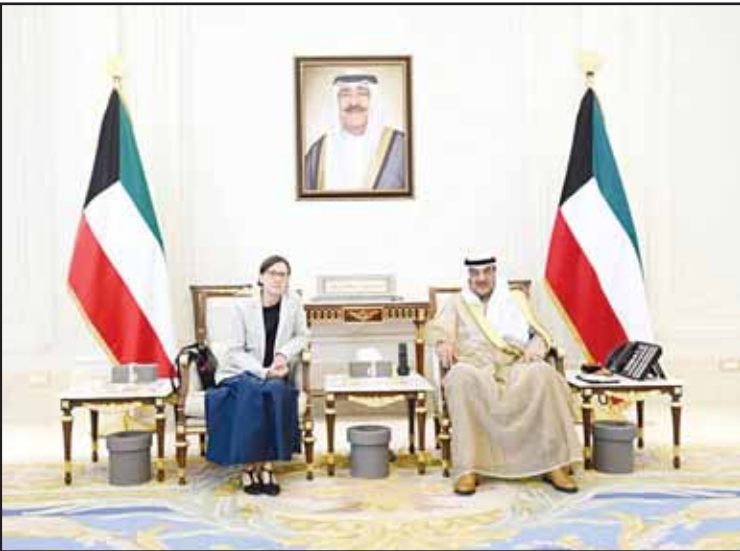
The project falls within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 06 July 2025 between the Government of the State of Kuwait, represented by Kuwait Fund, and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, represented by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The Memorandum outlines joint assistance to support the humanitarian work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Somalia. Under this agreement, both parties will provide a grant totaling USD 5.0 million, with equal contributions of USD 2.5 million from each party.

The project aims to enhance access to essential services by supporting both the construction of new infrastructure and the rehabilitation of existing facilities. It also seeks to address critical gaps in healthcare delivery and access to safe

water, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach regions of the country. The project is expected to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals, including: the first (No Poverty), the third (good health and well-being), the sixth (clean water and sanitation), the sixteenth (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and the seventeenth (partnerships for the goals).

The project consists of the establishment of a new health clinic in the Burfoley area (Hiraan region) to provide primary healthcare services, including maternal and child health services, vaccinations, and health awareness programs. The project also includes the rehabilitation of three existing clinics operated by the Somali Red Crescent Society through infrastructure improvements, provision of clean water, enhancement of waste management systems, and supply of essential equipment. In addition, the project aims to repair the water supply system in Las Anod by restoring and increasing the production capacity of the Water Treatment Plant.

This Grant is the second contribution of its kind between the two institutions in the field of humanitarian support. The first grant was signed on 24/08/2021, In Support of bolstering the Resilience of Essential Services for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, amounting to USD 3.5 million.



His Highness the Crown Prince receives Mirjana Spoljaric, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

KRCS, Red Cross strengthen co-op

Kuwait’s Crown Prince welcomes ICRC President, Director-General

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mirjana Spoljaric and ICRC Director-General Pierre Krahenbuh, along with their accompanying delegation, on the occasion of their visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by Al-Asimah Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chief of the Crown Prince’s Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and senior officials.

Kuwait’s foreign ministry is holding the fourth round of high-level “strategic dialogue” with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), it said in a statement on Sunday.

The talks, presided over by Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah and ICRC chief Mirjana Spoljaric, focused on “strategic and historic” bilateral relations that date back more than three decades, the statement underlined, hailing these ties as having set a “precedent” for international cooperation.

The efforts of the ICRC in following up on the issue of missing Kuwaiti prisoners of war over the past decades were acknowledged, while the talks yielded a grant agreement to fund healthcare and clean water projects in Sudan and Somalia, it added.

Meanwhile, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mirjana Spoljaric Egger emphasized the continuation of cooperation and joint coordination with the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society (KRCS) to address humanitarian challenges, praising Kuwait’s leading role in relief and humanitarian work.

In a statement to KUNA following her meeting with the Chairman of KRCS Ambassador Khaled Al-Maqamis, Egger described the society as a key partner of the ICRC for decades. She noted that the society’s financial contributions have enabled the ICRC to fulfill its humanitarian mission in the Middle East, particularly in Gaza and Syria.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged perspectives on frameworks for future collaboration, particularly in crisis-affected areas such as Yemen, Gaza, Syria, and other countries.

Egger stressed the importance of strengthening joint humanitarian efforts to address ongoing challenges and expressed the ICRC’s interest in further coordination with the KRCS in implementing future humanitarian programs and projects.

On his part, Khaled Al-Maqamis affirmed Kuwait’s commitment to continued support for humanitarian causes and to enhancing partnerships with international organizations. He noted that humanitarian work faces unprecedented challenges, requiring concerted international efforts and urgent responses to the needs of those affected by conflicts and disasters.

Al-Maqamis highlighted that the meeting addressed Kuwait’s key efforts in supporting communities in Gaza, Syria, and Sudan, as well as ways to develop cooperation and exchange expertise to achieve more efficient responses in humanitarian crises.

Benaulim MLA pushes investment, tourism links

Goa seeks stronger ties with Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Capt. Venzy Viegas, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the Benaulim Constituency representing the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), visited the Arab Times office, accompanied by Mr. Carmo Santos, President of the Goan Cultural Centre. He was welcomed by Mr. John Fernandes, Online Media Manager.

During the visit, Capt. Viegas shared his vision for promoting Goa’s growth in investment, trade, culture, and tourism, emphasizing the potential for mutual benefits between Kuwait and India – particularly for Goa and its youth.

He also visited the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, where he was received



AAP MLA Capt. Venzy Viegas (Benaulim) during a visit to the Arab Times office, accompanied by Mr. Carmo Santos, President of the Goan Cultural Centre. Welcomed by Online Media Manager Mr. John Fernandes.

by Mr. Sanjay Muluka, Chargé d’Affaires. The meeting focused on exploring avenues to attract investment from Kuwait to Goa and on strengthening bilateral ties in various sectors.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘Transparency & justice essence of democracy’

“THE features of democracy in Kuwait began to emerge with the establishment of the Shura Council in 1921. These features later crystallized and were solidified within a constitutional democratic system following the promulgation of the modern state’s constitution in 1962,” columnist **Khalid Ahmad Al-Tarrah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Constitutional democracy included the issuance of Law No. 24/1962, which established Public Benefit Societies and regulated elections. Civil society institutions were impacted during the periods when the constitution was suspended, with elections frozen and alternative councils appointed in their place.

“After the dissolution of the 2024 parliament and the suspension of certain constitutional articles, the Council of Ministers did not issue any statement prohibiting elections for public benefit associations, freezing them, or amending their laws.

“It was not easy for Kuwaitis to move beyond the understandings reached behind the scenes and in the corridors of the ‘Jeddah Popular Conference’ during the Iraqi invasion, as well as the speeches, decisions, and official recommendations that the conference witnessed, which had remarkable popular and official participation.

“Some Kuwaiti diwanias were transformed into venues for political meetings between the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, the then Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the late Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah, political groups, and national figures.

“After liberation, Kuwait returned to its pre-liberation state. Democratic life revived among the people and the government, and the democratic pulse bore the lessons of the Iraqi occupation and its preceding events, particularly the dissolution of the 1985 Parliament and the suspension of the constitution.

“This context draws strength from historical reality, recalling the elections of public benefit associations. Some association boards were recently formed by acclamation, while the Kuwaiti Writers Association is still awaiting permission from the Ministry of Social Affairs to hold elections, following the ministry’s decision to postpone them since mid-July.

“It is, of course, not acceptable to claim that elections for public benefit associations will never return, nor should this be generalized as a model for gradually dissolving all associations or for adopting acclamation of boards, lest the vitality of civil society institutions be lost.

“It is unwise to hold the Ministry of Interior accountable for the absence of criminal records for members of the Kuwaiti Writers Association. Responsibility for the delay in resolving the association’s elections rests with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the current board of directors, whose term has expired.

“The Ministry of Social Affairs must assume its legal and moral responsibility and clarify who is accountable for the lack of criminal records since 2023, the failure to take legal action immediately after approving the financial and administrative reports, and the subsequent postponement of the approved election date.

“It is not in the interest of the Ministry of Social Affairs to spread false insinuations suggesting that elections for civil society organizations are prohibited. Such claims are both politically and legally unfounded, as no official directive or new law has been issued on this matter.

“We await a decisive and transparent statement from the Ministry of Social Affairs regarding the principle of elections for the Kuwaiti Writers Association, or alternatively, the appointment of a new board of directors.”

Also:

“Accusing others is easy, but convincing them is harder than drinking seawater in one gulp,” Kuwaiti journalist **Hassan Ali Karam** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“There is a popular saying - ‘Sometimes you are accused of committing crimes while you are sleeping.’ This is used when someone’s words are taken out of context and they are accused based on a misinterpretation.

“I am neither a troublemaker nor an opponent, yet I can be accused

and referred to court because of a misinterpretation of my words. This is what happened to me from an institution that is supposed to be a gateway to freedoms and a platform for every opinion.

“Although I have had no connection whatsoever with courts of any kind or level, and have never been to court in my eighty years, nor have I ever been the subject of a public prosecutor’s investigation, fate decreed that I be accused and sued by the Ministry of Information (the Ministry of Enlightenment and Culture).

“No matter, perhaps in my old age I would enter the courts and gain knowledge previously unknown to me.

“On that bright morning, I went to the Public Prosecutor’s office and was warmly greeted by the young Public Prosecutor, who explained the reasons for my summons. I sat in the dock and listened to the accusations, which did not reflect the truth. They were a misinterpretation and misrepresentation of an article I had written about tourism in Kuwait, following the positive decisions taken by the Ministry of Interior to encourage tourism in the country.

“I left the Public Prosecutor’s office with a certificate of innocence, grateful to God for His kindness and compassion, and thankful to the Public Prosecutor for declaring my innocence.

“Perhaps the Ministry of Information will not interpret every word I write to mean something other than what I intended. After all, I am a Kuwaiti citizen, and it is my right to express my opinion. My views may differ from those of an official in the Ministry of Information, but this does not mean that the citizen who wrote the article is inciting unrest or trying to undermine the foundations of society.

“I am a citizen, and it matters to me, indeed, I hope, to see Kuwait become one of the best and most beautiful countries in the world. Is that a charge of inciting corruption? Accusations taken out of context are hurtful, regrettable, and unjust. Should the role of the Ministry of Information be to promote enlightenment or to silence people?”

□ □ □

“In 1968, I obtained my high school diploma in my hometown of Gaza, which had been under Israeli occupation since 1948. In 1970, I received my high school diploma for a second time, when Gaza was under Egyptian administration. Today, 57 years after my first ‘Israeli’ diploma and 55 years after my second ‘Egyptian’ diploma, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) in Kuwait requires me to submit my original high school diploma, authenticated by at least four different institutions, to renew my work permit online,” Palestinian journalist **Adnan Makkawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“I still do not know which four institutions they mean. The problem is that the Israeli administration withdrew from Gaza in 2005, the Egyptian administration had withdrawn earlier in 1967, the Palestinian Authority withdrew after Hamas’s coup in 2005, and now the Hamas administration has either left or is on the verge of leaving Gaza after causing widespread destruction.

“How can I now obtain my original high school diploma? It seems I have no one to turn to but US President Donald Trump and his deputy in Gaza, Tony Blair, to discuss this matter with Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, in coordination with Cairo, and the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah.

“If they do not grant me justice and help me obtain my 1970 Egyptian high school diploma, which I used to enter the Faculty of Arts at the prestigious Ain Shams University in 1971, authenticated by at least four different authorities, I will request a session of the United Nations Security Council in New York to address the matter and issue an international resolution to resolve my dire problem.

“A right is not lost if a Gazan man like me demands it. I am compelled to submit endless requests, and they will never end. We Gazans have no other occupation than demanding from others, and those others refuse to give me my high school diploma. Perhaps obtaining a death certificate would be easier.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah with volunteers and officials at the launch of the Sulaibikhat Beach cleanliness campaign.

Public, private sectors, volunteers launch joint cleanliness campaign

Bid to instill responsibility in society: Dr Al-Huwailah

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah on Sunday launched the ‘This Is Your Turn’ Campaign at the Sulaibikhat Popular Café, in the presence of the undersecretary of the ministry and a number of officials.

In a press statement, Al-Huwailah said the campaign will continue throughout November, with the participation of several government agencies and the private sector, along with partner volunteer teams, to strengthen social responsibility and maintain the cleanliness of the governorates.

Al-Huwailah pointed out that “the campaign

is an initiative of the ministry, and was made possible through the tremendous efforts of our sons and daughters in the volunteer teams affiliated with the ministry. They contributed their ideas and enthusiasm to implement the plan. This is not just a cleanup drive, as it is rather a campaign embodying the sense of responsibility and community participation with the aim of motivating young people to contribute to the ongoing efforts to preserve the environment and public facilities.”

She clarified that the campaign is not temporary, because it is a continuous call for every individual in society to play their part and make a difference in terms of protecting the environment. She said the responsibility does not fall on one entity alone, as it is a collective responsibility.

She added: “We, at the ministry, believe that community partnerships between the public and private sectors and volunteer teams are

vital to sustainable development and the establishment of the culture of volunteerism in Kuwaiti society.”

On the other hand, Director of the Women, Children and Community Development Department Faye Al-Daihani affirmed that this campaign is in line with the efforts of the ministry to raise environmental awareness and promote community participation. He explained that the goal of the campaign is not just to clean public areas, but also to instill values of belonging and responsibility in young people and encourage them to be active partners in protecting the environment and preserving public facilities.

He added that his department continuously organizes similar initiatives in various governorates, based on its belief in the importance of volunteer work in achieving sustainable development, and building a more conscious and cooperative society.

Municipality, public interaction for better services

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Municipal Council member Munira Al-Amir submitted a comprehensive proposal to launch an initiative entitled, ‘Closer Municipal Services,’ envisioning a monthly event in the center of residential areas in order to bring services closer to citizens and facilitate simple transactions without requiring visits to government offices.

In her proposal, Al-Amir explained that the

initiative involves organizing a monthly event held in different residential areas on a rotating basis. She said during these events, municipal teams will provide expedited services, indicating that the objectives include bringing municipal services closer to the public, strengthening trust and direct interaction between Kuwait Municipality and citizens, improving institutional communication by simplifying procedures, and providing solutions on-site.

She pointed out that the proposed implementation mechanism involves allocating

one day per month in each area, which will be chosen in coordination with the concerned authorities. She said the event will be held in municipal centers, public halls, parks or a mobile service center manned by representatives from various departments to quickly provide services to visitors.

She stressed that the real success of any service institution is measured by how close it is to the people, and that it is now time for the Municipality to intensify its presence in the neighborhoods in reality, not just on paper.



KUNA photo
Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah visits the military college.

Total gov’t support for military prowess: DM

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah affirmed Sunday his commitment to providing full support for the development of military training and education systems to enhance overall efficiency. In a statement following his field visit to Ali Al-Sabah Military College, where he was received by the College Commander, Brigadier General Abdullah Al-Turkait, Sheikh Abdullah praised the institution as a leading academic establishment dedicated to preparing and qualifying officer cadets.

During the visit, the minister toured various facilities and classrooms, emphasizing the importance of maintaining high-quality standards to ensure an integrated educational environment for the cadets.

Gov’t officials probed in false financial disclosure

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) on Sunday confirmed the referral of several supervisors in government entities, who are subject to financial disclosure regulations, to the Public Prosecution for allegedly submitting false financial disclosure statements, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Through its official account on the X platform, Nazaha underscored the need for all individuals subject to financial disclosure regulations to ensure the accuracy and completeness of their statements, and submit these statements within the legally prescribed deadlines. It affirmed that this requirement is both a legal and ethical duty aimed at safeguarding public funds, promoting transparency and integrity, and reinforcing public confidence in State institutions.




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MoE’s online application for exam supervisors now open

Ministry eyes higher transparency

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Ministry of Education announced the opening of on-line application for national exam supervisors for the first semester exams in the 2025/2026 academic year, in line with its commitment to develop examination supervision mechanisms and achieve the highest levels of transparency and discipline in the evaluation process, under the direct guidance of Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaie.

In a press statement on Saturday, the ministry confirmed this move is in accordance with Ministerial Resolution No. 115/2025, which regulates the selection procedures and ensures efficiency in supervising the examination committees in schools.



Jalal Al-Tabtabaie, Minister of Education

The ministry disclosed that applications will be available through its official website from Nov 1-10, explaining that the shift to an online platform is part of its comprehensive digital transformation strategy that aims to streamline procedures for educational personnel wishing to undertake this national duty, thereby, enhancing the speed and accuracy of the nomination process. It added that the online platform is a key component of its efforts to achieve this goal.

It revealed that the application require-

ments include being a Kuwaiti citizen, with at least six years of professional experience calculated up to Sept 1 of the current academic year, with an ‘excellent’ job performance rating in the last three consecutive years, and no disciplinary action taken against them in the last three years unless deleted according to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) regulations or overturned by a final court ruling. Applicants must also submit a criminal record certificate (‘no convictions’) obtained through the ‘Sahel’ application.

It stated that the supervisors must not have any first-degree relatives in Grades 10, 11 and 12 to guarantee impartiality and avoid conflict of interests in the work of examination committees.

It clarified that the selection process will include Kuwaitis in teaching and supervisory positions such as school principals, assistant school principals, technical supervisors, heads of subject departments and teachers. It added that teachers of subjects listed in the examination schedule of the committees they will supervise will not be selected to uphold the principle of impartiality and ensure the integrity of the examination process.

It affirmed that the electronic selection process will be the first step in a comprehensive system of procedures

designed to ensure fairness and objectivity. This will be followed by personal interviews with candidates conducted by a specialized committee in the ministry, headed by the Inspection and Audit Office. The purpose of these interviews is to assess professional competence and the ability to assume responsibility, paving the way for the official approval of the list of names appointed as national supervisors for the first academic term of 2025/2026.

It emphasized that the national supervisors’ role is vital to the success of the examination process, as they are responsible for monitoring the implementation of regulations and procedures in the examination committees and dealing with violations or irregularities, if any. This reinforces the principle of equal opportunities for all students and reflects the high standard of the educational system.

It confirmed that candidates who pass the interview will be contacted later to invite them to a coordination meeting prior to the start of the examinations. This meeting aims to standardize concepts and clarify roles and responsibilities, ensuring the outstanding performance that reflects the commitment of the ministry to adhere to the highest standards of quality and fairness in the educational assessment system.

MoE rolls out new structure in all ministry platforms

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Mona Salem, the acting Director of the Information Systems Department at the Ministry of Education, announced the activation of the new organizational structure in all ministry systems, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a letter to the Undersecretary of the Ministry, she stated, “With reference to the above subject and Ministerial Resolution No. 265/2025 dated July 23, 2025, regarding the new Ministry

of Education structure, please be advised that the Information Systems Department is in the process of activating the new structure in all ministry systems. This requires a concerted effort to modify all systems and programs affected by the change in the ministerial structure.

“The modifications will cover the responsibilities of all employees, including supervisory and leadership bodies, and the distribution of tasks and respon-

sibilities among all employees, each according to their respective roles.”

Salem urged all ministry sectors to complete the attached table specifying employee responsibilities and the programs they use, enabling the Information Systems Department to adjust the structure to align with the new framework and to add or remove responsibilities for all employees according to their roles.

Platform goes live to boost income

‘Visit Kuwait’ launched for tourist visas and activities

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said on Saturday the online platform “Visit Kuwait” has been launched effective today, November 1.

It is the single national gateway that is helpful for visitors to obtain a tourist visa to come to Kuwait and attend various cultural, artistic and entertainment activities, according to the promotion advertisements posted online, said the minister in a statement to KUNA.

It provides a smart interactive map, exclusive offers, planning full activities for the visitors, in addition to instant notifications in Arabic and English.

Launch of the platform has come as a translation of the information ministry’s strategic vision aimed at bolstering the State of Kuwait as a leading tourist and cultural destination in the region, he said, alluding also to the unified promotion efforts intended to attain objectives of neo Kuwait 2035, aimed at diversifying income resources.



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

It will be, he continued, the single official gateway that provides to local and international companies residency visas to hold all kinds of activities, enhance partnership between the private and public sectors in line with the political leadership’s aspirations for overhauling the industry of tourism and entertainment in the State of Kuwait.

PAY theater festival returns Nov 12-22

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Youth declared on Saturday the 16th edition of “the theater days for the youth” festival would be held on November 12-22, under sponsorship of the Minister of Information, Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Almutairi.

The PAY acting deputy director general for youth, Walid Alansari, said in a press statement that the festival would be a youth demonstration depicting the authority’s concern and support for the junior citizens of theatrical skills.

The authority has designated the veteran actor, Saad Alfaraaj, personality of the festival this year in appreciation for his rich artistic experience.

Theatrical troupes have been prepar-



KUNA photo
Walid Al-Ansari, Acting Deputy Director General of the Authority for the Youth Sector

ing for the events, he said, predicting heated competitions among the groups to win the festival awards.

Below grade 17 excluded, CEO pending

KPC labor panel OK’s promotions exception for oil operations staff

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Thirteen months after the implementation of the new promotions system, the Labor Relations Committee at the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has approved an exception for employees in the “Oil Companies Operations Departments” within the oil sector. This exception applies only to employees in the oil sector and excludes positions at grades 17 and above from the unified promotions system.

According to informed sources, the committee is awaiting official approval of this exception by KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah, who had previously shown interest in the matter.

KPC had approved the new unified promotions system for certain positions at grades 17 and above in August 2024, when Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud issued a circular to the CEOs of subsidiary companies and KPC managing directors on August 27, 2024. The circular mandated the implementation of the mechanism proposed by the Labor Relations Committee in its meeting No. 7/2024 on August 21, 2024, for evaluating candidates for positions at grades 17 and above in the oil sector, effective September 1, 2024. This mechanism replaced the previously used 360-degree evaluation method.

The new system redistributed points for candidate selection criteria. Ten points previously allocated for the 360-degree evaluation were reassigned - 5 points from the



Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation CEO

candidate’s direct supervisor and 5 points from the candidate’s highest-ranking supervisor, provided their supervision of the candidate exceeded three months. If the direct supervisor position is vacant, 5 points are given based on the evaluation of the Executive Vice President, in addition to 5 points from the Manager’s evaluation. If the direct supervisor position is vacant for promotion to Manager, 5 points are given based on the CEO’s evaluation, along with 5 points from the Executive Vice President.

The initial selection process, “A,” implemented under the system effective September 2024, comprised 55 points: the average annual performance evaluation for the last three years (25 points) was increased to 35 points, practical experience in the field accounted for 10 points, length of service in the current grade 5 points, and the employing entity 5 points.

The second selection process, “B,” comprised 45 points, with candidates evaluated using a 10-point system (instead of 20 points previously) and the selection committee’s evaluation, including a personal interview, worth 35 points.

The sources indicated that the exemption for operations departments in oil companies is due to the unique nature of their personnel, as these departments are primarily responsible for oil and natural gas exploration and production, crude oil storage, and other roles requiring greater flexibility, which do not align with the unified promotion system.

Eastern runway upgrade begins

Kuwait Airport Phase 3 nears completion

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) confirmed that the third phase of the Kuwait International Airport project has reached 88 percent completion, that it is currently preparing to rebuild the eastern runway within 14 months, and 11 projects are included in its plan to develop air navigation systems and three runways.

Director of the Planning and Follow-up Department at DGCA Eng. Ahmed Hussein disclosed in a televised interview that the third phase of the airport project is one of the vital projects included in the development plan of the State. He said the aim is to develop the air transport system in order to contribute to raising the airport’s level of readiness to keep pace with the expected expansion once the new passenger terminal (T2) becomes operational.

He added that the third phase of the project has four main components: construction of the third runway, develop-

ment of airport infrastructure, construction of a new air traffic control tower, and redevelopment and construction of the eastern runway.

He stated that “the previous phases of the project witnessed 100 percent completion in terms of infrastructure, third runway and new air traffic control tower. Preparations are underway to start the reconstruction of the old eastern runway once the third runway becomes operational. This is expected to be completed within 14 months.” He indicated that the project, valued at KD180 million, is a qualitative leap in the development of airport infrastructure.

He affirmed that the plan of DGCA includes 11 projects to develop air navigation and meteorological systems and complete the three modern runway systems, which will make Kuwait International Airport one of the most modern airports in the region in terms of infrastructure and capacity.



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China leads global artificial intelligence with human-centered vision

Kuwait eyes AI, smart cities and green energy collaboration

KUWAIT CITY, Nov. 2, (Xinhua): China is illuminating the world’s digital future with “responsible artificial intelligence (AI) technology and a human-centered vision” through its achievements in innovation and digital governance, a Kuwaiti official said.

In a recent exclusive interview with Xinhua, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Sabah, chairman of Kuwait’s Association of Artificial Intelligence of Things (AAIOT), a government agency promoting AI and Intelligence of Things (IOT) awareness, research, and adoption, praised China’s leading role in global AI development and digital transformation.

He explained that China is not merely building factories but shaping “a new philosophy of the relationship between humans and machines.” By placing AI at the core of its national strategy and guiding it with science,

ethics, and human-centered principles, China has presented the world “a model that combines technological strength with moral responsibility.”

With strategic foresight and long-term planning, Sheikh Mohammed said, China has become “a pillar shaping the world’s digital future.” He emphasized that China is not merely competing in the global AI race but guiding the world toward “a wiser and more responsible application of artificial intelligence.”

Regarding the digital transformation of Kuwait and the wider Gulf region, Sheikh Mohammed noted that “the future of cities is built on ideas, not just on oil.” He said Kuwait is steadily advancing toward its “New Kuwait 2035” national vision, focusing on developing data- and innovation-driven infrastructure while promoting systematic progress in



Sheikh Mohammed Al-Sabah (left), chairman of Kuwait’s Association of Artificial Intelligence of Things (AAIOT), a government agency promoting AI and Intelligence of Things (IOT) awareness, research, and adoption, attends an event in Doha, Qatar, April 24, 2025. (Xinhua)

digital identity, smart education, and sustainable energy.

“We are building the infrastructure of thought -- the very root of a digital nation,” he said, while acknowledging that Kuwait still faces challenges such as a shortage of skilled professionals, a weak innovation ecosystem, and the need for more advanced data governance regulations.

Challenges in Gulf countries, including talent shortages, weak innovation capacity, and regulatory lag, represent opportunities for deeper cooperation between China and the Gulf states, he said.

Sheikh Mohammed suggested that both sides could work together to establish high-performance computing centers, develop smart cities, train applied AI professionals, and jointly formulate ethical standards for AI to help build a global digital governance system that balances efficiency

with human values.

He highlighted China’s Digital Silk Road initiative as “a bridge of light connecting Asia and the Gulf,” opening new avenues for cooperation in green energy, smart education, and joint research and laboratory development.

Looking ahead, Sheikh Mohammed expressed strong confidence that the next five years will witness “a new model of cooperation between Kuwait and China -- one born not from corporate contracts, but from shared dreams.”

He said key areas of partnership will include smart cities, green energy, smart education, and digital healthcare, noting that Kuwait’s Silk City, a major infrastructure project in northern Kuwait, and Gateway Smart City, a flagship smart city initiative, will stand as landmarks of this collaboration.



KUNA photo
Kuwait Science Club wins the grand prize and 4 medals at the Egypt International Science and Technology Fair.

Nat’l program fuels int’l achievement

Kuwait Science Club wins big at Egypt International Science Fair

CAIRO, Nov 2, (KUNA): Kuwait Science Club secured on Saturday the Grand Prize at Egypt International Science and Technology Fair (EISTF 2025), in addition to winning two gold medals, one silver, and one bronze, marking a new scientific achievement that reflects the excellence of Kuwaiti youth in international forums.

The announcement came at the conclusion of the two-day EISTF 2025 held at the Education City in 6th of October City in Egypt, with wide participation and strong competition from delegations representing several Arab and foreign countries.

The Secretary-General of the Club Ali Al-Jumah, expressed to the KUNA his pride in the successive accomplishments achieved by the Club’s members in various international arenas.

He affirmed the Club’s commitment to representing Kuwait honorably at the Egypt International Science and Technology Fair since its inaugural edition in

2016.

Meanwhile, the Head of the Development and Competitive Programs Sector at the Club, Dr. Mohammad Al-Saffar, expressed his pride in the delegation’s victory, noting that this year’s Kuwaiti participation included four scientific projects presented by seven students, males and females, who had qualified through the Kuwait Science and Engineering Fair.

Al-Saffar emphasized that this achievement is one of the outcomes of the National Program for Supporting Young Researchers and Innovators, which aims to enhance students’ scientific research skills, creativity, and prepare them for international participation.

The Egypt International Science and Technology Fair (EISTF 2025) is an international scientific competition showcasing many research projects by university students representing various Arab and foreign countries, in addition to Egypt, the host nation of this scientific event.

Kuwait’s youth gain strong support in AI development

Initiative nurtures next generation of innovators

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: **Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Association for Supporting Inventors and Innovation Dr. Fatima Al-Thallab affirmed the importance of supporting and empowering young Kuwaiti talent to gain expertise in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, reports Al-Seyassah daily.**

Dr. Al-Thallab said this in her speech during the closing ceremony of the initiative titled “Our Future Starts Now: Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Towards Sustainability with a Youthful Vision,” launched by the association in cooperation with the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity last Tuesday and hosted by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

She explained that the initiative serves as an inspiring national model for integrating the academic and community sectors in supporting and empowering Kuwaiti youth, enhancing their role in leading digital transformation, and contributing to Kuwait’s development vision. Investing in young minds is the foundation of progress and innovation in any society.

Meanwhile, Hamad Al-Aftan, representative of the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity and Director of the Innovation Department at the Center, stated that the center always strives to nurture national talent and launch initiatives that develop innovative thinking and connect scientific knowledge with practical application.



KSIS photo
Participants in the initiative.

He affirmed that the initiative provides an ideal platform for young people to express their creative ideas and engage with modern technological issues in a mature, scientific manner.

Furthermore, Dr. Muhammad Al-Momen, Dean of the College of Technological Studies at PAAET, noted that hosting the initiative is in line with PAAET’s educational mission to provide a nurturing scientific environment for innovation and creativity.

He praised the strong participation of students from all the colleges and institutes.

Also, Dr. Adnan Al-Anzi, Dean of Student Affairs at PAAET, affirmed that the initiative aligns with the institution’s

strategy to support purposeful student activities and enhance students’ skills in technical and scientific fields.

He highlighted that the interaction and innovation displayed during the event reflect the students’ awareness and their ability to actively contribute to the national development process.

In addition, Mahnaz Qabazard, Director of the Higher Institute of Communications and Navigation, emphasized the institute’s commitment to utilizing its resources to ensure the initiative’s success.

She noted that the collaboration between the organizing and sponsoring entities sets a distinguished example in supporting applied education and promoting a culture of digital transformation among students.

Continued from Page 1

Traffic violations

Commercial misdemeanors recorded a high completion rate of 66.7 percent out of a total of 12,422 cases, while information technology cases reached 10,217, with a completion rate of 62.1 percent. This shows that the judiciary focuses on swiftly addressing cyber fraud and extortion crimes.

The statistics also revealed that the number of felony cases reached 1,205 and 322 (31 percent) of which were resolved. Appeals against misdemeanors totaled 57,161, with a completion rate of 54.1 percent.

Regarding juvenile cases, 3,421 cases were processed, 66.7 percent completion rate. Passport cases numbered 810, with 74 percent completion rate -- one of the highest rates during the month, and social Affairs cases totaled 845 or 34.7 percent.

The total number of postponed cases reached 20,623, compared to 12,172 resolved cases and 13,531 newly filed cases. This demonstrates the continuous increase in the daily caseload of the criminal courts, particularly in traffic, municipal and ordinary misdemeanor cases, which constitute more than 80 percent of the total cases under review.

Women, kids

She noted that the State of Kuwait has also launched training and capacity-building programs in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, under the supervision of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“This ensures that national efforts are consistent with relevant international obligations,” she asserted.

Mansouri indicated that this year, Kuwait’s efforts have garnered well-deserved international recognition, as the US State Department’s 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report up-

graded its classification to Tier 2.

“This reflects tangible progress in legislative reforms, strengthening the victim protection system, and implementing the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” said the Kuwaiti diplomat.

She stressed that human trafficking is not merely a legal issue, but a test of the shared humanity.

“When a woman is exploited or a child is enslaved, the world’s silence becomes complicity in the crime.

“From this perspective, Kuwait reaffirms its unwavering commitment to working with the international community to achieve a world where human beings are protected from exploitation and where dignity is safeguarded as much as borders are,” she concluded.

Crown Prince

The Kuwaiti side included the Head of the Crown Prince’s Diwan, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Al-Yahya, Minister of Public Works and Head of the accompanying delegation of honor, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Abdullatif Al-Mashari, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Subeeh Al-Mukhaizeem, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority, Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah, and senior officials.

The Chinese delegation included Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, Wang Changlin, the Vice Minister of Transport, Xu Chengguang, the Chi-

nese government’s special envoy for the Middle East issue, Zhai Jun, and the Assistant Minister of Commerce, Yuan Xiaoming.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held a banquet in honor of the visiting Chinese Deputy President Han Zheng and his accompanying delegation.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday Chinese Deputy President Han Zheng and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his official visit to the country.

The reception ceremony began with the national anthems of both countries.

The Chinese delegation included Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, Wang Changlin, the Vice Minister of Transport, Xu Chengguang, the Chinese government’s special envoy for the Middle East issue, Zhai Jun, and the Assistant Minister of Commerce, Yuan Xiaoming.

The reception was attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the Head of the Crown Prince’s Diwan, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of Public Works and Head of the accompanying delegation of honor, Dr. Noura Mohammad Al-Mashaan, and the Ambassador of Kuwait to the People’s Republic of China, Jassim Al-Najem.

Call for

The statement emphasized necessity to revise the media laws and legislations in the Arab states to be in harmony with the digital era, ensure balance between the freedom of expression and protecting privacy, enact modern laws according

to international criteria following the example of a Lebanese bill, declared by the Lebanese Information Minister Paul Morqos during the gathering.

The conferees affirmed necessity of establishing an Arab monitor for media developments to follow up on technological and legal developments, issuing annual reports on digital transformation and its impact on the media realms, in addition to enhancing the partnership between media institutions and universities for producing new educational programs in the sectors of the digital media and artificial intelligence.

The statement called for supporting cooperation among the ministries of information, journalistic institutions to unify efforts in the face of fake news, ethical breaches and launching joint awareness campaigns supporting values of dialogue, tolerance and respect among nations of diverse cultures.

It underscored the media role in backing up sustainable development in the Arab world by means of adopting a positive Arab rhetoric linking up awareness, knowledge, progress and work and called for establishing an Arab fund for supporting youth media initiatives.

Furthermore, the conferees called for deepening cooperation between the forum with Arab and international institutions that work in the fields of communication, media, training, scientific research, and noted necessity of organizing various media activities in Lebanon in support of the country’s historic cultural and media role.

The conferees greeted souls of the journalism martyrs in Lebanon, Palestine and other Arab countries, affirming necessity of protecting the journalists in conflict regions, based on international resolutions, the Geneva convention and journalism freedom charters.



KUNA photo
Hessa Al-Shaya, Media Researcher in the Tax Department at the Ministry of Finance.

Taxes key to sustainable growth

KUNA hosts literacy lecture on taxation with Finance Ministry

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), in cooperation with the Tax Department at the Ministry of Finance, organized a lecture on Sunday entitled “Taxation: A Sustainable Source of Development,” as part of its efforts to promote financial literacy in public institutions.

The lecture, delivered by Hessa Al-Shaya, a media specialist at the Tax Department, and Abdul Latif Al-Muhanna, a financial researcher at the department, addressed the benefits of the tax system, including financing public expenditures and social services, improving service quality, encouraging domestic production by imposing taxes on imported goods, attracting investments, and creating new job opportunities.

It also covered the different types of taxes and the distinction between taxes and fees, explaining that Law No. 19 of 2000 concerning the support of national employment imposes a 2.5 percent

tax on Kuwaiti and Gulf companies listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange.

The lecture highlighted that the purpose of the National Employment Support Law is to support and encourage Kuwaiti nationals to work in the non-governmental sector and to reduce disparities in salaries and benefits across different sectors, based on the principle of equality in rights and duties guaranteed to Kuwaiti citizens by the Constitution.

The lecturers further discussed Law No. 46 of 2006 concerning Zakat (Islamic alms) and the contributions of public and private companies to the state budget. This included determining the amount of Zakat due on their assets and allocating the owed amount, or a portion thereof, to public services.

They also identified the beneficiaries of tax revenues, as defined in the general budget, which include education, health, electricity, water, utilities, and other essential services.

‘Meeting expected to take place Nov 10’

Trump to host al-Sharaa in first-ever visit by Syrian president to White House: official

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Nov 2, (AP): US President Donald Trump will host Ahmad al-Sharaa for talks, a first-ever visit by a Syrian president to the White House, an administration official said Saturday.

The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly about the yet to be formally announced engagement, said that the meeting is expected to take place Nov 10.

Trump met with al-Sharaa in Saudi Arabia in May in what was the first encounter between the two nations’ leaders in 25 years. Syria continues to struggle to emerge from decades of international isolation.

The meeting, on the sidelines of Trump’s get-together with the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, was seen as a major turn of events for a Syria that is still adjusting to life after

the over 50-year, iron-gripped rule of the Assad family.

Al-Sharaa once had a \$10 million US bounty on his head.

Under the nom de guerre Abu Mohammed al-Golani, al-Sharaa had ties to al-Qaida and joined insurgents battling U.S. forces in Iraq before entering the Syrian war. He was even imprisoned by US troops there for several years.

Al-Sharaa is expected during his visit to sign an agreement on joining the US-led coalition against ISIS, the official said.

Al-Sharaa in the May meeting became the first Syrian leader to meet an American president since Hafez Assad met Bill Clinton in Geneva in 2000.

The visit comes as Trump is urging Middle East allies to seize the moment to build a durable peace in the volatile region after Israel and Hamas ear-



In this photo provided by the Saudi Royal Palace, Syria’s interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, (left), shakes hands with US President Donald Trump in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia May 14, 2025. At foreground right is Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. (AP)

lier this month began implementing a ceasefire and hostage deal. That agreement aims to bring about a permanent end to the brutal two-year war in Gaza.

The fragile ceasefire and hostage deal continues to hold, but the situation remains precarious.

Israeli strikes in Gaza earlier this week killed 104 people, including dozens of women and children, the enclave’s health authorities said.

The strikes, the deadliest since the ceasefire began on Oct 10, marked the most serious challenge to the tenuous truce to date.

The strikes came Tuesday night after Israel accused Hamas of killing a soldier and staging the discovery of a deceased hostage.

News of the planned meeting between Trump and al-Sharaa was first reported by Axios.

Meanwhile, the US’s special envoy for Syria on Saturday called Lebanon “a failed state” in remarks underscoring Washington’s frustration with Beirut’s “paralyzed government,” even as Syria inches toward closer ties with the US.

Speaking at the Manama Dialogue summit in Bahrain during a panel on “US Policy in the Levant,” Thomas Barrack hailed developments in Syria following the downfall of Bashar Assad in December.

Barrack also said that Syria is expected to join the US-led anti-Islamic State group coalition, describing it as “a big step” and “remarkable.” The coalition includes some 80 countries working to prevent a resurgence of IS.

As for Lebanon, Barrack pointedly said it was the only state in the region “not jumping in line” with the new Middle East realignments.



The William McKinley Monument is silhouetted in front of the west side of the Ohio Statehouse on April 15, 2024, in Columbus, Ohio. (AP)



Former US president Barack Obama speaks at a rally for New Jersey Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mikie Sherrill on Nov 1, 2025, in Newark, NJ. (AP)

Obama criticizes Trump

Ohio panel moves forward with congressional redistricting plans

WASHINGTON, Nov 2, (AP): An Ohio panel adopted new US House districts on Friday that could boost the GOP’s chances of winning two additional seats in next year’s elections and aid President Donald Trump’s efforts to hold on to a slim congressional majority.

The action by the Ohio Redistricting Commission came as Virginia’s Democratic-led General Assembly advanced a proposed constitutional amendment that could pave the way for redistricting in the state ahead of the 2026 congressional elections. That measure still needs another round of legislative approval early next year before it can go to voters.

Trump has been urging Republican-led states to reshape their US House districts in an attempt to win more seats. But unlike in other states, Ohio’s redistricting was required by the state constitution because the current districts were adopted after the 2020 census without bipartisan support.

Ohio joins Texas, Missouri and North Carolina, where Republican lawmakers already have revised their congressional districts.

Democrats have been pushing back. California voters are deciding Tuesday on a redistricting plan passed by the Democratic-led Legislature.

The political parties are in an intense battle, because Democrats need to gain just three seats in next year’s election to win control of the House and gain the power to impede Trump’s agenda.

In a rare bit of bipartisanship, Ohio’s new map won support from all five Re-

publicans and both Democrats on the redistricting panel. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee praised the Ohio Democrats “for negotiating to prevent an even more egregious gerrymander” benefiting Republicans.

Republicans already hold 10 of Ohio’s 15 congressional seats. The new map could boost their chances in already competitive districts currently held by Democratic Reps. Greg Landsman in Cincinnati and Marcy Kaptur near Toledo. Kaptur won a 22nd term last year by about 2,400 votes, or less than 1 percentage point, in a district carried by Trump. Landsman was reelected with more than 54% of the vote.

National Democrats said they expect to hold both targeted seats and compete to flip three other districts where Republicans have won by narrow margins.

Ohio’s commission had faced a Friday deadline to adopt a new map, or else the task would have fallen to the GOP-led Legislature, which could have crafted districts even more favorable to Republicans. But any redistricting bill passed by the Legislature could have been subject to an initiative petition campaign from opponents seeking to force a public referendum on the new map.

The uncertainty of that legislative process provided commissioners of both parties with some incentive for compromise.

But Ohio residents who testified to commissioners Friday denounced the new districts. Julia Cattaneo, who

wore a shirt saying “gerrymandering is cheating,” said the new map is gerrymandered more for Republicans than the one it is replacing and is not the sort of compromise needed.

“Yes, you are compromising - your integrity, honor, duty and to represent Ohioans,” she said.

Added resident Scott Sibley: “This map is an affront to democracy, and you should all - every one of you - be ashamed.”

Republican state Auditor Keith Farber, a member of the commission, defended the map during a testy exchange with one opponent. Because many Democrats live in cities and many Republicans in rural areas, he said there was no way to draw a map creating eight Republican and seven Democratic districts - as some had urged - without splitting cities, counties and townships.

Virginia is represented in the US House by six Democrats and five Republicans. Democratic lawmakers haven’t unveiled their planned new map, nor how many seats they are trying to gain, but said their moves are necessary to respond to the Trump-inspired gerrymandering in Republican-led states.

Also:

NORFOLK, Va: Former US president Barack Obama is encouraging voters to elect Democratic governors in Virginia and New Jersey in races this Tuesday to rebuke Donald Trump 10 months into his second presidency and a year ahead of midterm elections that could reshape it.

Obama’s appearances Saturday for

Abigail Spanberger and Mikie Sherrill contrast with Trump spending the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, leaving Republicans Winsome Earle-Sears in Virginia and Jack Ciattarelli in New Jersey to campaign for themselves.

At the same time, California advocates made 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 maintain a friendly House majority in 2026.

Obama praised Spanberger and Sherrill, center-left Democrats who helped their party win a U.S. House majority halfway through Trump’s first presidency, as experienced figures who would improve voters’ financial circumstances. Yet Obama, who remains Democrats’ most popular figure nearly nine years removed from the White House, spent much of his time during separate rallies lambasting Trump for “lawlessness and recklessness” and “shambolic” economic policy.

Obama urged voters to “set a glorious example for the nation” by rejecting nominees loyal to a president with “autocratic impulses.”

“The stakes are now clear,” Obama said in Virginia. “We don’t need to speculate about the dangers to our democracy. We don’t need to ask ourselves how much more coarse and mean our culture can become. Elections matter, and they matter to you.”

2 people killed in Ukraine’s Odesa as Russia continues to blast power grid

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 2, (Agencies): At least two people were killed in a drone attack in Ukraine’s southwestern Odesa region, Ukrainian authorities said Sunday. Elsewhere, Russia continued to pummel the country’s energy infrastructure.

Russian drones attacked a car park in the Odesa region on Ukraine’s Black Sea coast in the early hours of Sunday, killing two people, according to the State Emergency Service. Odesa regional Gov. Oleh Kiper said that three others were wounded.

Tens of thousands of residents were left without power after Russia attacked the front-line Zaporizhzhia region overnight into Sunday with drones and missiles.

Regional Gov. Ivan Fedorov said nearly 60,000 people faced power outages and that two people were wounded in the attacks. He posted photos on Telegram of buildings reduced to rubble.

As a result of attacks on Ukraine’s power grid, several regions faced rolling power cuts on Sunday, Ukraine’s national energy operator, Ukrenergo, said.

The strikes were the latest in Russia’s sustained campaign on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure as bitter winter temperatures approach.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, emergency personnel work to extinguish a fire in Sumy, Ukraine, on Oct 31, following Russian drone attacks. (AP)

Ukrainian cities use centralized public infrastructure to run water, sewage and heating systems, and blackouts stop them from working.

Attacks aim to erode Ukrainian morale as well as disrupt weapons manu-

facturing and other war-related activity almost four years after Russia’s full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

Analysts and officials say that this year Moscow has shifted tactics, targeting specific regions and gas infrastructure.

Also:

MOSCOW: Russia launched a new nuclear submarine, the Khabarovsk, in the port city of Severodvinsk, the Russian Ministry of Defense announced on Saturday.

A launching ceremony of the nuclear submarine was held at JSC Production Association Sevmash, a major Russian shipbuilding enterprise, the ministry said in a release.

The submarine, equipped with underwater weapons and robotic systems, will enable Russia to defend its national interests in the oceans, according to the release.

“I would like to thank everyone involved in the submarine’s creation for their conscientious and high-quality work. The vessel still has to undergo a series of sea trials. I wish the crew and the commissioning team success in conducting them,” Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov was quoted as saying by the ministry.



Emergency personnel inspect a train at the Huntingdon, England, train station in Cambridgeshire after people were stabbed on Nov 1. (AP)

Police rule out terrorism in UK train stabbing attack

British police dismissed speculation on Sunday that a mass stabbing attack on a London-bound train the previous evening was terrorism-related but said two people who were wounded remain in life-threatening condition.

Police also said that two men, born in the United Kingdom, remain in custody at separate police stations. They were arrested eight minutes after the first emergency calls were made at 7:42 pm from aboard the train, where passengers had reported scenes

of panic and chaos with many running through the carriages and some seeking safety in the toilets.

“This is a shocking incident and my thoughts are with those who have been injured and their families,” British Transport Police Superintendent John Loveless said outside the station in Huntingdon in eastern England where the train halted soon after the attack.

“There is nothing to suggest this is a terrorist incident,” he added.

The two arrested remain in cus-

tody, he said, adding that one is a 32-year-old Black British man, the other is a 35-year-old man of Caribbean descent. The relationship of the two suspects was not revealed, nor was the type of knife, or knives, used.

Loveless also gave an update on the wounded, reducing the number in life-threatening condition from nine to two. He said four of them were discharged and that one other person arrived at the hospital, taking the overall number treated to 11. (AP)

Andrew will be banished from royal premises to Charles’ Sandringham estate

LONDON, Nov 2, (AP): Andrew Mountbatten Windsor, the disgraced younger brother of King Charles III, will be banished from royal premises to his brother’s private and remote Sandringham estate - a move that will see him further hidden from view from a clearly angry British public.

His ejection from the 30-room Royal Lodge on the grounds of Windsor Castle to one of the properties on the king’s estate in the east of England will symbolize the downfall of the one-time prince and duke.

Though he’s lost his perks of title and status, Andrew, 65, will not be slumming it.

But it is a banishment that leaves Andrew increasingly exposed to scrutiny both in the United Kingdom and the United States over his friendship with the deceased Jeffrey Epstein. Andrew denies allegations of improper behavior during his long friendship with Epstein, including from Virginia Roberts Giuffre.

Following years of scandals related to Andrew, Charles arguably took the biggest step of his reign on Thursday by seeking to insulate the monarchy from any exposure emanating from Andrew’s connections with Epstein, who took his own life in prison in Au-



Prince Andrew leaves St Giles Cathedral after the arrival of the coffin containing the remains of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, in Edinburgh, Scotland on Sept 12, 2022. (AP)

gust 2019 while awaiting trial on trafficking charges, more than a decade after his initial conviction.

Andrew has been given notice that his time at Royal Lodge, the mansion near Windsor Castle where he has lived for more than 20 years, is coming to an end. He signed a 75-year lease in 2003 with the Crown Estate, a portfolio of

properties that is nominally owned, but not controlled, by the monarch.

He invested a required 7.5 million pounds (\$9.9 million) to refurbish the home and now resides there for the annual sum of a peppercorn, a symbolic figure often used to satisfy the legal requirement of real estate transactions.

Europe

Avalanche in Italy kills 5: Five German mountaineers died after being hit by an avalanche in South Tyrol, in northern Italy, rescuers said on Sunday.

Three victims - two men and a woman - had already been recovered dead on Saturday, while the bodies of two other missing people, a man and his 17-year-old daughter, were found on Sunday morning.

“They had been dragged to the lower part of the gully where the avalanche occurred,” said Alpine rescue spokesman Federico Catania. “Rescue teams are now returning to the valley, also considering the worsening weather conditions at high altitude.”

The mountaineers, all Germans, were hit by the avalanche at about 4 p.m. on Saturday while climbing near the Cima Vertana, in the Ortles mountains, at an altitude of more than 3,500 meters (11,500 feet). It is unknown why the climbers were still on their way up at this relatively late hour, rescuers said. (AP)

Two killed in Greece shooting: Two people have died



Catania

and at least six others were injured on Saturday in a shooting on the Greek island of Crete reportedly sparked by a long-standing family feud, authorities said.

The incident began shortly after 11 am in the village of Vozizia, located 52 kilometers (32 miles) south of Heraklion, the island’s largest city.

The two victims, a 39-year-old man and a 56-year-old woman, died as a result of the shootout, police said in a statement. Six other people were taken to local hospitals with injuries of varying severity, local emergency services EKAB said in a statement.

Two injured men are in hospital and “under guard, and their participation in the armed incident is under investigation,” police said. (AP)

Germany workshop blast injures 4: Four people were injured in an explosion at a vehicle workshop near a gas station in the western German city of Castrop-Rauxel, local authorities said on Friday.

The blast occurred on Friday morning during cleaning work on a liquefied gas lorry, triggering a fire that destroyed the workshop hall, according to the fire department. Two of the victims suffered life-threatening burns and were airlifted to hospitals.

Several vehicles at the site, which is located in an industrial area, were damaged.

Police said residents heard a loud explosion followed by a thick cloud of smoke rising over the area. (Xinhua)

Canada and Philippines sign defense pact to boost combat drills: officials

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 2, (AP): Canada and the Philippines signed a key defense agreement on Sunday to boost combat drills and expand security alliances to deter aggression, officials said.

Canada and other Western nations have been bolstering their military presence in the Indo-Pacific to help promote the rule of law and expand trade and investment in the region. The strategy dovetails with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. 's efforts to build defense ties with other countries to help the Philippines' underfunded military face a militarily superior China in the disputed waters.

There was no immediate comment from China, which has accused the Philippines of being a "troublemaker" and a "saboteur of regional stability" following joint patrols and combat drills with the United States and other countries in the South China Sea.

Beijing claims the waterway, a major trade route, virtually in its entirety, despite a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated those claims based on a 1982 U.N. convention.

China has dismissed the ruling and has employed powerful water cannons and dangerous blocking maneuvers against Philippine coast guard and other vessels, resulting in collisions and injuries to crewl. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have been involved in the long-simmering territorial disputes.

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. signed the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement with his Canadian counterpart, David McGuinty, after a closed-door meeting in Manila on Sunday.

McGuinty said the agreement will boost joint military training, information-sharing and cooperation in addressing emergencies, including responding to natural disasters.



Philippines Defense Minister Gilberto Teodoro attends the ASEAN-Japan Defence Minister Informal Meeting, at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Nov 1. (AP)

Teodoro told reporters the agreement will be key to fostering a rules-based international order in a region threatened by China's aggression. "Who is hegemonic? Who wants to expand their territory in the world? China," Teodoro said.

Such agreements provide a legal framework for visits by foreign troops for joint large-scale exercises in either country.

The Philippines signed the first such defense pact with the US in 1998, followed by a similar accord with Australia nine years later. The agreement with Canada was the third signed under Marcos, after similar ones with Japan and New Zealand.

Death toll from heavy rains rises to 35 Hegseth in Vietnam to strengthen defense ties

HANOI, Vietnam, Nov 2, (Agencies): US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was in Vietnam on Sunday, reaffirming a partnership built on healing the scars of the Vietnam War in a trip that will test whether Washington can reassure a vital but wary partner.

Hegseth said addressing the legacies of the war, which ended 50 years ago in April, "remains the foundation of our defense relationship and a top priority for this administration and the Department of Defense."

Hegseth's visit also marks 30 years of diplomatic ties between the former foes and two years since they upgraded relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Vietnam's highest diplomatic status. He arrived in Hanoi from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he attended a meeting of counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Cooperation on postwar issues remains an emotional and political foundation of US-Vietnam relations.

Since normalizing ties in 1995, the two countries have worked together to clear unexploded ordnance, recover remains of missing service members and clean up dioxin - the toxic chemical used in Agent Orange - from former



Honor guards line up for a welcome ceremony for the visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth in Hanoi, Vietnam on Nov 2

US air bases that continue to affect communities.

Also:
HANOI: The death toll from heavy rains and flooding in Vietnam's central region has risen to 35, with 5 people missing and 60 others injured, the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority said on Sunday. More than 16,500 houses remain

inundated, while 361 others were damaged.

The floods also submerged over 5,300 hectares of rice and other crops, damaged nearly 800 hectares of fruit trees, and killed or swept away more than 42,000 livestock and poultry, according to the report.

Power has been restored for most affected areas, with around 75,000 households still without electricity.

Xi returns to Beijing after APEC meeting

South Korea's Lee calls for greater Chinese efforts to bring North Korea back to talks

GYEONGJU, South Korea, Nov 2, (Agencies): South Korean President Lee Jae Myung asked Chinese President Xi Jinping to make greater efforts to persuade North Korea to return to talks, as the two leaders on Saturday agreed on a set of steps to expand their economic and other ties.

Their one-on-one meeting came hours after they and other Asia-Pacific leaders wrapped up an annual summit in South Korea with a joint statement pledging stronger economic cooperation. The two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in the city of Gyeongju took place a day after Xi and US President Donald Trump agreed to dial back earlier steps and de-escalate their trade war.

During his meeting with Lee, Xi called for Seoul to work with Beijing to "practice genuine multilateralism," according to Chinese state media, as he continued to position Beijing as the defender of the global trade order upended by Trump's sweeping tariffs.

Chinese state media reports on the Xi-Lee meeting didn't immediately carry any North Korea-related comments by Xi.

However, Wi Sung-lac, Lee's national security director, said Lee during the meeting outlined his strategy

for achieving denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and "requested a constructive Chinese role to help realize the resumption of talks with North Korea."

"Xi replied that he would continue his efforts to help resolve issues involving the Korean Peninsula and promote peace and stability here," Wi said.

China is North Korea's traditional ally and economic pipeline, but there are still questions about how much leverage it has on its impoverished neighbor. China has been long suspected of avoiding fully implementing UN sanctions on North Korea and sending clandestine aid shipments to help the North stay afloat and continue to serve as a bulwark against U.S. influence on the Korean Peninsula.

The North Korea item in the Lee-Xi meeting drew an irritated response from Pyongyang. North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Pak Myong Ho slammed South Korea for talking about "its daydream" of realizing North Korea's denuclearization.

Lee, an advocate of reconciliation with North Korea, said earlier Saturday he would take "more active preemptive steps" to lower military tensions with the North, stressing that



South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, (right), shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea on Nov 1. (AP)

peace on the Korean Peninsula is essential to prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

Lee's office said South Korea and China also signed several agreements on jointly combating online scams, expanding a bilateral free trade deal and

renewing a currency swap deal that expired last month.

After two days of talks, APEC leaders vowed greater cooperation to tackle shared challenges in a global economy hit hard by rising protectionism and trade tensions between the United

States and China, the world's two largest economies.

Their joint statement declared that the APEC leaders "acknowledge the global trading system continues to face significant challenge."

"We reaffirm our shared recognition that robust trade and investment are vital to the growth and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region," it says.

Jeonghun Min, a professor at South Korea's National Diplomatic Academy, said the statement avoided direct language supporting "free and open trade," which would not have received backing from the United States, but still endorsed economic cooperation and multilateralism at the core of APEC's mission.

"It wasn't possible to leave that out entirely," said Min.

The joint declaration said that APEC members remain committed to the Putrajaya Vision 2040, a 20-year growth vision adopted in 2020 that calls for a trade environment that's "free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable."

While the summit's opening session on Friday focused on ways to boost trade and investment, Saturday's meeting had cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence, demographic

challenges and cultural industries on its agenda.

Xi urged Asia-Pacific countries on Saturday to promote the "sound and orderly development" of AI in a way that is mindful of all of humanity's well-being. He proposed the formation of a new global body called the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization.

Trump, known for his dismissal of multilateralism, had quickly left South Korea after the agreement with Xi, leaving the Chinese president to steal the limelight at the APEC summit. The U.S. under Trump has stepped back from efforts to regulate AI and would be unlikely to join the group that China has proposed.

APEC leaders also issued a statement Saturday calling for a coordinated approach to the changes brought by AI, which they described as a potential economic catalyst that also poses challenges. Another statement urged cooperation to address declining birth rates, aging populations and accelerated urbanization.

Chinese President Xi returned to Beijing on Saturday evening after attending the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and concluding his state visit to South Korea.

Argentina's chief of staff resigns, heralding change for President Milei after election win

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Nov 2, (AP): The chief of staff to President Javier Milei of Argentina resigned on Friday, less than a week after the governing party won a new mandate to accelerate his program of radical reform in pivotal midterm elections.

Guillermo Francos, a 75-year-old career politician with decades of experience at the heart of government, said in a statement that he was stepping down so that Milei "may face without constraints the stage of government that begins after the national elections."

Francos' departure after weeks of speculation was expected to herald a wider Cabinet shake-up, as is common in Argentina following elections. Interior Minister Guillermo Catalán followed suit on Friday.

Riding high off his party's surprise landslide win in Sunday's legislative elections and \$40 billion in pledged funds from a friendly Trump administration, Milei announced that his main spokesperson, Manuel Adorni - an ideological defender of the president's agenda known for his combative press conferences littered with sarcastic one-liners - would replace the even-tempered Francos as Cabinet chief.

Many far-right supporters of Milei's



Argentina's President Javier Milei holds a megaphone while leading a campaign rally ahead of mid-term elections, in Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires province, Argentina on Oct 17. (AP)

anti-establishment platform viewed Francos, who hails from Argentina's traditional political elite, with suspicion. But political rivals and lawmakers hostile to Milei's agenda considered him a confidant. Francos was appointed chief

of staff last year as the irascible political outsider sought help from the seasoned negotiator in persuading Congress to pass wide-ranging economic overhaul measures to trim the fiscal budget and spur foreign investment.

Store explosion in Mexico kills 23

MEXICO CITY, Nov 2, (Agencies): A fire and explosion at a convenience store in northwestern Mexico on Saturday killed at least 23 people, including children, and injured 12 others, state authorities said.

The fire occurred in downtown Hermosillo, the capital of Sonora state, Sonora Gov. Alfonso Durazo said in a video posted on social media.

Sonora Attorney General Gustavo Salas Chávez provided the death toll and said the injured were taken to six hospitals in Hermosillo.

Salas Chávez said preliminary investigations showed the deaths were caused by "inhalation of toxic gases."

"At this time we have no indication that leads us to presume the fire was intentional," he said, noting authorities had not ruled out any line of investigation.

Also:
MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum called for improved maritime security coordination with the United States.

"We want protocols to improve within the framework of existing security agreements with the United States," she said. "We must avoid any violations of our sovereignty or unauthorized operations in our exclusive economic zone."



Sudanese men who fled el-Fasher city, after Sudan's paramilitary forces killed hundreds of people in the western Darfur region, collect water at a camp in Tawila, Sudan, on Nov 1. (AP)

RSF drone strikes kill 12 in S.Sudan

At least 12 people, including children and women, were killed, and several others injured in drone strikes carried out by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) targeting two displacement centers in South Kordofan State, volunteer groups reported on Saturday.

"Yesterday (Friday) evening, the RSF launched a drone strike on a shelter center within the premises of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the city of Kadugli, killing five children," the Su-

dan Doctors Network, a volunteer group, said in a statement.

It added that another drone strike targeted a displacement camp in the Al-Abbasiya Tagali area, killing seven people, including children and women, and injuring others.

Targeting civilians and humanitarian organizations "is clear evidence that the RSF is waging a total war against the Sudanese people and deliberately spreading terror and death everywhere," the statement said. (Xinhua)

3 alleged drug smugglers killed

US carries out new strike in Caribbean

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Nov 2, (AP): The US military has carried out another lethal strike on alleged drug smugglers in the Caribbean Sea, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced Saturday.

Hegseth in a social media posting said the vessel was operated by a US-designated terrorist organization but did not name which group was targeted. He said three people were killed in the strike.

It's at least the 15th such strike carried out by the US military in the Caribbean or eastern Pacific since early September.

"This vessel-like EVERY OTHER-was known by our intelligence to be involved in illicit narcotics smuggling, was transiting along a known narco-trafficking route, and carrying narcotics," Hegseth said in a posting on X.

The US military has now killed at least 64 people in the strikes.

Trump has justified the attacks as a necessary escalation to stem the flow of drugs into the United States. He has asserted the US is engaged in an "armed conflict" with drug cartels, relying on the same legal authority used by the Bush administration when it declared a war on terrorism after the



US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, (center), arrives for the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting - Plus in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Nov 1. (AP)

Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

US lawmakers have been repeatedly rebuffed by the White House in their demand that the administration release more information about the legal justification for the strikes as well as greater details about which cartels have been targeted and the individuals

killed.

Hegseth in his Saturday posting announcing the latest strike said "narcoterrorists are bringing drugs to our shores to poison Americans at home" and the Defense Department "will treat them EXACTLY how we treated Al-Qaeda."

Subcontinent

Fuel train derails in Sri Lanka: A Sri Lankan train carrying fuel derailed on Sunday morning, disrupting services on the country's Main Line, Sri Lanka Railways announced.

The incident occurred between the Mirigama and Wilwatte railway stations in the Western Province. According to Sri Lanka Railways, the train was transporting fuel from the Kolonnawa Petroleum Storage Terminal to Batticaloa.

Railway workers are currently clearing the tracks to restore regular train operations.

Train accidents are common in Sri Lanka. In 2023, there were 1,239 reported incidents involving trains, including 125 derailments, according to the Sri Lanka Railways Administration Report 2023. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

India rain-related incidents kill 9: The impact of cyclone Montha has killed at least nine people, wreaking havoc and causing large damage and destruction in the southern Indian states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, officials said Saturday.

According to officials, cyclone Montha made landfall on the coast of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday night, bringing record-breaking rainfall, thereby triggering floods and waterlogging. The cyclonic winds tore through these states, damaging crops, transmission lines, utility poles and uprooting trees. Power outages have been recorded in many parts of the affected areas.

Reports said over four million people were affected and thousands evacuated from inundated areas in the two states. Over 2,000 relief centers have been set up for the affected people.

Officials said they were working overtime to prepare the preliminary damage estimates. (Xinhua)

□ □ □



Evacuated Indian villagers of Uppada collect food to eat in a temporary relief centre as Cyclone Montha, in Kakinada district of Andhra Pradesh, India on Oct 28. (AP)

Truck accident kills 3 in Afghanistan: Three people, including a woman, were killed and five others were injured, including four children and one woman, when a truck turned turtle in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, local authorities said late Saturday.

The accident occurred when the truck transporting a family during relocation overturned due to reckless driving on the outskirts of Police District 10, Lashkar Gah city, the provincial capital, according to a statement from the provincial department of information and culture.

Earlier, three people were killed and 18 others injured in a collision involving a tractor and two passenger vehicles in eastern Laghman province on Wednesday.

Road accidents claim thousands of lives annually in Afghanistan, largely due to reckless driving, poor road conditions, overspeeding, overloading, congested highways, and a lack of proper traffic signage. (Xinhua)

KPC announces November LPG prices

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced on Sunday the new liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices for November.

In a statement to KUNA, the corporation said that the price of propane for November was set at USD 475 per metric ton, while butane was fixed at USD 460 per metric ton.

Liquefied petroleum gases -- namely propane and butane -- are used in the petrochemical industry, in addition to other applications such as cooking fuel, heating, and various domestic and industrial uses, the statement added.

Other Voices

Prices hover around \$61

Global oil market faces supply glut

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

OIL markets were overwhelmed with supply. Not only is OPEC+ continuing to increase oil production, but most major oil companies, including ExxonMobil and Chevron, are doing the same, despite knowing the market is already saturated.

With U.S. oil prices at around \$61 a barrel, the major companies seem unconcerned, possibly looking beyond next year as surplus volumes continue to weigh on prices. Alternatively, they may be following OPEC+’s lead, hoping for a market correction or anticipating last-minute interventions by oil organizations at their upcoming meeting on November 2. The outcome of that meeting remains uncertain, with possibilities ranging from production cuts to maintaining the current status quo.

OPEC+ is concerned that others are benefiting from its upcoming resolutions, while the organization itself may be the last to gain. The repeated practice of reducing and redistributing production quotas has become increasingly ineffective, often favoring non-OPEC countries and major oil companies, and leaving OPEC+ at a disadvantage.

As usual, OPEC continues to add new members, some of whom still ignore production cut quotas but remain part of the organization to maintain their status. Meanwhile, major oil companies operate under the assumption that OPEC+ will manage the market and that they will benefit from any actions taken by the organization, both in the short and long term.

The same applies to oil-producing countries, which are pushing for higher OPEC quotas in anticipation of increased future demand. Current projections estimate demand will reach around 106 million barrels per day by 2030, with crude oil prices expected to range between \$65 and \$75 per barrel.

However, with current prices at about \$64 per barrel, oil producers face a challenging situation, as many require over \$90 per barrel to balance their annual budgets. As a result, borrowing or selling part of overseas investments becomes a necessary option. The alternative, though more difficult, is to cut annual spending and exercise strict discipline over daily expenses.

Another practical solution is to introduce taxes and tariffs. While this may initially cause disruption, a gradual and carefully planned implementation can help people adjust over time. A better approach might be to gradually increase gasoline and electricity prices in small increments so that consumers barely notice the impact. Reducing overall expenses is essential, but it must be done gradually, as oil prices are no longer sufficient to meet budgetary requirements. This is the case for most oil-producing countries.

It is time to tighten budgets and control spending, as oil revenues can no longer generate a surplus. Oil will remain the core source of revenue and any potential surplus, if it exists.

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World Bank sees 2.3% growth

IMF raises Kuwait’s 2025 growth forecast to 2.6 %

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised its forecast for Kuwait’s economic growth by 0.7 percent in 2025 to 2.6 percent, coupled with optimism about the country’s economic outlook from the World Bank, which also raised growth estimate in the current year to 2.3 percent.

This wave of optimism about Kuwait’s national economy for the current and upcoming years was not limited to the two Bretton Woods institutions, but was shared by regional and local economic research organizations that observed notable activity across various domestic sectors, most notably in projects and in the strong performance of the Kuwait Stock Exchange during the first nine months of this year.

Among these were MEED magazine, which specializes in Middle Eastern economic affairs, and reports issued by the Kuwaiti economic research firms Kamco invest and Al-Shall Consulting.

IMF, in its World Economic Outlook report for October, revised Kuwait’s GDP growth forecast for 2025 upward by 0.7 percent, reaching 2.6 percent compared to its April estimate. Kuwait’s GDP last year stood at 40.3 billion Kuwaiti dinars (about USD 141 billion).

The IMF report, titled “A World Economy in Turmoil: Prospects Still Gloomy,” took an opposite direction from the overall negative tone implied by its title when it came to Kuwait. It also raised Kuwait’s 2026 growth forecast by 0.8 percent to 3.9 percent.

The IMF noted that the global economy is currently adapting to a reshaped environment under new policies, particularly tariffs, and projected that global growth will slow from 3.3 percent in 2024 to 3.2 percent in 2025, and further to 3.1 percent in 2026.

Meanwhile, in its biannual report issued in October on global economic developments, the World Bank raised its forecast for Kuwait’s economic growth to 2.3 percent, a slight increase of 0.1 percent from its June report.

The World Bank report, which devoted a large section to women’s economic empowerment, also raised its forecasts for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economies to 2.8 percent in 2025, slightly higher than June estimates. This revision was supported by the gradual phase-out of OPEC+ oil

production cuts and the strong expansion of non-oil activities, providing a “double boost” to regional economies.

Regarding projects, Kamco Invest, a local firm, reported in its latest report a 25.3 percent increase in the value of contracts and projects awarded in Kuwait during the first nine months of this year, reaching USD seven billion, compared to USD 5.6 billion in the same period of 2024.

The company added that in the third quarter of 2025 alone, Kuwait awarded projects worth USD 4.3 billion, an increase of 33.8 percent compared to about USD 3.2 billion in the third quarter of last year, indicating strong government spending, particularly on strategic and infrastructure projects.

According to MEED, which tracks development projects in MENA, 11 contracts were awarded in Kuwait during the third quarter of this year, the largest being the Az-Zour North Power and Water Desalination Plant (Phases II and III), a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project valued at USD four billion.

The project includes the construction of a 2,700-megawatt power plant and a water desalination facility with a capacity of 120 million gallons per day, with completion expected by the end of 2028.

MEED also noted that the energy sector saw a sharp increase in projects during this period, with total contracts valued at USD four billion in the third quarter, compared to USD 1.4 billion in the same quarter of 2024.

It added that the rise in Kuwait’s project awards coincided with a 27-percent year-on-year decline in project awards across the rest of the region in the third quarter.

The positive outlook for Kuwait’s economy was also reflected in the Kuwait Stock Exchange, which recorded the highest gains among Gulf markets during the first nine months of this year, achieving the third-largest increase in liquidity among the seven Gulf stock exchanges, according to an Al-Shall Consulting report issued on October 18.

Al-Shall confirmed that the Kuwait stock index rose by 19.5 percent, the highest in the Gulf region, while market liquidity increased by 89.7 percent, indicating the positive investor sentiment among investors regarding the performance of Kuwait’s national economy.

In partnership with AUK, advancing the bank’s 2030 strategic vision

Gulf Bank marks graduation of first cohort from ‘Technology Academy’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: As part of its continued commitment to supporting and empowering local talent, Gulf Bank has announced the graduation of the first cohort of its Technology Academy, launched in partnership with the American University of Kuwait (AUK). This strategic initiative aligns with the Gulf Bank 2030 strategy to strengthen the Bank’s position as the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the future.

The Gulf Bank Technology Academy aims to equip the next generation of Kuwaiti professionals in technical and technology-driven disciplines through advanced training programs designed to build specialized national expertise in digital transformation, data and innovation, cybersecurity, and risk management technologies. This reflects the Bank’s continued commitment to enhancing its core capabilities and meeting the evolving demands of the digital era.

The Academy offers top-tier technical and professional training designed to align with the Bank’s strategic objectives, as part of its continuous efforts to create specialized educational programs that foster innovation and capacity-building in the banking sector.

Prior to commencing the technical training phase, participants undergo a series of professional development workshops delivered by Gulf Bank trainers. These sessions are designed to strengthen communication, collaboration, and leadership competencies, ensuring the preparation of well-rounded, industry-ready talent capable of excelling in dynamic, technology-driven work environments.



A group photo of the graduates, with Hamed Al-Tamimi in the center.

Hamed Al-Tamimi:
■ Our Technology Academy underscores Gulf Bank’s enduring commitment to cultivating talent through a sustainable, future-focused development framework.

The training program extends over five weeks, during which participants earn internationally accredited certifications and acquire hands-on experience across critical domains such as cybersecurity, information technology, and risk management technologies. The program also features specialized modules tailored to Gulf Bank’s evolving technical requirements, reinforcing the Bank’s commitment to attracting, developing, and retaining exceptional national talent.

On this occasion, Hamed Al-Tamimi, Acting General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, stated: “The Gulf Bank Technology Academy reflects our long-term commitment to building and sustaining future-ready talent. Through this initiative, we continue to empower our employees with world-class development opportunities, reinforcing the capabilities that drive our digital transformation journey.”

He added: “The Academy also underscores the Bank’s dedication to nurturing young national talent and equipping them with the capabilities required to excel in a rapidly evolving financial landscape. Through this program, we are not only developing advanced technical skills, but also fostering a culture of continuous learning, agility, and innovation – all of which are fundamental pillars in achieving our 2030 vision.”

Through initiatives such as the Gulf Bank Technology Academy, Gulf Bank continues to invest in national talent, reaffirming its commitment to building a future-ready workforce and empowering Kuwaiti professionals to lead the country’s banking innovation and transformation journey.

KPC advised to broaden overseas storage amid sanctions

Oil sanctions on Russia may spur \$150 barrel

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) must expand its foreign oil storage capacity to include all other countries that import Kuwaiti oil, says on oil sector source.

The source praised the policy of KPC to prioritize oil storage in China and South Korea, considering the current global political tensions that are negatively impacting the oil market.

The source cited the economic sanctions, particularly those targeting oil, imposed by the United States of America (USA) on Russia a week ago to pressure President Vladimir Putin to end the war in Ukraine. The source emphasized that these sanctions could lead to the price of a barrel of oil exceeding \$150, prompting urgent meetings of OPEC+ countries to increase their production quotas. The source explained that if this occurs, Kuwait will have a prime opportunity to demand an increase in its quota, especially since it has been one of the most compliant countries with the OPEC+ production cuts

implemented since the end of 2022.

The source affirmed that these sanctions will cause a surge in global oil prices, because Russia’s daily production exceeds seven million barrels – seven percent of global oil production. The source pointed out that most of this Russian oil is destined for China, which is the largest recipient of Russian oil at 47 percent, followed by India at 35 percent. The source clarified that the direct effects of these sanctions have not yet materialized, as Russian oil shipments take a long time to reach their destinations.

The source added that the heightened tensions and disputes between the USA and China since the return of Donald Trump to the American presidency might make China the last country to comply with the sanctions imposed on Russian oil. The source indicated that the European Union (EU) countries, which consume less Russian oil, may be the cornerstone for enforcing the sanctions and penalizing any companies that violate them.

The source stressed that compliance with these sanctions by all countries consuming Russian oil and its derivatives will lead to a significant shock in the oil market, in particular. The source hinted that Putin might respond to international pressure and end the war with Ukraine, as Russian oil revenues are the primary source of funding for the war, which has now lasted for more than three years.

Under a strategic partnership with LOYAC

Zain holds support for ‘Kontinue’ to empower young entrepreneurs

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Zain Kuwait, the strategic partner of LOYAC, announced its sponsorship of the Kontinue social entrepreneurship program, which aims to empower young entrepreneurs and startup founders to turn their ideas into scalable, impactful business models through an intensive six-week training journey.

Zain took part in the program’s launch event held at Boursa Kuwait, attended by LOYAC Board Member Futooh Al-Dallali, Zain Kuwait’s Youth & Partnerships Specialist Faisal Al-Duwaihees, and representatives of sponsors and partners. Trainers, mentors, and program participants also joined the gathering, where they had space to connect, build relationships, and exchange insights on the learning tracks the program will cover over the six weeks period.

Kontinue focuses on empowering the young participants with core skills and building a professional network that supports launching or scaling their ventures. The training plan includes intensive in-person sessions covering market needs, value creation, target segment definition, and more. Participants develop business models based on Babson’s Entrepreneurial Thought & Action® theory, with the option to embed a social impact dimension in each project.

The program offers workshops led by innovation experts from multiple industries on key startup foundations and operations, including monetization, fundraising and investment readiness, legal requirements, and team management to carry the pro-



Al-Dallali, Al-Duwaihees, partners, and participants in a group photo.

ject forward. Each team will be assigned a dedicated mentor to track progress and provide hands-on guidance throughout the program.

At the end of the six weeks, every team will present a minimum viable product (MVP) to a specialized judging panel. Upon completing the program, participants will have a business concept aimed at addressing a social challenge in Kuwait.

Zain’s support for this program aligns with its strategy to support education, youth empowerment, and entrepreneurship, under its partnership with LOYAC that has extended for more than two decades. This year also marked the tenth anniversary of the “KON” program, reflecting the positive impact of such initiatives in empowering younger generations.

The program continues to build on the successes of previous seasons in



The program embodies Zain’s vision to empower the next generation of young entrepreneurs.

preparing young Kuwaiti entrepreneurs to academic standards, reaffirming the role of startups in energizing the national economy and the private sector’s responsibility in supporting and enabling them.

During its participation in the 4th edition of MoneyTech Summit

KFH explores the future of banks in the digital transformation era

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the 4th edition of MoneyTech Summit held at St. Regis Hotel in Kuwait. The event gathered experts from fintech, banking, telecom, entrepreneurs and money technology investors as well as other relevant sectors.

In his speech, KFH Group Chief Technology and Digital Transformation Officer, **Meshaal Al-Munaikh**, said: “I’m pleased to be at the MoneyTech Summit to discuss the future of banks as they navigate the digital transformation. This shift is already shaping our everyday lives.”

He added: “Banks are no longer self-contained entities but have become part of an open financial ecosystem built on collaboration with FinTech companies, digital platforms, and global technology players (Big Tech). At KFH, we capitalize on these partnerships to deliver innovative services that open the way for more opportunities.”

AlMunaikh pointed out that the future of banks lies in innovation, smart technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing.

“Digital channels, including banking apps and e-platforms, are now the primary customer touchpoints and act as strategic partners in customers’ daily lives,” noted AlMunaikh, “Last year alone, customers performed over 400 million digital transactions through KFHOnline app. This figure reflects strong customer engagement with digital platforms. It is also evidence that we are ready for the future while-



■ **AlMunaikh:** Integrating AI and automation while strengthening cybersecurity is key to accelerating digital transformation responsibly and securely

leading the digital transformation journey with high efficiency, providing customers with seamless and sustainable banking experience.”

He further noted: “Modern technology with customers’ evolving expectations have transformed the financial sector. This shift placed on us a responsibility to redefine the banking experience through a new model centered on a seamless, borderless service experience, accessible 24/7, through efficient, secure and reliable digital channels.”

AlMunaikh emphasized that technology alone is not sufficient to achieve the desired transformation, explaining that real change begins with mindset and a work environment that encourages innovation and creativity which are core values for every project and decision.



Meshaal AlMunaikh speaking during the MoneyTech Summit.

He added that integrating AI and automation while strengthening cybersecurity is key to accelerating digital transformation responsibly and securely.

AlMunaikh highlighted KFH’s successful adoption of the latest technologies which have reduced costs, improved reliability, and enhanced performance, all of which have positively impacted operational efficiency and strengthened customer experience.

He also demonstrated KFH’s major initiatives in integrating AI and automation, including:

■ **Unifying data across the Group** using advanced technology from Oracle, Microsoft and other international companies.

■ **Developing AI-powered solutions** with Microsoft to enable advanced analytics, automated risk models, and real-time insights. This initiative has reduced

credit assessment time from several days to less than one hour, accelerating reporting, and enhancing customer experience.

■ **Smart data analytics** to support decision-making.

■ **Smart automation** of some internal processes.

■ **Introducing AI Copilot** digital assistants to support employees.

■ **Launching advanced Speech Analytics** system in the call center with Automated Quality Management system.

■ **Introducing “Fahad”**, Kuwait’s first AI-powered virtual employee, a leading step towards smart banking services.

AlMunaikh extended appreciation to Aljarida newspaper team for organizing this distinguished summit. He commended their efforts in fostering dialogue on critical issues shaping the future of the banking sector with leading bank-



KFH Headquarters

ers and experts in the industry.

It is worth noting that the MoneyTech Summit is a key platform for decision-makers and experts. It addresses topics such as the role of AI and data centers in accelerating the growth of the GCC private sec-

tor, the maturity and ongoing development of fintech, the rise of health tech as the new frontier for GCC investors, and the next leap of proptechin redefining real estate investment and unlocking new growth opportunities.



Warba Bank sponsorship supports Kuwait Blind Association's empowerment efforts.

With National Diwan and GCC IP Center

Warba Bank supports the educational journey of visually impaired students

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: As part of its firm commitment to social responsibility and dedication to serving all segments of Kuwaiti society, Warba Bank announced its sponsorship of the Kuwait Blind Association and the donation of three advanced braille devices to blind students. This initiative aims to support their educational journey and empower them to continue their studies and academic research efficiently and independently.

This initiative reflects Warba Bank’s vision to community service, which goes beyond traditional banking activities to include supporting the most vulnerable groups, particularly people with special needs. The Bank firmly believes that true social responsibility means reaching every segment of society without exception and providing the necessary support to empower individuals to achieve their ambitions and unlock their full potential.

Warba Bank has also adopted a broader initiative to empower visually impaired individuals in accordance with the Marrakesh Treaty, which guarantees the right of blind persons to accessible information. This project is being implemented in collaboration with the National Diwan for Human Rights and in partnership with the GCC Intellectual Property Training Center of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

A Firm Commitment to Serving All Segments of Society

Dr. Mohammed Barakat, Chief Marketing and Corporate Communications Officer at Warba Bank, affirmed that this initiative stems from the Bank’s continuous commitment to community service and charitable work, as part of its mission to achieve comprehensive social responsibility that reaches all segments of Kuwaiti society, particularly those most in need of support and empowerment.

He highlighted that Warba Bank’s focus on supporting the blind reflects its deep commitment to inclusivity and social justice, and its belief that every individual deserves the opportunity to realize their full potential regardless of challenges. He emphasized that the Bank will continue to support initiatives that empower people with disabilities and promote their integration into society.

Advanced Devices to Empower Blind Students

On his part, Mr. Fayez Al-Azmi, Chairman of the Kuwait Blind Association, stated that the Association is one of Kuwait’s leading institutions dedicated to the care, rehabilitation and empowerment of the blind. It provides educational, social and rehabilitation services to help the blind integrate into society, achieve independence and raise public awareness about their rights and contributions.

Al-Azmi added: “The braille devices donated by Warba Bank feature advanced capabilities that

enhance students’ ability to pursue their education effectively. They allow users to conduct research, write, take notes, browse the internet, prepare academic reports and papers and complete assignments — offering an integrated set of tools that empower students to excel academically and compete on equal footing with their peers.”

He emphasized that these devices are vital educational tools for blind students, opening wide horizons for accessing information and knowledge, enhancing their academic and research skills, fostering independent learning and boosting their confidence and academic performance.

Continued Partnership with Charitable Organizations

This initiative is one of several community programs that Warba Bank implements in cooperation with charitable and specialized organizations. The Bank had previously collaborated with the International Islamic Charity Organization to launch Kuwait’s first Holy Quran competition for the blind during the holy month of Ramadan. The initiative was met with wide participation and remarkable success, inspiring many visually impaired individuals to memorize and engage deeply with the Holy Quran.

These ongoing partnerships reflect Warba Bank’s commitment to working alongside institutions with the expertise and experience in serving targeted communities, ensuring the maximum positive impact of the Bank’s community initiatives.

Comprehensive Social Responsibility

Warba Bank is invested in serving the Kuwaiti society through diverse initiatives that address the needs of all segments of the community. The Bank believes that its true success is measured not only by financial performance but by the extent to which it improves lives and enhances wellbeing in line with its vision, “Let’s Own Tomorrow.”

Warba Bank continues to implement numerous community initiatives across multiple areas, including education through its “Rowad” and “Intilaqa” programs, entrepreneurship, culture, sports, and charitable and humanitarian efforts. These initiatives reflect Warba Bank’s unwavering commitment to social responsibility and its active role in advancing sustainable community development in Kuwait.

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

Fostering innovation and empowering the next generation of investors

Markaz participates as a Strategic Partner in MoneyTech 2025 for the 4th consecutive year

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” participated as a Strategic Partner in Aljarida MoneyTech Summit 2025, held on November 2 at the St. Regis Hotel, for the fourth consecutive year. The annual flagship event has become one of Kuwait’s leading platforms for dialogue and innovation in the financial technology and investment sectors, bringing together thought leaders, decision-makers, entrepreneurs, and investors to discuss the evolution of financial services in the digital age.

Markaz’s continued participation in MoneyTech underscores its commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration in the financial sector. It also aligns with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy, which focuses on building human capacity, aligning business environment with the principles of sustainable development, and promoting good governance in the business environment.

Ms. Deena AlRefai, Executive Vice President of Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz, participated in a panel discussion titled “Catering to the Next Generation of Founders and Investors”. The session explored the rise of a new generation of founders, investors, and professionals across the GCC who are driving innovation, wealth creation, and transformation in the region’s markets. Panelists discussed how asset managers and investment companies can adapt to meet the expectations and ambitions of this emerging generation through innovative wealth solutions, flexible structures, and long-term value creation strategies.

Commenting on the discussion, Ms. Al-Refai said: “The GCC’s new generation of founders and investors bring with them a



Deena AlRefai

unique mindset; digitally native, impact-driven, and eager to shape the future of the regional economy. At Markaz, we view this evolution as an opportunity to design holistic wealth management solutions that go beyond financial returns, by supporting entrepreneurial growth, sustainability goals, and intergenerational wealth creation.”

She added that Markaz’s Wealth Management services integrate investment advisory, alternative asset opportunities, and international partnerships to cater to sophisticated and emerging investors alike. “By combining innovation with over five decades of market

experience, we strive to be a trusted partner for the region’s evolving investor base,” she concluded.

The event also featured keynote sessions, interactive workshops, and expert panels examining the intersection of technology, finance, and entrepreneurship, reinforcing Kuwait’s growing role as a regional fintech hub.

By supporting initiatives such as the MoneyTech Summit, Markaz continues to drive economic growth, knowledge enrichment, and innovation within the financial sector, while engaging in key discussions that shape the industry’s future.

Main market index edges up to 8,682.46 points

Boursa Kuwait general index dips slightly

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Sunday’s trading with a slight decline in its general index, which dropped by 3.77 points, or 0.04%, to finish at 9,028.11 points. Trading activity involved 656 million shares across 31,416 transactions, valued at KD 140.1 million (around USD 428.7 million).

The main market index saw a modest rise of 2.39 points, or 0.03%, closing at 8,682.46 points. It recorded 429.6 million shares traded through 21,405 transactions, with a total value of KD 67.4 million (approximately USD 206.2 million).

Conversely, the premier market index experienced a decline, fall-

ing by 5.50 points or 0.06% to 9,560.42 points. This was on the back of 226.4 million shares traded in 10,011 deals, valued at KD 72.6 million (around USD 222 million).

Additionally, the Main 50 Index increased by 37.08 points, or 0.42%, reaching 8,890.71 points. It saw 201 million shares traded in 10,929 transactions worth KD 45.9 million (around USD 140.4 million).

Overall, while the general and premier indices dipped slightly, the main market and Main 50 Index showed gains, reflecting mixed activity across Boursa Kuwait’s key segments.

Analysts see gold testing \$5,000 by 2026

Gold prices stabilize after record surge

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Gold prices stabilized after a record-breaking surge, closing at USD 4,002 per ounce at the end of last week’s trading, as investors awaited the outcome of the U.S. government shutdown and upcoming central bank decisions.

According to Kuwait’s Dar Al-Sabaik Company, the metal slipped 0.48 percent (USD 19.40) on Saturday, posting a weekly loss of 3.4 percent but retaining monthly gains of 3.2 percent in October – its third straight month of positive performance.

The report attributed the pullback to a temporary trade truce between the U.S. and China, which eased tensions and boosted risk appetite, reducing demand for gold as a safe haven. Meanwhile, a stronger dollar and higher U.S. Treasury yields made gold more expensive for foreign investors, while expectations of a December interest rate cut fell to 66.8 percent from 91.7 percent earlier.

At the APEC Summit, U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on a one-year deal involving tariff reductions and renewed trade commitments, though analysts remain cautious about its sustainability.

With the U.S. shutdown entering its fifth week, key data releases have been delayed, leaving markets watching this week’s employment, PMI, and consumer confidence figures for policy clues.

Dar Al-Sabaik said gold’s overall outlook remains positive, describing recent declines as a “healthy correction.” The LBMA conference forecast prices could approach USD 5,000 per ounce by 2026, supported by robust central bank demand, which rose 28 percent in Q3 to 220 tons.

In Kuwait, 24-karat gold reached KD 39.6 per gram (USD 128.70), 22-karat stood at KD 36.3 (USD 118), and silver traded at KD 563 per kilogram (USD 1,830) amid cautious local trading.

At the fourth edition of the MoneyTech Summit

Mohammad Al-Kharafi: NBK is not merely digitizing banking – It is redefining the future of finance by integrating digital services into people’s everyday lives

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Mr. Mohammad Al-Kharafi, Group Chief Operating Officer, Group Operations, Technology and Data at National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) took part in a panel discussion titled “Gulf Fintech, slowing down or maturing?”, held as part of the fourth edition of the MoneyTech, hosted by AlJarida Summits at the St. Regis Kuwait.

In his remarks during the session, Al-Kharafi emphasized that the FinTech sector in the Gulf has undergone a profound transformation over the past decade, reshaping the way people save, pay, and invest. He noted that NBK has played a pivotal role in this journey since its very inception.

Sustainable Integration
“What we are witnessing today is not a slowdown in the Gulf’s fintech sector, but rather a transition into a new phase of maturity, one in which fintech is evolving from rapid innovation to sustainable integration. While the early stages focused on experimentation and financial and digital inclusion, the current landscape is shifting toward sustainability, expansion, and greater alignment of efforts, with investors now prioritizing viable and profitable business models instead of merely expanding user bases,” Al-Kharafi said.

“We are now in a stage where innovation has become an integral part of the financial infrastructure itself, a sign of maturity, not slowing down.” He pointed out that NBK views this stage as an opportunity to strengthen the financial ecosystem by combining the agility of fintech companies with the institutional strength, trust, and governance that characterize the banking sector.

Local and Regional Leadership
Al-Kharafi emphasized that NBK stands as one of the pioneers of digital transformation both in Kuwait and across the region, driven by significant investments in technology, data, and digital channels. He explained that—from mobile banking services and digital onboarding to advanced analytics and intelligent automation—the Bank continuously works to redefine customer experience. He added that NBK’s robust digital infrastructure has also enabled it to expand its partnerships with fintech firms efficiently and securely.

“At NBK, technology is not merely a tool, it is an integral part of how we think, operate, and deliver value,” he added.

Furthermore, Al-Kharafi pointed out that the Bank’s recent acquisition of a majority stake in UPay-

- NBK has played a pivotal role in shaping the fintech journey in the Gulf since its inception
- At NBK, technology is not merely a tool, it is an integral part of how we think, operate, and deliver value
- We are taking accelerated steps in artificial intelligence and machine learning to enhance the efficiency of banking operations
- Our acquisition of UPayments is not just an investment deal, it is a statement of confidence in the future of fintech in the Gulf
- This acquisition opens new horizons in e-commerce, digital wallets, and business-focused payment solutions
- The fintech sector in the Gulf isn’t slowing down, it has entered a new phase of maturity
- A profound transformation over the past decade has reshaped the way people save, pay, and invest
- Fintech is evolving from rapid innovation to sustainable integration
- CBK has created an enabling environment for fintech innovation through a series of forward-looking initiatives
- The integration of startup agility with the strength of banking institutions is building a more connected, innovative, and resilient digital economy in Kuwait and across the region
- True success lies in the ability of institutions to embed innovation within their operational frameworks and transform it into lasting value
- The next phase of fintech evolution in the Gulf will focus on seamlessly integrating financial services into everyday life—from e-commerce and transportation to smart services



Photos during the MoneyTech Summit.

ments, one of Kuwait’s leading fintech companies, clearly reflects NBK’s strategic direction toward building a more integrated financial ecosystem. This partnership combines the Bank’s scale, strength, and capabilities with UPayments’ agility and innovation, paving the way for a new generation of digital solutions and services across Kuwait and the wider region.

He explained that UPayments, as a leading Kuwaiti company specializing in digital payment solutions for individuals and businesses, plays a pivotal role in supporting Kuwait’s shift toward a cashless economy. He also noted that the partnership between NBK and UPayments combines the bank’s extensive reach and regulatory expertise with the company’s agility and innovative spirit, unlocking new opportunities in e-commerce, digital wallets, and merchant and business-focused payment solutions. The partnership also reflects NBK’s commitment to supporting and advancing the local fintech ecosystem,

helping transform startups into sustainable entities with the capacity for regional expansion.

“NBK’s acquisition of a majority stake in UPayments marks a strategic milestone in the Bank’s ongoing digital transformation journey,” he confirmed.

The Role of Regulatory Authorities
On the regulatory front, Al-Kharafi stressed the importance of the role played by regulatory authorities across the Gulf, including the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), in maintaining a balance between innovation and financial stability. He praised the Central Bank of Kuwait’s pivotal role in enhancing the resilience of the financial sector and supporting regulatory initiatives such as the FinTech Sandbox, which helps accelerate and integrate digital banking services.

He also highlighted that Kuwait’s fintech sector is rapidly keeping pace with global markets, witnessing a growing number of players such as digital payment facilitators, insurtech firms, and

P2P platforms, among others. He explained that CBK has created an enabling environment for fintech innovation through a series of initiatives, including updating electronic payment regulations and issuing guidelines for digital banking services. It is also working toward establishing a comprehensive Open Banking Regulatory Framework.

Moreover, Al-Kharafi noted that NBK believes clear regulatory frameworks are a key enabler of responsible and sustainable growth, strengthening Kuwait’s overall operating environment. He added that robust governance and strict compliance enhance trust among clients and investors, establishing a solid foundation for sectoral growth. He also emphasized that strong regulation does not limit innovation, it safeguards it and ensures its continuity.

The Future
In his remarks during the panel discussion, Al-Kharafi discussed the key features of the next phase in the development of fintech in the Gulf,

noting that it will focus on seamlessly integrating financial services into everyday life — from e-commerce to transportation to smart services.

Discussing NBK’s outlook and future direction, Al-Kharafi noted that the bank’s extensive regional presence offers a unique advantage in expanding the scope of innovation and connecting it across markets.

As for AI, Al-Kharafi said: “We believe that artificial intelligence and machine learning are transforming banking efficiency and enabling more dynamic, responsive operations. In line with this vision, NBK has taken bold steps forward, most recently through the successful rollout of Microsoft Copilot, empowering its employees to leverage the tool across all operations.”

“By integrating banking infrastructure, data analytics, and financial innovation, the Bank is building a robust foundation for a connected, customer-centric digital financial ecosystem. We are not merely digitizing banking services — we are

redefining the relationship between financial services and people’s everyday lives,” he added.

Al-Kharafi affirmed that this is the most pivotal stage, a moment where innovation meets scale and collaboration drives lasting economic impact. He stressed that in a world where change is accelerating, innovation alone is no longer enough; true success lies in the ability of institutions to embed innovation within their operational frameworks and transform it into sustainable value.

“From this perspective, NBK views partnerships with fintech companies not merely as technological collaborations, but as a new model for redefining the financial sector itself. The synergy between the agility of startups and the institutional strength of banks creates a smarter, more scalable ecosystem—one that is closer to customers’ everyday needs and contributes to building a more connected, innovative, and resilient digital economy in Kuwait and across the region,” Al-Kharafi concluded.

In conjunction with its 20th anniversary celebrations

Jazeera Airways delivers record-breaking Q3 2025 profits

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait’s leading low-cost carrier, today announced its strongest-ever third-quarter financial performance in its 20 years, reporting a net profit of KD 13.5 million for the three-month period ending September 30, 2025, marking a significant 15.9% increase year-on-year (YoY).

This robust Q3 performance propelled the Group’s net profit for the first nine months (9M) of 2025 to a record KD 23 million, an outstanding 60.3% growth over 9M 2024.

The Group recorded KD 69.4 million in operating revenue in Q3, an increase of 7.5%. Passenger traffic rose to 1.5 million travelers, up 3.3% and reflecting a load factor of 78%. Ancillary revenue increased significantly by 42.7% to KD 9.5 million, highlighting the success of the Group’s efforts to diversify revenue streams. These record results came in spite of operational challenges due to regional geopolitical instability.

For 9M 2025, the airline achieved an operating revenue of KD 171.6 million, up 4.9%, carrying more than 3.7 million passengers across its network of 64 destinations spanning the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe.

The company’s performance was driven by a strategic capacity deployment, commitment to effective cost management and continued growth in passenger numbers.

Financial and Operational Highlights Q3 2025

- Operating revenue: KD 69.4 million, up 7.5% from Q3 2024
- Operating profit: KD 14.9 million, up 17.2% from Q3 2024
- Net profit: KD 13.5 million, up 15.9% from Q3



Jazeera Airways Chairman Marwan Boodai

2024

- Passengers: 1.5 million, up 3.3% from Q3 2024
- Load factor: 78%

9M 2025

- Operating revenue: KD 171.6 million, up 4.9% from 9M 2024
- Operating profit: KD 26.5 million, up 28.0% from 9M 2024
- Net profit: KD 23.0 million, up 60.3% from 9M 2024
- Passengers: 3.7 million, up 1.3% from 9M 2024
- Load factor: 76.5%

Commenting on the results, Marwan Boodai, Chairman of Jazeera Airways, said: “The third quarter of 2025 marks a period of exceptional financial performance for Jazeera Airways, while our nine-month net profit is testament to the strategic clarity of our growth model. We continue to prioritize capital efficiency and operational resilience, ensuring we deliver maximum value to our shareholders while solidifying our leadership posi-

tion in Kuwait’s aviation sector.”

The results were announced as Jazeera Airways commemorated 20 years since the start of its operations in the country, a truly remarkable achievement in a challenging industry.

Q3 2025: Successful Summer Routes and Investment in Customer Experience
The third quarter marked one of Jazeera’s busiest travel seasons to date, with high demand across both leisure and family routes. Popular summer destinations such as Sochi, Salalah, Yerevan and Hurghada continued to perform strongly, while the relaunch of Abha and Damascus further strengthened the airline’s regional network.

Jazeera also continued to invest in enhancing its customer experience and operational capabilities, including the adoption of the Amadeus SRM Flex revenue management system, enabling smarter decision-making and optimized pricing.

Additionally, the airline further added value to its customer experience with the launch of seasonal and exclusive offers, making travel accessible and convenient for all.

Outlook: Building on Momentum for Year-End and Beyond
Jazeera Airways is well positioned to leverage favorable travel demand, especially in the final quarter, and continue its trajectory of profitable growth. The airline remains committed to its long-term strategy of network expansion, fleet modernization and delivering best-in-class value for its passenger, further strengthening its role as Kuwait’s gateway to the world, especially supporting the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Visit Kuwait to further promote Kuwait as a tourist destination.



Driscoll’s Berrylicious festival kicks off at Lulu Hypermarkets

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Lulu Hypermarkets proudly launched the Driscoll’s Berrylicious Festival, celebrating the freshness, flavor, and health benefits of premium berries from Driscoll’s — the world’s leading berry brand.

The festival was inaugurated on October 30, 2025 at Lulu Hypermarket Al-Rai by famous influencer Anwar Saad along with Lulu Hypermarket’s top management in a vibrant ceremony that marked the start of a delightful shopping experience for berry enthusiasts.

The festival features an extensive collection of fresh berries, including strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries, available



Photo during the campaign.

across all Lulu Hypermarket outlets, including Al-Rai, Qurain, Egaila, Jahra, Salmiya, Dajeej, and Fahaheel.

Special promotional prices are available for a limited time, giving shoppers the perfect opportunity to indulge in these naturally sweet and antioxidant-rich fruits.

The Berrylicious Festival not only delights taste buds but also promotes healthy eating habits among shoppers, highlighting the exceptional quality and nutritional benefits of Driscoll’s berries.

Customers are invited to visit their nearest Lulu Hypermarket to join the Berrylicious celebration and enjoy exclusive offers on Driscoll’s range of berries.

A tense, ambiguous horror without the gore

Minimalist thriller ‘Hallow Road’ lets your imagination run wild

LOS ANGELES, Nov 2, (AP): There are scary movies where everything is fleshed, out, where filmmakers and craftspeople show a nightmare in all its horrifying detail. In those kind of films, jump scares and reveals can even be a relief, allowing the tension and anticipation to deescalate so you can move on to the next thrill.

Filmmaker Babak Anvari’s “Hallow Road,” in theaters Friday, is the opposite. Written by William Gillies, “Hallow Road” is the kind of minimalistic thriller that knows that sometimes all you need to do is establish the right mood and your audience’s imagination will take it from there. It is all ambiguity and escalation, and relief is not in the cards.

The film begins at 2 a.m., panning across a leafy forest floor to a bloodied sneaker on the ground before cutting to a long, eerie shot inside a family home, where dinner has been left out on the table, and glass has been broken and only partially cleaned up. Then the frame goes back to the woods again with fragmented shots of lights in the trees. It’s nearly six minutes of this scene-setting (or, possibly, a sprinkling of clues) before we meet any characters or are given any information about what’s going on.

As if that’s not enough of a disorienting entry into this world, it’s followed with a one-sided phone call. Maddie (Rosamund Pike) accepts a call from Alice (Megan McDonnell), her university-age daughter who left their house abruptly after a fight, taking her father Frank’s (Matthew Rhys) car. Before Maddie can get much information, the call cuts off. When they speak again, the situation has changed: There’s a been a wreck, and another person is hurt, possibly dead.

There’s a lot of confusion as the stress of the situation escalates. Frank keeps asking Maddie to put Alice on speakerphone. Maddie is trying to get



This image released by XYZ Films shows Rosamund Pike, (left), and Matthew Rhys in a scene from ‘Hallow Road.’ (AP)

information from a panicked Alice. We feel Frank’s pain in only getting part of the story, but, thankfully for everyone, Maddie does finally cave to speakerphone when they start driving to the scene - a remote forest some 40 minutes away. And we have no choice but to go on this journey with them as they navigate their own issues, ideas about how to help their daughter in this situ-

ation, what exactly caused the fight to begin with, and Maddie’s very tense attempt to coach her daughter through emergency CPR while they wait for the ambulance to arrive.

“Hallow Road” is partly about the mystery of what’s happened and what will happen - there is even a bit of a folklore element introduced that makes everything that much creepier and more confusing. You might even wonder from time to time what kind of film you’re actually watching - I think the clever trick of “Hallow Road” is that it can be different things to different viewers. In many ways, it’s also about the real nightmare of being a parent and not knowing what to do. The impulse may always be to protect, to shield, to minimize the consequences in that moment, but what are the long-term implications of that? Frank and Maddie both have different theories about the correct way to handle this horrible situation and both are right and wrong - and then there is the hysterical teen on the other end of the line.

The film plays out in near real time and its confined setting of the car recalls the Steven Knight thriller “Locke,” though a little less glossily cinematic. But that’s also OK since there’s plenty of visual interest in the faces and performances of its very compelling leads and smart script. One could imagine it being staged as a play.

It’s hard to discuss too much about what transpires in “Hallow Road” without spoiling its surprises. But ultimately, it’s an effectively minimalistic thriller that leaves much room for interpretation and debate, and a good option for anyone looking for something creepy to watch this Halloween without the gore. “Hallow Road,” an XYZ Films released in theaters Friday, has not been rated by the Motion Picture Association. Running time: 80 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Television

Disney dispute

Trump returns to CBS’ ‘60 Minutes’

WASHINGTON, Nov 2, (AP): President **Donald Trump** is returning to “60 Minutes” this weekend, his first appearance on the show since he settled a lawsuit this summer with CBS News over the news-magazine’s interview with Kamala Harris. Trump was interviewed by CBS’ Norah O’Donnell Friday at Mar-a-Lago for the appearance, was to air this Sunday.

The president has an uneasy history with television’s most popular newsmagazine. But he has signaled friendlier relations with CBS News after the takeover of its parent company this summer by new Paramount CEO David Ellison, the son of wealthy supporter Larry Ellison.

CBS News offered few details Friday on how the interview came together, or whether there were any ground rules put in place. O’Donnell, the former “CBS Evening News” anchor, is not one of the show’s regular correspondents.

Trump walked out of a “60 Minutes” interview with correspondent Lesley Stahl shortly before the 2020 election, complaining of bias, and his team released an unedited transcript of the conversation.

Despite invitations, he did not agree to a “60 Minutes” interview during the 2024 election campaign. But he complained that the news-magazine’s interview with Harris,

his Democratic opponent, was edited deceptively in order to make her look good.

CBS News strongly denied any wrongdoing, but Trump filed a lawsuit against the company. Paramount decided to pay Trump \$16 million to settle the case this summer, shortly before the Federal Communications Commission approved Paramount’s merger with Ellison’s Skydance Media.

In the wake of the Trump lawsuit, “60 Minutes” executive producer Bill Owens resigned this past spring, saying that it was becoming clear that he could no longer run the program independently.

Since taking over at Paramount, Ellison has sent signals of a closer relationship with Trump. He hired Kenneth Weinstein, the former head of a conservative think tank and a donor to Trump’s 2024 campaign, to serve in a role investigating complaints that the network had shown bias in its reporting.

Purchased

Paramount also purchased the Free Press website in October and named its founder, Bari Weiss, as the new editor-in-chief of CBS News. Weiss reportedly had a role in booking the president’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and aide Steve Witkoff for a “60 Minutes” interview two weeks ago, talking about the peace deal in Gaza.

Flying back from the Middle East on Oct. 12, Trump told reporters that “Larry Ellison is great, and his son David is great. They’re friends of mine. They’re big supporters of mine, and they’ll do the right thing.”

In another development, YouTube TV viewers can no longer see Disney channels including ABC and ESPN after the two sides failed to agree on a new content distribution deal.

Other channels that vanished from Google’s pay TV platform include the Disney Channel, FX and Nat Geo.

Google’s pay TV platform said in a blog post late Thursday that Disney had followed through on a threat to suspend its content amid the negotiations.

The breakdown could impact coverage of some college football games on Saturday, as well as NBA, NFL and NHL games.

YouTube is the largest internet TV provider in the U.S. with more than 9 million subscribers. Hulu, owned by Disney, is next, with about half that many subscribers.

Viewers have become aware of the dispute in recent weeks because of warnings being scrolled across their screens.

YouTube said Disney used the threat of a blackout as a negotiating tactic that would have resulted in higher prices for its subscribers. Disney’s move to take down its content also benefits its own streaming products Hulu + Live TV and Fubo, YouTube said.

“We know this is a frustrating and disappointing outcome for our subscribers and we continue to urge Disney to work with us constructively to reach a fair agreement that restores their networks to YouTube TV,” it said.

YouTube said it would give subscribers a \$20 credit if Disney content unavailable “for an extended period of time.” YouTube TV’s base subscription plan costs \$82.99 per month.

Disney said that YouTube TV is refusing to pay fair rates for its channels and has chosen to “deny their subscribers the content they value most,” pointing out the number of Top 25 teams playing this weekend.

Music



Producer Lee Soo Man, (third from left), and members of SuperM, from left, Ten, Baekhyun, Taeyong, Kai, Taemin, Mark and Lucas sit in the audience to watch the premiere of their music video for their song ‘Jopping’ during a media conference on Oct. 3, 2019, at Capitol Studios in Los Angeles. (AP)

‘King of K-pop’ on his career, and what’s next

Lee Soo Man, architect of K-pop’s global rise

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 2, (AP): Lee Soo Man resisted the title at first. “King of K-pop” sounded too brash, too nightclub-esque - like something you’d see on a neon sign in Itaewon, a nightlife neighborhood in the South Korean capital Seoul once popular with US soldiers and foreign visitors. “I asked them, ‘Couldn’t it be Father of K-pop?’” the 73-year-old recalled during a recent interview with The Associated Press.

He was discussing the title of Amazon Prime’s documentary about his career. The producers insisted the bolder moniker would resonate better with American audiences. After some back-and-forth, Lee relented. “I had to follow their decision.”

The compromise speaks to Lee’s pragmatic approach to breaking South Korean acts into the American mainstream - a three-decade quest that often required him to bend but never break his vision. Now, as the founder of SM Entertainment and widely credited as the architect of K-pop’s global expansion, Lee was to be inducted into the Asian Hall of Fame on Saturday alongside basketball legend Yao Ming, Olympic figure skater Michelle Kwan, and rock icon Yoshiki, among others.

Lee remains a prominent but controversial figure in K-pop history. His label pioneered the industry’s intensive training system, recruiting performers as young as elementary school age and putting them through years of rigorous preparation. Some of his artists have challenged their contracts as unfair, sparking broader debates about industry practices.

The recognition arrives as Lee reemerges into the spotlight after a contentious, high-profile departure from the agency he founded in 1995 - a management battle that included a public feud with his nephew-in-law and a bidding war over his shares. He’s been keeping busy since, debuting a new band, A2O MAY, in both China and the US. He’s also investing in a boutique Chinese firm’s high-tech production technologies.

Born in South Korea, Lee studied computer engineering in the US for his master’s degree. That technical background would later inform his approach to everything from visu-

alization and cutting-edge production technologies - he said he’s been rewatching “The Matrix” to revisit filming techniques - to pioneering elaborate “worldviews” and virtual avatars for his K-pop bands.

For Lee, the Hall of Fame honor “confirms that K-pop has become a genre that the mainstream is now paying attention to” - an acceptance that came after costly lessons and years of trial and error.

Lee invested about \$5 million in BoA’s 2009 American debut with “Eat You Up,” one of the first songs by a South Korean artist to be primarily written and produced by Western producers - a bold early attempt to bring K-pop into the U.S. mainstream. But with few widely recognized Asian artists in American pop culture at the time, the market wasn’t ready. After nearly two years, BoA - already a megastar in Korea and Japan - decided to return home. The experience, Lee has said, left him with lasting regrets.

“When I asked the songwriter(s) to revise ‘Eat You Up,’ they refused,” Lee recalled. “If we had changed it, I believe it would have achieved much better results.”

That setback taught Lee that K-pop needed to source global talent while maintaining creative control to adapt songs for the worldwide market. His quest for the perfect tracks took him worldwide.

“I once heard a song that was so good I couldn’t let it go,” he said, recalling the track that would later become “Dreams Come True” for S.E.S., the late-1990s girl group. “I could’ve bought the license to the song in South Korea, Hong Kong, or Sweden. But I wanted to play it safe, so I found the Finnish address, went to meet the songwriter directly, wrote up a contract, and brought it back.”

At the time, top Western songwriters prioritized Japan, the world’s second-largest music market. “European songwriters were willing to sell to Asia,” Lee explained. “That’s how we eventually built a system where music from Europe, Asia, and America could come together.”

That fusion became K-pop’s signature. Lee also helped to pioneer another innovation: elaborate fictional universes, or “worldviews,” for groups like EXO and aespa - a storytell-

ing approach that would later be adopted across the industry, including by groups like BTS.

The concept emerged during his time in the U.S., where he witnessed MTV transform music into a visual medium. “But we only have three or four minutes,” he said. “How do we express dramatic, cinematic elements in such a short time?”

Lee’s solution was to create ongoing narratives that unfold across multiple music videos and releases - think Marvel’s cinematic universe, but for pop groups.

Unable to attract established screenwriters, Lee developed the storylines himself. The strategy proved prescient: These interconnected narratives gave global fans reason to follow groups across comebacks, waiting for the next chapter in an unfolding saga.

Despite K-pop’s global success, Lee remains focused on Asia’s potential. He envisions South Korea as a creative hub where international talent learns production. “Korea should become the country of producers,” he said.

With the Asia-Pacific region home to more than half the world’s population, he sees it as entertainment’s inevitable future center.

His latest venture with A2O MAY, which operates in both China and the U.S., is testing that vision in one of Asia’s most challenging markets. China’s entertainment landscape has grown increasingly restrictive, with Beijing recently cracking down on “effeminate” male celebrities and youth culture. Asked about potential political risks, Lee dismissed concerns.

“Political risk? I don’t really know much about that,” he said.

He said he aims to elevate South Korea’s cultural influence as a center of production while meeting China’s needs as it seeks to expand its soft power alongside economic dominance. “Culturally, does China need what we do? I believe they do.”

The documentary also addressed darker aspects of K-pop close to Lee’s heart, including the suicides of SM Entertainment artists.

Variety

NEW YORK: Heidi Klum donned green scales and squirming snakes to transform herself into Medusa for Halloween on Friday.

Klum said she loves the Greek myth of Medusa, in which a goddess turns a beautiful woman into a monster with serpents for hair, the sight of which turns living things around her to stone.

“So I wanted to be really, really like a really ugly, ugly Medusa. And I feel like we nailed it - to the teeth,” Klum said before pointing to fangs in her mouth.

Her husband, musician Tom Kaulitz, dressed as a man



Klum

turned to stone.

Klum said she spent 10 hours getting into costume for her annual Halloween party. She said it was all worth it because she loves the celebration.

The supermodel-turned-TV personality went viral in 2022 when she arrived at her party on the end of a fishing line, encased in a slithering worm costume.

In past years, Klum has come dressed as an 8-foot-tall (2.4-meter-tall) “Transformer,” a werewolf from Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” music video, a clone accompanied by several Klum-lookalikes, and Kali, the multiarmed Hindu goddess of death and destruction. (AP)

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NEW YORK: Sean “Diddy” Combs has been transferred to a prison in New Jersey to serve out the remainder of his four-year prison sentence on prostitution-related charges.

The hip-hop mogul is currently incarcerated at the Fort Dix Federal Correctional Institute, located about 34 miles (55 kilometers) east of Philadelphia on the grounds of the joint military base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, according to his listing in the federal Bureau of Prisons inmate database as of Friday.

It’s not immediately clear when Combs was moved from the troubled Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, where he had been held since his arrest last September. . (AP)

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MINSK: The 31st Minsk International Film Festival “Listapad” kicked off at Belarus’ Palace of the Republic on Friday.

The festival features eight competition categories, including feature films, non-fiction films, animated films, films for children and youth audience (Listapadzik), cinema of the young, a national film schools competition, and a national competition, the BeTa news agency reported. (Xinhua)



In this photo provided by Egypt's presidency media office, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, (centre), poses for a group photo with heads of state and other guests during the official opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, Egypt, Saturday, Nov. 1. (AP)



Drone displays depicting King Tut's mask (from left), ancient Egyptian boat and an ancient Egyptian figure light up the sky under the moon and above the Grand Egyptian Museum during its official opening in Giza, Egypt, on Saturday, Nov. 1. (AP)

GEM dedicated to ancient civilization aims to boost tourism

With pharaoh-like fanfare, Egypt unveils new mega museum

CAIRO, Nov 2, (AP): In an extravaganza of pharaonic imagery with a drone light show depicting ancient gods and pyramids in the sky, Egypt on Saturday inaugurated its long-delayed Grand Egyptian Museum, a megaproject aiming to give the country’s millennia-old heritage a rich, modern display.

Two decades in the making, the museum located near the Giza Pyramids and the Sphinx is the centerpiece of the government’s bid to boost Egypt’s tourism industry and bring cash into the troubled economy.

At the elaborate grand opening ceremony, attended by a number of European and Arab royals and other presidents and prime ministers, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi sought to give the event an international scale.

He called on attendees to “make this museum a platform for dialogue, a destination for knowledge, a forum for humanity, and a beacon for all who love life and believe in the value of humankind.”

The museum, known as GEM, is one of several mega-projects 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.

Egypt’s pharaonic history has long made it a tourist magnet. But it has also long struggled to organize and display the sheer huge amount of artifacts - everything from tiny pieces of jewelry and colorful tomb murals to towering statues of pharaohs and animal-headed gods, with more as discoveries are constantly being made across the country.

Touted as the world’s biggest museum dedicated to a

single ancient civilization, the new building, in contemporary style is a stark contrast. Its large, open halls give space for some 50,000 artifacts on display, along with virtual reality exhibits. It displays the entire collection of treasures from the tomb of the famed King Tutankhamun for the first time since its discovery in 1922.

The museum replaces the Egyptian Museum, housed in building more than a century old in downtown Cairo that - while elegant in its Neo-Classical style - had become antiquated and was often compared to a warehouse, over-packed with artifacts with little explanation.

Construction on the \$1 billion project began in 2005 under then-President Hosni Mubarak. But work was interrupted by turmoil surrounding the 2011 uprising that brought down the Egyptian strongman. Further delays ensued, and a planned grand opening over the summer had to be put off after the 12-day-long war between Israel and Iran erupted in June.

GEM is expected to attract 5 million visitors annually, said Egypt’s tourism and antiquities minister, Sherif Fathy. That would put it in the realm of the most popular museums in the world. In 2024, by comparison, Paris’s Louvre brought in 8.7 million, the British Museum 6.5 million and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York 5.7 million.

Saturday night’s grand opening stoked the pharaoh-mania.

As an orchestra played fanfares, lines of actors dressed in ancient Egyptian garb arrayed around the museum, the pyramids and the Sphinx. Hundreds of drones created a light show in the sky, depicting well-known Egyptian gods like Isis and Osiris and the pyramids.

El-Sissi posed with delegates from more than 70 coun-

tries, including members of the royal families from Belgium, Spain, Denmark, Jordan, Gulf Arab nations and Japan, and a number of European and regional presidents and prime ministers. It was a throwback to the grand opening of another megaproject in Egypt, the 1869 inauguration of the Suez Canal, when Egypt’s rulers gathered a host of European royal families.

The museum 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 1279-1213 B.C., and is credited with expanding ancient Egypt’s reach as far as modern Syria to the east and present-day Sudan to the south. The statue greets visitors once they step inside the museum’s angular atrium.

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

Two halls that will be opened for the first time after Saturday are dedicated to the 5,000 artifacts from the collection of King Tutankhamun - a boy pharaoh who ruled from 1361-1352 B.C. The tomb was discovered by British archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922 in the southern city of Luxor. The old Egyptian Museum did not have enough room to display the whole collection.

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.

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.”

Officials hope the museum will draw more tourists who will stay for longer periods and provide the foreign currency needed to shore up Egypt’s battered economy.

The government has also revamped the area around the museum and the nearby pyramids and the Sphinx. New highways were built, and a metro station is being constructed nearby. An airport, Sphinx International Airport, has also opened west of Cairo - 40 minutes from the museum.

The tourism sector has suffered during years of political turmoil and violence following the 2011 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. Fathy, the tourism minister, said about 18 million tourists are expected 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.

Heir to throne champions green projects at Rio events

William strengthens future king credentials

LONDON, Nov 2, (AP): We’ve seen a lot of Prince William recently - and we’re going to see a lot more.

The heir to the British throne will be on the streets of Rio de Janeiro this week to promote his Earthshot Prize, an initiative to find solutions to major environmental issues. That will be followed by the United Nations Climate Summit COP30, also in Brazil, where William will represent his father, King Charles III, and the UK government.

William’s trip to the Brazilian metropolis known for Copacabana Beach and the annual Carnival is the latest installment in the monarchy’s drive to portray the prince as a statesman ready to be king.

The scale of the task facing him has been underscored by the king’s dramatic decision to strip his brother Andrew of his royal title and Windsor home over his friendship with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. William was consulted on the move to take away Andrew’s honors as allegations against the king’s brother threatened to envelop the royal family.

In recent weeks, William has appeared alongside his father at a gala COP30 event in London, wiped away tears while talking to a grieving widow about her husband’s suicide, and given an interview to actor



Britain's Prince William smiles as panelists Hannah Jones, left, and Earthshot Prize Chief Executive, Tokunboh Ishmael attend an Earthshot Prize Innovation Camp in London, on June 27, 2024. (AP)

Eugene Levy in which he discussed his plans for the monarchy.

“He is sending a lot of signals about how he wants to be monarch when his time comes,” said Sally Bedell Smith, author of “Prince Charles: The Passions and Paradoxes of an Improbable Life.”

Charles, to be sure, shows few signs of slowing down, hosting U.S. President Donald Trump’s state visit in September before jetting off to pray with Pope Leo XIV a month later. But behind the vigor is the reality that the king will turn 77 this month and has been undergoing treatment for an undisclosed type of cancer since early 2024.

And so the palace prepares, discreetly, as it always does.

Unlike the prime minister and Parliament, which exist in the day-to-day realities of electoral politics, Britain’s hereditary monarchy thinks years, if not decades, ahead, said Craig Prescott an expert on the monarchy and constitutional law at Royal Holloway University of London.

He describes the institution as being somewhat like an oil tanker, which takes so long to turn that small course corrections now will lead to big changes later on.

So it’s no coincidence that William’s Earthshot Prize is arriving in Rio just as world leaders prepare to gather in Belem, the gateway to the Amazon River basin, for the latest effort to solve the global climate crisis.

Earthshot, which offers \$1 million prizes in each of five categories, is one of William’s signature big ideas, the type of project he may focus on when he becomes king.

He launched the prize in 2020, inspired by US President John F. Kennedy’s 1962 “Moonshot” speech that challenged Americans to go to the moon by the end of that decade. William’s goal is to accelerate the pace of environmental innovation to combat problems such as climate change, ocean plastic pollution and loss of wildlife habitat by 2030.

Variety

PARIS: The Paris prosecutor said Saturday two new suspects were handed preliminary charges for their alleged involvement in the crown jewels heist at the Louvre museum, three days after they were arrested by police as part of the sweeping investigation.

Laure Beccuau, the prosecutor, said a 37-year-old suspect was charged with theft by an organized gang and criminal conspiracy. He was known to authorities for previous thefts, the statement said. The other suspect, a 38-year-old woman, was accused of being an accomplice. They were both incarcerated.

They both denied involvement, the prosecutor said. The lawyer for the woman, Adrien Sorren-

tino, told reporters his client is “devastated” because she disputes the accusations. (AP)

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia’s famed Angkor Archaeological Park received a total of 765,518 international visitors in the first 10 months of 2025, a year-on-year decrease of 1.12 percent, said a news release on Saturday.

The ancient site earned 35.57 million US dollars in revenue from ticket sales during the period, slightly down 1.15 percent, said the news release from the state-owned Angkor Enterprise.

Located in the northwest Siem Reap province, the UNESCO-listed Angkor Archaeological Park is home to 91 ancient temples built from the ninth to the 13th centuries. (Xinhua)

PARIS: Chinese cities Quanzhou and Wuxi have been added to the Creative Cities Network of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN agency announced Friday in a press release. UNESCO expanded its Creative Cities Network on the occasion of World Cities Day with the addition of 58 new cities around the world, including Quanzhou and Wuxi.

The Network encompasses eight creative fields: architecture, crafts and folk art, media arts, design, film, gastronomy, literature, and music. Quanzhou was designated a “Creative City of Gastronomy,” while Wuxi was named a “Creative City of Music.” Both cities stand out for their vibrant cultural life, active support for creative sectors, and innovative approaches to urban development. (Xinhua)

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Owners of affected vehicles will be contacted by Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L. and are asked to make an appointment to inspect and reprogram the engine ECU, without any charge to the customer.

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This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42,43,44,45,46,47 and48)of no.(27/2015) issuing the executive by laws no.(39/2014)on Consumer Protection

CAN organizes sports event for cancer awareness

Physical activities help boost health and confidence in cancer survivors

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) Campaign organized a sports event entitled, “The Pink Lifeline,” with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries as diamond sponsor.

The event included a friendly basketball match between the Makin Club team for survivors and the Soroptimist team for healthy individuals, in cooperation with the Girls Sports Club.

Member of CAN Board of Directors and head of the breast cancer awareness initiative Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen stated on Saturday that the aim of holding such events is to boost the self-confidence of women in recovery

stage, and encourage them to engage in physical activities and prioritize their mental and physical health. She pointed out that sports greatly contributes to disease prevention and improves the quality of life.

Al-Shaheen cited studies indicating that exercising for 30 minutes daily reduces the risk of breast and colon cancer by up to 40 percent. She emphasized the important role of sports in alleviating stress and anxiety and improving mental well-being by releasing endorphins (the natural feel-good hormones).

She also highlighted the significant support that the campaign receives from the oil sector, praising KPC and its subsidiaries for their commitment to corporate social responsibility and

their dedication to support health and national initiatives. She considers this partnership a successful national model for maintaining the health of individuals and the community.

Meanwhile, psychologist and member of the Makin Club Committee Nadia Al-Obaidi underscored the importance of recreational activities in raising the morale of women in the recovery stage, and in helping them return to life with confidence and positivity. The Makin team for recovering women was commended for winning the gold cup, while the Soroptimist team secured the second place.

The Girls Sports Club received a shield of appreciation for continuously supporting the CAN campaign initiatives.



Group photo of 'The Pink Lifeline' organizers.



Bicyclists ride along Sheikh Zayed Highway during the Dubai Ride annual event in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Nov. 2. (AP)

Bicycles flood Dubai’s busiest highway for fitness challenge

For a short while, bicycles took over Dubai’s busiest highway on Sunday as part of an annual ride marking the city-state’s yearly fitness challenge.

Thousands of cyclists rode down the 12-lane Sheikh Zayed Road on the weekend morning.

Authorities shut down a portion of the expressway for the Dubai 30x30, a challenge that calls on residents of this sheikhdom in the United Arab Emirates to get 30 minutes of exercise each day in November.

The road, also known as the E11, gives drivers a view of the world’s tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, as well as Dubai’s silver, doughnut-shaped Museum of the Future and other sites.

However, few have time to enjoy the sights as the expressway is typically jammed with traffic, mainly due to Dubai’s rapid population growth, which has fueled its booming real estate market but also put strains on residents here. (AP)

Green or gray, every walk has a way to heal you

Nature walks are good for you, but can a city stroll be just as beneficial?

NEW YORK, Nov 2, (AP): With every step on the trail, fallen leaves crinkle underfoot. The path follows a stream, rushing and bubbling over smooth, gray stones, while a breeze rustles the branches overhead. Now compare that blissful mental image to what you might walk past in a city - traffic, crowds, concrete and glass. Which seems better for you?

Walking in nature has been shown to boost physical and mental health, lowering stress and restoring attention. But researchers are finding plenty of mental-health benefits to walking in urban areas, too. You just have to find the right path and pay attention to your surroundings.

“Look at the green,” said Whitney Fleming, an environmental psychology researcher at Bangor University in Wales, UK. “Most cities have greenery. No matter where you are, you can find a nice tree.”

She noted that walking - considered moderate exercise - is good for you in general; it can lower the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, dementia, depression and many types of cancer. Walking in nature goes beyond the benefits of physical movement: “Humans have an innate, evolutionary tendency to like nature.”

Fleming’s research has found that people who were asked to pay attention to plant life while walking were significantly less anxious afterward than those asked to focus on human-made elements. The former group also reported feeling more positive emotions.

“Having natural elements to look at in cities is really important in terms of these effects, because you can still receive benefits even when not in a natural setting,” she said.

Other researchers have challenged the belief that cities are inherently stressful, said Cesar San Juan Guillen, a social psychology professor at the University of Basque Country in Spain.

Until recently, he said, much environmental research was biased against the built environment, comparing natural settings with stressful urban ones, such as traffic-heavy streets.

San Juan Guillen has compared people who spent time in a green urban park to those who went to a busy plaza with a historic church, playground and bars. Both showed



A marker signifying the burial place of Paul Revere appears on the fence at the Old Granary Burying Ground in Boston on Dec. 31, 2003. (AP)

improved cognitive performance and attention, he said, and fewer negative emotions like anxiety, hostility and fatigue.

But the group in the more built-up plaza felt even more energized and less stressed.

Spending time in historic urban areas, walking in cemeteries and taking in panoramic views, for instance, provoke “a kind of soft fascination,” San Juan Guillen said.

“This type of involuntary attention may be more effective... (at recovering) the kind of attention we deplete through work or study,” he said.

The fields of environmental psychology, neuroscience and architecture are drawing on each other’s research for a better understanding of how people interact with the built environment, said Tristan Cleveland, an urban planning consultant with the Canadian firm Happy Cities.

“With blank walls, people actually walk past them faster, as if they’re trying to escape,” said Cleveland, who received his doctorate at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. “And they’re less likely to stop and talk if they see a friend.”

Critical medical supplies delivered

Africa CDC responds to Sudan hospital attack

ADDIS ABABA, Nov. 2, (Xinhua): The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) announced Saturday that it is mobilizing an emergency public-health response after an attack on a crucial medical facility in El Fasher, western Sudan.

In a statement, the Africa CDC said it is dispatching critical medical supplies after last week’s assault on the Saudi Maternity Hospital in El Fasher.

“The assault, which killed hundreds of patients and caregivers and led to the abduction of several health workers, has crippled one of the few remaining medical facilities in the region and raised grave concerns about the continuity of essential health services,” the Africa CDC said.

It warned that ongoing conflict, mass displacement, and restricted access to healthcare are worsening Su-

dan’s health crisis, as the country battles concurrent outbreaks of cholera, dengue fever, measles, and diphtheria.

The African Union’s specialized health agency said it has deployed emergency medical and laboratory experts to assess conditions on the ground and support outbreak control, sustain essential health services, and strengthen biosafety in affected areas.

Working in partnership with Sudan’s Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, the Africa CDC said it is verifying casualty figures, monitoring for potential disease outbreaks, and assessing the broader public health impact. “This is not only a human tragedy but a public-health emergency,” the statement quoted Jean Kaseya, director general of Africa CDC, as saying. “Our immediate priority is to preserve life, prevent

secondary outbreaks, and protect the health infrastructure that communities depend on. Health facilities and workers must never be targets of war.”

The agency urged all parties to the conflict to safeguard laboratories and biomedical facilities that store or handle dangerous pathogens, warning that any compromise could pose grave bi-osecurity and public health risks.

On Wednesday, Sudan’s government said more than 2,000 civilians had been killed by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) since their entry into El Fasher.

Sudan remains gripped by a devastating conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the RSF, which erupted in April 2023. The war has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced millions, plunging the country deeper into a humanitarian crisis.

Science can feel contradictory and confusing

Health headlines can be confusing... a 3-question guide to evaluate them

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

By Kimberly Johnson, and Amy Eyler,
Washington University in St. Louis

Every week of 2025 seems to bring a new health headline, whether it’s about climbing autism rates, changing vaccination recommendations or unexpected cancer risks.

For people trying to make informed choices about their own health and that of their families, it can be tough to make sense of it all. The science can feel contradictory and confusing. Human data is messy, and studies often yield conflicting results.

Sparting between government officials and scientists can muddy the picture further.

As professors who teach epidemiology and research methods to public health students, we start our students off with a few key questions that can help make sense of the evidence. We’ve come to realize that these lessons aren’t just for public health experts - they are tools that anyone can use to cut through bias, evaluate health claims and better understand health-related policy debates.

So next time you read a news article making a claim about a particular health condition, ask yourself these three questions.

No. 1: Are people getting this illness more often?

Media reports often highlight changes in how frequently a condition is diagnosed. Take, for example, “Autism rates in US rise again to 1 in 31 kids, CDC says,” and “CDC finds nearly 1 in 3 US youth have prediabetes, but experts question scant data.”

Before raising the alarm about an unfolding epidemic, it’s important to consider whether the changes in rates are due to what public health researchers call artifactual changes or if they are true changes.

Artifactual changes can occur even when the rate of a disease or condition in the population has not actually changed. When researchers revise how they define a particular condition, the number of people counted as having it can change over time. Autism rates, for example, have increased at least partially due to an expanded definition of autism.

Another example is a change in what classifies someone as having high blood pressure. In 2017, the American Heart Association lowered the cutoff for diagnosing hypertension from 140/90 to 130/80. As a result, almost overnight, more people were considered to have the condition.

A condition’s rate can also appear to increase when doctors become better at detecting it. The widespread adoption of the PSA test, short for prostate-specific antigen test, a blood test for prostate cancer detection, in the early 1990s resulted in a surge in prostate cancer diagnoses. Some fraction of these cases were detected at such an early stage that they may never have progressed to cause illness or death during the patient’s lifetime.

Increased awareness of a condition due to media reports or public discussion can also result in more diagnoses. That’s especially true when diagnosis is not based on a definitive medical test but instead on clinical observations or reports. For example, increases in ADHD cases over time may partly reflect increased recognition and diagnosis as awareness grows.

True changes in the rates of a disease or health condition reflect real shifts in the factors that cause a condition to become more or less common in a population.

A classic example of a true change in a disease rate is smoking and lung cancer. Early in the 1900s, lung cancer

was a rare disease in the United States. By the 1930s, doctors were noticing more cases in men, leading to studies investigating its potential causes, including smoking.

Based on the results of numerous studies reviewed by the US surgeon general’s Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health in the early 1960s, the committee concluded that smoking was a primary cause of lung cancer. In the surgeon general’s landmark report published in 1964, which drew upon evidence from over 7,000 scientific and technical articles, the committee concluded that “cigarette smoking contributes substantially to mortality from certain specific diseases and the overall death rate.”

No. 2: What kind of study led to this claim?

The strongest studies compare a control group, which does not receive the intervention being tested, and an experimental group, which does. Study participants are randomly assigned to one of these groups. This type of study design, called a randomized controlled trial, is considered the gold standard for proving when a treatment or other factor truly causes or prevents a disease.

However, a randomized controlled trial cannot be used to study potentially harmful factors such as pesticides or other chemicals found in our everyday environments. Exposing people to potentially harmful exposures would not be ethical. Instead, researchers need to rely on observational studies, which identify people who are already exposed to some factor in their daily lives - for example, those who work with pesticides - and compare their health outcomes to people who are not exposed to pesticides.

The challenge with observational studies is that the two groups of people often differ in unpredictable ways - and these differences might partly explain why one group has a higher rate of a certain disease or health condition. This is known as confounding. Statistical methods used to control for these differences between the groups are often imperfect. This is why it’s risky to draw conclusions from a single study.

No. 3: What other evidence is there?

Because a single study cannot prove cause and effect, experts review the total body of research on a topic, like a jury weighing all the testimony before rendering a verdict. Evidence often includes a combination of study types, including randomized clinical trials, observational studies and laboratory research. Randomized clinical trials test whether an intervention actually changes outcomes under controlled conditions, while observational studies look for patterns and associations in real-world populations. Laboratory research aims to uncover biological mechanisms linking a potential cause to a disease, and it is usually conducted under artificial circumstances.

For example, many studies have investigated the effects of chemicals in cigarette smoke. On balance, they have found that such chemicals cause cancer by damaging genetic material in lung cells. When this damage affects key genes, it can trigger the cells to divide uncontrollably and lead to the development of cancer.

Once scientists rule out explanations based in artifacts such as more people being classified with a condition due to changing definitions, they can combine evidence from a range of studies on a topic to build a convincing case for whether the factor they are investigating truly causes or prevents a disease or other condition. They weigh all the evidence because no single study settles the question, but together the pieces form a clearer picture.

The bottom line? If you see a health claim that seems too good - or too bad - to be true, take a moment to mentally run the evidence through these three questions before deciding what to believe. (AP)

Public outcry and conspiracy theories

Monkey escape in the US exposes secretive world of animal research

NEW YORK, Nov 2, (AP): The recent escape of several research monkeys after the truck carrying them overturned on a Mississippi interstate is the latest glimpse into the secretive industry of animal research and the processes that allow key details of what happened to be kept from the public.



This photo provided by Scotty Ray Boyd shows an escaped monkey sitting in the grass Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025, in Heidelberg, Miss. (AP)

Three monkeys have remained on the loose since the crash on Tuesday in a rural area along Interstate 59, spilling wooden crates labeled “live monkeys” into the tall grass near the highway. Since then, searchers in masks, face shields and other protective equipment have scoured nearby fields and woods for the missing primates. Five of the 21 Rhesus macaques on board were killed during the search, according to the local sheriff, but it was unclear how that happened.

Mississippi authorities have not disclosed the company involved in transporting the monkeys, where the monkeys were headed or who owns them. While Tulane University in New Orleans has acknowledged that the monkeys had been housed at its National Biomedical Research Center in Covington, Louisiana, it said it doesn’t own them and won’t identify who does.

An initial report from the sheriff described the monkeys as “aggressive” and carrying diseases such as herpes, adding to the confusion. Tu-

lane later said the monkeys were free of pathogens, but it is still unclear what kind of research the monkeys were used for.

The questions surrounding the Mississippi crash and the mystery of why the animals were traveling through the South are remarkable, animal advocates say.

“When a truck carrying 21 monkeys crashes on a public highway, the community has a right to know who owned those animals, where they were being sent, and what diseases they may have been exposed to and harbored simply by being caught up in the primate experimentation industry,” said Lisa Jones-Engel, senior science adviser on primate experimentation with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

“It is highly unusual - and deeply

troubling - that Tulane refuses to identify its partner in this shipment,” Jones-Engel added.

One thing that is known is that the 2025 Chevrolet Silverado pickup hauling the monkeys was driven by a 54-year-old Cascade, Maryland, man when it ran off the highway into the grassy median area, the Mississippi Highway Patrol said in a statement to The Associated Press. The driver wasn’t hurt, nor was his passenger, a 34-year-old resident of Thurmont, Maryland.

Transporting research animals typically requires legally binding contracts that prohibit the parties involved from disclosing information, Tulane University said in a statement to the AP. That’s done for the safety of the animals and to protect proprietary information, the New Orleans-based university said.

“To the best of Tulane’s knowledge, the 13 recovered animals remain in the possession of their owner and are en route to their original destination,” the statement said.

The crash has drawn a range of reactions - from conspiracy theories that suggest a government plot to sicken people to serious responses from people who oppose experimenting on animals.

“How incredibly sad and wrong,” Republican US Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene said of the crash.

Stellato-Dudek, Deschamps triumph

Chiba clinches Skate Canada gold with flawless free skate



Japan's Mone Chiba, center, with gold medal, United States' Isabeau Levito, left, with silver, and Japan's Ami Nakai with bronze stand on the podium following the Women's free program competition of the 2025 Skate Canada International event in Saskatoon. (AP)

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan, Nov 2, (AP): Mone Chiba of Japan held off American standout Isabeau Levito with a near-flawless free skate to win Skate Canada, while Deanna Stellato-Dudek and Maxime Deschamps of Canada won the pairs competition.

Chiba held a narrow lead over Levito after their short program, but the 18-year-old from Philadelphia put the pressure on with a brilliant free skate set to music from the Italian comedy-drama "Cinema Paradiso." Levito landed all seven of her jumping passes with her typical balletic precision and scored of 209.77 points.

Chiba, the 20-year-old world bronze medalist, followed and never faltered during her own free skate, though. With her sprightly program set to "Csárdás," a traditional Hungarian folk dance tune, Chiba posted a season-best score of 217.23 points, giving her a Grand Prix gold medal for the first time after runner-up finishes in both of her assignments last year.

Ami Nakai, fresh off her Grand Prix de France title, finished third with 203.09 points.

Levito's silver medal was a strong result after a fourth-place finish in France. The reigning world silver medalist is trying to earn one of three U.S. spots on the team for the Milano-Cortina Olympic Games. And with two spots almost assured to world champion Alysa Liu and two-time defending U.S. champion Amber Glenn, the competition for the last spot will be tight.

It could come down to Levito and Bradie Tennell, who finished fourth at Skate Canada with 195.07 points on Saturday night.

Earlier in the night, the Canadian pair of Stellato-Dudek and Deschamps had the home nation roaring at SaskTel Centre when they came from behind to win their third consecutive Skate Canada gold medal ahead of German rivals Minerva Fabienne Hase and Nikita Volodin. Stellato-Dudek and Deschamps scored 213.40 points while Hase and Volodin scored 207.18.

Ellie Kam and Danny O'Shea were third with 199.11 points in a strong showing for the American pairs team.

Hase and Volodin, the reigning Grand Prix Final champions and world silver medalists, led after Friday night's short program. But they endured a pair of falls during their free skate, him on their side-by-side triple toe loop and her on their throw-triple flip. In the rhythm dance earlier Saturday, Canadian world silver medalists Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier began their pursuit of a sixth consecutive Skate Canada title by winning the rhythm dance with a score of 85.38 points.

Allison Reed and Saulius Ambrulevicius of Lithuania were second with 80.89 points, and Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko, one of the rising American dance teams, were third with 76.83 points.

Xu claims maiden tour title as a pro

Yamashita wins LPGA Maybank Champ'ship after 3-way playoff

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Nov 2, (Agencies): Women's British Open winner Miyu Yamashita of Japan has won the LPGA's Maybank Championship in a three-way playoff Sunday for her second career title in only her first full year on the tour.

The 24-year-old golfer sealed victory with a birdie on the first playoff hole, while three-round leader Hye-Jin Choi of South Korea and Australia's Hannah Green could only manage pars. The win adds the Maybank title to Yamashita's maiden major triumph in August.

The Japanese player carded the day's equal lowest round of 65 to swiftly climb up a congested leaderboard to 18-under 270 at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country club course.

Choi, who began the final round with a four-stroke lead, struggled to convert key putts as her advantage slipped away.

The 26-year-old Choi now has 29 career top-10 finishes, but is yet to find her breakthrough win on the tour. It's also the third time she has led a tournament heading into the final round and finished runner-up.

Green, a member of the winning Australia team at the International Crown last weekend, shot a streaky 68 - with seven birdies and three bogies - which included a nerveless birdie at the last to join Choi and Yamashita in the playoff.

World No. 1 Jeeno Thitikul (68), China's Liu Yan (65), Akie Iwai (67) of Japan and South Korean pair A Lim Kim (68) and Kim Sei-Young (66) were all tied for fourth-place at 17 under, one shot behind the leading trio.

Thitikul, a runner-up in Malaysia the last two years, had a bogey on the 16th that ended the Thai player's late charge for a breakthrough win in Kuala Lumpur.

Earlier, an hour-long delay because of rain after the leaders had made the turn added to the tension



Miyu Yamashita of Japan holds the winning trophy after winning the LPGA Tour's Maybank Championship at Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (AP)

on a congested leaderboard. When play resumed, Choi found her way back into contention with a clutch birdie at the par-4 16th that had just enough pace to drop in.

Green then joined Choi and Yamashita in the playoff before another rain shower delayed the playoff for more than 30 minutes.

Defending champion Yin Run-ying shot 70 for a 12th-place finish at 14-under 274, four strokes behind.

Brooke Henderson also shot 70 and was tied for 27th.

Next week, the LPGA ends its five-week Asian swing with the Japan Classic at Shiga.

China's Xu Ying captured her third CLPG Tour title of the year, and first win as a professional, with a two-shot victory at the Fila Golf Women's Classic on Saturday.

The 16-year-old Zhuhai native, who turned professional two weeks ago at the Women's China Open, closed with a round of one-under 71 at Bayhood No. 9 International Golf Club for a 54-hole score of three-under 213.

Babar back with a bang as Pakistan seals T20 series against South Africa



Pakistani players and team officials pose for photograph with trophy after winning the T20 series against South Africa on the end of third T20 cricket match between Pakistan and South Africa, in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

Ayub out for fifth duck in last 10 T20 innings

LAHORE, Pakistan, Nov 2, (AP): Babar Azam made a triumphant return to T20 cricket with his 37th half-century and led Pakistan to a series-clinching four-wicket victory against South Africa in the third and final game.

Pakistan rode Babar's 68 off 46 balls to reach 140-6 in 19 overs. South Africa fell short for the second successive match and was restricted to 139-9 after losing a third successive toss in the series and being asked to bat first.

An inexperienced South Africa won the opening game by 55 runs at Rawalpindi before Pakistan made a strong comeback with back-to-back comprehensive wins at Lahore to clinch the series 2-1.

Babar controlled the chase well after left-handed opener Saim Ayub was out for his fifth duck in his last 10 T20 innings.

The selectors had ignored Babar for almost a year before recalling him for the series against the Proteas, as Pakistan still searches for the right batting combination for next year's T20 World Cup.

Babar was out for duck in the first match, but overtook Rohit Sharma's record for most runs in T20s when he made 11 not out in the second match.



Pakistan's Babar Azam plays a shot during the third T20 cricket match between Pakistan and South Africa, in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

Babar started off cautiously against the left-arm spin of George Linde, but grew in confidence against the pace, with bowlers finding it difficult to hit the right lengths with the wet ball because of heavy dew.

He shared a match-winning 76-run stand with captain Salman Ali Agha (33) as South Africa struggled to get the breakthrough.

Babar brought the capacity crowd of over 32,000 on their feet at the Gaddafi Stadium when he reached his fifty with three successive boundaries against fast bowler Otneil Baartman as Paki-

stan's premier batter pushed the scoring rate with his skillful shots on both sides of the wicket.

Pakistan had a minor collapse and lost four wickets for 14 runs, with Agha chipping an easy catch in the covers and Babar departing when only 15 runs were required for victory as he pulled Bosch's short ball to Reeza Hendricks at deep backward square leg.

Lizaad Williams (2-26) and Andile Simelane (1-23), two of the three changes South Africa made from the team that lost the second game, picked

up late wickets, but by that time Babar's knock had sealed the game in Pakistan's favor.

"This innings was long overdue," Babar said. "I backed myself, and the team believed in me. I was hoping for such a knock. ... It is about how you absorb pressure. I wanted to do what the team needed, play according to the situation."

Captain Donovan Ferreira lost his third successive toss, and Shaheen Shah Afridi (3-26), who was rested for the second game, picked up the wickets of Quinton de Kock and Lhuan-dre Pretorius before the Proteas had scored in the first over.

Another left-arm fast bowler, Salman Mirza, also bowled to tight lengths in the power play and didn't allow Reeza Hendricks (34) and Dewald Brevis (21) to score freely.

Mystery off-spinner Usman Tariq (2-26) impressed in his debut T20 when he had Brevis mistime a pull of his second ball, and Matthew Breetzke was clean bowled by left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz.

Faheem Ashraf then picked up the wickets of Ferreira and Linde off successive balls, and South Africa crumbled to 6-76 in the 12th over. Bosch made an unbeaten 30 off 23 balls that featured only two boundaries in the last over of the innings to give South Africa some hope.

Pakistan and South Africa now play a three-match ODI series in Faisalabad, starting Tuesday.

Sundar smashes unbeaten 49 off 23 balls

India notches easy five-wicket win over Australia

HOBART, Australia, Nov 2, (AP): Washington Sundar smashed an unbeaten 49 off 23 balls in a powerful display of aggressive batting and propelled India to a series-levelling five-wicket win over Australia in the third Twenty20 cricket international on Sunday.

Left-hander Sundar smacked four sixes and three fours as India cruised to 188-5 with nine balls to spare. Tim David made an electrifying 74 off 38 deliveries and Marcus Stoinis dominated the latter half of the innings with 64 off 39 balls as Australia made 186-6 after captain Mitchell Marsh lost the toss and Australia was put in to bat first. The first game of the five-match series was washed out due to rain in Canberra and Australia won the second by four wickets at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Sundar was one of three changes India made from the side that lost at the MCG as the visitors also brought in left-arm fast bowler Arshdeep Singh and Jitesh Sharma played his first game since his last T20 against Afghanistan in January 2024.

Nathan Ellis (3-36) picked up the wickets of openers Abhishek Sharma (25) and Shubman Gill (15) in his incisive two overs in the powerplay. Abhishek played in his usual fearless fashion and hit two sixes and two fours before he top-edged Ellis' short ball behind the wicket.

Ellis then had Gill out plumb leg before

fore wicket and then grabbed a regulation catch of Suryakumar Yadav (24) in the covers after the Indian captain was deceived by a Stoinis off-cutter.

Sundar then took charge of the chase in style despite other batters failing to capitalize on good starts. Sundar smashed his second ball for a six over mid-wicket and didn't spare the short balls from Sean Abbott (0-56), who replaced Josh Hazlewood in the playing XI.

Tilak Varma made a more than a run-a-ball 29 before he failed to lift his

ramp shot off an Xavier Bartlett delivery over the head of wicketkeeper Josh Inglis. Ellis picked up his third wicket in his return spell when Axar Patel holed out at deep mid-wicket.

But Sundar persisted with his ultra-aggressive shots before Jitesh denied his teammate a well-deserved half century when he lofted Abbott over the covers for the winning boundary and remained unbeaten on 22 off 13 balls.

Arshdeep (3-35), who replaced Harshit Rana in the playing XI, made an immediate impact off his fourth ball



India players celebrate a wicket during the T20 cricket international between India and Australia in Hobart. (AP)

when Travis Head mistimed a pull shot and skied an easy catch to Yadav at mid-off.

Inglis then swung the left-arm fast bowler to fine leg after struggling for seven balls to score only one. Sundar's only lapse of the day came when he dropped David on 20 at point as the batter tried to slice Jasprit Bumrah on the off side.

David capitalized on the dropped catch and smashed eight fours and five sixes that included a 129-meter monstrous six over the head of left-arm spinner Patel before Varun Chakravarthy's twin strikes pushed back Australia.

Marsh (11) didn't get much of the strike as David dominated a 59-run stand before the Australia captain was caught at long off and Chakravarthy then clean bowled Mitchell Owen with the next delivery.

David continued to push the scoring rate before he was well caught by Varma on the edge of the long-off boundary in the 13th over. Stoinis then took charge and smashed Shivam Dube for two successive sixes and added 64 runs with Matthew Short (26 not out).

However, Arshdeep and Bumrah (0-26) pegged back Australia in the death overs as Arshdeep dismissed Stoinis in the last over.

The fourth game of the series will be played on Thursday, followed by the final game in Brisbane on Saturday.

Change Of Name

I, the undersigned Brian Agnelo De Almeida, Resident of H. No. 603, Salis Vaddo, Parra, Bardez, Goa 403510, India, wants to change/correct my name from BRAIN AGNELO DE ALMEIDA to BRIAN AGNELO DE ALMEIDA. Hereinafter I will be known as Brian Agnelo De Almeida for all purposes. Sd/- Brian Agnelo De Almeida

Messi scores but Nashville staves off MLS Cup elimination

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov 2, (AP): Lionel Messi scored a late goal but sixth-seeded Nashville beat No. 3 seed Inter Miami 2-1 in Game 2 of the first round of the MLS Cup playoffs on Saturday night.

The teams will meet in Fort Lauderdale on Nov. 8 for a decisive Game 3.

It was Nashville's first playoff win since the 2021 MLS Cup Playoffs, when it defeated Orlando 2-1 at home in first round. Saturday's victory was also Nashville's first over Miami since May 17, 2023, in a 2-1 result.

"That was a team that was committed to playing in an aggressive and intense way and was able to do it for a long period of time tonight," Nashville coach B.J. Callaghan said. "That was a challenge that we put on ourselves and tonight was a good example of that."

Sam Surridge opened the scoring in the ninth minute, finding the back of the net on a penalty shot with Inter Miami goalkeeper Rocco Ríos Novo diving the opposite way of the shot.

Nashville struck again before the half as Josh

Bauer connected with Hany Mukhtar's corner kick in the 45th minute to bump the lead to 2-0.

"I'm always trying to score on those set pieces," Bauer said. "Those are kind of our moments as defenders to get up the field and get our chance. I do think that I'm someone that other teams maybe don't plan for or forget about."

"If I can kind of slip under the radar and get myself in a good spot, credit to the coaching staff for putting us in those areas."

Inter Miami made things interesting late as Messi

scored his sixth goal in three games against Nashville in the 90th minute.

"It's our job to collectively work to stop it. That's the beauty of the game," Callaghan said on limiting Messi's impact. "You're not ever thinking that you're going to eliminate him from the game totally, but you have to be able to neutralize some of the things that they're (elite players) trying to do."

Miami had a 10-9 shot advantage but Nashville had five shots on net to Miami's three.

Al-Shatti clinches victory in the medium category

Al-Nuaimi triumphs in Kuwait Equestrian League



Al-Nuaimi and fellow winners take their places on the Grand Prix podium.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Youssef Al-Nuaimi of Al-Joun Equestrian Center captured the first round of the fifth edition of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation League at the Kuwait Equestrian Center in Subhan, featuring riders from clubs across the country.

In the Grand Prix (140 cm), Al-Nuaimi rode Hammer to victory with a fastest

time of 42.44 seconds and zero penalties in the jump-off, edging out competitors Nick Channing (42.74), Abdullah Al-Roudhan (43.45), Fawaz Al-Subaie, Rakan Al-Hasawi, and Steven Daniels.

In other categories, Amer Al-Shatti won the medium event (130 cm), while Mohammed Al-Shammari took top honors in the small event (120 cm).

The opening day also saw Khaled Al-Khubizi of the Hunting Club win the 135 cm Grand Prix, Ghazi Al-Fulaaj claim the medium 125 cm class, and Ammar Askar secure first place in the 115 cm category.

The championship’s judging panel was led by Kuwaiti international judge Raghad Waleed Al-Dabbous.

World-class facility for elite competitions

Al-Musallam opens Bahrain Aquatics Center

MANAMA, Oct 2: World Aquatics President Captain Hussain Al-Musallam inaugurated the World Aquatics Center in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in the presence of Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

The new center, launched in cooperation with GFH Financial Group and the Bahrain Aquatics Sports Federation, features facilities for swimming, diving, water polo, and artistic swimming.

Al-Musallam highlighted that the center serves not only as a training hub but also as residential accommodation for athletes, offering 87 rooms and welcoming 150 swimmers from 150 countries, all training under the supervision of World Aquatics-certified coaches.

He expressed his appreciation to the University of Bahrain for its key role in supporting the project, describing the facility as one of the federation’s finest global initiatives, joining similar centers in the United States, Australia, Thailand, France,



Al-Musallam and Al Khalifa during the inauguration ceremony.

and Hungary.

Al-Musallam emphasized that the Bahrain center offers a practical and integrated environment, combining training and academic opportunities through the University of Bahrain. The Bahrain Swimming Federation will also benefit from the partnership, using the facility to raise the level of local athletes and develop young swimmers under the age of six under the guidance of World Aquatics experts.

He added that plans are underway to form national diving and water polo teams in Bahrain, and the center will host regional and international championships, helping to boost sports tourism in the kingdom and across the region. The center will also serve as a winter training destination for European national teams.

Rockets dominate Celtics

Pacers end losing streak against Warriors



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) goes to the basket against Indiana Pacers' Aaron Nesmith (23) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

BOSTON, Nov 2, (AP): Kevin Durant scored 26 points in three quarters before resting the fourth, Amen Thompson added 17 points and nine rebounds, and Houston beat Boston 128-101.

Alperen Sengun had 16 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for the Rockets. Jabari Smith Jr. and Josh Okogie each scored 12 as Houston won its third straight following an 0-2 start to the season and ended Boston’s three-game win streak.

Baylor Scheierman led Boston with 17 points. Payton Pritchard had 14 points, Josh Minott finished with 10 points and six rebounds and Jaylen Brown had 12 points for Boston, sitting out the fourth one night after leading the Celtics with 32 points in a 109-108 win at Philadelphia on Friday night.

Timberwolves 122, Hornets 105

In Charlotte, Julius Randle scored 30 points to lead the Minnesota Timberwolves past the Charlotte Hornets -105, their first victory since All-Star Anthony Edwards was sidelined with an injury.

Without Edwards, who has a

right hamstring strain, Minnesota had lost home games to Denver and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Donte DiVincenzo and Naz Reid added 18 points each, Rudy Gobert had 14 points and 15 rebounds and Jaden McDaniels added 14 points for Minnesota.

Miles Bridges had 30 points and LaMelo Ball had 18 points, seven rebounds and eight assists to lead Charlotte, which has lost its last three games.

Kings 135, Bucks 133

In Milwaukee, Zach LaVine had 31 points, DeMar DeRozan scored 29, and Sacramento turned back a late rally to hold on for a victory over Milwaukee.

The Bucks, who trailed 108-102 entering the final period, pulled within 133-132 on Miles Turner’s 3-pointer from the right corner with 51 seconds remaining.

DeRozan missed a pullup jumper on the Kings next possession, but the Bucks failed to capitalize when Giannis Antetokounmpo turned it over with a poor pass with 19 seconds left.

Dennis Schroder hit two free throws with 14.8 seconds left to put the Kings up 135-132. A.J. Green missed a 3-pointer on the Bucks’ next possession. Green hit the first of two free throws with 1.1 seconds left, but the Bucks

could not control the rebound.

Russell Westbrook scored on a put back to put the Kings up 126-118, but Antetokounmpo scored the Bucks’ next 11 points, cutting the lead to 131-129 with a break-away dunk.

Domantas Sabonis had 24 points and 13 rebounds and Schroder had 24 points for the Kings.

Antetokounmpo, who did not play in the Bucks 120-110 win over Golden State on Thursday with left knee soreness, had 26 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists in 32 minutes.

Magic 125, Wizards 94

In Washington, Paolo Banchero had 28 points and 11 rebounds as Orlando beat Washington.

Banchero shot 9 for 15 from the field and went 3 of 6 from 3-point range in 26 minutes for his fourth double-double.

Wendell Carter Jr. added 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Franz Wagner scored 25 points as the Magic won consecutive games after an early season four-game skid.

Orlando outrebounded Washington 53-40 - a margin that narrowed late - and held an opponent under 100 points for the first time this season. The Magic are 2-2 on their five-game trip and 3-4 overall.

Keyshawn George scored 17 points and CJ McCollum added 13 as the Wizards lost their fourth straight overall and third straight at home. Washington has dropped 11 consecutive games against the Magic.

Pacers 114, Warriors 109

In Indianapolis, Quenton Jackson scored 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter as Indiana snapped a season-opening five-game losing streak with a victory over the Golden State.

Aaron Nesmith scored 31 and Pascal Siakam added 27 for the Pacers.

Stephen Curry led the Warriors with 24 points. Jimmy Butler scored 20 points and Jonathan Kuminga 17 for Golden State.

Pistons 122, Mavericks 110

In Mexico City, Jalen Duren had 33 points and 10 rebounds, Cade Cunningham added 21 points with 18 assists and Detroit pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Dallas Mavericks in Mexico City.

Duncan Robinson added 18 points and Ausar Thompson had 15 for the Pistons, who won their second game in a row.

D’Angelo Russell came off the bench to score 31 points while first overall pick Cooper Flagg scored a season high 16 points on 3-for-14 shooting for the Mavericks.

DOHA, Nov 2, (KUNA): The FIFA U-17 World Cup begins tomorrow in Doha, Qatar, running until November 27, featuring a record 48 national teams for the first time in the tournament’s history. Over 25 days, 104 matches will take place across eight stadiums within the Aspire Academy complex, with the final set for Khalifa International Stadium. Each stage of the competition will host eight matches daily.

Germany enters as defending champions, having won the previous edition in Indonesia in 2023, beating France 4-3 on penalties after a 2-2 draw in the final.

The tournament’s official logo, unveiled in May, integrates the U-17 trophy within the letter “U,” forming a bold silhouette and a symbolic beam of light. The dynamic design reflects football’s global reach, inclusiveness, and energy while highlighting FIFA and Qatar’s shared mission of showcasing emerging talent.

The official mascot, an owl named after the Arabic word for “owl,” honors Serbian coach Bora Milutinovic, the only manager to lead five different national teams in consecutive FIFA World Cups. The mascot symbolizes wisdom, vision, and guidance, echoing Milutinovic’s legacy in talent development.

The 2025 edition marks a historic expansion to 48 teams divided into 12 groups of four. Six Arab nations are participating: Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia. Opening-day fixtures include Senegal vs. Croatia, Argentina vs. Belgium, South Africa vs. Bolivia, New Caledonia vs. Portugal, Japan vs. Morocco, Qatar vs. Italy, Costa Rica vs. UAE, and Tunisia vs. Fiji. Tickets are available at www.roadtoqatar.qa.



FIFA U-17 World Cup on display in Doha.

roadtoqatar.qa, with daily prices starting at QAR 20 (around USD 6).

Historically, Nigeria leads with five U-17 World Cup titles, followed by Brazil with four. Saudi Arabia became the first Arab nation to win the tournament in 1989, defeating hosts Scotland 5-4 on penalties after a 2-2 draw.

In March 2024, FIFA awarded Qatar the rights to host the next five U-17 World Cup editions (2025–2029), making Qatar the 20th nation to host the tournament, which began in 1985 in China as the FIFA U-16 World Championship before being rebranded in 1991 and adopting its current U-17 World Cup title in 2007.

Swiatek defeats Keys at WTA Finals

RIYADH, Nov. 2, (Xinhua): This year’s Wimbledon champion Iga Swiatek eased past Australian Open winner Madison Keys in straight sets in the opening singles group match of the WTA Finals in Riyadh on Saturday.

This encounter turned out to be one-sided as Swiatek, in top form, won 82.1 percent of points on her first serve while Keys struggled with her serve, committing seven double faults and being broken five times. Swiatek ultimately cruised to a 6-1, 6-2 victory to claim her opening win in the group stage.

Swiatek and Keys had met twice earlier this season, each winning once, with both matches going to three sets. In the Australian Open semifinals, American Keys edged her Polish opponent in a third-set super tiebreak

before going on to claim the title.

However, after suffering a first-round exit at the US Open, Keys had not played any competitive match for more than two months.

“Kind of [pleased] with everything, but mostly with my serve and overall focus,” Swiatek said afterward. “I was in the zone from the beginning till the end, and really wanted to keep it that way.”

The two singles groups at this year’s Finals are named after WTA legends Steffi Graf and Serena Williams. Swiatek and Keys are drawn in the “Serena Williams” group, along with Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan and Amanda Anisimova of the United States. Also on Saturday, Rybakina fired seven aces and needed only 57 minutes to defeat Anisimova 6-3, 6-1.

Kuwait handball team aims high at Games

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

TUNIS, Nov 2: Kuwait’s senior national handball team is intensifying preparations for the Men’s Islamic Solidarity Games in Saudi Arabia, scheduled from November 7 to 21. The team is training in Tunisia with two daily sessions to reach peak physical and technical readiness ahead of the tournament.

During the Tunisia camp, Kuwait participated in a friendly tournament against Tunisia, Iran, and Guinea. Head coach Aron Kristjansson and assistant Heini Geirsson



Aron Kristjansson, head coach of Kuwait's senior national handball team.

son focused on improving player fitness and tactical performance, supported by the team’s new Danish fitness coach.

The coaching staff praised the players’ commitment and discipline, noting that the camp serves as a key step toward the Asian Championship in Kuwait next January, which doubles as a qualifier for the 2027 World Cup in Germany.

The Tunisian camp delegation is led by Handball Federation board member Nasser Al-Da’as, with Treasurer Khaled Taleb, team manager Abdulaziz Al-Zuabi, and 21 players. Kuwait is drawn in

Group B alongside Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq, while Group A features the UAE, Qatar, Iran, and the Maldives.

In women’s handball, Qurain lost 32-26 to Tunisia’s Hammamet in a preliminary Group A match at the 7th Arab Women’s Clubs Championship, held in Hammamet from November 3–9. Qurain’s Melika Ranik earned the Best Player award.

Qurain faces Tunisian club El Mkanin at 1:00 PM, while Kuwait’s other women’s team, Salwa Al-Sabah, meets Tunisia’s Al-Ittifaq at 5:00 PM in the second round of Group B.

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NEWS



Nashville SC midfielder Alex Muyl, left, and Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi, right, battle for the ball during the first half of Game 2 in the first round of MLS soccer Eastern Conference playoff in Nashville, Tenn. Nashville won 2-1. (AP) — See Page 14

Sports

Historic Padel World Cup begins in Kuwait



Officials pose for a group photo after the press conference.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The first-ever Padel World Cup for men's and women's doubles kicks off today at the Arena courts and Rafa Nadal Academy in Kuwait, featuring the world's top players under the International Padel Federation (FIP).

A press conference at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, attended by Acting Director-General of the Public Authority for Sport Bashar Abdullah, tournament director Mishal Al-Ansari, and José Luiz, head of the FIP referees committee. The draw for the advanced rounds took place following the conclusion of preliminary matches.

Bashar Abdullah highlighted the Authority's commitment

to supporting young athletes across all sports, praising last year's international padel tournament in Kuwait for its global success and noting that it led the FIP to entrust Kuwait with hosting the World Cup. He added that Kuwait's success in organizing international events reflects strong collaboration between the country's public and private sectors.

Tournament director Mishal Al-Ansari called the event a historic milestone, explaining that the World Cup was first launched in Kuwait and is intended to be held biennially in willing host countries. "Preparations began two years ago, and we aim to demonstrate Kuwait's capacity to host world-class sports events," he said.

Qatar team pleased with participation

Sheikh Salman, Rossi and Al-Otaibi inspect shooting ranges ahead of Asian Champ'ship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Italian Shooting Federation President Luciano Rossi, Asian Shooting Federation President Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah, and Arab & Kuwaiti Shooting Federation President Engineer Duai Al-Otaibi toured the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Ranges on the first day of the Asian Shooting Championship in Kuwait, which runs until November 8. The visit was aimed at assessing the progress and organization of the competitions.

During the tour, they met with delegation leaders and participating shooters, who praised the warm hospitality and the dedication of the organizing committee, headed by Engineer Duai Khalaf Al-Otaibi, Secretary-General of the Asian Shooting Federation, along with its subcommittees responsible for logistics and event management.

Italian Shooting Federation President Luciano Rossi expressed his admiration for the excellent organization and smooth conduct of the competitions.

Meanwhile, the men's and women's 50-target events continued on Monday, with fierce competition as shooters aimed to qualify for the finals and compete for medals.

Head of the Qatari shooting team, Ahmed Al-Kuwari, expressed his delight at having the "Al-Anabi" shooters participate in the Asian Championship at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Shooting Complex.

Al-Kuwari said: "We always prioritize tournaments in Kuwait for several reasons: its special place in our hearts,



Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud greets shooters as Rossi and Al-Otaibi look on.

the excellent organization of competitions in a country known for friendship and peace, and the world-class Olympic-standard facilities, which are perfect for high-level competition."

He added that Qatar is fielding its second team in this championship to give younger shooters valuable experience against Asia's top talents, noting it as an ideal opportunity to develop their skills.

Al-Kuwari also praised the opening ceremony, attended by Minister of Culture and Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, as well as leaders from Asian and Kuwaiti shooting federations and the president of the International Shooting Federation, which highlighted the championship's importance.

Chief international judge Hamad

Al-Rwaisan confirmed that the shooting ranges were fully prepared well in advance, with maintenance of the ranges, clay target machines, technical markings, distances, and target quality completed.

The judging panel includes 24 Kuwaiti referees with international licenses, alongside Qatari judge Abdullah Al-Hammadi, the tournament's technical delegate, and Emirati Hassan Al-Shehi, head of Al-Jouri Club.

Kuwaiti shooter Ahmed Al-Mandeel, part of the national delegation, expressed gratitude to the Kuwait Shooting Club for providing the opportunity to participate in the Asian Championship for the first time, emphasizing the value of gaining experience against Asia's best shooters.

Dodgers become first repeat champions in 25 years

Smith's homer in 11th lifts LA past Blue Jays

TORONTO, Nov 2, (AP): In a World Series for the ages that went back and forth again and again, Will Smith delivered the biggest swing of all for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Smith connected in the 11th for the first extra-inning homer in a winner-take-all title game, and Miguel Rojas became the first player to hit a tying home run in the ninth inning of a Game 7. On a roller-coaster night of see-sawing emotions, the Dodgers outlasted the Toronto Blue Jays 5-4 Saturday to become the first repeat champions in a quarter century.

"You dream of those moments," Smith said after the 4-hour, 7-minute thriller. "I'll remember that forever."

In the type of dramatic Game 7 that kids conjure in backyards, the Blue Jays led 3-0 on Bo Bichette's third-inning homer off Shohei Ohtani and 4-2 before Max Muncy's eighth-inning solo homer off star rookie Trey Yesavage.

Toronto was two outs from its first championship since 1993 when Rojas, inserted into the slumping Dodgers lineup in Game 6 to provide some energy, homered on a full-count slider from Jeff Hoffman and stunned the Rogers Centre crowd of 44,713.

"I've cost everybody in here a World Series ring," Hoffman said.

Rojas hadn't homered since Sept. 19.

"I had a conversation with my wife," he said. "She told me something big was waiting for me."

World Series MVP Yoshinobu Yamamoto escaped a bases-loaded jam in the bottom half, and Toronto reliever Seranthony Domínguez stranded three Dodgers runners in the 10th.

Smith, who hit a go-ahead homer in Game 2, sent a 2-0 pitch from Shane Bieber into Toronto's bullpen in left field, where it bounced into the seats and gave the Dodgers their first lead of the night. Running between first and second, Smith raised his arms in triumph.

"He hung a slider," Smith said. "I banged it."

Bieber, the 2020 AL Cy Young Award winner, was making his first relief appearance since 2019.

"He was looking for it and I didn't execute," he said.

Of course, there had to be even more drama in just the sixth winner-take-all Series game to go extra innings. It matched the Marlins' 3-2 win over Cleveland in 1997 as the second-longest Game 7, behind only the Washington Senators' 4-3, 12-inning victory against the New York Giants in 1924.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. doubled leading off the bottom of the 11th and was sacrificed to third. Addison Barger walked, and Alejandro Kirk hit a broken-bat grounder to shortstop Mookie Betts, who started a title-winning 6-6-3 double play. It was only the second double play to end a Series, after the Yankees turned one in 1947 against the Dodgers.

"I thought we had chances to sweep them," Blue Jays manager John Schneider said. "Going back to the beginning of the Series when people were calling it David vs. Goliath, it's not even close."

Smith set a Series record by catching 73 innings. Betts earned his fourth title in the finale of baseball's 150th major league season, the first that began and ended outside the United States.

In the Dodgers bullpen for the last game of his decorated 18-year career, Clayton Kershaw lost track of the outs. "When he hit the double play, I thought the run scored and it was tied," he said. "I thought I had the next batter."

Los Angeles and its \$500 million roster overcame a 3-2 Series deficit on the



Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto, center right, lifts the World Series MVP trophy as the Dodgers celebrate after defeating the Toronto Blue Jays in Game 7 of baseball's World Series in Toronto. (AP)

road. The Dodgers became the first repeat champion since the 1998-2000 New York Yankees won three in a row, and the first from the National League since the 1975 and '76 Cincinnati Reds.

With their ninth championship and third in six years, the Dodgers made an argument for their 2020s teams to be considered a dynasty. Dave Roberts, their manager since 2016, boosted the probability that he will gain induction to the Hall of Fame.

"To do what we've done in this span of time is pretty remarkable," Roberts said. "After throwing 96 pitches in a Game 6 win Friday, Yamamoto tossed 43 more over 2 2/3 innings for his third win of the Series. He finished the postseason 5-1 with a 1.45 ERA."

"Before I went in, to be honest, I was not really sure if I could pitch up there to my best ability," Yamamoto said through a translator. "But as I started getting

warmed up ... I started making a little bit of an adjustment, and then I started thinking I can go in and do my job."

This Series produced the World Series' first pinch-hit grand slam, its first complete game in a decade, an 18-inning Game 3 featuring Shohei Ohtani reaching base nine times, six outs on the bases and Freddie Freeman becoming the first to hit two walk-off homers, the first back-to-back homers opening a game, Yesavage striking out a rookie-record 12 just six weeks after his debut, and the first game-ending double play in which an outfielder had a putout or assist.

"That game had every single thing you could possibly have," Freeman said. "Just an absolutely incredible game, incredible Series."

Los Angeles used all four of its postseason starting pitchers, with Yamamoto joined by Ohtani and Glasnow (2 1/3 innings each) and Blake Snell (1 1/3 innings).

Vinicius Jr misses penalty

Mbappe scores two as Real Madrid routs Valencia



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe, right, and Valencia's Jose Copete challenge for the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Valencia in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

MADRID, Nov 2, (AP): Kylian Mbappe's spectacular scoring run just keeps on going.

Two more goals helped Real Madrid to a 4-0 win against Valencia, which extended its lead at the top of La Liga to seven points.

On a day when the France striker showed off his golden boot award for European soccer's top scorer last season, he took his tally this term to 21 goals in 17 games for club and country.

It is the kind of form that will likely put him in contention for a first Ballon d'Or award next year. It is also putting Madrid in contention for top honors.

Mbappe scored from the penalty spot in the 19th minute at the Santiago Bernabeu and doubled Madrid's lead in the 31st.

When Madrid won a second penalty before halftime, it was Vinicius Jr who stepped up to take it - but his effort was saved by Valencia goalkeeper Julien Agirretxabala.

Moments later, Madrid had its third when Jude Bellingham struck from outside the area.

Alvaro Carreras completed the victory in the 82nd.

Villarreal scored three goals in nine minutes to rout Rayo Vallecano 4-0.

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.

Ayoze Perez completed the rout in the 65th.

The victory left Villarreal on 23 points.

Antoine Griezmann scored his 200th La Liga goal to round off a 3-0 win Atletico Madrid against Sevilla.

The France international, who is in his second spell at Atletico and has also played in Spain's top flight for Real Sociedad and Barcelona, struck

in the 90th minute to claim his landmark goal.

Julian Alvarez's penalty in the 64th provided the breakthrough before Thiago Almada and Griezmann added the other goals.

Jon Gorroategi scored in added time to seal a 3-2 win for Sociedad against Athletic Bilbao.

Sociedad had twice led through Brais Mendez and Goncalo Guedes, but Bilbao equalized each time - through Gorka Guruzeta and Robert Navarro.

Gorroategi's winner in the second minute of added time came too late for Bilbao to respond for a third time.