

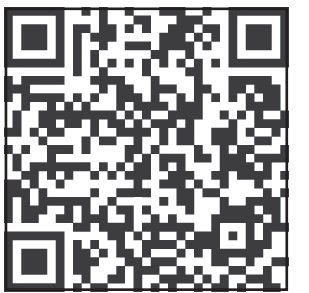


National Investments Company (NIC) Reports Profit of KD 20.7 Million and Earnings per Share of 26 Fils, a 103% Growth in Profits

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Crown Prince Diwan photo

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Chair of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Roslyn Morauta.



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Turki Al-Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Vice Chairman of the Board Sultan Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah.

Crown Prince receives Global Fund team

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Monday the Chair of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria,

Roslyn Morauta, and the accompanying delegation. Attending the reception was Chief of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and senior officials.

Amir, Crown Prince and PM receive OCIS Board of Trustees

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OCIS), Turki Al-Faisal bin

Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Vice Chairman of the Board Sultan Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah.

His Highness the Amir also met with other board members including Sheikh Dr. Moham-

mad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Dr. Abdullah Gul, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh

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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

To the Cabinet ... investors seek incentives, not obstacles

A LARGE segment of citizens is asking the Cabinet these questions - Does the government truly intend to encourage investment in Kuwait? Are the current measures intended to support this goal, or to intimidate investors instead?

This concern arises as banks have stopped approving loans for institutions and companies unless they submit a property description certificate in accordance with government requirements.

As a result, many projects and companies are stalled. While the requirement for this certificate seems unnecessary today, it is a legacy of fifty or sixty years ago, with the law unchanged.

While it is true that the Cabinet suspended the requirement for a property description certificate, it did not notify the banks to facilitate matters for their clients. As a result, some mortgage transactions, which previously helped encourage investment and ease the burden on business owners, have come to a halt.

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'Kuwait Skills' to boost youths digital prowess

CAIT, Microsoft expertise eyed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Minister of State for Communications Omar Al-Omar announced on Sunday the launch of the "Kuwait Skills" initiative, in cooperation with Microsoft and the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), with the aim of developing and empowering national talent with the digital skills needed to shape Kuwait's future, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Omar explained that the initiative is in line with the directives of the political leadership to build an integrated digital ecosystem that enhances the efficiency of state institutions and supports sustainable development driven by innovation and knowledge. Equipping

Kuwaiti talent with advanced technical skills is now an important pillar for establishing Kuwait's position as a leading nation in the digital economy.

He urged government entities to take full advantage of this initiative, describing it as a significant step toward nurturing talent and developing professional capabilities.

Al-Omar affirmed the ministry's commitment to supporting all efforts that help build a capable generation ready to lead the digital transformation and shape Kuwait's technological future.

Meanwhile, Microsoft Middle East Regional Director Charles Nahas explained that the initiative aims to train more than 30,000 employees, 4,000 technical experts, and 350 leaders, in addition to empowering over 100,000 users with artificial intelligence and cloud computing tools through the Center of Excellence at Co-Pilot.

Continued on Page 5

'China ready to enhance cooperation with Kuwait'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (Xinhua): China attaches great importance to China-Kuwait relations and stands ready to promote bilateral practical cooperation in various fields, said visiting Chinese Vice President Han Zheng.

During his stay in the Gulf state from Saturday to Sunday, Han met separately with Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, and Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

When meeting with the Kuwaiti Amir, Han conveyed cordial greetings and best wishes from Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Han said that China always cherishes its friendship with Kuwait and attaches great importance to developing their relations.

Since 2022, President Xi and the Kuwaiti Amir have met twice and reached a series of important consensus, providing strategic guidance for the development of China-Kuwait relations to higher levels, Han added.

He said that the fourth plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee has sent a clear signal that China is further advancing comprehensive reforms and expanding high-level opening up, which will create opportunities for the development of China-Kuwait relations.

China is ready to work with Kuwait to deepen political mutual trust, implement the bilateral cooperation documents signed in the presence of the two heads of state, and strive for substantive progress at an early date, so as to achieve in-depth and solid development of the China-Kuwait strategic partnership, Han said.

Han said the Global Governance Initiative proposed by President Xi has charted the course for reforming and improving the global governance system.

Continued on Page 5



An aerial drone photo taken on Nov. 2, 2025 shows firefighters attempting to put out a fire at a factory in Jahra Governorate, Kuwait. (Xinhua)

KFF contains massive Amghara factory blaze

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Flames and thick plumes of smoke rose into the sky over Amghara after a massive fire broke out inside a factory containing highly flammable materials such as aluminum, fiberglass and lithium batteries.

Seven firefighting teams controlled the blaze in record time, preventing it from spreading to neighboring build-

ings, and no injuries were reported.

Firefighters dealt with the flames courageously and efficiently, averting a disaster that would have engulfed the factory and surrounding areas. Director of Public Relations and Media at Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Gharib confirmed to the newspaper that the firefighting teams controlled the fire within a short period.

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Can't buy gold with money

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued Ministerial Decision No. 182/2025, prohibiting cash transactions for companies engaged in certain commercial activities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Article 1 of the decision requires all institutions and companies under its supervision, operating in the gold, precious stones, precious metals, and related sectors, to refrain from conducting any cash transactions.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwaiti jailed five years for beating wife to death

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Criminal Court on Monday sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to five years in prison with hard labor for murdering his Syrian wife.

The man was found guilty of severely beating his wife and was extradited to Kuwait by Iraqi authorities.

The Public Prosecution initially charged the defendant with premeditated murder after he fled to Iraq following the crime. However, after reviewing the case, the court established that there was no intent to kill, so it changed the charge to manslaughter.

Continued on Page 5

'No visa' need extended

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): The Chinese government has decided to extend its unilateral visa exemption policy for a number of countries, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, France and other countries, until December 31, 2026, announced the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Kuwait Monday.

Continued on Page 5

Minister issues orders on new car insurance policy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef issued Ministerial Decision No. 2116/2025 regarding the insurance policy for civil liability arising from traffic accidents, known as "Compulsory Insurance for Kuwaiti Vehicles", reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Article 1 stipulates that the standard insurance policy, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the decision, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Article 2 states that the insurance policy rates, as outlined in Appendix 2 of the decision, shall also remain in effect until further notice.

Article 3 stipulates that the Insurance Regulatory Unit shall establish an approved list of insurance companies qualified to issue the civil liability insurance policy for traffic accidents (compulsory vehicle insurance) and shall define the conditions for inclusion on this list.

The Insurance Regulatory Unit shall also regulate the procedures for issuing this insurance policy.

Article 4 stipulates that the Insurance Regulatory Unit shall oversee the implementation of this decision and ensure compliance by all parties subject to it. The unit has the authority to receive and adjudicate complaints and to take all legal measures in accordance with the law on its establishment, executive regulations, and any related decisions or circulars.

Article 5 states that the General Traffic Department shall refrain from issuing or renewing vehicle licenses, as stipulated in the Traffic Law, its amendments, and the relevant ministerial decrees, if the mandatory insurance policy for Kuwaiti vehicles has been issued in violation of this decision.

Article 6 clarifies that all insurance policies and their addenda issued prior to the implementation of this decision shall remain valid, with all associated rights, obligations, and guarantees.

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

BANKS have suspended finalizing loan approvals for companies and institutions after Kuwait Municipality required a property description certificate to track building code violations. Then, suddenly, three months ago, the Municipality, or the government institutions, suspended the requirement for this certificate, bringing everything to a standstill.

Why was this certificate required in the first place? The matter concerns a mortgage, not a sale. Even in sales, what is the purpose of such a certificate? If there is a violation, the Municipality should directly compel the violator to correct it. Even the issuance of licenses has been suspended for companies that have been established for over 50 years. In short, everything has come to a stop.

Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

10 KFH holds Q3-2025 earnings webcast

9 National Investments Company (NIC) Reports Profit of KD 20.7 Million and Earnings per Share of 26 Fils, a 103% Growth in Profits



KUNA photo

Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud delivers letter to Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya.

Al-Yahya receives Saudi FM's letter

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received a letter from Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, touching on the bilateral ties between the countries.

The letter was handed to the minister by the Saudi Ambassador to the country Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud.

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

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-32 km/h.			
By Night: Mild to rather cold with light variable wind to light			
to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h and some high clouds will appear.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	32	20	
Kuwait Airport	32	12	
Abdaly	31	12	
Jahra	32	16	
Failaka Island	30	15	
Salmiyah	30	22	
Ahmadi	33	15	
Nuwaisib	33	16	
Wafra	32	15	
Salmy	27	09	

Kuwaiti leaders send Independence Day greetings to Panama and Dominica

HH Amir congratulates Cameroon's President on re-election

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday, a congratulatory cable to the President of Cameroon, Paul Biya, on his re-election for a new presidential term. His Highness praised the strong and friendly relations between Kuwait and Cameroon and wished President Biya continued success, good health, and further progress and prosperity for the Cameroonian people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable to President Biya, wishing him continued success and

prosperity for his country and its people.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah likewise sent a congratulatory cable to President Biya on his re-election.

Also His Highness the Amir sent on Monday, a congratulatory cable to the President of Panama, Jose Raul Mulino, on his country's Independence Day, wishing him good health and the people of Panama continued progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Amir sent a similar congratulatory cable to the President of the

Commonwealth of Dominica, Sylvanie Burton, wishing her and her people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince sent similar cables on Monday to both President Mulino of Panama and President Burton of Dominica, wishing them good health and prosperity for their countries and peoples.

Likewise, His Highness the Prime Minister sent congratulatory cables on Monday to President Mulino and President Burton on their countries' Independence Days.



His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

Conferment of Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun upon His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

On November 3, the Government of Japan announced the conferment of the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, bestowed by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, upon His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, former Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to strengthening and promoting friendly relations between Japan and Kuwait.

His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has made remarkable contributions over many years to the enhancement, deepening, and expansion of Japan-Kuwait relations through his service as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Chief of the Amiri Diwan, and Prime Minister.

In 1990, during the Gulf War, he visited Japan as

the representative of the Amir of Kuwait to request Japan's support. This visit led to Japan's provision of approximately 13.5 billion US dollars in assistance and the dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces overseas for the first time, laying the foundation for the strong relationship of trust between the two nations.

As Chief of the Amiri Diwan, he also played a key role in realizing the visit of Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Japan (at that time) to Kuwait, as well as the visit of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the 13th Amir of Kuwait to Japan in 1995, thereby deepening the bonds between the Imperial Family and the Kuwaiti Ruling Family.

During his tenure as Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

worked tirelessly to expand cooperation in the economic and commercial fields, broadening collaboration beyond the oil sector through the establishment of a Joint Committee and the conclusion of a tax treaty.

Even after leaving the official post, he has continued to engage with the Imperial Family and maintain a relationship of trust spanning two generations, contributing continuously to the development of Japan-Kuwait relations.

In recognition of these distinguished achievements, he has been awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.

Kurihara Rie
Second Secretary
Embassy of Japan

Kuwait hosts 7th Gulf Electricity and Water Subscribers Forum



Panelists from GCC countries discuss the digital transformation of electricity and water services during the Seventh Gulf Electricity and Water Subscribers Forum held in Kuwait.

Photo by Samer Shaqir

GCC countries explore digital utilities solution

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Seventh Gulf Electricity and Water Subscribers Forum was held Monday, with the participation of representatives from the concerned authorities in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The forum included several sessions on subscriber experience in the digital age, achieving customer satisfaction through improved quality, legislation and policies in subscriber services, and other topics.

In his opening remarks, acting Assistant Undersecretary for Customer Service at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Eng. Falah Al-Mutairi pointed out that the forum, hosted by Kuwait, is an embodiment of the distinguished journey of Gulf cooperation and a continuation of the integrated approach established by the leaders, based on their belief

in the importance of collective action in achieving sustainable development and improving the services provided to citizens and expatriates in GCC countries.

He revealed that the participants in the forum included specialists, officials and experts in the field of public services, a manifestation of the commitment of GCC countries to exchange experiences and strengthen partnerships in the electricity and water sectors, as these sectors are two fundamental pillars of economic and social development and indicators of a nation's progress and quality of life.

He pointed out that electricity and water services today are a measure of a nation's development, a vital aspect in improving the quality of life, and a key support for economic and social development. He stressed that it is everyone's responsibility to work diligently to develop these services in order to keep pace with future changes and rapid technological innovations, especially in the field of digital transformation.

He affirmed that the forum is a valuable opportunity to exchange successful experiences and review innovative solutions, which support Gulf integration in the field of public services and

strengthen cooperation among the relevant institutions in the GCC countries to achieve mutual benefit.

On the other hand, in a statement on the sidelines of the opening of the forum, official spokesperson of the ministry Eng. Fatima Hayat pointed out that the forum is the fruit of ongoing cooperation among the GCC countries in the field of customer services, under the umbrella of the Electricity, Water and Customer Services Committee at the GCC Secretariat General.

Hayat revealed that this year's forum tackles several important topics, particularly the digital transformation of customer services. She said the GCC countries are witnessing remarkable progress in this area through the use of smart meters and modern mobile applications, which allow subscribers to monitor their consumption and accurately identify peak demand times.

She also confirmed that Kuwait is participating in the forum with a number of research papers covering various topics like policies and legislation governing customer services, digital transformation, information security and customer data protection, and training national talent to specialize in this essential field.

Han tours Al-Salam Palace Museum

Chinese VP ends Kuwait official visit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng left Kuwait on Sunday following an official visit to the country.

The Chinese guests were seen off at the airport by Minister of Public Works and Head of the Accompanying Mission of Honor Dr. Noura Mohammad Al-Mashaan, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asia Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Jawhar Hayat and Kuwait's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China Jassem Ibrahim Al-Najem.

The Vice President and the accompanying official delegation paid a visit Sunday to Al-Salam Palace Museum.

Upon arrival, the Vice President was received by the General Supervisor of the museum Sheikhha Mona Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, who accompanied him on a tour of the museum's various sections.

During the visit, Vice President Han was briefed on the museum's valuable collections, historical documents, and key exhibits highlighting Kuwait's rich history.

The tour also included the main sections of Al-Salam Palace Museum, the Museum of Kuwait's History through its rulers, Al-Salam Palace's History Museum, and the Museum of Civilizations in Kuwait.

He was accompanied during the visit by Minister of Public Works and Head of the Honorary Mission Dr. Noura Mohammad Al-Mashaan, and Kuwait's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China Jassem Ibrahim Al-Najem.



Chinese Vice President leaves the country after an official visit.



KUNA photos
Chinese Vice President during his visit at the Al-Salam Peace Palace Museum.

Other Voices

Why and where did they migrate?

By Ahmad alsarraf

The first major wave of Arab and Muslim immigration to the United States occurred between 1870 and 1924. Most migrants were from Lebanon, with a smaller number from Syria, both then part of the Ottoman Empire. The majority were Maronite, Greek Orthodox, and Catholic Christians.

Muslims made up no more than ten percent of these early immigrants. The main reasons for migration were the search for job opportunities, as well as to avoid conscription into the Ottoman army, particularly for Christians and Shiites. Migration became a mass phenomenon in the early twentieth century but stopped in 1924 when restrictive U.S. immigration laws were enacted.

These Lebanese immigrants settled mainly in New York, Boston, Detroit, and other Midwestern states. Most were young, unmarried men with limited education, taking on jobs in agriculture and a variety of other professions.

Although Muslims have been present in America since the 17th century, their numbers were small. Most Arab immigrants, aside from Lebanese and Syrians, were from Yemen and Iraq, particularly between 1900 and 1930, and worked in factories and on railroads in states like Michigan and California. Some settled in agricultural areas in the Midwest. Their presence in places like Fresno, California, was notably large, as I observed during a visit in the 1970s. Iraqi immigration increased further after World War II, especially during the 1950s and 1960s, driven by political events and economic changes in Iraq.

The first mosque in the United States was built in 1934 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, by Syrian and Lebanese immigrants. Prior to 1915, Albanian Muslims had established a mosque in Maine, which was essentially a private home.



alsarraf

The majority of Shiite immigrants from southern Lebanon, who had suffered under successive rulers including the Ottomans, the French, the British, and local feudal lords, chose to migrate extensively to Africa and, to a lesser extent, to South America, particularly Brazil, Argentina, and Venezuela.

Their migration was driven by economic, political, social, and religious factors. Many opted for Africa during the French mandate period, encouraged by the French to work in their extensive colonies there. Civil society organizations also played a role in facilitating the migration of large numbers of these communities.

Due to the atmosphere of freedom in the West, many Lebanese immigrants there became highly creative. Some of the most notable among them emerged as pioneers of the modern Arab literary renaissance, excelling in poetry, novels, philosophy, and art, and leaving a lasting impact on modern Arab literature. Among the most prominent is Gibran Khalil Gibran (1883-1931), the poet, writer, and painter, best known for his book "The Prophet," which remains one of the most famous works in both the East and the West.

There is also Amin al-Rihani (1876-1940), the traveler, thinker, writer, and philosopher. Rihani is considered one of the first advocates of dialogue between East and West and authored works in both Arabic and English. He is renowned for his writings on freedom and reform, as well as his travels throughout the Arabian Peninsula.

The poet Mikhail Naimy (1889-1988), a critic, writer, and philosopher, and contemporary of the great poet Elia Abu Madi (1889-1957), is regarded as one of the most important poets of the Arab diaspora.

Fawzi al-Maalouf (1899-1930) emigrated to Brazil, and his brother Shafiq al-Maalouf (1905-1976) was a poet and journalist. Elias Farhat (1893-1976), a self-taught poet, also emigrated to Brazil, among many others.

The majority of these creative figures were Maronites, due to the church's early emphasis on compulsory education in their villages several centuries ago.



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KRCS, ICRC ink \$2m Sudan healthcare deal

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) signed on Sunday a USD 2 million grant agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to help sustain the implementation of a program aimed at improving access to healthcare services for vulnerable communities in Sudan.

The signing ceremony took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the presence of Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The agreement was signed by KRCS Chairman Khaled Al-Maqamis and ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric Egger.

Following the signing, Al-Maqamis told KUNA that the grant reflects Kuwait's ongoing humanitarian approach and continued support for people in need, and explained that the agreement seeks to enhance the capacity of Sudan's healthcare system, and improve access to essential medical services for vulnerable populations.

He emphasized the KRCS' commitment to implementing sustainable projects that alleviate the suffering of those affected by crises, noting that the humanitarian situation in Sudan requires collective efforts to support healthcare and relief programs.

Al-Maqamis added that KRCS has intensified its humanitarian efforts toward Sudan in recent months by sending multiple relief planes carrying food supplies, tents, and essential materials to assist displaced persons and families impacted by the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

He affirmed that KRCS continuously strives to promote the positive image of Kuwait's humanitarian and relief role



KUNA
KRCS and ICRC sign \$2 mln grant agreement to support healthcare in Sudan.

worldwide, stressing that support for Sudan aligns with the directives of Kuwait's political leadership and its constant dedication to humanitarian work.

The signing of this agreement comes within the framework of the high-level strategic dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ICRC, the KRCS, and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

Focus on digitization, AI as Kuwait enters the fifth industrial revolution

“IN A new move highlighting the state’s commitment to sustainable development, the government signed a comprehensive agreement with Google Cloud to implement a full digital transformation roadmap for government entities and public sector companies,” columnist Sheikh Eng. Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“The agreement offers significant benefits, as it focuses on digitization to reduce the state’s burden, modernize government service systems, store data locally, enhance the skills of the national workforce in cloud technologies and artificial intelligence, and improve integration in all sectors. It also paves the way for establishing a sub-regional infrastructure, including a data center and cloud region, within the country.



Al-Sabah

“This will enable government entities to provide services to citizens and residents more quickly and efficiently, saving time, effort, and resources, while enhancing overall effectiveness in daily life. It will also localize data storage and processing, improve performance, increase security, and provide greater control without relying on external parties.

“At the same time, it helps to enhance national capabilities through continuous training programs, equipping government employees and national talent to work in a more productive environment. It calls for university graduates to receive training in data management, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence to support this transformation and create numerous technology-driven job opportunities.

“Overall, these efforts contribute to economic development and income diversification by fostering innovation and encouraging individual initiatives.

“Undoubtedly, this ambitious project requires substantial effort from government entities through legislative reforms, data governance, and the development of human resources in modern technologies. It will also stimulate entrepreneurship and support the management of institutional change, both culturally and operationally, in both

public and private sectors.

“Digital transformation has become essential not only for government service institutions but also for the private sector. It plays a major role in improving service performance, enhancing services, and making daily life easier for people. Today, a nation’s progress is measured more by its digital capabilities than by traditional resources, despite their continued importance. The world has now entered the Fifth Industrial Revolution (Industry 5.0) based on technologies that support all aspects of production.

“This unprecedented transformation is not limited to the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, such as the Internet of Things and robotics. It reintegrates humanity into the production process by providing tools that enhance sustainability and flexibility in solving complex problems, integrating human insight with digital innovation. This approach strengthens individual capabilities to serve society and achieve greater well-being, emphasizing that such progress is only possible through educated and empowered individuals.

“Through this ambitious initiative, Kuwait is reinforcing its developmental role in the region while preparing its citizens with the skills and capabilities needed to drive advancement in the future.”

Also:

“The current generation has grown up in a world of technology, received education from prestigious institutions, and avoided many of the hardships faced by their predecessors. This is why they are different even in their approach to everything, and why their perspective often contrasts with the beliefs and societal norms shaped by past experiences. Some young people see these traditional concepts as less relevant, believing that focusing on more important matters is the priority today,” columnist Eng. Adel Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“There is a great deal of energy and enthusiasm driving young people, a greater capacity for innovation, and they are not afraid of experimentation or making mistakes. This is why young people are heavily involved in volunteer activities and entrepreneurship, as they possess the flexibility and quickness to learn and adopt new ideas.

“This conviction took shape in my mind while preparing to travel to Oman. While waiting at the airport, I overheard a group of young Kuwaitis on a fishing trip. They were talking enthusiastically about fishing, fishing gear, and sports, all while impeccably dressed and interacting with the elderly with remarkable confidence. They never grew tired of explaining things.

“Despite their energy and curiosity, we must nurture their experiences to serve the future, understand their perspectives, and address their concerns. Nations are built on the will of their youth, not on their geographical size. When citizens are free to act without unnecessary restrictions, they can achieve remarkable things. Conversely, when citizens are preoccupied with trivial matters, society begins to crumble.

“The human mind is a vessel, and every vessel reflects what it contains. When a nation invests in quality education, it builds its future. The choice is clear - either build for the future or remain stuck in the past. Wealth and family ties alone cannot serve as a foundation. Wealth becomes a burden if it is not managed to benefit future generations.

“The young people I spoke with displayed the highest levels of culture and courtesy. Perhaps Kuwait, despite its small size and population, is stronger than many larger countries. Military power alone is not the foundation of strength, but freedom of thought is. For instance, Ukraine is smaller than Russia, both in size and population, yet Russia has not been able to defeat it, because freedom of thought empowers its people. Our youth have immense potential... they simply need opportunities to express their ideas. Is that really so difficult?”

□ □ □

“In a world filled with existential questions and the search for meaning, certain phenomena exploit humanity’s spiritual and intellectual needs . One of the most concerning of these is what has been termed “energy science,” a misleading concept that carries serious risks,” Kuwaiti writer Saud Bader Al-Azmi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“A Japanese proverb says, “If you believe everything you read, stop reading.” This reminds us of the importance of critical thinking and careful scrutiny of the information we encounter.

“A recent incident highlighted the dangers of such beliefs. According to posts on social media, a Tunisian flight attendant deeply involved in so-called energy science and spirituality was in Egypt when she claimed to have received a divine revelation instructing her to ascend to heaven with her daughter. Tragically, she strangled her four-year-old daughter to death. Before she could take her own life by stabbing herself, she was saved at the last moment by her husband.

“What is “pseudo-energy science”? I am alarmed when I see people placing their trust in what is referred to as “energy science,” or more accurately, “pseudo-energy science.”

“It is called pseudo-science because it lacks any real scientific basis, unlike empirical science, which relies on the scientific method.

“Proponents of this practice describe energy science as a collection of unconventional rituals and techniques, claiming they can manipulate living bodies and infuse them with spiritual energy.

“The recent spread of this phenomenon can be attributed to several factors, including rising frustration and a growing sense of defeatism among young people in the face of economic and social challenges, as well as spiritual and intellectual emptiness and the human need for spiritual guidance in the absence of proper direction.

“What is particularly alarming is that some practitioners of so-called energy science claim that individuals can forego medical treatment.

“Among the dangers of this “pseudoscience” are its links to atheism, the distortion of Islamic beliefs through conceptual confusion, the promotion of dependency and a lack of motivation through false promises of change without effort, and the undermining of the scientific method by spreading unproven ideas without a clear scientific methodology.

“Researchers at Lund University in Sweden have found that people who believe in pseudoscience tend to be more narcissistic and score lower on IQ tests than others. This phenomenon calls for intellectual vigilance, critical thinking, and a return to sound scientific methods and correct beliefs to better understand our lives and the universe around us.”

— Compiled by Simi K.Kutty

Decree abolishes Traffic Court

Memorandum introduces reforms, streamlines procedures

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Decree Law No. 155/2025 was issued, repealing Law No. 22/1960 concerning the organization of the Traffic Court. The decree will come into effect three months after its publication in the official gazette “Kuwait al-Youm”, on February 2, 2026, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The explanatory memorandum accompanying the decree cites four reasons for repealing the Traffic Court. They are:

1. Article 7 of the Judicial Organization Law No. 23/1990 allows for the formation of specialized circuits within the Court of First Instance as needed.

Article 8 of the same law grants the Minister of Justice the authority to establish criminal

circuits by decree, subject to the approval of the General Assembly of the Court of First Instance, to hear specific types of cases and define their territorial jurisdiction.

Therefore, establishing specialized criminal circuits for traffic cases meets the need previously addressed by Articles 1 and 2 of the Traffic Court Organization Law, which dealt with creating a specialized court for traffic cases. This redundancy does not abolish the concept of a specialized judiciary for handling such cases.

2. The provisions of Articles 148 and 149 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Trials regarding penal orders can be applied to traffic misdemeanor cases. This eliminates the need for separate regulations for penal orders in the Traffic Court Law as well as the rationale for distinguishing traffic misdemeanors from other misdemeanors in terms of conditions, rules, and provisions. Traffic misdemeanors, like

other misdemeanors, should be governed under a single legal framework, namely the Code of Criminal Procedure and Trials, which provides a concise method for adjudicating simple criminal cases.

3. The procedures outlined in Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Traffic Court Law, relating to the issuance of judgments and appeals, are essentially applications of the rules and provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Trials. The remaining procedures are specific to traffic misdemeanors. Therefore, repealing these articles and applying the Code ensures uniform procedures for all misdemeanor cases.

4. Article 9 of the Traffic Court Organization Law is no longer necessary, as it provides for reconciliation in certain traffic offenses in accordance with Article 41 of Decree-Law No. 67/1976 concerning traffic, which already permits accepting reconciliation from the accused in some traffic cases.



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives the Acting Director General of Correctional Institutions Brigadier General Osama Al-Majed.

Reform, rehabilitation approach

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received the Acting Director General of Correctional Institutions Brigadier General Osama Al-Majed, at the Farwaniya Governorate headquarters on Sunday.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, they discussed the latest developments and achievements of the General Directorate of Correctional Institutions.

The governor heard a presentation on the shift towards a “reform and rehabilitation” approach, rather than focusing solely on punishment, through the implementation of

psychological and social support programs in cooperation with civil society organizations and government agencies.

He emphasized the vital role of correctional institutions in rehabilitating inmates and reintegrating them into society, praising the efforts made in this area and the constructive cooperation among all stakeholders.

At the end of the meeting, Brigadier General Al-Majed expressed his gratitude to the governor for the warm reception, reaffirming the General Directorate of Correctional Institutions’ commitment to strengthening cooperation with the governorate in the public interest.



KUNA photo
The 119th batch of volunteer NCOs ready to join training courses.

New batch of volunteer NCOs registers for ‘military training’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Directorate of Administration and Human Resources, in cooperation with the Military Education Authority and represented by the NCO and Enlisted Personnel Training Institute, welcomed the 119th batch of volunteer NCOs holding diplomas and high school certificates, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release issued on Sunday, the Ministry of Defense explained that all members of the batch completed the required procedures and medical examinations for

their admission and enrollment.

The NCO and Enlisted Personnel Training Institute, through the NCO Training School, made all necessary arrangements to receive the volunteers. These preparations included designing training and qualification programs covering various military and academic disciplines.

The programs aim to equip the trainees with the skills needed to serve effectively in the different ranks of the Kuwait Army units.

Bedoun caught with 50 kilograms drugs

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: A Bedoun resident has been arrested in Fahaheel in possession of approximately 50 kilograms of hashish ready for distribution, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Interior, the Criminal Enforcement Department of the General Department for Sentences Enforcement, in coordination with the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) carried out the operation, after receiving confidential intelligence that the suspect was trafficking narcotics and storing large quantities for distribution within Kuwait.

During the investigation, the suspect admitted to receiving the drugs for KD 3,000 on behalf of a fugitive Kuwaiti citizen with a criminal record, who is wanted abroad in connection with multiple cases of drug trafficking and distribution.

The suspect and the seized narcotics have been referred to the concerned authorities for legal action.

The Ministry of Interior affirmed its ongoing efforts to combat drugs and prevent attempts to promote or distribute them.

Kuwaiti duo held fishing in restricted area of sea

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Two Kuwaiti citizens were arrested after a pursuit by Coast Guard patrols for engaging in illegal fishing in a restricted area, reports Al-Jarida daily.

These citizens were found to be in violation of the regulations of the Environment Public Authority (EPA), and legal measures have been initiated against them.

MoCI records 1,562 violations in Oct: report

‘Expedite car repairs, provide replacement vehicle’

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Director of the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al-Ansari revealed that an extensive meeting was held Sunday at the headquarters of the department, bringing together ministry officials and representatives of the Car Dealers Association.

Al-Ansari informed the newspaper that the meeting tackled key observations on how some car dealers deal with consumers and ways to enhance compliance with regulations governing sales contracts, warranties and technical services. He said the meeting is in line with the commitment of the ministry to protect consumer rights and regulate the relationship between consumers

and car dealers in order to ascertain the accurate application of warranty terms and improve the quality of after-sales services.

He disclosed that the agenda of the meeting includes the delay of some dealers in repairing vehicles covered by warranty, as well as putting emphasis on the need to adhere to the specified repair timeframe and the failure to provide a replacement vehicle during the repair period, which violates the terms of the approved warranty. He stressed the need for dealers to provide replacements to consumers.

Other issues include delays in the supply of spare parts, especially for Chinese vehicles. The ministry will require dealers to provide precise delivery dates and keep consumers informed. The difficulty in obtaining service appointments will also be addressed, along with exploring mechanisms to regulate and facilitate

online booking.

The meeting also touched on other issues, such as the refusal of some dealers to accept imported vehicles, hence, the idea of obligating dealers to service all vehicles of the same brand and the termination of warranties upon transfer of vehicle ownership despite adherence to regular maintenance.

The ministry is keen on addressing these issues, in addition to the need to guarantee consumer rights, lack of cooperation on the part of the legal representatives of some agencies in attending scheduled meetings, the need to emphasize adherence to official deadlines, and agencies failing to provide consumers with technical reports after maintenance or inspection, so the ministry will require agencies to submit clear and documented reports detailing the vehicle’s condition and the procedures performed.

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Amiri Decrees approve PAI, KPA final accounts

Agencies post solid surpluses

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Two Amiri decrees were issued approving the final accounts of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) and Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) for fiscal 2024/2025.

Decree No. 152/2025, published Sunday in the official gazette, ‘Kuwait Al-Youm’, states that the revenues of PAI amounted to KD154.4 million, compared to KD53.6 million in expenditures, resulting in a financial surplus of KD100.8 million, which was transferred to the reserve for existing projects based on Article 38 of Industry Law No. 56/1996.

Decree No. 153/2025 approved the final account of KPA, which recorded revenues of KD93 million against expenditures of KD46.8 million, achieving a net profit of KD64 million. The decree affirmed that KD36.9 million of the net profit was transferred to the State treasury, while KD9.2 million was retained in the allocations of the Authority.

In another development, PAI closed four industrial plots in Na’ayem for violating applicable regulations and laws by constructing buildings and auto repair shops without permits.

The Authority granted the violators a one-month grace period to rectify their situations and warned of harsher penalties if the violations are not addressed within the specified timeframe.

3,600 MW project adopts PPP model

Cabinet OK’s KAPP oversight of Nuwaiseeb Power Plant tender

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The tendering procedures for Nuwaiseeb Power Plant (Phase One), with a capacity of 3,600 megawatts, will be transferred to Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), as approved by the Cabinet, say reliable sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

Sources revealed that the ministry intends to engage with the relevant authorities to tender the project through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, mirroring the approach adopted for North Zour and Khairan power plants, as well as the Shagaya Renewable Energy Project.

Sources added the ongoing tender for the Nuwaiseeb Power Plant consultant at the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) will be reviewed. Sources explained that the objective of this review is to determine the most appropriate course of action -- cancel the tender or obtain the approval of KAPP to continue the tendering process upon completion of all the necessary legal procedures.

Sources confirmed that all electricity and water production projects are now tendered and awarded through PPP, except the 900-megawatt Subiya Power Plant (Phase Four) and Doha Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plant which has a production capacity of 60 million gallons per day.

Sources indicated that the ministry is prioritizing the rapid completion of these two projects over partnership projects, which are expected to take longer. Sources stressed that this expedited implementation is crucial in meeting the growing demand for electricity and water in the coming years, before the partnership projects become operational.

Meanwhile, CAPT approved the ministry’s request to finalize the study on the lowest bid for the Doha desalination plant tender.



The Villa de Colmenar Viejo Symphony Orchestra presents a Spanish musical panorama at the Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre. Inset: Maestro Kiko Moreno.

Villa de Colmenar Viejo orchestra shares Spain’s musical heritage

Spanish symphony charms JACC audience

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): The Spanish symphony orchestra Villa de Colmenar Viejo led by Maestro Kiko Moreno, presented a rich panorama of Spanish artistic heritage on Sunday at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre (JACC).

The event was held in collaboration between the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain in the State of Kuwait and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

Spain’s Ambassador to Kuwait, Manuel Hernandez, stated in his address during the ceremony, “Tonight at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, we gather to immerse ourselves in the depths of Spanish music.”

Ambassador Hernandez noted that the concert featured compositions by the young symphony orchestra from the heart of Spain.

He added that while Spain is well-known and loved by many Kuwaitis, “behind the familiar expressions of our identity—such as architecture, Spanish cuisine, Flamenco, and, of course, football—lie centuries-old musical traditions that are still largely unknown outside the country.”

The Ambassador highlighted that the concert offered a glimpse of this musical heritage, presenting a variety of pieces from prominent Spanish composers like Falla and Granados, and including a unique Spanish musical form known as Zarzuela, which is equivalent to operetta or light opera.

He added that all these pieces carried a distinctive Spanish character, tracing back to deep popular and folkloric roots.

Ambassador Hernandez expressed his sincere appreciation to the National

Council for Culture, Arts and Letters for their invaluable support in making the event possible, and to the staff of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre for their close cooperation with the Spanish Embassy team.

For his part, Assistant Secretary-General for Arts Sector at the NCCAL, Musaed Al-Zamel, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the Council consistently cooperates with Arab and international embassies in Kuwait to organize events such as cultural weeks, orchestras, and folk arts, as part of cultural cooperation and exchange agreements.

Al-Zamel stated that the event falls under the agreement Kuwait has had with the Kingdom of Spain since 2008.

He noted that the Spanish Embassy selected the ten-member ensemble to strengthen the artistic relations between the two countries, adding: “This beautiful soft power and cultural diplomacy solidify the relationship between Kuwait and Spain. This is cultural exchange at its best.”

He pointed out that this year has been full of cultural events with a number of sisterly and friendly countries, noting that this is the role of the NCCAL in embracing creativity and welcoming creative initiatives from any culture-loving entity to support the cultural movement and season.

The Villa de Colmenar Viejo opened the concert by performing the national anthems of both Kuwait and the Kingdom of Spain. It then performed several artistic pieces, including ‘Sighs of Spain’, selections from ‘Twelve Spanish Dances’, ‘Jirabe’, ‘Night Music from the Streets of Madrid’, excerpts from ‘Seven Spanish Folk Songs’, and other famous musical works.



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Staff from Dasman Diabetes Institute photo for their close cooperation with the Spanish Embassy team.

DDI, KFAS promote Health and Science awareness at Asma Bint Umais School

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: DDI’s Mobile Clinic, the Science Bus, and the STEAM Bus from The Scientific Center Meet at Asma Bint Umais Middle School for Girls.

As part of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and its affiliated centers’ efforts to promote scientific, health, and knowledge awareness among students in Kuwait, a field visit was organized to Asma Bint Umais Middle School for Girls in the Ali Sabah Al-Salem area.

The visit featured the participation of Dasman Diabetes Institute’s Mobile Clinic, along with the Science Bus operated by KFAS and the STEAM Bus from The Scientific Center, creating an interactive and educational atmosphere aimed at enhancing health awareness among students and teachers.

During the visit, DDI’s team conducted basic medical screenings and distributed educational brochures and leaflets highlighting important topics on diabetes prevention and the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle. Students were also encouraged to engage with science and develop their curiosity through various interactive learning activities and hands-on experiences offered throughout the event.

AASU opens 2nd semester applications

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): Abdullah Al-Salem University (AASU) announced on Sunday that the application period for the second semester of the 2025/2026 academic year would run from December 9 to 14th at https://admissions.aasu.edu.kw.

In a press statement, AASU said that the online application system for Kuwaiti students, who meet the admission requirements, would be open from December 9 to 14th at https://admissions.aasu.edu.kw.

The admission requirements are detailed in the online admissions guide and AASU emphasized the importance of activating the authenticator in “Kuwait Mobile ID” application to access their accounts on the system, the application period will end on December 14 at 1:00 PM.

AASU also noted that students from private schools must upload the required documents to the system by December 11. Failure to submit the required documents will result in disqualification of the application.

Furthermore, students who obtained their high school diploma outside of Kuwait must submit their original diploma and private education equivalency document to the Admissions and Registration Deanship by December 11.

The University stated that for non-Kuwaiti applicants who meet the criteria outlined in the admissions guide, applications will be accepted from December 16 to 18, students must submit their original high school diploma to the Admissions and Registration Deanship at the Al-Khalidiya campus, Gate 1.

A three-day schedule has been assigned for different categories, the first day is for students from GCC countries who graduated from the unified curriculum in Kuwait, and for honor students who graduated from the unified curriculum with a grade of 97 percent or higher.

The second day is for the children and spouses of all faculty members, academic staff members, and university employees, as well as honor students who graduated from the unified curriculum with a grade of 95 percent or higher.

The final day is open to all applicants wishing to register, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. local-time

Students graduating from English secondary schools who wish to enroll at the university must visit the Admissions Office within two business days following the announcement of results, bringing their original diplomas with them.

Applicants are reminded that any withdrawal from the university or cancellation of admission must be done in person by the student, not by the guardian.

MoCI issues 24,200 licenses in 8 months

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued around 24,200 licenses for various activities from the beginning of this year until the end of August, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources.

Sources told the daily that the pace of establishing partnerships increased recently, particularly over the past eight months, coinciding with the launch of the smart licenses project and its integration with most relevant entities.

An analysis of data that the ministry released for August revealed the issuance of a total of 3,247 licenses while 2,758 applications were received.

In January, a total of 2,902 licenses were issued and 2,647 applications were received. In February, 2,834 licenses were issued and 2,707 applications were received. In March, 2,654 licenses were issued and 2,112 applications were received. In April, 2,683 licenses were issued and 2,439 applications were received. In May, 3,312 licenses were issued and 3,049 applications were received. In June, 2,829 licenses were issued and 2,302 applications were received. In July, 3,764 licenses were issued and 3,081 applications were received.

Global experts converge to synergize innovation for economic sustainability

Arab Open University inaugurates 21st ICABE in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Arab Open University in the State of Kuwait inaugurated today, Monday, the 21st International Conference on Applied Business and Economics (ICABE 2025), which is being held for the first time in the Middle East from 3 to 5 November 2025 at Qutaiba Al-Ghanim Theater at the university's main campus in Al-Ardiya, next to the Public Institution for Social Security.

The opening ceremony was attended by Prof. Salah Al-Hammadi, President of the Arab Open University, and Dr. Afnan Al-Khaldi, Deputy Director of the University in Kuwait, in addition to ambassadors of several accredited countries, more than 20 presidents of international universities, and a distinguished group of experts, academics, and professionals in the fields of economics and business administration from around the world.

The conference is organized in partnership with the International Strategic Management Association (ISMA) and in collaboration with the International University of Science and Technology in Kuwait, with wide international participation to discuss the latest developments in business and economics and the role of innovation and digital transformation in achieving global economic sustainability.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Salah Al-Hammadi welcomed the distinguished guests and participants, emphasizing that the conference serves as a global platform for scientific dialogue and the exchange of research and expertise. He stated: "Hosting this prestigious international academic event reflects the Arab Open University's advanced standing and leading role in supporting research and innovation in the region. This year's theme – Synergizing Innovation: The Global Nexus of Business, Technology, Education, and Economic Sustainability – aligns closely with the university's mission to enhance integration between innovation, technology, and education to achieve a more sustainable and resilient global economy capable of addressing future challenges."



Dr. Salah Al-Hammadi, University President

Al-Hammadi further highlighted the university's belief in fostering effective partnerships between academic, economic, and societal institutions, noting that this conference represents an ideal opportunity to strengthen international cooperation. He also expressed appreciation for the trust and collaboration shown by global organizations and universities in supporting the university's impactful role on the regional and international levels.

For her part, Dr. Afnan Al-Khaldi affirmed the importance of this international event in reinforcing the State of Kuwait's position as a supporter of knowledge and scientific research, pointing out that the Arab Open University continues to provide an academic environment that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship to support national and regional development priorities.

The three-day conference includes a rich scientific program featuring specialized sessions and keynote lectures



University presidents in a group photo.

delivered by top experts from prestigious international universities, addressing topics such as digital economy, entrepreneurship, innovation management, quality education, and the achievement of sustainable development goals.

The Arab Open University emphasized that hosting this

significant global event is a major milestone in its academic journey, enhancing its vision and mission to serve as a leading knowledge hub contributing to societal advancement and the development of a sustainable, innovation-driven economy based on knowledge and technology.

Al-Hamdan clinches 3rd place

Kuwaiti researcher shines in MENA 'Three Minutes Thesis'

DOHA, Nov 3, (KUNA): Kuwaiti academic Nouf Al-Hamdan came third in the first edition of the "Three Minutes Thesis" competition in the Middle East and North Africa, held in the Qatari capital Doha.

Al-Hamdan, who holds a PhD in chemistry from Kuwait University, expressed her delight at third place after giving an outstanding presentation on her research thesis on the preparation of compounds with optical properties capable of killing cancer cells and used for photodynamic therapy.

Al-Hamdan expressed her thanks and appreciation to Hamad Bin Khalifa University (a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and

Community Development) for organizing the competition.

She also thanked the College of Graduate Studies at Kuwait University for giving her the opportunity to participate in the competition.

The competition aims to help graduate students present their research theses in simple language in just three minutes to a panel of judges and a non-specialist audience.

This edition of the competition includes contestants representing universities from 17 countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.



Kuwaiti academic Nouf Al-Hamdan

KUNA photo

Zakat House funds to get key strategic investment upgrade

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The issuance of Decree Law No. 151/2025, amending Article Four of Law No. 5/1982 on the establishment of Zakat House, aims to reorganize the management and investment of its funds, and improve the efficiency and sustainability of these funds.

Reliable sources said the decree stipulates the establishment of a specialized committee consisting of representatives from Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) for the development and

New decree forms committee with KIA

investment of the financial and real estate portfolios. Sources revealed this committee will be in charge of preparing investment policies and plans, approving investment channels and tools, monitoring financial performance in accordance with the provisions and principles of Islamic Sharia, and documenting governance procedures, including risk management policies, periodic reports and accountability mechanisms, within the framework of transparency and institutional discipline. Sources added the Zakat House Board of Directors, in coordination with KIA, will issue a detailed operating system, outlining the mechanisms, procedures and responsibilities of the committee.

Sources indicated that the decree aims to enhance the efficiency of investing the funds of Zakat House and to develop them in a safe and sustainable manner in line with the strategic directions of the State toward supporting responsible investment and ensuring that financial returns are utilized in an efficient and transparent manner to realize the social and humanitarian objectives of the institution.

The decree was published in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Yaum,' on Sunday.

Article One of the decree stipulates the addition of a clause to Article Four of the law, mandating the formation of a committee to develop and invest the funds of the financial and real estate investment portfolios of Zakat House. This committee shall be solely responsible for preparing investment strategies and policies for the funds of

these portfolios, and for monitoring the implementation and practice of investment operations in all related fields, in accordance with the laws regulating this matter and in compliance with the provisions and principles of the Islamic Sharia. The Zakat House Board of Directors shall form this committee with KIA representatives as members, based on the nomination and approval of its Board of Directors. The Board, in coordination with the Authority, shall issue a decision regarding the committee's operating procedures, including its operational mechanisms and all other provisions necessary for fulfilling its responsibilities.

Article Two of the decree obligates the ministers, each within their respective jurisdiction, to implement the decree-law from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

Continued from Page 1

To the Cabinet ...

This is why I have repeatedly warned that this certificate represents a major obstacle. For instance, if a citizen wants to sell a property, requesting a property description certificate is understandable. But why should companies or institutions that have been operating at full capacity for 40 or 50 years be required to obtain this certificate every time they submit an application to any government agency?

What purpose does it serve? It might as well be called a "disability certificate."

Ironically, a citizen installed a sunshade in front of his house on his own property. Municipal employees arrived and ordered him to remove it. He explained that his neighbor had installed a similar sunshade. The employees replied that his neighbor had a license and a property description certificate. The citizen agreed and said he would obtain the necessary license and certificate. At that point, the employees told him, "You must demolish the sunshade first and then apply for a license."

Another obstacle, more serious and complex than the first, is the decision to halt the issuance of commercial licenses for industrial, service, and agricultural plots, as well as the prohibition on selling usufruct rights, among other restrictions. This decision has negatively affected local markets. Does it truly encourage local investment, or has it simply added more burdens for citizens?

Another puzzling obstacle is that every business owner with a license in industrial zones must also rent a shop in the capital city, even if their entire operation runs from company headquarters in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Subhan, or other locations. What purpose does forcing them to rent such a shop serve?

Do these procedures make life easier for people? Has the committee tasked with amending laws not yet addressed regulations that have been in place for decades, despite the world having changed greatly? Today, countries compete to attract investment by all means and avoid procedures that hinder business and economic activity.

Based on the above mentioned points, when an investor encounters 20 obstacles, each taking several months to resolve, they are likely to abandon their investment and escape this vicious cycle.

Alternative solutions must be explored, beyond the requirement for a property description certificate and restrictions on selling usufruct rights, as well as other measures that hinder commercial and industrial activity, in order to revitalize local markets.

Economic reports indicated a slowdown in buying and selling activities, accompanied by a decline in the Relative Strength Index.

I urge the Minister of Finance, the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, and the Cabinet to take all necessary measures to facilitate investments in ways that encourage local economic activity, support the ongoing development process, help Kuwait reclaim its leading position, and strengthen its developmental role in the region.

In the end, an important question to ask is - How many Kuwaiti companies have relocated to neighboring countries because they found facilities that allowed them to operate actively? Investors seek incentives, not obstacles.

'Kuwait Skills'

The initiative represents a comprehensive shift toward empowering individuals and institutions through internationally recognized certifications, supporting the realization of the "New Kuwait 2035" vision and strengthening Kuwait's position as a hub for innovation and talent in the Middle East.

Furthermore, Think Smart Gulf CEO Ahmed Al-Hujairi noted that the company is implementing the program through a specialized team in Kuwait that manages operational aspects in cooperation with CAIT, adding that the partnership with Microsoft extends to both regional and global projects.

Also, Microsoft Kuwait's Government Sector Technology Lead Yasmine Al-Rifai affirmed that 70 percent of Kuwait's population is under 35 years of age, representing a national asset that must be invested in to build a promising digital future.

She revealed that a quarterly report will be prepared to assess the initiative's impact and track the results of its training and digital capacity-building programs.

In addition, the Director General of CAIT Najat Ibrahim stressed that investing in national human capital is the foundation of any digital transformation, adding that the initiative provides participants with internationally recognized certifications, enabling them to lead digital transformation efforts within government entities.

Amir, Crown Prince

Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Dr. Raja Easa Al-Gurg, Director of the Centre Dr. Farhan Nizami, and Dr. Basel Mustafa, on the occasion of their visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Director of the Office of His Highness the Amir Retired Lieutenant General Jamal Mohammad Al-Theyab, Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Abdulaziz Meshal Mubarak Abdulah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Mazen Al-Essa, and Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences Dr. Amina Rajab Farhan.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received at Bayan Palace on Monday Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Turki Al-Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Vice Chairman of the Board Sultan Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received other board members, including Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Dr. Abdullah Gul, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Dr. Raja Easa Al-Gurg, Director of the Centre Dr. Farhan Nizami, and Dr. Basel Mustafa, on the occasion of their visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by Chief of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Dr. Amina Rajab Farhan, and other senior officials.

And, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then received Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Turki Al-Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Vice Chairman of the Board Sultan Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah.

din Shah.

His Highness also received other board members, including Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Dr. Abdullah Gul, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, Dr. Amina Rajab Farhan, Dr. Raja Easa Al-Gurg, Director of the Centre Dr. Farhan Nizami, and Dr. Basel Mustafa, on the occasion of their visit to the country.

Can't buy

The decision, published on the ministry's X account, emphasizes that all payments must be made through non-cash methods approved by the Central Bank of Kuwait in full compliance with its regulations.

It also stipulates that any establishment violating the provisions of the article will be closed and referred to the competent investigative authorities for appropriate legal action.

KFF contains

He praised the rapid response of the participating fire stations, which prevented the fire from escalating or spreading to adjacent locations.

He disclosed that Tahrir, Jahra, Qairawan, Ardiya, Isnad and Sumoud fire stations, along with the Hazardous Materials Unit, carried out the firefighting operations. He said the firefighters dealt with the fire with a high level efficiency despite the highly flammable nature of the materials, which posed an increased risk. He added that after extinguishing the fire, specialized teams conducted cooling operations and ensured there were no remaining hotspots.

Meanwhile, relevant authorities began an investigation to determine the cause of fire and assess the extent of material losses.

The firefighting operations were overseen on-site by acting Deputy Chief of KFF for Civil Protection Brigadier General Omar Boursli and Director of Firefighting for Jahra Governorate Brigadier General Abdullah Hussein Al-Jazzaf, who closely monitored the teams' efforts until the site was completely under control and fully secured.

Kuwaiti jailed

Case details revealed that the defendant assaulted his wife in their home, causing injuries that led to her death. The defendant then fled to Iraq, where he was apprehended and extradited to Kuwait based on an extradition warrant issued by the General Directorate of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Interior.

'No visa'

The decision came in the context of China's commitment to promoting people-to-people exchanges and facilitating trade, the embassy said in a press release.

It added that those countries' holders of ordinary passports can enter China without a visa for business, tourism, visiting family relatives and friends or exchange activities, and can transit for a period of up to 30 days.

Minister issues

Companies issuing these policies shall continue their related administrative and technical operations.

Article 7 states that the Undersecretary of the ministry shall implement this decision, which comes into effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette "Kuwait al-Yaum".

'China ready

China believes that Kuwait will actively support the initiative and welcomes Kuwait's participation in the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative, he added.

China appreciates Kuwait's long-term support and promotion of cooperation between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Han said, expressing the hope that Kuwait, as the current rotating chair of the GCC, will further exert positive influence in this regard.

The Kuwaiti Amir, for his part, asked Han to convey his high respect to President Xi.

The Amir noted that Kuwait was the first Gulf Arab state to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, which reflects the strategic and forward-looking nature of bilateral relations.

Kuwait, he said, highly appreciates and supports the Global Governance Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative proposed by President Xi, especially the recently proposed Global Governance Initiative.

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INTERNATIONAL

Federal judge again bars White House from deploying troops to Portland

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov 3, (AP): A federal judge in Oregon on Sunday barred President Donald Trump's administration from deploying the National Guard to Portland, Oregon until at least Friday, saying she "found no credible evidence" that protests in the city grew out of control before the president federalized the troops earlier this fall.

The city and state sued in September to block the deployment.

It's the latest development in weeks of legal back-and-forth in Portland, Chicago and other US cities as the Trump administration has moved to federalize and deploy the National Guard in city streets to quell protests.

The ruling from US District Court Judge Karin Immergut, a Trump appointee, followed a three-day trial in which both sides argued over whether protests at the city's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building met the conditions for using the military domestically under federal law.

In a 16-page filing late Sunday, Immergut said she would issue a fi-



People protest outside a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Portland, Oregon on Oct 20. (AP)

nal order on Friday due to the voluminous evidence presented at trial, including more than 750 exhibits.

The purpose of the deployment, according to the Trump administration, is to protect federal personnel and property where protests are occurring or likely to occur. Legal experts said that a higher appellate

court order that remains in effect would have barred troops from being deployed anyway.

Immergut wrote that most violence appeared to be between protesters and counter-protesters and found no evidence of "significant damage" to the immigration facility at the center of the protests.

Trump's testing plans for US nuke weapons won't include explosions: energy secretary

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Nov 3, (AP): New tests of the US nuclear weapons system ordered up by US President Donald Trump will not include nuclear explosions, Energy Secretary Chris Wright said Sunday.

It was the first clarity from the Trump administration since the president took to social media last week to say he had "instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis."

"I think the tests we're talking about right now are system tests," Wright said in an interview on Fox News' "Sunday Briefing." "These are not nuclear explosions. These are what we call noncritical explosions."

Wright, whose agency is responsible for testing, added that the planned testing involves "all the other parts of a nuclear weapon to make sure they deliver the appropriate geometry and they set up the nuclear explosion."

The confusion over Trump's intention started minutes before he held a critical meeting in South Korea with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump took to his Truth Social platform and appeared to suggest he was preparing to discard a decades-old US prohibi-



US Secretary of Energy Chris Wright speaks with union members at the National Nuclear Security Administration where he announced the furloughing of 1,400 federal workers as part of the shutdown which began Oct 1, during a news conference at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in Las Vegas on Oct 20. (AP)

tion on testing the nation's nuclear weapons.

Later that day, as he made his way back to Washington, Trump was coy on whether he really meant to say he was ordering the resumption of ex-

plosive testing of nuclear weapons - something only North Korea has undertaken this century - or calling for the testing of US systems that could deliver a nuclear weapon, which is far more routine.

Millions of people could lose food aid benefits

Govt shutdown could become longest ever as Trump says he 'won't be extorted' by Dems

WASHINGTON, Nov 3, (AP): The government shutdown is poised to become the longest ever this week as the impasse between Democrats and Republicans has dragged into a new month. Millions of people could lose food aid benefits, health care subsidies are set to expire and there are few real talks between the parties over how to end it.

President Donald Trump said in an interview aired on Sunday that he "won't be extorted" by Democrats who are demanding negotiations to extend the Affordable Care Act subsidies that expire at the end of the year for millions of Americans. Echoing congressional Republicans, the president said on CBS's "60 Minutes" that he will only negotiate when the government is reopened.

Trump's comments signal that the shutdown could continue to drag on for some time as federal workers, including air traffic controllers, are set to miss additional paychecks and there is uncertainty over whether 42 million Americans who receive federal

food aid will be able to access the assistance. Senate Democrats have now voted 13 times against reopening the government, insisting that they need Trump and Republicans to negotiate with them first.

The president said that Democrats "have lost their way" and predicted that they will eventually capitulate to Republicans.

"I think they have to," Trump said. "And if they don't vote, it's their problem."

He also reiterated his pleas to Republican leaders to change Senate rules and scrap the filibuster. Senate Republicans have repeatedly rejected that idea since Trump's first term, arguing that the rule requiring 60 votes to overcome any objections in the Senate is vital to the institution and has allowed them to stop Democratic policies when they are in the minority.

"Republicans have to get tougher," Trump said in the CBS interview. "If we end the filibuster, we can do exactly what we want."

With the two parties at a standoff,



The Capitol is seen at nightfall on day 22 of a government shutdown in Washington on Oct 22. (AP)

the shutdown, now in its 33rd day and approaching its sixth week, appears likely to become the longest in history. The previous record was set in 2019,

when Trump demanded that Congress give him money for a US-Mexico border wall.

Trump's push on the filibuster could

prove a distraction for Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., and Republican senators who have opted instead to stay the course as the consequences of the shutdown have become more acute.

Republicans are hoping that at least some Democrats will eventually give them the votes they need as moderates have been in weeklong talks with rank-and-file Republicans about potential compromises that could guarantee votes on health care in exchange for reopening the government. Republicans need five additional Democrats to pass their bill.

"We need five with a backbone to say we care more about the lives of the American people than about gaining some political leverage," Thune said on the Senate floor as the Senate left Washington for the weekend on Thursday.

Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, a Democrat, said on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday that there is a group of people talking about "a path to fix the health care debacle" and a commitment from

Republicans not to fire more federal workers. But it's still unclear if those talks could produce a meaningful compromise.

Trump said in the "60 Minutes" interview that the Affordable Care Act - often known as Obamacare because it was signed and championed by former President Barack Obama - is "terrible" and that if the Democrats vote to reopen the government, "we will work on fixing the bad health care that we have right now."

Democrats feel differently, arguing that the marketplaces set up by the ACA are working as record numbers of Americans have signed up for the coverage. But they want to extend subsidies first enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic so that premiums won't go up for millions of people on Jan. 1.

"We want to sit down with Thune, with (House Speaker Mike) Johnson, with Trump, and negotiate a way to address this horrible health care crisis," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said last week.

Drone flights near air base could be part of spying op: Belgium defense minister

BRUSSELS, Nov 3, (AP): Belgium's defense minister expressed concern on Monday about a series of unidentified drone flights over the weekend near a military base where U.S. nuclear weapons are stored, saying that they seem to be part of a spying operation.

Defense Minister Theo Francken confirmed that drones had flown into the area near the Kleine Brogel air base in northeast Belgium in two phases on Saturday and Sunday night.

The first phase involved "small drones to test the radio frequencies" of Belgian security services, then later came "big drones to destabilize the area and people," Francken told public broadcaster RTBF.

"It resembles a spy operation. By whom, I don't know. I have a few ideas but I'm going to be careful" about speculating, he said. Last month, several drones were spotted above another Belgian military base near the German border. The operators were not identified.

Russia has been blamed for a number of airspace violations, notably in Estonia and Poland, in recent months. But the perpetrators of a series of mysterious drone flights in Denmark and Germany have been harder to pin down.

A late evening drone sighting at Berlin's Brandenburg airport on Friday suspended flights for nearly two hours. It was not clear who was responsible.

Francken ruled out that the weekend



Belgium's Defense Minister Theo Francken, (center), speaks with Bulgaria's Defense Minister Atanas Zaprzanov during a meeting of the North Atlantic Council in defense ministers format at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Oct 15. (AP)

drone flights in Belgium might have been a prank.

He said that the security services' "jammer didn't work because they tested our radio frequency, and they changed frequency. They have their own frequencies. An amateur doesn't know how to do that."

Asked why it wasn't possible to shoot the drones down, Francken said: "When they're over a military base we can shoot the drones down. When it's

nearby, we have to be very careful because they can fall on a house, a car, a person. That's completely different."

This can pose legal challenges too.

"It's not entirely clear. We have to clarify the legal grounds," he said.

Francken lamented that Belgium "is chasing after the threat" posed by such drone flights. "We should have bought air defense systems five or 10 years ago," that can deal with drones, he said.

Ukraine receives more Patriot air defense systems to counter deadly Russian attacks

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 3, (AP): Ukraine has received more American-made Patriot air defense systems to help it counter Russia's daily barrages, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, as Russian drones killed a man and injured five of his family members, including two children, in the latest nighttime attack.

Russia's relentless pounding of urban areas behind the front line following its full-scale invasion of Ukraine nearly four years ago has killed thousands of civilians. It has also targeted the energy supply to deny civilians heat and running water in winter, as well as disrupt industrial production of Ukraine's newly developed drones and missiles.

The sophisticated Patriot systems are the most effective weapon against Russian missiles. Zelenskyy has pleaded with Western partners to provide more of them, but production limitations and the need to maintain stockpiles have slowed their delivery.

"More Patriots are now in Ukraine and being put into operation," Zelenskyy said on social media late Sunday. "Of course, more systems are needed to protect key infrastructure sites and our cities across the entire territory of our state."



In this image made from video provided by the Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Oct 31, Russian servicemen ride an APC while attending a practice for sabotage operations behind enemy lines at a training ground on an undisclosed location. (AP)

He thanked Germany and its Chancellor Friedrich Merz for the Patriots. Germany said three months ago it would deliver two more Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine. It agreed

to the move after securing assurances that the US will prioritize the delivery of new Patriots to Germany to backfill its stocks. Patriot systems are made only in the US.



Serbian riot police separate rival crowds of opponents and loyalists of autocratic President Aleksandar Vucic, a day after tens of thousands of people joined a huge rally in the northern city of Novi Sad marking the first anniversary of a train station disaster there that killed 16 people, in Belgrade, Serbia on Nov 2. (AP)

Police separate opponents, loyalists of Vucic as tensions soar

Hundreds of riot police Sunday separated opponents and loyalists of Serbia's autocratic President Aleksandar Vucic in central Belgrade as political tensions boiled after a year of persistent anti-government protests.

Several thousand people faced off on both sides of the police cordons with officers in full gear standing in several rows between the

shouting crowds who threw bottles, flares and stun grenades.

Tensions in Belgrade soared a day after tens of thousands of people joined a huge rally in the northern city of Novi Sad that marked the first anniversary of a train station disaster there which killed 16 people, and triggered a youth-led movement demanding political changes, which has challenged Vucic's firm

grip on power.

Anti-government protesters in Belgrade gathered in support of Dijana Hrka, the mother of Stefan Hrka, one of the Novi Sad station tragedy victims. Hrka earlier on Sunday said she was launching a hunger strike near a tent camp outside the parliament building which has been occupied by Vucic's loyalists since March. (AP)

Top prosecutor stands trial

Spanish regional leader steps down

MADRID, Nov 3, (AP): The leader of Spain's Valencia region said Monday he was stepping down over his government's handling of the devastating flash floods that killed 229 people last year and whose response he is widely seen as having bungled.

Carlos Mazón has faced regular calls to resign since the Oct 29, 2024 floods, including last week at a state memorial ceremony held on the first anniversary of the disaster where family members of victims jeered and insulted him before the event began. "I know I made mistakes. I acknowledge them, and I will live with them for the rest of my life. I have apologized, and I apologize again today, but none of them were due to political calculation or bad faith," Mazón told reporters on Monday in Valencia announcing his resignation.

Mazón has been slammed by citizens and political rivals for his administration's slow response to the emergency, mainly for issuing a flood alert to people's cell phones hours after rushing waters were overflowing banks, sweeping away cars and destroying homes.

Also:

MADRID: Spain's Attorney General Álvaro García Ortiz went on trial Monday over allegations of leaking confidential information in an unprecedented and politically explosive case that looms large over Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's left-wing government.

It's the first time in Spain's modern history that a top prosecutor faces a criminal trial. It's one of several cases that have implicated people close to Sánchez.



Valencia's regional president, Carlos Mazón, speaks with the head of the judiciary, Isabel Perelló, during a memorial ceremony for flood victims one year after the disaster that killed more than 230 people, in Valencia, Spain on Oct 29. (AP)

García Ortiz is accused of having leaked an email to journalists from a lawyer who was representing the partner of Madrid's influential regional leader Isabel Díaz Ayuso, one of Spain's main opposition leaders. Díaz Ayuso's partner, a businessman named Alberto González Amador, was under investigation for alleged tax fraud. García Ortiz has denied the charges and has received public support from Sánchez on more than one occasion.

5.8-magnitude quake hits Negros

Tens of thousands of people evacuate to safety as typhoon approaches Philippines

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 3, (Agencies): Philippine officials ordered tens of thousands of people to evacuate to safer grounds and prohibited fishermen from venturing out to sea in an east-central region Monday as a typhoon approached from the Pacific. Authorities warned of torrential rains and potentially deadly storm surges of up to 3 meters (nearly 10 feet).

Typhoon Kalmaegi was last spotted about 235 kilometers (146 miles) east of the town of Guiuan in Eastern Samar province, with sustained winds of up to 120 kilometers (74 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 150 kph (93 mph), and was forecast to slam into shore later Monday.

It was expected to blow westward overnight and on Tuesday and batter central island provinces, including Cebu, which is still recovering from a 6.9-magnitude earthquake that hit on Sept 30 and left at least 79 dead and displaced thousands of people after their houses collapsed or were severely damaged.

Kalmaegi, locally named Tino, was forecast to further strengthen over the Philippine Sea before making landfall in Guiuan town or nearby municipalities, where Eastern Samar Gov RV Evardone said he has issued mandatory evacuation orders starting Monday with the help of army troops, police, firefighters and disaster-mitigation contingents.

More than 70,000 people in the coastal towns of Guiuan, Mercedes and Salcedo were ordered to move to evacuation centers or concrete houses and buildings certified as sturdy enough to withstand the impact of the typhoon. The coastal areas were warned of tidal surges of up to 3 meters (nearly 10 feet) high, Evardone said.

Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful tropical cyclones on record, slammed ashore into Guiuan in November 2013 then raked across the central Philippines, leaving more than 7,300 people dead or missing, flattening entire villages and sweeping scores of ships inland. Haiyan demolished about a million houses and displaced more than 4 million people in one of the country's poorest regions.



In this photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, residents are evacuated to safer grounds as Typhoon Kalmaegi nears the area of San Miguel, Leyte province, Philippines on Nov 3. (AP)

“Nobody’s complaining among the residents because of their experience with Yolanda. They know it’s better to be safe than sorry,” Evardone told The Associated Press, referring to Haiyan’s Philippine name. “They then saw bodies scattered

everywhere on streets. Many lost everything.”

Thousands of villagers were also being evacuated from island provinces near Eastern Samar, officials said, and disaster-response agencies, including the coast guard, have been put on alert.

The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons and storms each year. It is often hit by earthquakes and has more than a dozen active volcanoes, making it one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries.

Also:

BEIJING: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.8 jolted Negros, Philippines at 19:06 GMT on Sunday, the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 10.0 km, was initially determined to be at 9.66 degrees north latitude and 122.64 degrees east longitude.

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MANILA: South Korean conglomerate DL Group’s subsidiary, DL E&C, has been partnering with the Philippines’ largest private-sector electric distribution utility company, Meralco, to pursue small modular reactor (SMR) projects in the Philippines, the Philippine Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said Sunday.

A feasibility study was launched in August for a 320-megawatt SMR in the near term, said the PCO in a news release.

SMRs are compact nuclear plants that can safely produce clean, stable energy using less land and shorter construction periods than traditional facilities.

On Saturday, Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos met with top officials of DL Group in Busan, South Korea, on the sidelines of the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting to discuss the company’s energy prospects and other ventures in the Philippines.

DL Group, with core businesses in construction, petrochemicals, and energy, was founded in 1939.

Hegseth visits DMZ ahead of security talks with South Korean officials

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 3, (AP): US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth visited the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas on Monday as he began a two-day visit to ally South Korea for security talks.

Hegseth and South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back received a briefing from military officials at Observation Post Ouellette, a site near the military demarcation line that past US presidents, including Donald Trump during his first term in 2019, had visited to peer across the border into North Korea and meet with American soldiers.

Hegseth and Ahn also visited the Panmunjom border village, where an armistice was signed to pause the 1950-53 Korean War. Ahn’s ministry said the visit “reaffirmed the firm combined defense posture and close coordination” between the allies.

Hegseth did not mention North Korea, which has ignored Washington and Seoul’s calls for dialogue in recent years while accelerating the expansion of its nuclear weapons and missile programs.

South Korea’s military also said Monday that the country’s Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sung and his U.S. counterpart, Gen. Dan Caine, oversaw a combined formation flight aboard South Korean and US F-16 fighter jets above a major U.S.



In this photo provided by South Korea Defense Ministry, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, (right), shakes hands with South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back at the southern side of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone, South Korea on Nov 3. (AP)

military base in Pyeongtaek.

The flight, conducted for the first time, was intended to demonstrate the allies’ “ironclad combined defense posture” and the “unwavering” strength of the alliance, Seoul’s Defense Ministry said.

Hegseth and Ahn, who previously

met on Saturday at a defense ministers’ meeting in Malaysia, will attend the allies’ annual defense talks in Seoul on Tuesday.

The talks are expected to cover key alliance issues, including South Korea’s commitment to increase defense spending and the implementation of a previous agreement to transfer wartime operational control of allied forces to a binational command led by a South Korean general with a U.S. deputy.

There are also concerns in Seoul that the Trump administration may demand much higher South Korean payments for the U.S. military presence in the country or possibly downsize America’s military footprint to focus more on China.

Hegseth’s visit comes days after Trump traveled to South Korea for meetings with world leaders, including South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Chinese President Xi Jinping, on the sidelines of this year’s Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Gyeongju.

During his meeting with Trump on Wednesday last week, Lee reaffirmed South Korea’s commitment to increase defense spending to reduce the financial burden on America and also called for U.S. support in South Korean efforts to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

Powerful earthquake kills at least 20 and injures hundreds in northern Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan, Nov 3, (AP): A powerful, 6.3 magnitude earthquake shook northern Afghanistan before dawn Monday, killing at least 20 people and injuring more than 640 others, a health official said, adding that the numbers could increase.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake’s epicenter was located 22 kilometers (14 miles) west-southwest of the town of Khulm, and that it struck at 12:59 a.m. at a depth of 28 kilometers (17 miles).

Sharafat Zaman, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Public Health, said 534 injured people and 20 bodies had been brought to hospitals in Balkh and Samangan provinces. Rescuers were on the scene and the figures were changing, he added.

In the nearby province of Badakhshan, the quake partially or completely destroyed 800 houses in one village in the Shahr-e-Bozorg district, said Ihsanullah Kamgar, spokesperson for the provincial police headquarters. But with a lack of internet in the remote area, there were still no accurate casualty figures, he added.

Yousaf Hamad, a spokesman for Afghanistan’s disaster management



Injured residents of a 6.3 powerful earthquake in northern Afghanistan are treated at a hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan on Nov 3. (AP)

agency, said most of the injured suffered minor wounds and were discharged after treatment.

In the Afghan capital of Kabul, the Ministry of Defense announced that rescue and emergency teams had reached the quake areas in Balkh and Samangan, which suffered the most

damage, were transporting the injured and assisting others.

The Taliban government’s chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, posted on X that the earthquake caused casualties and financial loss. He said government organizations were working to get needed help.



People stand next to the passenger bus after a truck loaded with concrete stone chips rammed into it at Chevella in southern state of Telangana, India on Nov 3. (AP)

Bus-truck collision kills 20 in India

A truck loaded with concrete stone chips rammed into a passenger bus in southern India early Monday, killing at least 20 people and injuring about two dozen others, local authorities said.

The state-run transport bus was carrying around 70 passengers en route to the city of Hyderabad in southern Telangana state when a

truck coming from the opposite direction collided with it near the town of Chevella, local district official K. Chandrakala told The Associated Press.

The front of the bus was badly mangled, trapping several passengers inside. Heaps of stone chips or gravel were seen dumped inside the bus, burying alive at least one

passenger who was later counted among the dead.

The rescue teams struggled to cut through the bus to retrieve the bodies.

Rajendra Prasad, superintendent at Chevella hospital said 20 bodies were moved to the mortuary and will be handed over to their families after identification. (AP)

DR Congo president says peace talks with M23 rebels to resume in Doha

KINSHASA, Nov 3, (Xinhua): Peace talks between the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group will resume next week in Doha, Qatar, DRC President Felix Tshisekedi has said.

According to the statement issued late Sunday by the Congolese presidency, Tshisekedi reaffirmed that the DRC remains committed to political and diplomatic means to end the conflict in the eastern provinces, while upholding the country’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Doha has remained the only operational channel of dialogue between Kinshasa and the M23 for months. In July, Kinshasa and the M23 signed a Declaration of Principles in Doha, a roadmap that initially set a start date for negotiations no later than Aug. 8 and the signing of a peace agreement before Aug 18. These timelines have now passed without being met.

Tshisekedi, who arrived on Sunday in Doha to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development scheduled for Nov. 4-6, also praised the involvement of Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in the ongoing



French President Emmanuel Macron welcomes Democratic Republic of Congo President Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi on Oct 30, 2025 at the Elysee Palace in Paris. (AP)

exchanges with the M23. The statement did not specify whether the president would take part directly in the upcoming talks with the rebels.

After re-emerging in late 2021, the M23, now part of the political-military Alliance Fleuve Congo (AFC), has extended its control over several strategic centers in eastern DRC, including Goma and

Bukavu. In these areas, parallel administrative structures have been established, further weakening local institutions and worsening an already dire humanitarian situation.

According to the United Nations, more than 2.4 million people have been displaced since January 2025, bringing the tally of internally displaced persons to nearly 6 million.

Tanzania President Hassan sworn in after election sparks deadly protests

DODOMA, Tanzania, Nov 3, (AP): Tanzania’s President Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn in Monday at a ceremony limited to invited guests, following a disputed election that sparked deadly protests after two main opposition candidates were barred from running.

The ceremony was held on government-owned grounds in the administrative capital of Dodoma, a departure from the past, when president took the oath at packed football stadiums that were open to the public.

Tension remained high in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, following three days of election protests. Gas stations and grocery shops were closed with streets were nearly empty as government employees continued to work from home. In Dodoma, most people stayed home.

The Oct 29 election was marred by violence as demonstrators took to the streets of major cities to protest the poll and stop the counting of votes. The military was deployed to help police quell riots. Internet connectivity has been on and off in the East African nation, disrupting travel and other activities.

The protests spread across Tanzania, and the government postponed the re-opening of universities, which had been set for Nov. 3. Tanzanian authorities



Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan queues to cast her vote during general elections at Chamwino polling station in Dodoma, Tanzania on Oct 29. (AP)

have not said how many people were killed or injured in the violence.

A spokesman for the U.N. human rights office, Seif Magango, on Friday told a U.N. briefing in Geneva by video from Kenya that there were credible reports of 10 deaths in Dar es Salaam and

Shinyanga and Morogoro towns.

The election results were rejected by the main opposition party, Chadema.

“These results have no basis in reality, as the truth is that no genuine election took place in Tanzania,” the party’s statement read in part.

Lat/Am

Mexican mayor killed during event: A mayor in Mexico’s western state of Michoacan was shot dead in a plaza in front of dozens of people who had gathered for Day of the Dead festivities, authorities said.

Local politicians in Mexico are frequently victims of political and organized crime violence.

The mayor of the Uruapan municipality, Carlos Alberto Manzo Rodríguez, was gunned down Saturday night in the town’s historic center. He was rushed to a hospital, where he later died, according to state prosecutor Carlos Torres Piña.

A city council member and a bodyguard were also injured in the attack.

The attacker was killed at the scene, Federal Security Secretary Omar García Harfuch told journalists Sunday.

The attack on the mayor was carried out by an unidentified man who shot him seven times, García Harfuch said. The weapon was linked to two armed clashes between rival criminal groups operating in the region, he added.

“No line of investigation is being ruled out to clarify this cowardly act that took the life of the mayor,” García Harfuch said. (AP)

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Milei taps new interior minister: Argentine President Javier Milei on Sunday announced the appointment of political leader Diego Santilli as the new interior minister, replacing Lisandro Catalan, who resigned on Friday.



People chant during a funeral procession for late Mayor Carlos Alberto Manzo Rodríguez, who was shot dead during the Day of the Dead celebrations, in Uruapan, Michoacan state, Mexico on Nov 2. (AP)

“We have a Minister of the Interior: welcome ‘Colo’ Santilli. Diego will be the one to carry out talks with governors and legislators in order to coordinate with the National Congress on each of the necessary consensuses for the reforms that lie ahead,” the president said in an X post.

Milei initiated a cabinet reshuffle recently as the midterm legislative elections on Oct. 26 gave his coalition a strengthened mandate.

Chief of Staff Guillermo Francos resigned on Friday and will be succeeded by presidential spokesperson Manuel Adorni. Justice Minister Mariano Cuneo Libarona and Foreign Minister Gerardo Werthein also announced resignations in late October. (Xinhua)

Boursa Kuwait ends lower

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): The Boursa Kuwait closed lower on Monday, with the general index slipping 49.57 points, or 0.55 percent, to end at 8,978.54 points. Trading activity totaled 1.065 billion shares across 40,011 cash transactions worth 153.4 million Kuwaiti dinars (about

469.4 million U.S. dollars).

The main market index saw the sharpest decline, dropping 100.39 points, or 1.16 percent, to 8,582.07 points, as 840 million shares changed hands through 28,159 transactions valued at 81.7 million dinars (approximately 250 million dollars).

Business

Kicks off November 15 at the American University of Kuwait

Gulf Bank opens registration for the fourth edition of the Datathon competition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Following the great success achieved by the competition in previous years, and as part of its ongoing support for youth, Gulf Bank has announced the opening of registration for the fourth edition of the Datathon competition, which will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the American University of Kuwait, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Those interested in participating can register through the following link:<https://e-gulfbank.com/datathon-en>

The Bank invites all data and artificial intelligence enthusiasts aged 16 and above to take part in this exceptional event, which aims to promote a

data-driven culture and offer participants the opportunity to gain practical, hands-on experience in the field of data science – along with valuable cash prizes for the top three winners in each category.

This year’s participants will compete in three main tracks:

- Data Science Track: To uncover analytical insights and create innovative solutions through predictive analytics and data visualization.
- Generative AI Track: To explore the creative world of AI by developing systems capable of generating text, images, and ideas.
- Data Engineering Track: To design robust data pipelines and structures that



Dr. Haidar Al-Muhri:

■ Gulf Bank’s Datathon has become a national platform bringing together innovators in technology and data.

support real-time analytics and digital innovation.

Participants will also have the opportunity to attend free educational workshops led by experts from Gulf Bank, providing them with practical skills in analytics tools and data science techniques.

A preparatory workshop will be held at the American University of Kuwait on Thursday, November 13, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

On this occasion, Dr. Haidar Al-Muhri, Manager of Data and Innovation at Gulf Bank, said: “We are proud to continue organizing Gulf Bank’s Datathon for the fourth consecutive year, which has become a national platform uniting inno-

vators in technology and data.”

He added: “Through this event, we aim to empower Kuwaiti youth with advanced analytical skills, encourage innovation using the latest artificial intelligence and data science technologies, and reinforce Kuwait’s leadership in the digital domain. We invite young people and data enthusiasts to seize this opportunity.”

The organization of Gulf Bank’s Datathon reflects the Bank’s commitment to empowering young local talents, encouraging them to develop their analytical and creative skills, and contributing to building a society more aware of the importance of data and AI in the future of business.

Kuwait underscores global cooperation in energy & technology at ADIPEC 2025

ADIPEC 2025 opens in Abu Dhabi under ‘Intelligent Energy’ theme

ABU DHABI, Nov 3, (KUNA): Abu Dhabi opened Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) 2025 on Monday under the theme “Intelligent Energy for Accelerated Progress,” drawing global energy leaders, policymakers, and experts.

In his keynote speech, UAE Industry and Advanced Technology Minister and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Sultan Al-Jaber said artificial intelligence (AI) needs reliable, affordable power; the world still relies on oil and gas for electricity, with gas supplying over a quarter of data center demand.

He warned that gas turbine shortages raise power prices and that infrastructure must expand through 2050.

He framed energy as a new engine for growth and competitiveness driven by innovation and low-emissions solutions, urging policies that unlock capital from existing assets, reduce risk, and channel investment to the right projects.

Meanwhile, Energy Minister Suhail Al-Mazroui said the UAE is pursuing a balanced path - energy security while accelerating clean energy.

UAE is spending AED 189 billion (USD 51.5B) on infrastructure and clean energy to reach net-zero by 2050, he said.

It now has 12.4 gigawatts of clean power (over 30 percent of electricity), three giant single site so-

lar plants, the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant running at full power, and the world’s largest solar plus storage project for 24/7 clean electricity.

Regulations are being updated to boost flexibility, long-term investment, and competitiveness, he added.

ADIPEC 2025 runs four days, with 45 ministers, 250 CEOs, and senior leaders from industry, finance, innovation, and technology.

Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Oil Sheikh Dr. Nimer Fahad Al-Malik Al-Sabah affirmed the critical importance of global cooperation in energy, scientific research and advanced technologies, to meet geopolitical and technological challenges.

He made the remarks during his participation in the opening of ADIPEC Exhibition & Conference in Abu Dhabi, which focused on addressing rising global energy demand, securing supply chains, stabilizing markets and making the energy ecosystem more flexible and solution-oriented.

He emphasized that the current phase in the global energy sector demands increased coordination and integration of visions and policies amid regional and international challenges, so as to safeguard Kuwait’s interests as well as those of the Gulf region and the wider world through dialogue and cooperation in energy, research and technology.

Sheikh Nimer Al-Sabah reaffirmed Kuwait’s commitment to support all developmental efforts and initiatives to strengthen the energy and oil industry under the guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sa-

bah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

This commitment is being implemented through a practical and realistic approach to ensure energy security, diversify sources, attract capital, open up, carry out large-scale projects utilizing the latest smart technologies, enhance growth and competitiveness, apply governance principles and pursue ambitious partnerships, he added.

Highlighting Kuwait’s participation in ADIPEC 2025 - the world’s largest energy event under the theme “Energy. Intelligence. Impact.”- he noted that the four-day event brings together more than 45 ministers and over 250 chief executives and policymakers, amid rising demand for energy to support artificial intelligence and emerging economies, as well as the global shift in the energy system.

Sheikh Dr. Nimer Al-Sabah visited the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) pavilion among the national exhibitors participating in ADIPEC 2025, where he was briefed on the company’s latest development projects and advanced technologies in exploration, production and operational efficiency enhancement.

He affirmed that the company’s participation in this global event reflects Kuwait’s vital role as one of the world’s key oil producers and highlights its efforts to keep pace with digital transformation and smart-energy systems, while adopting advanced solutions to enhance production reliability and resource sustainability.

S&P GCC composite index went up by 1.5% in October 2025

Kuwait’s equity markets continue to advance amid favorable economic developments: Markaz report

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” released its Monthly Market Review report for October 2025. Kuwait equity market was positive in October 2025 amid favorable economic developments and an optimistic outlook on capital spending. Kuwait All Share Index continues to be the top-performing GCC market on YTD basis with a gain of 22.7%, supported by a 2.7% rise in October. Among sectors, oil and gas, and financial services were the top gainers, rising by 11.0% and 10.8% respectively. The banking sector index gained by 0.7% for the month. Among banking stocks, Commercial Bank of Kuwait was the top gainer, increasing by 11.4% during the month. The bank has announced 15.3% y/y increase in net profit for Q3 2025. The bank has also disclosed execution of off-market trades on about 4.8 million shares, at price of KD 0.6 per share, in October 2025. Among Premier Market stocks, GFH Financial Group and National Investments Co were the top gainers, rising 27.7% and 25.5% respectively during the month. GFH Financial Group received approval from Central Bank of Bahrain to repurchase treasury shares upto a maximum of 10% of its total issued shares and commenced to do so towards the end of the month.

Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has maintained its discount rate at 3.75%, despite the U.S Fed’s rate cut of 25 bps in October 2025. Kuwait’s real GDP grew by 1.7% y/y in Q2 2025, supported by expansion in both oil and non-oil sectors. Following the passage of public debt law in April 2025, Kuwait issued bonds worth USD 11.25 billion in October 2025. The issuance was 2.5 times oversubscribed with the order book peaking at USD 28 billion. Kuwait has discovered new offshore natural gas field named Jazza that is estimated to hold about 1 trillion cubic feet of gas and over 120 million barrels of condensate crude. A new Amiri decree has been issued allowing listed companies with non-Kuwaiti shareholders, real estate funds, and investment portfolios to own property, provided the companies are listed on bourses, trade in property, and exclude private residential land. Capital expenditure on development projects in Kuwait has increased by 2.4 times on annual basis to KD 132 million in Q1 of FY2025-26. The bond issuance and increase in capital expenditure in Q1 2025 offer cause for optimism over further improvement in government capital spending.

All GCC equity indices, except Qatar, ended the month on a positive note with S&P GCC composite index registering a gain of 1.5%. The de-escalation of geopolitical tensions, a good start to the 9M earnings season and interest rate reductions in the U.S supported investor senti-



ment. Saudi Arabia’s equity index registered a monthly gain of 1.3% supported by the positive performance of major blue-chip stocks. ACWA Power increased by 12.9% during the month following reports that the company has boosted its project portfolio to USD 115 billion with 110 projects across countries. Saudi Aramco has gained by 5.2% during the month in anticipation of positive earnings results for Q3 2025, which are likely to be announced on November 4th, 2025. Abu Dhabi’s equity index increased by 0.9% in October 2025 supported by major blue-chip stocks. First Abu Dhabi Bank gained 11.5% after recording a 24% rise in net profit for 9M 2025. Dubai equity index increased by 3.8% during the month, supported by real estate stocks and few banking blue-chips. Emaar Properties rose 8.8% during the month amid launch of AED 100 billion masterplan with 40,000 luxury homes in Dubai and the company chairman’s remarks that the company plans to enter the U.S. markets in the future. Emirates NBD rose by 15.6% as the bank’s net profits grew by 12% y/y in 9M 2025. The bank entered into a definitive agreement to secure a majority stake in India’s RBL Bank for USD 3 billion. Qatar equity index declined by 0.9% amid mixed corporate earnings releases.

UAE’s real GDP is expected to expand by 4.8% in 2025, with growth accelerating to 5.0% in 2026, supported by service sectors such as tourism, financial services, and real estate, according to the IMF’s Regional Economic Outlook - October 2025. Saudi Arabia’s mortgage portfolio surpassed USD 240 billion in YTD-October 2025, owing to accelerating real estate transformation amid Vision 2030 initiatives.

Global markets were positive during the month despite the U.S government shutdown, supported by the easing of trade tensions between U.S and China, and a rate cut amid softer-than-expected September inflation data. MSCI World and S&P 500 rose by 1.9% and 2.3% respectively during the month. Headline inflation in U.S. increased to 3.0% y/y in September 2025 from 2.9% y/y in August but was below the Bloomberg consensus estimate of 3.1%. Following the meeting between the U.S and Chinese Presidents, the U.S has agreed to lower tariffs on Chinese imports to 47%, from 57%, and China has agreed to pause

export controls on rare earths. The countries have also agreed to work on issues around TikTok. Nasdaq Composite index rose 4.7% during the month buoyed by ongoing enthusiasm for companies with AI exposure. The U.S federal government offices shut down on October 1, 2025, because Congress failed to pass the necessary appropriations legislation to fund the government for FY 2026. Non-essential government operations were halted or reduced while essential services like Medicare continue. The shutdown has delayed reports on key economic data, including monthly jobs and inflation reports, which are watched by the Fed officials. MSCI EM index gained 4.1% during the month, with the Indian stock market gaining 4.6%. The U.S-China trade negotiations and the strength in tech stocks despite persistent deflationary pressures supported Chinese stock markets.

The yield on the 10-year US treasury notes declined by 5 bps during the month to 4.11%. While the U.S government shutdown and expectation of rate cut by U.S Fed in its October meeting contributed to the fall in the treasury yields for most part of the month, U.S Fed Chair’s hawkish outlook on further rate cuts in the Fed meeting led to some pick up in yields towards the end of the month. In line with expectations, U.S Fed lowered rates by 25 bps in October 2025. While acknowledging the weakness in labor market, the Fed Chair also highlighted the risk in making further decisions on policy rate changes, given the absence of data due to government shutdown.

Oil (Brent) prices closed the month at USD 65.07 per barrel, declining by 2.9% during the month. The continued unwinding of OPEC+ oil production cuts and easing of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East weighed on oil prices. IEA expects the oil market to be oversupplied with a surplus of 4 million bpd. U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to impose Ukraine-related sanctions on Russia targeting major oil companies Lukoi and Rosneft, which raised supply concerns and lent some support to oil prices during the month.

Delay in publication of U.S economic data owing to the federal government shutdown and difference of opinion among U.S Fed policy makers have increased uncertainty around further rate cut in December 2025. This could lead to higher volatility in markets. Resumption in U.S government operations, corporate earnings, especially M7, and directions on interest rate trajectory from Fed officials could drive market sentiment in the next month. The GCC market movements might hinge on corporate earnings and pace of OPEC+ oil production increase.

Arab Times Q&A – Christopher Hudson, President, dmg events

1. What is the significance of ADIPEC 2025 for Kuwait?

ADIPEC 2025 launches today, and will take place from 3 to 6 November. With more than 205,000 participants from 172 countries, 2,250 exhibitors and 1,800 global speakersexpected to join us in Abu Dhabi, we are looking forward to welcoming many Kuwaiti representatives.

This year’s edition focuses on the dual imperative of our time: strengthening resilience in today’s energy systems while accelerating intelligent solutions for tomorrow. Kuwait plays an important role in that journey. As a regional energy leader with a clear innovation agenda and energy diversification targets, it is a key partner in advancing this objective.

ADIPEC 2025 is designed to help countries like Kuwait navigate new energy complexities through cooperation, inclusion, and shared prosperity, values that are essential to delivering sustainable progress at speed and scale.

2. Has there been an increase in participation from Kuwait at this global event?

Kuwait continues to demonstrate strong engagement and leadership at ADIPEC.

We are honoured to confirm the participation of the Kuwait Oil Company among our exhibitors, as well as His Excellency Eng. Jamal Essa Al-Loughani, Secretary General of OPEC, on our ADIPEC Strategic Conference speaker lineup.

Our Technical Conference received nearly 170 paper submissions from Kuwait-based companies, reflecting the country’s strong focus on natural resource development. Around half of the papers addressed drilling, exploration, and field development, underscoring Kuwait’s commitment to advancing global energy security, through research, technology, and collaboration.

3. How do you see the event benefiting the energy sector in Kuwait?

ADIPEC offers Kuwait’s energy sector an unmatched platform to connect innovation with opportunity. As the industry evolves, success increasingly depends on collaboration across technologies, markets and geographies. Through ADIPEC’s global ecosystem, Kuwaiti companies and policymakers can engage directly with investors, technology providers and peers driving this transformation worldwide.

With 95% of attendees being decision-makers or influencers, ADIPEC provides Kuwaiti organisations with direct access to the leaders shaping the future of global energy. From the Low Carbon & Chemicals Expo to the AI, Decarbonisation, Maritime & Logistics, and Digitalisation Zones, the event unites the full energy value chain to accelerate intelligent solutions that enhance efficiency, reliability and sustainability.

For Kuwait, this means access to the partnerships, insights and innovations needed to strengthen resilience, diversify energy systems and unlock new avenues for growth.

4. What are the most prominent issues and topics that will be discussed during the exhibition?

Energy is one of the world’s most dynamic and rapidly evolving sectors. According



Christopher Hudson

to the International Energy Agency (IEA), global energy demand rose by 2.2% last year, outpacing the average annual increase of 1.3% recorded over the last decade. At the same time, the global population is projected to reach 9.8 billion by 2050, with over 750 million people still lacking access to electricity, and more than 2.1 billion people remain without access to clean cooking. These figures underscore both the scale of the challenge and the opportunity before us.

In this context, ADIPEC 2025 is being held under the theme of “Energy. Intelligence. Impact”. It reflects a simple but powerful truth: meeting the world’s growing need for secure, affordable and sustainable energy will depend on how intelligently we harness every resource to deliver meaningful results for economies and communities alike.

At its core, the theme recognises that intelligence – both human and artificial – is transforming the way energy is produced, managed, and consumed. From AI-driven optimisation and digital integration to advances in hydrogen, LNG, and decarbonisation, intelligent innovation is reshaping the global energy landscape. ADIPEC serves as the meeting point for these forces, where ideas translate into action and impact can be measured in investment, policy, and progress.

In response to these challenges and opportunities, ADIPEC convenes the wider energy sector – including offshore operators, equipment suppliers, and digital innovators – under one roof to strengthen resilience in the global energy system.

5. How does ADIPEC 2025’s focus on AI and digitalisation create new opportunities for collaboration, and what can Kuwaiti participants expect from these dedicated zones and sessions?

ADIPEC 2025 will examine how AI is transforming energy innovation, driving digital transformation and creating new demand for intelligent power infrastructure. As a platform where ideas turn into action, it will showcase breakthrough solutions and foster partnerships that deliver practical, secure and sustainable outcomes across the value chain.

Kuwaiti participants can explore the expanded AI Zone – curated with ADNOC – and the Digitalisation Zone, where experts will demonstrate how intelligent systems improve efficiency, safety and sustainability. With ADIPEC 2025 hosting its largest gatherings of technology companies to date, the event offers an exceptional opportunity to connect, collaborate and help shape the next wave of AI-driven energy solutions.

KFH holds Q3-2025 earnings webcast



Khaled AlShamlan

AlShamlan:

- KFH's highest market profits affirm the Group's financial strength and outstanding business model



Abdulkarim Al-Samdan

Al-Samdan:

- KFH reported the highest indicators in all key balance sheet items and operating profits



Eng. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

Al-Mukhaizeem:

- Kuwait's economic growth and KFH's leadership in retail, Corporate, and Investment Banking are key drivers of progress

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) held the earnings webcast for highlighting the Group’s financial performance and results for Q3-2025. The webcast was attended by KFH Group Chief Executive Officer, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, Group Chief Strategy Officer, Eng. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem, and Group Chief Financial Officer, Abdulkarim Al-Samdan.

Group Chief Executive Officer - Khaled AlShamlan

KFH Group Chief Executive Officer, Khaled AlShamlan commenced the meeting by shedding light on the Bank’s financial performance up to the end of the third quarter of 2025. He said that, by the grace of Allah, KFH achieved a net profit for shareholders of 492.7 million KD up to the end of the third quarter of 2025, an increase of 2.0% compared to the same period last year. These profits are the highest in the Kuwaiti banking sector and the local market. Earnings per share up to the end of Q3 2025 reached 27.98 fils; an increase of 2.0% compared to the same period last year. Net financing income up to the end of Q3 2025 reached 944.3 million KD; an increase of 13.1 % compared to the same period last year. Total operating income up to the end of Q3 2025 increased, supported by an increase in all core activities to reach 1.3 billion KD; an increase of 10.0 % compared to the same period last year.

Net operating income up to the end of Q3 2025 increased to reach 850.2 million KD; an increase of 12.8 % compared to the same period last year. Financing receivables as the end of Q3 2025 reached about 21.2 billion KD, an increase of 11.3% compared to the end of last year. As of the end of Q3 2025, total assets amounted to 40.8 billion KD, an increase of 11.0% compared to the end of last year. Shareholders’ equity amounted to 5.6 billion KD, an increase of 1.5% compared to the end of last year. Depositors’ accounts amounted to 20.1 billion KD as of the end of Q3 2025, an increase of 4.7% compared to the end of last year. The capital adequacy ratio reached 17.68% which is above the limit required by regulators. This ratio confirms the solid capital base of KFH.

AlShamlan added: “The strong Q3 results achieved by KFH confirm our ongoing commitment to shareholders and customers. This performance has created new opportunities for sustaining and increasing record profits.”

He further noted: “KFH continues to maintain its market leadership as the largest company on Boursa Kuwait, the most profitable and best-performing bank, and the bank with the highest dividend distribution. This commitment is underscored by KFH’s recent recognition as the top-performing bank in Kuwait in The Banker’s 2025 Top 1000 World Banks ranking.”

AlShamlan mentioned that the digital and substantial achievements of recent years provide a solid foundation for future growth. This success confirms KFH’s ability to meet its strategic goals, particularly sustainable growth and industry leadership, and pave the way for its ambition to join the world’s top 100 banks in the coming years.

Additionally, KFH continues to provide the necessary financing to Kuwaiti corporates to enhance their businesses and support their expansion. In addition, KFH participates in financing major development projects in a way that serves the state’s development plan and stimulates the national economy.

AlShamlan added: “The launch of AUB - Bahrain’s new visual identity, rebranding it as KFH - Bahrain under the umbrella of KFH Group, represents a strategic shift. This change strengthens the bank’s position as an influential banking group with a geographic presence in 10 countries worldwide, most notably Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkey, Egypt, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The Group offers innovative services and products that keep pace with customer aspirations and global developments in the financial and banking sectors.”

He emphasized that the importance of KFH unifying its services and products across KFH Group lies in enhancing operational efficiency and delivering consistent customer experience across its extensive global network which spans over 600 branches. “This strategic approach not only allows us to take advantage of the unique strengths of individual markets but also reinforces KFH’s leadership as the most valuable and trusted Islamic banking brand worldwide,” noted AlShamlan.

Furthermore, KFH launched the KFH Group Service Center. This center serves both KFH-Turkey and KFH-Egypt, aiming to better meet customer needs and deliver an integrated banking experience.

Additionally, our digital transformation strategy focuses on enhancing operational efficiency. This is achieved by employing digital technologies in its operations, supporting a structured transformation program across all business sectors. KFH launched a comprehensive update to its KFHOnline

app, introducing a modern design and smart banking features along with KFH-Go smart branches and other e-channels that provide innovative solutions collectively showcasing KFH’s readiness to deliver unlimited, high-efficiency digital services with exceptional flexibility.

He added that the Bank is also focused on supporting and financing Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), acknowledging their crucial role in driving economic growth. Additionally, the successful launch of our Sustainable Business Program for SMEs aims to provide them with a competitive edge while showcasing KFH’s dedication to sustainable development and leadership.

AlShamlan stated that KFH’s financing efforts have been recognized by major international institutions. The bank received the “World’s Best Islamic Financial Institution” award for 2025 from Global Finance magazine, along with the “Best Islamic Private Bank - Digital Innovation” award from Global Private Banker magazine. Furthermore, KFH was honored with the “Kuwait’s Best Bank for SMEs” award from Euromoney, the “Most Sustainable Projects in the Middle East” award from Forbes magazine, and the “World’s Best Islamic Retail Bank” award, also from Global Finance.

Additionally, KFH maintained its position as the largest listed company in Kuwait on Forbes’ 2025 Global 2000 list.

Speaking about future plans, AlShamlan said: “As we look ahead, our focus remains on sustainable growth through synergies and AI-driven digital innovation, emphasizing value for our stakeholders, especially our customers. By consistently achieving top profits in the banking sector and pioneering digital transformation, we are well-positioned to seize emerging opportunities. Our strong financial position and diverse business model enable us to navigate potential challenges in the economy effectively.”

Group Chief Financial Officer - Abdulkarim Al-Samdan

KFH Group Chief Financial Officer, Abdulkarim Al-Samdan, said that the financial performance of KFH group for the nine months period ended 30 September 2025 recorded solid growth in its core banking activities during the 9 months period of 2025. Key financial performance highlights are as follows:

The Group has achieved Net Profit After Tax attributable to Shareholders for the first nine months ended 30th September 2025 of KD 492.7mn higher by KD 9.8mn or 2.0% compared to 9M-24 of KD 482.9mn.

Net financing income at KD 944.3mn increased by KD 109.2mn or 13.1% compared to same period last year
Net Operating income at KD 850.2mn increased by KD 96.2mn or 12.8% compared to same period last year

Cost to income ratio improved to 35.18% for 9M-25 compared to 36.77% for 9M-24

Earnings per share up to the end of Q3 2025 reached 27.98 fils; an increase of 2.0 % compared to the same period last year

Total operating income increased by KD 119.1mn or 10.0%. Looking at the total operating income profile, there is an increased contribution of net financing income to total operating income from 70.0% in 9M-24 to 72.0% in 9M-25. Further contribution of fee and commission income has increased from 10% to 13%. Enhanced contribution of net financing income and fee and commission income highlight enhanced core banking activities.

Average Profit Yielding Assets are higher by 4.1% compared to Dec-2024 and 4.9% compared to Sep-24 mainly from increase in average financing receivables and average investment in debt securities.

Al-Samdan noted that Group Net Financing Margin (NFM) for 9M-25 at 3.16% is higher by 12bps compared to 9M-24.

He said that KFH cautious approach towards provisioning have contributed to financing provision balance exceeding ECL required as per CBK IFRS 9 by KD 478mn as of 30 September 2025.

Moving to the financial position:

Total Assets at KD 40.8bn increased by KD 4.05bn or 11% in Sep-25 compared to Dec-2024.

Net financing receivables at KD 21.2bn increased by KD 2.2bn or 11.3% compared to Dec-2024 mainly on account of increase in corporate portfolio.

Investments in debt securities at KD 7.6bn has increased by KD 735mn or 10.7% compared to Dec-2024.

Deposits for 9M-25 at KD 20.1bn have increased by KD 900mn or 4.7% compared to Dec-2024.

The contribution from CASA deposits to total group customer deposits as of 30 Sep-25 is 44.6% and on an overall basis group continues to benefit from a large pool of low-cost deposits.

Group Chief Strategy Officer- Eng. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

Meanwhile, KFH Group Chief Strategy Officer, Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem, shared insights into Kuwait’s economic landscape and KFH’s strategic progress during the 9 months of 2025. He said that global economic growth is expected to ease from 3.3% in 2024 to 3.2% in 2025, with advanced economies growing at nearly 1.5% and emerging markets above 4%. Disinflation continues unevenly, requiring cautious monetary policy amid risks including mid-2025 tariff shocks and policy uncertainty.

Kuwait’s economy shows clear recovery signs where economic activity turned positive in Q1 2025, expanding 1.0% year-on-year. Full-year 2025 real GDP is projected to grow 2.6% supported by stronger private domestic demand.

Kuwait’s projects market rebounded in Q3 2025, with awards up 33.8% year-on-year to USD 4.3 billion. Cumulative awards in the first nine months were up more than 25% from 2024, indicating stronger execution momentum.

Kuwait government returned to global debt markets pricing at among the tightest emerging-market spreads in 2025. This issuance strengthens the sovereign yield curve, deepens global capital markets integration, diversifies Vision 2035 project funding, sets improved pricing benchmarks for banks and corporates, and supports credit growth and financial-sector depth.

Annual inflation eased to 2.39% in July 2025 (projected to moderate to 2.2% by the end of 2025) from 2.9% average in 2024, reflecting the Central Bank of Kuwait’s prudent monetary policy. The CBK cut its discount rate by 25 basis points in September 2025, from 4.00% to 3.75%, reflecting a cautious approach to support sustainable growth while maintaining macroeconomic stability.

Al-Mukhaizeem said: “KFH delivered strong Q3 results with growth in financing, deposits, and fee income, reflecting our diversified model and leadership in retail, corporate, and investment banking. Our liquidity coverage and capital adequacy ratios exceed regulatory requirements, ensuring resilience.”

KFH preserved its position as Kuwait’s largest listed company, with market capitalization increasing to KWD 14.3 billion (27.2% of all listed companies totaling KWD 52.6 billion) as of end-Q3 2025, up 19.9% compared to Q3 2024, reflecting sustained investor confidence.

He affirmed that innovation remains central to KFH’s strategy. In Q3, we expanded our AI-driven virtual assistant “Fahad” across digital and branch channels, while introducing AI speech-analytics tools in contact centers to enhance service quality and efficiency. The KFHOnline app added real-time gold trading, seamless digital onboarding, and advanced Sharia-compliant financing features, reinforcing our customer-centric approach.

Al-Mukhaizeem added: “KFH continues strengthening its regional footprint following successful rebranding of KFH Bahrain and full integration of KFH Egypt. These milestones established unified governance and digital frameworks, enhancing cross-market connectivity and reinforcing KFH’s standing as a leading international Islamic financial institution.”

KFH underscores its sustainability commitment by embedding ESG considerations across strategy, risk, and product design, expanding Sharia-compliant financing supporting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and low-carbon infrastructure.

He pointed out that by entering Q4, KFH is well-positioned to capitalize on Kuwait’s government projects pipeline, particularly in project and infrastructure financing. Our priorities include advancing our digital ecosystem and AI capabilities, deepening regional synergies, and promoting sustainable and inclusive finance aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035.

Al-Mukhaizeem said: “Our Q3 2025 results demonstrate exceptional resilience and consistent performance through a robust business model and prudent funding strategy. We remain committed to being a trusted financial partner and key enabler of Kuwait’s economic transformation.”

Halloween weekend sees one of its slowest Octobers in 25 years

‘Regretting You’ and ‘Black Phone 2’ tie at weekend box office

LOS ANGELES, Nov 3, (AP): The movie exhibition business is closing out one of its slowest Octobers in over 25 years with a sluggish Halloween weekend. Studios avoided opening any major new films with the holiday falling on a Friday. Instead, there were several re-releases including “Back to the Future,” which is celebrating its 40th anniversary, and the Netflix phenomenon “KPop Demon Hunters.”

But even with a top 10 in which no films earned more than \$10 million, there was still a bit of excitement as two studios claimed the No.1 spot Sunday. Universal’s horror sequel “Black Phone 2” was largely expected to top the charts in its third weekend in theaters, and the studio reported that it was going to be in first place with an estimated \$8 million. About 30 minutes later, Paramount reported that its romantic drama “Regretting You” had earned an estimated \$8.1 million, which would place it in the top spot instead. Box office tracker Comscore went by the numbers and gave the first place title to “Regretting You.” Sunday numbers are based on estimates and projections, however, and sometimes Monday actuals tell a different story.

“Regretting You” is the latest Colleen Hoover adaptation to open in theaters since “It Ends With Us” became a runaway hit in theaters. With a running domestic total of \$27.5 million, this newest film is not going to match its predecessor, which made \$50 million its first weekend.

In three weekends “Black Phone 2” has made \$61.5 million domestically and \$104.7 million globally. Universal also handled the nationwide re-release of Robert Zemeckis’s “Back to the Future” which earned \$4.7 million from 2,290 theaters - enough to snag a fifth-place spot on the North American charts. The 1985 time travel classic now has a domestic total of \$221.7 million.

Though there were plenty of HUNTR/X costumes on the streets this weekend, “KPop Demon Hunters” didn’t do as well as it did when it played in theaters in August. That weekend, the streaming hit sold between \$16 and \$20 million in movie tickets. This weekend, it’s estimated to have earned somewhere in the \$5 million range from 2,890 screens. Two distribution executives shared numbers on



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows McKenna Grace, (from left), Dave Franco, and Allison Williams in a scene from ‘Regretting You.’ (AP)

the condition of anonymity because Netflix has a policy of not reporting ticket sales.

Sony Pictures and Crunchyroll’s “Chainsaw Man - The Movie: Reze Arc” dropped a steep 67% in its second weekend and is projected to add \$6 million from 3,003 locations, bringing its total to \$30.8 million.

Focus Features also launched “Bugonia” into wide release after several weeks in limited. With an estimated \$4.8 million from 2,043 theaters, it marks filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos’s best wide break to date. The darkly comedic thriller stars Emma Stone and Jesse Plemons and is expected to be an awards season player.

“Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere” landed in sixth place, behind “Back to the Future,” and down 57% in its second weekend. It earned \$3.8 million, putting its domestic total at \$16.3 million and its global tally at \$30.6 million.

“This was a truly scary weekend,” said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore’s head of marketplace trends. “It was this imperfect storm of Halloween on a Friday and the World Series on Friday and Saturday. But the studios and theaters knew this was on the horizon and they planned for it.”

The weekend may net out to be one of the lowest grossing of the year, closing out an unusually slow October. With the exception of October 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the month’s total ticket sales (\$443 million) have not been this low since 1998 (\$455.5 million).

The next two weekends may bring some energy back to multiplexes, however, with releases like “Predator: Badlands” and “Now You See Me: Now You Don’t,” but the industry will likely have to wait until closer to Thanksgiving for a real blockbuster when “Wicked: For Good” and “Zootopia 2” enter the mix.

“This was always going to be a tough weekend. The audience was truly fragmented,” Dergarabedian said. “There are weekends where the movie theaters are the focus of the attention, and those are coming.”

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. ‘Regretting You,’ \$8.1 million; 2. ‘Black Phone 2,’ \$8 million; 3. ‘Chainsaw Man - The Movie: Reze Arc,’ \$6 million; 4. ‘Bugonia,’ \$4.8 million; 5. ‘Back to the Future,’ \$4.7 million; 6. ‘Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere,’ \$3.8 million; 7. ‘Tron: Ares,’ \$2.8 million; 8. ‘Stitch Head,’ \$2.1 million; 9. ‘Good Fortune,’ \$1.4 million and 10. ‘One Battle After Another,’ \$1.2 million.

Music

‘Snocaps’ out

Waxahatchee duo reunites

NEW YORK, Nov 3, (AP): For the recently converted Waxahatchee fan, Alabama-raised singer-songwriter **Katie Crutchfield** does not drum up the image of distorted riffs, scrappy lo-fi recordings and indie rock sensibilities. For many years, though, that was her reality. (Incisive, lyrical self-reflexivity and emotional acuity have always been present in her work, now delivered in a familiar twang via her idiosyncratic folk style.)

Long before her 2024 album “Tigers Blood” or 2020’s “Saint Cloud” cemented Crutchfield as a leading voice in contemporary Americana, Waxahatchee more closely followed in the tradition of her early power punk-pop bands, P.S. Eliot and Bad Banana. Those were led by her and her twin sister, Allison Crutchfield, also of the influential indie-punks Swearin’.

It is impossible not to hear the impact of the pair’s clever harmonies, their ambling riffs and keen storytelling in generations of indie rock bands that followed.

Those groups dissolved as Waxahatchee took over, reuniting here and there for one-off performances for their devout listenership, and only when music-making seemed fun again. But a new project with both Crutchfields seemed off the table.

Unlikely, that is, until now: Snocaps, a surprise new project from Katie and Allison Crutchfield, released a self-titled debut album on Halloween. It is 13 tracks performed by the two, joined by close collaborators Brad Cook (longtime Waxahatchee producer) and guitarist MJ Lenderman (formerly of the band Wednesday, known to Waxahatchee fans as one-half of “Right Back to It,” one of AP’s favorite songs of 2024).

It would be an oversimplification to say Snocaps sounds as if no time has passed - but there is no doubt a sense of comforting familiarity. “Heathcliff” opens with a warming bass lick and Allison’s spirited voice; that, and “Avalanche,” possess the unimpeachable melodicism of Swearin’. It bleeds effortlessly into “Wasteland,” a Katie-led song where hints of modern Waxahatchee is heard. The style exists elsewhere, with her evolved and experienced tone (“Angel Wings”) and more subtly in swaying musical movements. The same is true of the sisters’ other projects: “Over Our Heads” has echoes of Bad Banana, free of the scuzz and fuzz.

And it isn’t just Katie and Allison taking turns on the track list: “I Don’t Want To,” and, in particular, “Hide” feel like an evolution from P.S. Eliot, perhaps a ripened “Tennessee” - a lovely slow burn with a simple pop melody. Then they dive into the ascendant “Cherry Hard Candy” with its jaunty cluster of guitars and hooky harmonies. In the last few decades, they’ve only become more expert at the style, meticulous and appearing effortless.

Film



This image released by Netflix shows Guillaume Marbeck, (left), and Aubry Dullin in a scene from ‘Nouvelle Vague.’ (AP)

Linklater brings classic cinema era to life

‘Nouvelle Vague,’ an ode to French New Wave

LOS ANGELES, Nov 3, (AP): Any time a notable figure of the French New Wave is introduced in Richard Linklater’s “Nouvelle Vague,” we’re treated to a momentary straight-on shot of them, with a nameplate - Claude Chabrol, Jacques Rivette, Éric Rohmer - at the bottom of the screen. It’s a little like Linklater, as he goes, is cataloging different species of the same 1950s genus, or playing a grand game of New Wave “Guess Who?”

“Nouvelle Vague” is principally about Jean-Luc Godard (Guillaume Marbeck) and the making of his landmark feature debut, “Breathless.” But it is also a wider portrait of a moveable filmmaking feast, of an entire generation of French filmmakers who were passionately engaged, individually and as one, in changing cinema. In 1959, it’s a movement that’s on the move.

To a remarkable degree, Linklater’s film, in French and boxed into the Academy ratio, black-and-white style of “Breathless,” has fully imbibed that spirit, resurrecting one of the most hallowed eras of movies to capture an iconoclast in the making. The result is something endlessly stylish and almost absurdly uncanny, even if “Nouvelle Vague” never adopts the brash daring of its subject.

Instead, “Nouvelle Vague” is more of a straightforward though deeply affectionate ode to a singularly unconventional filmmaker. The contrast makes “Nouvelle Vague” a curious thing: a meticulous recreation of a rule-breaking cinematic revolution. Godard would have hated it. That doesn’t make it any less enchanting.

At the outset of the film, Godard and company have gathered for the premiere of François Truffaut’s “The 400 Blows.” For Godard, the last of the Cahiers du Cinéma crowd to transition from writing criticism to directing, anxiety is mounting. He’s 29 and beginning to fear he’s missed

the wave.

But confidence is not lacking in Godard. (Marbeck, excellent, doesn’t take off his sunglasses for the duration of the movie, including in movie screenings.) On the heels of the Cannes reception for “The 400 Blows,” the producer Georges de Beauregard (Bruno Dreyfuss, tremendous) agrees to make “Breathless.” Beauregard warily eyes Godard, likely aware of the trouble he’s making for himself. He pleads for Godard to just make a sexy “slice of film noir.”

Godard, though, knows his chance has finally come to transfer all his ideas into film. Before production starts, he visits the elder statesmen of European cinema at the time - Jean-Pierre Melville (Tom Novembre), Roberto Rossellini (Laurent Mothe) - for advice. “Shoot quickly,” Rossellini tells him.

Soundstages

Godard wants no lights, no soundstages and no script. He’ll go into each day not knowing what he’s going to shoot. On the first day of production, he announces: “Time to enter the pantheon.”

The bulk of “Nouvelle Vague” is the day-to-day shooting of “Breathless,” for which Godard cast Jean-Paul Belmondo (Aubry Dullin) as the small-time gangster lead and Jean Seberg (Zoey Deutch) as the Herald Tribune-selling American student he wants to run off with. (These, like so many of the many roles of “Nouvelle Vague,” are so well matched that casting director Catherine Schwartz deserves a shot at the inaugural Oscar.)

The thrill of following the making of “Breathless” day by day is seeing just how brazenly Godard disregards the assumed conventions of moviemaking. On the first day, he wraps after two hours. For Linklater (“Slacker,” “Dazed and Confused,” “Before Sunset”), these scenes have a special resonance. Few filmmakers believe more

ardently in the benefits of a leisurely hangout.

But Godard’s methods have a purpose. “I’m trying to seize reality at random,” he explains.

“Nouvelle Vague” captures Godard stealing from his influences (Ingmar Bergman, Duke Ellington, Humphrey Bogart) while striving to realize his own voice as an artist. “Breathless” is a movie poised between movie eras - a deconstructionist bebop riff on a Hollywood genre film. “Nouvelle Vague,” more than anything, is about how becoming an artist requires both reverence for the past and a stubborn insistence on breaking ground on the future.

“Nouvelle Vague,” which opens in theaters Friday and streams Nov. 14 on Netflix, is one of two artist portraits by Linklater this fall, the other being “Blue Moon,” with Ethan Hawke as the tragic lyricist Lorenz Hart. Both, as it happens, have their Bogart quotes. And both are stirring, cigarette-smoking musings on what makes a great lyric, a memorable song or a movie that will live on forever.

In “Nouvelle Vague,” you wouldn’t say that it takes a village. It’s Godard’s force of will that propels “Breathless.” Each filmmaker gets a Wes Anderson-style close-up in Linklater’s film perhaps because each is pursuing a uniquely personal vision of cinema. In today’s movie world, where risk aversion and brand management carry the day, such a moviemaking spirit often feels extinct or, at least, elusive. “Nouvelle Vague,” with a young Godard making things up off the cuff and on the fly, is a reminder how less can be so, so much more. And how it’s nice, as a young filmmaker with big ambitions, to have some company.

“Nouvelle Vague,” a Netflix release is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for some language. Running time: 105 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Variety

CINCINNATI: Bob Trumpy, who was an original member of the Cincinnati Bengals for 10 years before enjoying a career as a network radio and television analyst, has died. He was 80.

The Bengals announced that Trumpy died peacefully on Sunday and was surrounded by family at home in the Cincinnati area. The team had a moment of silence before its game against the Chicago Bears.

“I’ve known Bob since we started here and he had an extraordinary career as both a player and a broadcaster,” said Bengals president Mike Brown in a statement. “He was an exceptional and rare tight end who could get downfield and split zone coverages. Speed was his hallmark. He was as fast as any wide receiver and was a deep threat. That was rare for a tight end then and it’s rare now.”

“As a broadcaster, he made his mark both locally and nationally, and excelled at sports other than football in a career that was as successful as what he accomplished on the field.” (AP)



Trumpy

NEW YORK: The college basketball season has arrived, and broadcasting great Dick Vitale has taken a long journey to again meet the sport at its starting line.

Surgeries, radiation treatments and chemotherapy amid a cancer fight kept him off the airwaves for two years until his return shortly before March Madness. But on Tuesday, the 86-year-old Basketball Hall of Famer will call a marquee opener between No. 6 Duke and Texas in a new event named in his honor.

His fight to get here - armed with a contract through the 2027-28 season - has forced Vitale to change routines to best ensure his health. That includes learning to say “no” more often and talking less on the day of a game, all antithetical to Vitale’s full-blast persona. (AP)

VIENTIANE: A screening of the documentary “Hands of Hope,” a film highlighting the friendship between China and Laos, was held on Thursday in the Laos capital Vientiane, attended by government officials from both countries and the film’s creative team.

The film highlights the exchange and cooperation between China and Laos in hearing-impaired education. It tells the story of Sophaphone Heunglith, principal of a special education school in Laos, who established a private school for hearing-impaired children and cared for 25 students despite limited resources, a shortage of teachers, and lack of experience. With support from a Chinese enterprise, she traveled to China to learn from the country’s expertise in the field. (Xinhua)

TAIYUAN: An exhibition celebrating the blockbuster “Black Myth: Wukong” video game has opened in the province that served as its primary filming location, allowing fans to explore the game’s rich settings in a new light. The exhibition, “Black Myth: Wukong Encounter Shanxi,” opened on Friday in Taiyuan, the capital city of north China’s Shanxi Province.

The game’s stunning visuals, which feature Shanxi’s ancient architecture and heritage sites prominently, have significantly boosted the province’s profile as a tourist destination. The exhibition covers an area of 2,000 square meters and features miniatures of the city’s iconic temples, pagodas and sculptures, combining physical replicas with digital technology to recreate in-game scenes. (Xinhua)

Who is Zico Kolter?

Meet OpenAI safety chief who can block harmful AI releases

NEW YORK, Nov 3, (AP): If you believe artificial intelligence poses grave risks to humanity, then a professor at Carnegie Mellon University has one of the most important roles in the tech industry right now.

Zico Kolter leads a 4-person panel at OpenAI that has the authority to halt the ChatGPT maker's release of new AI systems if it finds them unsafe. That could be technology so powerful that an evildoer could use it to make weapons of mass destruction. It could also be a new chatbot so poorly designed that it will hurt people's mental health.

"Very much we're not just talking about existential concerns here," Kolter said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We're talking about the entire swath of safety and security issues and critical topics that come up when we start talking about these very widely used AI systems."

OpenAI tapped the computer scientist to be chair of its Safety and Security Committee more than a year ago, but the position took on heightened significance last week when California and Delaware regulators made Kolter's oversight a key part of their agreements to allow OpenAI to form a new business structure to more easily raise capital and make a profit.

Safety has been central to OpenAI's mission since it was founded as a non-profit research laboratory a decade ago with a goal of building better-than-human AI that benefits humanity. But after its release of ChatGPT sparked a global AI commercial boom, the company has been accused of rushing products to market before they were fully safe in order to stay at the front of the race. Internal divisions that led to the temporary ouster of CEO Sam Altman in 2023 brought those concerns that it had strayed from its mission to a wider audience.

The San Francisco-based organization faced pushback - including a lawsuit from co-founder Elon Musk - when it began steps to convert itself into a more traditional for-profit company to continue advancing its technology.

Agreements

Agreements announced last week by OpenAI along with California Attorney General Rob Bonta and Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings aimed to assuage some of those concerns.

At the heart of the formal commitments is a promise that decisions about safety and security must come before financial considerations as OpenAI forms a new public benefit corporation that is technically under the control of its non-profit OpenAI Foundation.

Kolter will be a member of the non-profit's board but not on the for-profit board. But he will have "full observation rights" to attend all for-profit board meetings and have access to information it gets about AI safety decisions, according to Bonta's memorandum of understanding with OpenAI. Kolter is the only person, besides Bonta, named in the lengthy document.

Kolter said the agreements largely confirm that his safety committee, formed last year, will retain the authorities it already had. The other three members also sit on the OpenAI board - one of them is former U.S. Army General Paul Nakasone, who was commander of the U.S. Cyber Command. Altman stepped down from the safety panel last year in a move seen as giving it more independence.



Carnegie Mellon University Head of Machine Learning, Zico Kolter delivers a keynote speech at AI Horizons Summit in Bakery Square on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025 in Pittsburgh. (AP)

"We have the ability to do things like request delays of model releases until certain mitigations are met," Kolter said. He declined to say if the safety panel has ever had to halt or mitigate a release, citing the confidentiality of its proceedings.

Kolter said there will be a variety of concerns about AI agents to consider in the coming months and years, from cybersecurity - "Could an agent that encounters some malicious text on the internet accidentally exfiltrate data?" - to security concerns surrounding AI model weights, which are numerical values that influence how an AI system performs.

Specific

"But there's also topics that are either emerging or really specific to this new class of AI model that have no real analogues in traditional security," he said. "Do models enable malicious users to have much higher capabilities when it comes to things like designing bioweapons or performing malicious cyberattacks?"

"And then finally, there's just the impact of AI models on people," he said. "The impact to people's mental health, the effects of people interacting with these models and what that can cause. All of these things, I think, need to be addressed from a safety standpoint."

OpenAI has already faced criticism this year about the behavior of its flagship chatbot, including a wrongful-death lawsuit from California parents whose teenage son killed himself in April after lengthy interactions with ChatGPT.

Kolter, director of Carnegie Mellon's machine learning department, began studying AI as a Georgetown University freshman in the early 2000s, long before it was fashionable.

"When I started working in machine learning, this was an esoteric, niche area," he said. "We called it machine learning because no one wanted to use the term AI because AI was this old-time field that had overpromised and underdelivered."

Kolter, 42, has been following OpenAI for years and was close enough to its founders that he attended its launch party at an AI conference in 2015. Still, he didn't expect how rapidly AI would advance.

"I think very few people, even people working in machine learning deeply, really anticipated the current state we are in, the explosion of capabilities, the explosion of risks that are emerging right now," he said.

AI music platform settles copyright claims

Udio offers brief window for song downloads

NEW YORK, Nov 3, (AP): Artificial intelligence song generation platform Udio said it would give its frustrated users 48 hours starting Monday to download their songs before the company shifts to a new business model to comply with a legal settlement.

The short reprieve comes after Udio on Wednesday said it had settled copyright infringement claims brought by Universal Music, a label with artists including Taylor Swift, Olivia Rodrigo, Drake and Kendrick Lamar.

AI companies are now fighting so many copyright lawsuits that a tech industry lobby group, the Chamber of Progress, last week called on President Donald Trump to sign an executive order directing federal attorneys "to intervene in legal cases" to defend the industry's practice of building generative AI tools by feeding them on copyrighted works.

Citing more than 50 pending federal cases, the group asked for help stopping court fights leading to "potentially company-killing penalties" that threaten AI innovation. But artists have warned that AI tools built on their works also threaten their livelihoods.

In the biggest settlement so far, AI company Anthropic agreed to pay \$1.5 billion - or \$3,000 per book - to settle claims from authors who alleged the company illegally pirated nearly half a million of their works to train its chatbot.

Udio and Universal didn't disclose the financial terms of their new music licensing agreements. They also said they will team up on a new streaming platform.

As part of the agreement, Udio immediately stopped allowing people to download songs they've created, which sparked a backlash and apparent exodus among paying users.

"We know the pain it causes to you," Udio later said in a post on Reddit's Udio forum, where users were venting about feeling betrayed by the platform's surprise move and complained that it limited what they could do with their music.



Kendrick Lamar performs during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl 59 football game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles in New Orleans, Feb. 9, 2025. (AP)

Udio said it still must stop downloads as it transitions to a new streaming platform next year. But over the weekend, it said it will give people 48 hours starting at 11 a.m. Eastern time Monday to keep their "past creations."

"Udio is a small company operating in an incredibly complex and evolving space, and we believe that partnering directly with artists and songwriters is the way forward," said Udio's post.

The settlement deal was the music industry's first since Universal, along with Sony Music Entertainment and Warner Records, sued Udio and another AI song generator, Suno, last year over copyright infringement.

Udio and Suno pioneered AI song generation technology, which can spit out new songs based on prompts typed into a chatbot-style text box. Users, who don't need musical talent, can merely request a tune in the style of, for example, classic rock, 1980s synth-pop or West Coast rap.

Record labels have accused the platforms of exploiting the recorded works of artists without compensating them.

In its lawsuit filed against Udio last year, Universal sought to show how specific AI-generated songs made on Udio closely resembled Universal-owned classics like Frank Sinatra's "My Way," The Temptations' "My Girl," ABBA's "Dancing Queen" and holiday favorites like "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" and "Jingle Bell Rock."

Quiz



Photos from the IIT-IIM Alumni Association's 10th Open Quiz in Kuwait.

IBPC's support makes Q8OQ-2025 a huge success

IIT-IIM Alumni Assoc. hosts Open Quiz in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: IIT-IIM Alumni Association conducts its 10th annual Kuwait open quiz extravaganza titled Quiz Q8OQ-2025 in grand, graceful style yet again in succession, with their event partner, IBPC, Kuwait. The Alumni Association of India's Premium Institutions, IITs & IIMs, organised its spectacular annual open quiz program Q8OQ-2025 for the tenth year running on 31st October, 2025, at the impressive Indian Embassy Auditorium in Kuwait.

The IIT IIM Alumni Association in Kuwait is an association of alumni of the premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). Registered as a professional association with the Embassy of India in Kuwait, the association functions under the auspices of the Honourable Ambassador of India to Kuwait as its patron. The Association represents a vast blend of talent and experience, from very senior executives to the high energy of youngsters who have just embarked on their professional journeys.

With every passing year IIT-IIM Alumni Association's open quiz popularity is growing in geometric progression among the quiz aficionados and the general public alike. The uniqueness of this event is, it is open to all irrespective of age, qualification, gender or profession, and the entry is free to everyone. The quiz was conducted by the very renowned globetrotting Asia's best quizmaster and an alumnus of Harvard Business School, Giri Balasubramaniam from India, popularly known across the world as "Pickbrain".

He is also a very popular author and creator of several knowledge-based books and an architect of designing educational programs for schools across India. A popular speaker, educator, motivator and youth mentor who is regularly invited to deliver Keynotes or as a guest of honour at various educational institutions. He received several prestigious awards, and he holds seven Limca records for quizzing. He is an alumnus of the iconic elite Harvard University. He holds a Master's degree in the Gandhian Philosophy.

The event proceedings began with the young, comely anchor, Qusai Kapadia, welcoming all the dignitaries, members of IIT-IIM and IBPC, VIPs, sponsors, the contestants and all the spectators. He invited the Quiz Master, Giri Balasubramanyam, to take over the proceedings. Giri, after taking the stage, gave a brief introduction on the importance of the knowledge quest in this modern world, where human intelligence is being increasingly challenged by the ruthless efficiency of machines. He also mentioned how and why the younger school-going children are more courageous, enthusiastic and ready for such quizzes than the adults. He crisply and clearly spelt out the salient features of the competition, the format and the do's and don'ts of the whole process.

The format of the contest was at three levels - written prelims, two semi-finals and a grand finale. However, the process of qualifying teams from each School itself began several months ago, with each school conducting their intra-school qualifying tests set by GreyCaps before forwarding its best teams to the main event day prelims. Open teams, of course, joined directly into the written

prelims, unlike the school kids. Every team consisted of three contestants. Initially, all the teams went through a qualifying round of tough 20 common questions. The first two top teams from prelims are directly made to the finals, while the top two teams from each of the category semis are made to the grand finals.

This year, the program has reached new scales of outstanding quality with the enthusiastic participation of over a thousand quiz participants and admirers from all walks of life, sizes, ages, and genders, including many ankle biters from classes 3 and 4. The quizmaster too was an exception, with his distinctive style of high-quality quizzing, great sense of humour, impromptu quick wit and spontaneous wordplays. The quiz participants and the avid, enthusiastic audience were enthralled with a great range of interesting questions posed from every field. Experienced Giri, along with his deputy, Ms. Rashmi, simply sailed through the whole process with flawless ease aided by the unique format, state-of-the-art electronic gadgets, audio-visual systems and software.

Challenging

Once the written test was completed, while the answer papers were being corrected, the audience consisting of teachers, dignitaries, contestants, members of the IIT-IIM Alumni association, the Indian Business and Professional Council, Kuwait, school children, families, etc. were kept busy by the highly gifted, much-admired quizzer and the only current popular woman quizzer of India, Ms. Rashmi. She conducted an equally engrossing and challenging multiple rounds of quizzing, open to the entire audience. This has kept the audience's attention and interest at the peak level as there were many fabulous spot prizes were at stake. Many well-informed and enthusiastic passionate quizzers in the audience got several valuable prizes. They returned home feeling proud, cheerful and happy with something to cherish.

This year, the quiz had a special round on "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas", National Unity Day, being the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The President, Peeyush Jain, felicitated and thanked the Chief Guest, Cd'A. Sanjay Maluka, Charge d'Affaires of the Indian embassy to Kuwait, for gracing the occasion. The semi-finals and main grand finale event began after the felicitation.

The president also felicitated the sponsors and co-hosts. Peeyush Jain, the President of the IIT-IIM Alumni Association, thanked the Star Quiz master, Giri the Pickbrain, the dignitaries and distinguished guests who graced the occasion, making it a grand success. He expressed his gratitude to all those who wholeheartedly supported the association like Indian Business and Professional Council, Kuwait (IBPC), who stood by IIT-IIM Alumni in organizing this event as an event partner, well represented by the large presence of their members including, Mr. Kaizar Shakir, chairman of IBPC, Mr. Suresh, secretary, and Mr. Sunit Arora (Jt. Secretary). The IIT-IIM Association also felicitated him, who continues to be a great motivator and ardent supporter of the association's proceedings, be it music or any other literary event.

IITs and IIMs are the prime educational institutions of India, and being the alumni in Kuwait, we

always believe that the main foundation of education is built in schools. We are indeed privileged to be associated with all the schools in Kuwait, personally and institutionally. Since the main pillars of the schools are their Principals, our association strongly believes that they play a major role in achieving our common goals, values and objectives of imparting competitive spirit, instilling the quest for knowledge and preparing future generations to excel in all spheres of life. The school Principals, along with their institution, have been our constant partner and a source of mutual cooperation, guidance and inspiration.

Sajay Maluka, Charge d'Affaires of the Indian embassy to Kuwait, also felicitated the quizmaster, Giri Balasubramaniam and his deputy, Ms. Rashmi.

The Indian Embassy had also organised a painting competition on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Sajay Maluka, Charge d'Affaires of the Indian embassy to Kuwait, gave the prizes to the winners of this competition as well.

The quiz was of very high quality, with a great range of cryptic questions drawn from different fields of arts, science, sports, politics, fiction, etc., from medieval to modern ages, and needless to say, the competition was very stiff. Pickbrain in between kept the audience glued with his very interesting and fascinating audience questions, as many prizes were open to them as well.

This year, yet again, the winners were "The Inquizzitives" represented by Athul Anuradha Sandeep, Aibel Praveen Pamplany and Parthiv Raj Baruah from FAIPS (DPS). They were extraordinary in their quizzing, right from the first question.

The runner-up team, "The Titans" from FAIPS (DPS) school, was represented by three brilliant students, Vishwesh Vhaibhav, Atharva Chandrakar and Alvin Roy John. Although they made few mistakes in the beginning and at the end in choosing the points they wanted to play with, but maintained their cool and accelerated their momentum as the contest progressed, finally grabbing the second position in the contest. The third prize also went to FAIPS "The commission", represented by Agastya Prabhuraj Sabarad, Krithika Karthikeyan and Ponmanikandan Ponraj.

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are globally renowned premier Indian institutions of higher education in the fields of Engineering Technology and Management, respectively. The association can be reached at contact@iitimkuwait.com or the official website www.iitimkuwait.com.

It is the aim of the IIT-IIM Alumni association to promote the knowledge quest, high-quality competitive spirit and expose the residents of Kuwait, especially the young students, to take a path of knowledge seeking and, in the process, improve themselves and the society around them. With this noble high aim, the Association conducts the Annual Quiz Event, which is its signature event. The whole event is executed by the IIT-IIM Association Core Team led by Peeyush Jain, and consisting of Anees Aarifa, General Secretary, Suresh Choksi, Treasurer, and other members, Ashish Jain, Abhishek Roy and Ramesh Kumar.

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Health services expanded to prevent chronic diseases

Kuwait opens new nutrition clinics to boost preventive healthcare

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Ministry of Health announced the opening of four therapeutic nutrition clinics in primary healthcare centers, bringing the total number of such clinics to 66 in various governorates, under the supervision of the Nutrition and Food Department, reports Al-Anba daily.

This expansion is part of the national health strategy aimed at promoting community health through early intervention and evidence-based nutritional counseling, thereby, contrib-

uting to disease prevention and quality of life improvement. The new clinics are located in Egailah, East Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Mutlaa N11 and Mutlaa N8 health centers.

These modern clinics provide comprehensive nutritional assessments and individualized treatment plans for patients suffering from obesity and chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol. They also focus on promoting nutritional education and encouraging lifestyle change

to support sustainable and healthy choices. The treatment programs are based on scientifically proven dietary systems, including the Mediterranean, Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH), low-calorie and Portfolio diets. The most suitable plan is selected after a thorough evaluation of each patient's condition.

Nutrition and Food Department Director Dr. Hasnaa Ayad affirmed that this expansion is a major step towards advanc-

ing therapeutic nutrition services in primary healthcare centers. She stressed that proper nutrition is the foundation for preventing chronic diseases and improving the quality of life.

She added the department remains committed to training healthcare professionals and developing treatment programs aligned with the latest internationally recognized standards and best practices in the field of therapeutic nutrition.



The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully launches its heaviest communication satellite from Sriharikota.

India launches heaviest communication satellite

Indian space authorities announced on Sunday the successful launch of heaviest communication satellite from Indian soil.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said that it successfully launched the CMS-03 communication satellite on board LVM3-M5 from the second launch pad at Sriharikota island in southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

The satellite weighing around 4,400 kg is the heaviest satellite to be placed into the Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit from India.

Announcing the successful launch of the heavy communication satellite, ISRO Chief V Narayanan said: "The CMS-03 satellite is a multi-band communication satellite with coverage over a wide oceanic region, including the Indian landmass, and is designed for providing communication services for at least 15 years. The satellite incorporates a host of new technologies and yet another shiny example of self-reliance."

He congratulated the entire satellite team spread across various ISRO centres for realising this important

and complex satellite for the communication capability of the country. "Even under this difficult weather condition, we could come out successfully and accomplish this mission in a grand and successful manner," he said.

Announcing a major experiment carried out on the occasion, the ISRO Chief said: "For the first time, we have, after successfully injecting the satellite into orbit and reorienting the stage, successfully ignited the thrust chamber. This is going to be a great experiment, which is going to feed data for restarting the cryogenic stage in future for enabling the mission flexibility for placing multiple satellites in various orbits using the Bahubali rocket LVM-3."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated ISRO on the occasion saying, "Our space sector continues to make us proud. Powered by our space scientists, it is commendable how our space sector has become synonymous with excellence and innovation. Their successes have furthered national progress and empowered countless lives," Modi said. (KUNA)

Lack of early detection fuels glaucoma cases

Blindness rates in Sudan increase to 30 pct amid health system collapse

KHARTOUM, Nov 3, (KUNA): The blindness crisis in Sudan has worsened since the outbreak of war, which destroyed medical facilities and halted treatment campaigns, with estimates warning of rising cases from 10 to 30 percent within a short period, according to local medical institutions.

Director of the National Program for Ophthalmology at the Sudanese Ministry of Health, Dr. Atef Omar, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that field estimates indicate rising blindness rates despite the absence of precise statistics, adding that "the situation is dire, yet the ophthalmology infrastructure remains capable of recovery if adequate support is provided."

He added that the ministry launched an emergency plan at the start of the conflict to secure essentials, and is seeking cooperation with private institutions.

Director of Makkah Hospital in Omdurman and representative of Al-Basar Charity Foundation in Khartoum, Dr. Amir Abu Qurun, told KUNA that field data confirm blindness rates have tripled to 30 percent in two years due to halted services, displacement, migration of staff, and shortage of medical supplies.

Similarly, Director of Programs and Partnerships at Kuwait Patients' Helping Fund Society, Dr. Mohammad Hajo, told KUNA that the rise in blindness results from the suspension of preventive care, halted cataract surgeries, and shortages of essential medicines.

He noted that "these figures represent thousands who could have been saved from blindness if resources were available."

Medical data indicate that cataract remains the most common cause of treatable blindness in Sudan, accounting for about 70 percent of cases, though it is surgically curable when resources and infrastructure are available.

Trachoma, an infection linked to poverty and poor hygiene, remains a contributing factor, though its prevalence has significantly declined in many countries due to prevention and eradication programs.

Glaucoma, meanwhile, is among the leading causes of irreversible blindness in Sudan, attributed to lack of early detection and weak public awareness.

Even before the war, Sudan's vision loss indicators were alarming. In 2020, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness' "Vision Atlas" estimated about three million Sudanese suffered from visual impairment, including 210,000 who were completely blind, placing Sudan among



This photo released by The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), shows displaced children from el-Fasher at a camp where they sought refuge from fighting between government forces and the RSF, in Tawila, Darfur region, Sudan, Monday, Nov. 3, 2025. (AP)

Africa's highest in blindness rates.

These figures reveal a stark gap between Sudan's situation and global blindness reduction efforts, as the World Health Organization (WHO) notes that 90 percent of visually impaired people live in low and middle-income countries, making Sudan a clear example of the intersection of poverty, conflict, and health collapse.

Sudan's health system had relied heavily on external support, with NGOs performing 56 percent of cataract surgeries before the war, compared to 36 percent by government institutions and only eight percent by the private sector.

Abu Qurun noted that Makkah Eye Foundation, since its establishment in 1993, has served more than 1.8 million patients; about 65 percent of national anti-blindness efforts, and through its hospital network continues intensive programs treating 4,000 patients.

This underscores the fragility of Sudan's health infrastructure before the war, explaining the rapid deterioration of services after the conflict and loss of international aid.

According to the WHO, the war has disrupted over 70 percent of hospitals in Sudan and halted about 45 percent of primary healthcare centers, leading to a near paralysis of medical services nationwide.

Mountain schools achieve zero myopia

China performs 5G eye surgery 4,000 km away

GUANGZHOU, Nov 3, (Xinhua): A Chinese medical team has performed a groundbreaking remote robotic eye surgery, using a 5G-connected robot to treat a patient over 4,000 kilometers away.

The procedure, a retinal injection, was performed on Sunday by surgeons in the southern city of Guangzhou who remotely controlled a robotic arm at a hospital in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The surgery, performed with micron-level precision, marked a significant step in leveraging technology to bridge the medical resource gap between developed coastal regions and remote areas.

After the robot in Urumqi positioned the microscopic needle on the patient's eye, surgeons in Guangzhou took remote control. They guided the needle to the surface of the retina, pierced it to a pre-determined depth, and injected the medication.

The entire remote surgery took less than seven minutes, with the network remaining stable and the robot responding smoothly without any tremor.

Retinal sub-injection is a meticulously delicate microsurgical technique employed to salvage vision in blinding disorders such as submacular haemorrhage.

Meanwhile, in the remote mountains of southwest China's Yunnan Province, three elementary schools have achieved what seems like a fairy tale, with not a single student wearing glasses.

These schools, Wantang Primary School in Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Lafu Primary School and Gedi Primary School in Pu'er City, have maintained a zero myopia record among their students, thanks to a simple yet powerful routine of over three hours of daily outdoor activities.

At Wantang Primary School, principal Sun Fubiao would stand by the flagpole early every morning, watching the children do their morning exercises.

"Our school has always taken pride in students not wearing glasses," he said, adding that he regards it as a personal responsibility to protect his pupils' eyesight.

Mao Heming, a Chinese language teacher who also wears glasses, said his nearsightedness resulted from watching TV, playing video games and reading novels by flashlight during his childhood. "I've always believed that protecting students' eyesight is the most meaningful gift our generation of 'bespectacled teachers' can give them."

Untreated pain tied to depression, suicide

Ignoring pregnancy pain can harm mothers and babies, experts warn

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

By Julie Vignato
University of Iowa

About half to three-quarters of expectant mothers experience pain during pregnancy that is largely untreated, contributing to preventable suffering and harm. Many mothers avoid medications and treatments during pregnancy for fear that they may cause harm to their unborn baby. Yet, most are unaware of the harms that untreated pain in pregnancy may cause.

Like many women, I experienced severe pain in pregnancy. As a nurse researcher, I listen to women's stories and analyze data from across the United States. I share these findings through publications, presentations and the media to raise awareness and reduce the suffering of untreated pregnancy pain.

Mothers are often told that the pain that comes with pregnancy is a temporary discomfort that comes with the territory - and ends as soon as the baby is born.

But when pain and discomfort persist to the point that mothers cannot sleep, work and care for their other children, mothers are experiencing pain that needs to be addressed. And for some mothers, the pain does not just eventually fade. Back pain and headaches, for example, can last longer than three months, becoming a chronic condition that affects overall health.

Normal changes that occur during pregnancy often lead to pain. Pregnancy pain normally occurs from hormonal changes that can cause headaches and loosening of pelvic joints. The loosening of joints and the weight of the unborn baby contribute to back pelvic pain. The weight of the developing baby also causes the spine to abnormally curve, a condition called lordosis.

Back and pelvic pain increase in the third trimester of pregnancy when the weight of the baby is at its greatest. This is why it's incredibly important for doctors and loved ones to believe mothers when they report pain. However, one meta-analysis, meaning an in-depth review of existing research, found that more than 50% of mothers who reported their pain received little to no treatment from their doctors.

Current treatments for pain during pregnancy are highly limited.

Tylenol, though safe - despite the current controversy - treats only mild pain and is ineffective for moderate to severe muscle pain.

Alternative treatments that are also recommended and can be effective,



A pregnant woman stands for a portrait in Dallas, May 18, 2023. (AP)

such as heat or cold applications, massage, chiropractic adjustments, exercise and physical therapy, may need to be used in unison and on an ongoing basis. These treatments are not always covered by insurance.

The most effective approach combines several treatments, including exercise that may be provided through physical therapy. Unfortunately, this care may be costly for mothers without adequate insurance, and awareness of these options varies among providers.

My team's research reveals that when mothers report pain during pregnancy to their health care providers and loved ones, mothers are typically instructed to go home, rest, take Tylenol, go on maternity leave or a combination of these. However, this does not meet the needs of mothers who must work or care for other children. In addition, going on leave early is not an option for many mothers who desire to save their limited maternity leave for after the baby is born.

Mothers will almost always continue to take care of their children or work at the expense of their health if they feel there are no other choices. However, when expectations from their work, family or themselves are not met, mothers may feel guilty about not being a good enough mother or employee. This cycle can contribute to mental health challenges.

When pain is left untreated, mothers may feel minimized, unheard and overwhelmed. In turn, they can start to feel helpless and hopeless, which are symptoms of depression. My colleagues and I found that approximately 44% of women with severe pain report moderate to severe depressive symptoms during the third trimester of pregnancy.

Untreated depression can also lead

to suicide, which is responsible for 5% to 20% of maternal deaths in the US.

Equally important, opioid or narcotic pain relievers may be prescribed for pregnant mothers experiencing severe pain. Yet, 1 in 5 women with pain report misusing these prescribed medications during pregnancy to relieve pain. In turn, this increases the risk of newborns experiencing withdrawal from these medications after birth, causing significant suffering. Sadly, neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome is becoming more common, costing the country over US\$462 million annually.

With suicide and drug overdoses now the leading causes of death in the year after childbirth, effective pain management in pregnancy is urgently needed.

Managing pregnancy pain starts with open communication between the mother and their health care provider. Our studies reveal that by gently adjusting expectations, sharing how they feel and asking about available treatments, mothers can take an active role in ensuring their pain is understood and addressed.

Pregnant mothers are strong, but it's natural to slow down. Pregnancy is a time to listen to your body and adjust expectations. I believe that balance matters. If pain prevents you from lifting your toddler, that's OK. What your child will remember the most are the moments you snuggled with them on the couch.

My team's studies reveal that talking to loved ones about pain may be a challenge. So choose a calm, quiet time without distractions - when everyone can listen and respond thoughtfully. Be open about how you feel and clear about the help you need. Using "I" statements such as "I feel ..." also helps. Allow for questions. (AP)

'Serious concerns'

US FDA's top drug regulator resigns amid investigation

WASHINGTON, Nov 3, (AP): The head of the Food and Drug Administration's drug center abruptly resigned Sunday after federal officials began reviewing "serious concerns about his personal conduct," according to a government spokesperson.

Dr. George Tidmarsh, who was named to the FDA post in July, was placed on leave Friday after officials in the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of General Counsel were notified of the issues, HHS press secretary Emily Hilliard said in an email. Tidmarsh then resigned Sunday morning.

"Secretary Kennedy expects the highest ethical standards from all individuals serving under his leadership and remains committed to full transparency," Hilliard said.

The departure came the same day that a drugmaker connected to one of Tidmarsh's former business associates filed a lawsuit alleging that he made "false and defamatory statements," during his time at the FDA.

The lawsuit, brought by Aurinia Pharmaceuticals, alleges that Tidmarsh used his FDA position to pursue a "longstanding personal vendetta" against the chair of the company's board of directors, Kevin Tang.

Tang previously served as a board member of several drugmakers where Tidmarsh was an executive, including La Jolla Pharmaceutical, and was involved in his ouster from those leadership positions, according to the lawsuit.

Messages placed to Tidmarsh and his lawyer were not immediately returned late Sunday.

Tidmarsh founded and led a series of pharmaceutical companies over several decades working in California's pharmaceutical and biotech industries. Before joining the FDA, he also served as an adjunct professor at Stanford University. He was recruited to join the agency over the summer after meeting with FDA Commissioner Marty Makary.

Tidmarsh's ouster is the latest in a string of haphazard leadership changes at the agency, which has been rocked for months by firings, departures and controversial decisions on vaccines, fluoride and other products.

China tests new space factory, eyes in-orbit manufacturing

BEIJING, Nov 3, (Xinhua): A team of Chinese scientists has completed the ground tests of an inflatable, reconfigurable module for a novel space manufacturing platform, in a significant step toward enabling large-scale industrial production in orbit.

The breakthrough module, details of which were announced on Monday, has an innovative design that is intended for launch in a tightly folded configuration and inflates once in orbit to form a large, stable workspace, according to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Test images have revealed that the expanded module forms a cylindrical structure over 2 meters in diameter. Researchers say the expandable structure makes it an ideal candidate for future space-based manufacturing, including areas such as biopharmaceuticals, 3D printing and the production of novel materials.

The field tests involved achieving a reliable, airtight connection between rigid structures and the flexible habitat; precise, controlled deployment in a microgravity environment; and ensuring the inflated module provides a sufficiently stable environment for high-precision manufacturing tasks.

Cases surge

Dengue deaths rise in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Nov 3, (Xinhua): Pakistan's southern Sindh province has reported three more deaths from dengue fever in the past 24 hours, raising the total number of fatalities this year to six, according to the provincial health department.

Two of the latest victims, a 30-year-old woman from Malir and a 65-year-old man from Karachi's West district, died at the Sindh Infectious Diseases Hospital, while an 18-year-old girl from Hyderabad district died at Liaquat University Hospital, officials said.

The department's latest data showed that more than 1,400 people tested positive for dengue in the province during the past 24 hours, including 618 cases in Karachi and 793 in Hyderabad. Over 200 patients were also admitted to hospitals across Sindh during the same period.

Authorities have urged citizens to avoid self-medication, maintain proper hydration, and seek timely medical advice to prevent complications such as internal bleeding and low platelet counts.

Officials said the true scale of the outbreak remains unclear, as many private hospitals and clinics do not report their data to government health authorities.

Meanwhile, Vietnam's capital Hanoi has reported a rapid increase in dengue fever cases over the past week, with 486 new infections recorded from Oct. 24 to 31, up 94 cases from the previous week, Vietnam News Agency reported Monday.

According to the Hanoi Center for Disease Control, the city recorded new outbreaks in 23 communes and wards, bringing the total number of active clusters to 32, with no deaths reported so far.

Gauff hits 17 double-faults in loss to Pegula, Sabalenka tops Paolini

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 3 (AP): Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka put on a dominant serving display in her opening match at the WTA finals, producing 10 aces in a 6-3, 6-1 win over No. 8-ranked Jasmine Paolini.

Sabalenka served four aces in the final game of the first set alone and overall put 82.7% of her first serves in play.

The match, which was Sabalenka's 500th at the WTA level, lasted 70 minutes.

"I was focused, I was calm and it felt like everything was in control," Sabalenka said.

Sabalenka was presented with a trophy for finishing the year at No. 1.

"I'm super happy and super proud of the work that has been done and that things are working and I'm getting better and better every day," she said. "And I just hope that we're going to keep doing what we're doing and hopefully we can stay there."

The season-ending tournament for the year's top eight players starts with two four-woman groups of round-robin play. The top two finishers in each group advance to the semifinals.

"I take this tournament as a regular tournament that I have to win five matches if I want to win

the title," Sabalenka said. "So I'm just trying to bring my best tennis and fight for every point."

In the same group, Jessica Pegula beat defending champion Coco Gauff 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-2 in an all-American matchup.

Gauff again struggled with her serve, hitting 17 double-faults - including one to hand the first set to Pegula, her former doubles partner.

Before she ultimately pulled it out in the tiebreaker, Gauff twice failed to serve out the second set. On her second such chance, she hit three consecutive double-faults to let Pegula break her again and force a tiebreaker.

Three weeks ago, Gauff beat Pegula in the final of the Wuhan Open in China.

"Obviously, little frustrated with the serve today," Gauff said. "Overall, it was a tough match for me. Jess played well and I thought she was playing a bit smarter than she was when we played in Wuhan."

Added Pegula, "Coco is a great champion, great competitor, good friend. So it's always tough playing her. I don't think there's any secrets with this group of girls here."

Iga Swiatek and Elena Rybakina won their opening matches.

Crew forces decisive Game 3

LAFC advances to West semifinals

AUSTIN, Texas, Nov 3, (AP): Denis Bouanga had two goals and an assist on Sunday night to help Los Angeles FC beat Austin FC 4-1 and sweep the best-of-three series in the first round of the MLS Cup playoffs.

LAFC, which won Game 1 2-1, plays at second-seeded Vancouver in the one-game Western Conference semifinals.

Son Heung-Min added a goal and an assist for No. 3 seed LAFC. Jeremy Ebobisse replaced Son in the 88th minute and capped the scoring in the third minute of stoppage time.

Son, on the counter-attack, hesitated to freeze defender Ilie Sánchez at the top of the area and then exploded toward the left end line and blasted a shot from the corner of the 6-yard box inside the back post to open the scoring in the 21st. About four minutes later, Son fed Bouanga for a finish - the 30-year-old's 100th goal across all competitions for LAFC - into a wide-open net to make it 2-0.

Bouanga cut inside to evade defender Brendan Hines-Ike - who fell to the ground - and then flicked a shot into the net from the left center of the area in the 44th minute.

Bouanga is the only active player - and is one of just nine in history - with at least 10 career goals in the MLS Cup playoffs.

LAFC's Hugo Lloris - who was second in MLS with 12 shutouts in the regular season - had three saves, including a diving stop on a penalty kick by Myrto Uzuni in the 39th minute after a hand ball in the area by Bouanga.

Ryan Porteous was shown a yellow card for a foul in the area and Dani Pereira converted from the spot in the sixth minute of stoppage time to make it 3-1 at halftime.

CJ Fodrey appeared to have cut sixth-seeded Austin's deficit to 3-2 in the 71st minute but an offside call nullified the would-be goal.

Max Arfsten had a goal and two assists and Dylan Chambost scored a first-half goal to help the Columbus Crew avoid elimination from the MLS Cup playoffs and beat FC Cincinnati 4-0 in Game 2 of the best-of-three first-round series.

The series returns to TQL Stadium, where Cincinnati won the opener 1-0, for Game 3 on Saturday. The winner advances to the one-game Eastern Conference semifinals against No.3 seed Miami or sixth-seeded Nashville.



Columbus Crew midfielder Lassi Lappalainen, left, tries to head a ball as FC Cincinnati forward Ayoub Jabbari, top right, defends during the second half of Game 2 in the first round of MLS soccer's Eastern Conference playoffs in Columbus. (AP)

Jacen Russell-Rowe, who replaced Diego Rossi in the 61st minute, fed Andrés Herrera for a goal in the 65th and added a his first career playoff goal in the 69th.

Arfsten opened the scoring in the 33rd minute. Rossi, on the counter-attack, won a loose from defender Alvas Powell at the edge of the 18-yard box and poked it Arfsten on the left side of the area. The 24-year-old midfielder cut outside to evade goalkeeper Roman Celantano, who had charged off his line, and blasted a shot from the corner of the 6-yard box into the top-net for his third career playoff goal.

Yuya Kubo was shown a yellow card in the seventh minute and another in the 38th and No. 2 seed Cincinnati played a man down the rest of the way.

Chambost, whose shot in the seventh minute was stopped by Celentano, bent the ensuing free kick, from just outside the top of the box on the right side, inside the near post to make it 2-0 in the 41st.

The seventh-seeded Crew outshot Cincinnati 19-1.

Columbus defender Rudy Camacho, who had been sidelined due to a thigh injury, made his season debut when he subbed on 81st minute.

Celantano, who finished with five saves, dove to break up a cross played by Taha Habroune and was accidentally kicked in the head by Hugo Picard in the third minute. Celantano was evaluated for a head injury and was allowed to remain in the game.

Best of the Rest

Palmeiras edges clear in race: Bruno Rodrigues and Felipe Anderson scored in each half as leaders Palmeiras secured a 2-0 away win over Juventude in Brazil's Serie A.

Rodrigues opened the scoring in the 24th minute in Caxias do Sul by pouncing on a loose ball and firing home from the edge of the six-yard box.

Anderson doubled the advantage with a curling effort from 18 yards after Khellven's long pass on the counterattack. The result leaves Palmeiras with 65 points, a point ahead of second-placed Flamengo with eight matchdays remaining. Juventude is 19th in the 20-team standings with 26 points.

In Rio de Janeiro, former Brazil international midfielders Lucas Moura and Luiz Gustavo scored in Sao Paulo's 2-0 away victory over Vasco da Gama.

Former Paris Saint-Germain and Tottenham player Moura converted a first-half penalty before Luiz headed in after Aldemir Ferreira's cross.

Sao Paulo is now eighth in the standings with 44 points, two ahead of ninth-placed Vasco da Gama. Elsewhere in Brazil's top flight on Sunday, Internacional was held to a goalless home draw by Atletico Mineiro, Ceara won 2-0 at home to Fluminense, Bahia clinched a 2-1 home win over Bragantino, and Corinthians won 2-0 at home to Gremio. (Xinhua)

Boca goes top after late penalty: Exequiel Zeballos and Miguel Merentiel scored second-half goals as Boca Juniors rose to the top of Argentina's Primera Division Group A with a 2-1 away win over 10-man Estudiantes.

Zeballos squandered a chance to put the visitors ahead on the stroke of half-time when his penalty rebounded off the left post.

The winger made amends shortly after the interval by running onto Milton Gimenez's through ball and finishing clinically into the bottom right corner.

Columbian forward Edwuin Cetre equalized with a 59th-minute penalty after Cristian Medina was brought down by Agustin Marchesin.

The hosts were reduced to 10 men two minutes from time when Gabriel Neves was shown a straight red card for a rash challenge on former Manchester United midfielder Ander Herrera.

Merentiel restored Boca's lead by converting a 97th-minute spot kick after Herrera was again fouled, this time by Fabricio Perez in the area.

"The entire team deserves credit for an extraordinary match," Zeballos told reporters after the match, explaining that his missed penalty had not impacted his confidence. "You have to be strong and thankfully my teammates ensured that I didn't let that miss get to me. They ensured that I was ready in the second half and thankfully I was able to score." The result leaves Boca with 23 points, ahead of second-placed Union Santa Fe on goal difference. Estudiantes is fifth in the 15-team group, two points further back. (Xinhua)

Larson snatches 2nd NASCAR title as late caution crushes Hamlin's dream



Kyle Larson celebrates with family and teammates after winning the NASCAR Cup Series championship in Avondale, Ariz. (AP)

A scene of disbelief among the Joe Gibbs Racing crowd

AVONDALE, Ariz., Nov 3, (AP): Kyle Larson knew he wasn't going to catch Denny Hamlin in the final laps on Sunday, not without the sort of help that only a caution flag can bring.

Larson got his lucky break.

Hamlin only got heartbreak.

Larson is now a two-time NASCAR champion after denying Hamlin what would have been his first career title when a late caution at Phoenix Raceway sent the championship-deciding finale into overtime.

Without that caution, which came with three laps to run, Hamlin had it locked up and was ready to finally shed the label of greatest NASCAR driver to never win a championship. But fellow title contender William Byron got a flat tire and hit the wall to bring out the caution, and a few minutes later, it was over.

"Just unbelievable," Larson said. "I cannot believe it."

Neither could Hamlin.

"I really don't have much emotion right now. Just numb about it 'cause just in shock," Hamlin said after consoling his crying daughters on pit road. "We were 40 seconds away from a championship. This sport can drive you absolutely crazy because sometimes speed, talent, none of that matters."

When the caution for Byron came out, Hamlin led the field down pit road and got four new tires on his Toyota; Larson only took two tires on his Chevrolet. It meant Larson was fifth for the two-lap sprint to the finish, with Hamlin back in 10th.

With so little time to run down Larson, Hamlin came up short with a sixth-place finish as Larson finished third. Ryan Blaney, who was eliminated from title contention last week, won the race.

"You do have to feel for that group and Denny. Doing a good job all day, it's not playing out for him. But that is racing. It sucks sometimes," Blaney said. "They can hang their head about it, but they should be very proud of the effort. They had the fastest race car here. Just one of those things where it doesn't

work out. Looked like it was going into his favor, unfortunately for him, it didn't."

It is the second championship for Larson, who won his first title in 2021 when he joined Hendrick Motorsports. It is the 15th Cup title for the organization and came on the 30th anniversary of Jeff Gordon giving Hendrick its first championship in 1995.

As Larson celebrated, Hamlin sat in his car motionless for several seconds, then wiped his face with a white towel, never showing any emotion.

Larson, who has been in a slump since his disastrous Memorial Day attempt to race both the Indianapolis 500 and Coca-Cola 600 on the same day, was also in shock.

"We didn't lead a lap and won the championship," Larson said. "We had an average car at best and had the right front (tire) go down, lost a lap, and got the wave around, saved by the caution with the wave around. It's just unbelievable. What a year by this motorsports team."

Team owner Rick Hendrick, Gordon, and Larson crew chief Cliff Daniels all said they did not believe Larson still had a chance at the championship after so many problems during the race.

"I have to acknowledge that it was a pretty ugly day for us," Daniels said. "I think we were beaten on raw pace, and after we had the flat tire, there weren't a lot of good things coming our way. The way the team stuck together and continued to believe in each other, Kyle continued to believe that if we just had a shot, we could close it out."

When Hamlin finally got out of his car, he embraced his crew members, but it was a scene of disbelief among the Joe Gibbs Racing crowd. Team members were crying, some sitting in shock on the pavement, Gibbs himself stood silent, one hand on his hip, and a look of disbelief on his face.

It is the sixth shot at a title to slip away from Hamlin in his 20 years driving for Gibbs. He led 208 of the 319 laps and started from the pole.

"Nothing I could do differently. I mean, prepared

Kipruto wins men's race by fraction of second

Obiri sets women's NYC Marathon course record

NEW YORK, Nov 3, (AP): The New York City Marathon made history on Sunday with a course record set in the women's competition and the closest race ever on the men's side, which was decided by a fraction of a second.

Hellen Obiri of Kenya broke the women's record while compatriot Benson Kipruto won the men's race by edging Alexander Mutiso by three-hundredths of a second.

Obiri, who also won the race in 2023, finished in 2 hours, 19 minutes, and 51 seconds. She was running with 2022 winner Sharon Lokedi until Obiri pulled away from her countrymate in the final mile, surging ahead and winning easily by 16 seconds to best the previous course record of 2:22.31 set by Margaret Okayo in 2003.

"It feels so great. ... I am so happy to run the course record," Obiri said. "With 1K to go, I felt like I was so strong. I have something left in my tank."

Defending champion Sheila Chepkirui finished third. All three beat the previous course best on a beautiful day for running, with temperatures in the 50s Fahrenheit when the race started.

Kipruto and Mutiso separated themselves from the chase pack in the men's race heading into Mile 24. Kipruto seemed to have put the race away, pulling away from Mutiso in the last 200 meters. But Mutiso, who is also from Kenya, wasn't done, surging in the last 50 meters before falling just short. Kipruto, who was running the New York race for the first time, finished in 2:08.40. That finish topped the 2005 race, which was decided by a second.

"I was aware that Mutiso was behind," said Kipruto, who also has won the Boston, Chicago, and Tokyo marathons. "It was so close, and I knew because I know Mutiso is a strong guy."

Albert Korir, who won in 2021, was third, giving Kenya a sweep of the top three spots in both the men's and women's races. Joel Reichow was the top American, coming in sixth.

Eliud Kipchoge, who turns 41 next week, wrapped up a historic run as one of the most accomplished marathoners in the sport. Kipchoge, who has won 11 major

world marathons, finished 17th in his first time running NYC.

On the women's side, the trio of former champions separated themselves heading into the Bronx at Mile 20. American Fiona O'Keeffe and Dutch runner Sifan Hassan had made it a pack of five once the group entered Manhattan a few miles earlier, but couldn't hang on for the final 6 miles.

This was the first time that the previous three women's winners had been in the same race since 2018. The trio didn't disappoint, putting forth stellar efforts. It was the second straight year that Kenyans took the top three spots.

O'Keeffe finished fourth, breaking the American course record as she finished in 2:22.49.

"Really exciting. I can't take too much credit for the time, that was all on the women ahead of me," O'Keeffe said. "Grateful to be back in the marathon. Feels like coming home." Fellow American Annie Frisbie finished fifth as four of the top nine finishers were from the U.S. Hassan, who won the Sydney Marathon two months ago, was sixth.

Chelsea Clinton was also one of the finishers, completing the course in just under 3:45. She was greeted at the finish line by her parents - former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The 26.2-mile course took runners through all five boroughs of New York, starting in Staten Island and ending in Manhattan's Central Park. This is the 49th year the race has been in all five boroughs. Before that, the route was completely in Central Park. The first race had only 55 finishers, while a record 55,642 people finished last year, the largest in the history of the sport until the London Marathon broke it earlier this year.

Marcel Hug and Susannah Scaroni both won the wheelchair races dominantly. Hug, known as the Silver Bullet, has now won this marathon seven times. He finished 3:52 ahead of second-place finisher David Weir. Scaroni defended her title and was victorious for the third time in four years. She crossed the finish line 5:43 ahead of second-place finisher Tatyana McFadden, who has won the race five times.



Benson Kipruto and Alexander Mutiso cross the finish line to win first and second place in the men's elite division of the New York City Marathon in New York. (AP)



Hellen Obiri celebrates winning first place in the women's elite division of the New York City Marathon in New York. (AP)

UN agencies praise the initiative held under the patronage of Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

UN highlights ‘Football for Humanity’ initiative in Kuwait: Children are the agents of change

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: In a joint expression of support, United Nations agencies praised Kuwait's Football for Humanity initiative as a model of how sport can advance humanitarian diplomacy and youth engagement. The UN Resident Coordinator Office, UNICEF, UNESCO and the World Health Organization (WHO) each underscored football's power to foster unity, resilience, and peace, noting that initiatives like Football for Humanity – held under the patronage of Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs – reflect the UN's commitment to promoting humanitarian values and global solidarity with Palestinian children and communities affected by crisis.

H.E. Ghada Hatem ElTahir, Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator in the State of Kuwait, and a member of the initiative's Board of Trustees, said the initiative brings together children from Kuwait and Palestine, turning solidarity into action and sending a clear message that peace and humanity are built through collective effort. She added that the UN recognizes the value of Football for Humanity, which demonstrates how sport can be a powerful catalyst for unity, empathy, and peace. Football is more than just a game; it is a language of fairness, teamwork, respect, and compassion. These are core principles that can be passed down to youth

In a shared letter, UNICEF praised the initiative, saying: “At UNICEF, we believe that every child has the right to play, to dream, and to grow in safety and dignity. The Football for Humanity initiative reflects these fundamental rights using the power of sport to unite children, foster inclusion, and nurture hope. This year's focus on children in Palestine is a poignant reminder that even amid crisis, their resilience and spirit endure. Through football, we are not only creating moments of joy, but we are also advancing children's rights to protection, participation, and development, reaffirming our shared responsibility to give every child the opportunity for a brighter, more peaceful future.”

UNESCO warmly welcomed the initiative as an inspiring model, saying: “UNESCO welcomes and supports the Football for Humanity initiative as



H.E. Ghada Hatem ElTahir, UN Secretary-General's Representative and Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, speaking at the Football for Humanity Kick-Off press conference.

an influential illustration of sport's capacity to inspire, unite, and transform lives. Football embodies values essential for peacebuilding and resilience such as teamwork, respect, and solidarity. In contexts affected by crisis, inequality, or displacement, sport offers young people a platform to rebuild their confidence and recover. The initiative reflects the core principles of UNESCO's 'Fit for Life' programme, promoting sport and physical education as pathways to inclusion, wellbeing, and community rebuilding.”

Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chairperson of Alnowair Non-Profit Foundation, Chair of the Organizing Committee, said: “We are honored to launch Football for Humanity in close partnership with the United Nations. This initiative demonstrates how the power of sport can transcend borders, foster unity, and instill humanitarian values in young people. As a country recognized internationally as a Humanitarian Center, We are providing a platform in Kuwait where our children can come together in support of Palestinian children, translating solidarity and the passion of sport into tangible action. Football becomes a catalyst for support and peace. Together with the UN, we aim to make Football for Humanity a beacon of hope and solidarity from Kuwait to the children of Palestine.”

Football for Humanity, a UN-backed humanitarian diplomacy initiative co-organized by Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, and three UN agencies, UNICEF, WHO, and UN-ESCO, with additional support from the embassies of Italy, France, Spain, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Brazil, Egypt, India, Palestine, and Armenia, alongside leading private-sector partners, Al Hamra Real Estate Company, Agility Public Warehousing, and Kout Food Group, franchisee of Pizza Hut in Kuwait.

The initiative aims to provide essential aid to Palestinian children through the Kuwait Red Crescent Society via youth football tournaments, charity auctions, and community engagement. The youth football tournament will take place on November 6–7 at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium in Sulaibikhat, featuring 34 teams and 400 boys and girls aged 8–11. The matches will be accompanied by family activities and a vibrant retail village, with free attendance for all. In parallel, an online charity auction is currently open and will run until November 7, offering exclusive signed football memorabilia from Andrés Iniesta, Andrea Pirlo, and the national teams of Italy, Belgium, and Brazil. Match schedules and updates are available on the initiative's Instagram.

Athletes step up training ahead of Games

HH Prince Fahad inspects village ahead of Games



HH Prince Fahad bin Jalawi inspects the Athletes' Village at Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University ahead of the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games, Riyadh 2025.

RIYADH, Nov 3: The 6th edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games – Riyadh 2025 is set to officially begin on Tuesday, November 4, bringing together more than 3,000 male and female athletes from 57 nations to compete across 23 sports and 2 demonstration events at five main venues in the Saudi capital. The Games will run from 7 to 27 November, with the opening ceremony scheduled for Friday at Al Janadriyah.

Opening Day: Futsal and Volleyball Take Center Stage

Competitions kick off on Tuesday, 4 November, with futsal matches at the Green Halls in the Prince Faisal bin Fahad Olympic Complex. The first matchday features four contests: Saudi Arabia vs Uzbekistan, Libya vs Azerbaijan, Iran vs Morocco, and Afghanistan vs Tajikistan.

On the same day, volleyball matches begin at Boulevard Riyadh City, with Azerbaijan facing Tajikistan and Türkiye meeting Iran, officially marking the start of the Games' competitive events.

Athletes Training Ahead of the Games

Athletes have continued their training programs in preparation for the competitions, while the organising committees ensure smooth operations and world-class facilities to deliver an outstanding edition reflective of the Kingdom's growing sporting stature.

The Athletes' Village, located at Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University, features a fully equipped training complex within a five-minute walk of the accommodation area, providing athletes with



Athletes explore the Athletes' Village ahead of Riyadh 2025 Games.

optimal conditions during their stay.

Five Venues Fully Prepared

All five main venues have been readied to host events:

Prince Faisal bin Fahad Olympic Complex: handball, futsal, swimming

Boulevard Riyadh City: e-Sports, table tennis, wrestling, weightlifting, para weightlifting, wushu, fencing, volleyball

Prince Faisal bin Fahad Sports City: athletics, para athletics, jiu-jitsu, judo, karate, taekwondo

Sports Boulevard: 3x3 basketball, boxing, muaythai

Al Janadriyah: equestrian (show jumping), duathlon, camel racing, and the Opening Ceremony

Prince Fahad bin Jalawi Tours Athletes' Village

His Highness Prince Fahad bin Jalawi, Chairman of the Supreme Organising Committee of the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games – Riyadh 2025, visited the Athletes' Village at Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University, the residence hub for all participating delegations.

During the visit, HH Prince Fahad toured the facilities, reviewed operational plans, and received briefings on the committees' workflow throughout the Games. The visit underscores his commitment to providing an ideal environment for athletes and ensuring a world-class edition that reinforces Riyadh's position as a global sports capital.

Spotlight turns to Aichi-Nagoya

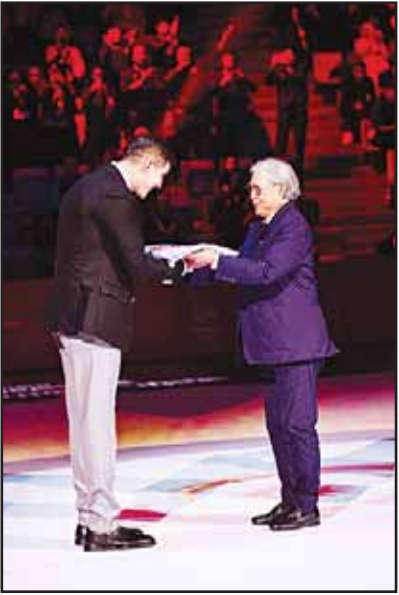
Success of Bahrain Youth Games paves way for 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Bahrain Asian Youth Games drew to a spectacular close on Friday marking an action-packed year for Asian sport with even more to come in 2026 as the continent prepares for three more thrilling Games including the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games.

The Bahrain Asian Youth Games was one of two Games held in 2025 with the unforgettable Harbin Asian Winter Games taking place on 7-14 February 2025. Over 4,000 young athletes from all 45 Asian NOCs competed in Bahrain showcasing the strength of sport in the continent and its promising future. Earlier in the year, 1,230 of the world's best Asian winter athletes gathered in Harbin for an incredible showcase of winter sport and its significant development in Asia in recent years.

Next year will see Asia's flagship event – the Asian Games – take place in Aichi-Nagoya with 13,000 of the continent's best athletes battling it out for Asian titles on 19 September – 4 October 2026. On 22-30 April 2026 Sanya, China will host 4,000 athletes for the Asian Beach Games while Riyadh, Saudi Arabia will host another 4,000 athletes competing in the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG). In total, more than 26,000 athletes will compete across the three Games in 2026 reflecting the size and strength of Asian sport.

OCA Director General Husain Al Musallam said: “Asia is the world's most populous continent; rich in its diversity of language, culture and religion, but we are united through our love of sport. Since the birth of the Asian Games in Manila, Philippines in 1913, our Games have brought our diverse nations together through peaceful competition and showcased the best of Asian sport.



OCA Acting President Timothy Fok passes OCA flag to Otabek Umarov - OCA Vice President for Central Asia.

“We saw that in action this year with the fantastic Asian Winter Games and Asian Youth Games and we will do so again next year across our three Games in 2026.

“We are grateful for the excellent collaboration we enjoy with NOCs, Organising Committees and International Federations (IFs) in delivering these events. We have worked hard to reduce complexity of the Games and ensure that we take a flexible approach to management and operations that can adapt to the specific contexts of the host countries. It is only through this collaboration we are able to host five world-class Games, involving more than 26,000 athletes, and engaging 103 IFs and Asian Federations, in just two years.”

Al-Arabi aims to bounce back after Challenge League exit

Kuwait Club looks to keep winning streak alive

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi return to domestic action following their campaigns in the AFC Challenge League. Kuwait Club will host Al-Nasr at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium at 5:25 PM, while Al-Arabi welcomes Al-Jahra at 7:40 PM at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, in the final matches of Round 7 of the Zain Premier League.

Kuwait Club has already secured a spot in the Challenge League quarterfinals, while Al-Arabi was eliminated in the group stage. Both matches had been postponed from Round 6 and rescheduled for today from Round 7.

League leader Kuwait Club, with 13 points, will look to claim its fifth win of the season and continue topping the table. The team has been in excellent form, going unbeaten in the league with just one draw against second-placed Al-Arabi, and will aim to take advantage of Al-Nasr's



Al-Arabi players in full swing during the game.

struggles.

Al-Nasr remains bottom of the table with zero points, having failed to score in the first six rounds apart from a single goal. Reports suggest that Tunisian coach Jamel Belkacem may be replaced by Serbian coach Petcha due to the team's poor run.

Second-placed Al-Arabi, with 11 points, is determined to bounce back after a disappointing exit from the Challenge League group stage. With a postponed match against Al-Tadamon still pending, any result short of a win today could see it lose its second-place standing, now tied on points with Qadsia. Coach Marco Peix is aware that a slip-up could put his position at risk.

Meanwhile, Al-Jahra, eighth with 7 points, hopes to continue its recent momentum, having won two of the last two rounds, giving it a cushion from the relegation zone.

Kuwait takes on Jordan in championship opener

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait's national men's volleyball team, known as the “Blue Spikers,” will begin its campaign in the inaugural Arab Men's Challenge Cup with an opening match against hosts Jordan on November 28 in Amman, where the tournament will run until December 5. The opening day will also feature clashes between Egypt and Libya, and Bahrain and Palestine.

The official draw for the championship was conducted virtually earlier this week, in the presence of Feras Al-Halwaji, Secretary-General of both the Bahraini and Arab Volleyball Federations. A total of seven national teams will compete: Kuwait, Bahrain, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Palestine, and Jordan.



Zaid Al-Kazemi

In preparation for the event, the team has launched its daily training sessions at the Volleyball Federation Hall within the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Complex, under the guidance of Argentinian head coach Julian Alvarez and assistant coach Zaid Al-Kazemi. The team's preparation plan, developed in coordination with the National Teams and Training Committee, spans one month – beginning with intensive local training followed by an external training camp abroad.

The initial squad for Kuwait includes: Adhbi Al-Enezi, Abdullah Buftan, Omar Al-Enezi, Nawaf Al-Sanea, Mohammed Al-Dhafiri, Ibrahim Safar, Abdullah Al-Mwainaa, Abdunnasser Al-Enezi, Fares Siraj, Bader Al-Attar, Rashid Anbar, Ahmed Al-Munais, Nasser Dashti, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Youssef Mandil, Talal Abdulrazzaq, Abdulrahman Al-Mulla, Fahad Saad Yaqoub, Hassan Al-Qattan, Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa, and Saud Al-Duwaisan.

Meanwhile, international referee Abbas Ashkanani has been selected to officiate volleyball matches at the upcoming Islamic Solidarity Games in Saudi Arabia, set to take place from November 5 to 13.

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NEWS



Los Angeles FC midfielder Andy Moran (19) and Austin FC defender Zan Kolmanic (23) battle for the ball during the second half of Game 2 in the first round of MLS soccer's Western Conference playoffs in Austin, Texas. LAFC won 4-1. (AP) — See Page 14

Sports

Kuwaiti shooters lead the pack at Asian Shooting Championship



Shooters aiming for targets during the Asian Trap Shooting Championship in Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Asian Trap Shooting Championship continues with the finals of the Men's Trap 50 Targets and Women's Trap 50 Targets events at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. Running until November 8, the championship has showcased strong performances and fierce competition among Asia's top shooters.

Kuwaiti shooters continued to shine in the qualification rounds, taking the lead in both categories. In the women's event, Shahad Al-Hawal and Hajar Abdulmalik of Kuwait, along with Marwa Bourki of Bahrain, topped the standings. In the men's competition, Khaled Al-Mudhaf and Abdulrahman Al-Faihan (Kuwait) were among the leaders alongside Nikita Musayev from Kazakhstan.

Lebanese shooter Ahmad Dakkour praised the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Ranges, calling them among the best facilities in the world for hosting major international tournaments. He also commended the organizing committee, chaired by Eng. Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi, President of the Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations, for their professionalism and excellent organization.

Dakkour highlighted that the championship's first two days were marked by perfect weather conditions and strong participation, with around 72 shooters from various Asian nations, which added excitement and competitiveness to the event. He expressed his eagerness to always compete in Kuwait, citing the world-class facilities and high-level organization that enable

shooters to perform at their best.

Saudi shooter Naif Al-Buqmi expressed his gratitude to the Higher Organizing Committee for the outstanding organization and attention to detail, noting that every effort was made to ensure the comfort and success of the participants.

He said, "This is my first time competing in a continental championship hosted by Kuwait, and I was truly impressed by the Kuwait Shooting Federation's exceptional facilities and smooth organization. The level of competition among Asian shooters has been very strong, all within a great sporting spirit."

Al-Buqmi added that even those who did not make the podium have gained valuable experience and exposure, which will benefit them in future championships.

India celebrates historic women's World Cup title

'A defining moment'

NEW DELHI, Nov 3, (Agencies): India won its first-ever ICC Women's Cricket World Cup title on Sunday night, defeating South Africa by 52 runs in a pulsating final at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

Celebrations erupted across India following the victory, which ended the country's 52-year wait for a maiden Women's World Cup title.

Cricket fans marked the win by setting off firecrackers, dancing in the streets and congratulating one another.

Indian leaders and sports personalities described the victory as a "defining" moment that could inspire an entire generation.

"Congratulations to our players. This historic win will motivate future champions to take up sports," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a statement posted on social media said.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India, the national governing body of the sport, announced the team would receive a reward of 5.8 million U.S. dollars.

The Women's Cricket World Cup was first held in 1973.

India won the Women's Cricket World Cup for the first time with a 52-run victory over South Africa, led by brilliant all-round performances from Deepti Sharma and Shafali Verma.

Opening batter Verma, who was only called back into the squad as injury cover for the finals, scored a career-best 87 off 78 balls as the tournament co-host reached 298-7 in 50 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat.

South Africa was out for 246 in 45.3 overs in reply with its chase effectively over after skipper Laura Wolvaardt was out for 101. Spinner Sharma took the final wicket of the match and returned bowling figures of 5-39 from 9.3 overs.

"We were waiting for this moment, and now this moment has come," India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said, reflecting on a triumph after two previous finals defeats. "Now we want to make this a habit." India was the last of the four teams to qualify for the semifinals, but then beat defending champion and seven-time winner Australia by five wickets to reach the final. South Africa beat four-time champion England by 125 runs to reach the final for the first time.

Winning at home gave India its first major women's cricket title. Harmanpreet Kaur's squad was the first, first-time champion since 2000, when New Zealand ended the long dominance of Australia and England.

Verma - who was drafted in last week for the injured Pratika Rawal - took 2-36 with the ball and was voted player of the match.

Before her five-wicket haul, Sharma (58) posted her third half-century of the tournament to help India reach the second highest total in a World Cup final after Australia's 356-5 against England in 2022.

She finished the tournament with 22 wickets and 215 runs in nine matches



Indian players celebrate with the trophy after their win over South Africa in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup final match in Navi Mumbai, India. (AP)

to capture the player of the tournament honors.

Wolvaardt a fine century on the back of her impressive semifinal performance. She was easily the tournament's highest scorer with 571 runs at an average 71.37.

Chasing a record 299, South Africa made a sedate start under immense pressure from medium pacer Renuka Singh.

Wolvaardt shared a 51-run first-wicket stand before a direct throw from Amanjot Kaur ran out and Tazmin Brits for 23 in the 10th over.

Padel World Cup Pairs kicks off in Kuwait with over 250 players

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): The FIP World Cup Padel Championship officially kicked off on Monday in Kuwait, taking place at Arena 360 Mall and the Rafa Nadal Academy. The global event features over 250 top male and female players competing for the title, and will continue until November 9.

Tournament Director Mishal Al-Ansari told KUNA that the championship is not only a major sporting event but also a touristic and recreational attraction, drawing audiences from both inside and outside Kuwait. He emphasized that the organizing committee is fully prepared to deliver a world-class tournament, noting that Kuwait's experienced human resources are capable of managing major international events with professionalism and excellence.



Players in action.

Al-Ansari explained that the competition follows a knockout format, beginning with the main qualifiers before progressing to the round of 16, quarterfinals, semifinals, and the final match. He also invited fans and padel enthusiasts to attend and enjoy exciting matches featuring some of the sport's biggest names and most skilled players.

Held under the supervision of the International Padel Federation (FIP) and organized by BNK Holding Group, the opening day included 20 matches — 16 in the men's category and 4 in the women's. Kuwaiti participation was highlighted in the draw, as Dhari Al-Ansari and his Argentine partner Chioistri faced Spain's Rodriguez and Argentina's Robini, while Abdulrahman Al-Awadi and his Spanish partner Marcos went up against Spain's Gonzalez and Italy's Casetta.

Gilgeous-Alexander keeps Thunder unbeaten, Pelicans remain winless

Suns hand Spurs first loss of the season

PHOENIX, Nov 3, (AP): Devin Booker scored 28 points, Grayson Allen and Ryan Dunn each added 17 and the hot-shooting Phoenix Suns handed Victor Wembanyama and the San Antonio Spurs their first loss, 130-118 on Sunday night.

Wembanyama had a rare off night, scoring nine points on 4-of-14 shooting while grabbing nine rebounds. It was the first time he was held to fewer than 10 points since Oct. 30, 2024, when Oklahoma City limited him to six.

The 7-foot-4 Wembanyama - who also had six turnovers - had averaged 30.2 points and 14.6 rebounds during San Antonio's 5-0 start.

The Suns made 14 of their first 20 3-pointers and led by 31 points in the third quarter before settling for a 102-78 advantage heading into the fourth.

The Spurs got within 111-97 with 6:24 left but the Suns scored the next 11 points. Phoenix won back-to-back games for the first time this season. Booker shot 10 of 15 from the field and had 13 assists. The Suns' bench scored 50 points, led by Collin Gillespie's 15.

Thunder 137, Pelicans 106
In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-

Alexander had 30 points and seven assists in three quarters, and the Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the New Orleans Pelicans to extend their season-opening winning streak to seven games.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 8 of 14 field goals and all 13 of his free throws in 30 minutes to keep the Pelicans winless.

Isaiah Hartenstein had 14 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists for the Thunder, who shot 56% from the field and had eight players score in double figures. Oklahoma City's largest lead was 36 points in the fourth quarter.

Lakers 130, Heat 130

In Los Angeles, Luka Doncic had 29 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, Austin Reaves scored 26 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Miami Heat to extend their winning streak to three games.

Jamie Jaquez Jr. scored 31 points for the Heat and Bam Adebayo and Pelle Larsson added 17 points each.

The Heat never led. The Lakers jumped to a 8-0 lead and led by 18 points in the first half.

Knicks 128, Bulls 116
In New York, Jalen Brunson scored

31 points as the New York Knicks snapped a three-game losing streak and handed the Chicago Bulls their first loss of the season.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 20 points and 15 rebounds for his fifth double-double of the season, while Josh Hart had 14 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks, who scored the most points they've had in a game this season and avoided their first four-game losing streak since Feb. 8-14, 2024.

Cavaliers 117, Hawks 109

In Cleveland, Donovan Mitchell made eight 3-pointers and scored a season-high 37 points in his return to Cleveland's lineup, leading the Cavaliers to a win over the Atlanta Hawks, who are navigating the early season without injured star guard Trae Young.

Mitchell was back after missing Friday's home loss to Toronto with hamstring tightness.

76ers 129, Nets 105

In New York, Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 29 points, Tyrese Maxey had 26, and the Philadelphia 76ers defeated the Brooklyn Nets.

Oubre made 9 of 11 field goals and

had 22 points in the first quarter, but limped off the court after injuring his ankle at the buzzer in the third. The forward was cleared to return to the bench with 10 minutes remaining in regulation but did not reenter the game.

Raptors 117, Grizzlies 104

In Toronto, RJ Barrett scored 27 points, Brandon Ingram added 26 and the Toronto Raptors won consecutive games for the first time this season by beating the short-handed Memphis Grizzlies.

Memphis was without two-time All-Star guard Ja Morant, who was suspended one game Saturday for what the Grizzlies described as conduct detrimental to the team.

Hornets 126, Jazz 103

In Charlotte, Miles Bridges scored 29 points, Kon Knueppel added a career-high 24 and the Charlotte Hornets routed the Utah Jazz to snap a three-game losing streak.

High-energy backup center Moussa Diabate provided a huge spark for the Hornets with 17 points and 12 rebounds. Sion James, Knueppel's college teammate at Duke, also had a career-high 15 points.