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Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Chief of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receive the Azerbaijan envoy.



Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Chief of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (unseen) receive the Czech envoy.

Amiri Diwan Minister, Crown Prince Diwan Chief receive ambassadors

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Chief of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Wednesday the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kuwait, Emil Karimov. During the reception, the officials dis-

cussed the exceptional ties linking both countries and ways to further enhance them in all fields.

Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs also received at Bayan Palace on Wednesday the ambassadors of the Czech Republic and Cyprus.

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Amir expresses condolences over demise of former US VP Cheney

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of condolences to the President of the United States Donald Trump over the demise of former Vice President Richard Bruce Cheney.

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of condolences to

the President of the US Donlad Trump on the demise of former Vice President Richard Bruce Cheney.

Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of condolences to the President of the US Donald Trump on the demise of former US Vice President Richard Bruce Cheney.

'Need to reshape women's image'

DOHA, Nov 5, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights, Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah, on Wednesday affirmed that women are capable of taking on key mediating and peacebuilding roles.

This came during a side event on women's role in peacebuilding: voices from the Arab

region, organized by the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the League of Arab States and UN Women, on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha.

Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Al-Sabah emphasized the need to reshape women's

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Private sector skills debated

Capital return will uplift economy, create jobs: expert

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Can the Kuwaiti private sector undertake the major projects that have been postponed for years, projects that would place a financial burden on the state budget if implemented? This question was posed by the daily to several economists.

In response, economist Mohammad Ramadan stated that the local private sector is not capable of implementing large infrastructure projects, such as the metro project, due to a lack of experience in this field.

He said the state could hire international companies with a strong track record for executing

projects that the private sector cannot handle, especially since these projects require substantial capital. Ramadan cited the Al-Mutlaa residential project, for which Kuwait contracted a Chinese company to execute.

Meanwhile, economic advisor Abdullah Hadi Al-Gharib believes that private sector participation is the quickest way to implement major projects, especially since the private sector possesses substantial capital that enables it to carry out these projects without the state incurring any financial burdens that could increase budget deficits in the coming years.

He affirmed that the return of Kuwaiti capital abroad, estimated at 25 billion dinars, to the local market would strengthen the national economy and create more job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth.

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Photo by Rizk Taufiq

The cake-cutting ceremony as Armed Forces marks National Founding Day and Armed Forces Day.

'Kuwait, Korea stand united in challenges, ties historic'

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: "The Republic of Korea and Kuwait have stood shoulder to shoulder in facing changes and challenges. When Kuwait experienced its darkest moments in 1990, South Korea stood by its side as a loyal friend, providing financial assistance and sending medical and air units to support the Kuwaiti people," says Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea Counselor Kim Heyjin.

Kim made the statement during the celebration of the Republic of Korea's National Day recently, with Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mashari, representative of the Ministry of Defense Air Force Commander Brigadier General Firas Al-Qattan, and a number of ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps in attendance.

She pointed out that "over the years, we have succeeded in consolidating our cooperation based on mutual trust and respect. We share a common vision for achieving further development and growth."

She said the South Korean government remains committed to openness and constructive dialogue with the international community, upholding the values of cooperation and mutual respect. She expressed appreciation for Kuwait's unwavering stance of moderation and mediation, as well as its humanitarian contributions in the region, including its efforts to help those affected by the crisis in Gaza.

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Kuwait, Google Cloud deal hailed

Strategic step in going hi-tech: Al-Omar

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Minister of State for Communications Affairs Omar Al-Omar affirmed on Wednesday that the agreement between the Kuwaiti government and Google Cloud represented a strategic milestone in building the national digital infrastructure and a qualitative leap in the management and operation of government services.

Speaking at the "Cloud Day Kuwait" event, Al-Omar stated that the agreement supports the State's vision for a digital economy based on innovation and artificial intelligence (AI), paving the way for the development of future government applications and services that rely on advanced data analytics and informed decision-making.

This, he added, aligns with the political leadership's support for national digital integration and the objectives of "New Kuwait 2035."

The minister explained that, under the agreement, several national projects have been launched, forming the practical foundation for Kuwait's digital transformation. The first is the National Data Exchange Platform (Apigee), which serves as the cornerstone of governmental integration by unifying Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) among government entities within a secure and reliable digital environment.

He added that another key initiative is the Data Migration



Omar Al-Omar

to Cloud Project (SOW2), which aims to transfer government systems to Google Cloud in a modern and secure manner.

These projects, he noted, are not merely technical steps but represent an integrated operational framework that lays the foundation for a data-driven, smart government, fostering a safe, sustainable digital ecosystem that supports innovation and enhances the quality of life and public services.

The goal is not only to move to the cloud but to build digital sovereignty that safeguards the country's data and enables government entities to operate efficiently, securely, and swiftly, Al-Omar said, noting that over 67 digital interfaces have been activated across eight government bodies, enabling smooth and reliable data exchange.

He expressed his gratitude to Google Cloud for its continuous support in building Kuwait's advanced digital infrastructure, emphasizing that the partnership serves as a global model for public-private collaboration in shaping a sustainable digital future.

In turn, General Manager of Google Cloud Kuwait, Shaymaa Al-Terkait, said the partnership represents a vital investment in the country's future and a pioneering example of cooperation between the public and private sectors to enhance Kuwait's digital capabilities. She stressed that this collaboration contributes to accelerating digital transformation and technological integration across government entities.

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Kuwaiti women shine in all fields: minister

DOHA, Nov 5, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila highlighted the journey of Kuwaiti women as a leading model in transitioning from empowerment to influence, affirming that "thanks to the wise leadership, a rich history of social and civil activism, and an ever-renewed ambition across generations, Kuwaiti women have made their mark in all fields."

This came in her speech delivered on Wednesday during the high-level side event titled "Women at the Heart of Development: From Empowerment to Impact," organized by the Sultanate of Oman in partnership with the State of Kuwait and the GCC Secretariat General, on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development held in Doha, Qatar.

Dr. Al-Huwaila affirmed that Kuwaiti women have contributed to legislation from a humanitarian and social perspective as parliamentarians, led educational and academic institutions as ministers and university presidents, reshaped the cultural landscape as writers, artists, historians, and media figures, and achieved distinction in international sporting events.

She added that Kuwaiti women have advanced specialized healthcare services in fields such as medicine, surgery, nuclear and neurological sciences, and have innovated new technologies and medical devices.

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KUNA photo
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah receives GCC Interior Ministry undersecretaries.

1st Deputy PM stresses GCC is united in bonds of security

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah on Wednesday received GCC interior ministry undersecretaries ahead of their preparatory meeting hosted by Kuwait prior to the 42nd meeting of GCC interior ministers. Sheikh Fahad conveyed to the GCC undersec-

retaries the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, welcoming them to Kuwait.

He underscored the unity and the bonds that connect GCC states, particularly in security, which is a core pillar of stability, affirming

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Abducted Kuwaiti rescued in drug-bust Bekaa action

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (Agencies): Lebanese Army Intelligence successfully rescued a kidnapped Kuwaiti citizen in the Bekaa Valley early Wednesday, and apprehended the six-member gang involved in the abduction, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to media reports, Lebanese Army Intelligence, in accordance with high-level military directives, rescued the citizen who had been kidnapped near the town of Karak in the Bekaa Governorate, eastern Lebanon. It had deployed several mobile checkpoints near the town of Saadnayel in the Zahle district close to the Bekaa Valley. An ambush was set for the kidnappers, allowing the military to safely rescue the Kuwaiti citizen without any injuries. He was then transferred to Beirut after the Embassy of Kuwait in Beirut was contacted.

Security sources explained that the rapid execution of the operation was a major factor in both apprehending the gang members and successfully freeing the Kuwaiti citizen.

Firm directives have been issued to confront all kidnapping and extortion operations, along with strenuous efforts to combat smuggling and drug trafficking in the Bekaa Valley and across Lebanon.

The six-member armed gang, composed of Lebanese and Syrian nationals, lured the Kuwaiti citizen to the Bekaa Valley before kidnapping him and demanding a ransom.

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Housewives caught working at illegal clinic

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: As part of the efforts of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) to monitor and regulate the labor market and ensure compliance with labor laws and regulations, the Labor Inspection Department has been carrying out intensive inspection campaigns in coordination with the Residency Affairs Investigation Department at the Ministry of Interior, the Drug Control General Department, and the Health Licensing Department at the Ministry of Health, reports Al-Anba daily.

PAM revealed on its website that, during one of these inspection campaigns, the joint tripartite committee discovered a health center employing workers not authorized by PAM to work, including individuals holding family residency per-

mits and domestic workers. The center was also found to be practicing medicine without a license, using unlicensed and unidentified medications stored improperly, and operating medical devices on patients. These actions constitute clear violations of the laws regulating the practice of medicine, labor, and residency in Kuwait.

PAM affirmed that joint inspection campaigns are ongoing in all governorates to deal with various types of violations, stressing that no leniency will be shown in taking legal action against those who violate labor laws.

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HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Ibn Khaldun said, 'The Arabs ate camels and acquired their jealousy and harshness.'



Whoever eats a certain type of animal acquires some of its character and traits.



In our time, we have taken from the chicken its bowed head and incessant chatter.



I learned the most important lesson of my life from a taxi driver.



He said, "Don't be a garbage truck that collects and dumps waste."



Smile, move on, and continue on your way.



The old man said to the young man, "My son, I will give you one of my daughters to marry."



Go and ask people about my daughters, then come back and choose one to marry.



The judge said, "Let us repeat the last 50 years' prayers."

3

It's payback time ... forgers get 7 years

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: A Kuwaiti citizen and a Gulf national have been sentenced to seven years in prison with hard labor and fined KD 599,000, double the amount they embezzled in salaries, financial benefits, loans, and rent allowances by forging Kuwaiti citizenship documents, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This verdict followed an investigation by the Nationality Investigations Department, which revealed manipulation of one defendant's lineage. DNA testing confirmed that the samples did not match the alleged father, proving the forgery.

The court emphasized that the defendants' actions caused serious harm to the prestige and benefits of Kuwaiti citizenship and constituted illegal exploitation of public funds, warranting the maximum deterrent punishment to protect public order and the interests of the state.



8 Markaz records Total Revenue for 9M 2025 of KD 22.67 million

9 Zain underscores partnership with public sector to transition to a green economy

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

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Rather hot with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h.
By Night: Rather cold to cold with light variable wind, with

Weather			
speeds of 06-22 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	34	19	
Kuwait Airport	32	11	
Abdaly	32	14	
Jahra	33	16	

Failaka Island	31	13
Salmiyah	30	22
Ahmadi	34	15
Nuwaisib	33	14
Wafra	32	12
Salmly	27	10



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

Crown Prince, PM condole Saudi Royal Family loss

Kuwait HH Amir sends condolences to King Salman on demise of Princess' mother

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of condolences to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the demise of Princess Maha bint Mohammad Al-Saud's mother. His Highness the Amir wished peace for the deceased and solace for the Saudi Royal Family.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday cable of condolences to King Salman bin

Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the demise of Princess Maha bint Mohammad Al-Saud's mother. His Highness the Crown Prince wished peace for the deceased and solace for the Saudi Royal Family.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday cable of condolences to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the demise of Princess Maha bint Mohammad Al-Saud's mother.



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

Kuwait hosts GCC Forum on energy, water conservation

Leaders push sustainable consumption and efficiency

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Minister of Electricity, Water, Renewable Energy and Finance, and acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem pointed out that convening the Gulf Forum for Rationalizing Electricity and Water Consumption reflects the depth of cooperation and integration among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and strengthens joint efforts to address the challenges related to sustainability and the management of vital resources.

Speaking at the opening session of the forum on Wednesday, Al-Mukhaizeem said the GCC countries recognized early on that rationalizing electricity and water consumption is no longer a secondary option, but rather an essential element for maintaining water, food and energy security. He stated that rapid population, urban and industrial growth necessitates the adoption of conscious consumption patterns and modern technologies that reduce waste and increase efficiency.

He asserted that conservation must become a permanent societal culture and behavior, not just temporary awareness campaigns, as efficient resource management is a pledge for



Minister of Electricity, Water, Renewable Energy and Finance, and acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem delivers his speech during the Gulf Forum.

future generations and a guarantee of continuous development in the Gulf countries.

He revealed that Kuwait has made progress in energy conservation through national awareness programs, application of energy efficiency standards in the planning and operation phases, and expansion of renewable energy projects, in line with the New Kuwait 2035 vision and the Gulf's move towards a green economy and reducing carbon emissions.

He confirmed that the Gulf experience in conservation constitutes a comprehensive system of expertise worthy of documentation and exchange, starting with smart meters and monitoring systems, moving through green buildings and energy-efficient appliance standards, and

culminating in promoting societal awareness and responsible consumption behavior.

He commended the role of the Gulf Committee for Electricity and Water Conservation and Customer Services, and the initiatives, programs and awards it offers as they encourage positive competition among individuals and institutions.

He expressed his gratitude to the GCC Secretariat General, the organizing committees, and the participating entities from within and outside Kuwait. He wished for the success of the forum in establishing a culture of sustainability, and prayed that Allah will protect Kuwait and grant it security and prosperity under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness

the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.

On the other hand, Fatouh Al-Raqam, acting Executive Director of the Energy and Building Research Center, presented the Gulf Excellence Award for Energy and Water Efficiency during a visual presentation. She explained that the award aims to encourage innovative practices and raise awareness on the importance of conservation.

She said the current edition of the award has 24 entries from GCC countries and seven winners were selected, indicating the industrial buildings category was withheld due to the lack of entries that meet the excellence criteria.

Following are the winners of the Gulf Excellence Award

- Best Commercial Building**
 - Federal Electricity and Water Authority Building – United Arab Emirates
 - Saudi Electricity Company – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Best Educational Building**
 - Kahramaa Awareness Park – State of Qatar
- Other Buildings Category**
 - Al-Othman Mosque – State of Kuwait
- Best Gulf influencer in the field of energy conservation**
 - Abdulaziz Faisal – State of Kuwait.
- Best mobile application for energy efficiency**
 - Energy X app – Abu Dhabi
- Best financial building**
 - National Bank of Kuwait Headquarters – State of Kuwait

Kuwait FM receives copy of credentials of Brunei envoy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya received on Wednesday the copy of the credentials of the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Brunei Haji Sulaini Haji Said.

During the ceremony, held at the Foreign Ministry headquarters, Minister Al-Yahya wished the newly appointed Ambassador success in his efforts to boost bilateral ties.

Al-Hassan pledges continued co-op

UNAMI vows to resolve Kuwait-Iraq missing persons and property cases

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Al-Hassan, reaffirmed the UN's commitment to supporting Kuwait and Iraq in resolving the files of missing persons and Kuwaiti property.

During an interview with KUNA on Tuesday, Al-Hassan stressed UNAMI's dedication to closing the missing persons file "once and for all," in a way that brings solace to the families of the missing and strengthens good-neighborly relations between both countries.

He noted that UNAMI's role is defined under UN Security Council Resolution 2107 (2013), which mandates the Mission to facilitate Iraq's efforts in returning the remains of Kuwaiti and other nationals, as well as restoring Kuwaiti property, including the national archives seized during the 1990 invasion.

Al-Hassan highlighted the recent handover of 400 boxes containing Kuwaiti books and microfilm tapes belonging to Kuwait's Ministry of Information, describing it as a "significant step" in enhancing cooperation and building trust between the two neighbors.

He recalled earlier returns, including 200,000 books in 2019 and 738 boxes of materials in 2022, as part of Iraq's ongoing fulfillment of UN resolutions.

Since assuming its role in 2013,



KUNA photo
Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Al-Hassan, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

UNAMI has helped identify the remains of 59 Kuwaiti and other nationals found in Iraq, with over 300 individuals still missing, he added.

Al-Hassan further referred to the UN Security Council Resolution 2792 (2025), which calls for the appointment of a High-Level Representative to continue supporting efforts to locate missing persons and recover Kuwaiti property after UNAMI's mandate ends.

He emphasized that continued cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq, supported by modern technology, remains key to achieving closure on this humanitarian file, reaffirming the UN's commitment to stand by both nations until all outstanding issues are resolved.

SME support goes digital

MoCI completes electronic linkage for funded projects

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has confirmed the completion of the digitization of all procedures related to projects funded by the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development.

This step aims to simplify the business environment and facilitate transactions for entrepreneurs, in line with the strategy of the State towards digital transformation and reducing paperwork.

Following a press conference organized by the ministry to make the announcement, acting Undersecretary of the ministry Marwa Al-Jaidan revealed the launching of new electronic services that enable the National Fund to monitor funded projects and safeguard public funds. She asserted that "the electronic transformation ensures the organization of the oversight process in a way that preserves the rights of the State and supports entrepreneurs."

Al-Jaidan confirmed that government systems are now unified and interconnected, hence, the ease of issuing, updating and tracking commercial licenses electronically without the need for any paper documents. She said this greatly contributes to accelerating the business cycle and supporting the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

She clarified that the electronic linkage stems from the fact that these projects are financed by the National Fund, necessitating the implementation of all their procedures through the systems of the Fund, as it is the responsible financing and supervisory body. She added this move reinforces the principles of transparency and financial governance.

She added the ministry has dedicated an electronic screen within its systems to the National Fund, covering the 10 activities under its supervision including business incubators, innovation centers and business accelerators. Thus, the establishment, renewal, cancellation and approval processes are now entirely elec-

tronic, eliminating paper transactions.

She affirmed that this development aligns with the vision of the State to move towards the digital economy, and a continuation of efforts to regulate the business environment and support the SMEs sector as a pillar of economic development.

She stated that this step is part of the ongoing endeavor of the ministry to improve the business environment, simplify procedures and reduce paperwork. She added that this achievement is part of the vision of the ministry to unify and integrate government systems to facilitate procedures for entrepreneurs and business owners, and to simplify the steps for issuing, updating and tracking commercial licenses electronically, thereby, eliminating the need for paper transactions.

She emphasized that this procedure enhances the principles of transparency and joint oversight between the two entities to ensure the proper disbursement of funds, and that support is directed to those truly deserving.

In addition, Eng Basma Al-Jassem, Director General of the Fund, underscored the importance of this integration between the Fund and the ministry regarding funded projects. She described this step as distinctive and crucial for integration between government entities, supporting the entrepreneurship ecosystem, and expediting transactions between the two parties.

She indicated that this step, specifically the completion of the electronic linking of all procedures related to funded projects, will contribute to accelerating the pace of work and obtaining approvals through the Fund. She disclosed that the number of projects funded by the Fund has exceeded 1,000 since the beginning of 2016.

Abdullah Al-Harz, Director of International Relations and official spokesperson of the ministry, confirmed that the ministry has transferred all previously submitted transactions to the electronic system. He added the ministry is ready to train the staff of the Fund on how to handle the new procedures to ensure smooth operations.



Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem with the winners of the Gulf Excellence Award.

Digital courses to enhance service and efficiency

Ministry launches 'Skills for Tourism' program

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Information launched four online training courses under the "Skills for Tourism" program, offering free access to all professionals working in Kuwait's tourism sector to enhance their skills and knowledge.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Ministry said the program was launched under the directives of Minister of Information, Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, in coordination with the Ministry of State for Communications.

The program is in cooperation with SPARK, an international charitable organization dedicated to training young people for education, employment, and the development of their entrepreneurial projects, and funded by Google.



Dr. Nasser Muhaisen, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information

It offers four main courses covering government tourism strategies, small and medium-sized enterprise manage-

ment in experiential tourism, and event planning and design.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, Dr. Nasser Muhaisen, said the initiative builds on the first phase targeting Tourism Department staff and now includes all tourism sector workers.

He added that the program would promote digital transformation, knowledge exchange, and modern skills, therefore, would support national goals to develop tourism, diversify the economy, and improve service quality.

Google's Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy for the MENA region, Naser Qawami, said the tourism program would help equip Kuwait's tourism workforce with vital digital skills, fostering sustainable growth and empowering local talent.

SPARK's Regional Director for the Middle East, Dina Al-Masaeid, said the program aims to empower individuals and institutions to build a more dynamic and sustainable tourism sector in the region.

The Skills for Tourism program aims to support 25,000 job seekers and small business owners in the Middle East and the Gulf region through training courses available in both Arabic and English that focus on developing skills in the tourism sector.

The program supports the ministry's efforts to develop Kuwait's tourism sector, enhance workforce efficiency in public and private institutions, and align with the "New Kuwait 2035" vision to strengthen the country's status as a premier tourist destination.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



Ibn Khaldun said, ‘The Arabs ate camels and acquired their jealousy and harshness.’

IN his Muqaddimah, Ibn Khaldun wrote, “The Arabs ate camels and acquired their jealousy and harshness. The Turks ate horses and acquired their ferocity and strength.”

Ibn al-Qayyim said, “Whoever eats a certain type of animal acquires some of its character and traits.”

In our time, we have eaten too much chicken, and as a result, we have clucked and squawked excessively. We have become the target of ridicule by other nations. We have taken from the chicken its humiliation, bowed head, and lack of ambition. We have taken its incessant chatter and squawking. How many chicken-like people there are in our time!

Sheikh Ali Tantawi (May God have mercy on him) recounted in one of his famous programs, “While I was heading to the airport in a taxi, the driver was staying in his correct lane when a car suddenly pulled out of a parking lot onto the road. The taxi driver quickly slammed on the brakes, narrowly avoiding a collision.

The strange thing was that the other driver, a fool, turned toward us and began shouting and cursing. The taxi driver swallowed his anger, waved an apology, and smiled. I was surprised and asked him, ‘Why are you apologizing to him when he’s the one at fault and almost caused an accident?’ That’s when the taxi driver taught me a lesson, which I call the ‘garbage truck rule.’ He explained that many people are like garbage trucks, driving around loaded with piles of garbage in the form of various problems, frustration, anger, failure, and disappointment. When this garbage accumulates inside people, they need to dump it somewhere nearby.”

The driver advised me not to make myself their landfill and not to take it personally. He said, “Just smile, move on, and continue your way. Pray to Allah to guide them and relieve their distress. Be careful not to become like them.”

Do not collect trash and dump it on others at work, at home, or on the street.

Successful people never let garbage trucks spoil their mood or drain their energy. Appreciate those who treat you kindly, as they are the beautiful flowers in your life. Wish well for those who wrong you, as they are the ones in need of compassion and

Whoever eats a certain type of animal acquires some of its character and traits.

In our time, we have taken from the chicken its bowed head and incessant chatter.

I learned the most important lesson of my life from a taxi driver.

He said, “Don’t be a garbage truck that collects and dumps waste.”

Smile, move on, and continue on your way.

The old man said to the young man, “My son, I will give you one of my daughters to marry.”

Go and ask people about my daughters, then come back and choose one to marry.

The judge said, “Let us repeat the last 50 years’ prayers.”

mercy. It is said that a young man loved a girl and wanted to propose to her. He asked people about her, but they told him she was of ill repute, ill-mannered, and rude. Discouraged, he gave up on proposing.

On his way home, he saw an old man who noticed his pale and troubled appearance and asked, “What’s wrong, my son? Why do you look so pale?”

The young man told him his story. The old man replied, “Come with me, my son, and I will give you one of my daughters to marry. But first, you must ask people about my daughters’ reputations.”

The young man followed the old man’s advice, and when he returned, he said, “People told me that

all your daughters are wicked and immoral.”

The old man smiled and invited him into his home.

When the young man entered, he found no daughters, but only the elderly couple.

The old man said, “People do not realize that those who ruin others’ lives with lies will have their own lives exposed by the truth. Go on your way and marry the girl you love.”

A judge once heard a young man speaking in the mosque about asceticism. He said to his students, “Let’s go and test him. If he answers my questions well, we will sit and listen.”

When they entered the mosque, the judge asked the young man, “Tell me about prayer.”

The young man replied, “Are you asking about the etiquette of prayer or how to perform it?”

The judge was surprised that the young man responded with a question. He then clarified, “Tell me about the etiquette of prayer.”

The young man replied, “The etiquette of prayer is to obey Allah’s command, begin with the intention that it is solely for Him, remember His greatness, recite the Quran with reverence, bow and prostrate with humility, speak with sincerity, and conclude by asking for mercy.”

The judge then asked, “Tell me how to perform the prayer.”

The young man replied, “Face the Ka’aba, keep the scales of your deeds in mind, remember that prayer is the path to Allah, imagine Paradise to your right, Hell to your left, and the Angel of Death behind you, ready to take your soul. But do not assume Allah must accept your prayer.”

The judge asked, “How long have you been praying like this?”

The young man replied, “For twenty years.”

The judge turned to his companions and said, “Let us go and repeat the prayers of the past fifty years.”

Misfortunes reveal your friends from your enemies. Through hardships, you discover who rejoices in your joy and who shares in your sorrow. Life teaches many lessons, but the most important is to truly understand them.



How beautiful discipline is, and how wonderful it is to know our limits and capabilities. Ignorance leads to the ruin of nations, and injustice is even worse.



Injustice must be punished sooner or later. Every oppressor will face someone more oppressive than himself.



For a righteous believer, all trials are ultimately for their benefit. Never stop praising Allah in all circumstances.



The punishment of the oppressor often begins with the deterioration of his health. This is how life is; it is the decision of fate.



Someone said, “Surah Yusuf taught me that the sick will be healed, the absent will return, the sorrowful will rejoice, and hardships will come to an end.”

Municipality orders demolition of 67 unsafe buildings in Jleeb

Need to stem spread of e-adverts: MC member

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Director General of the Kuwait Municipality Manal Al-Asfour issued an administrative order requiring the owners of 67 properties in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh to evacuate and demolish them within two weeks of the date of publication of this order in the official gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm).



Al-Asfour

This order is based on reports from the Government Center for Testing, a letter from the deputy director general for Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates, and a letter from the Legal Department.

The Municipality indicated that reports from the Government Center for Testing, Quality Control and Research, affiliated with the Ministry of Public Works, confirmed that these buildings are unsafe, susceptible to collapse, and pose a serious threat to life, property and public safety. It stated that the relevant

department in the Municipality is responsible for ensuring that owners remove the buildings within the specified timeframe.

Al-Asfour emphasized that if the owners fail to demolish these buildings after the deadline, the concerned municipal department will remove them at the expense of the owners after ensuring that they are completely vacant.

Meanwhile, Municipal Council Member Dr. Hassan Kamal submitted a question to the executive branch regarding the regulation of electronic advertisements, in light of the ministerial decree regarding the advertising regulations issued on Dec 28, 2023, and the Council’s approval of the amendments submitted by Kuwait Municipality.

Kamal stated that the amended regulations include provisions on television and electronic advertisements, yet the proliferation of electronic advertisements continues, with some advertisers failing to adhere to the regulations. He pointed out that some electronic advertisements were licensed before the new regulations were issued, hence, the need to clarify their current implementation mechanism.

He requested detailed answers regarding the mechanisms for implementing Article 13 of the regulations, which pertains to not harming pedestrians and neighbors, determining lighting intensity and brightness standards and their impact on public safety and health, and the role of the Ministry of Interior in approving lighting intensity, the orientation and location of electronic billboards and their impact on motorists.



Ahmadi Governorate photo
Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives Ambassador of Mexico to Kuwait, Eduardo Patricio Peña Haller in his office.

Kuwait, Mexico ties boost eyed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received the Ambassador of Mexico to Kuwait, Eduardo Patricio Peña Haller, in his office on Tuesday morning. According to a press release issued by Ahmadi Governorate, the meeting included cordial discussions on bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways to further strengthen cooperation in various fields. For his part, Ambassador Peña Haller expressed his appreciation for the warm reception, commending the exceptional care and attention extended to the Mexican diplomatic mission and citizens at both the official and public levels in Kuwait.

Kuwaiti jailed 7 years in ‘royal’ defamation issue

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge Fahd Bouslaib, sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to seven years in prison with hard labor after convicting him of offending the Amir, embracing extremist ideology, and planning to travel to Nigeria to join ISIS and fight with the group.

Security forces from the Ministry of Interior arrested the defendant following a thorough investigation, which revealed that he had adopted extremist ideas and called for the overthrow of the Kuwaiti government through publications and extremist activities.

The Court of Appeals overturned the Criminal Court’s previous ruling, which had acquitted the defendant of the charges of offending the Amir.



Minors driving rises: The General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry remains committed to the strict enforcement of the law to ensure the safety of road users.

The most recent traffic campaign led to the arrest of six minors for driving without a license in various parts of the country within 24 hours.

A security source revealed that traffic officers deployed in the governorates identified several violators and reckless drivers whose actions endangered others. He said these individuals were apprehended and referred to traffic detention centers for legal action.

The source affirmed that traffic campaigns are continuing round the clock in all governorates, stressing the department does not tolerate any violation of the law in order to protect lives and properties and promote the culture of traffic compliance among motorists.

Drugs cache dumped in sea seized

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: In accordance with the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, the General Directorate of the Coast Guard seized a large quantity of narcotics and psychotropic substances during field operations conducted on the seabed in areas where ships wait within Kuwait’s territorial waters, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the operation resulted in the seizure of 193 pieces of hashish and

93 pieces of psychotropic substances, estimated at around 10,000 pills, which were intended for distribution. The operation is part of a security strategy aimed at strengthening coastal surveillance, combating smuggling attempts via maritime routes, and preventing the exploitation of maritime areas for trafficking prohibited substances.

The ministry affirmed its ongoing commitment to implementing security measures to protect maritime borders and counter any attempts at smuggling or breaching security.

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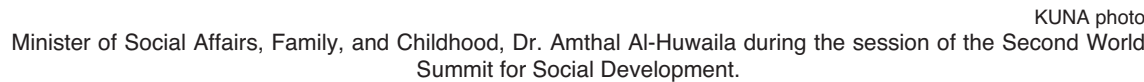
Overlooking Gulf Road, Salem Al Mubarak Street

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Al-Huwaila calls for a unified national strategy

Despite a tangible progress in poli-

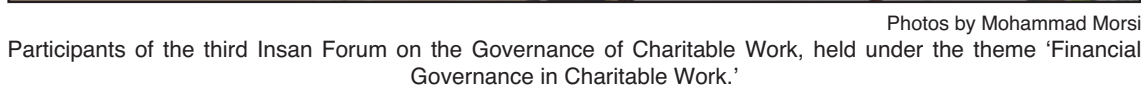
Stressing the necessity of the plan's implementation, Al-Huwaila noted that accelerating the UN strategy for integration requires a real political will, enabling government cadres and boosting partnerships.

He explained that children were prioritized due to the severe effects of war, displacement, and lack of necessities. The project was carried out in cooperation with local charitable

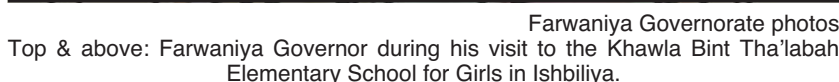
Al-Kandari noted that this was not just about providing clothes, but a message of compassion and solidarity from the Kuwaiti people to Gaza's children.

Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi delivers a speech at the opening of Insan International Forum.

He explained that charitable work in Kuwait has a long history of giving, and that the ministry intends to regulate it effectively and smoothly by implementing a financial governance system applicable to all charitable organizations. He said the sustained existence of these organizations is closely linked to the level of governance they imple-



At the end of the visit, Principal Al-Anzi expressed her gratitude to the governor for his visit and continued support of schools and educational activities, noting that his visit serves as a motivation to further enhance their efforts in advancing the educational process.



Dr. Issa

He then affirmed the unwavering commitment of the ministry, as per the directive of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, to continue its development and evaluation approach in line with the requirements of the current stage and to guarantee the sustainability of cooperative work.



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Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, inaugurates the 47th Kuwait Conference on Otolaryngology, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery with the participation of an elite group of doctors and consultants.



Health Minister Al-Awadhi highlights latest surgical innovations and international expertise



Kuwait hosts 47th ENT and Reconstructive Surgery Conference

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The 47th Kuwait Conference on Otolaryngology, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery commenced Wednesday under the patronage and in the presence of Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, with the participation of an elite group of doctors and consultants representing more than 10 Arab and international countries, including Kuwait.

Al-Awadhi affirmed that holding the conference is in line with the commitment of the ministry to keep updated on the latest medical and surgical developments world-wide, stressing that the conference is considered a vital scientific platform, which brings together the experts and specialists from Kuwait and abroad to exchange experiences and review the latest technologies in this field.

In his speech at the event, Al-Awadhi pointed out that organizing this major scientific event underscores the keenness of the ministry to develop medical performance and the quality of services provided to patients, while adhering to the highest safety and quality standards. He disclosed this includes adopting advanced technologies, which bolster the precision and efficiency of surgical procedures and achieve optimal treatment outcomes.

He added that this conference is unique as it does not only showcase the latest medical research and technologies, but also serves as an interactive platform for exchanging expertise among doctors and specialists from various countries. “Lecturers from Canada, Turkiye, Russia, Europe, and several Arab and Gulf countries are participating this year, alongside renowned Kuwaiti doctors who will share their pioneering experiences and perform complex and advanced head, neck, ear, nose and throat surgeries.

He believes that active participation in such conferences contributes to developing the skills of medical personnel and their scientific and practical competence, which positively impact the quality of healthcare services and strengthen the ongoing development of the medical



Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi poses for a group photo during the 47th Kuwait Conference on Otolaryngology, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

system in the country.

He cited several remarkable achievements of Zain Specialized ENT Center, particularly performing the first procedure of its kind in a government hospital in the Middle East to treat sleep-disordered breathing by implanting a smart chip that stimulates the 12th cranial nerve located under the tongue. He affirmed this procedure was performed by Kuwaiti doctors.

He added the center also performed cochlear implant surgeries on infants aged six and nine months who lost their hearing after contracting meningitis, a first for public hospitals in the country. He said the center introduced the TRV device for treating motion sickness, also the first of its kind in the country. He confirmed as well the expansion of services in new areas by establishing a two-

day-a-week ENT clinic in Sabah Al-Ahmad and opening a specialized 24/7 emergency clinic in Mutlaa.

Meanwhile, conference Chairman Dr. Mutlaq Al-Sihan stated that the three-day conference serves as a vital scientific platform for presenting and discussing advancements in head, neck and ear surgeries, and balance disorders. He disclosed that the first day was allocated for exploring the latest developments in cosmetic and reconstructive head and neck surgery, while the second day focuses on the most recent techniques in microsurgery of the ear, cochlear implantation and implantable devices, and the third day is for presentations on new approaches to diagnosing and treating balance disorders.

He said specialized workshops in the fields of hearing, speech difficulties and balance are being held on the side-

lines of the conference, in addition to a number of major surgical procedures and microsurgery of the ear and nose, with the participation of visiting consultants from several countries.

He added the conference this year puts emphasis on scientific research and modern surgical techniques, with the participation of lecturers from Canada, France, Britain, Switzerland, Russia, Turkiye, South Korea, India, Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, along with the best Kuwaiti doctors.

Waleed Al-Khashti, CEO for Corporate Communications and Relations at Zain, said the company is proud of its participation in the conference, as this participation is an extension of the historical relationship that has linked Zain to the healthcare sector in Kuwait for more than a quarter of a century.

In his speech, Al-Khashti said “we are happy to be present at this distinguished medical event, which brings together experts and physicians from Kuwait and abroad. It serves as a scientific platform that contributes to the development of healthcare services and the support of national talent.”

He stressed that Zain is proud that its first presence in the healthcare sector was established in 1998 through the founding of Zain Hospital, which was later handed over to the government, specifically the Ministry of Health. “This medical institution has been providing high-quality and advanced services to patients over the years,” he added.

He revealed that Zain’s participation in this annual conference, which tackles a new specialized topic each year, is part of the ongoing cooperation between the company and Zain Hospital. He affirmed that this cooperation reflects the commitment of the company to support the healthcare sector in Kuwait and strengthen the partnership between public and private institutions. He stressed that Zain is keen on being active in supporting health and scientific initiatives, which contribute to the development of the national medical system, and that it will continue this approach based on its social responsibility towards the country and its institutions.

Continued from Page 1

Private sector

Indicating that bureaucracy had been driving capital flight, Al-Gharib revealed that the recent period has witnessed a strong and genuine push for economic and political reform, which has reassured Kuwaiti investors and encouraged the return of their capital.

He stressed that the government could allow multiple private sector companies to participate in the metro project, with ownership reverting to the state after 20 years, similar to the arrangements for the Souq Sharq Complex and Al-Muthanna Complex.

Al-Gharib affirmed the importance of implementing the metro project in parallel with the construction of the six workers’ cities, noting that sites for these cities have already been allocated in Subiya, South Jahra, North Mutlaa, South Sabah Al-Ahmad, and South Khairan City.

He indicated that the project to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub has been proposed for many years but has yet to materialize, and insisted on the need to activate this initiative as one of the main goals of New Kuwait 2035 vision.

Al-Gharib explained that the Public-Private Partnership Projects Authority should take the lead in implementing such projects. Its founding law No. 116/2014 aims to leverage the capabilities of the local private sector, enhance its efficiency, promote market competition, and facilitate development and innovation. The authority’s role is not limited to encouraging private sector participation through partnerships with the government but also extends to ensuring balance in project tendering processes, stimulating and attracting Kuwaiti capital, and generating new revenues for the state budget.

In addition, economist and former head of the Kuwait Contractors Association Dr. Salah Boursli highlighted the importance of involving the private sector in major projects that the government has postponed for years.

He affirmed that private sector participation would help solve the problem of financing needed to implement these projects, especially since the state has been incurring billions in additional costs due to repeated delays.

Dr. Boursli explained that the metro project, for which structural plans were drawn up in 2011, was initially expected to cost the state around KD 4 billion to KD 5 billion. However, due to the postponement of the project, the cost may now exceed KD 15 billion.

He called for the removal of all obstacles facing the local private sector so it can contribute more effectively to economic development and play a stronger role in resolving financial challenges.

Dr. Boursli emphasized that there are many projects requiring private sector participation through the B.O.T. system, which is one of the main mechanisms for implementing major national projects.

Amiri Diwan

During his reception with Czech Ambassador to Kuwait, Juraj Chmiel, Minister Hamad Al-Jaber reviewed over 60 years of bilateral relations and ways to further develop them in all fields, especially in commerce and culture.

The minister’s meeting with Cypriot Ambassador to Kuwait, Andreas Panayiotou, also focused on similar issues and ways to enhance ties for the mutual interest of both countries.

Strategic step

Al-Terkait noted that Google Cloud has worked on three main initiatives with government agencies, foremost among them training and capacity-building programs launched in partnership with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT). These include training programs for all government entities, with plans to expand to universities and startups.

She explained that these programs are offered both online and through in-person events in Kuwait, highlighting the National Skilling Initiative, which has trained more than 2,000 Kuwaitis on Google Cloud technologies.

Al-Terkait affirmed that the second initiative, launched with the Government Communication Center, addresses data-mapping challenges on Google Maps. Through this program, 90 government employees from 40 agencies were trained to create institutional accounts and manage their entities’ data directly on the platform.

The third initiative, she said, focuses on developing and promoting Kuwait’s tourism sector through artificial intelligence technologies, implemented in cooperation with Google.org, Spark, and the Ministry of Information. The project aims to empower national talent to use AI tools to enhance tourism services and promote local destinations through specialized training programs.

Meanwhile, the Managing Director of Google Cloud for the Middle East, Turkiye, and Africa, Abdulrahman Al-Thehaiban, reaffirmed the company’s commitment to supporting Kuwait’s digital transformation efforts, noting that cooperation with Kuwaiti government entities dates back several years, beginning with the AFA agreement, which enables 114 government agencies and state-owned enterprises to benefit from Google Cloud services.

Google Cloud has focused on enhancing government operational capabilities through cloud technologies, in addition to training more than 2,000 government employees on advanced digital solutions, he added.

The event also included panel discussions on cloud migration and the journey of Kuwaiti institutions toward adopting Google Cloud technologies, along with sessions on Google Workspace for public sector collaboration and building the National Digital Integration Platform (Apigee), a key pillar of the government-Google Cloud partnership.

‘Need to

image in the media, noting that women are often portrayed as victims despite their ability to take on vital roles in media and peacebuilding.

She highlighted that women in GCC countries now serve on the frontlines, including in the military, noting that their roles extend beyond politics and diplomacy, which is a clear testament to their capability to excel in all fields.

Sheikha Jawaher highlighted women’s significant contributions to mediation and diplomacy, noting their active roles in conflict zones and their ability to perform effectively in the most challenging environments.

The Second World Summit for Social Development kicked off Tuesday in Doha, Qatar, and will run for three days.

Abducted Kuwaiti

The rescue operation was carried out as part of the security campaigns conducted by the Lebanese Army throughout the country.

A heavy exchange of fire took place between security forces and the kidnappers, resulting in the injury of one of the wanted individuals. The operation included an armed chase through the town’s streets, which ended with the army regaining control and safely releasing the hostage.

The detainees were transferred to the Directorate of Military Intelligence at the Lebanese Ministry of Defense for investigation under judicial supervision.

However, sources indicated to Al-Rai daily that kidnapping was unlikely, as the citizen could have simply been present at the scene during the time of the drug bust.

They affirmed that security authorities in Beirut are investigating the citizen to determine the circumstances behind his presence during the arrest of the criminal gang involved in drug-related activities.

1st Deputy

that the preparatory meeting is vital to coordinate common issues and enhance cooperation and expertise exchange to reinforce regional security.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Sheikh Fahad wished the GCC undersecretaries’ success, expressing hope their discussions would yield constructive outcomes that support joint Gulf action and bolster efforts to preserve security and stability in GCC states.

The preparatory meeting for the 42nd Conference of Interior Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries launched Wednesday in Kuwait, chaired by Acting Undersecretary of Kuwait’s Ministry of Interior and head of the current session, Major General Ali Al-Adwani.

In his opening remarks, Al-Adwani extended the greetings of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, and his wishes

of a successful meeting.

Al-Adwani underscored the importance of collective security among GCC countries, noting the current phase demands enhanced security and technical integration, shifting from coordination to unified Gulf-wide action.

He stressed that Kuwait’s leadership, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Hamad Al-Sabah, is deeply committed to bolstering Gulf cooperation, especially on security, as it considers Gulf-wide stability indivisible and foundational to regional prosperity.

Al-Adwani emphasized the necessity of practical, constructive recommendations to be submitted to the upcoming ministers’ meeting.

The session covered items on the agenda aimed at strengthening joint GCC security cooperation, reviewing the latest regional security developments and coordinating efforts and objectives required at this stage.

Housewives caught

It clarified that each relevant authority is implementing the necessary legal procedures against violators within its respective jurisdiction.

PAM urged employers and workers to fully comply with applicable laws and regulations to protect the interests of workers and public safety, and to ensure a well-regulated labor market.

‘Kuwait, Korea

She added that the journey of South Korea is distinguished by resilience and innovation. “Rising from the ashes of war, it now contributes significantly to promoting peace, development and technology,” she disclosed.

She also highlighted the cultural and creative strength that South Koreans show on screen and beyond.

Similarly, she said Kuwait is fully aware of the pain of war and the challenges of reconstruction. She emphasized that both countries have successfully transformed difficulties into opportunities, losses into victories, and aspirations into tangible progress.

She confirmed that the friendship between South Korea and Kuwait will remain strong and continue to evolve, illuminating the path toward a more peaceful, interconnected and humane world. She added their shared journey continues, and that they celebrate not only the past they have built but also the future they will create together.

Kuwaiti women

They have also gained recognition in space studies, physics, engineering, cybersecurity, and information technology, maintaining a strong presence on Forbes’ lists of the most influential and successful women in business and finance.

The minister noted that Kuwaiti women have excelled in humanitarian, volunteer, and relief work, defending human rights and community development, while recently taking on roles in police, military, defense, and judiciary sectors. “These achievements,” she said, “represent a national asset of which all Kuwaitis are proud.”

Dr. Al-Huwaila emphasized that women’s participation is no longer an optional or complementary matter, nor a response to international agendas, but rather a prerequisite for achieving social justice and economic progress. She explained that Kuwait’s development policies over the past decades have focused on empowering women educationally, health-wise, economically, and politically, resulting in tangible successes and qualitative gains across all sectors.

“It is time,” she stated, “to move to the next phase, enabling women to create sustainable impact through active participation in shaping inclusive policies that promote justice, equality, and sustainable development.”

She praised Oman’s choice of the event’s title, saying that “‘Women at the Heart of Development’ precisely reflects women’s true place in the progress equation - as the beating heart of development - and calls for moving beyond empowerment to influence and change.”

Concluding her speech, Dr. Al-Huwaila said the world now stands at a crossroads between empowerment and impact, stressing that “one cannot exist without the other.” She called for continuing empowerment efforts while

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Plumes of smoke rise from the area of a UPS cargo plane crash at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport, on Nov 4, in Louisville, Ky. (AP)

7 killed after UPS plane crashes in Kentucky

First responders searched for more victims Wednesday after a UPS cargo plane crashed and exploded in a massive fireball while taking off from the company's global aviation hub at the airport in Louisville, Kentucky, killing at least seven people and injuring 11, authorities said.

The plane crashed about 5:15 pm Tuesday as it was departing for Honolulu from UPS Worldport at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport.

Kentucky Gov Andy Beshear posted online Wednesday morning that 16 families who gathered at a reunification center "have reported loved ones unaccounted for."

The airport is just a 10-minute drive from the city's downtown, which sits on the Ohio River bordering the Indiana state line. There are residential areas, a water park and museums there. Emergency officials initially put out a shelter-in-place order for a 5-mile (8-kilometer) radius. By Wednesday morning, they shrunk it to just a quarter-mile (0.4-kilometer) radius as officials monitored the air quality.

Over 200 responders were on the scene Tuesday night, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg said. (AP)

US govt shutdown becomes longest on record as fallout spreads nationwide

WASHINGTON, Nov 5, (AP): The government shutdown has entered its 36th day, breaking the record as the longest ever and disrupting the lives of millions of Americans with federal program cuts, flight delays and federal workers nationwide left without paychecks.

US President Donald Trump has refused to negotiate with Democrats over their demands to salvage expiring health insurance subsidies until they agree to reopen the government. But skeptical Democrats question whether the Republican president will keep his word, particularly after the administration restricted SNAP food aid, despite court orders to ensure funds are available to prevent hunger.

Trump, whose first term at the White House set the previous government shutdown record, is set to meet early Wednesday for breakfast with GOP senators. But no talks have been scheduled with the Democrats.

"Why is this happening? We're in a shutdown because our colleagues are unwilling to come to the table to talk about one simple thing: health care premiums," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., in a late evening speech.

"Stop this mess, come to the table, negotiate it," she said.

With Trump largely on the sidelines, talks have intensified among a loose coalition of centrist senators trying to negotiate an end to the stalemate.



The Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and the US Capitol are all affected by the government shutdown in Washington on Nov 4. (AP)

Expectations are high that the logjam would break once election results were fully tallied in Tuesday's off-year races that were widely watched as a gauge of voter sentiment over Trump's second term in the White House. Democrats swept key contests for governor in Virginia and New Jersey, and New York City mayor, certain to shake up the political assessments.

But earlier in the afternoon, Senate Democrats left an hours-long private meeting stone-faced, with no certain path forward.

"We're exploring all the options," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said afterward.

Trump's approach to this shutdown stands in marked contrast to his first term, when the government was partially closed for 35 days over his demands for funds to build the US-Mexico border wall. At that time, he met publicly and negotiated with congressional leaders, but unable to secure the funds, he relented in 2019.

California voters approve new US House map to boost Dems in 2026

Zohran Mamdani wins New York City mayor's race, capping a stunning ascent

NEW YORK, Nov 5, (AP): Zohran Mamdani was elected mayor of New York on Tuesday, capping a stunning ascent for the 34-year-old, far-left state lawmaker, who promised to transform city government to restore power to the working class and fight back against a hostile Trump administration.

In a victory for the Democratic party's progressive wing, Mamdani defeated former gov Andrew Cuomo and Republican Curtis Sliwa. Mamdani must now navigate the unending demands of America's biggest city and deliver on ambitious - skeptics say unrealistic - campaign promises.

With his commanding win, the democratic socialist will etch his place in history as the city's first Muslim mayor, the first of South Asian heritage and the first born in Africa. He will also become New York's youngest mayor in more than a century when he takes office on Jan 1.

"The conventional wisdom would tell you that I am far from the perfect candidate. I am young, despite my best efforts to grow older. I am Muslim. I am a democratic socialist. And most damning of all, I refuse to apologize for any of this," Mamdani declared to a roaring crowd at his victory party.

He cast his win as a boon for blue-collar workers struggling to get by. "New York, tonight you have delivered a mandate for change," he said, vowing to "wake up each morning with a singular purpose: To make this city better for you than it was the day before."

More than 2 million New Yorkers cast ballots in the contest, the largest turnout in a mayoral race in more than 50 years, according to the city's Board of Elections. With roughly 90% of the votes counted, Mamdani held an approximately 9 percentage point lead over Cuomo.

Mamdani's unlikely rise gives credence to Democrats who have urged the party to embrace more progressive candidates instead of rallying behind centrists in hopes of winning back swing voters who have abandoned the party.

He has already faced scrutiny from national Republicans, including President Donald Trump, who have eagerly cast him as a threat and the face of a more radical Democratic Party that is out of step with mainstream America. Trump has repeatedly threatened to cut federal funding to the city - and even take it over - if Mamdani won.

At his victory party in Brooklyn, Mamdani supporters cheered and embraced, some tearfully, after The Associated Press called the race. Campaign posters flew through the air, as one person hoisted the official flag of New York City and Bad Bunny played from the speakers.

The mood was far more muted at Cuomo's party at a midtown Manhattan the-



Zohran Mamdani speaks during a victory speech at a mayoral election night watch party on Nov 4, in New York. (AP)

ater. In his concession speech, a defiant Cuomo called his campaign "a caution flag that we are headed down a dangerous, dangerous road" and noted that "almost half of New Yorkers did not vote to support a government agenda that makes promises that we know cannot be met."

Still, he corrected his supporters when they began to boo at the mention of Mamdani's name.

"No, that is not right," he said, offering to help the incoming mayor in any way. "Tonight was their night." Mamdani's grassroots campaign centered on affordability, and his charisma spoiled Cuomo's attempted political comeback. The former governor, who resigned four years ago following allegations of harassment that he continues to deny, was dogged by his past throughout the race and was

criticized for running a negative campaign.

Mamdani will also have to deal with Trump, who not only threatened retribution against the city but also suggested he might try to arrest and deport Mamdani if he won. Mamdani was born in Uganda, where he spent his early childhood, but was raised in New York City and became a US citizen in 2018.

In his speech, Mamdani addressed Trump head on.

"New York will remain a city of immigrants, a city built by immigrants, powered by immigrants and as of tonight, led by an immigrant," he said, adding that, "If anyone can show a nation betrayed by Donald Trump how to defeat him, it is the city that gave rise to him."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: California voters approved new congressional district boundaries Tuesday, delivering a victory for Democrats in the state-by-state redistricting battle that will help determine which party wins control of the US House in 2026 and, with it, the power to thwart or advance President **Donald Trump's** agenda.

The approval of Proposition 50 gives Democrats a shot at winning as many as five additional seats, just enough to blunt **Texas Republicans'** move to redraw their own maps to pick up five GOP seats at Trump's urging. Texas' move and California's response have kicked off a flurry of redistricting efforts around the country, with Republican states appearing to have an edge. Deeply blue California is Democrats' best opportunity to make up seats.

Midterm elections typically punish the party in the White House, and Trump is fighting to maintain his party's slim House majority. Republicans hold 219 seats to Democrats' 213.

Tuesday's results mark a political victory for Democratic Gov **Gavin Newsom**, who cast the measure as an essential tool to fight back against Trump and protect American democracy. Speaking to reporters in Sacramento, Newsom cast the California vote as part of a broader national rejection of Trump's policies that saw Democratic governors elevated in **New Jersey** and **Virginia**. But he warned the more consequential battle would come next year.

If Democrats win the House majority, they can "end Donald Trump's presidency as we know it," Newsom said. "It is all on the line, a bright line, in 2026."

California's Proposition 50 asked voters to suspend House maps drawn by an independent commission and replace them with rejiggered districts adopted by the Democratic-controlled Legislature. Those new districts would be in place for the 2026, 2028 and 2030 elections.



Rescue cars are parked in front of a nursing home after a fire in Tuzla, Bosnia on Nov 4. (AP)

Retirement home fire kills 11 in Bosnia

Bosnian officials said Wednesday that at least 11 people died and more than 30 were injured in a fire in a retirement facility that broke out the evening before in Bosnia.

It was not clear what caused the fire on the 7th floor (US 8th floor) of the building in Tuzla on Tuesday evening. Bosnian media reported that higher floors in the complex were occupied by elderly people who could not move on their own or were ill.

Tuzla mayor Zijad Lugavic said firefighters and rescue workers were among the injured, and that authorities were holding an emergency meeting on Wednesday to assess the situation.

Ruza Kajic, who lives at the third floor, said she had gone to bed when she heard "popping sounds" and saw flames falling from upper floors. (AP)

Pope Leo calls for 'deep reflection' about treatment of detained migrants in US

VATICAN CITY, Nov 5, (AP): Pope Leo XIV called for "deep reflection" in the United States about the treatment of migrants held in detention, saying that "many people who have lived for years and years and years, never causing problems, have been deeply affected by what is going on right now."

The Chicago-born pope was responding Tuesday to a range of geopolitical questions from reporters outside the papal retreat at Castel Gandolfo, including what kind of spiritual rights migrants in US custody should have, US military attacks on suspected drug traffickers off Venezuela and the fragile ceasefire in the Middle East.

Leo underlined that scripture emphasizes the question that will be posed at the end of the world: "How did you receive the foreigner, did you receive him and welcome him, or not? I think there is a deep reflection that needs to be made about what is happening."

He said "the spiritual rights of people who have been detained should also be considered," and he called on authorities to allow pastoral workers access to the detained migrants. "Many times they've been separated from their families. No one knows what's happening, but their own spiritual needs should be attended to," Leo said. Leo last month urged labor union leaders visiting from Chicago to advocate for immigrants and welcome minorities into their ranks.

Asked about the lethal attacks on suspected drug traffickers off Venezuela, the pontiff said the military action was "increasing tension," noting that they were coming even closer to the coastline.



Pope Leo XIV waves from his popemobile at the end of a Mass for the Jubilee of Migrants and Missionaries in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Oct 5. (AP)

European Union praises Ukraine's reforms, warns Serbia and Georgia in progress reports

BRUSSELS, Nov 5, (AP): The European Union on Tuesday praised Ukraine's progress on reform to join the bloc despite concerns over its efforts to tackle corruption, and issued tough warnings to candidates Serbia and Georgia about democratic backsliding.

In a series of enlargement reports, the bloc's executive branch, the European Commission, also said that Montenegro could wrap up its EU membership talks by the end of next year, leaving it first in line to become the 28th member country.

Presenting the reports, EU Enlargement Commissioner Marta Kos said the progress toward membership made by Ukraine and Montenegro, but also Albania and Moldova, "shows that reforms pay off. This should serve as a strong motivation for all countries engaged in the process."

The annual reports on 10 countries, most of them in the Western Balkans,



European Council President Antonio Costa, (left), walks with Serbia's President Aleksander Vucic prior to a meeting at the European Council building in Brussels, Belgium on Nov 4. (AP)

come with the EU's enlargement process all but stalled. Croatia was the last country to join, 12 years ago.

France, notably, has insisted that the EU is too unwieldy and must itself reform before taking more countries on board. National vetoes wielded by Hungary and increasingly Slovakia have slowed decision-making and action in the world's biggest trading bloc.

Europe

Driver rams into crowd, 9 injured in France: A motorist rammed pedestrians and cyclists Wednesday on Île d'Oléron, a French island off the Atlantic coast, injuring nine people before being detained by gendarmes, officials said. Two of the injured were in critical condition, said Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez. He said an investigation has been opened and he was heading to the scene.

Dolus-d'Oléron Mayor **Thibault Breckhoff** said in a social media post that several deliberate collisions occurred in two towns and injured nine people. A crisis cell was set up and the suspect was arrested, he said.

The incidents took place along roadside areas between the two communes, with first calls around 9:00 a.m., according to local media. (AP)



Drones disrupt flights at Belgium airport: Flights at Belgium's main international airport remained disrupted on Wednesday after drone sightings overnight forced it to close temporarily and Prime Minister Bart De Wever called a meeting with senior ministers to discuss safety concerns.

It was the first time that airport in Brussels has been shut down by drones. It comes after a series of unidentified drone flights over the weekend near a military base where US nuclear weapons are stored. (AP)

Guilfoyle becomes US envoy to Greece: Kimberly Guilfoyle, a former California prosecutor, television personality and close ally of US President Donald Trump, officially took office Tuesday as the first US female ambassador to Greece.

Guilfoyle, 56, who was once engaged to Donald Trump Jr., presented her diplomatic credentials to Greek President Constantine Tassoulas after being sworn in Sept 29 in Washington.

The former Fox News host's arrival comes as the United States works to boost liquefied natural gas exports to eastern Europe through Greek port facilities. (AP)

Defense Ministry sends troops to northern region to help stop bear attacks

Japan’s new prime minister praised for ‘energetic’ diplomatic debut hosting Trump

TOKYO, Nov 5, (AP): Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi won praise in her country’s parliament on Tuesday for a diplomatic debut that included hosting US President Donald Trump - but was scolded by the opposition leader for what he said was going too far in flattering Trump.

Takaichi held a summit with Trump last Tuesday, only a week after she took office as Japan’s first female leader, and attended two regional summits.

Yoshihiko Noda, head of the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, remarked on Takaichi’s “big smiles,” and noted she was “full of energy,” saying she had earned Trump’s praise as a “very energetic woman.”

He added, “I believe you are off to a good start in building a personal relationship.”

Noda, however, criticized Takaichi for “flattery diplomacy to the extreme” for plans to nominate Trump for next year’s Nobel Peace Prize. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that Takaichi would be

nominating Trump for the prize.

“It was too careless,” Noda told Takaichi during Tuesday’s lower house session. Noda cited Trump’s later suggestion that the US would resume nuclear testing - an extremely sensitive issue in Japan due to the nuclear bombs the U.S. dropped on the country at the end of World War II.

Noda asked Takaichi if she still planned to nominate Trump for the peace prize in light of that announcement. She did not comment.

Takaichi’s recent talks with China’s President Xi Jinping and South Korea’s Lee Jae Myung and a promise to develop stable ties have also been well received.

Her past views defending Japan’s World War II actions and visits to Tokyo’s Yasukuni Shrine - viewed by Asian victims of Japanese wartime aggression as signaling a lack of remorse - had been seen as risks to relations with Seoul and Beijing. However, she has toned down her hawkish stance. She also skipped her seasonal Yasukuni visit last month and donated a religious ornament instead.



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi gestures as US President Donald Trump delivers his speech during their visit to the aircraft carrier USS George Washington at the US Navy’s Yokosuka base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo on Oct 28. (AP)

Takaichi has enjoyed support ratings of around 60-70% since taking office, and one taken over the weekend after her diplomatic debut was even higher at about 80%, though support for her Liberal Democratic Party remains little

changed at around 20-30%.

Her struggling party and its ruling coalition with a new partner, Japan Innovation Party, lacks a majority in both houses of parliament, meaning the coalition cannot achieve any policy without cooperation from the opposition.

Earlier Tuesday, Takaichi’s government launched a ministerial meeting to address foreigner-related issues. These include investment, land transactions, labor and tourism. The move comes after an ethnocentric campaign by a right-wing party in the summer gained popularity. Voters have been frustrated by rising prices, dwindling wages and bleak prospects for the future.

The government aims to compile stricter measures to tackle these concerns.

“Illegal activity among some foreigners is causing a sense of uneasiness and unfairness among the Japanese people,” Takaichi said. “The government will resolutely respond to these actions, while distancing itself from xenophobia.”

Takaichi also held a first meeting

of a task force for economic growth through public-private investment in 17 areas including artificial intelligence, semiconductors, shipbuilding and defense.

During Trump’s visit, Takaichi strengthened her reputation as protegee of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whom Trump had friendly ties with, and agreed to build a “golden age” of Japan-US ties.

Also:

TOKYO: Japan’s Defense Ministry sent troops on Wednesday to the northern prefecture of Akita to help contain a surge of bear attacks that have horrified residents in the mountainous region.

Bears have showed up near schools, train stations, supermarkets and even a hot springs resort, with attacks by the animals reported almost daily across Japan, mostly in the north.

Since April, more than 100 people have been injured and at least 12 killed in bear attacks across Japan, according to Environment Ministry statistics at the end of October.

Kalmaegi death toll climbs to 85 in Philippines

Vietnam orders vessel ban as regions brace for typhoon

HANOI, Nov 5, (Agencies): Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha has ordered a ban on all vessels from going out to sea as the country’s central and southern regions brace for Typhoon Kalmaegi, the local daily Tuoi Tre reported on Wednesday.

Chairing a meeting on disaster response, he stressed that no residents should be at sea after 5 p.m. local time on Thursday.

He said the evacuation of residents from dangerous areas must be completed before 7 pm local time on Thursday in coastal zones affected by high tides as well as in mountainous areas prone to isolation and landslides.

The typhoon is expected to affect the regions from 7 pm local time on Thursday to around 4 a.m. local time on Friday, leaving little time for preparation, he said, urging localities in the typhoon’s projected path to promptly update and implement response plans.

Meanwhile, Typhoon Kalmaegi has left at least 85 people dead with 75 others missing in the central Philippines, many in widespread flooding that trapped people on their roofs and swept away cars in a hard-hit province still recovering from a deadly earthquake, officials said Wednesday.

Among the dead were six people who were killed when a Philippine air force helicopter crashed in the south-



Residents return to their damaged homes after Typhoon Kalmaegi caused devastation in communities along the Mananga River in Talisay City, Cebu province, central Philippines on Nov 5. (AP)

ern province of Agusan del Sur on Tuesday. The crew was on its way to provide humanitarian help to provinces battered by Kalmaegi, the military said. It did not give the cause of the crash.

Kalmaegi blew away from western Palawan province into the South China Sea before noon Wednesday with

sustained winds of up to 130 kph (81 mph) and gusts of up to 180 kph (112 mph), according to forecasters.

Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense, and provincial officials said many of the deaths were reported in the central province of Cebu, which was pummeled by Kalmaegi on Tuesday, setting off flash floods and causing a river and other waterways to swell.

The resulting flooding engulfed residential communities, forcing startled residents to climb on their roofs, where they desperately pleaded to be rescued as the floodwaters rose, officials said.

The Philippine Red Cross received many calls from people needing rescue in Cebu from their roofs, its secretary-general Gwendolyn Pang said Tuesday.

At least 49 drowned in floods and others died as a result of landslides and falling debris in Cebu, where 13 people were reported missing, the Office of Civil Defense said.

It added that 62 others were reported missing in the central provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental which are located near Cebu.

“We did everything we can for the typhoon but, you know, there are really some unexpected things like flash floods,” Cebu Gov Pamela Baricuatro told The Associated Press by telephone.

Caloy Ramirez, a volunteer rescuer, said the massive flooding set off by the typhoon turned an upscale riverside residential community in Cebu city on Tuesday into an unrecognizable scene of tumbled SUVs and houses in disarray.

Asia

‘Unified regional efforts to fight transnational crime’: Thai Prime Minister **Anutin Charnvirakul** on Tuesday called for unified regional efforts to combat increasingly complex transnational crime, reaffirming Thailand’s active role in the fight against scam operations.

In his opening remarks at the 43rd ASEAN Chiefs of National Police Conference in Bangkok, Anutin highlighted that drug trafficking, human trafficking, cybercrime, and online scams are destabilizing societies, damaging economies, and undermining investor confidence.

Anutin acknowledged that these issues have positioned the ASEAN region as a focal point for criminal groups. However, he emphasized that ASEAN member nations recognize the challenge and are collectively committed to taking all necessary measures to restore safety to the region.

Referencing last week’s ASEAN Summit, Anutin said regional leaders have prioritized strengthening security cooperation through enhanced intelligence sharing, joint training, and improved coordination mechanisms to counter these evolving threats. (Xinhua)

Anutin

4 taken to hospital after Singapore residential fire: Four people were assessed for smoke inhalation and taken to the hospital following a fire in a residential building in central Singapore on Tuesday night, the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) said Wednesday.

About 200 people were evacuated from the affected block as a precautionary measure, the SCDF said in a Facebook post.

The fire involved a Personal Mobility Aid at a lift lobby on the eighth floor. Firefighters extinguished the blaze using a water jet.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. (Xinhua)

Over 20 missing in Indonesia flash floods: At least 23 villagers were missing after flash floods struck the remote Nduga Regency of Indonesia’s eastern Highland Papua province on Saturday afternoon, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) said Tuesday.

“A joint rescue team is still searching for the 23 missing residents, of whom 15 are in Dal District and eight in Yuguru District,” said Abdul Muhari, head of BNPB’s Disaster Data, Information and Communication Center. (Xinhua)

Lat/Am

Man touches Mexican president: While Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum spoke with citizens in the street in Mexico City’s historic downtown Tuesday, a man who appeared to be inebriated stepped up behind her and touched her before a government official intervened.

In a video circulating widely on social platforms, the man appeared to lean in for a kiss and touch the president’s body with his hands. She gently pushed his hands away, maintaining a stiff smile as she turned to face him. She could be heard to say in part, “Don’t worry.”

The president’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the incident.

Sheinbaum, like her predecessor and political mentor ex-president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, tries to maintain a connection with the people, frequently diving into crowds for selfies and handshakes.

Her security detail was not immediately visible in the close shot video Tuesday. (AP)



Residents waded through a flooded stream in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa in Petit-Goave, Haiti on Oct 30. (AP)

More than 1,700 people remain in shelters. Meanwhile, in nearby Jamaica, crews were trying to reach more than two dozen communities that remained cut off since Melissa made landfall on Oct 28. (AP)

Dominican Republic postpones summit: The Dominican government announced that it will postpone the 10th Summit of the Americas, originally scheduled for this year, until 2026 after consultations with key partners, including the United States.

The decision was made after a “careful assessment” of the regional situation, the foreign ministry said in a statement, citing deep political divergences that hamper productive dialogue in the hemisphere and the recent impact of extreme climate events in the Caribbean.

It noted that the postponement had been coordinated with institutions such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and that funds already invested will be used for next year’s meetings. (Xinhua)

Survivors of powerful earthquake in Afghanistan face cold, rain amid rubble

KABUL, Afghanistan, Nov 5, (AP): Survivors of a powerful earthquake in northern Afghanistan that killed more than 25 people and injured nearly 1,000 were digging through the rubble of their homes Tuesday, trying to salvage what belongings they could after spending the night outside in the bitter cold.

Rain was forecast for the region, further compounding the misery for survivors.

The 6.3 magnitude quake struck just before 1 a.m. local time Monday, with an epicenter 22 kilometers (14 miles) west-southwest of the town of Khulm in Samangan province. By early Tuesday afternoon, the death stood at 27, while another 956 people were injured, Public Health Ministry spokesperson Sharafat Zaman said in a statement.

The tremor also damaged historical sites, including Afghanistan’s famed Blue Mosque in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, which is one of Afghanistan’s most revered religious landmarks, and the Bagh-e-Jahan Nama Palace in Khulm.

The Blue Mosque’s minaret was badly damaged, while some bricks and tiles had fallen from some of the mosque’s walls and cracks appeared in other parts of the centuries-old site, said Mahmoodullah Zarar, Head of Information



Local officials confer next to a burned-out truck that caught fire from power cables as they try to reach affected areas during a powerful 6.3-magnitude earthquake in a rural part of the Khulm District in Samangan Province, northern Afghanistan, on Nov 3. (AP)

and Culture of Balkh Province.

“The Holy Shrine is a valuable monument of Islamic values and the history of the Islamic era ... (and) is in dire need of repair and restoration,” he said, adding that information on the damage had been shared with the ministry of art and culture.

Video footage from the mosque, which is a major gathering place during Islamic and cultural festivals, showed structural damage to parts of the mosque, while brickwork and the decorative tiles that adorn its facade had crumbled in several places and laid strewn on the ground.

Tanzanian opposition claims security forces secretly dumping bodies after election violence

NAIROBI, Kenya, Nov 5, (AP): Authorities in Tanzania faced mounting concern over killings during crackdowns on protests surrounding last week’s election, with the largest opposition party alleging that security forces were secretly dumping bodies of hundreds killed in the violence.

Demonstrations spread across the East African country for several days after the Oct. 29 voting as mostly young people took to the streets to protest an election that foreign observers said failed to meet democratic standards because key opposition figures were barred.

Authorities declared a nationwide curfew and security forces cracked down on protests by firing live bullets and tear gas canisters.

The main opposition party, Chade-ma, has claimed that more than 1,000 people were killed and said Tuesday that security forces were trying to hide the scale of the deaths by secretly disposing of the bodies. The authorities have not responded to the claims.

“Tanzanians’ hearts are bleeding right now. This is a new thing for Tanzanians,” Brenda Rupia, Chade-ma’s director of communications, said by phone from the commercial capital of Dar es Salaam.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan was



Mourners gather for the funeral of someone who died during post-electoral violence in Arusha, Tanzania on Nov 4. (AP)

declared the winner with more than 97% of the vote in a rare landslide victory for the region, but foreign observers said the turnout was low. It was her first election victory - she rose to the presidency automatically as vice president in 2021 after the sudden death of her predecessor, John Pombe Magufuli.

Hassan’s win has been criticized as not credible because her main rivals - Tundu Lissu of Chade-ma and Luhaga Mpinga of ACT-Wazalendo - had been prevented from running. Lissu has been jailed for several months, facing treason allegations stemming from his call for electoral reforms. His deputy, John Heche, was also detained days before voting.

Kuwait crude drops to 66.11 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil dropped USD 1.28 during Tuesday’s trading to reach USD 66.11 per barrel compared with USD 67.39 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday. Brent futures lost 45 cents to USD 64.44 pb and West Texas Intermediate dropped 49 cents to USD 60.56 pb.

Business

To celebrate growth and strategize for future success

ALSAYER Car Rental hosts successful ‘Colleagues Conference’



Photos during the conference.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: ALSAYER Car Rental and Leasing recently convened its annual “Colleagues Conference,” gathering team members from the Sales, Operations, and Service divisions for a dynamic event focused on strategic alignment, performance recognition, and motivation.

The conference was spearheaded by senior management, including Bengt Schultz, Chief Operating Officer, and Scott McNicol, General Manager. The leadership team delivered a motivating session designed to provide

all attendees with meaningful business insights and reinforce the company’s collective vision.

A key highlight of the event was a short but comprehensive presentation by General Manager Scott Mc Nicol. He detailed recent business development achievements and emphasized the substantial growth in sales recorded by the recently



launched ALSAYER Personal Leasing product, underscoring its success in capturing new market segments.

Management took the opportunity to formally recognize the dedication and excellence of its staff. Certificates of Achievement and Appreciation were proudly handed over to top performers across the organization, celebrating their commitment and

contributions throughout the past year.

Concluding the event, COO Bengt Schultz addressed the unified team with an encouraging message for the future. He urged team members to maintain their top-level performance, continually strive to raise their professional bars, and face the anticipated market challenges during the upcoming year with confidence and collective effort. The conference successfully set a positive and high-performance benchmark for the division moving forward.

General index falls 42 points

Boursa Kuwait closes lower, all indices drop

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): The Boursa Kuwait ended Wednesday’s session lower, as all its main indices recorded losses. The general market index dropped 42.20 points, or 0.47 percent, to close at 8,916.53 points. Trading volume reached approximately 651.7 million shares across 31,273 transactions with a total value of 116.6 million Kuwaiti dinars (around 355.6 million US dollars).

The main market index declined 37.83 points, or 0.44 percent, settling at 8,495.40 points. It saw 473.8 million shares traded through 21,376 transactions worth 59.6 million di-

nars (about 182.3 million dollars).

The premier market index also retreated, losing 45.38 points, or 0.48 percent, to close at 9,462.17 points. Trading in that segment involved 177.9 million shares through 9,897 transactions valued at 57 million dinars (roughly 174.4 million dollars).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index recorded the steepest decline, dropping 63.89 points, or 0.74 percent, to finish at 8,626.07 points. About 182.8 million shares were traded through 10,753 transactions with a total value of 28.6 million dinars (around 87.5 million dollars).

Firm to invest KD 100 mln by 2030

Agility rebrands as Makhazen in Kuwait-focused growth strategy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Agility Public Warehousing Company KSCP, listed on Boursa Kuwait and the Dubai Financial Market, today announced its new brand identity in line with the Kuwait-focused strategy unveiled on 18 June 2025. Effective immediately, the company will operate under the brand Makhazen.

The rebrand reflects the company’s strategic positioning as a platform dedicated to supporting Kuwait’s national development priorities, including key initiatives under Vision 2035. As previously announced, the company plans to invest more than KWD 100 million through 2030 in sectors that advance infrastructure and economic diversification.

Building on its proven execution capability and deep institutional knowledge, Makhazen is channeling capital and operations into some of Kuwait’s highest-priority non-oil sectors to support the development of advanced logistics and industrial infrastructure that will drive trade, create jobs, and contribute to Kuwait’s broader economic diversification efforts.

“Today, we’re continuing the strategic steps announced in June to strongly position the company in Kuwait and align with the country’s economic priorities. The launch of our new brand identity marks the next chapter in our journey, as we

pursue growth opportunities arising from the country’s economic agenda. We’re aligning our business with Kuwait’s long-term economic transformation, directing investment and operations toward infrastructure development and sectors that will drive sustainable, long-term transformation,” said Tarek Sultan, Vice Chairman.

The new brand builds on the company’s legacy of national commitment and sustainable value creation, reflecting its founding mandate under the 1979 Amiri Decree that established the company to develop critical warehousing and infrastructure in Sulaihiya, Doha, and Mina Abdullah.

To keep strategy and execution strategically aligned with government priorities, the Board previously established a permanent senior board committee that oversees development projects and maintains active dialogue with relevant authorities, ensuring the company’s initiatives remain fully attuned to the national economic agenda.

The company will begin using its new trademark and logo immediately. At the same time, the Board of Directors has proposed changing the company’s legal name. This is a separate process from the rebrand, and an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be scheduled to obtain shareholder approval.



Kuwait & Iran hold 13th Trade Commission, boost food safety

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): The 13th edition of the Kuwaiti-Iranian Trade Cooperation Commission concluded on Wednesday after conferees broached swapped food safety.

Minutes of the meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was endorsed by the Kuwaiti Acting Undersecretary of Commerce and Industry Marwa Aljaidan and the Iranian Deputy Minister of Industry, Commerce and Minerals, Mohammad Dahlawi. The Iranian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Mohammad Toutounji, attended the session, along with a number of officials from the two sides.

Aljaidan said at the end of the two-

day meeting that the talks dealt with cooperation in the sectors of food security and food health in a manner that would attain supply sustainability and enhance safety of the exchanged food supplies between the two countries.

The two sides affirmed necessity of boosting cooperation in the trade, economic and investment fields, expanding coordination in the sectors of land, air and marine transports. The discussions, she added, covered cooperation in industries, professional training, expertise exchange related to overhauling human potentials within a joint vision for promoting talents and swapping technical experts.

Markaz records Total Revenue for 9M 2025 of KD 22.67 million

Assets under management reach KD 1.61 billion

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” (KSE: Markaz, Reuters: MARKZ.KW, Bloomberg: MARKAZ: KK) reported its financial results for 9M 2025 with Total Revenue of KD 22.67 million, as compared to Total Revenue of KD 14.92 million in 9M 2024. The Net Profit attributable to shareholders of Markaz was KD 9.58 million for 9M 2025, compared to KD 3.35 million in the same period last year, and earnings per share was 20 Fils for 9M-2025.

Mr. Ali H. Khalil, Markaz’s CEO, stated: “Recent legislative and regulatory developments in Kuwait represent a significant step toward enhancing the country’s economic resilience and long-term growth prospects.

The implementation of the real estate developer law and the progress toward enacting the mortgage law are expected to stimulate real estate activity, attract investments, and generate positive spillover effects across the banking and construction sectors. These reforms shape part of Kuwait’s broader vision to strengthen economic diversification and foster a more competitive and investment-driven environment, which we operate in.

In parallel, the Kuwaiti market has delivered solid performance this year, supported by solid corporate earnings, resilient consumer activity, and improving investor confidence. Validating this, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) upgraded Kuwait’s 2025 real GDP growth forecast from 1.9% to 2.6%. Year to date, Kuwaiti equities have ranked among the top-performing markets in the GCC, with the All Share Index advancing 19.5% and MSCI Kuwait Index gaining 24.3%, especially in context of the S&P GCC index rising



Ali Khalil, CEO



Abdullatif W. Al-Nusif, Managing Director

4.3% in the same period.

Across the GCC, investment activity remains robust, particularly within private credit, wealth management and investment banking, as the region strengthens its role as a global hub for capital flows and strategic transactions. On a global scale, while central banks remain cautious regarding the pace of monetary easing, improving inflation dynamics and stabilizing energy markets are gradually supporting investor sentiment. Despite ongoing macroeconomic and geopolitical headwinds, we remain confident in the region’s medium-term prospects, supported by economic reform, diversification initiatives, and a strong consumer foundation.

Markaz’s financial performance during the 9M of 2025 benefitted from the markets’ favorable conditions, achieving total management fees and commissions of KD 6.93 million, compared to KD 7.14 million for the same period in 2024.”

Mr. Abdullatif W. Al-Nusif, Managing Director, Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz, stated: “During the quarter,

Markaz launched the Private Real Assets Strategy, providing qualified investors access to a diversified portfolio of global assets aimed at generating stable income and long-term returns in partnership with leading asset managers. Regionally, Markaz has obtained initial approval from the Capital Market Authority (CMA) in KSA to establish an office in Saudi Arabia. This milestone will allow Markaz to offer its investment opportunities to qualified KSA investors and broaden its investment banking outreach in the GCC.

Markaz’s AUM reached KD 1.61 billion as of 30 September 2025, underscores Markaz’s commitment to delivering risk adjusted, long-term returns to its clients. In the near term, Markaz is well positioned to capitalize on rapidly evolving investment opportunities in private credit and other alternative assets, while integrating digital and artificial intelligence applications to enhance client experience and operational efficiency. Markaz continues to build on its well-established leadership position in regional wealth creation and to exceed clients return benchmarked expectations.”

Exclusive discounts to customers in Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt and Turkey

KFH expands offers in partnership with Qatar Airways

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the expansion of its partnership with Qatar Airways, as part of its commitment to providing customers with an exceptional travel experience to different destinations through exclusive offers.

Under this collaboration, KFH credit and prepaid cardholders will receive discounts of up to 12% on the base ticket fare to selected destinations across Qatar Airways global network. The offer is available to customers of KFH Group in Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, and Turkey, with tailored variations to suit the different needs of customers in each country.

Deputy General Manager Cards at KFH, Talal AlArbeed, said that this offer reinforces the shared vision and supports the integration of services across the Group’s network. It also enriches customers’ experience in the markets in which the offer is available.

He added: “This offer extends a successful cooperation with Qatar Airways, which has garnered significant customer interest, particularly during holidays and travel seasons.”

AlArbeed highlighted KFH’s distinct capability to deliver a premier array of travel and holiday offers, a commitment that enhances customer



Talal AlArbeed

lifestyles, drives card usage, and provides benefits through the Bank’s diverse services and products.

He further noted that KFH customers can benefit from exceptional privileges, such as access to VIP airport lounges, which provides added comfort and convenience.

AlArbeed affirmed KFH’s dedication to expanding its strategic partnerships with leading global institutions across various sectors. These collaborations not only strengthen the customer experience but also reinforce KFH’s position as one of the world’s largest and most innovative Islamic banks, recognized for delivering value-added banking services.



Strong investor demand secures NBK the lowest reset spread ever achieved on a Tier 2 in CEEMEA

NBK successfully prices \$300 million Tier 2 subordinated bonds

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the successful pricing of USD 300 million Tier 2 subordinated bonds, aimed at strengthening and diversifying the Bank's regulatory capital ratios.

The new issuance, which received a rating of A- from Fitch Ratings, attracted strong demand from more than 85 fixed-income investors and financial institutions worldwide. Total interest exceeded \$1.3 billion, representing an oversubscription of more than 4.3x the issuance size.

The issuance garnered strong interest from a diverse base of investors, reflecting the high level of confidence placed in the Bank as a leading financial institution in Kuwait and the broader MENA region. The strength of investor demand enabled NBK to secure highly favorable pricing, achieving the lowest reset spread ever recorded on a Tier 2 issuance in CEEMEA, at 150 basis points above U.S. Treasuries.

The bonds were issued with a maturity of 10 years and 3 months and feature a call option exercisable after 5 years. The notes may be redeemed in full at any point on or after 5 years from the issue date up to 5 years and 3 months from the issue date, and subsequently on any scheduled interest



Shaheen Al-Ghanim

payment date. The bonds offer a fixed annual coupon of 5.25% paid semi-annually.

Demonstrating exceptional global investor confidence, the issuance achieved the highest ever international allocation on a GCC Tier 2 security, with 83% of the allocations placed outside the MENA region. The issuance attracted substantial interest from investors in the United Kingdom and Europe, who accounted for 59% of the total allocation. This was followed by 17% from Middle Eastern investors, 12% from the United

- The issuance attracted significant interest from a diverse base of fixed-income investors, with participation from more than 85 investors, resulting in the highest ever international allocation on a GCC Tier 2 security
- Setting a regional benchmark, the issuance achieved the lowest reset spread ever recorded for a Tier 2 transaction in CEEMEA
- Orderbook demand surpassed \$1.3 billion, with the issuance oversubscribed by more than 4.3x
- The new bonds reaffirm NBK's strong standing in international capital markets

States (offshore accounts), and 12% from Asia.,

Asset managers accounted for 74% of the total orders, followed by banks and private banking clients with 20%, and insurance companies and pension funds with approximately 6%. The Bank appointed Citibank as sole Global Coordinator, successfully completing the issuance through a single lead – reflecting the Bank's ability to attract robust demand without a syndicate.

Commenting on the issuance, **Shaheen Al-Ghanim**, Principal - Debt Capital Markets Desk Treasury Group remarked: "By securing the lowest

pricing ever recorded for this class of bonds across Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, NBK has set a new benchmark for the region - reflecting the profound confidence that global investors place in NBK's solid fundamentals and robust financial standing."

Al-Ghanim added thatthe issuance achieved an unprecedented level of international participation for a GCC Tier 2 security, with 83% of allocations placed outside the MENA region – setting a record for the highest international allocation to date.Furthermore, the diverse demand for the offering



NBK Tower

highlights NBK's established position in Global Capital Markets – reinforcing the Bank's ability to deliver sustainable, long-term value for its shareholders.

NBK is the leading financial institution in Kuwait, maintaining a dominant position in the conventional banking sector. The Bank continues to hold the highest credit ratings among all banks in the region,

as affirmed by the three major international rating agencies: Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch. NBK also stands out for its extensive local and international network, which includes branches and subsidiaries in China, Geneva, London, Paris, New York, and Singapore, in addition to its regional presence in Lebanon, Egypt, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the UAE.

Supporting the sustainable development

NBK, Mabanee ink Kuwait's first green loan agreement



Sulaiman K. Al Fulaij

Al Fulaij

- NBK leads the transition to a green economy, empowering clients to embrace sustainable business models
- This agreement is a milestone that underscores the Bank's leadership in responsible banking and its pivotal role in advancing Kuwait Vision 2035



Tareq A. Al Adsani

Al Adsani

- The agreement embodies the shared vision of two leading institutions committed to shaping a more sustainable future for Kuwait and the wider region
- Marking a significant milestone in Mabanee's journey to develop real estate projects that meet the highest international environmental standards

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: In a landmark achievement underscoring its leadership in sustainable finance and reaffirming its strong commitment to advancing sustainability and responsible environmental practices, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) and Mabanee Company (Mabanee), one of the region's largest real estate developers, have successfully signed Kuwait's first green financing agreement.Under this agreement, the Bank will extend a loan of KD 25 million loan to Mabanee.

Mabanee will utilize the loan to finance the Sabah Al-Ahmad Project (S3), an ambitious development targeting LEED Gold Certification for Building Design and Construction (LEED BD+C) from the U.S. Green Building Council, the world's leading authority on sustainable building standards.

Reaffirming the shared commitment of NBK and Mabanee to advancing real estate projects aligned with the highest international environmental standards, this financing has been structured in accordance with the Green Loan Principles (GLP) published in 2023 by the Loan Market Association (LMA), providing a global framework to ensure that funding is channeled towards projects with a positive environmental impact.

This milestone also falls within the framework of NBK's ESG strategy, which is dedicated to supporting the transition towards a low-carbon economy and fostering innovation in the real estate sector through sustainable financing solutions. It comes at a time of mounting global and local focus on ESG standards, where sustainability has evolved from being a choice into a strategic imperative for driving long-term growth.

Highlighting the significance of this agreement, Mr. Sulaiman K. Al Fulaij, Chief – Domestic Corporate Banking Group at NBK said: "At NBK, we take pride in being the first institution in Kuwait to extend a green loan in line with the LMA principles. This milestone underscores our strong commitment to driving environmental transformation across diverse sectors, while further cementing our leadership in responsible banking. It also highlights our effective contribution to the pillars of Kuwait Vision 2035, particularly in fostering a sustainable living environment and advancing a sustainable diversified economy, while reinforcing the private sector's role as a key driver of growth."

He explained that by supporting the S3 project, NBK is reinforcing its role as a responsible financial institution committed to balancing economic growth with environmental preservation. He also emphasized that this agreement goes beyond financing; it represents a strategic investment in the future of generations to come. It sends a powerful message that NBK is at the forefront of the transition to a green economy, actively inspiring its clients to embrace sustainable business models in line with global environmental and economic trends.

"Through strategic financing of the green building sector, NBK is positioning itself as a key driver of Kuwait's sustainable transformation, while supporting the nation's

environmental ambitions and contributing meaningfully to regional and global climate goals," he stated. He further emphasized that the Bank remains a catalyst for positive change, consistently driving initiatives that leave a lasting imprint on the community. This reflects NBK's steadfast commitment to advancing sustainability practices and supporting Kuwait's carbon neutrality ambition.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tareq A. Al Adsani, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Mabanee emphasized the significance of signing this agreement with NBK, noting that it reflects the alignment of visions between two pioneering institutions driven by a shared ambition to shape a meaningful impact on the future of Kuwait and the wider region.

"Securing the first green loan in Kuwait from NBK represents a significant milestone in our journey to develop real estate projects that meet the highest international environmental standards. S3 Project is not merely a real estate venture, but a manifestation of our vision to create a responsible and sustainable urban environment that prioritizes human health and enhances quality of life," Al Adsani added.

"At Mabanee, we regard sustainability as a necessity, not a choice. That is why we are committed to embedding green design principles and energy efficiency across every stage of our project development," Al Adsani concluded.

Located in Sabah Al-Ahmad City, S3 is a landmark mixed-use development spanning 40,121 square meters, with 23,200 square meters dedicated to retail components. The project will feature a hotel, a shopping mall, retail outlets, restaurants and cafés, cinemas, a supermarket, family entertainment zones, and a multi-storey car park with capacity for over500 vehicles. The development also integrates green spaces and landscaped parks, creating a vibrant and sustainable destination.

NBK's financing of this project reflects the Bank's ongoing commitment to offering sustainable financing solutions that enable clients to transition towards more responsible and future-focused business models. The Bank has been at the forefront of introducing green products and services across the Group, including green mortgage loans, sustainability-linked financing, low-emission housing loans, as well as personal loans for electric and hybrid vehicle purchases.

In recognition of its leadership and excellence in advancing sustainable finance, NBK was recently named "Best Bank for Sustainable Finance in Kuwait for 2025" according to the fifth annual survey on Sustainable Finance conducted by the renowned Global Finance Magazine. This accolade underscores the Bank's unwavering commitment to embedding sustainability standards across its operations and corporate culture.NBK has pledged to grow its sustainable assets to USD 10 billion by 2030 and has successfully issued its inaugural USD 500 million green bond, reinforcing its role as a key enabler of the transition to a low-carbon economy that protects both the environment and society.

Company sponsored GCC Electricity & Water Conservation Forum

Zain underscores partnership with public sector to transition to a green economy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Zain Kuwait has sponsored the GCC Electricity and Water Conservation Forum 2025, hosted by the State of Kuwait at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC). The forum brought together a select group of officials and experts to discuss challenges and solutions in energy and water efficiency, and to showcase the latest sustainable practices across the GCC.

Zain participated in the opening ceremony under the patronage and in the presence of H.E. Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem, Minister of Electricity, Water & Renewable Energy, and Acting Minister of Finance & Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, alongside Dr. Adel Al-Zamel, the Ministry's Undersecretary, Waleed Al-Khashti, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer, Hamad Al-Musaibeeh, Corporate Relations Department Manager, and representatives of energy organizations from across GCC states.

Zain's support reflects its commitment to national and regional initiatives that aim to reduce the carbon footprint and enhance energy efficiency. This participation reaffirms the company's alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, its drive toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, and its strengthening of partnerships with government entities on the journey toward sustainable digital transformation.

Zain's presence also extends its role as a strategic partner to the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy in deploying technologies that raise the efficiency of resource management. The smart metering project launched in cooperation between Zain and the Ministry back in 2017 represented a key milestone in developing Kuwait's energy infrastructure and opened the door to adopting more smart and sustainable solutions.



Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem and Dr. Adel Al-Zamel with Al-Khashti and Al-Musaibeeh at the forum.

The forum served as an effective regional platform for exchanging expertise and strengthening public-private partnerships in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. Its agenda featured panel discussions and workshops focused on four main pillars: policies, legislation and performance indicators; innovations, national strategies and entrepreneurship; community awareness and social responsibility; and the transition toward a green economy.

This year's forum also witnessed the announcement of the "GCC Excellence Award for Energy and Water Efficiency," which aims to honor leading initiatives and outstanding

individuals and entities in consumption rationalization and resource efficiency. Award categories included Excellence in Building Energy and Water Efficiency, the Best GCC Influencer for Electricity and Water Conservation, and the Best GCC Digital Application for Consumption Rationalization.

Zain's support to the GCC Electricity and Water Conservation Forum embodies its vision to harness technological innovation in service of environmental and developmental goals and to promote a culture of rational electricity and water use across all segments of society, thereby reinforcing a sustainable ecosystem in Kuwait and across the GCC.

Tariffs target imports from China, Canada, Mexico

Supreme Court weighs Trump tariffs in a trillion-dollar test of executive power

WASHINGTON, Nov 5, (AP): President Donald Trump's power to unilaterally impose far-reaching tariffs is coming before the Supreme Court on Wednesday in a pivotal test of executive power with trillion-dollar implications for the global economy.

The Republican administration is trying to defend the tariffs central to Trump's economic agenda after lower courts ruled the emergency law he invoked doesn't give him near-limitless power to set and change duties on imports.

The Constitution says Congress has the power to levy tariffs. But the Trump administration argues that in emergency situations the president can regulate importation taxes like tariffs. Trump has called the case one of the most important in the country's history and said a ruling against him would be catastrophic for the economy.

The challengers argue the 1977 emergency powers law Trump used doesn't even mention tariffs, and no president before has used it to impose them. A collection of small businesses say the uncertainty is driving them to the brink of bankruptcy.

The case centers on two sets of tariffs. The first came in February on imports from Canada, China and Mexico after Trump declared a national emergency over drug trafficking. The second involves the sweeping "reciprocal" tariffs on most countries that Trump announced in April.

Multiple lawsuits have been filed over the tariffs, and the court will hear suits filed by Democratic-leaning states and small businesses focused on everything from plumbing supplies to women's cycling apparel.

Lower courts have struck down the bulk of his tariffs as an illegal use of emergency power, but the nation's highest court may see it differently.

Trump helped shape the conservative majority court, naming three of the justices in his first term. The justices have so far been reluctant to check his extraordinary flex of executive power, handing him a series of wins on its emergency docket.

Still, those have been short-term orders - little of Trump's wide-ranging conservative agenda has been fully argued before the nation's highest court. That means the outcome could set the tone for wider legal pushback against his policies.

The justices have been skeptical of executive power claims before, such as when then-President Joe Biden tried to forgive \$400 billion in student loans under a different law dealing with national emergencies. The Supreme Court found the law didn't clearly give him the power to enact a program with such a big economic impact, a legal principle known as the major questions doctrine.

The challengers say Trump's tariffs should get the same treatment, since they'll have a much greater economic effect, raising some \$3 trillion over the next decade. The government, on the other hand, says the tariffs are different



President Donald Trump speaks during an event to announce new tariffs in the Rose Garden at the White House, on April 2, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

because they're a major part of his approach to foreign affairs, an area where the courts should not be second-guessing the president.

The challengers are also trying to channel the conservative justices' skepticism about whether the Constitution allows other parts of the government to use powers reserved for Congress, a concept known as the nondelegation doctrine. Trump's interpretation of the law could mean anyone who can "regulate" can also impose taxes, they say.

The Justice Department counters that legal principle is for governmental agencies, not for the president.

If he eventually loses at the high court, Trump could impose tariffs under other laws, but those have more limitations on the speed and severity with which he could act. The aftermath of a ruling against him also could be complicated, if the government must issue refunds for the tariffs that had collected \$195 billion in revenue as of September.

The Trump administration did win over four appeals court judges who found the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, gives the president authority to regulate importation during emergencies without explicit limitations. In recent decades, Congress has ceded some tariff authority to the president, and Trump has made the most of the power vacuum.

What's On

SPOTLIGHT



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Pinoy Arabia Barrio Fiesta 2025 all set

13 Talented Pinoys to battle out in the Pinoy Arabia Talent Quest 2025



Pinoy Arabia Team with the Pinoy Arabia Talent Questors during the pre-finals.



The 13 Pinoy Arabia Talent Quest 2025 Grand Finalists.

By Michelle Fe Santiago

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: A total of 13 talented Filipinos in Kuwait will battle it out in the Pinoy Arabia Talent Quest 2025 Grand Finals on November 7, 2025 at the Grand Majestic Hotel. The Talent Quest is one of the major highlights of the Pinoy Arabia Barrio Fiesta 2025, marking the 11th Anniversary celebration of Pinoy Arabia, the leading and only Filipino online radio station and only Filipino social media platform duly licensed by the Kuwait Ministry of Information.

The Barrio Fiesta 2025 will showcase the best of the Philippine culture and heritage on Friday from 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm. There will also be a Mobile Consular Services by the Philippine Embassy and the Migrant Workers Office and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in Kuwait from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm followed by the “Pinoy Arabia Talent Quest 2025” from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

After three weeks of elimination rounds and the pre-finals, the 13 questors who made it to the grand finals are Jeffrey Rendon, Jose Roy Laguda, Janice Linchoco, Jeric Jimenez, Charisse Bautista, Les Henry Suyom, Akur8 DC, Joseph Estandarte, Mabel Jean Liscano, Jericho Ortega, Dayna Hisoler, SuperHero Boys and Jose Cherry Sidra.

“We are all excited to see them perform in the grand finals. You would

really marvel at their awesome talents. See you all on Friday!” stated Julie-ciousa, Pinoy Arabia Program Director.

The competition is open to all talented Filipino individual or group of 10 members maximum; anyone of Filipino descent; with valid residence in Kuwait; with good moral standing and no police record. All talents are welcome (i.e. singing, dancing, arts, acting, etc.) except death-defying stunts, dangerous acts, obscene performance and acts that go against the culture, tradition and morals of Kuwait.

The grand prize winner will get KDI1,000 cash prize and a round-trip ticket to Manila while the finalists will get consolation prizes.

Meanwhile, a special event during the Barrio Fiesta will be held in promoting breast cancer awareness from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in cooperation with the Kabayan Cancer Support Group.

The Pinoy Arabia Barrio Fiesta 2025 is brought to you by Ooredoo, Al Muzaini Exchange, Honor, Gulf Air, Nail It Salon, Tristar Group, City Hypermarket, X-Cite, Lawyer Mohammed A. Al- Mutairy and special thanks to Kout Food, Alzoba Co. W.L.L., LBC, Grand Majestic Hotel, ICSA Kuwait, Queen You Salon, Al Rashed Travel, Yazeemir International Manpower Agency, Dadabhai Travel, Al Alamia International Manpower Agency, X7 Salon & Spa for Men, Cravings Delight, Fadwa Beauty Salon, Time House Kuwait, Al Dakhnan Manpower Agency, Cheys the Look Beauty Salon,

Metro Medical Group, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, ADM International Manpower Services, Super Q, Silver Swan, Nutriasia, Rebisco, Mama Sita’s, Master Sardines, Dingdong, Lush, Geneve Novelties, International Optique and Mario’s Restaurant

Now on its 11th year, Pinoy Arabia continues to sizzle and conquer the airwaves with its new programs to inform and entertain its over almost half a million organic followers.

Broadcasting live from the Ooredoo Tower in Kuwait, Pinoy Arabia ME, since its launch on October 30, 2014 at Marina FM, has generated a sensational following and a great number of listeners not only in Kuwait but in the GCC countries and beyond.

Pinoy Arabia with its team Maxxy Santiago, Red, Kris, Erika, Julie-ciousa, Mark Neil, Denzil, Gem, Mr. O, Summer, Buddy Jake and Mr. Ruba-Ruba, has carved its niche as a reliable source of information for Overseas Filipinos and a venue of pure entertainment.

Pinoy Arabia fully supported by the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait and Filipino community organizations, plays Filipino and English current and old hits with regular guests from the Philippine Embassy and other visiting Philippine government officials as well as known personalities and dignitaries in Kuwait

Pinoy Arabia’s core value is public service at its finest – the heart that propels Pinoy Arabia ME to do what it does best.

‘Magic night to remember’

Czech Embassy marks 107th, 60th anniversaries in Kuwait

By Cezary Owerkowicz
Special to the Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: These days mark the 107th anniversary of the establishment of Czechoslovakia and 60th anniversary of the opening of the Embassy of this country in the State of Kuwait.

Ambassador the Czech Republic to Kuwait H.E. Juraj Chmiel, in cooperation with Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah and Kuwait Music Academy, decided to celebrate these important occasions in a dignified and unique manner. A concert featuring Czech music, or rather a musical spectacle, was held in the prestigious Amricani Cultural Centre, including the presentation of slides and an exhibition of photos from the UNESCO series, ‘The Beauty of Czechia’.

At the concert, the artists performed the works of some of the most important composers in the history of Czech music. The event opened with a performance by outstanding Ukrainian clarinetist, multi-instrumentalist and conductor of emerging KMA Orchestra, Viktor Shram-

ko, with renowned pianist and pedagogue Karol Masternak. They performed the Movement of Concerto by Jan Vaclav Antonin Stamitz (1717-1757). He was a Bohemian composer who founded the Mannheim school of symphonist, which had an immense influence of Mozart and Viennese classics.

Polish soprano singer and pianist Kinga Masternak, well-known and admired both in Kuwait and abroad, along with Kamil Derylo, a singer who recently joined KMA and who is already very popular among listeners and students, performed the wonderful Czech folk songs, arias and songs by two of the greatest Czech composers – Bedrich Smetana (‘The Bartered Bride’ Opera) and Antonin Dvorak (‘Rusalka’ Opera).

Bedrich Smetana (1824-1884) was known as the Father of Czech National Music. He belonged to the canon of Romantic music. Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904) was a symbol of national pride and musical innovation. He promoted Czech musical culture throughout the world. At the same time, he laid the foundation for the American symphonic

music of the 20th century and film composers.

The program was complemented by the pieces of Zdenek Fibich, Bohuslav Martinu and Antonin Michi, together with a Kuwaiti accent – the warmly applauded song by Sulaiman Al Dekan & Muhmud Al-Kuwaiti ‘Al Brushiya’.

Karol Masternak did not only accompany all soloists on piano, but also had an opportunity to showcase his mastery as a soloist in a four-hand duet with his wife, Mrs. Kinga, performing Dvorak’s famous Slavonic Dances. All the excellent soloists are part of the Kuwait Music Academy team.

The audience, including diplomats, representatives of the State administration, business partners, Czech and Slovak communities, and the general public expressed their admiration through long applause and a standing ovation at the end. The first comments on the Internet described the evening as “magical”.

‘The Beauty of Czechia’ expressed through music, will be remembered for a long time. That is the power of music and art.



Artists are applauded on the stage with H.E. Czech Republik Ambassador Juraj Chmiel with Spouse



Kinga & Karol Masternak



Karol Masternak playing piano

Pastors express gratitude for successful gathering

The Adventist churches unite for choral concert



Photo during the event.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Adventist churches in Kuwait came together on 31st October, 2025, at the Kuwait Bowling Sporting Club auditorium, where their choir gave their audience a full choral experience.

Inspired and enriched with a Spiritual live music presentation. The Voice for Him choir entertained its audience, numbering about 300, with wonderful

melodies of Christian music.

Among the invited guests were Mr. Alex O. Vallespin (Secretary Council – Philippines Embassy, Kuwait), HE. Tory Torrington (Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and many more.

The concert was opened with a prayer by Pr. Elvis Osei, Adventist Community -Kuwait. In his welcome

address, Mr. Alex Vallespin was full of thanks to God and the Adventists for initiating this concert.

Pr. Shiloh Hammit, the district Pastor of Adventist – Kuwait, in his closing remarks, gave thanks and praise to God for making the program a success. He thanked the

Daitya choir led by Mr. King Ryan for their dedicated service to God.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Captain Venzy Viegas, MLA representing the Benaullim Assembly Constituency in Goa and a former Merchant Navy Officer, met with the representatives of the Aam Aadmi Pravasi Cultural Association (AAPCA Kuwait) during his visit to Kuwait. The delegation, led by

Mubarak Kambrath (Convener), included Anil Anad (General Secretary), Sabeeb Moitheen (Treasurer), Binu Elias, Shibu John, and Faisal Kambrath.

The meeting in Kuwait focused on strengthening the participation of the expatriate community, promoting social and cultural initiatives, and

spreading the core values and ideology of the constructive and healthy politics among NRIs. Discussions also covered the importance of bringing the Aam Aadmi Party to power in both Kerala and Goa, and reinforcing democracy through clean and transparent politics.

Convener Mubarak Kambrath and General Secretary Anil Anad briefed the MLA on AAPCA Kuwait’s ongoing activities and continuous support for the Aam Aadmi Party since its inception.

MLA Venzy Viegas emphasized the vital role of the expatriate community in nation-building and suggested strengthening organizational efforts in this direction. He also arranged an online interaction with Shelly Oberoi, the AAP In-Charge for Kerala. Despite his busy schedule, Captain Viegas made time to meet the AAPCA Kuwait team, for which Treasurer Sabeeb expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of the association



Photos during the meeting.

Actress delivers emotional keynote on gender equity in Hollywood

Stewart urges honesty, unity at Academy Women’s Luncheon

LOS ANGELES, Nov 5, (AP): In a rooftop space filled with Hollywood’s most influential figures, actor Kristen Stewart delivered an unflinching speech urging women in film to stay united, reject tokenism and celebrate the next generation of female filmmakers.

Stewart, who directed “The Chronology of Water,” an adaptation of Lidia Yuknavitch’s 2011 memoir, began her remarks with some humor, but she quickly turned to gender inequity in Hollywood.

“It’s awkward to talk about inequality for some people,” Stewart said Tuesday at the Academy Women’s Luncheon. “We can discuss wage gaps and taxes on tampons and measure it in lots of quantifiable ways, but the violence of silencing. ... It’s like we’re not even supposed to be angry. But ... I’m so angry.”

Stewart said she was invited to speak about the women who inspire her and began with Yuknavitch, whose memoir she credited with “giving voice to certain truths I inherently understood.”

“Hard truths, when spoken out loud, become springboards to freedom,” Stewart said. “The permission to be unpalatable, unsanitary, and to come from the inside out ... led me to acknowledge the invisible cage that we are all living in and how easy it is to story our way out there.”

Stewart was the keynote speaker at the event held at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures with attendees including Tessa Thompson, Kate Hudson, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Claire Foy, Kerry Condon, Patty Jenkins and Emma Mackey.

Many actors in attendance dressed in Chanel clothing, jewelry, shoes, makeup and accessories. The luxury fashion brand, which sponsored the event, has had a long association with film and women creatives since founder Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel saw an opportunity to put her designs in the movies and empower women in film.

While reflecting on the state of women’s filmmaking in the post MeToo era, Stewart said it seemed possible that stories made by and for women were finally getting their due.

“But I can now attest to the bare-knuckle brawling that it takes every step of the way when the content is too dark, too taboo,” she said before adding that “our business is in a state of emergency.”

After Stewart’s remark, she paused as the audience murmured in agreement.

“We are allowed to be proud of ourselves,” she said. “But let’s try not to be tokenized. Let’s start printing our own currency.”



Kristen Stewart arrives at the 2025 annual Academy Women’s Luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles. (AP)

Tuesday’s event was held to bring together women from all facets of the filmmaking community. It was also a celebration of the Academy Gold Fellowship for Women,

a program that supports emerging women filmmakers.

Oscar-winning costume designer Ruth E. Carter presented this year’s fellowship awardees to US recipient Alina Simone, who was born in the Ukraine, and international fellow Marlén Viñayo, who has been based in El Salvador.

Carter described mentorship as the bridge between aspiration and opportunity.

“For me, mentorship was someone seeing me before I could see myself,” said Carter, the costume designer behind the “Black Panther” films became the first Black woman to win two Oscars in 2023.

“From my college professor Linda Bolton Smith, who refused to let me quit, to director Spike Lee, who offered me my first film, to the late John Singleton, who gave me room to learn and grow – that’s what mentorship and fellowship do,” Carter said. “They say to every woman filmmaker and artist: We see you. We believe in you. You belong here.”

From Carter’s praise to bold statements from Stewart, the energy of solidarity and sisterhood remained the centerpiece of the afternoon.

“I am so for you,” Stewart told the room. “I hope you are too. Let’s make art in the face of it.”

People

‘Michigan ties’

RHCP’s Smith gifts music scholarship

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Nov 5, (AP): The Red Hot Chili Peppers may be strongly associated with southern California, but drummer Chad Smith’s heart never left the Midwest.

The Rock & Roll Hall of Famer, who grew up in suburban Detroit, is gifting a need-based music scholarship to the University of Michigan.

“A lot of people (say), ‘The Chili Peppers, West Coast band, California this and California that.’ I get it. I was born in St. Paul, Minnesota,” Smith told The Associated Press in an interview Sunday, just hours before he made the official announcement during a surprise appearance at the Ann Arbor school’s annual Band-O-Rama event. “The Minnesota connection is strong. The Michigan connection is strong.”

“And that’s why we’re here. It’s a natural, authentic fit for us.”

Smith, 64, performed the RHCP hit “Can’t Stop,” alongside the Michigan Marching Band at Hill Auditorium.

The Curtis & Joan Smith Scholarship, which is named in honor of Smith’s parents, will be awarded to an incoming University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance student, beginning in 2026.

Partnership

The scholarship is a partnership between the School of Music, Theatre & Dance and the Chad Smith Foundation and comes on the heels of one with the same name launched two months ago at the University of Minnesota. Smith’s parents are Minnesota alums.

Michigan’s version of the Curtis & Joan Smith Scholarship will support incoming freshmen to the School of Music, Theatre & Dance undergraduate program who demonstrate financial need and a strong commitment to pursuing a music career. The scholarship reinforces CSF’s mission to expand access to high-quality music education and career pathways for aspiring musicians across the country.

Smith attended Lahser High School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and began his career playing in clubs and bars across the Detroit area. He credits his parents with nurturing his love of music and supporting his dream to pursue it professionally.

“My mother is 98 years young. Still going. She’s here today - amazing,” Smith said. “So, to be able to honor her (and) my father unfortunately passed away, but they were so integral in helping me with my musical path.”

Smith has been with the Red Hot Chili Peppers since the late 1980s. During that time, the quartet, which also includes singer Anthony Kiedis and bassist Flea, have been one of the biggest-selling music acts, mixing layers of funk, punk, rap and traditional pop over a foundation of rock.

The backward-baseball-cap-wearing Smith has held down the beat on such hits as “Give It Away,” “Under the Bridge” and “Dani California.” The Chili Peppers were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2012.

“I’m fortunate to be in a band people like and I play the drums and maybe some drummers or musicians will get inspired just from my story,” Smith said. “So, yeah, it’s just an opportunity to give back to what I’ve been so lucky to have and for next generations of musicians to be able to pursue what they love.”



Red Hot Chili Peppers drummer Chad Smith holds a pair of drum sticks in Hill Auditorium on the campus of the University of Michigan Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025, in Ann Arbor, Mich. (AP)

Film



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Rami Malek in a scene from ‘Nuremberg.’ (AP)

‘Nuremberg’ explores forgotten psychiatrist Douglas Kelley

Crowe and Malek face off in trial drama

LOS ANGELES, Nov 5, (AP): The Nuremberg trials have inspired filmmakers before, from Stanley Kramer’s 1961 drama to the 2000 television miniseries with Alec Baldwin and Brian Cox. But for the latest take, “Nuremberg,” writer-director James Vanderbilt focuses on a lesser-known figure: The US Army psychiatrist Douglas Kelley, who after the war was assigned to supervise and evaluate captured Nazi leaders to ensure they were fit for trial (and also keep them alive). But his is a name that had been largely forgotten: He wasn’t even a character in the miniseries.

Kelley, portrayed in the film by Rami Malek, was an ambitious sort who saw in this assignment an opportunity to write a book (bestselling, he hoped) on his findings about the men who committed such atrocities. Over several months he conducted many hours interviews and Rorschach tests with the inmates, including fallen Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering (Russell Crowe), who proved an especially fascinating subject as the highest ranking official still living.

The film, in theaters Friday, centers on a series of conversations between Kelley and Goering, who develop something almost like a friendship - or at least a temporary understanding. It’s interesting, morally murky territory fitting of the filmmaker best known as the screenwriter of “Zodiac” that does gesture toward some provocative ideas - including the very concept of war tribunals overseen by the victors. But it can’t quite synthesize its classical form with the bleak, sobering truths at its core.

Crowe, who speaks both German and English in the film, is well suited to playing this charismatic, larger-than-life egoist who believes he can outwit those around him. Curious choices are made, though, about what to tell of his transgressions during the war and the angelic representation of his wife and daughter in hiding.

Goering is likely not as much of a household name as “Nuremberg” seems to assume, but Crowe does get to do some of his best work in years. Malek, wild-eyed as ever, portrays Kelley as an overconfident opportunist who is more than willing to cross lines to gain Goering’s trust. Are we rooting for him, though? Not exactly. You might think that these chats would be the kinds you don’t want to leave - a meeting of two unique minds trying to figure one another out, and yet there’s a spark and intrigue lacking. An unnerving descent into the mind of Hitler’s right hand man this is not.

Greatness

Instead, they talk about fathers and greatness and sometimes magic tricks. Perhaps that’s why Vanderbilt, who based his film on Jack El-Hai’s book “The Nazi and the Psychiatrist,” broadens his scope beyond the prison cell to include the story of how the unprecedented trial came together, with Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson (a very good Michael Shannon) leading the charge to build a case against the Nazi leaders.

What results is a familiar historical drama, weaving together many various characters in the buildup to the climactic courtroom showdown. With an expansive and recognizable ensemble cast, including Richard E. Grant as the British lawyer Sir David Maxwell-Fyfe, John Slattery as the commandant of Nuremberg prison, Colin Hanks as another psychiatrist brought into the fold (Gustave Gilbert, whose writings would eclipse Kelley’s) and Leo Woodall as a German speaking US officer, “Nuremberg,” stately and sober,

is what we might have called Oscar-bait once upon a time.

The most fascinating character is probably Woodall’s, but the real story of Sgt. Howie Triest, a German Jewish emigre, is used as a reveal late in the film to motivate a humiliated Kelley to “do the right thing” and help Jackson and the lawyers bring Goering to justice.

Oddly, the trial is filmed like a standard courtroom drama, resorting to clichés and a rousing but hollow “we got him” moment that feels antithetical to the film’s larger point, that there is little glory in the charade and the convictions. At the end of it all is death anyway.

What does it say about a nearly two-and-a-half hour drama when the 80-year-old footage from inside Nazi concentration camps that was shown inside the real courtroom is the most compelling and memorable sequence? Perhaps in these days of Holocaust denial, it’s never a bad idea to remind people of the truth. But will anyone harboring those assumptions stumble upon “Nuremberg” and, if they do, make it that far into the film?

Kelley would go on to write that book, “22 Cells in Nuremberg,” but his chilling conclusions were not exactly embraced in that postwar moment. He did not find monsters or psychopaths in those cells, after all, but instead saw essentially normal people. Kelley wrote a warning: “I am convinced that there is little in America today which could prevent the establishment of a Nazi-like state.”

“Nuremberg,” a Sony Pictures Classics release in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for “the Holocaust, some language, violent content, smoking, brief drug content, some disturbing images, suicide.” 148 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Variety

NEW YORK: They threw a party at the New York Public Library and a concert broke out.

Bruce Springsteen was among six honorees Monday night at the library’s annual “Library Lions” gala, which pays tribute to “outstanding achievements” in arts, culture, letters and scholarship. Others receiving medals were producer-writer Shonda Rhimes and authors James Patterson, Daniel Kehlmann and Louise Erdrich and author-musician James McBride, with whom Springsteen exchanged hugs and greetings shortly before guests were seated for dinner.

Held in the grand auspices of the main research room of the 5th Avenue branch in Manhattan, the ceremony was brief, and without acceptance speeches. But NYPL President Anthony Marx promised a “special treat” was upcoming, and a few minutes later re-introduced Springsteen, his jacket now off and a guitar in hand.

“I’ve played fireman’s fairs. I’ve played bowling alleys. I’ve played pizza parlors,” Springsteen related to the hundreds of attendees in his raspy drawl. “I’ve played hockey



Springsteen

rinks. I’ve played weddings. I’ve played insane asylums. I’ve played football stadiums.” (AP)

WELLINGTON: An art troupe from Henan Province in central China delivered a vibrant cultural performance on Tuesday in New Zealand’s South Island, enchanting audiences with displays of Kung Fu, acrobatics and traditional Chinese opera.

The Henan Art Troupe, which made waves with a celebrated performance at the United Nations Headquarters earlier this year, made its Southern Hemisphere debut before more than 800 people in Christchurch, the largest city in New Zealand’s South Island, the organizers said.

Showcasing the rich heritage of China’s Central Plains, the troupe staged world-class Kung Fu, Qigong mastery, acrobatics, Chinese folk music, and traditional Yu Opera, the iconic traditional art form of Henan.

Sulekha Korgaonkar, a member of the audience, described the music as “really beautiful.” She especially enjoyed the Shaolin Kung Fu display, as she practises Tai Chi herself. She told Xinhua she has visited Hong Kong and looks forward to touring Henan Province in the future.

Alongside the gala, an intangible cultural heritage exhibition featured Chinese calligrapher Li Fang, who demonstrated fan painting with Chinese characters.

“Tonight’s performance is not just a showcase of artistic

excellence, it is a beautiful expression of cultural connection between the peoples of China and New Zealand,” Christchurch City Councillor Victoria Henstock said in her speech. (Xinhua)

BELGRADE: As the 68th International Belgrade Book Fair came to a close, one image lingered: crowds gathering around the “Reading China in Serbia” stand, which showcased more than 100 China-related books in Serbian. The collection, curated since April, was the result of a joint effort between the Chinese Embassy in Serbia and Serbian publisher Cigoja Stampa.

Founded in 1956, the International Belgrade Book Fair ran this year from Oct. 25 to Nov. 2, continuing its legacy as one of the region’s most important cultural events.

Neva Saravija, executive director of Cigoja Stampa, noted that over the past three decades, more than 200 titles related to China or translated from Chinese have been published in Serbia, serving as vital cultural bridges linking the two nations.

“China’s 5,000-year history - with its depth, mystery, and sophistication - has always fascinated Serbian readers,” Saravija said in an interview with Xinhua. “It offers a completely different perspective from Western cultural paradigms.”

Saravija emphasized the importance of fostering dialogue between Eastern and Western civilizations. (Xinhua)

Soccer legend honored for services to sport, charity

Bend a knee like Beckham: Soccer star is knighted

LONDON, Nov 5, (AP): When it came time to receive his knighthood, soccer great David Beckham knew what to do. He bent his knee like, well, Beckham.

King Charles III tapped his shoulders with the blade of a sword and “Becks” was transformed to Sir David Beckham.

“This is without doubt my proudest moment,” Beckham said after Tuesday’s ceremony at Windsor Castle. “I’ve been very obviously lucky in my career to have won what I’ve won and done what I’ve done, but to receive an honor like this, of a knight, is beyond anything that I ever thought that I would receive.”

The distinction marks the pinnacle of Beckham’s effort to rehabilitate his image following events that at times alienated him from fans during a long and distinguished career. He also has had a very public persona as a fashion model, husband to Victoria “Posh” Beckham of the Spice Girls and “Bend it Like Beckham” movie muse.

The 50-year-old was knighted for his services to sport and charity, having partnered with UNICEF, the U.N.’s children’s fund, for two decades and campaigned with a charity working to eradicate malaria. He also played a pivotal role in London being awarded the 2012 Summer Olympic Games.

Nobel Prize-winning novelist Kazuo Ishiguro, author of “The Remains of the Day” who previously was knighted, was recognized in Tuesday’s ceremony as a Companion of Honor for literature. Renowned musicals singer and actor Elaine Paige was given a damehood, the female equivalent of a knighthood.

Beckham is the only English soccer player to score at three different World Cups, and his career included the triple-winning campaign of 1999, when Manchester United won the Premier League, the FA Cup and the Champions League.

With 115 appearances for the England national team, Beckham is third on the all-time list. He also captained the side on 59 occasions.

After leaving Manchester United in 2003 - a move that devastated fans - Beckham played for Real Madrid, Los Angeles Galaxy and Paris Saint-Germain. He now co-owns the Major League Soccer team Inter Miami.

His career hit a low point at the 1998 World Cup in France, where Beckham was widely vilified for his petulant kick of Argentina player Diego Simeone, which saw him sent off and left the team short a player. Many fans blamed him for England’s exit.

In 2023’s Netflix documentary series “Beckham,” he described the abuse he experienced, which included an effigy of him hanging from a noose outside a London pub.

“I knew it was bad at the time, but going over that whole thing was quite a tough one,” he told The Associated Press at the time.

Beckham’s knighthood was announced in June during the king’s birthday honors list. The awards, which are also given out at New Year’s, recognize contributions to British life.



Sir David Beckham is made a Knight Bachelor by Britain's King Charles III during an Investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle, Berkshire, England, Tuesday, Nov. 4. (AP)

Lifestyle

Marriage boom mirrors cautious economic recovery

Lebanon’s weddings in full swing after years of crisis

BEIRUT, Nov 5, (Xinhua): At the Forum De Beyrouth exhibition hall in Beirut, where the largest annual wedding fair in Lebanon was in full swing, the hum of conversation mingled with the scent of roses and fondant.

Brides-to-be wandered between lace and jewelry stalls, while grooms weighed catering options and photographers thumbed through glossy albums -- After years of disruptions resulted from economic crisis and conflicts, the fair was crowded again, with aisles teeming with couples ready to tie the knot.

The renewed enthusiasm for weddings is seen by many as a quiet indicator of Lebanon’s economic recovery. As couples spend and vendors rehire, the industry’s rebound reflects a fragile return of consumer confidence and the resilience of a service economy that has survived war and inflation.

“We finally had a good year,” said Charbel Krayem Al-Asmar, owner of the Grand House wedding venue and Carre Sucre catering. “After years of fear, people are encouraged again. Couples are paying from their own savings ... but they still want to celebrate.”

His company handles weddings of 300 to 500 guests, with most budgets between 15,000 and 30,000 US dollars. “We Lebanese love life,” he added. “If you offer good packages, people will celebrate no matter what happens.”

Across the hall, hotel representatives and venue managers shared similar optimism. At Coral Beach Resort, senior banquet manager Vinane Nadar described a noticeable rebound. “After Ramadan, activity was great. As



An exhibitor makes preparations at a booth at the Royal Wedding Fair in Beirut, Lebanon, Oct. 30, 2025. The fair was held here from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2. (Xinhua)

soon as the war ended, people started reserving again -- some with 400 guests,” she said. “They’re tired of postponing. The mood is changing.”

In the mountains of Faytroun, newly-opened wedding venues are also benefiting from the sentiment. “We didn’t expect to host 12 weddings in our first year,” said Elie Badr, owner of Upper House. “If calm continues, 2026 will be even better.”

The recovery stretches far beyond ballrooms. On the fashion floor, sequined gowns caught the light as designer Christian Abdallah explained that “demand for dress rentals above 3,500 dollars is back.” He produces locally despite higher costs. “People are starting to spend again. It’s a sign that the crisis is easing.”

Photographers, jewelers, and entertainers echoed the sense of momentum. Patrick Nicolas, a photographer, has already booked 30 weddings for next year. “People want to move on,” he said.

Jewelry retailer Elie Nassif said that “2025 was better than 2024” despite the high gold price, with couples already commissioning pieces for 2026.

At a booth festooned with cascading blooms, planner Wafica Ramadan sifted through color palettes between client consultations. “Budgets may be tighter, but ... people are craving joy again,” she said.

Entertainment provider Miriam Rayes, whose team stages contemporary wedding performances, agreed. “We had a wedding every weekend. Couples don’t give up on the entrance show -- it is tradition.”

For organizer Fadi Semaan, who heads Wedding Small, the company that organizes the wedding fair, the turnout itself was proof of renewed confidence. “We have 215 exhibitors this year,” he said. “After years of interruption -- from political turmoil to the explosion and war -- vendors wouldn’t return if they didn’t believe next year will be stronger.”

Economist Nassib Ghobril of Byblos Bank believes the revival of wedding activity offers a measurable sign of stabilization. “Early reservations show people’s willingness to plan and spend again,” he said. “The sector has wide linkages, from food and clothing to transport, and when expatriates hold weddings here, they inject fresh cash into the economy.”

Yet, he cautioned, “security is key. Some expatriates still choose Italy or Cyprus for stability.”

Around the stands, the crowd mixed locals and diaspora couples returning to celebrate at home. Rita and Daniel, Lebanese expatriates from Montreal, Canada had just signed a venue contract for next summer. “We could have done it in Canada,” Daniel said, “but we want our families together in Lebanon. It’s cheaper here, and the service is better.”

Nearby, Loyal and Karim from Tripoli, Italy leaned over a floral display. “We postponed twice. First because of the crisis, then the war,” Loyal said. “Now we’re saving money and keeping it small, but it feels right to do it here.”



A group of Syrian graffiti artists paint murals on the collapsed ceiling of a war-damaged house in Daraya, on the outskirts of Damascus, Syria, Monday, Nov. 3. (AP)

Syrian artists turn ‘war-torn’ house into memorial mural

DARAYA, Syria, Nov 5, (AP): In the war-ravaged town of Daraya, on the outskirts of Damascus, a group of young Syrian artists has turned the ruins of a bombed-out house into a canvas of remembrance. On the collapsed ceiling, they painted a colorful graffiti mural honoring families lost during years of conflict.

The project was led by Bilal Shoraba, seen in a yellow T-shirt, who was an activist and graffiti artist during the Syrian army’s siege of Daraya between 2012 and 2016. During that time, when the city became a center of resistance to then-President Bashar Assad’s rule, Shoraba created about 30 graffiti works as quiet acts of defiance.

Assad was ousted in a lightning rebel offensive in December, halting nearly 14 years of civil war that killed around half a million people, displaced millions more, and left tens of thousands missing.

After returning to Daraya, Shoraba launched a workshop with the Dar Ebla Cultural Center to teach local youth the art of graffiti. The mural seen here grew out of that collaboration - a symbol of resilience and renewal in a place once synonymous with loss.

In the midst of shattered walls and broken homes, their paint brings a touch of color and hope back to Daraya.



The golden burial mask of King Tutankhamun is displayed at the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, Egypt, Tuesday, Nov. 4. (AP)

CAIRO, Nov 5, (AP): The Grand Egyptian Museum opened its doors to the public on Tuesday after an extravagant inaugural ceremony attended by royals and heads of state.

The \$1 billion megaproject has been promoted as the world’s largest museum dedicated to a single civilization, with nearly 50,000 artifacts. For the first time, visitors can marvel at the collection of treasures from the tomb of the famed King Tutankhamun, which was discovered in 1922.

“Most Tutankhamun treasures were in the old Egyptian museum,” Ahmed Ghoneim, the museum’s CEO, told reporters. “However, some were scattered in other museums and others were kept in storage. Bringing all those treasures in one place enriches the museum display experience.”



Tourists pose for a photo in front of the statue of Pharaoh Ramses II. (AP)

Visitors flocked to the monarch’s gallery that houses over 5,000 artifacts including jewelry, gilded chariots and his gold death mask.

“It was amazing, especially the mask,” said Nikolas Voulgarakis, a tourist from Greece.

The museum, located near the Pyramids at the edge of Cairo, is expected to boost Egypt’s tourism revenues and help invigorate the country’s troubled economy.

“We expect 7 million visitors a year,” said Ghoneim, adding that a daily cap of 20,000 visitors will be enforced to ensure a smooth experience for all.

President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi inaugurated the museum over the weekend after nearly two years of a soft debut, where visitors had access to parts of the museum.

Yodeling now a popular form of singing

Shout-out for yodeling? Swiss seek recognition from UNESCO

LUCERNE, Switzerland, Nov 5, (AP): Yodel-ay-hee ... what?! Those famed yodeling calls that for centuries have echoed through the Alps, and more recently have morphed into popular song and folk music, could soon reap a response - from faraway Paris.

Switzerland’s government is looking for a shout-out from UN cultural agency UNESCO, based in the French capital, to include the tradition of yodeling on its list of intangible cultural heritage. A decision is expected by year-end.

Modern-day promoters emphasize that the yodel is far more than the mountain cries of yesteryear by falsetto-bellowing male herders in suspenders who intone alongside giant Alphonos atop verdant hillsides. It’s now a popular form of singing.

Over the last century, yodeling clubs sprouted up in Switzerland, building upon the tradition and broadening its appeal - with its tones, techniques and tremolos finding their way deeper into the musical lexicon internationally in classical, jazz and folk. U.S. country crooners prominently blended yodels into their songs in the late 1920s and 30s.

About seven years ago, the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, or HSLU by its German-language acronym, became the first Swiss university to teach yodeling.

“For me, actually, in Switzerland we have four languages but I think really we have five languages. We have a fifth: The yodel,” said HSLU professor Nadja Räss, alluding to the official German, French, Italian and Romansh languages in

Switzerland. Yodeling exists in neighboring Austria, Germany and Italy, but Swiss yodeling is distinctive because of its vocal technique, she said.

In its early days, yodeling involved chants of wordless vowel sounds, or “natural yodeling,” with melodies but no lyrics. More recently, “yodeling song” has included verses and a refrain.

The Swiss government says at least 12,000 yodelers take part through about 780 groups of the Swiss Yodeling Association.

In Switzerland, Räss said, yodeling is built on the “sound colors of the voice” and features two types: one centering on the head - with a “u” sound - and one emanating from deeper down in the chest - with an “o” sound.

And even within Switzerland, styles vary: Yodeling in the northern region near Appenzell is more “melancholic, slower,” while in the country’s central regions, the sounds are “more intense and shorter,” she said.

What began as mostly a male activity is now drawing more and more women in a country that only finalized the right to vote for all women in the 1980s - long after most of its European neighbors.

Julien Vuilleumier, a scientific adviser for the Federal Office of Culture who is spearheading the Swiss request, said it’s tough to trace the origins of yodeling, which factors into the imagery of the Swiss Alps.

“Some say it’s a means of communication between valleys,



Yodel teacher Nadja Räss yodels in Lucerne, Switzerland, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025. (AP)

using these very distinctive sounds that can carry a long way. Others believe it’s a form of singing,” he said. “What we know is that ... yodeling has always been transformed and updated.”

UNESCO’s government-level committee for Intangible Heritage in New Delhi will decide in mid-December. The classification aims to raise public awareness of arts, craftsmanship,

rituals, knowledge and traditions that are passed down over generations.

Also among the 68 total nominations this year are traditions like Thanakha face powder in Myanmar; Ghanaian highlife music; the fermented Kyrgyz beverage Maksym; and the El Joropo music and dance tradition in Venezuela.

The list is different from the UNESCO World Heritage List, which enshrines protections for physical sites that are considered important to humanity, like the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt.

Last year, Japan’s famed sake - the smooth rice wine - was one of more than 60 honorees in the intangible heritage list, alongside things like the Nowruz spring festival in parts of central Asia, and the skills and knowledge of zinc roofers in Paris.

Räss of the Lucerne university says that candidates for the intangible heritage list are asked to specify the future prospects of cultural traditions.

“We figured out some projects to bring it to the future. And one of those is that we bring the yodel to the primary school,” said Räss, who herself grew up yodeling. She said 20 Swiss school teachers know how to yodel and are trying it with their classes.

“One of my life goals is that when I will die, in Switzerland every school child will be in contact with yodeling during their primary school time,” she said. “I think it’s a very good chance for the future of the yodel to be on that (UNESCO) list.”

Protein may impact muscle growth and athletic performance

Women gain greater heart benefits from exercise than men: study

XIAMEN, Nov. 5, (Xinhua): A study reveals that in the prevention and treatment of coronary heart disease, the cardiac protection benefits obtained by women through exercise may be significantly better than those of men.

This finding was recently published online in the international journal Nature Cardiovascular Research.

The research results were jointly released by a team led by Professor Wang Yan and associate researcher Chen Jiajin from Xiamen Cardiovascular Hospital Xiamen University and the Shanghai Chest Hospital Affiliated to Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, both located in east China.

Based on the wearable device data of 85,000 participants -- the research team systematically analyzed gender differences in the prevention and treatment of coronary heart disease through exercise. It found that women only need 250 minutes of exercise per week to reduce their risk of



A woman uses a treadmill in the care of physiotherapist on May 20, 2025 at Kingston Injury Management, a clinic in Kingston, Ontario in Canada. (AP)

coronary heart disease by 30 percent, while men need 530 minutes, which is about twice as much as the time required by women, to achieve the same cardiovascular benefits.

Further analysis showed that among people who have been diagnosed with coronary heart disease, women who exercise for 51 minutes per week can reduce their risk of

death by 30 percent, while men need to exercise for 85 minutes to achieve the same result.

Coronary heart disease is a major cause of human deaths. Institutions such as the World Health Organization recommend that adults should do at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity throughout the week, or do at least 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity, or an equivalent combination of both.

As some current guidelines still adopt a "one-size-fits-all" exercise standard, experts hope that the findings of this new research project will serve as a reference for efforts aimed at prevention and treatment of different gender groups -- in coping with coronary heart disease.

Lacking a common protein may affect how muscles respond to testosterone, potentially affecting athletic performance and age-related muscle loss, according to a new study led by an Australian research

institute.

The research has uncovered a surprising link between ACTN3, the gene for speed, and the body's response to testosterone, the hormone that helps maintain muscle mass, according to a statement released Wednesday by Australia's Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI).

The α -actinin-3 protein is found in muscles important for explosive activities. About one in five people lack this protein due to a variation in the ACTN3 gene, said the study published in Science Advances.

The research showed this genetic variation reduced levels of the androgen receptor in muscle tissue in both men and women, impacting how muscles grow or shrink in response to testosterone, said MCRI Senior Research Officer Jane Seto.

"This gene has long been associated with elite sprinting ability, but we're now seeing it plays a much broader role in muscle biology. It's not just about speed but about how

your muscles respond to testosterone," Seto said.

The study, using both mouse models and human samples, found that missing the α -actinin-3 protein worsened muscle loss in male mice when testosterone was blocked, and blunted muscle growth in female mice treated with supplementary testosterone during puberty.

Researchers identified seven key genes that appear to drive this effect, as they are sensitive to testosterone and depend on the α -actinin-3 protein for proper expression. These genes influence important cell processes such as breaking down amino acids, cleaning out damaged cells and regenerating newer, healthier ones and producing energy in mitochondria, the study said.

Seto said the findings could explain why some people lose muscle more rapidly with age or illness, or respond to testosterone-based therapies differently, and suggest this protein as a potential target for treatments preserving muscle mass.

Europe commits to 90% carbon cut by 2040

EU agrees on new emissions targets before global climate meet in Brazil

BRUSSELS, Nov 5, (AP): The European Union said Wednesday it would slash carbon emissions by 90% by 2040, in an agreement widely seen as a weakening of the 27-nation bloc's previous climate goals, after an overnight debate ahead of the UN climate conference in Brazil.

Hungary, Slovakia and Poland voted against the agreement, despite other nations agreeing to key compromises including allowing flexibility for member states to buy carbon credits internationally to reach their emissions targets and for the EU to reassess its climate policy depending on economic performance. The agreement also allows for postponing a new carbon trading plan covering transport and heating, a central demand of Poland.

Environmentalists criticized the deal for provisions that will allow the EU to buy carbon credits from less-developed countries, effectively outsourcing the bloc's obligations. "The use of offshore carbon laundering to meet this nominal target means the EU's own commitment is much lower, and that commitment means even less with a baked-in clause to dilute the target every two years," said Greenpeace EU climate campaigner Thomas Gelin. Jeroen Gerlag, Europe director at the nonprofit Climate Group, said that "while the EU keeps its 90% commitment on paper, in effect it'll be offshoring some of its emission reductions - making it someone else's problem."

The agreement was hammered



European Commissioner for Climate, Net-Zero and Clean Growth Wopke Hoekstra speaks with the media as he arrives for a meeting of EU Environment ministers at the European Council building in Brussels, Belgium, Tuesday, Nov. 4. (AP)

out between EU climate ministers in a marathon session overnight into Wednesday morning. Before it becomes a legally-binding document, the European Parliament will vote on it and negotiate its contents with the European Council.

"This is exactly the signal that Europe has to send in these times," said Swedish climate minister Romina Pourmokhtari, who thanked Finland, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands for pushing for high emissions cuts in the debate.

Wopke Hoekstra, the European

Commissioner for Climate, Net-Zero and Clean Growth, said the agreement is strong compared to those of allies in the Pacific, Europe and North America, but that some compromise was necessary amid current geopolitical and economic tension.

"On this continent, we will continue with climate action, but it has to be bridged, it has to be married with independence and competitiveness. Not one without the other. All three are essential," he said.

The EU executive, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, will now travel to Brazil for the Conference of Parties - known as COP30 - with a clear EU emissions agreement.

"Now we have the possibility to go to Belem with leadership," said Sara Aagesen, Spain's climate minister.

Many EU governments have shifted to the right since the Paris Agreement in 2015. Some see climate regulations as shackling the economy, while others say Europe will either make and sell renewables or be forced to buy energy or green products from countries like China.

Wildfires, heat waves and floods have become more frequent across Europe, spurring calls for more climate action. But crises like Russia's war in Ukraine, and a newly volatile relationship with the United States, have increased political and economic pressure to curtail flagship environmental policies.

Bangladesh sees 1,147 dengue cases in a day

Dengue vaccine offers 7-year protection

OSAKA, Japan, Nov 5, (Agencies): Takeda announced the completion of the 7-year pivotal Phase 3 Tetravalent Immunization against Dengue Efficacy Study (TIDES) trial evaluating its dengue vaccine, Qdenga (Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine [Live, Attenuated]) (TAK-003). These data, including an exploratory analysis of a booster dose, confirm the favorable benefit and risk profile of Qdenga and that the two-dose regimen provides sustained protection against dengue. This is consistent with its approved indications in multiple countries worldwide, which could simplify vaccination schedules and increase adherence.

"We are seeing an unprecedented surge in dengue, with over 14 million cases reported across more than 100 countries in 2024 alone, largely driven by the impacts of climate change and inadequate urbanization. Brazil, consistently among the countries most impacted by dengue, has contributed to the record-breaking number of dengue cases and rise in severity and deaths. This surge highlights the urgent need for prevention methods like QDenga," said Edson Moreira, M.D., Senior Researcher at Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Brazilian Ministry of Health. "The inclusion of Qdenga



This 2003 photo provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a female Aedes albopictus mosquito acquiring a blood meal from a human host. (AP)

in Brazil's public vaccination program has reduced symptomatic dengue cases and dengue-related hospitalizations."

After 4.5 years, two doses of Qdenga provided 61.2% [95% CI: 56.0, 65.8] vaccine efficacy (VE) in preventing virologically confirmed dengue (VCD). 1 A booster dose administered at 4.5 years only marginally increased efficacy to 74.3% [95% CI: 66.7, 80.1] after 2 years. 2 Qdenga showed 84.1% [95% CI: 77.8, 88.6] VE in preventing dengue-related hospitalizations at 4.5 years, and VE remained consistently high at 90.6% [95% CI: 78.9, 95.8] after the booster dose. Overall efficacy

was seen across all four dengue virus serotypes through seven years. No new safety signals were observed following the administration of a booster dose.

"Qdenga is the most comprehensively studied dengue vaccine, with more than 60,000 participants globally in the clinical program, and these long-term data highlight the durability of its safety and efficacy profile, across diverse populations worldwide," said Derek Wallace, M.D., president of the Global Vaccine Business Unit at Takeda. "We are proud to have worked hand-in-hand with the clinical trial participants, collaborators and investigators whose contributions have been integral to the success of the TIDES trial and played a role in helping us move closer to a dengue-free world."

Also:

DHAKA: Bangladesh reported 1,147 new dengue cases and five new deaths in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Health said on Monday.

According to the data, 2,960 dengue cases were recorded so far in November, taking the tally to 72,822 and the death toll to 288 so far this year. Dengue fever, typically a monsoon-season illness in Bangladesh, is now spreading beyond its usual June-September period.

Japan confirms 3rd bird flu outbreak

Türkiye imposes quarantine after FMD outbreak

ISTANBUL, Nov. 5, (Xinhua): Turkish authorities imposed quarantine measures across 22 villages and neighborhoods in the northwestern province of Bolu on Tuesday following an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, local media reported.

The outbreak also prompted the suspension of operations at the regional livestock market until further notice, as part of efforts to contain the animal disease, the news website Halk TV reported.

Officials noted that the disease spreads rapidly, even via vehicle tires, and stressed that all animal transfers remain prohibited during the quarantine period. Türkiye has faced repeated outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease this year, forcing many livestock markets to remain closed throughout the summer.

The viral illness affects cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, and goats, causing fever, blisters, and painful sores in the mouth and on the feet, which make it difficult for the animals to eat or walk.

Bird flu: An outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza has been confirmed at a poultry farm in the central Japanese prefecture of Niigata, local authorities said Tuesday.

The prefectural government said it has confirmed the outbreak at the farm in the city of Tainai, with a total of 630,000 egg-laying chickens to be culled.

Officials said that the Niigata farm reported abnormalities on Monday morning, including an increase in the number of chicken deaths.

A preliminary virus test returned positive results, while a detailed genetic analysis was conducted.

The latest case marks the third bird flu outbreak confirmed at a poultry farm in Japan this season.

Meanwhile, the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI), Germany's federal animal health agency, said on Monday that almost one million animals have been culled in Germany to contain the spread of the highly contagious H5N1 virus.

The institute reported that the number of confirmed infections this year has already surpassed the level recorded at the same time during the record outbreak of 2021. "We saw an early start to the infection wave in 2025," an FLI spokesperson said. "It remains to be seen whether it will also subside earlier than in previous years."

Poor more vulnerable to extreme heat

As world leaders enter climate talks, people in poverty have most at stake

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 5, (AP): When summer heat comes to the Arara neighborhood in northern Rio, it lingers, baking the red brick and concrete that make up many of the buildings long after the sun has gone down. Luis Cassiano, who's lived here more than 30 years, says he's getting worried as heat waves become more frequent and fierce.

In poor areas such as Arara, those who can afford air conditioning - Cassiano is one - can't always count on it because of frequent power outages on an overloaded system. Cassiano gets some relief from the green roof he installed about a decade ago, which can keep his house up to 15 degrees Celsius (about 27 degrees Fahrenheit) cooler than his neighbor's, but he still struggles to stay comfortable.

"The sun in the summer nowadays is scary," Cassiano said.

As world leaders come to Brazil for climate talks, people like Cassiano are the ones with the most at stake. Poor communities are often more vulnerable to hazards like extreme heat and supercharged storms and less likely to have the resources to cope than wealthier places.

Any help from the climate talks depends on countries not just laying out pledges and plans to lower emissions. They also need to find the political will to implement them, as well as come up with the billions of dollars needed to adapt everything from harvests to houses to better withstand human-caused climate change.

All of it is sorely needed for the 1.1 billion people around the world who live in acute poverty, according to the United Nations.

That's why many have lauded the choice of Belem, a relatively poor city, to host these talks.

"I am pleased that we will be going to a place like this, because this is where climate meets poverty, meets demand, meets financing needs, and meets the reality of the majority of the population of this world that are impacted by climate change," said Inger Andersen, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme.

It's not just poor people in poor countries who suffer when poverty and climate change collide. A U.N. Development Programme report found that even in highly developed countries, 82% of people living in poverty will be exposed to at least one of four climate hazards: high heat, drought, floods and air pollution.

People in poverty are more vulnerable to climate change for several reasons, said Carter Brandon, a senior fellow at the World Resources Institute who works on the economics of climate change and the finances of adapting to it.



Coffee producer Jose Natal da Silva sifts coffee beans on his farm in Porciuncula, Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil, July 17, 2025. (AP)

They might not have the money to leave areas like inundated deltas or floodplains, landslide-prone hillsides or farmlands regularly scorched by drought. Nor to rebuild after a disaster hits. And those financial hits can be worsened by other problems like health issues, lack of education or lack of social mobility.

"It's not just, climate destroys buildings or bridges or property. It destroys the livelihoods of families. And if you don't have savings, that's really devastating," Brandon said.

Even relatively developed countries with more ways to adapt will see some farm yields drop significantly, according to a UNDP analysis of global agriculture under different warming scenarios.

But poorer countries will be more severely affected, said Heriberto Tapia, head of research and strategic partnerships advisor at the UNDP Human Development Report Office.

Tapia said Africa, with more than 500 million people in poverty, is a big concern. Many depend on crop yields for their livelihoods.

Most of the world's 550 million small agricultural producers are in low- or middle-income countries, working in marginal environments and more vulnerable to climate hazards, said Ismahane Elouafi, executive managing director of CGIAR, the Consultative Group for International Agriculture Research.

Elouafi thinks technology can help ease the climate pressure on many of those farmers, but also noted that many can't afford it. She's not confident that this year's COP will provide enough money to help with that.

Brazilian officials thought Belem, on the edge of the Amazon and not a rich city, would be a forceful reminder for negotiators of the difficulty that climate change and rising extreme

weather are bringing to millions of people every day.

"I heard there were a lot of negotiators who have been complaining of being put on a bunk bed, or in terms of sharing a room, but this is the reality of most people around the world," said Nafkote Dabi, climate policy lead at global development organization Oxfam. "So I think it makes things real."

But some experts were skeptical, despite the recent UNDP report saying the need to take action is urgent.

"I wish that they had said more about what exactly is the rapid action that needs to be taken, because I don't think rapid action is going to come out of COP," said Kimberly Marion Sui-seeya, an associate professor at Duke University who studies how international policies impact people in rural and forested areas.

Although the public narrative has long been that humankind has generally been making progress on alleviating poverty, numbers show that now there's a "stagnation," said Pedro Conceição, director of the Human Development Report Office at the UNDP. "The numbers are high and they are not budging."

In a memo ahead of COP30, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates called for a shift from prioritizing reducing emissions to focus on reducing human suffering. On climate change, "there's no apocalyptic story for rich countries," he said. "The place where it gets really tough is in these poor countries."

But Conceição said it's wrong to think about poverty reduction and climate as a tradeoff.

The idea that climate is only a future problem, "or it's about things out there like glaciers melting, needs to be completely thrown out and replaced with the notion that actually the two agendas are one and the same," he said.

E-cigarette use highest among youth

Vapers now outnumber smokers in Britain

LONDON, Nov 5, (Xinhua): The number of adults in Britain using e-cigarettes, or vapes, has for the first time overtaken cigarette smokers, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported Tuesday, marking a significant shift in the country's smoking habits but also raising new public health concerns.

According to ONS data, 10 percent of adults in Great Britain, around 5.4 million people, reported using e-cigarettes daily or occasionally in 2024, compared with 9.1 percent (4.9 million) who smoked cigarettes. This is the lowest proportion of smokers since records began in 2011, highlighting the continuing decline of tobacco use across the country.

The survey showed that smoking was most prevalent

among adults aged 25 to 34 (12.6 percent), while those aged 65 and above had the lowest rate at 7.1 percent. The largest decline since 2011 was seen in the 18 to 24 age group, where smoking fell from 25.7 percent to just 8.1 percent.

However, the pattern of vaping is more complex. ONS found that e-cigarette use among men fell slightly in 2024 compared with the previous year, 10.1 percent down from 11.0 percent, while among women it rose sharply to 10.0 percent from 8.5 percent. Use of e-cigarettes "daily or occasionally" remained highest among 16 to 24 year olds at 13 percent, though that figure was down from 15.8 percent in 2023.

David Mais, head of health analysis at ONS, said: "For the first time, the number of users of e-cigarettes or vapes has overtaken the number of smokers. Among adults aged 16 and over, 10 percent said they were e-cigarette users compared with 9.1 percent who smoked cigarettes. This reflects the long-term trend of fewer people smoking over the past decade."

Public health experts, however, warn that the rapid rise in vaping is not without risks. Professor John Ashton, a leading public health specialist who has worked with the World Health Organization, told Xinhua that while the decline in smoking is encouraging, the new trend poses fresh challenges.

"Over 30 years ago, more than 30 percent of British adults smoked," Ashton said. "Most of the reduction happened before vapes became widely available. By the time vapes came along 10 or more years ago, smoking rates had already fallen to about 20 percent. Now they're around 10 percent.



Pedestrians pass a vape shop in London, Jan 29, 2024. (AP)

Entry and match attendance are free for all

'Football for Humanity' tournament set to kick off this weekend

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The “Football for Humanity” tournament is set to kick off tomorrow, as organizers put the final touches on an opening ceremony that will blend the excitement of sport with captivating artistic performances. This edition marks a unique launch for one of Kuwait’s most prominent community events of the year, featuring matches between 34 teams comprising around 400 boys and girls aged 8 to 11, in an atmosphere that highlights the role of sport as a bridge for human solidarity and connection.

In its inaugural edition, the Football for Humanity initiative launches with a focus on supporting Palestinian children, harnessing the global reach of the world’s most popular sport to advance humanitarian diplomacy and deliver real impact. This first edition lays the foundation for an annual platform that will gradually expand to support children in other crisis-affected communities worldwide.

The initiative reinforces the role of sport as a tool for peace-building and social cohesion, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 10 on reducing inequalities and Goal 17 on fostering partnerships. By advancing the same humanitarian values promoted by the UN and FIFA, the initiative builds a foundation for future partnerships and deeper global engagement.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Football Association and member of the initiative’s Board of Trustees, said: “The Football for Humanity initiative proves that sports go beyond the boundaries of the field – they serve as a bridge for peace, cooperation, and solidarity among nations. It helps nurture a healthy environment that instills in children the true values of sportsmanship, turning their love for football into a deeper message of humanity and peace.

“I invite everyone to attend the matches on November 6 and 7 to witness how every pass on the field carries a message of unity and support shared among young players around the world. Regardless of differences in language, borders, or circumstances, sport – and football in particular – unites us and drives us forward with teamwork toward a better future. That is the highest purpose of sport.”

H.E. Lorenzo Morini, Ambassador of Italy to Kuwait, said: “We are delighted to see this initiative come to life after a year of dedicated work. What began as an idea has today become an international humanitarian platform led by the State of Kuwait under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya. This is entirely in line with Kuwait’s long-standing and principled commitment to humanitarian action around the world. I also extend my sincere appreciation to Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chairperson of Al-Nowair Foundation and Chair of the Organizing Committee, for her leadership in bringing partners together and turning this vision into a tangible reality.”



Jaber Al-Ahmad Youth Center

Balsam Al-Ayoub, initiative advisor and member of the Board of Trustees, said: “This initiative builds on Kuwait’s long-standing humanitarian legacy and its continued cooperation with the international community. Today, we lay the foundation for a global movement for humanity, one that unites international, governmental, institutional, and community efforts through sport. Football’s universal power transcends borders and cultures, serving as a bridge between people and strengthening the values of solidarity and peace. We are proud to launch this global call from Kuwait, a nation known as a land of friendship, peace, and humanitarian leadership.”

The youth tournament will take place on November 6–7 at Jaber Al-Ahmad Youth Center, with the participation of 15 local football academies forming 34 teams. The event promises audiences a fully immersive experience both on and off the pitch. Matches will be held across four simultaneous fields, with each half lasting 12 minutes. Surrounding areas will feature a retail and entertainment village offering family-friendly activities, a vibrant social atmosphere, and a variety of restaurants and cafés, creating a lively environment that blends sport, leisure, and community.

Entry and match attendance are free for all, inviting everyone to support young players and share in the message of humanity and solidarity through sport.

Match Schedule:
■ November 6th: 4:30 PM – 8:30 PM
■ November 7th: 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Opening & Closing Ceremony:
■ November 7th: 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM, featuring an exhibition match by Kuwait’s U-17 Women’s National Team

Key Figures:
■ 400 boys and girls
■ Average age: 8–11 years
■ 34 teams from 15 academies
■ 12-minute half-time per match
■ Two days the duration of the tournament
■ Pitch divided into four small fields hosting simultaneous games
■ One goal: solidarity with Palestinian children through unity among Kuwait’s youth of all nationalities

This tournament introduces a creative format never before seen in Kuwait, the GCC, or even globally. Children will manage the games themselves – with no referees – while coaches’ roles are limited to substitutions and overall conduct. Players who demonstrate responsibility, humility, and sportsmanship will receive green cards, and after each match, coaches will select two standout players from the other team in recognition of fair play and teamwork.

The tournament concludes with mixed-team games, with no scores, rankings, or first-place trophies, ensuring a competitive experience grounded in fairness, inclusion, and the spirit of humanity. This reflects the initiative’s vision to give children the chance to enjoy sports as a holistic way of life, while reinforcing ethical and humanitarian values and noble goals.

The Kuwait Football Association (KFA) dedicated its full technical and administrative support to ensure the success of the initiative. The Association contributed exclusive football memorabilia to the charity auction, alongside original items provided by the embassies of participating countries from their national teams and clubs.

The KFA also engaged its grassroots programs, coordinated with the Kuwait Football Academies Union, and organized an exhibition match featuring Kuwait’s U-17 women’s national team. This contribution reflects the Association’s commitment to its sporting and social role by using football as a platform to serve the community and promote humanitarian and social values.

For the latest updates, follow the initiative on Instagram:instagram.com/footballhumanitykw, also to bid on or view the auction, visit: <https://4mazad.com/products/products/71>.

Pakistan tail hangs on to beat spirited SA by 2 wickets in ODI series opener



Pakistan’s Saim Ayub plays a shot during the first one day international cricket match between Pakistan and South Africa, in Faisalabad, Pakistan. (AP)

International cricket returns to Faisalabad after 17-year absence

FAISALABAD, Pakistan, Nov 5, (AP): A full-strength Pakistan beat a spirited South Africa by two wickets in their ODI series opener y to mark the return of international cricket in Faisalabad after a 17-year absence.

Pakistan tailenders hung in to reach 264-8 in the last over as an inexperienced South Africa fought gallantly to claim four wickets in the last five overs and pushed the home team to the limit.

South Africa, which lost its sixth straight toss across formats on its tour of Pakistan, couldn’t capitalize on half-centuries from debutant Lhuan-dre Pretorius (57) and Quinton de Kock (63) before it got bowled out for 263 in 49.1 overs.

Top-scorer Salman Ali Agha (62) and Mohammad Rizwan (55) saw Pakistan cruising to 196-3 in the 39th over before Pakistan nearly slipped in what appeared to be a straightforward run-chase.

Rizwan smashed a half-century in his first ODI after being removed from the captaincy and was replaced by Shaheen Shah Afridi as he shared a 91-run stand with Agha to put the chase back on track.

Rizwan and Agha gauged the slow wicket perfectly

after Pakistan lost three wickets in the space of 18 runs as they kept rotating the strike by picking up singles and twos.

The left-handed opening pair of Fakhar Zaman (45) and Saim Ayub (39) combined in an 87-run partnership against a second-string South Africa pace attack as the Proteas rested key fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen for the three-match series.

Off-spinner Donovan Ferreira, one of the three South African debutants, pegged back the chase with the pitch offering plenty of assistance to the spinners. Ferreira removed both openers in his successive overs when Ayub was adjudged plumb leg before wicket as he tried to cut the off-spinner, and Zaman holed out at long-on while attempting a big shot against Ferreira.

Babar Azam, whose half-century helped Pakistan clinch the T20 series at Lahore last Saturday, lasted only 12 balls before he was lbw by left-arm spinner Bjorn Fortuin’s delivery that skidded into the right-hander and struck him low on the pads.

Rizwan and Agha then dug in by rotating the strike as the former dominated the spinners with his trademark strong sweep shots before he holed out to deep mid-wicket off Corbin Bosch’s shot ball, but mistimed the pull shot.

Agha and Hussain Talat (22) added 44 runs, and Agha completed his half-century with a straight six

before South Africa made a stunning comeback when Lungi Ngidi deceived Talat with a slower ball and George Linde plucked a low catch at mid-off.

With the wicket assisting spinners, captain Matthew Breetzke kept on spinners from one end in the death overs as Linde had Hasan Nawaz stumped. Pakistan needed to run a ball off the final two overs, but Agha was brilliantly snapped by Ferreira at long-on.

And with the scores tied, Mohammad Nawaz got a leading edge of Bosch’s short ball in the final over before Naseem Shah ran a leg bye to carry Pakistan home with two balls to spare.

De Kock, coming out of ODI retirement after two years, and Pretorius put up a strong opening stand of 98 runs in 96 balls as they batted aggressively against the pace before South Africa lost its way in the latter half of the innings and lost the last seven wickets for 72 runs.

Pretorius found the early momentum as he struck well square of the wicket and also played some brilliant shots down the ground before completing his half-century off 47 balls with seven boundaries and a six.

Pakistan turned to its spinners, and Saim Ayub made an immediate impact when the off-spinner lured Pretorius to drive and had him caught at point. De Kock changed the gears and raised his 31st ODI half-century off 50 balls, but chopped Naseem Shah’s ball back onto his stumps in the 25th over.

Al-Qadsia faces uphill battle in Gulf Champions League

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Al-Qadsia continues to struggle in the Gulf Champions League, managing only a 0-0 draw against Bahrain’s Al-Sitra in Round 3 at Khalifa Sports City Stadium. The result gave the team its first point in the group after losses to Iraq’s Zakho (1-3) and UAE’s Al-Ain (0-1), leaving them in fourth place, while Al-Sitra rose to third with two points.

Zakho top the group with seven points after a 2-0 win over Al-Ain, who dropped to second with six points.

Al-Qadsia faces a tough path to the semifinals, needing wins in all three remaining matches, including the crucial Round 4 clash with Al-Sitra on December 23. Even then, qualification also depends on Zakho or Al-Ain dropping points in two of their remaining games.

The team showed limited performance for most of the match, with many experienced and foreign players absent during key periods. Performance improved slightly after the younger players were introduced late in the second half.



Players vie for the ball during the Gulf Champions League match between Al-Qadsia and Al-Sitra.

Al-Ittihad defies domestic woes to defeat Al-Sharjah

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 5, (AP): Saudi Arabia champion Al-Ittihad shrugged off its poor domestic form to defeat Al-Sharjah of the United Arab Emirates 3-0 in the Asian Champions League Elite.

Since his appointment on Oct. 7, coach Sergio Conceição has yet to win in three Saudi Pro League matches, but Steven Bergwijn put Al-Ittihad ahead after eight minutes. Goals from Karim Benzema and Roger Fernandes then sealed the win for the two-time champion. Al-Ittihad’s Jeddah rival, Al-Ahli, moved into second place in the group with a 2-1 win over Qatar’s Al-Sadd, thanks to goals from Riyadh Mahrez and Matheus Goncalves.

On Monday, Al-Hilal, also of Saudi Arabia, remained the only team in the tournament with a perfect record after a 2-1 victory over Al-Gharafa of Qatar, earning the maximum 12 points to stay atop its group. Salem Al-Dawsari, the recently named AFC Player of the Year, opened the scoring for the four-time champion, and Brazilian forward Kaio Cesar doubled the lead before Al-Gharafa scored a late consolation.

In the eastern zone, the 24-team tournament is divided into two groups of 12, with the top eight from each advancing to the knockout stage. Sanfrece Hiroshima of Japan went top after a 1-0 win over South Korea’s Gangwon FC. Elsewhere, Melbourne City beat Machida Zelvia of Japan 2-1, and FC Seoul drew 0-0 with Chinese Super League team Chengdu Rongcheng.

Announcement

The owners of **Al-Kuwaitiya Al-Mutamayyiza Insurance Brokerage Company** have submitted a request to the Insurance Regulatory Unit to cease their operations and terminate their operating license, number (IBC20200015).

Anyone with an objection should submit it in writing to the Insurance Regulatory Unit at its headquarters located on Khalid Bin Al-Waleed Street - Kamco Tower, within thirty days of the date of this announcement. The objection must be accompanied by supporting documentation; otherwise, it will not be considered.

Venus Williams plans to start 33rd straight pro season in Auckland

Coco Gauff revives chances of advancing at WTA Finals

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 5, (AP): Defending champion Coco Gauff revived her chances of advancing at the WTA Finals with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Jasmine Paolini.

Gauff also improved her serving, hitting only three double-faults - far fewer than the 17 that she produced in her opening match, a three-set loss to Jessica Pegula.

“Definitely a turnaround from my first match,” Gauff said. “It’s the beauty of this tournament and to have another chance to prove yourself.”

Gauff next faces top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka to determine if she advances in the season-ending event for the top eight players, while Paolini was eliminated from contention with two losses.

Sabalenka leads the group after beating Pegula 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

Paolini is also playing doubles at the event with partner Sara Errani.

“I don’t think Jasmine was 100% today,” Gauff said. “Playing singles and doubles is not easy.”

□ □ □

Venus Williams plans to play for a 33rd straight season on the WTA Tour, starting in Auckland in January.

Organizers of the ASB



Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus plays a shot against Jessica Pegula of the United States during their women’s singles match of the WTA finals in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. (AP)

Classic in New Zealand said Wednesday that the 45-year-old Williams would feature at their Jan. 5-11 event.

It suggests the seven-time Grand Slam singles champion is preparing for the Australian Open later that month, a tournament she has twice lost in the final.

Williams made her pro tournament debut in 1994 in Oakland, California and has played at least two WTA events in each season since, the tour said.

She last played in singles at the U.S. Open in August, losing in three sets to 11th-seeded Karolina Muchova in the first round.

Ranked No. 570, Williams is five years older than the next oldest ranked players, Naoko Eto and Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

Change Name

I, Arsalan Farooq Mohammed holder of Indian passport No. X3486134 Issued at Kuwait on 04-05-2024 and permanent residence of 12-1-925/13/A Old Malleshwari Feelkhana, near Mugeem Kirana and General Store, District : Hyderabad PIN-500001, TELANGANA Do hereby change my name from Arsalan Farooq Mohammed to Mohd Arsalan Farooq with immediate effect

Kuwait Club maintains grip on Zain Premier League



Kuwait Club players celebrate their victory over Al-Nasr.

Al-Arabi keeps pressure on leader

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Kuwait Club maintained its grip on the top spot in the Zain Premier League with a narrow 1-0 win over Al-Nasr at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium in the seventh round. Yassin Al-Khunaisi scored the only goal in first-half stoppage time.

The victory takes Kuwait Club to 16 points, while Al-Nasr remains at the bottom of the table without a point. Al-Arabi continued its chase of the leader with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Al-Jahra at Mohamed Al-Hamad Stadium, keeping the two-point gap with Kuwait Club intact. Both teams still have a postponed match to play. Al-Qadsia dropped to third with 11 points, level on goal difference with Al-Salmiya and Kazma. Al-Shabab is sixth with nine points, Al-Fahaheel seventh with seven points, Al-Jahra eighth on goal difference, Al-Tadamon ninth with four points, and Al-Nasr remain last with zero points. Kuwait Club coach Nebojsa Jovovic admitted the match was tough due to his team playing four games in 11 days, which caused fatigue and minor injuries. "Playing multiple matches in a short span can affect any team's performance, but our priority was to secure the three points," he said. Jovovic added that Kuwait Club controlled the game from the start and will now focus on preparing for Sunday's clash against unbeaten Kazma in the eighth round. The league's eighth round will be played on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, before the season pauses until December for international matches and the Arab Cup in Doha, Qatar.

Strong support for dressage as championship kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Sheikh Sabah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Dressage Committee at the Kuwait Equestrian Federation, praised the strong support from both the local federation and domestic clubs for dressage. He thanked all supporters of equestrian sports in general and dressage in particular, noting that their contributions have helped grow the sport, increase rider participation, and attract larger audiences. The Kuwait Equestrian Federation Dressage Championship will take place next Saturday at 3:00 PM at the Sahara Equestrian Resort.

Competitions will be held across six levels: Training, Basic, First and Second Light, and First and Second Medium, attracting riders passionate about this foundational equestrian discipline. Sheikh Sabah highlighted the federation's efforts over the past years, saying: "We began promoting horse dressage several years ago and had the honor of organizing numerous championships, helping the sport spread across the country." He also stressed that both horses and riders must be physically fit and in top condition to compete.



A file photo of Sheikh Sabah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah honoring winners.

Warriors overcome short-handed Suns

OKC surges past Clippers to extend season-opening winning streak to 8

INGLEWOOD, Calif., Nov 5, (AP): Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 30 points and 12 assists and the defending champion Oklahoma City Thunder extended their season-opening winning streak to eight games with a 126-107 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers. Isaiah Joe added 22 points and Cason Wallace and Aaron Wiggins each had 12 to help the Thunder overcome an early surge by the Clippers to set a franchise record for consecutive victories to start a season.

Gilgeous-Alexander, who played for the Clippers in his rookie season before he was traded to the Thunder, was 9 of 14 from the floor and 4 of 5 from 3-point range. James Harden scored 25 points and John Collins added 17 for the Clippers. They were without Kawhi Leonard (ankle) and Bradley Beal (knee) on the second night of a home back-to-back. Derrick Jones Jr. scored 16 points as the Clippers lost consecutive home games after winning the first three in their own building.

Warriors 118, Suns 107
In San Francisco, Stephen Curry scored 28 points with five 3-pointers, Moses Moody came off the bench to score 24 and also hit five 3s, and the Golden State Warriors jumped to a big early lead before holding on for victory over the short-handed Phoenix Suns. Devin Booker scored a season-high 38 points, converting all 11 of his free throws. Mark Williams had 16 points and a season-best 16 rebounds and Grayson Allen also scored 16 points for the Suns, who were missing Dillon Brooks and Jalen Green with injuries and fell behind 68-49 at halftime. Phoenix used a 20-6 run to end the third quarter to pull within 92-83 and make it a game again. Quinten Post contributed 14 points with four 3s and six rebounds for Golden State, while Brandin Podziemski had 13 points and Buddy Hield added 12. It was a welcome balanced attack for a Warriors team that had just played seven games in five cities over 12 days - and has another



Golden State Warriors' Trayce Jackson-Davis (32) goes for a rebound against Phoenix Suns' Collin Gillespie (12) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco. (AP)

one to complete a back-to-back in Sacramento on Wednesday. Coach Steve Kerr said Curry will sit out against the Kings because of a bad cold that Curry himself said is getting worse. The Warriors are 4-0 at home and sent Phoenix to a fourth straight road defeat to begin the season. **Pelicans 116, Hornets 112**
In New Orleans, Jose Alvarado made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 16 seconds left and the New Orleans Pelicans won for the first time this season by beating the Charlotte Hornets. Trey Murphy III scored 21 points for the Pelicans, who had dropped their first six games. Their victory left the Brooklyn Nets (0-7) as the NBA's only winless team. Alvarado added 18 points and fellow reserve Saddiq Bey had 17 for the Pelicans, who announced earlier Tuesday that Zion Williamson would miss at least a week because of a strained left hamstring. Miles Bridges scored 22 points and rookie Kon Knueppel had 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Hornets, who played without LaMelo Ball for a second straight game because of a right ankle in-

jury. Trailing by two at halftime, Charlotte opened the third quarter with an 11-0 run to take a lead it held all the way until Alvarado dribbled right and pulled up for his go-ahead shot. **Raptors 128, Bucks 100**
In Toronto, Scottie Barnes and RJ Barrett each scored 23 points, Immanuel Quickley and Sandro Mamukelashvili both had 15 and the Toronto Raptors won their third straight game by thumping the Milwaukee Bucks. Grady Dick scored 14 points and Brandon Ingram had 13. Toronto posted its biggest margin of victory of the season, eclipsing a 20-point win at Atlanta on Oct. 22. Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 22 points, Kyle Kuzma had 18 and Cole Anthony 12 as the Bucks lost for the second time in three games. It was Milwaukee's most lopsided loss of the season, easily exceeding the five-point margin in a 118-113 defeat at Cleveland on Oct. 26. Ryan Rollins scored 11 points for the Bucks and Myles Turner had 10. **Hawks 127, Magic 112**
In Atlanta, Zaccharie Risacher scored 21 points, Nickeil Alexan-

der-Walker had 20 and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Orlando Magic. Dyson Daniels added 18 points, Jalen Johnson had 17 and Kristaps Porzingis finished with 15 as Atlanta won for the third time in four games. Onyeka Okongwu added 14 points and seven rebounds off the bench. Daniels was 8 for 9 from the field as the Hawks shot 55.6% and led by 25 points while improving to 2-0 against the Magic this season. Paolo Banchero had 22 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists for the Magic, who lost starting guard Desmond Bane to an ejection in the third quarter. Bane flagrantly fouled Okongwu and then spiked the ball into the Hawks forward's head as he fell, a technical foul that led to the ejection. The Hawks were in control by then. Risacher scored 11 points in the first four minutes of the game and the No. 1 pick in the 2024 draft had 16 in the first half to reach 1,000 for his career. **Bulls 113, Sixers 111**
In Chicago, Josh Giddey had a triple-double with 29 points, 15 rebounds and 12 assists, Nikola Vucevic made a 3-pointer with 3.2 seconds remaining and the Chicago Bulls came back from a 24-point deficit to beat the Philadelphia 76ers. Philadelphia's Quentin Grimes missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer that would have won it. Giddey is the first Bulls player to have back-to-back triple-doubles since Michael Jordan in 1989. He drove to the basket before hitting Vucevic with a pass for the corner 3 on the game's decisive possession. Vucevic finished with 19 points and 10 rebounds, Isaac Okoro added 16. The Bulls held the Sixers to just 16 points in the fourth quarter. The Sixers scored 45 points in the first to take an 18-point lead and stayed in front for the majority of the game. Tyrese Maxey scored 12 points on 4 of 6 shooting from 3-point range during the early offensive outburst.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Basketball fans are in for a thrilling showdown tonight as Kazma and Al-Qadsia meet in Round 3 of the national league at 7:30 PM at the Basketball Association Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Earlier, Al-Sahel faces Al-Qurain at 5:00 PM in the same venue. The Kazma vs. Al-Qadsia matchup is the highlight of the round, featuring two teams vying for top league positions, with Al-Qadsia having dominated recent championships. Kazma looks to bounce back from a loss to Al-Qurain, despite the absence of suspended captain Abdulaziz Al-Humaidi. Key players include Abdulmohsen Al-Mousawi, Rashid Al-Rabah, Abdullah Tawfiq, and Mohammed Ashkanani, supported by foreign trio Jumaro Brown, DeQuan Jones, and Brandon Garrett, under Turkish coach Idak Baysir. Al-Qadsia aims for a third consecutive win following victories over Al-Arabi and Al-Sulaibikhat. Slovenian coach Bojan Lazic relies on experienced players Ahmed Al-Balushi, Abdulrahman Al-



In this file photo, Kazma player shoots as Al-Qadsia player defends.

Sahoo, Hussein Al-Khabaz, and Abdullah Ibrahim, along with American duo Jagwan Johnson and Phil Green, balancing offense and defense to maintain their winning form.

Best of the Rest

Westhuizen confirmed as Namibia captain: The Namibia Rugby Union (NRU) announced on Wednesday that experienced hooker Louis van der Westhuizen will captain the national team in the crucial upcoming Final Rugby World Cup qualifier tournament in Dubai. The tournament will run from November 8 to 18, 2025. This announcement comes as Namibia prepares for a three-match, round-robin competition against Samoa, Belgium, and Brazil, with only the winner securing the 24th and final spot at the Rugby World Cup 2027 in Australia. The NRU said that Van der Westhuizen has been an integral part of Namibian rugby for several years, contributing experience, passion, and strong leadership both on and off the field. "His commitment to the team's values and his drive for excellence make him the ideal leader for Namibia to continue its journey on the international stage," the NRU added. The director of Namibia Rugby Jacques Burger expressed full confidence in the appointment and noted that Van der Westhuizen embodies the resilience and determination that define Namibian rugby. "The team is united and ready to represent the country with pride, as they aim to secure qualification and make the nation proud," he concluded. (Xinhua)

Russians, Belarusians allowed to compete: World Aquatics has allowed Russian and Belarusian water polo players to return to international competitions beginning on January 1, 2026, according to the organization's new eligibility rules, it was reported. The athletes will be permitted to compete under neutral status during the events, without any other association with their country, according to the TASS news agency. Previously, only swimmers, divers, and synchronized swimming athletes from the two countries were allowed to participate in international tournaments as neutral athletes. The move means World Aquatics has become the first organization to admit Russian athletes as neutrals in a team sport, TASS said. World Aquatics first suspended athletes from Russia and Belarus from participating in its competitions in March 2022 following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The organization began easing restrictions in 2024, allowing swimmers, divers and artistic swimmers to return under neutral status. (Xinhua)

Gyökeres out, Isak in for Sweden as Potter selects first squad

STOCKHOLM, Nov 5, (AP): Viktor Gyökeres was left out of the first Sweden squad selected by new coach Graham Potter on Wednesday after picking up a muscular injury playing for Arsenal at the weekend. Fellow striker Alexander Isak was included, though, despite missing Liverpool's last four games because of a groin problem. Potter was hired last month on an initial deal that will see him take control for Sweden's final World Cup qualifiers, against Switzerland and Slovenia over the next two weeks. He will also coach the struggling national team in the World Cup playoffs in March, which Swe-

den is likely to reach by virtue of winning its most recent Nations League group. However, the Englishman will start his tenure without Gyökeres, who was substituted because of injury at halftime in Arsenal's 2-0 win over Burnley in the Premier League on Saturday and missed the 3-0 victory at Slavia Prague in the Champions League on Tuesday. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said ahead of the Slavia game that he was "concerned" about Gyökeres' injury and indicated there was uncertainty over just how bad it was. Isak, who joined Liverpool as the British record signing in the summer transfer window,

hasn't played since coming off at halftime in the 5-1 win over Eintracht Frankfurt on Oct. 22. Liverpool manager Arne Slot said Monday that Isak was in a race against time to be fit to play against Manchester City in the league on Sunday, and Potter said the striker's fitness would be assessed after the weekend. "He is not ready to play two matches for 90 minutes (for Sweden)," Potter said of Isak, "but he is available." Sweden is last in its four-team World Cup qualifying group, on one point from four games, after a dispiriting campaign that led to the firing of Jon Dahl Tomasson, its first foreign-born coach.

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NEWS



Nottingham Forest players practice during a training session in Nottingham, England, Wednesday, one day ahead of their Europa League soccer match against Sturm. (AP)

Sports

Rossi hails Kuwait Asian Shooting Championship as a ‘model event’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Italian Shooting Federation President Luciano Rossi praised the Kuwait Asian Shooting Championship, held at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Complex, calling it a model event that exceeded expectations. He noted that performances, especially in the trap category, rivaled results from the Olympic Games.

Rossi, who helped award the trap winners, highlighted the excellent organization, warm hospitality, and strong collaboration between the Kuwait Shooting Federation and the Asian Shooting Federation. He pointed out that Abdulrahman Al-Faihan matched the score of Nathan Hales, the Paris 2024 Olympic gold medalist, reflecting the championship’s high standard. “The event is progressing in the right direction, with top-level competition among champions,” Rossi said, expressing confidence in Kuwait’s continued support for shooting at both Asian and global levels.

Rossi also expressed pride in attending the championship, hosted by Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud, President of the Asian Shooting Federation, and Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi, President of the Arab and Kuwaiti Shooting Federations.

The trap competitions for men and



Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud with Luciano Rossi.

women concluded recently, with Kuwait winning five medals among the top six positions.

Today, the 50-plate skeet competitions for men and women continue, with shooters battling for spots in the finals scheduled for Friday.

Qatari technical delegate Abdullah Al-Hammadi praised Kuwait and Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah for the invitation and commended the high technical level and fierce competition among participants, all striving for top positions in each category.

Stars shine at Kuwait Padel World Cup Pairs Champ’ship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The first-ever Padel World Cup Pairs Championship in Kuwait continued to thrill fans on its third day, hosted at Arena and the Rafa Nadal Academy, featuring elite players from around the world.

The knockout rounds delivered intense matches and top-level performances. World No. 1 Agustín Tapia from Argentina, alongside his Spanish partner Artur Cuello, impressed, while the Spanish duo Pablo Rodrigo and David Gala stunned spectators by defeating Argentine pair Martín de Nino and Leandro Ogsburger in a 2-1 upset.

The round of 16 for both men and women takes place this evening, with the quarterfinals scheduled for Friday and semifinals on Saturday.

Luigi Carraro, President of the International Padel Federation, expressed his delight at hosting the championship in Kuwait, praising the excellent organization. He highlighted the tournament’s global significance, noting it awards 2,000 international ranking points to the winner and grants the prestigious title of World Champion for two consecutive years.



Player in action.

‘It’s coming soon’

Ronaldo hints at retirement



A file photo of Ronaldo celebrating.

RIYADH, Nov 5: Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, Al-Nassr striker, revealed that his retirement from football is approaching. The 40-year-old, who has scored 952 career goals and won numerous titles, said he may cry when the time comes but is ready to adapt to life off the pitch.

In an interview with Piers Morgan, Ronaldo said: “Soon. I think I will be ready. Of course, it will be difficult. Maybe I will cry. But I’ve been preparing for my future since I was 25, so I can handle it.” Ronaldo emphasized his enduring passion for football: “Nothing compares to the thrill of scoring a goal. But everything has a beginning and an end. I have other passions and will dedicate more time to myself and my family, raising my children.”

Despite leaving Manchester United for the second time in 2022, Ronaldo still follows his former club closely, particularly his former teammate and current manager Rúben Amorim. On United’s struggles, he added: “They have good players, but some don’t understand what Manchester United truly means. Miracles are impossible.”

Mbappé muzzled as Liverpool sinks Madrid

Diaz double fires Bayern past PSG

PARIS, Nov 5, (AP): Bayern Munich and Liverpool won the blockbuster matchups in the Champions League. Micky van de Ven might have already scored the competition’s goal of the season.

With a 2-1 win at defending champion Paris Saint-Germain, Bayern made it 16 straight victories in all competitions to underline its status as perhaps the new leading force in European soccer.

Real Madrid came unstuck at Anfield for the second straight season, losing 1-0 to Liverpool as Trent Alexander-Arnold - jeered on his every touch - endured a miserable return to his long-time former club.

Midway through the fourth round of league-stage games, only Bayern and Arsenal are on a maximum 12 points. Arsenal swept to a 3-0 win at Slavia Prague, bringing 15-year-old Max Dowman off the bench to make him the youngest player in Champions League history.

The moment of the night fell to Van de Ven, the lanky Tottenham defender who set off on a mazy, 90-meter run from the edge of his own area to score the team’s third goal in a 4-0 win over FC Copenhagen.

“It was like Lionel Messi transformed into a center back,” Tottenham manager Thomas Frank said.

Bayern oozed quality in the first half before showing resilience in the second half to hold on with 10 men at the Parc des Princes on a night of mixed fortunes for Luis Diaz.

The former Liverpool winger produced clinical finishes in the fourth and 32nd minutes to power the German champions into a 2-0 lead, only to mar his display with a reckless lunge from behind on PSG right back Achraf Hakimi in first-half stoppage time. Diaz was sent off after a VAR review, and Hakimi hobbled out of the game with an injured left ankle.

PSG, which had already seen Ballon d’Or winner Ousmane Dembélé come off hurt, reduced the deficit through substitute Joao Neves, and Bayern endured some nervy moments before



Andrew Robertson tackles Real Madrid’s Arda Guler during the Champions League soccer match between Liverpool and Real Madrid in Liverpool, England. (AP)

clinging yet another win.

At Anfield, Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois produced save after save to defy Liverpool almost single-handedly but was finally beaten by

Alexis Mac Allister’s header off a free kick in the 61st minute.

The teams had played each other in the league phase of last season’s competition at the same stadium,

with Liverpool winning 2-0. It took the brilliance of Courtois to keep the score down, with Kylian Mbappé kept quiet at the other end.

Alexander-Arnold, who left Liver-

pool for Madrid in the offseason, was jeered by the home fans before the game and after coming on as a second-half substitute. Earlier, a mural dedicated to him near Anfield was defaced.

A fourth straight win. An eighth straight clean sheet to tie a 122-year record. A competition debut for a 15-year-old schoolkid.

It was quite the night for Arsenal in Prague, where Bukayo Saka converted a penalty and Mikel Merino added two second-half goals. Arsenal has yet to concede a goal in the Champions League and has matched its best-ever streak for shutouts, which was recorded in 1903 when in the second tier of English soccer.

Dowman, aged 15 years and 308 days, entered as a second-half substitute for the Premier League leaders for his latest record-setting salvo.

Juventus is still waiting for its first win of the league stage after coming from behind to draw 1-1 with Sporting Lisbon in Luciano Spalletti’s first Champions League game since taking over as coach.

The former Italy and Napoli coach watched the team’s poor start as Maximiliano Araújo fired in off the far post in the 12th minute. Francisco Trincão struck the crossbar just afterward, leaving Spalletti with his arms outstretched on the sideline.

Dušan Vlahović equalized in the 34th.

Julian Alvarez, Conor Gallagher, and Marcos Llorente scored a goal each as Atletico Madrid defeated Union Saint-Gilloise 3-1 at home.

It was a second win for Atletico, which was coming off a 4-0 defeat at Arsenal in the previous round.

Monaco also won, 1-0 at Bodø/Glimt, thanks to U.S. international Folarin Balogun’s first-half strike, for a first victory of the campaign.

Goals were expected, but none arrived in a 0-0 draw between Napoli and visiting Eintracht Frankfurt.

Napoli was coming off a 6-2 loss to PSV Eindhoven two weeks ago, but was without its most creative player in Kevin De Bruyne, who has just undergone surgery on his right hamstring.

It marked an end to Frankfurt’s remarkable run of 5-1 results in this season’s competition, with the German team having been on the receiving end of two of them.

In the night’s other match, U.S. striker Ricardo Pepi scored in the third minute of stoppage time for PSV to salvage a 1-1 draw at Olympiakos.

Al-Mousawi praises dedication of Kuwait youth handball team

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Assistant coach of Kuwait’s national youth handball team, Saleh Al-Mousawi, commended the hard work and commitment of the team during ongoing training sessions at the Handball Federation Hall in the Martyr Fahad Al-Ahmad Center, Adaiya.

Al-Mousawi said the training aligns with the federation’s vision and the national teams’ preparation plan for future competitions, involving all players born in 2012 under Coach Tim Boudy.

The coaching staff focuses on enhancing players’ individual skills, tactical awareness, shooting accuracy, balance, passing, fast defensive coverage, and specialized goalkeeper drills.

He praised the players’ discipline and punctuality, noting that their awareness from a young age allows the team to intensify training and achieve the highest levels of technical, physical, and mental readiness.

Al-Mousawi also thanked the Handball Federation board,

coaching staff, and national team management for supporting the youth team, removing obstacles, and preparing the players effectively, emphasizing that these young athletes are the future backbone of Kuwait’s national handball teams.



Players take part in the training session.

Games to start on Friday in Riyadh

Kuwait sends 65 athletes to Islamic Solidarity Games

RIYADH, Nov 5, (KUNA): Kuwait will take part in the sixth edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games, set to begin next Friday in Riyadh and continue until November 21, with a delegation of 65 athletes competing in 11 sports.

Retired Major General Mohammad Al-Khalfan, Director of the Kuwaiti delegation and Director General of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, said Kuwaiti athletes will compete in athletics, triathlon, e-sports, jiu-jitsu, swimming, camel racing, fencing, weightlifting, karate, equestrian (show jumping), and handball.

Al-Khalfan emphasized that Kuwait’s participation highlights the committee’s commitment to regional, Arab, Asian, and Islamic sports events, promoting sports interaction and strengthening ties across the Islamic world. This will mark Kuwait’s fourth participation since the Games began.

He added that the teams have completed intensive preparations, including domestic and overseas training

camp, coordinated by sports federations, the Kuwait Olympic Committee, and the Public Authority for Sport. The delegation aims to achieve podium finishes and multiple medals for Kuwait.

Al-Khalfan noted that while the competition is expected to be highly competitive, the main goal is to maximize athletes’ technical experience and provide exposure for all participants, including female athletes, who represent Kuwait on the international stage.

Kuwait’s previous appearances include Makkah 2005 (10 medals), Indonesia 2013 (8 medals), and Konya 2022 (9 medals), totaling 27 medals in the Games’ history, showcasing Kuwait’s strong sporting presence and readiness for Riyadh 2025.

The Islamic Solidarity Games, considered the third-largest multi-sport event after the Olympics and Asian Games, gather over 3,000 athletes from 57 countries, competing across 23 individual and team sports, promoting unity and sportsmanship across the Islamic world.