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Kuwait capable, ready to lead, adapt to reform: PM

Need to diversify trade corridors with EU: Sheikh Al-Abdullah

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (Agencies): Under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, the 9th Gulf-European Business Forum was inaugurated under the theme “Together for Shared Prosperity,” reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The forum took place at the Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center, where His Highness the Prime Minister delivered a speech highlighting the strong trade cooperation between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union, which exceeds 150 billion euros annually.

He expressed hope that the forum would help chart a path toward shared prosperity in the upcoming phase.

His Highness the Prime Minister welcomed Kuwait’s guests to the 9th Gulf-European Business Forum, held in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), the European Union, and the GCC Secretariat.



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah speaking at the forum.

He highlighted that the State of Kuwait is capable and ready to lead and adapt to change, guided by its 2035 development vision.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah affirmed Kuwait’s steadfast commitment to achieving security,

peace, and international cooperation.

His Highness the Prime Minister noted that Kuwait has hosted several significant events over the years, including the third EU-GCC Forum in 2019 and, most recently, the 29th Joint Ministerial Meeting of the EU-GCC Council of Foreign Ministers on October 6. This reflected a strategic partnership aimed at addressing global challenges in areas such as energy security, sustainability, and geopolitical stability.

He affirmed that the relationship between the GCC and the EU is deeply rooted, originating with the 1989 Cooperation Agreement and further strengthened by the 2024 Brussels Summit.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah stated that this partnership serves as a model for multilateral international cooperation aimed at promoting economic diversification, climate-friendly trade, innovation, digital transformation, energy security, and sustainable growth.

His Highness the Prime Minister added that this collaboration is particularly evident in renewable energy, advanced technology, healthcare, food security, and innovative industries, emphasizing that these sectors constitute strategic pillars for regional stability and global openness.

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REMEMBERING INVASION OF KUWAIT



File photo: One of the oil wells lit up by the invading Iraqi army burns in an inferno.

Kuwait marks 34th 'versary of putting out last well lit by Iraq

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Kuwait on Thursday marks the 34th anniversary of extinguishing the last of 737 oil wells deliberately set on fire by Iraqi forces before their withdrawal in February 1991.

The annual commemoration honors the efforts of Kuwaiti specialized teams and international partners who worked day and night for months to extinguish the wells and

limit the environmental, economic, and social consequences of the fires.

The final well, in Burgan field in Al-Ahmadi, was put out in 1991 in a ceremony attended by the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, marking the end of heroic firefighting operations.

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PM reviews progress in meeting with ministers

‘Chinese VP visit impetus for development projects’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired, at Bayan Palace on Thursday, the 33rd meeting of the ministerial committee tasked with reviewing the state’s major development projects.

The meeting discussed the fruitful outcomes of the recent visit by Vice President of the People’s Republic of China, Han Zheng, on November 1 and 2. The visit focused on bilateral strategic ties, particularly within the fields of economy, investments, commerce, industry, transportation, infrastructure, artificial intelligence (AI), food and digital security, and civil aviation.

His Highness the Prime Minister said that seven agreements and Memoranda of Understandings

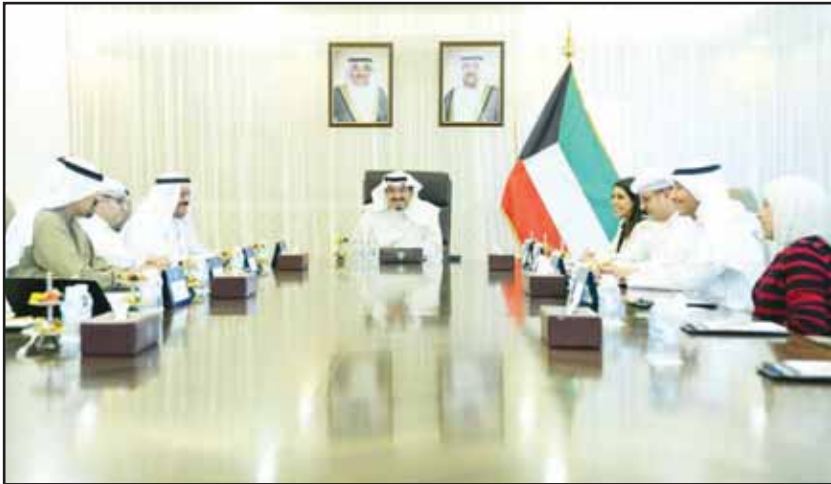
(MoUs) signed on September 22nd, 2023, during His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah’s visit to China and meeting with President Xi Jinping, were historic and transformative in terms of solidifying comprehensive partnership, particularly in various joint projects.

For his part, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs and rapporteur of the committee, Ambassador Sameeh Hayat, said that the meeting had current and future stages of cooperation, aiming to implement in more of the previously signed agreements.

Discussions also covered the developments regarding the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, power grid and renewable energy cooperation, oasisification projects, housing, and infrastructural development, he added.

Attending the meeting were Chief of His Highness the Prime Minister’s Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Meshari, Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy as well as Acting Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem.

Also present were Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department Counselor Saleh Al-Majed, and Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, and Ambassador Sameeh Hayat.



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the meeting with ministers on the progress of development projects.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel speaking at the gathering.

‘HH Amir Award’ contributes to excellence: PAI

Industry real path to sustainable development

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel affirmed that the ‘His Highness the Amir Award for Industrial Excellence’ is considered a national milestone in honoring industrial establishments committed to quality, governance and institutional excellence.

At the press conference held Thursday in the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) headquarters to announce the launch of the seventh edition of the Award under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Al-Ajeel stated that the Award is not just a symbolic honor, but a national message affirming that industrial excellence is the real path towards sustainable development, and that quality, discipline and adherence to the law are the true pillars of any successful industry.

He pointed out that His Highness the Amir’s patron-

age of the Award is an embodiment of his vital role in supporting national industry and encouraging initiatives aimed at raising efficiency levels. He emphasized that fair competition can only flourish in a just and regulated environment, which rewards those committed to excellence, deters violators, and motivates everyone to work towards more development and advancement.

He said the Award celebrates intellect before machinery, quality before profits, sustainable achievement and responsible innovation. “It contributes to strengthening the position of Kuwait as a promising industrial environment committed to quality, while pushing the concepts of institutional excellence to advanced levels,” he elaborated.

He urged all industrial establishments to participate and compete with a positive spirit that contributes to serving the nation and improving the standing of Kuwait industry.

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Mercury dips as nights to be cool, days hotter

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): The Meteorological Department has forecast that Kuwait will be affected by a northwestern high-pressure system accompanied by a relatively hot and dry air mass this weekend, with temperatures gradually decreasing and northwesterly to variable winds ranging from light to moderate. The weather was expected to be warm during the day and cool to cold at night.

Dhirar Al-Ali, the acting Director of the department, explained to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that daytime weather on Friday will be warm and partly cloudy, with variable to southeasterly winds ranging from 6 to 26 km/h.

Maximum temperatures were expected to range between 29°C and 31°C, and the sea will be slight to moderate, with waves between one and three feet.

Friday night will be cool to cold and partly cloudy, with southeasterly to variable light to moderate winds ranging from 6 to 24 km/h. Minimum temperatures were expected to range between 9°C and 11°C, and the sea will be slight, with waves between one and two feet.

Regarding Saturday’s daytime weather, it will be warm and partly cloudy, with variable to southeasterly light to moderate winds ranging from 6 to 24 km/h.

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KIC launches free e-signature service for all citizens and residents

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Kuwait Insurance Company (KIC) has announced a free electronic signature activation service for all citizens and residents, whether they are existing customers or not. The service is available to anyone visiting the company’s main building during official working hours, where a specialized team will assist in activating it

quickly and easily within minutes, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

With this initiative, KIC reaffirms its role as an active partner in building a digitally advanced Kuwait, enabling everyone to complete their transactions quickly and securely using just their mobile phones.

Thanks to the electronic signature service

through the Kuwait Mobile ID (Haweati) application issued by the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), government and banking transactions in Kuwait no longer require paperwork, signatures, or long waiting times.

This service allows individuals to electronically sign contracts and documents from anywhere, at any time, securely and legally

within Kuwait, without the need for printing or in-person attendance. The electronic signature is linked to the signatory’s civil ID and protected by an encrypted government security system. It is legally recognized as equivalent to a handwritten signature under Kuwaiti law and is accepted by both public and private sector institutions.



KUNA photo
Acting Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior Maj. Gen. Ali Al-Adwani and visiting Assistant General Inspector of Omani Police Maj. Gen. Abdullah Al-Harthy discuss bilateral security coordination and integration.

Kuwait, Oman mull joint security

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Acting Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior Maj. Gen. Ali Al-Adwani and visiting Assistant General Inspector of Omani Police Maj. Gen. Abdullah Al-Harthy discussed Thursday bilateral security coordination and integration.

During the meeting, both generals also discussed a number of is-

ssues that concern both sides, the Ministry of Interior said in a press release.

Gen. Al-Adwani underlined deep and firm fraternal relations between both sisterly countries, along with fruitful security and police cooperation, while Gen. Al-Harthy lauded Kuwait’s continued security development, it added.

Draft design for station good omen for railways

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) confirmed the completion of the first phase of designing the main passenger station for the Kuwait Railway project, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources.

Sources said this is part of the plan of PART to develop the public transportation system and provide modern infrastructure, which meets the demands of urban and economic growth in the country.

Sources disclosed that the first phase includes preparing the initial plans and designs for the station, which will serve as a central point for connecting Kuwait to the Gulf Railway Network in the future. They added that the design incorporates the highest safety and quality standards, as well as providing integrated services and commercial facilities for passengers.

Sources affirmed that this is one of the strategic projects in the land transport sector with the aim of improving regional connectivity and efficiency of transportation between cities and borders.

They said work continues on the subsequent design phases, paving the way for the start of actual implementation in the coming period.

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Health Ministry announced on Thursday that it had launched its 2025 guide to healthy recipes and nutritional values to enhance governance and improve services at hospitals and clinics.

The Ministry explained that the guide, prepared by the ministry’s Food and Nutrition Administration, aimed to unify practices and standards to improve food services and nutritional standards.

The guide provided nutritional details of meals and proper exercise, prepared by clinical nutrition specialists, added the statement, noting that a QR Code was included to enable the public to access the guide. (KUNA)

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KUWAIT CITY: The KUNA Center for Development of Media concluded on Thursday a training course on drone operation with the participation of the agency’s staff and members of the Qatar News Agency (QNA).

The training course was presented by photographer and content creator Eng. Omar Al-Sayed Omar and focused on the basics of drone operation, photography, and videography.

The program also included theoretical and practical sessions.

Speaking to KUNA, Eng. Omar stressed the importance of training media staff in operating drones to boost their skills and keep up to date with the latest digital and technological media trends.

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



2 Mamdani’s win rewrites the rules of American politics

8 Zain reinforces Kuwait’s efforts to transform into regional hub for technology & innovation

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:43	Asr	14:37
Sunrise ..	06:04	Maghrib ..	16:59
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:17

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Rather hot and partly cloudy to cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 06-24 km/h.			
By Night: Rather cold to cold and			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	32	18	
Kuwait Airport	32	11	
Abdaly	31	12	
Jahra			31
Failaka Island			30
Salmiyah			28
Ahmadi			32
Nuwaisib			32
Wafra			31
Salmiyah			28

Family at the heart of Kuwait’s social policy

Minister Al-Huwaila underscores holistic care programs during World Summit

DOHA, Nov 6, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila on Thursday affirmed that Kuwait attached great importance to the family as the nucleus of society and the focus of social development.

This came in during her participation in a side event titled “Circle of Care: Families Supporting the Young, the Elderly and People with Disabilities,” organized by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Ankara, on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development held in Doha, Qatar.

Al-Huwaila stressed that supporting and empowering families to encompass all its members represents a national priority that reflects the state’s commitment to the humanitarian and social approach established by the Kuwaiti Constitution.

She expressed her appreciation for the invitation in such event that sheds the light on the importance of supporting families in containing their members and maintaining their cohesion despite increasing economic and social challenges.

She stressed that the family has always been and remains the cornerstone of the human and social welfare system, as it is the circle from which life begins and in which the values of giving, solidarity, and compassion are rooted.

“Talking about families that include young children, the elderly, and people with disabilities is talking about an integrated model of mutual care where each individual becomes part of an indispensable human and social support network,” said Al-Huwaila.

“These families face multiple challenges such as the pressures of daily life, the difficulties of balancing work and childcare, and the need for integrated community services. This makes it essential to adopt public policies that support families and provide them with daycare services, family leave, and psychological and social support to alleviate their burdens and enhance their resilience and ability to persevere,” she noted.

She pointed out that the Kuwaiti Constitution highlighted the importance of the family in Articles 9 and 10, stipulating that the family is the foundation of society, based on religion, morality, and love of country, and that the state is responsible for the care and protection of the



Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, during the side event.



Minister of Social Affairs and Labor during a visit to the ‘From Care to Empowerment’ exhibition pavilion.



KUNA photos

intervention services for children with special needs, which include medical, psychological, and social care, family support programs, and helplines and protection, in addition to the free psychological and social services provided by NGOs and government centers, there are also social allowances and financial aid that alleviate the economic burdens on families.

As for the elderly services, Al-Huwaila said that they include home and day care services supervised by specialists, psychological and social support, home medical visits, nursing services, and post-operative rehabilitation which allows families to care for their elderly with dignity and independence without the need for institutional care, in addition to the “Priority” card initiative that facilitates their access to government services and grants them discounts on medical devices and supplies.

Regarding services for people with disabilities, Al-Huwaila said “Kuwait provides monthly financial allowances and support in housing, healthcare, education, rehabilitation, and employment, along with administrative facilities such as exemption from some fees and taxes related to assistive devices and adapted vehicles, and the provision of physiotherapy and home care services for cases that require them.”

In her conclusion, Al-Huwaila expressed her appreciation for the efforts made in organizing this important event, stressing that the family remains the broadest and closest circle of care, embracing the vulnerable, cultivating strength, and building generations capable of giving and participating in social development.

She also expressed her hope that this event help reinforce regional and international cooperation and expertise exchange to enhance families’ abilities to provide for their members and fulfill their roles in society.

Minister Al-Huwaila toured on Thursday the exhibition held alongside the Second World Summit on Social Development hosted by Doha on November 4-6.

During the tour, the minister reviewed exhibition pavilions displaying products from productive families as well as initiatives and services offered by various government entities in the field of social development.

She also visited the “From Care to Empowerment” pavilion organized by Qatar’s Ministry of Social Development and Family, which documents the country’s social development journey since the 1950s.

The summit that began last Tuesday was attended by His Highness the Amir’s Representative, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

2025 winners to be honored under ministerial patronage

Al-Baghli Foundation recognizes young innovators

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Ibrahim Taher Al-Baghli Foundation organized a ceremony in honor of the participants in the 2025 Al-Baghli Award for the Dutiful Son in Heritage and Handicrafts Competition, in cooperation with the Expo 965 team for heritage and handicraft exhibitions and Kuwaiti innovators.

The foundation announced that the number of participants since the launch of the competition on June 1 until its closing on Oct 31 reached 11.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by his grandson Ibrahim Raed Al-Baghli at a ceremony held recently in the Ibrahim Taher Al-Baghli Events Hall in Rumaithiya, Chairman of the Foundation Ibrahim Al-Baghli underscored the importance of supporting the blessed endeavor of the competitions under the Award. He said the Award, one of the Foundation’s social and community projects launched 19 years ago, has instilled the principles of social work and strengthened relations among individuals and civil society organizations to achieve several goals that benefit all segments of Kuwaiti society.

He pointed out that “organizing an exhibition to showcase the works participating in the Heritage and Handicrafts Competition is one of the steps taken by the Supreme Committee for the Award and the



Group photo during ceremony in honor of the participants in the 2025 Al-Baghli Award for the Dutiful Son in Heritage and Handicrafts Competition.

judging and evaluation team, comprised of experts in their respective fields.” He disclosed that the judging team is sorting the submitted works for evaluation according to the standards of quality and excellence.

He revealed that “the judging team examines certain aspects, which reflect the realism of the data submitted by the participants.” He clarified this is an important stage in the evaluation and judging process before selecting the winners and their rankings, in preparation for identifying the winning works

among individuals and civil society organizations.

He indicated that the winners in all the Award competitions will be honored, along with the distinguished sons of Kuwait for 2025, at the closing ceremony that will be held under the patronage and in the presence of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah on Dec 10.

He expressed his gratitude to all those distinguished in their heritage and handicraft works and their commitment to preserving the national heritage and crafts. He also

thanked the founder and members of the Expo 965 Heritage Exhibitions Team, as well as the craftsmanship and creativity of Kuwaitis.

He praised the role of Chairman of the Supreme Committee for the Award Ali Hassan, Head of the Judging and Evaluation teams Mansour Al-Salamin, and all the heads and members of the teams from committee, expressing his hope for continuous collaboration and future meetings with them as Kuwait flourishes with the signs of renaissance, progress and advancement in all fields.

Other Voices

Mamdani’s win rewrites the rules of American politics

By Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

FOR decades the unspoken rule in Washington was clear. Any politician seeking survival had to align with Israel. Even US President Donald Trump acknowledged this shift in influence. Speaking from the Oval Office, he reflected, “Twenty years ago, Israel had the most powerful lobby I have ever seen. No politician could voice even the slightest criticism. Today, this is no longer the case.” His remarks signaled a recognition of how dramatically the political landscape has changed both in Congress and among the American public.

Mamdani, broke that rule. He called the Israeli occupation what it is. He refused to compromise on justice for Palestinians, and he still won.

That victory matters because it reflects a wider shift among voters, especially the younger generation. They care about daily life, housing costs, healthcare, education, safety, and justice. They want leaders who speak to their lived reality, not those who treat politics as a stage for loyalties and alliances.

Mamdani faced a well-funded



Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

campaign aimed at destroying his chances, but voters backed him because he reflected their priorities. His election is not a left or right moment. It is a practical message from the ballot box that politics must serve people first.

What Mamdani’s win confirms is this. When politicians stop serving lobbyists and start addressing urgent social needs, voters respond. They are tired of a political class that places foreign interests above their own. Mamdani offered the opposite, and won.

National Day of Italian Unity commemorates soldiers’ sacrifices and regional collaboration

Italy, Kuwait celebrate ties of friendship and security

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Italian Military Attaché in Kuwait, Colonel Michele Rega, affirmed that relations between Italy and Kuwait represent a firmly established model of friendship and cooperation built on trust and mutual respect. He noted that ties between the two countries grow stronger year after year in various political, military, cultural, and economic fields.

Colonel Rega made these remarks during a speech at the Italian Embassy in Kuwait’s celebration of the National Day of Italian Unity and the Italian Armed Forces. The event, held on November 4th, was attended by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Abdullah Meshal Al Sabah, the Commander of the Air Force, Brigadier General Pilot Nasser Abdullah Al-Shreeda, and a large number of ambassadors, military attachés, and members of the Italian forces in Kuwait. The day commemorates the end of World War I, the unification of Italy, and honors the sacrifices of its soldiers.

Colonel Rega stated that this day holds special significance for all Italians, reminding them of the values of peace, solidarity, and service to the nation – values that the Italian Armed Forces continue to uphold in their missions both within Italy and abroad. He added that these shared values unite the Italian forces with their Kuwaiti counter-



Sheikh Abdullah Meshal Al Sabah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense with Italian Embassy officials at a cake-cutting ceremony.

parts, who work side-by-side to enhance security and stability in the region.

The military attaché expressed his deep appreciation to the State of Kuwait, the Ministry of

Defense, and the Kuwaiti Armed Forces for their continued support and excellent cooperation with the Italian forces deployed at Ali Al Salem Air Base and Camp Arifjan. He commended the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the members of the Italian mission in Kuwait.

He affirmed that the Italian military personnel are proud to serve alongside their Kuwaiti colleagues and partners in the international coalition, as part of a joint effort to enhance security and peace in a region of great strategic importance. He added that Italy remains committed to this partnership.

Colonel Rega noted that cooperation between the two countries extends beyond the military sphere to include industry, technology, and training. He explained that Italian expertise in defense and innovation is globally recognized and can play a vital role in achieving Kuwait’s 2035 vision for development and modernization, opening new horizons for joint cooperation.

In closing, the military attaché expressed his deep gratitude to all the Italian and Kuwaiti supporters and sponsors who contributed to the success of the celebration, praising the professionalism of the staff of the Italian Embassy and the office of the military attaché, and also thanking the Regency Hotel for its hospitality.



Top & above: Group photos during the celebration of the National Day of Italian Unity and the Italian Armed Forces.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Work with nature, not against it ... not an impossible dream!

“HUMAN beings must adapt to nature and protect themselves from harmful events. For example, in areas prone to constant flooding, dams are built in specific locations to provide protection while also conserving water during dry seasons,” columnist Eng. **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Similarly, some countries with areas below sea level construct “breakwaters” using modern engineering, a practice developed out of the need to guard against nature’s unpredictability.

“In Kuwait, tinting car windows has become an urgent necessity to protect people from the scorching summer sun, when temperatures can reach 50 degrees Celsius in the shade and exceed 60 degrees in direct sunlight. At these high temperatures, cars can sustain internal damage if exposed to the sun, and many devices inside may overheat, explode, or catch fire. To adapt to nature, increasing the degree of window tinting is essential.

“I go back to the time when the ban on window tinting was first introduced. The reasons behind this decision were never clearly explained. Some people have suggested that the aim was to identify who were inside the car or what they were doing, since tinted windows make it difficult to see inside. However, this reasoning seems illogical in a country where temperatures reach extremely high levels. Even when the air conditioning is running at full capacity, it is often insufficient, especially during the day. In a country like Kuwait, the harm caused by the sun is far greater than any concern about what a person might be doing inside their car, particularly since the decision prohibits tinting the driver’s windshield.

“In this context, we turn to the issue of carports built in front of homes. Their presence is not optional but necessary, as leaving a car parked for long periods under the scorching sun causes significant damage. Therefore, the state should not prohibit these canopies, even when they are placed on state property. It is natural for residents to install them, as long as they do not disturb others or obstruct the road. This raises the question - why oppose these canopies? It is surprising, as providing shade for cars is a basic necessity. For instance, in Nevada, the government itself provides shaded parking areas due to the intensity of the sun.

“I hope the government will take the time to consider how to work with nature rather than against it. Today, people are experimenting with artificial clouds to produce rain, and some countries have built green walls to help protect their citizens from dust and the harsh desert environment.



Adel Al-Kharafi

“Experience has shown that many innovative ideas can help nations progress, yet here, some continue to oppose them. So why doesn’t the government focus more of its efforts on cooling the climate and working with nature? This is not an impossible dream.”

Also:

“Kuwait is recognized as one of the first countries in the Middle East to develop model residential areas, featuring modern housing for citizens and equipped with essential public facilities such as schools, health centers, police stations, and cooperative societies,” columnist **Hamad Salem Al-Marri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate is the newest governorate in Kuwait, containing newly developed residential areas and suburbs. One of its oldest areas is Al-Qusour, established in 1988, which consists of seven blocks and is home to approximately 10,000 residents. However, residents of Al-Qusour do not enjoy the same amenities as those in neighboring areas. The area lacks a health center and a police station, whereas nearby neighborhoods each have two health centers, including a specialized center, as well as a police station.

“Residents of Al-Qusour face difficulties due to being assigned to health centers in Adan, following the Ministry of Health’s decision to divide the area’s blocks. Three among them are served by a health center that closes at midnight and remains closed on weekends and public holidays, while the other four blocks are served by the Al-Adan Specialized Center. This arrangement has led to overcrowding and long waiting lists for specialist appointments.

“Al-Qusour has many undeveloped plots suitable for building a health center and a police station to serve the community. We urge the government to address this issue. The residents of Al-Qusour are citizens with rights and responsibilities, and they deserve to be treated equally to residents of neighboring areas.”

□ □ □

“It is said that two brothers lived on a farm. One was married with a large family, while the other was single. The brothers were used to sharing the produce and profits equally,” imam and preacher **Mohammad Al-Fawzan** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“One day, the single brother thought, “It is not fair that my brother and I share everything equally. I live alone, and my needs are simple.” So, each night, he took a sack of grain from his storehouse and secretly emptied it into his brother’s store.

“At the same time, the married brother thought, “It is not fair that we share everything equally. I have a wife and children who will care for me in the fu-

ture, while my brother is alone.” So, each night, he too took a sack of grain and secretly added it to his brother’s storehouse. This continued for many years, yet their grain supplies never ran out.

“One dark night, each of them checked his storehouse and suddenly discovered what had been happening. They both dropped their bags and embraced each other. Giving is like a perfume bottle in life, sharing all that is within you. Even after the perfume is gone, the bottle retains its sweet fragrance. Today, the world needs to embrace a culture of love, generosity, public service, and tolerance at every level and among all people. Everyone is in need of giving, serving one another, and practicing kindness, respect, and understanding.

“Beware of selfishness, which stems from a person’s love of themselves and their desire for control and possession. We must train ourselves to embrace cooperation, teamwork, social interaction, and participation in charitable and public service organizations. Everyone should work with their family, neighbors, and friends to help the needy, the poor, orphans, and the sick. Learn to respect others, listen to them, and value their opinions. Do not be a narcissist who cares only about themselves. Such self-centredness will exhaust and harm you before it ever affects others.”

□ □ □

“Linking the beloved name of Kuwait directly to the devastating disease of cancer is highly undesirable, particularly given its association with the national anthem, “Oh, the most beautiful name in our hearts, Kuwait”. Societal custom has evolved such that this disease is rarely mentioned directly, and often referred to only as “far from evil” or “may you be kept from harm,” reflecting the painful impact on hundreds of thousands of residents who have lost loved ones and wish to forget the agonizing journey their family members endured while undergoing grueling treatments,” Kuwaiti writer **Zaid Al-Jalawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Even assuming healthcare workers have adapted to dealing with cancer through their specialized experience, alternative names could be used for the center treating incurable diseases. Also, the center’s location should be moved away from major roads, so it is not visible to those entering or leaving the capital. No one wants to see this center in its current form, given its location. Removing it after construction is difficult, but it is possible to remove the name from public view, so people do not have to face it every morning on their way to work or at night, disrupting their days with a terrifying reminder of chemotherapy and radiation therapy.”

— Compiled by Simi K.Kutty



Jahra Governorate photo
Governor of Jahra Hamad Al-Habashi receives the Polish Ambassador to Kuwait Michał Cholewa in his office.

Kuwait, Poland relations in various fields strong – Gov.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Governor of Jahra Hamad Al-Habashi received the Polish Ambassador to Kuwait Michał Cholewa at his office in the Governorate building, reports Al-Anba daily.

The meeting began with the governor welcoming the Ambassador, and expressing his appreciation for the strong relations between the two friendly countries and the ongoing cooperation and development witnessed in various fields.

He affirmed Jahra Governorate’s commitment to strengthening cooperation and promoting cultural and economic exchange between the two sides in ways that serve their common interests and deepen the bonds of friendship between the two peoples.

For his part, Ambassador Cholewa expressed his gratitude to the governor for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

He highlighted his country’s commitment to consolidating cooperative relations with the State of Kuwait, particularly in areas of development and humanitarian interest.



Damage caused by the explosion.

2 hurt in Farwaniya eatery explosion after gas leakage

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Two people sustained burns and injuries in a fire that broke out at a restaurant in Farwaniya early Thursday morning, following an explosion caused by a gas leak, reports Al-Seyassah

daily.

Firefighters from Farwaniya fire station rushed to the scene and extinguished the blaze before it could spread further. The victims were handed over to paramedics for treatment.

Salary embezzlers freed in appeal

Expats face law in over KD1mln fraud

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge Nasser Salem Al-Haid, with Judges Mutaib Al-Aradhi and Saud Al-Sanea as members, upheld the ruling to refrain from punishing those who embezzled salaries from the Private Education General Department at the Education Ministry.

The Public Prosecution charged the first defendant, the acting director of the department, of facilitating the embezzlement of KD1,079 by the third defendant from 2021 to 2023. This sum represents salaries deposited into her account. He did this by adding a work schedule to her account even if she did not perform the task, as she was abroad. This resulted in the disbursement of the aforementioned sum to her without justification. This offense was linked to the crime of forgery of official documents, specifically the electronic attendance and departure log of the department, by falsifying the information.

The prosecution charged the second defendant, in his capacity as a public employee (head of the Secretariat Division in the department), with facilitating the fifth defendant’s

embezzlement of KD786,677 -- salaries deposited into her account during her absence from the country. He also facilitated the sixth defendant’s embezzlement of KD1,298,452.

The third defendant, a supervisor, was charged with embezzling KD1,079 -- salaries deposited into her account by the Ministry of Education during her absence from the country. The fifth defendant, a clerk, was charged with embezzling KD502. The sixth defendant, a coordinator, was charged with embezzling KD786,677, while the seventh defendant (a secretary) embezzled KD1,298,452.

The third, fifth and sixth defendants were also accused of conspiring with the first and second defendants to commit these acts. The two defendants falsely claimed in official reports that the women were at their workplaces.

The Criminal Court initially decided to suspend the sentence imposed on all defendants on bail of KD200 each for good behavior for one year after they repaid the embezzled funds. The Court of Appeals upheld the lower court’s ruling and rejected the appeal of the prosecution.

In a separate case, the same court refused to suspend the execution of the ruling of the Criminal Court against two ex-



Nasser Al-Haid

patriates convicted of embezzling more than KD1,043,000 from a state-owned company by manipulating invoices from other companies. The court scheduled the announcement of its ruling on Nov 19.

□ □ □

‘Reimburse partner’: The Commercial Civil Division of the Court of First Instance, presided over by Judge Faisal Al-Sabah, issued a ruling requiring the Director of the Commercial Affairs Prosecution, in his official capacity, to return KD 34,500 to a citizen who is a partner and authorized manager of a real estate company, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The amount represents the value of a cheque deposited in connection with a civil dispute. The court also ordered the defendant to pay court costs and KD 500 in attorney’s fees.

The ruling also included adding the third defendant, the Director of the Commercial Affairs Prosecution, as a party to the case pending a final decision on the merits.

The plaintiff’s legal counsel Lawyer Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan explained that his client had deposited the value of the cheque - KD 34,500 - with the competent authority while the dispute between his real estate company and another party over a residential unit sale contract was being resolved.

The court had previously annulled the sale contract after determining that the deposited amount was not owed to the first defendant, and that the cheque had been deposited in connection with the misdemeanor case filed at the Commercial Affairs Court.

Worker dies in mishap

70-year-old man perishes in 3-car crash on highway

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: In a tragic scene that served as a stark reminder of the danger of speeding on highways, Maghreb Road witnessed a horrific collision involving three vehicles, including a fuel tanker, resulting in the instantaneous death of a man in his 70s.

Security and medical personnel rushed to the scene and quickly dealt with the aftermath of the tragic accident that happened in a matter of moments.

A security source disclosed that the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received information about the accident, prompting the immediate dispatch of security, fire and emergency medical teams to the location. He said the scene was dire -- damaged vehicles, shattered glass, and the sound of rescue sirens filling the air.

The source added that firefighters extracted the man, who was trapped inside his wrecked vehicle, but he died before reaching the hospital, indicating the body was transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department and a case was registered.

Security forces removed the damaged vehicles and restored the flow of traffic, which was disrupted for several hours. Investigations are underway to determine the causes and circumstances leading to the accident.

□ □ □

Worker dies in mishap: A cleaning worker died while on duty early morning Wednesday, after being hit by a bus on the road separating Naseem and Oyoun in Jahra Governorate.

A security source told the newspaper that the victim was working at the site when a speeding bus collided with the cleaning truck, trapping the worker and causing his immediate death.

The source added that security, ambulance and fire personnel rushed to the scene upon receiving information on the accident. The worker was pronounced dead and the necessary legal procedures were taken.

The body was transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department and a case was registered regarding the accident.

Hospital roads blocked

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The General Traffic Department (GTD) continued its field campaigns around hospitals throughout the country to uncover violations of parking regulations that obstruct the movement of vehicles and emergency services.

In just 24 hours, these efforts resulted in the issuance of 341 ‘no parking’ violation citations.

A security source stated that traffic officers intensified their monitoring in major hospitals, issuing 71 violation citations at Amiri Hospital, 19 at Jaber Hospital, 53 at Farwaniya Hospital, 101 at Adan Hospital and 97 at Jahra Hospital.

The source confirmed that these campaigns are ongoing in various areas, particularly around vital facilities, with the aim of reducing traffic congestion and facilitating the movement of ambulances and patients.

The source emphasized that the department will not tolerate any violation and will strictly enforce the law against offenders.

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Kuwait puts education at core of ‘2035’ vision, advances AI agenda at UNESCO

Al-Tabtabaei pledges stronger global collaboration

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Minister of Education Dr. Jalal Al-Tabtabaei affirmed that the State of Kuwait places great importance on education as a key pillar of its future vision “Kuwait 2035,” focusing on improving quality and modernizing curricula in line with global developments.

He spoke at the 43rd session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from November 1 to 13, with participation from 194 member states.

Al-Tabtabaei highlighted Kuwait’s firm belief in investing in education by developing infrastructure, empowering teachers and students, and building a creative and responsible generation.

He noted that Kuwait is taking decisive steps to integrate artificial intelligence concepts and digital learning tools to enhance interaction and innovation, enriching educational content and fostering critical thinking, research skills, and sustainable learning values.

He added that through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Kuwait supports educational projects in developing countries worth over USD 650 million.

Al-Tabtabaei expressed Kuwait’s commitment to continued cooperation with UNESCO and its partners in promoting education, culture, and science, while strengthening peace, understanding, and sustainable development.

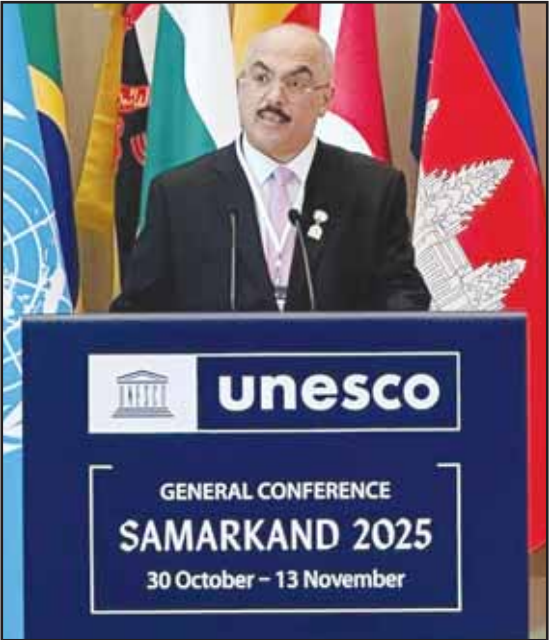
Marking two years since the Israeli occupation aggression on Gaza, the minister condemned the destruction of schools, hospitals, and more than 110 historical and religious sites, stressing the need to protect educational and cultural institutions in occupied Arab territories.

He reaffirmed Kuwait’s support for UNESCO’s efforts to safeguard education and culture in conflict zones, assist reconstruction, and provide educational and humanitarian aid.

Al-Tabtabaei concluded by emphasizing the importance of multilateral cooperation as the best approach to addressing global challenges and preserving human heritage through UNESCO’s pivotal role.

Minister Al-Tabtabaei along with his accompanying delegation, held a series of bilateral meetings Wednesday with international delegations on the sidelines of the 43rd session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

In a statement, the Ministry said that Al-Tabtabaei met



KUNA photo
Minister of Education Dr. Jalal Al-Tabtabaei at the 43rd session of UNESCO.

with the head of the Finnish delegation State Secretary to the Minister of Education Mikaela Nylander, Director of International Relations Jaana Palojarvi, and Ministerial Advisor Kati Anttalainen, where discussions focused on bilateral relations between Kuwait and Finland and ways to enhance cooperation in shared educational fields.

The meeting addressed Finland’s distinguished experience in developing its educational system, particularly regarding teacher training and development policies, adopted educational standards, and strengthening the exchange of expertise between the two sides in educational innovation and quality of education.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Nylander extended a formal invitation to the Kuwaiti side to visit Finland and learn firsthand about the Finnish educational system and benefit from its distinguished educational experiences.

Al-Tabtabaei held a bilateral meeting with Singapore’s Permanent Delegate to UNESCO Rosa Daniel, where they discussed ways to enhance cooperation between Kuwait and Singapore in the fields of education, training, and modern

educational technologies, as well as exchanging expertise on successful educational policies and teacher development programs.

In this context, Daniel extended a formal invitation to visit Singapore and learn about its pioneering education system and innovative practices in developing education and training.

Al-Tabtabaei also met with Khaled El-Enany on the occasion of his election as the new Director-General of UNESCO.

During the meeting, Al-Tabtabaei conveyed the congratulations of Kuwait to El-Enany, wishing him success in his new role and affirming Kuwait’s confidence in UNESCO’s ability to continue fulfilling its global mission of supporting education and culture.

Al-Tabtabaei affirmed Kuwait’s commitment to continuing its support for UNESCO programs and initiatives and to actively participating in international forums, reflecting its unwavering commitment to strengthening joint international efforts in the fields of education, culture, and science.

Al-Tabtabaei also met with his counterpart, UAE’s Minister of Education Sarah Al-Amiri, Undersecretary of the Ministry Mohammad Al-Qasim and the UAE’s Permanent Delegate to UNESCO Ali Al-Haj Al-Ali.

They reviewed ways to develop joint educational cooperation between Kuwait and the UAE in light of the educational cooperation agreement signed between them and discussed practical steps to enhance the exchange of expertise in various educational fields.

Al-Tabtabaei also held a bilateral meeting with Syria’s Minister of Education Mohammad Turko, in the presence of Kuwait’s Permanent Delegate to UNESCO Ali Al-Mudhaf, and several members of the Kuwaiti and Syrian delegations.

The two sides discussed ways to enhance educational cooperation in developing the educational system, as well as joint coordination in international forums, particularly within the framework of UNESCO, to serve their shared goals of supporting educational development and empowering future generations.

Al-Tabtabaei also met with the President of UNESCO’s 43rd General Conference Khundker Talha, he congratulated him and wished him success, praising the excellent organization of the conference, its distinguished management, and the broad international participation it witnessed.

During the meeting, they discussed prospects for cooperation between Kuwait and UNESCO in the fields of education, culture, and communication, as well as coordinating joint efforts to address current international challenges in a way that contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthening the organization’s role in supporting education globally.



KUNA photo
Kuwait’s Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi with Roslyn Morauta, Chair of the Global Fund Board to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria and her accompanying delegation.

Eradicate epidemic diseases

Kuwait pledges support for global health drive

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, met with Roslyn Morauta, Chair of the Global Fund Board to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and her accompanying delegation to discuss ways to enhance cooperation and support global humanitarian efforts to combat transboundary infectious diseases.

In a press statement, the Ministry said that the two sides also discussed strengthening partnerships and improving international health programs aimed at eradicating AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and achieving universal health coverage in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Al-Awadhi affirmed Kuwait’s commitment to supporting international health initiatives with a humanitarian impact on protecting lives and improving quality of life, and praised the pivotal role played by the Global Fund in supporting health systems and strengthening the capacities of low- and middle-income countries to combat epidemic diseases.

For her part, Morauta expressed her appreciation for Kuwait’s role in global humanitarian health initiatives and its developmental and humanitarian contributions, which have had a tangible impact on saving lives and improving the health of communities in various countries around the world.

The meeting comes within the framework of the Health Ministry’s keenness to strengthen international partnerships and consolidate cooperation with leading global organizations in support of Kuwait’s efforts to continue its humanitarian and pioneering role regionally and internationally and contributes to establishing a health system concerned with protecting and preserving human health.

‘Regulatory lag costing State revenue’

Al-Mutairi calls for ‘final deadline’ on pending municipal regulations

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi submitted a question to the executive branch of Kuwait Municipality about the delay in issuing the executive regulations for the decisions of the Council regarding seasonal canopies, camps and planting trees on state-owned land adjacent to private residences.

In his question, Al-Mutairi explained that these decisions were issued after extensive discussions and technical studies, and were officially approved, but their executive regulations have yet to be issued.



Al-Mutairi

He emphasized that this delay has hindered the implementation of the decisions, in addition to the loss of revenues that the State could have collected in the form of licensing fees. He requested for details of the procedures undertaken since the decisions were issued, a timeline of the stages of preparing each regulation, and the necessity of setting a final date for issuing the relevant regulations.



Farwaniya Governorate photos
Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Sabah with cultural, environmental and health figures.



Farwaniya Governor hosts cultural, environmental and health figures

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Sabah received in his office on Thursday, in separate meetings, Secretary and Director of the Nabati Poets’ Diwaniya Nassar Al-Khamsan, Consultant Orthodontist and owner of Al-Ain Dental Clinic Dr. Mubarak Al-Saeed, and founder of the “School Environment Free of Electronic Waste” initiative Jassim Al-Abouh.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the discussions during the meetings focused on various topics and initiatives aimed at supporting cultural, environmental, and health

efforts in the Farwaniya Governorate. The governor praised the cultural role of the Nabati Poets’ Diwaniya in nurturing young poetic talents and preserving authentic folk heritage.

He also commended Al-Abouh for his outstanding initiative, which promotes environmental and community awareness, as well as Dr. Mubarak Al-Saeed for his contributions to the medical field.

At the end of the meetings, the guests expressed their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the governor for his warm hospitality, kind welcome, and continuous support.

Move aims to modernize delivery

CAPT OK’s PPP for postal services

By Mohammed Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has requested the Ministry of Communications to approve the tender for the Kuwait Post Company project under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

According to informed sources, CAPT approved the ministry’s request based on Article 17 of the Public Tenders Law No. 49/2016, which allows contracting through public tender in specific cases.

CAPT reviewed the Ministry of Communications’ letter dated November 19, which included the required amendments. The Board of Directors decided to authorize the relevant entity to carry out the work procedures through a public tender in accordance with the

provisions of Law No. 49/2016.

Article 17 of the aforementioned law stipulates that contracting through a public tender is carried out either through competitive negotiation or by soliciting price quotations, based on a reasoned memorandum from the relevant entity and in accordance with the conditions specified in the executive regulations.

The sources affirmed that the project to establish the Kuwait Post Company through a public-private partnership is part of the state’s efforts to develop postal services in line with international standards, aiming to improve service quality and accelerate delivery and logistics.

They added that the project is expected to stimulate investment in the postal sector, thereby enhancing Kuwait’s position in the industry.



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Four plants to add 393 mln gallons

Kuwait boosts water security with mega desalination push

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Tenders for four water projects are currently in the bidding and implementation stages, with a combined expected output of 393 million imperial gallons to meet and secure the growing demand for high-quality water.

According to informed sources, these projects are part of the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy's efforts to contribute to the realization of the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

The Al-Zour North power plant project (phases two and three) is expected to produce 120 million imperial gallons. The Al-Khiran power plant project is expected to produce 33 million imperial gallons.

The Al-Nuwiseeb power plant project is projected to produce a total of 180 million imperial gallons in both phases (90 million in the first phase and 90 million in the second). The Doha reverse osmosis desalination plant project is expected to produce 60 million

imperial gallons.

The sources indicated that the ministry is currently implementing a project to deploy 30 mobile reverse osmosis units, each with a capacity of 100,000 imperial gallons, for desalinating brackish water.

These units will be supported by mobile diesel generators to utilize groundwater in emergencies and reduce groundwater levels to protect public facilities and infrastructure.

The Cabinet was briefed during its meeting, chaired by the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef who reviewed the minutes of the Ministerial Committee for Food, Drug, and Water Security, which covered several items, most notably the report from the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy on measures taken to strengthen the water security system, including efforts to increase the production capacity of desalination plants and expand the storage capacity of water network projects.

Kuwait sets benchmark in elderly care: MoSA official

Comprehensive services under Vision 2035

DOHA, Nov 6, (KUNA): Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi said his country is a role model for other countries in caring for the elderly people thanks to the wise instructions of the political leadership.

It is a humanitarian commitment to increase the feeling of wellbeing among this segment of the society and ensure the coherence of the social texture under the Kuwait Vision 2035, he said on Wednesday.

Dr. Al-Ajmi made the comments during a function held on the sidelines of the session of the executive office of the council of the GCC ministers of labor and social affairs. He affirmed that Kuwait had built a complete system for health, social and psychological care that provides innovative solutions for supporting the elderly people.

Dr. Al-Ajmi cited the issuance of



KUNA photo
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, during his participation in a side event on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development.

more than 40,000 'Awlawiya cards' as an example of ensuring easy access for the elderly to various services.

"The Ministry of Social Affairs provides field services and deployed 23 medical teams to deliver health services for the elderly at home.

"It has upgraded the health and so-

cial care system in a way that combined the family care system with the institutional one," he said, adding that the State of Kuwait is modernizing the infrastructure of the social care, including the centers, clubs and diwanis.

The event saw the launching of "the elderly future platform - updating of the

global research agenda and the elderly wellbeing index in the GCC countries" in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). It is held in the framework of the Second World Summit for Social Development being hosted by Qatar on November 4-6.

Safety inspections intensify

KFF closes 146 shops during Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) carried out an inspection campaign in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, which resulted in the administrative closure of 146 commercial establishments and the issuance of several notices and warnings for regulatory violations and failure to meet safety requirements, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement on Wednesday, KFF said the campaign was carried out in accordance with the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef and under the direct supervision of Acting KFF Chairman Brigadier General Mohammed Al-Qahtani.

Brigadier General Al-Qahtani emphasized that KFF aims to increase the frequency of inspection cam-



KFF photo
Administrative closures, notices, and warnings issued to 146 commercial establishments in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area.

paings as part of its national responsibility to protect lives and property and to enhance community safety and security.

Governor highlights development and coordination

Farwaniya Governorate Council holds 3rd session

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Farwaniya Governorate Council held its third session on Wednesday morning at the governorate headquarters, chaired by Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah. According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the meeting was attended by council members, government agency representatives, appointed members, and the Secretary of the Governorate Council.

Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser opened the session by highlighting the council's vital role in supporting development initiatives and strengthening field operations.

He emphasized the importance of monitoring service and infrastructure development and maintaining the council's coordination with all entities to enhance public services and make decisions benefiting citizens and residents.

The session reviewed important development projects, committee reports, progress on previous recommendations, and residents' needs in various service sectors.

At the end of the session, the governor praised the



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser chairs Farwaniya Council meeting.

council members' spirit of cooperation. In turn, the members expressed their gratitude for his ongoing support in achieving the shared vision and improving public services.

Pilgrims readiness

Islamic Affairs hosts Hajj tour operators workshop

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs, represented by the Hajj and Umrah Affairs Department, recently organized a workshop for Hajj tour operators as part of preparations for the 1447 AH/2026 CE Hajj season in the presence of Undersecretary Dr. M. Sulaiman Al-Suwailem, reports Al-Anba daily.

The workshop aimed to ensure the readiness of Hajj tour operators and improve the level of organization and services provided to pilgrims.

Ministry of Islamic Affairs photo
Ministry of Islamic Affairs conducts workshop for Hajj tour operators.

KPA sees profit dip to KD46.1m

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) has announced net profits of KD46.1 million for fiscal 2024/2025, indicating that the total revenues for this fiscal year reached KD93 million, compared to KD46.8 million in expenses, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, KPA revealed that its net profits decreased compared to KD59.9 million in fiscal year 2023/2024 due to a one-time payment of KD14.4 million from a company operating some sites within Shuaiba Port.

It elaborated that the financial data for fiscal 2024/2025 included an increase in cargo revenues of KD3.5 million, as well as an increase in navigation revenues of KD330,000 compared to the previous year.

It added that expenditures in 2024/2025 increased by 1.9 million, compared to the expenditures in fiscal 2023/2024, which amounted to KD44.9 million.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait capable,

EU Commissioner

EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic said he was doing his utmost to build a long-term trade and investment partnership with the GCC member countries.

Speaking to KUNA on the fringes of the Ninth EU-GCC Business Forum in Kuwait on Wednesday, he said the two-day event, which opened yesterday, was part of efforts to increase the trade and investment exchanges.

The Slovak diplomat noted that the forum plays an essential role in bringing together the business leaders to discuss investment.

It takes place in a crucial stage for global trade where the EU focuses on working with close partners for accelerating the free trade talks, Sefcovic pointed out.

The EU looks forward to signing a free trade agreement that could pave the way for wider trade relations and more business deals in the future, he affirmed.

Sefcovic commended Kuwait's role in the annual forum and its contributions to the enhancement of trade cooperation.

The State of Kuwait is a very important investor in the EU countries, he said, noting that the New Kuwait Vision 2035 is an ambitious strategy for turning the country into a regional logistic hub with a modern infrastructure.

The EU prioritizes cooperation with the GCC countries to launch joint ventures in various fields, and keeps in touch with the GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi in this regard, the trade commissioner disclosed.

Cooperation between the two sides bore the fruit in building the Riyadh Metro and Zayed National Museum in Abu Dhabi, he said, voicing for launching more mega projects in the future.

(GCC) Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi

affirmed on Wednesday that Gulf relations with the European Union are historic and embody the spirit of true partnership between the two sides.

This came in a speech during the opening of the 9th EU-GCC Business Forum, held under the theme "Together for Shared Prosperity," under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister. The forum is scheduled to conclude on Thursday.

Al-Budaiwi said that Gulf-European relations were framed in the Cooperation Agreement signed in 1988, noting that it established a solid framework for economic and political dialogue between the two sides and opened broad horizons for cooperation in the fields of development, trade, investment, energy, environment, and education.

He explained that, with the aim of expanding this partnership, the Joint Ministerial GCC-EU Council approved in 2022 the Joint Action Plan for Cooperation for the period 2022-2027. This plan encompasses a wide range of political, economic, developmental, security, counter-terrorism, and cybersecurity fields.

He noted that in 2024, the GCC-EU Summit was held in Brussels, reaffirming the shared commitment to building a strategic partnership in trade and investment between the two sides and moving forward towards a comprehensive free trade agreement between the GCC and the EU.

He emphasized that the GCC countries, with their unique strategic location, established political stability, and strong and growing economies, are determined to continue strengthening their position as a promising economic power at both the regional and international levels.

Al-Budaiwi reviewed some economic indicators that reflect the progress and prosperity achieved by the GCC countries, including the GCC's GDP at current prices, which reached approximately USD 2.3 trillion in 2024, ranking it 9th globally in terms of GDP size. He noted that the GCC

countries contribute about 63 percent of the total Arab GDP at current prices.

He also pointed out that the assets of the GCC sovereign wealth funds are estimated at approximately USD 4.8 trillion, representing more than 32 percent of the total assets of the world's 100 largest sovereign wealth funds.

He added that the GCC countries rank first globally in oil production, with crude oil production exceeding 16 million barrels per day. They also hold the world's largest proven crude oil reserves, exceeding 510 billion barrels. He noted that the volume of marketed natural gas produced in the GCC countries exceeded 440 billion cubic meters, placing them third globally in natural gas production, while their natural gas reserves exceeded 44 trillion cubic meters, ranking them second globally.

Al-Budaiwi explained that economic relations between the GCC and the EU have witnessed steady growth in recent years, reflecting mutual trust and the significant potential of both sides.

In this regard, he pointed out that the trade volume between the two sides reached approximately USD 197 billion in 2024, representing about 12 percent of the GCC's total merchandise trade volume of approximately USD 1.5 trillion. This makes the European Union one of the most important trading partners of the GCC countries, with GCC imports from the European Union amounting to approximately USD 117 billion and exports to the EU reaching about USD 79 billion.

He noted that the GCC countries are among the most prominent export markets for the European Union in the energy, petrochemical, metals, and technology sectors, adding that European direct investments in the GCC countries recorded a growing balance of approximately USD 285 billion in 2023, reflecting the depth of economic interdependence and increasing confidence in the Gulf business environment.

Kuwait, EU Commission

Economic and trade issues of mutual concern between GCC and EU

states featured high on the talks held Wednesday between Kuwait's Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy and Acting Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem and Minister of Trade and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel on one side and European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic on the other.

During the meeting, the conferees expressed common desire and endeavors to boost strategic relations between the two sides that are based on reciprocal interests and benefits, along discussing economic partnership opportunities, Kuwait's Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Both sides discussed the opportunities of enhancing collaboration and growth within the framework of ongoing talks on some agreements aiming to open new horizons of future cooperation, mainly in trade and economy, according to the statement.

The meeting came within the framework of Sefcovic's official visit to Kuwait to partake in the EU-GCC Business Forum on Wednesday and Thursday.

EU Ambassador to Kuwait Anne Koistinen and a host of senior Kuwaiti officials, in addition to the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority attended the meeting.

Industry real

He confirmed that Kuwait Industries Union will play a vital role in mobilizing broad participation from the sector to maximize benefits for the industry and support national industrial excellence efforts.

Meanwhile, PAI Director General Shamlan Al-Jahaidli revealed that since its inception, the Award has been contributing to the enhancement of excellence and quality, as well as the continuous development of the Kuwaiti industrial sector. "This is achieved through the adoption of international standards derived from global best practices in the field of institu-

tional excellence, which has contributed to improving the performance of national factories and motivating them to develop their competitiveness," he asserted.

He added that the Award embodies the vision of His Highness the Amir to support the industrial sector as a fundamental pillar for achieving sustainable economic development and encouraging initiative and innovation among Kuwaiti industrialists.

He announced the prizes totaling KD100,000 for several categories. He said the first category includes the main categories within five major industrial sectors, the second comprises incentive awards in the fields of digital transformation, artificial intelligence, environmental management and sustainability, while the third and final category recognizes the industrial entrepreneur.

He stressed that PAI is keen on updating the Award criteria in each edition to be in line with the latest global developments, particularly the American 'Baldrige' Award. He called on all factories and industrial establishments in Kuwait to participate and foster a spirit of competition to achieve regional and global leadership.

Mercury dips

Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 28°C and 30°C, and the sea will be slight to moderate, with waves of one to three feet.

Saturday night will be cool to cold and partly cloudy, with variable light winds ranging from 6 to 22 km/h. Minimum temperatures were expected to range between 9°C and 11°C, and the sea will be slight, with waves of one to two feet.

Kuwait marks

During the occupation, Iraqi forces ignited wells across major oil-producing areas, creating oil lakes, massive smoke plumes, explosions at collection centers and terminals, and widespread

damage to vegetation, buildings, and marine and terrestrial life.

The fires disrupted oil production, causing losses of 4 to 6 million barrels of crude daily, with estimated economic losses of about USD 120 million per day, in addition to long-term environmental and health impacts.

The disaster affected neighboring countries, with smoke and toxic rain reaching Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iran, Oman, and parts of Central Asia.

Despite limited experience, the Kuwaiti firefighting team extinguished 41 wells and gained international recognition, while more than 10,000 personnel from 27 foreign teams participated, supported by over 5,800 specialized vehicles and equipment, forming the largest non-military firefighting fleet ever assembled in one location.

After liberation, Kuwait launched extensive efforts to rehabilitate the oil sector, including damage assessment, infrastructure repair, production restoration, and environmental studies, supported by international experts.

Global conferences and workshops were held to examine the fires' long-term effects and promote environmental protection strategies.

The 34th anniversary serves as a reminder of Kuwait's resilience, the dedication of its citizens, and the international cooperation that helped contain one of the world's most severe environmental disasters.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the State of Kuwait's full solidarity with international efforts aimed at protecting the environment during wars and armed conflicts.

In a statement marking the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, observed annually on November 6 under UN General Assembly Resolution 56/4 - a resolution proposed by the State of Kuwait in 2001 - the Ministry underscored the importance of ensuring accountability for violations committed against ecosystems during armed conflicts.

Trump pressures GOP senators

Shutdown progress in doubt as Democrats grow emboldened from election wins

WASHINGTON, Nov 6, (AP): Elections this week that energized Democrats and angered President Donald Trump have cast a chill over efforts to end the record-breaking government shutdown, raising fresh doubts about the possibility of a breakthrough despite the punishing toll of federal closures on the country.

Trump has increased pressure on Senate Republicans to end the shutdown - now at 37 days, the longest in U.S. history - calling it a "big factor, negative" in the poor GOP showings across the country. Democrats saw Trump's comments as a reason to hold firm, believing his involvement in talks could lead to a deal on extending health care subsidies, a key sticking point to win their support.

Trump is refusing to meet with Democrats, insisting they must open the government first. But complicating the GOP's strategy, Trump is increasingly fixated instead on pushing Republicans to scrap the Senate filibuster to speed reopening - a step that many GOP senators reject out of hand. He kept up the pressure in a video Wednesday evening, saying the Senate's 60-vote threshold to pass legislation should be "terminated."

"This is much bigger than the shutdown," Trump said. "This is the survival of our country."

Senate Democrats face pressures of their own, both from unions eager for the shutdown to end and from allied groups who want them to hold firm. Many see the Democrats' decisive gubernatorial wins in Virginia and New Jersey as validation of their strategy to hold the government closed until expiring health care subsidies are addressed.

"It would be very strange for the American people to have weighed in, in support of Democrats standing up and fighting for them, and within days for us to surrender without having achieved any of the things that we've been fighting for," said Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn.

Meanwhile, talks grind on but the shutdown's toll continues to deepen.



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer speaks to reporters about Democratic victories on Election Day, at the Capitol in Washington on Nov 5, day 36 of the government shutdown. (AP)

On Wednesday, the Federal Aviation Administration announced plans to reduce air traffic by 10% across 40 high-volume markets beginning

Friday morning to maintain safety amid staffing shortages. Millions have already been affected by halted government programs and missed federal

paychecks - with more expected as another round of paydays approaches next week.

Grassroots Democratic groups nationwide touted Tuesday's election results as voter approval of the shutdown strategy - and warned lawmakers against cutting a deal too soon.

"Moderate Senate Democrats who are looking for an off ramp right now are completely missing the moment," said Katie Bethell, political director of MoveOn, a progressive group. "Voters have sent a resounding message: We want leaders who fight for us, and we want solutions that make life more affordable."

Some Senate Democrats echoed that sentiment. Sen. Bernie Sanders, a leading voice in the progressive movement, said Democrats "have got to remain strong" and should secure assurances on extending health care subsidies - including "a commitment from the speaker of the House that he will support the legislation, and that the president will sign."

Still, how firmly the party remains dug in remains to be seen. Some Democrats have been working with Republicans to find a way out of the standoff, and held firm after the election that it had not impacted their approach.

"I don't feel that the elections changed where I was," said Sen. John Hickenlooper, D-Colo. "I still feel I want to get out of the shutdown."

Some Republicans also shared in Trump's concerns that the shutdown is becoming a drag on the party.

"Polls show that most voters blame Republicans more than Democrats," said Sen. Josh Hawley, a Missouri Republican. "That's understandable given who controls the levers of power."

While some Democrats saw Trump's comments on the shutdown Wednesday as evidence that he'd soon get more involved, he's largely stayed out of the fray. Instead, the talks have intensified among a loose coalition of centrist senators trying to negotiate an end to the shutdown.

DC National Guard deployment in nation's capital ordered by WH extended to Feb 28

WASHINGTON, Nov 6, (AP): The Washington DC National Guard will be deployed to the nation's capital through the end of February, according to formal orders reviewed by The Associated Press.

The formal order, dated Nov 4, extends the original order from Aug. 11 and says the Guard members will be in the city at least through Feb 28. The order states the additional duty is in response to the emergency declared in August by US President Donald Trump and under directions from the "Secretary of War to protect federal property and functions in the District of Columbia and to support federal and District law enforcement."

Hundreds of National Guard troops have been in Washington since August, which launched what Trump said was a crime-fighting mission that also included the federal takeover of the local police department. That order expired in September, but the roughly 2,000 National Guard troops from D.C. and at least eight states remain in the city, with most contingents saying they plan to withdraw by the end of November.

The D.C. National Guard is the single largest contributor of troops with 949 soldiers that make up the task force that totals 2,375 troops. West Virginia is the next largest state to contribute troops to the task force with 416 guardsmen.

Some have been armed and providing a military presence in public spaces, especially in the federal parks around the city and at subway stations as well as the Amtrak train station.

The National Guard task force appears to have spent a large portion of



Neighborhood resident and volunteer, Valencia Mohammed, center, talks to DC National Guard interim commander Army Brig Gen Leland Blanchard II, (right), and Lt Col Marcus Hunt, (left), about cleanup efforts at Fort Stevens Recreation Center on Oct 11 in Washington. Mohammed requested the cleanup. Marcus Hickman, Anacostia ANC Commissioner, is seen rear. (AP)

its time on yardwork and landscaping efforts around the nation's capital. In an update provided in early October, task force officials boasted that troops cleared 1,150 bags of trash, spread 1,045 cubic yards of mulch, removed 50 truckloads of plant waste, cleared 7.9 miles of roadway, painted 270 feet of fencing and pruned 400 trees. Since then, most daily updates from the task force only offered new troop figures and no summaries of beautification efforts.

One segment of the DC Guard has worked with various neighborhoods on beautification efforts at the request of

local neighborhood officials and residents.

The presence of guard members in the city is the subject of an ongoing lawsuit, filed Sept. 4 by DC Attorney General Brian Schwab challenging the Trump administration's use of the National Guard in the heavily Democratic city. That lawsuit sparked filings by 45 states with 23 supporting the Trump administration and 22 aligning with Washington. The Trump administration has argued that he has full authority to deploy guard troops in Washington because he is the designated commander of the DC Guard.

Europe

Nawrocki reiterates opp'n to EU policy: Polish President **Karol Nawrocki** on Wednesday reiterated Poland's opposition to the European Union's (EU) migration policy during his visit to Slovakia, the President's Office said in a statement.

At a joint press conference with Slovak President Peter Pellegrini, Nawrocki said the two countries maintain close cooperation on illegal migration issues.

"Neither I nor President Pellegrini will agree to Brussels deciding on the migration process in our countries, which poses a threat to our security. I am glad that we are on the same page on this issue," Nawrocki said.

The EU formally approved the Pact on Migration and Asylum in May last year, introducing a comprehensive overhaul of the bloc's migration and asylum framework. While supported by most EU member states, the pact has faced opposition from several Central and Eastern European countries, including Poland and Slovakia. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Okamura elected as Czech parliament speaker: The newly elected Czech Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday elected Tomio Okamura, chairman of the Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD) party, as speaker of the lower house of parliament.

Okamura received 107 votes out of 197 cast in a secret ballot.

The SPD is part of a three-party coalition with the ANO movement, led by former prime minister Andrej Babis, and the Motorists for Themselves party.

Together, the coalition holds 108 seats in the 200-member parliament, forming a majority and preparing to establish a new government headed by Babis.

Born in Tokyo in 1972 to a Czech mother and a father of Japanese-Korean heritage, Okamura's election as speaker marks the highest political office ever held by a member of the SPD. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Nurse in Germany sentenced to life: A regional court in Aachen, western Germany, on Wednesday sentenced a 44-year-old male nurse to life imprisonment for ten counts of murder and 27 counts of attempted murder after finding that he had administered lethal injections to patients in a palliative care unit.

According to the judgment, the defendant committed the crimes between December 2023 and May 2024 at a clinic in Wuerselen, near Aachen. He gave sedatives, sometimes mixed with painkillers, to severely ill patients without medical authorization.

The court determined the particular severity of guilt, effectively ruling out the possibility of release after 15 years. The verdict followed the prosecution's request.

Prosecutors said that his motive was to keep patients quiet during his night shifts so he could avoid work. The defendant denied the charges, insisting during the trial, which began in March, that he had never intended to shorten patients' lives. His defense team had called for an acquittal. (Xinhua)



Nawrocki

Lasting peace with Azerbaijan should be based on mutual benefit: Armenia

YEREVAN, Nov. 6, (Xinhua): Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said that peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan must be based on mutual benefit, which he described as the key to ensuring lasting stability in the South Caucasus, Armenpress reported.

Speaking Wednesday at the international forum Orbeli 2025, Mirzoyan said that both Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as other regional states, should gain tangible advantages from existing and future agreements.

"It is this mutual benefit that, I am convinced, will give durability and longevity to the peace agreement that will be signed, as well as to the declaration already adopted," Mirzoyan said. "Armenia will not be interested in violating these agreements, nor will Azerbaijan or Türkiye, and the same applies to other countries."

The minister stressed that peace would help both Armenia and Azerbaijan strengthen their sovereignty, noting that ongoing conflicts often create space for external actors to pursue their own interests.

"Any conflict provides a favorable environment for third countries to ad-



US President Donald Trump, (center), shakes hands with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, (right), and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev during a trilateral signing ceremony in the State Dining Room of the White House on Aug 8, in Washington. (AP)

vance their influence over the conflicting sides," he said. "There are no absolutely independent states -- countries are interconnected through trade and other relations, which are essential for their development. Strategically, we

can strengthen our sovereignty, and these interconnections should not be seen as a weakness."

Armenia and Azerbaijan initialed a peace agreement on Aug. 8 in Washington, D.C.

America

Chemical plant blast causes evacuations: An explosion at a hydrogen and nitrogen product manufacturer in Mississippi on Wednesday caused an ammonia leak and forced nearby residents to evacuate, officials said.

Mississippi Gov Tate Reeves said in a post on the social platform X that emergency officials from across the state were responding to the anhydrous ammonia leak at CF Industries' plant north of Yazoo City.

No deaths or injuries have been reported, he said.

"Thank you to all of Mississippi's first responders and emergency managers for quickly responding to the leak," he said.

Photos and video posted online show a large plume of yellowish smoke rising above the facility, which includes an ammonia plant and four nitric acid plants, among other things.

The facility is able to store about 48,000 tons of ammonia, although the exact amount there when the explosion took place was not immediately clear.

CF Industries said in a statement that there are no injuries, and "all employees and contractors on site at the time of the incident have been safely accounted for." (AP)

□ □ □

Officials scour site of UPS plane crash: The grim task of finding victims from the firestorm that followed the crash of a UPS cargo plane in Louisville, Kentucky, entered a third day Thursday as investigators gather information to determine why the aircraft caught fire and lost an engine on takeoff.

The inferno consumed the enormous plane and spread to nearby businesses, killing at least 12 people, including a child, and leaving little hope of finding survivors in the charred area of the crash at UPS Worldport, the company's global aviation hub.

The plane with three people aboard had been cleared for takeoff Tuesday when a large fire developed in the left wing, said Todd Inman, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, which is leading the investigation. But determining why it caught fire and the engine fell off

This photo provided by Andre Robinson shows a plume of smoke rising after an explosion at the CF Industries plant on Nov 5, in Yazoo City, Miss. (AP)

could take investigators more than a year. (AP)

□ □ □

Powerful Iowa judge charged: A powerful Iowa judge has been charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated after witnesses say she drove the wrong way on a highway Tuesday night while passed out behind the wheel.

Adria Kester, chief judge of the state's Second Judicial District, was released from the Boone County Jail on Wednesday morning, court records show.

A criminal complaint said motorists called 911 after 8 p.m. on Tuesday night to report a truck slowly driving eastbound in the westbound lanes on US Highway 30 near Boone. One of the witnesses reported the driver looked unconscious and slumped over the steering wheel, and drove into the highway median.

The complaint said a witness got out of their vehicle to check on the driver but could not open the door, and the vehicle was still slowly moving in the median. The witness told police she had to climb in the back window to put the 2026 GMC Canyon Denali truck in park and shut it off. (AP)



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting with members of the Security Council in Moscow, Russia on Nov 5. (AP)

New system to identify, take down Russian drones being deployed to NATO eastern flank

KYIV, Nov 6, (AP): Poland and Romania are deploying a new weapons system to defend against Russian drones, following a spate of incursions into NATO airspace in recent months that exposed the alliance's vulnerabilities and put Europe on edge.

The American Merops system, which is small enough to fit in the back of a midsize pickup truck, can identify drones and close in on them, using artificial intelligence to navigate when satellite and electronic communications are jammed.

As well as being deployed in Poland and Romania, Merops will also be used by Denmark, NATO military officials told The Associated Press, part of a move to boost defenses on the alliance's eastern flank.

The aim is to make the border with Russia so well-armed that Moscow's forces will be deterred from ever contemplating crossing, from Norway in the north to Turkey in the south, the officials said.

The need for such technology became acute after around 20 Russian drones flew into Polish airspace in early September. Multimillion-dollar jets were scrambled to respond to drones which cost tens of thousands of dollars.

Romania later faced a drone incursion, while drones temporarily closed airports in Copenhagen, Munich, Berlin and Brussels. There were also sightings near military bases in Belgium and Denmark.

While the origin of the drones could not always be traced to Russia or linked to its war in Ukraine, the urgent need to bolster defenses is clear. A protracted drone battle - or full-scale war as in Ukraine - would drain Western coffers



Romanian Air Force F-16 military fighter jet, (front), and Portuguese Air Force F-16s participating in NATO's Baltic Air Policing Mission operate over the Baltic Sea, Lithuanian airspace, on May 22, 2023. (AP)

and limited stocks of missiles.

"What this system does is give us very accurate detection," said Col. Mark McLellan, assistant chief of staff operations at NATO Allied Land Command. "It's able to target the drones and take them down and at a low cost as well. ... It's a lot cheaper than flying an F-35 into the air to take them down with a missile."

Also:

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered officials on Wednesday to submit proposals for a possible resumption of nuclear tests in response to President Donald Trump's statements last week that appeared to suggest the US will restart its own atomic tests.

Speaking at a meeting with his Security Council, Putin reaffirmed his earlier statement that Moscow will only restart nuclear tests if the US does so first. But he directed the defense and foreign ministries and other government agencies to analyze Washington's intentions and work out proposals for resuming nuclear weapons tests.

On Oct 30, Trump appeared to signal that the US will resume testing nuclear weapons for the first time in three decades, saying it would be on an "equal basis" with Russia and China.

But US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said Sunday that new tests of the US nuclear weapons system ordered by Trump will not include nuclear explosions.

INTERNATIONAL

Philippines declares state of emergency

Typhoon makes landfall in central Vietnam

NHA TRANG, Vietnam, Nov 6, (AP): Typhoon Kalmaegi made landfall Thursday north of Gia Lai province in central Vietnam, lashing the region with fierce winds and torrential rain after leaving more than 100 people dead and dozens missing in the Philippines. An unusually strong storm for the region in November, it was packing sustained winds of about 183 kph (114 mph) with gusts reaching up to 220 kph (137 mph) over the South China Sea as it approached Vietnam, said forecasters. Vietnam's central provinces are already reeling from floods due to record-breaking rains. Kalmaegi is forecast to dump more than 600 millimeters (24 inches) of rain in some areas. Authorities said more than 537,000 people were evacuated from five provinces, including Hue, Da Nang, and Dak Lak, as floodwaters rose and landslides loomed. In Ly Son Island, in the Quang Ngai province, three fishermen were reported missing after their boat was swept away by strong waves. A

search operation was launched but later suspended due to worsening weather, state media said. Meanwhile, Da Nang and Khanh Hoa guided 61,000 boats carrying nearly 290,000 workers to safe shelter. In coastal cities like Danang, waves up to 3 meters (10 feet) high battered the coast and strong winds uprooted trees in Dak Lak province. Many homes in Quy Nhon, also a coastal city, were left without power for hours. The country's financial hub, Ho Chi Minh City, faces a heightened risk of severe floods. High tides were also expected on the Saigon River, and authorities warned up to 100 millimeters (4 inches) of expected rainfall could inundate low-lying areas. Across the central Philippines, Kalmaegi killed at least 114 people and left 127 missing in the deadliest natural disaster to hit the country this year. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr declared a state of emergency on Thursday. After sowing death and destruction in the Philippines, especially in the

hard-hit central province of Cebu, the tropical cyclone blew out of the archipelago on Wednesday into the South China Sea. In Cebu's town of Liloan, Krizza Espra went to the mortuary on Thursday, where the bodies of her husband and three children, killed when their roof collapsed, were held ahead of a wake. She said four others in her family - including her mother and aunt - remain missing. "I hope someone can help speed up the search," she said. The typhoon displaced more than 560,000 villagers in the Philippines, including nearly 450,000 who were evacuated to emergency shelters, the Office of Civil Defense said. Marcos's "state of national calamity" declaration allows the government to disburse emergency funds faster and prevent food hoarding and overpricing. Disaster-response officials warned that another tropical cyclone from the Pacific could strengthen into a super typhoon and batter the northern Philippines early next week.



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

Pyongyang holds state funeral for longtime ceremonial head of state

N.Korea slams US latest sanctions on cybercrimes and says pressure tactics will fail

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 6, (AP): North Korea on Thursday denounced the Trump administration's latest sanctions targeting cybercrimes that help finance its illicit nuclear weapons program, accusing the United States of harboring "wicked" hostility toward Pyongyang and vowing unspecified countermeasures. The statement by a North Korean vice foreign minister came after the US Treasury Department on Tuesday imposed sanctions on eight individuals and two firms, including North Korean bankers, for allegedly laundering money from cybercrime schemes. The Treasury said North Korea's state-sponsored hacking schemes have stolen more than \$3 billion in mostly digital assets over the past three years, an amount unmatched by any other foreign actor, and that the illicit funds help finance the country's nuclear weapons program. The department said North Korea relies on a network of banking representatives, financial institutions and shell companies in North Korea, China, Russia and elsewhere to launder funds obtained through IT worker fraud, cryptocurrency heists and sanctions evasion. The sanctions came even as US President Donald Trump continues to express interest in reviving talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Their previous nuclear discussions collapsed in 2019 during Trump's first term amid disagreements over trading relief from US-led sanctions on the North for steps to dismantle Kim's nuclear program. "Now that the present US administration has clarified its stand to be hostile towards the DPRK to the last, we will also take proper measures to counter it with patience for any length of time," the North Korean vice minister, Kim Un Chol, said in a statement, invoking the North's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He said US sanctions and pressure tactics will never change the "present strategic situation" between the countries or alter the North's "thinking and viewpoint." Kim Jong Un has shunned any form of talks with Washington and Seoul since his fallout with Trump in 2019. He has since made Russia the focus of his foreign policy, sending thousands of troops and large amounts of military equipment to help fuel President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, while pursuing an increasingly assertive strategy aimed at securing a larger role for North Korea in a united



Then US President Donald Trump, (left), meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the North Korean side of the border at the village of Panmunjom in Demilitarized Zone, on June 30, 2019. (AP)

front against the US-led West. In a recent speech, Kim urged Washington to drop its demand for the North to surrender its nukes as a precondition for resuming diplomacy. He ignored Trump's proposal to meet while the American president was in South Korea last week for meetings with world leaders attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un led a state funeral for the country's longtime ceremonial head of state, Kim Yong Nam, who died this week at age 97. Kim Jong Un and other senior officials from a 100-member funeral committee joined family members as Kim Yong Nam - unrelated to the ruling Kim family - was buried on Wednesday at the Patriotic Martyrs' Cemetery in Pyongyang, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said Thursday. State media images showed mourning citizens bowing along the streets as a car carrying Kim Yong Nam's flag-draped coffin and a large portrait drove toward the cemetery, where Kim Jong Un and other senior officials waited at the entrance. North Korean Premier Pak Thae Song delivered a eulogy, and Kim Jong Un, along with what appeared to be hundreds of other mourners dressed in black suits or military uniforms, bowed in silent tribute before Kim Yong Nam's remains were buried, according to KCNA's report and photos. "All the participants prayed for the immortality of the pure soul and revolutionary spirit of Kim Yong Nam, who made a distinguished contribution" to the party and state," KCNA said. Kim Yong Nam served as head of the country's rubber-stamp parliament from 1998 to April 2019, a post that made him North Korea's nominal head of state, though real power has always rested with Kim Jong Un's family, which has ruled the country as a dynasty since 1948. Kim Yong Nam's prominent government role made him a central figure in key moments of diplomacy. In February 2018, he traveled to South Korea with Kim Jong Un's sister, Kim Yo Jong, to attend the opening of the Winter Olympics, as North Korea launched a diplomatic push with Seoul and Washington to leverage its nuclear weapons for economic gains. The efforts derailed in 2019 following a collapsed summit between Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump due to disagreements over U.S.-led international sanctions.



Indian nationals, believed to have worked at a scam center in Myanmar, board a plane at Thailand's Mae Sot International Airport in Tak, before being sent back to India on Nov 6. (AP)

Indians vote in state election in Bihar seen as key test for Prime Minister Modi

PATNA, India, Nov 6, (AP): India is holding a key local election in the eastern state of Bihar on Thursday to choose a new government - a vote seen as a crucial test of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and his alliance's hold over one of the country's politically influential states. Millions of people lined up outside polling stations across Bihar in the two-phased vote for its 243-seat legislature. The election comes amid widespread public concern over unemployment, law and order, and alleged irregularities in revision of electoral rolls. The results, expected Nov. 14, will gauge whether Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance, or NDA, can sustain its dominance or face growing discontent over economic and governance issues. Bihar, long seen as India's political bellwether, has become a crucial test for Modi as he seeks to build momentum ahead of national elections in 2029 and key state polls in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam over the next two years. Bihar sends 40 lawmakers to the parliament's lower house - a win in the state could strengthen Modi's coalition while a setback may boost the opposition. "Bihar's election is not just about alliances but arithmetic," said New Delhi-based analyst Sidharth Mishra. "If the NDA led by Modi falters, it could unsettle his coalition at the center." Modi's party failed to win a majority in last year's federal vote and relied on allies Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) to form the government. These alliances are Mo-



People stand in a queue to cast their votes for Bihar state election at a polling booth in Patna, India on Nov 6. (AP)

di's key partners in Bihar too. The BJP leads Bihar's ruling alliance, with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal (United) at the helm. Kumar, 74, has governed for nearly two decades, and is credited with improving the state's infrastructure and ending its law and order problems. Once an opponent of Modi, Kumar later rejoined the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. Analysts say a loss in Bihar could split his party and threaten Modi's federal coalition, which relies on 12 of Kumar's lawmakers, as defected leaders can join the opposition. "This election could affect not just Bihar's leadership but the stability of

Modi's government," said Ravi Ranjan, a political science professor in New Delhi. The NDA faces the opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal, allied with Congress. A new group, Jan Suraj, floated by Modi's former poll manager Prashant Kishor, is also in the fray. Rahul Gandhi, leader of the Congress Party, has denounced the state's recent revision of electoral rolls in Bihar by the Election Commission of India, calling it politically motivated.

Also:

MAE SOT, Thailand: India is repatriating on Thursday the first batch of hundreds of its nationals who last month fled to Thailand from Myanmar, where most had been working at a notorious center for online scams. The center, known as KK Park on the outskirts of the border city of Myawaddy and said to house a major cybercrime operation, was raided by Myanmar's army in mid-October to suppress cross-border online scams and illegal gambling. An Indian air force transport plane left Thailand en route to India and another plane was to leave later in the day, with about 270 out of 465 Indians who are to be repatriated. The remainder will leave Thailand next Monday, according to Maj. Gen. Maitree Chupreecha, commander of the Thai army's northern region Naresuan Task Force. In March, India repatriated 549 nationals after an earlier crackdown on cybercrime operations at the Myanmar-Thai border. Those currently being repatriated are among more than 1,500 people from 28 nations who fled the raid in Myawaddy.

Pakistan and Afghan officials back in Istanbul for more peace talks

ANKARA, Turkey, Nov 6, (AP): Pakistan and Afghan officials were back in Turkey on Thursday for a crucial, third round of talks aimed at ensuring peace along their shared border, state-run media from the two sides reported. The deadly border clashes that erupted last month between the two countries killed dozens of people, including soldiers, civilians and suspected militants, and wounded hundreds on both sides. The fighting began after explosions in Kabul on Oct 9 that the Taliban government blamed on Pakistan, vowing retaliation. The violence only stopped after Qatar brokered a ceasefire on Oct. 19, which remains in place. Relations between the neighbors have deteriorated in recent years, with Islamabad accusing Afghanistan's Taliban government of turning a blind eye to Pakistani militants who launch cross-border attacks and carry out acts of bomb and gun attacks inside Pakistan. Kabul denies the allegations, saying it does not allow anyone to use Afghan soil for attacks against any country, including Pakistan. Afghanistan's broadcaster RTA and Pakistan's state-run TV reported that they two sides are meeting in Istanbul. The talks will be held in the presence of mediators, Pakistani media said. On Wednesday, Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif said a government delegation has traveled to Istanbul to take part in the third round of talks, focused on a single agenda: ensuring that Afghan territory



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

is not used for attacks inside Pakistan. In Kabul, government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told RTA that the Afghan delegation is led by Abdul Haq Wasiq, director of general intelligence. The Pakistani delegation, he said, is headed by Lt Gen. Asim Malik, Pakistan's spy chief and national security adviser - though Islamabad, in keeping with policy, has not publicly identified its representatives. Qatar and Turkey are facilitating the dialogue to prevent a conflict in a region where militant groups, including al-Qaida, Islamic State group and oth-

ers are trying to resurface. Despite the cease-fire, all major border crossings between Pakistan and Afghanistan remain closed to trade and civilian movement. The crossings were shut on Oct. 12, though Pakistan has partially reopened two of them to allow Afghan refugees to return home. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said last week that reopening the crossings for trade and travel would depend on improvements in security along the border, which was closed after attacks on trade convoys from the Afghan side.

People from S.Sudan to lose temporary US legal status

JUBA, South Sudan, Nov 6, (AP): The United States is terminating South Sudan's designation for temporary protected status, which for years allowed people from the East African country to remain in the U.S. legally and escape armed conflict back home. The termination will be effective Jan. 5, the Department of Homeland Security said in a statement. "After conferring with interagency partners, Secretary of Homeland Security **Kristi Noem** determined that conditions in South Sudan no longer meet the TPS statutory requirements," the statement said. It added that South Sudanese nationals who use the Customs and Border Protection mobile app to report their departure could receive "a complimentary plane ticket, a \$1,000 exit bonus, and potential future opportunities for legal immigration." The new policy is a blow to people from South Sudan, a nation that remains politically unstable and the source of many refugees seeking shelter abroad. A peace deal to end fighting between rival forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and to his erstwhile deputy Riek Machar, has been in force since 2018, but observers say it is slowly unraveling after the arrest earlier this year of Machar on criminal charges. Kiir said he suspended Machar as his First Vice President so that his deputy could face charges including treason.



Noem

Lat/Am

Mexico's leader presses charges: What should have been a five-minute time-saving walk from Mexico's National Palace to the Education Ministry for President Claudia Sheinbaum has become a symbol of what Mexican women face every day after a video captured a drunk man touching the country's first woman president. On Wednesday, gender violence catapulted to the highest-profile platform, and Sheinbaum used her daily press briefing to say that she had pressed charges against the man. She also called on states to scrutinize their laws and procedures to make it easier for women to report such assaults and said Mexicans needed to hear a "loud and clear, no, women's personal space must not be violated." (AP)

Bolivian court annuls Áñez sentence: The Bolivian Supreme Court of Justice on Wednesday annulled the 10-year prison sentence against former interim president Jeanine Áñez, ordering her immediate release. The court also ordered that Áñez, who has been imprisoned for more than four years, be subjected to a political trial, as demanded by her defense. Court President Romer Saucedo told the media on Wednesday that the sentence was annulled based on "several arguments" and the vote of seven of the nine justices. Saucedo explained that the decision was based on finding "violations" of due process during Áñez's trial through ordinary legal channels. (AP)

Kuwait crude rises to \$66.34 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil rose up 23 cents to reach USD 66.34 per barrel during Wednesday's trading, compared to USD 66.11 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday. Brent futures went down 92 cents to USD 63.52 pb and West Texas Intermediate dropped 96 cents to USD 59.60 pb.

Business

Recognized as the Best Financial Building

NBK wins the Award of GCC Excellence for Energy Efficiency in Buildings in 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: In a new achievement that confirms its leadership in adopting the highest sustainability standards, National Bank of Kuwait building won the award of Best Financial Building as part of the GCC Excellence Awards for Energy Efficiency in Buildings for the year 2025, during the Gulf Forum for Electricity and Water Conservation held in Kuwait on November 5 and 6 under the patronage of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and in cooperation with the Rationalization and Subscribers Services Committee of the General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

The award was received by Mr. Ezzat Hallal, Chief Engineer – Group Engineering Management at National Bank of Kuwait, and the event witnessed a wide participation from GCC officials and experts who discussed numerous modern consumption rationalization strategies and techniques.

The Forum witnessed broad participation from officials and experts from the GCC countries, where strategies and modern technologies for rationalizing consumption were discussed.

The Gulf Excellence Award for Energy Efficiency in Buildings is one of the main categories that aims to honor innovation and leadership in the design and operation of highly efficient buildings, reflecting the growing interest in rationalizing consumption as a key pillar of water and electricity security in the region.

This achievement demonstrates the exceptional efforts made by the bank to promote sustainability through a building that not only stands as an architectural icon but also represents a comprehensive model in applying the highest standards of energy efficiency and green design, setting a new standard for operational excellence and environmental responsibility in the Gulf financial sector.

Moreover, the award reflects NBK's unwavering commitment to supporting the global trend of achieving a low-carbon economy, with a focus on assessing the direct and indirect environmental impact, especially amid the continued emergence of climate-change related risks.

This award also confirms NBK's efforts in implementing the four pillars of its Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance strategy (ESG) that contributes to achieving its ambitious environmental goals and is embodied in its headquarters.

A Sustainability Icon

NBK's headquarters represents more than just a finan-



NBK receiving award of the Best Financial Building at GCC Excellence Awards.

cial center; it is an architectural landmark that is rooted in heritage and carries a future vision. It was designed to embody the bank's values and its ambitious vision for a sustainable future. Since its completion in 2020, it has become a prominent landmark on the Kuwait City skyline, drawing inspiration from the country's rich maritime and cultural heritage, while showcasing engineering innovation and architectural excellence.

The comprehensive design of the 300-meter-high and 63-story tower combines innovative architectural and engineering solutions made for achieving maximum convenience and sustainability. The tower also demonstrates exceptional energy efficiency, consuming 42% less than global standards, which contributes to reducing emissions by 27% and saving large quantities of natural gas and oil annually.

The tower's passive design feature, one of its prominent architectural and engineering solutions, contributes to operational efficiency. With its cylindrical shape and concrete fins along its facade, the design helps shield from direct solar heat and consequently reduce the load and

need of artificial cooling.

Additionally, the design utilizes high-performance, four-layer insulating glass facades with emission reduction technologies to achieve an optimal balance between natural lighting and heat protection. These elements are integrated with smart energy management systems that efficiently combine structural and mechanical systems, as well as using recycling technologies such as recycled building materials and advanced water recycling technologies, further reducing waste and improving indoor air quality.

Global Accreditations: Confirmed Leadership

Winning the Gulf Excellence Award is the latest in a series of global achievements and accreditations the NBK building has won. It received the LEED 2009 Gold certification for new buildings from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in 2022, becoming the first building in Kuwait to achieve this rating. "LEED" is a system for rating green buildings and assessing the sustainability of buildings through 7 criteria including: sustainability location, water efficiency,

- The Award reflects NBK's exceptional efforts made by the bank to promote sustainability through its iconic architecture.
- The NBK Tower represents a comprehensive model in applying the highest standards of energy efficiency and green design.
- The bank's headquarters has become a landmark on the Kuwait City skyline and a model to be emulated in the financial sector.
- The building has established itself as a modern monument that embodies the bank's commitment to innovation and environmental responsibility.

energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, design innovation, and regional priorities.

It should be noted that environmental awareness is one of the bank's top priorities, in addition to its commitment to environmental responsibility through measuring and evaluating the environmental impacts of its business and managing its operations through rationalizing water and energy consumption, recycling materials, and focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The figures issued in NBK's 2024 Sustainability Report confirm this commitment, as the bank succeeded in achieving tangible results in terms of rationalizing consumption and reducing the carbon footprint. The bank was able to reduce its electricity consumption by about 389,914 kWh, and it recorded a decrease in water consumption of 20.85% during the same year, which supports water conservation efforts in Kuwait.

NBK continues to implement various initiatives as part of its efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, in line with global trends and Kuwait Vision 2035.

NBK's headquarters has become a landmark on the skyline of Kuwait City that embodies the bank's commitment to innovation and environmental responsibility, setting a model to be emulated in the financial sector.

Company strategic partner of the 9th EU GCC Business Forum

Zain reinforces Kuwait's efforts to transform into regional hub for technology & innovation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Zain announced its strategic partnership with the 9th EU GCC Business Forum, hosted in the State of Kuwait and organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the European Union, in partnership with the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), under the patronage and presence of H.H. the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Zain took part in the opening ceremony held at Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center, which was attended by H.E. the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and the Acting Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem, H.E. Jassem Al-Bedaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, H.E. Maroš Šefčovic, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, and Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director-General of KDIPA.

The ceremony was also attended by Hamad Al-Marzouq, Chief Enterprise Business Officer at Zain Kuwait, Meshal Al-Kandari, Chief Commercial Officer, Malek Jaber Al-Sabah, Chief Legal & Regulatory Officer, and Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer.

This strategic partnership extends Zain's efforts to reinforce Kuwait's position as a regional economic hub built on innovation and technology, a path the company has championed through its various partnerships over the past years.

Zain's participation reflects its national role in connecting investment opportunities with digital technologies and advancing toward a diversified, knowledge-based economy that enhances Kuwait's competitiveness at the regional and global levels.

The forum provided a practical platform to build bridges between GCC and EU institutions. Through Zain's expertise and partnerships with global technology leaders, the company helps drive high-quality investments that deliver value to productive sectors and accelerate responsible digital transformation.

Zain firmly believes that real investment in the future begins with investing in national talent. The company will continue working with its partners to enhance digital skills, empower entrepreneurs, and support startups, which directly contributes to economic diversification and productivity growth, while reinforcing Kuwait's position as a regional center for technology.

On the sidelines of the forum, Zain showcased at its booth the Group's 4WARD strategy -Progress with Purpose, through which it aims to build the largest TechCo conglomerate in Middle East and Africa markets and drive the Group's purpose of "Better Lives, Lasting Connections." In addition, the Enterprise Business team was on hand to explore collaboration opportunities between Zain and participating institutions.

The forum was held under the theme Together for Shared Prosperity, with high-level participation from institutions of the European Union and the GCC, alongside senior government leaders and economic and investment entities.

The event underlined avenues of cooperation between GCC states and the EU through



H.H the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah with Al-Marzouq, Al-Sabah, and Al-Khashti.



Zain's participation reflects its efforts to advance toward a diversified economy built on digital innovation.

focused sessions covering trade and investment, digital transformation and artificial intelligence, skills development and support for SMEs, and explored new prospects for collaboration in tourism, health, education, and the creative industries.

A series of business meetings and panel discussions were also held, most notably a high-level session on the strategic partnership be-

tween the GCC and the European Union, titled Bridging Economies, Building Futures.

The 9th EU GCC Business Forum offered a practical opportunity to accelerate public-private partnerships, attract high-quality investments, and align perspectives on digital transformation priorities in the region, with positive impact on quality of life and shared prosperity.



The 9th Gulf-European Business Forum in progress.

Al-Terkait commends KDIPA's role

UIC Chairman praises success of the 9th Gulf-European Business Forum

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Chairman of the Union of Investment Companies, Mr. Abdullah H. Al-Terkait, praised the outstanding organization and great success of the 9th Gulf-European Business Forum held under the theme "Together for Shared Prosperity", hosted by Kuwait on 05th& 06th Nov. 2025, under the patronage and presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Sabah.

Mr. Al-Terkait highlighted the remarks made by His Highness the Prime Minister during the forum's opening ceremony, in which he affirmed Kuwait's ability and readiness to lead and adapt to change guided by its Vision 2035, emphasizing the country's steadfast commitment to supporting peace, security, and international cooperation. He noted that this vision represents a clear framework for advancing the path of sustainable development.

He also commended the pivotal role of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) in organizing the event, emphasizing that the coordination efforts led by Sheikh Meshaal Jaber Al-Sabah, Director-General of KDIPA, created an effective platform for dialogue between both sides. Mr. Al-Terkait also referred to Sheikh Meshaal's remarks on the depth of relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union (EU) and their mutual aspirations to strengthen partnerships, underscoring the importance of the forum as a venue for exchanging ideas, perspectives, and investment expertise, while opening practical avenues for cooperation.

He stated: "The forum stood out for its

excellent organization and the broad participation of financial and investment institutions from both the Gulf and Europe, providing a rich platform for dialogue on cooperation prospects in areas such as clean energy, technology, innovation, and sustainable finance."

Mr. Al-Terkait added: "This forum represents an important opportunity to encourage our member companies to engage directly with their European counterparts and explore prospects for joint ventures and partnerships—especially in rapidly growing sectors such as financial technology and renewable energy."

He further noted that UIC's participation comes within its commitment to keeping pace with global economic and investment developments and to strengthening channels of communication with leading international institutions such as the European Investment Bank, thereby paving the way for joint projects that support development in Kuwait and the wider region.

Concluding his statement, Mr. Al-Terkait said: "The success of the forum reflects Kuwait's firm commitment to reinforcing its role as a regional hub for economic dialogue and partnership. It also highlights the leadership vision of national institutions—foremost among them KDIPA—in organizing high-impact events that solidify Kuwait's standing on the global investment map. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of this forum serve as a springboard for new strategic partnerships that contribute to realizing New Kuwait 2035 and advancing shared prosperity between the Gulf and Europe."

General index down 3.32 points

Boursa Kuwait closes mixed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Thursday's trading session with mixed performance. The general index slipped by 3.32 points, or 0.04 percent, closing at 8,913.21 points.

Total trading activity reached 396.9 million shares across 24,971 transactions, valued at 98.9 million Kuwaiti dinars (about USD 302.6 million).

The main market index declined 17.94 points, or 0.21 percent, to 8,477.46 points, as 251.6 million shares changed hands in 15,474 transactions worth 40.5 million dinars (around USD

123.5 million).

In contrast, the premier market index edged up by 0.17 points to reach 9,462.34 points, with 145.2 million shares traded through 9,497 transactions valued at 58.4 million dinars (roughly USD 178 million).

The Main 50 Index also moved higher, gaining 37.62 points, or 0.44 percent, to close at 8,663.69 points, with 124.7 million shares traded in 8,339 transactions totaling 25.4 million dinars (approximately USD 77.7 million).

The forum strengthens strategic cooperation between the GCC and the EU to advance sustainable economic development

KFH a strategic partner for the 2025 EU-GCC Business Forum



His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with Hamad Al Marzouq.



Hamad Al Marzouq and Khaled AlShamlan.



Hamad Al Marzouq and Khaled AlShamlan with the Kuwait Finance House team.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated as a strategic partner in the 2025 EU-GCC Business Forum which is part of the EU-GCC dialogue project. KFH's participation aligns with its unwavering commitment to strengthening its leadership in the financial and banking sector in addition to supporting Kuwait Vision 2035.

Hosted by Kuwait under the theme "Together for Shared Prosperity", the event was under the patronage and presence of His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in partnership with the European Commission, the GCC Secretariat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA).

KFH's delegation was headed by the Chairman, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al Marzouq. It also included the Group CEO, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, along with a number of senior executive leaders from the Bank.

The forum brought together high-level government officials, business leaders, investors, and innovators from the GCC and the EU. Its goal is to deepen economic ties and share expertise and knowledge between the regions, ultimately driving sustainable development and achieving mutual

Al Marzouq: KFH affirms its commitment to supporting Kuwait Vision 2035 and the country's leadership as GCC Chair

prosperity.

Supporting Kuwait's leading role

KFH Chairman Hamad Abdulmohsen Al Marzouq affirmed that KFH's participation reflects its status as the largest private sector company in Kuwait by market capitalization. It also underscores the Bank's commitment to supporting regional and international events that advance Kuwait Vision 2035, which aims to transform Kuwait into a regional and international financial and trade hub. Moreover, KFH's involvement reinforces Kuwait's leadership role as the 2025 Chair of the GCC and host of the forum.

Al Marzouq also stressed the importance of the event in strengthening strategic cooperation between the GCC and the EU to advance sustainable economic development and expand opportunities across key sectors.

Financial leadership and distinguished achievements

Al Marzouq noted that the forum provided an opportunity to showcase KFH's achievements, including maintaining its leadership as the largest listed company on Boursa Kuwait and the most profitable bank in Kuwait, with operations spanning 10 countries through an expansive network of over 600 branches worldwide.

He added that KFH was recently recognized as the top-performing bank in Kuwait in The Banker's 2025 Top 1000 World Banks ranking. Additionally, KFH maintained its position as the largest listed company in Kuwait on Forbes' 2025 Global 2000 list.

A strategic platform for economic collaboration

The EU-GCC Business Forum acts as a strategic platform to foster international cooperation and knowledge sharing between the GCC and European markets. The event explored new opportunities in trade, investment, and economic partnerships, focusing on crucial areas like digital commerce, clean technologies, regulatory reforms, SME development, AgTech, healthcare, tourism, and education. The event brings together policymakers, business leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs from across the GCC and the EU to develop partnerships that support economic and investment collaboration and achieve sustainable development, and drive growth across multiple sectors.

Kuwait praised for its diplomatic vision

OPEC estimates 23% rise in global energy demand

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6 (KUNA): OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais said Thursday that global demand for primary energy is expected to rise by 23 percent, from 308 to 378 million barrels of oil equivalent per day by 2050.

Al-Ghais made the remarks during a lecture about the future of energy markets and the role of OPEC and oil-producing countries, organized by the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute, attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah.

He affirmed that the world will continue to need all forms of energy, stressing that oil will remain a vital energy source despite climate con-

cerns; Climate change is not a call to abandon oil, he said, noting that solutions lie in technology and emission-reduction investments, which will be discussed at COP30 in Brazil.

Al-Ghais highlighted OPEC members' efforts to cut emissions through modern technologies while maintaining energy security and supply stability.

He added that renewable energy complements, rather than replaces oil, currently representing only 3 - 4 pct of the global energy mix, compared to 80 percent from fossil fuels.

He called for balanced and realistic energy policies, warning against overreliance on a single source. OPEC forecasts indicate that global oil demand will reach 123 million barrels per day by 2050, driven mainly by non-OECD countries.

Al-Ghais said OPEC is conducting an extensive media campaign to counter misinformation about fossil fuels, reaffirming that oil remains the engine of the global economy.

He reiterated OPEC's commitment to stable oil markets and its right to coordinate member states' petroleum policies to ensure secure supplies.

Al-Ghais stressed that achieving a stable global energy future requires ongoing international cooperation and praised Kuwait's founding role in OPEC.

He also commended the Diplomatic Institute's efforts in preparing the next generation of Kuwaiti diplomats, expressing pride in his early career experience at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais speaking during the lecture.

Beyout Plus project to span 250,000 sqm

Lulu Group partners with Beyout Holding to open new hypermarket in Al Mutlaa, Kuwait



Lulu signs strategic partnership with Beyout Holding.



KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Lulu Group has announced a strategic partnership with Beyout Holding to open a new hypermarket within the upcoming Beyout Plus Mall, marking a significant milestone in the commercial development of Al Mutlaa Residential City.

Yusuffali M.A., Chairman of Lulu Group and AbdulRahman Al Khanna, Group CEO of Beyout Holding and Vice Chairman, signed the agreement that marks Lulu as one of the first strategic tenants in the Beyout Plus projects.

As part of this partnership, Lulu will establish a hypermarket covering 6,650 square meters within the expansive 250,000-square-meter Beyout Plus Mall. This development marks a significant commercial milestone in Al Mutlaa

Residential City, the largest residential project in Kuwait's history, designed to accommodate over 400,000 residents.

"As the largest retail brand in the GCC, we are firmly on an expansion track in Kuwait, and this partnership with Beyout Holding underscores our commitment to expand our retail service and delivering exceptional value to customers. We are also grateful for the support from the Beyout Holding team," said Yusuffali M.A., Chairman of Lulu Group

AbdulRahman Al Khanna stated that "the leasing operations in the project are currently focused on strategic tenants, with the aim of shaping the true identity of the project exactly as it was announced at the launch event. Indeed, the group succeeded in signing the contract with

Lulu Group, which constitutes an important step."

The Beyout Plus project is a unique development combining retail, showrooms, warehouses, and offices across 250,000 square meters in the Al Mutlaa area. This project is distinguished by its adherence to global best practices in logistics while respecting Kuwait's cultural and social sensitivities, and it will greatly benefit the residents of the new city. The complex features innovative architecture and offers comprehensive home solutions, providing a seamless and sophisticated shopping experience for furniture and building materials through a select range of local and international brands. The project is expected to complete in the first quarter of 2027.

During the Future Investment Initiative hosted by Saudi Arabia

Kamco Invest hosts exclusive reception in Riyadh under patronage of Kuwaiti Ambassador



The Ambassador with Kamco Invest Team.



Side discussions.



The Ambassador with guests.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, hosted an exclusive reception and dinner in Riyadh under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The event brought together a distinguished group of clients, leading business figures from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, in addition to board members and executives from Kamco Invest - Saudi. It provided an ideal platform to strengthen bilateral relations and explore potential avenues for collaboration in investment and capital markets between the two brotherly nations.

The gathering coincided with Saudi Arabia's hosting of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) 2025, a key global platform for discussing investment trends and innovation. Kamco Invest was represented at the FII by a delegation of senior executives and board members, underscoring the firm's commitment to engaging in strategic dialogues shaping the region's economic and investment future.

During the evening, Kamco Invest reaffirmed its long-term commitment to the Saudi market and highlighted its ongoing efforts to support investors through its comprehensive offerings covering. The event also served as an opportunity to recognize the company's growing footprint in the Kingdom, particularly following the relocation of its office in Riyadh to King Abdullah Financial District (KAJD).

Commenting on the occasion, Faisal M. Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer of Kamco Invest and Board Member of Kamco Invest - Saudi, said, "We are honored by His Excellency's support and by the distinguished attendance of key clients and stakeholders from Saudi Arabia. The event reflects our deep appreciation for the strong economic ties between the two countries and our continued commitment to contributing to the growth of the Saudi market."

Regarding Kamco Invest's participation in the Future Investment Initiative, Sarkhou said, "We make it a point to participate annually in this forum because of what it represents, a global platform that brings together business leaders, investors, and decision-makers from around the world. The forum provides a valuable opportunity to build strategic partnerships that support our aspirations at Kamco Invest to expand our regional presence and contribute to the development of the investment environment in the Kingdom and the region."

The evening concluded with a networking session where attendees exchanged views on the evolving investment landscape in Saudi Arabia and the wider Gulf region, emphasizing the growing opportunities across various sectors.

It is worth noting that Kamco Invest continues to strengthen its presence in the Saudi market through a strong and sustainable commitment aligned with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030. Kamco Invest - Saudi plays a central role in the company's regional growth strategy, having recently expanded into its

new offices at the King Abdullah Financial District (KAJD) and grown its team with specialized expertise to support local investors. Its activities include managing the Kingdom's largest conventional equity strategy with a capital of SAR 1.2 billion, launching a pre-IPO technology fund focused on Gulf companies, particularly in Saudi Arabia, in addition to two other strategies dedicated to Shariah-compliant equities and the Saudi Riyal money market. This reflects the company's commitment to providing diverse and innovative investment solutions that meet market needs and support local economic growth.

About Kamco Invest

Kamco Investment Company K.S.C (Public) "Kamco Invest" is a regional non-banking financial powerhouse headquartered in Kuwait with offices in key regional financial markets, established in 1998 and listed on Boursa Kuwait in 2003. It is an independently managed subsidiary of Borgan Bank, a member of KIPCO Group, adopting highest standards of corporate governance and regulated by the Capital Markets Authority and Central Bank of Kuwait.

Kamco Invest has AUM of over USD17.1bn as of 30 June 2025 allocated to various asset classes and jurisdictions, making it one of the largest asset managers in the MENA region. It has acted as investment banker to deals exceeding USD43.7bn from its inception till 30 June 2025 in equity capital markets, debt capital markets and mergers & acquisitions.

Supreme Court skeptical of Trump’s sweeping tariff powers

Trump warns US could be ‘defenseless’ if tariffs struck down

WASHINGTON, Nov 6, (AP): President Donald Trump has warned that the United States will be rendered “defenseless” and possibly “reduced to almost Third World status” if the Supreme Court strikes down the tariffs he imposed this year on nearly every country on earth.

The justices sounded skeptical during oral arguments Wednesday of his sweeping claims of authority to impose tariffs as he sees fit.

The truth, though, is that Trump will still have plenty of options to keep taxing imports aggressively even if the court rules against him. He can re-use tariff powers he deployed in his first term and can reach for others, including one that dates back to the Great Depression.

“It’s hard to see any pathway here where tariffs end,” said Georgetown trade law professor Kathleen Claussen. “I am pretty convinced he could rebuild the tariff landscape he has now using other authorities.”

At Wednesday’s hearing, in fact, lawyer Neal Katyal, representing small businesses suing to get the tariffs struck down, argued that Trump didn’t need the boundless authority he’s claimed to impose tariffs under 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). That is because Congress delegated tariff power to the White House in several other statutes - though it carefully limited the ways the president could use the authority.

“Congress knows exactly how to delegate its tariff powers,” Katyal said.

Tariffs have become a cornerstone of Trump’s foreign policy in his second term, with double-digit “reciprocal” tariffs imposed on most countries, which he has justified by declaring America’s longstanding trade deficits a national emergency.

The average U.S. tariff has gone from 2.5% when Trump returned to the White House in January to 17.9%, the highest since 1934, according to calculations by Yale University’s Budget Lab.

The president acted alone even though the U.S. Constitution specifically gives the power to tax - and impose tariffs - to Congress.

Still, Trump “will have other tools that can cause pain,” said Stratos Pahis of Brooklyn Law School. Here’s a look at some of his options:

The United States has long had a handy cudgel to wallop countries it accuses

of engaging in “unjustifiable,” “unreasonable” or “discriminatory” trade practices. That is Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.

And Trump has made aggressive use of it himself - especially against China. In his first term, he cited Section 301 to impose sweeping tariffs on Chinese imports in a dispute over the sharp-elbowed tactics that Beijing was using to challenge America’s technological dominance. The U.S. is also using 301 powers to counter what it calls unfair Chinese practices in the shipbuilding industry.

“You’ve had Section 301 tariffs in place against China for years,” said Ryan Majerus, a partner at King & Spalding and a trade official in Trump’s first administration and in Biden’s.

There are no limits on the size of Section 301 tariffs. They expire after four years but can be extended.

But the administration’s trade representative must conduct an investigation and typically hold a public hearing before imposing 301 tariffs.

John Veroneau, general counsel for the U.S. trade representative in the George W. Bush administration, said Section 301 is useful in taking on China. But it has drawbacks when it comes to dealing with the smaller countries that Trump has hammered with reciprocal tariffs.

“Undertaking dozens and dozens of 301 investigations of all of those countries is a laborious process,” Veroneau said.

In striking down Trump’s reciprocal tariffs in May, the U.S. Court of International Trade ruled that the president couldn’t use emergency powers to combat trade deficits.

That is partly because Congress had specifically given the White House limited authority to address the problem in another statute: Section 122, also of the Trade Act of 1974. That allows the president to impose tariffs of up to 15% for up to 150 days in response to unbalanced trade. The administration doesn’t even have to conduct an investigation beforehand.

But Section 122 authority has never been used to apply tariffs, and there is some uncertainty about how it would work.

In both of his terms, Trump has made aggressive use of his power - under Section 232 of Trade Expansion Act of 1962 - to impose tariffs on imports that he

deems a threat to national security.

In 2018, he slapped tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum, levies he’s expanded since returning to the White House. He also plastered Section 232 tariffs on autos, auto parts, copper, lumber.

In September, the president even levied Section 232 tariffs on kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities and upholstered furniture. “Even though people might roll their eyes” at the notion that imported furniture poses a threat to national security, Veroneau said, “it’s difficult to get courts to second-guess a determination by a president on a national security matter.”

Section 232 tariffs are not limited by law but do require an investigation by the U.S. Commerce Department. It’s the administration itself that does the investigating - also true for Section 301 cases - “so they have a lot of control over the outcome,” Veroneau said.

Nearly a century ago, with the U.S. and world economies in collapse, Congress passed the Tariff Act of 1930, imposing hefty taxes on imports. Known as the Smoot-Hawley tariffs (for their congressional sponsors), these levies have been widely condemned by economists and historians for limiting world commerce and making the Great Depression worse. They also got a memorable pop culture shoutout in the 1986 movie “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off.”

Section 338 of the law authorizes the president to impose tariffs of up to 50% on imports from countries that have discriminated against U.S. businesses. No investigation is required, and there’s no limit on how long the tariffs can stay in place.

Those tariffs have never been imposed - U.S. trade negotiators traditionally have favored Section 301 sanctions instead - though the United States used the threat of them as a bargaining chip in trade talks in the 1930s.

In September, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Reuters that the administration was considering Section 338 as a Plan B if the Supreme Court ruled against Trump’s use of emergency powers tariffs.

The Smoot-Hawley legislation has a bad reputation, Veroneau said, but Trump might find it appealing. “To be the first president to ever use it could have some cache.”

Bank of England holds rates at 4% amid inflation concerns

Inflation at 3.8% prompts BoE to hold steady

LONDON, Nov 6, (AP): The Bank of England kept its main interest rate unchanged at 4% on Thursday with policymakers indicating that they need more information on how swiftly inflation will fall back towards their target.

Thursday’s decision by the nine-member rate-setting body to maintain Bank Rate - a benchmark for mortgages as well as consumer and business loans - was widely anticipated, though some economists thought there was a chance that borrowing rates would be reduced by a further quarter of a percentage point to 3.75%.

The vote was tight though, with five voting for unchanged rates and four backing a cut.

“We still think rates are on a gradual path downwards, but we need to be sure that inflation is on track to return to our 2% target before we cut them again,” said Bank Governor Andrew Bailey.

The main reason why rates were kept on hold is that the annual rate of consumer price inflation is standing at 3.8%, nearly double the bank’s target.

In minutes accompanying the decision, the Monetary Policy Committee said inflation has likely “peaked” at a lower level than its previous prediction of 4% in August, when it last cut interest rates to 4%.

With inflation set to fall in coming months and possibly back to the target next year, many economists think a cut is possible at the next rate-setting meeting in December.

Much could hinge on the U.K. government’s budget on Nov. 26, which is expected to be one of the most consequential in years.

Treasury chief Rachel Reeves has put the country on notice that taxes will likely have to be raised in the budget, which could have a depressing effect on an already moribund economy and therefore prices. She has also indicated that one of the key missions of her budget will be to get inflation



Andrew Bailey, Governor of the Bank of England, attends the Bank of England Monetary Policy Report news Conference at the Bank of England in London, England, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025. (AP)

lower.

“At the budget later this month I will take the fair choices that are necessary to build the strong foundations for our economy so we can continue to cut waiting lists, cut the national debt and cut the cost of living,” Reeves said after the bank’s decision.

Since it started cutting borrowing rates in August 2024 after the unwinding of the previous spike in inflation in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the bank has done so in a gradual manner every three months. Thursday’s decision

was the first time it opted against a rate cut on this quarterly timescale.

Last week, the Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate for a second time this year as it seeks to shore up economic growth and hiring, even as inflation stays elevated.

But Fed Chair Jerome Powell also cautioned that further rate cuts weren’t guaranteed, citing the government shutdown’s interruption of economic reports and sharp divisions among 19 Fed officials who participate in the central bank’s interest-rate deliberations.

Staff shortages push FAA to limit air traffic

FAA to cut flights by 10% as shutdown deepens

WASHINGTON, Nov 6, (AP): Travelers through some of the busiest U.S. airports can expect to learn Thursday whether they’ll see fewer flights as the government shutdown drags into a second month.

The Federal Aviation Administration will announce the 40 “high-volume markets” where it is reducing flights by 10% before the cuts go into effect Friday, said agency administrator Bryan Bedford. The move is intended to keep the air space safe during the shutdown, the agency said.

Experts predict hundreds if not thousands of flights could be canceled. The cuts could represent as many as 1,800 flights and upwards of 268,000 seats combined, according to an estimate by aviation analytics firm Cirium.

“I’m not aware in my 35-year history in the aviation market where we’ve had a situation where we’re taking these kinds of measures,” Bedford said Wednesday. “We’re in new territory in terms of government shutdowns.”

Air traffic controllers have been working unpaid since the shutdown began Oct. 1. Most work mandatory overtime six days a week, leaving little time for side jobs to help cover bills and other expenses unless they call out.

Mounting staffing pressures are forcing the agency to act, Bedford said Wednesday at a news conference.



The departures display board shows multiple flights delayed at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025, in Arlington, Va. (AP)

“We can’t ignore it,” he said, adding that even if the shutdown ends before Friday, the FAA wouldn’t automatically resume normal operations until staffing improves and stabilizes.

Bedford and Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy declined during the news conference to name the cities and airports where they will slow air traffic, saying they wanted to first meet with airline executives to figure out how to safely implement the reductions.

Major airlines, aviation unions and the broader travel indus-

try have been urging Congress to end the shutdown, which on Wednesday became the longest on record.

The shutdown is putting unnecessary strain on the system and “forcing difficult operational decisions that disrupt travel and damage confidence in the U.S. air travel experience,” said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Geoff Freeman in a statement.

Duffy warned on Tuesday that there could be chaos in the skies if the shutdown drags on long enough for air traffic controllers to miss their second full paycheck

next week.

Duffy said some controllers can get by missing one paycheck, but not two or more. And he has said some controllers are even struggling to pay for transportation to work.

Staffing can run short both in regional control centers that manage multiple airports and in individual airport towers, but they don’t always lead to flight disruptions. Throughout October, flight delays caused by staffing problems had been largely isolated and temporary.

But the past weekend brought some of the worst staffing issues since the start of the shutdown.

From Friday to Sunday evening, at least 39 air traffic control facilities reported potential staffing limits, according to an Associated Press analysis of operations plans shared through the Air Traffic Control System Command Center system. The figure, which is likely an undercount, is well above the average for weekends before the shutdown.

During weekends from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, the average number of airport towers, regional control centers and facilities monitoring traffic at higher altitudes that announced potential staffing issues was 8.3, according to the AP analysis. But during the five weekend periods since the shutdown began, the average more than tripled to 26.2 facilities.

Musk seeks trillion dollar Tesla pay deal

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): Elon Musk turned off many potential buyers of his Tesla cars and sent sales plunging with his foray into politics. But the stock has soared anyway and now he wants the company to pay him more - a lot more.

Shareholders gathering Thursday for Tesla’s annual meeting in Austin, Texas, will decide in a proxy vote whether to grant Musk, the company’s CEO and already the richest person in the world, enough stock to potentially make him history’s first trillionaire.

It’s a vote that has sparked heated debate on both sides of the issue, even drawing the pope’s comments on it as an example of income inequality.

Several pension funds have come out against the package, arguing that the board of directors is too beholden to Musk, his behavior too reckless lately and the riches offered too much.

Supporters say Musk is a genius who is the only person capable of ushering in a Tesla-dominated future in which hundreds of thousands of self-driving Tesla cars - many without steering wheels - will ferry people and humanoid Tesla robots will march around factories and homes, picking up boxes and watering plants. The pay is necessary to incentivize him, they say, and keep him focused.

Musk has threatened to walk away from the company if he doesn’t get what he wants and has blasted some of the package’s critics as “corporate terrorists.”

To get his Tesla shares, Musk has to secure approval from a majority of the company’s voting shareholders. Improving the odds, Musk gets to vote his own shares, worth 15% of the company.

Shareholders first heard about the pay package in September when the board of directors proposed it in a detailed filing to federal securities regulators. The document, running 200 pages, also contains other proposals up for a vote at the meeting, including whether to allow Tesla to invest in another Musk company, xAI, and who should serve on the board in the future.

Necessarily

Musk won’t necessarily get all of that money, or even a cent of it, if the package is approved. He first has to meet several operational and financial targets.

To get the full pay, for instance, he has to deliver to the car market 20 million Teslas over 10 years, more than double the number he has churned out over the past dozen years. He also has to massively increase the market value of the company and its operating profits and deliver one million robots, from zero today.

If he falls short of the biggest goals, though, the package could still hand him plenty of money.

Musk will get \$50 billion in additional Tesla shares, for example, if he increases the company’s market value by 80%, something he did just this past year, as well as doubling vehicle sales and tripling operating earnings - or hitting any other two of a dozen operational targets.

Musk is already the richest man in the world with a net worth of \$493 billion, according to Forbes magazine, and well ahead of some of the wealthiest of years past.

The steel giant, Andrew Carnegie, was once worth an inflation-adjusted \$300 billion, according to the Carnegie Corp., well below Musk’s wealth.

Musk is still trailing John D. Rockefeller, but he’s closing in fast. The railroad titan hit peak inflation-adjusted wealth of \$630 billion in 1913, according to Guinness World Records.

For his part, Musk says it’s not really about the money but about getting a higher Tesla stake - it will double to nearly 30% - so he can control the company. He says that’s a pressing concern given Tesla’s future “robot army,” a reference to the company’s Optimus humanoid workers that he doesn’t trust anyone else to control.

Investors

Many investors have come out in support of the package, including Baron Capital Management, whose founder called Musk indispensable to the company. “Without his relentless drive and uncompromising standards,” wrote founder Ron Baron, “there would be no Tesla.”

Critics include the biggest in the U.S. public pension fund, Calpers, and Norway’s sovereign wealth fund, the world’s largest. They argue the pay is excessive, with the Norway fund expressing concern that the board that designed it, which includes Musk’s brother, is not independent enough. That echoes a decision from a Delaware court nearly two years ago that blasted the process for approving a previous Musk pay package as “deeply flawed” given his “extensive ties” to directors.

Even the Vatican has weighed in, decrying the wealth gap in the world and blasting the trillion dollar offer in particular.

“If that is the only thing that has value anymore,” said Pope Leo XIV, “then we’re in big trouble.”

Judging from the stock price alone, Musk has been spectacularly successful. The company is now worth nearly \$1.5 trillion.

But a lot that runup reflects big bets by investors that Musk will be able deliver things that are difficult to pull off, and the way Musk has run the company recently doesn’t inspire confidence. He has broken numerous promises, and his tendency to say whatever is on his mind has sabotaged the company.

Just this year, for instance, he vowed to deliver driverless taxis in several cities, secure regulatory approval in Europe for his self-driving software and push sales up 20% or 30%.

Instead, his driverless robotaxis in Austin and San Francisco have human safety monitors inside. Europeans still haven’t approved his software. And Tesla sales continue to plunge, with new figures out Monday showing a stunning 50% drop last month in Germany alone.

That said, Musk has pulled off the impossible before. His company a half dozen years ago was widely feared to be near bankruptcy because he wasn’t making enough cars, but then he succeeded and the stock soared.

“He frequently teeters on the edge of disaster,” said Tesla owner and money manager Nancy Tengler, “and then pulls back just in the nick of time.”



Howard Leese, (from left), Paul Rodgers, and Mick Ralphs, of the classic rock band Bad Company, perform in Bethlehem, Pa., on July 29, 2013. (AP)

Icons enter Hall of Fame

Bad Company pushes the doors open at Rock Hall

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): Bad Company singer-songwriter Paul Rodgers treasures one of his last phone calls with guitarist Mick Ralphs. It was to deliver the news that, at long last, they'd been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

"I said to him, 'Do you remember when we were looking for a band name and we called each other with silly names?' And then I just called him up one day and I said, 'Bad Company' and he dropped the phone and he said, 'Oh yeah, that's it. That's the name,'" says Rodgers.

"I said, 'From then, it's a long way, but it seems like we just blinked our eyes a couple of times and here we are at the Hall of Fame.' So at least I was able to tell him that."

Ralphs died in June, just weeks after learning the induction news.

Rodgers and drummer Simon Kirke are the last surviving original members of the British supergroup that crafted such arena-rock staples as "Feel Like Makin' Love," "Can't Get Enough" and "Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy." They will be part of the celebrations Saturday at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles, which will stream live on Disney+. ABC will air a prime-time special on Jan. 1, available on Hulu the next day.

"The fans have just been so great throughout the years. We feel like we're celebrated, but it's just not been stamped officially. That's the only difference," says Rodgers.

Join

Bad Company will join rock legend Chubby Checker, late soul singer Joe Cocker, pop icon Cyndi Lauper, hip-hop pioneers Outkast, rock duo the White Stripes and grunge masters Soundgarden in the class of '25.

Salt-N-Pepa, the first female rap act to achieve platinum status, and the late singer-songwriter Warren Zevon will get in via the Musical Influence Award. The late record producer Thom Bell, pianist Nicky Hopkins and bassist Carol Kaye will each get the Musical Excellence Award.

Chappell Roan and The Killers will be special guests, as will Elton John, Olivia Rodrigo, Doja Cat, Questlove, Twenty One Pilots, Missy Elliott, Raye, Beck, Brandi Carlile, David Letterman, Flea, Iggy Pop, J.I.D. Killer Mike, Maxwell, Sleepy Brown, Taylor Momsen and Teddy Swims.

More stars attending will include Avril Lavigne, Bryan Adams, Donald Glover, En Vogue, Feist, Janelle Mon  , Jim Carrey, Joe Perry, Mick Fleetwood, Mike McCready, Nancy Wilson and Nathaniel Rateliff.

Rodgers this month begged off

performing at the Rock Hall "to prioritize my health," but he said Kirke will be there and "some outstanding musicians."

Formed in 1973 in London, Bad Company brought together Rodgers and Kirke from the band Free, Ralphs from Mott the Hoople and bassist Boz Burrell fresh out of King Crimson. The group was managed by the legendary Peter Grant and signed to Led Zeppelin's Swan Song label.

"We had everything we needed," says Rodgers. "You can't really have a better start than that for a fledgling band. We had the music. We had Atlantic Records behind us. It was a magic roller coaster ride, actually."

Dominated

Kirke said Bad Company appeared on a music scene that was then dominated by a lot of glam and glitter - think David Bowie, Queen, T. Rex and Gary Glitter - and went back to basics.

"When we got together, I think the communal goal was we just wanted to do something that was stripped-down, right to the point, gritty and a little cheeky, a bit of fun," he says.

Right out of the gate, the band had killer songs in their pockets. Ralphs had "Can't Get Enough," "Movin' On" and "Ready for Love" ready. Rodgers had "Rock Steady" and, with Ralphs, "Seagull." And Rodgers and Kirke wrote the song "Bad Company," with the lyrics "Bad company/'Til the day I die." The band's self-titled 1974 debut album hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200, going five-times platinum.

The band made six albums before disbanding following 1982's "Rough Diamonds." Bad Company later reformed with lineup changes and reunion tours. Original bassist Burrell died of cancer in 2006.

Kirke says Bad Company influenced many bands that followed, like Foreigner, Iron Maiden and Def Leppard. But he notes that Bad Company was influenced, in turn, by the Beatles and soul and blues artists.

"We just passed it on," he says.

The induction ceremony comes a few weeks after the release of a tribute album - "Can't Get Enough: A Tribute to Bad Company" via Primary Wave Music, a 10-track set that proves the band's influence.

Def Leppard's Joe Elliott and Phil Collen offer a rendition of "Seagull." Rodgers teams up with Halestorm for "Shooting Star." The Struts knock out "Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy," Slash and Myles Kennedy and the Conspirators crush "Feel Like Makin' Love" and members of Blackberry Smoke tackle "Run with the Pack."

2026 Grammy nominees to be announced Friday

Behind the Grammys: How nominees, winners are picked

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): The Recording Academy will announce the 2026 Grammy Award nominees on Friday. It's as good a reason as any to take a beat and examine how the institution makes its decisions. Who selects the nominees? Who votes? Can anyone nominate any recorded release for a Grammy?

We've got you covered. Read on to get a crash course on how Grammy voting works.

Members of the Recording Academy and record labels submit artists in certain categories, which are then vetted for eligibility. Currently, there are 95 Grammy Award categories.

After submissions have been screened, voting members help determine who the final nominations will be - typically in the fall - using a membership dashboard. They can only vote for music that has been submitted and vetted.

Once the nominees are determined and announced in November, a period of final round voting takes place. This cycle, that runs from Dec. 12 through Jan. 5.

Winners are announced live at the award show in February.

And don't get it twisted - voting members do not vote in all 95 categories. They're permitted to vote in up to 10 categories across three genre fields, as well as the six general field categories, which include re-

cord, album, song, producer, non-classical and songwriter, non-classical of the year, and best new artist. That allows experts to focus on their expertise.

There are three types of Recording Academy memberships: Grammy U, professional and voting memberships. The latter includes performers, songwriters, producers, engineers, instrumentalists and beyond. Those are the members who determine Grammy winners each year.

Voting members have to provide a proof of a primary career in music, two recommendations and certain verifiable credits.

But there are a few ways around some of those requirements: If you are a current year's Grammy winner or nominee, you do not need to provide a recommendation from someone in the industry. If you've been nominated for a Grammy in the last five years, you do not need to provide proof of your credits.

Entries must adhere to the specific qualifications of the categories they are submitted into. Rules and guidelines can be found at Grammy.com.

There are also frequent changes made to categories and fields. In 2026, there have been a few: best country album has been divided into best contemporary country album and best traditional country album. The best recording package and the best boxed or special limited edition package categories have also

been combined into the best recording package category, with best album cover spun out on its own.

Most importantly: Recordings and music videos must also be submitted within the Grammy eligibility window, which for the 2026 award show means work released between Aug. 31, 2024 - Aug. 30, 2025.

The category of new artist is constantly evolving, trying to capture the zeitgeist each year as the process of categorizing fame gets more complicated. The Grammy rules currently say nominations hinge on whether "the artist had attained a breakthrough or prominence" - and it delegates that determination to a screening committee. Eligible artists must have released at least five singles or one album, but there is no longer a maximum. That's why someone like, say, Sabrina Carpenter - who broke out in the summer of "Espresso" - found herself up for the best new artist trophy in 2025 despite being on her sixth full-length release.

And this year, the category has also been expanded to include acts who were featured on previous album of the year nominees, so long as they fall below 20% of the album's music.

The Grammys will be held Feb. 1 at Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, with nominations announced on Friday. It will be broadcast live on CBS and can be streamed on demand via Paramount+.

Film



This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Thia, portrayed by Elle Fanning, (left), and Dek, portrayed by Dimitrius Schuster-Koloamatangi, in a scene from 'Predator: Badlands.' (AP)

New 'Predator' blends slapstick humor, operatic violence

Fanning steals the show in 'Badlands'

LOS ANGELES, Nov 6, (AP): Elle Fanning delivers one of the most disjointed performances of the year in "Predator: Badlands." It's not her fault - she's a great actor. It's just that she spends the majority of the movie in two pieces.

Fanning plays an android whose torso and legs have different trajectories in this ninth installment of the "Predator" franchise, an insane example of sci-fi action filmmaking that's also equally split between slapstick humor and operatic violence.

It has perhaps one of the most bananas fight scene of all time when Fanning's separate torso and legs take on some evil goons and combine to kill them all, crushing the last one's skull and then high-fiving herself - with her hand slapping her foot in celebration.

Director and co-writer Dan Trachtenberg has merged a young, eager-to-prove-his mettle Predator with Fanning's hip android for "Predator: Badlands" and it's basically an unlikely buddy movie with decapitations. Fanning spends the first part in a makeshift backpack, nattering on while the Predator strides along and snarls.

We start with the Predator called Dek - played by Dimitrius Schuster-Koloamatangi, lost in prosthetics and a costume that makes him look like an ancient Roman - with a nasty home life. His dad calls him a "runt" and wants him executed for embarrassing the clan. He even wants his oldest son to murder him in front of him. This is what is called "daddy issues."

To prove his worth, Dek decides he must hunt and kill the galaxy's most fearsome creature, the Kalisk, a gigantic, unkillable creature native to the planet Genna. He will do this without visiting a dentist, his mandibles and fangs showing clear signs of gingivitis. Do you even floss, bro?

These Predators are one-note, as always, from some sort of Darth Vader Elocution Class. "Failure means death," is one line. Another: "Bring it home or never return." It's always weird when an advanced intergalactic species speaks like comic book villains from the '50s - no contractions, no subtlety, no elaboration, just "Sensitivity is weakness."

So we find ourselves at the planet Genna, a truly nasty place to ever Airbnb. There are flying dinosaurs that toss boulders, plants that shoot out paralyzing spores, grass that is actually a collection of glass shards and tree roots that will hunt you and crush you. Thanks, New Zealand.

Here is where the young buck Predator encounters Fanning, a sliced-in-half android - a so-called "synthetic" - from the Weyland-Yutani Corporation, who viewers will learn is not always after the best outcome for its workers. In a time-honored depiction, they want to turn everything into a bio weapon.

"I can be useful to you," Fanning's character called Thia suggests to the impatient Predator. She knows the planet and can navigate it's weirdness, like that creature with just a massive mouth and arms, a Dr.

Seuss-ish beast if Dr. Seuss was into crystal meth. He soon comes around: "I will use you, tool."

It's hard to underestimate Fanning here, who keeps us interested. She doesn't just add comic relief, she adds a much-needed human element, which is doubly hard as she's playing an android. She hopes to reunite with a sister robot but learns that perhaps her empathy is unique to her. Along the way, they find and sort of adopt a cute creature that resembles an otter (it's definitely not an otter).

Schuster-Koloamatangi has a few moments when his emotions betray a little kid, but under those blazing eyes and orthodontist's dream job, he might as well be completely CGI. And that endless clicking? It's like seeing the movie with multiple dolphin pods.

Trachtenberg who previously directed and co-wrote the story of "Prey" in 2022 and the animated "Predator: Killer of Killers" earlier this year, is confident in this world and it shows. He's created a story about the betrayal of family and the joy of found family - and slicing horrific, nightmare creatures in half with a laser sword. But it's both parts of Fanning that steal the show.

"Predator: Badlands," a 20th Century Studios release that hits theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for sequences of strong sci-fi violence. Running time: 107 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Helen Mirren to receive the 2026 Cecil B. DeMille award

LOS ANGELES, Nov 6, (AP): Helen Mirren has portrayed multiple queens, a prime minister, a detective, "Barbie" narrator and many other roles in more than a half-century of acting. Her latest: Golden Globe lifetime achievement honoree.

Mirren will receive the 2026 Cecil B. DeMille Award in January, the Golden Globes announced Wednesday.

"Helen Mirren is a force of nature and her career is nothing short of extraordinary," Helen Hoehne, Golden Globes president, said in a statement. "Her transcendent performances and commitment to her craft continue to inspire generations of artists and audiences alike."

This time, the award will be presented during a new annual prime time special, "Golden Eve," honoring recipients of both the DeMille Award and the Carol Burnett Award, which honors achievement in television. That special will air Jan. 8 on CBS and stream on Paramount+.

The main Golden Globes ceremony is on Jan. 11, hosted for the second time by Nikki Glaser.



Helen Mirren arrives at the 81st Golden Globe Awards on Jan. 7, 2024, at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, Calif. (AP)

An Oscar winner for "The Queen," her 2006 portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II, Mirren has also won three Golden Globes for work in both film and TV. She is also an Emmy, SAG, BAFTA and Tony-winning actor. She was named a Dame of the British Empire in 2003 in acknowledgement of her artistic achievements.

Mirren, 80, joins a storied group of DeMille Award recipients since 1952, including Sidney Poitier, Meryl Streep, Barbra Streisand, Viola Davis, Morgan Freeman, Tom Hanks and Jeff Bridges.

Variety

NEW YORK: The Motion Picture Association is asking Meta to stop referring to content shown to teen accounts on Instagram as "guided by PG-13 ratings," saying it is misleading and could erode trust in its movie ratings system.

A lawyer on behalf of the MPA sent Meta Platforms a cease-and-desist letter asking the tech giant to "immediately and permanently disassociate its Teen Accounts and AI tools from the MPA's rating system."

Instagram had announced last month that its teen accounts will be will be restricted to seeing PG-13 content by default. The Motion Picture Association, which runs the film rating system that was established nearly 60 years ago, said at the time that it was not contacted by Meta prior to its announcement.

The MPA says Meta's claims claims that its Teen Accounts will be "guided by" PG-13 ratings and that its Teen Account content settings are "generally aligned with movie ratings for ages 13+" are "false and highly misleading." The association's movie ratings, which range from G to NC-17, are done by parents who watch entire movies and evaluate them to come up with a rating.

"Meta's attempts to restrict teen content literally cannot be 'guided by' or 'aligned with' the MPA's PG-13 movie rating because Meta does not follow this curated process," the association's letter says.

"Instead, Meta's content restrictions appear to rely heavily on artificial intelligence or other automated technology measures." (AP)

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SAN FRANCISCO: Video game maker Epic Games has reached a "comprehensive settlement" with Google that could end its 5-year-old legal crusade targeting Google's Play Store for Android apps.

Epic and Google revealed the settlement agreement in a joint legal document they filed in a San Francisco federal court Tuesday.

They said it "would allow the parties to put their disputes aside while making Android a more vibrant and competitive platform for users and developers."

Epic, which makes the hit online game Fortnite, won a victory over the summer when a federal appeals court upheld a jury verdict condemning Google's Android app store as an illegal monopoly. The unanimous ruling cleared the way for a federal judge to enforce a potentially disruptive shake-up that's designed to give consumers more choices. Google took another hit in October when the US Supreme Court refused to protect it from the judge's required app store makeover.

The specific terms of the settlement agreement remain under seal and must be approved by U.S. District Judge James Donato, but the two companies broadly outlined some of their agreements in their joint filing.

They said the settlement closely follows Donato's

October 2024 ruling ordering Google to tear down the digital walls shielding its Android app store from competition. That included a provision that will require its app store to distribute rival third-party app stores so consumers can download them to their phones, if they so desire. (AP)

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PARIS: Designer Olivier Rousteing is stepping down as creative director of the Balmain fashion house after 14 hugely visible years in which he fused the rigor of Parisian tailoring with a digital-age sense of celebrity, he announced Wednesday.

"Today marks the end of my Balmain era," Rousteing, 40, wrote on Instagram. "What an extraordinary story it has been - a love story, a life story ... I will always hold this treasured time close to my heart."

Balmain confirmed Rousteing's departure and said in a statement that a new creative direction would be announced "in due course."

"Throughout his remarkable 14-year tenure, Olivier's visionary approach and creative brilliance propelled Balmain to unprecedented heights," the label said. Rousteing, who became creative director in 2011 at age 25 after two years at the label, spent his tenure reviving a once-sleepy fashion house with a mix of couture craft and pop-era bravado.

He transformed Balmain into a headline-generating brand with a vision built on sequins, power shoulders and social media muscle, reframing French luxury for a generation raised on Instagram. (AP)



The Rockettes rehearse for the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall, in New York, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025. (AP)

Dance troupe to mark milestone with Christmas Spectacular

High-kicking Radio City Rockettes mark 100 years

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): A staple of the New York City holiday season is marking a century of wowing crowds: The high-kicking Radio City Rockettes are turning 100.

The famed dance troupe will celebrate the anniversary with its annual Christmas Spectacular this week - a festive performance of synchronized dance routines that includes the troupe's signature precision kick line as well as the fan-favorite "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," in which the costumed dancers march in military-like formation and then famously collapse like dominoes.

The Rockettes represent a throwback to old-time New York, when Broadway was dominated by extravagant music and dance spectacles, elaborate costumes and lavish sets. Their journey through the past

century has seen their modest Midwest beginning as a troupe of 16 precision dancers evolve into a large company of more than 80 staging as many as five shows a day. The shows incorporate a range of dance styles, including jazz, tap and ballet.

One thing that hasn't changed: generations of little girls have grown up dreaming of joining the troupe.

Isabelle Harris, a 20-year-old, newly-minted Rockette from Utah, said she's still floored to be a part of this year's milestone.

"In my mind, the Rockettes were this amazing, strong, unique, glamorous group of women that I wanted to be a part of," Harris said before rehearsal last week. "It's so exciting to be joining the line this specific year."

The Christmas show dates to 1933, but the troupe

itself traces back to the creation of the "Missouri Rockets" in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1925.

They were brought to New York City by S.L. "Roxy" Rothafel, a theater impresario who initially renamed them the "Roxettes" before eventually settling on the "Rockettes" when the act moved to the newly built Radio City Music Hall in 1932.

The troupe famously performed for weary American soldiers during World War II and have been a mainstay of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade for decades. In more recent years, the Rockettes have appeared on the NFL's Super Bowl Halftime Show, Broadway's Tony Awards, MTV's Video Music Awards, NBC's "Saturday Night Live," among other major events and broadcasts.

Fashion



Models present a creation by Indonesian fashion designer Khanaan during Jakarta Muslim Fashion Week in Jakarta, Indonesia Thursday, Nov. 6. (AP)



Model presents creations by Indonesian fashion designer Dama Kara during Jakarta Muslim Fashion Week in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday, Nov. 6. (AP)



Model presents creations by Indonesian fashion designer Dama Kara during Jakarta Muslim Fashion Week in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday, Nov. 6. (AP)

Danes could get copyright to their own likeness

Denmark eyes new law to stop AI deepfakes

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Nov 6, (AP): In 2021, Danish video game live-streamer Marie Watson received an image of herself from an unknown Instagram account.

She instantly recognized the holiday snap from her Instagram account, but something was different: Her clothing had been digitally removed to make her appear naked. It was a deepfake.

"It overwhelmed me so much," Watson recalled. "I just started bursting out in tears, because suddenly, I was there naked."

In the four years since her experience, deepfakes - highly realistic artificial intelligence-generated images, videos or audio of real people or events - have become not only easier to make worldwide but also look or sound exponentially more realistic. That's thanks to technological advances and the proliferation of generative AI tools, including video generation tools from OpenAI and Google.

These tools give millions of users the ability to easily spit out content, including for nefarious purposes that range from depicting celebrities Taylor Swift and Katy Perry to disrupting elections and humiliating teens and women.

In response, Denmark is seeking to protect ordinary Danes, as well as performers and artists who might have their appearance or voice imitated and shared without their permission. A bill that's expected to pass early next year would change copyright law by imposing a ban on the sharing of deepfakes to protect citizens' personal characteristics - such as their appearance or voice - from being imitated and shared online without their consent.

If enacted, Danish citizens would get the copyright over their own likeness. In theory, they then would be able to demand that online platforms take down content shared without their permission. The law would



Danish video game live-streamer Marie Watson, 28, poses for a photo in her studio in Taastrup, Denmark, Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025. (AP)

still allow for parodies and satire, though it's unclear how that will be determined.

Experts and officials say the Danish legislation would be among the most extensive steps yet taken by a government to combat misinformation through deepfakes.

Henry Ajder, founder of consulting firm Latent Space Advisory and a leading expert in generative AI, said that he applauds the Danish government for recognizing that the law needs to change.

"Because right now, when people say 'what can I do to protect myself from being deepfaked?' the answer I have to give most of the time is: 'There isn't a huge amount you can do,'" he said, "without me

basically saying, 'scrub yourself from the internet entirely.' Which isn't really possible."

He added: "We can't just pretend that this is business as usual for how we think about those key parts of our identity and our dignity."

U.S. President Donald Trump signed bipartisan legislation in May that makes it illegal to knowingly publish or threaten to publish intimate images without a person's consent, including deepfakes. Last year, South Korea rolled out measures to curb deepfake porn, including harsher punishment and stepped up regulations for social media platforms.

Danish Culture Minister Jakob Engel-Schmidt said that the bill has broad support from lawmakers in Copenhagen, because such digital manipulations can stir doubts about reality and spread misinformation.

"If you're able to deepfake a politician without her or him being able to have that product taken down, that will undermine our democracy," he told reporters during an AI and copyright conference in September.

The law would apply only in Denmark, and is unlikely to involve fines or imprisonment for social media users. But big tech platforms that fail to remove deepfakes could face severe fines, Engel-Schmidt said. Ajder said Google-owned YouTube, for example, has a "very, very good system for getting the balance between copyright protection and freedom of creativity."

The platform's efforts suggest that it recognizes "the scale of the challenge that is already here and how much deeper it's going to become," he added.

Twitch, TikTok and Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, didn't respond to requests for comment. Engel-Schmidt said that Denmark, the current holder of the European Union's rotating presidency, had received interest in its proposed legislation from several other EU members, including France and Ireland.

'Addictive' diaries honored

Australia's Helen Garner wins Baillie Gifford Prize

LONDON, Nov 6, (AP): **Helen Garner**, an acclaimed Australian writer whose celebrity fans include singer Dua Lipa, won the prestigious Baillie Gifford Prize for nonfiction on Tuesday for what judges called her addictive and candid diaries.

Garner, 82, was named winner of the 50,000 pound (\$65,000) prize at a ceremony in London for "How to End a Story." Journalist Robbie Millen, who chaired the prize jury, said Garner was the



Garner

unanimous choice of the six judges.

Millen said the judges were captivated by the sharp observation and "reckless candor" of Garner's 800-page book, which covers her life and work between 1978 and 1998.

He said it is "a remarkable, addictive book. Garner takes the diary form, mixing the intimate, the intellectual, and the everyday, to new heights.

"There are places it's toe-curlingly embarrassing. She puts it all out there," Millen said, adding that Garner ranks alongside those of Virginia Woolf in the canon of great literary diaries.

Garner, who has published novels, short stories, screenplays and true crime books, said she was "staggered" to have won the prize for diaries she wrote entirely for herself.

Variety

TASHKENT: Former Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Khaled El-Enany was elected the director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UNESCO General Conference announced on Thursday in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Opening on Oct. 30 and running through Nov. 13, the 43rd session of UNESCO focuses on setting the organization's future priorities. As part of its agenda, the plenary meeting, held on Thursday, reviewed El-Enany's nomination as the new director-general and confirmed his election by vote. (Xinhua)

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PARIS: France's court of auditors urged the Louvre museum to speed up its security modernization plans as a priority, in a report conducted before the Oct. 19 jewels heist that noted major delays in the renovation of the world's most-visited museum.

Thursday's report by the Cour des Comptes comes after a series of failings and security issues came to light following the robbery of the \$102-million worth Crown Jewels that shocked the world. The thieves used a truck-mounted basket lift to reach a window of the Apollo Gallery and fled with the trove within minutes. (AP)

□ □ □

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia: A popular ethnic Chinese Malaysian rapper and filmmaker was detained Wednesday to assist police in their investigation into the murder of a Taiwanese social media influencer, the rapper's lawyer said.

Wee Meng Chee, popularly known as Namewee, surrendered to police early Wednesday and will be placed under remand for six days, said his lawyer Joshua Tay. Police said Tuesday they were searching for Wee after they reclassified Hsieh Yuh-sin's death as a murder following the discovery of unspecified new evidence. (AP)

Private data collection

Modern cars spying on you ... what to do

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): While driving to a new restaurant, your car's satellite navigation system tracks your location and guides you to the destination. Onboard cameras constantly track your face and eye movements. When another car veers into your path, forcing you to slam on the brakes, sensors are assisting and recording. Waiting at a stoplight, the car notices when you unbuckle your seat belt to grab your sunglasses in the backseat.

Modern cars are computers on wheels that are becoming increasingly connected, enabling innovative new features that make driving safer and more convenient. But these systems are also collecting reams of data on our driving habits and other personal information, raising concerns about data privacy.

Here is what to know about how your car spies on you and how you can minimize it:

How cars collect data

It's hard to figure out exactly how much data a modern car is collecting on you, according to the Mozilla Foundation, which analyzed privacy practices at 25 auto brands in 2023. It declared that cars were the worst product category that the group had ever reviewed for privacy.

The data points include all your normal interactions with the car - such as turning the steering wheel or unlocking doors - but also data from connected onboard services, like satellite radio, GPS navigation systems, connected devices, telematics systems as well as data from sensors or cameras.

Vehicle telematics systems started to become commonplace about a decade ago, and the practice of automotive data collection took off about five years ago.

The problem is not just that data is being collected but who it's provided to, including insurers, marketing companies and shadowy data brokers. The issue surfaced earlier this year when General Motors was banned for five years from disclosing data collected from drivers to consumer reporting agencies.

The Federal Trade Commission accused GM of not getting consent before sharing the data, which included every instance when a driver was speeding or driving late at night. It was ultimately provided to insurance companies that used it to set their rates.

Be aware

The first thing drivers should do is be aware of what data their car is collecting, said Andrea Amico, founder of Privacy4Cars, an automotive privacy company.

In an ideal world, drivers would read through the instruction manuals and documentation that comes with their cars, and quiz the dealership about what's being collected.

But it's not always practical to do this, and manufacturers don't always make it easy to find out, while dealership staff aren't always the best informed, Amico said.

Privacy4Cars offers a free auto privacy labeling service at vehicleprivacyreport.com that can summarize what your car could be tracking.

Owners can punch in their car's Vehicle Identification Number, which then pulls up the automaker's data privacy practices, such as whether the car collects location data and whether it's given to insurers, data brokers or law enforcement.

Tweak your settings

Data collection and tracking start as soon as you drive a new car off the dealership lot, with drivers unwittingly consenting when they're confronted with warning menus on dashboard touch screens.

Experts say that some of the data collection is baked into the system, you can revoke your consent by going back into the menus.

"There are permissions in your settings that you can make choices about," said Laura Hendry Parsons of Mozilla. "Go through on a granular level and look at those settings where you can."

For example, Toyota says on its website that drivers can decline what it calls "Master Data Consent" through the Toyota app. Ford says owners can opt to stop sharing vehicle data with the company by going through the dashboard settings menu or on the FordPass app.

BMW says privacy settings can be adjusted through the infotainment system, "on a spectrum between" allowing all services including analysis data and none at all.

You can opt out

Drivers in the US can ask carmakers to restrict what they do with their data.

Under state privacy laws, some carmakers allow owners across the United States to submit requests to limit the use of their personal data, opt out of sharing it, or delete it, Consumer Reports says. Other auto companies limit the requests to people in states with applicable privacy laws, the publication says.

You can file a request either through an online form or the carmaker's mobile app.

You can also go through Privacy4Cars, which provides a free online service that streamlines the process. It can either point car owners to their automaker's request portal or file a submission on behalf of owners in the US, Canada, the European Union, Britain and Australia.

... but there will be trade-offs

Experts warn that there's usually a trade-off if you decide to switch off data collection.

Most people, for example, have switched to satellite navigation systems over paper maps because it's "worth the convenience of being able to get from point A to point B really easily," said Hendry Parsons.

Turning off location tracking could also halt features like roadside assistance or disable smartphone app features like remote door locking, Consumer Reports says. BMW advises that if an owner opts to have no data shared at all, "their vehicle will behave like a smartphone in flight mode and will not transmit any data to the BMW back end."

When the time comes to sell your car or trade it in for a newer model, it's no longer as simple as handing over the keys and signing over some paperwork.

Cyber ethics in schools

Russia introduces child SIM cards with location tracking

MOSCOW, Nov. 6, (Xinhua): Russia has officially introduced SIM cards for children allowing parents to track their kids' real-time locations, Maksut Shadayev, minister of digital development, communications and mass media, said Wednesday.

"The SIM cards for children will be issued only with the permission of parents," Shadayev said, adding that parents will be able to receive geolocation data of their children without official request or court approval.

He added that elderly citizens will also be able to appoint a trusted person to access their location information via the website.

Shadayev earlier clarified that users of such SIM cards will be restricted from accessing certain online services, including social media platforms.

The service, initially proposed in August, is aimed at improving child safety and limiting access to inappropriate online content for users under 14, he said.

Meanwhile, Malaysia will introduce a national cyber ethics module in schools nationwide to raise awareness and understanding of online safety and digital ethics among students, Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo said on Wednesday.

The module, which will be rolled out in January 2026, aims to nurture ethical and safe online practices among children amid the growing popularity of digital games and online platforms,

High-tech cooling overcomes high temperature challenge

Chinese tech powers Kuwait’s desert farming success

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (Xinhua): More than an hour’s drive south from Kuwait City, the urban skyline yields to vast stretches of desert in the Al Wafrah area in Ahmadi Governorate.

In this sun-scorched landscape, where vegetation is sparse and green is a rare sight, farmer Sari Al-Azmi has done the extraordinary: he has created a thriving agricultural haven, powered by Chinese technology and equipment.

“In August this year, the bananas I grew were sold on the local market for the first time -- this is also Kuwait’s first-ever batch of locally-grown bananas,” Al-Azmi told Xinhua, his voice brimming with pride. His breakthrough has been celebrated in local media as a “milestone” in Kuwaiti agriculture.

Al-Azmi warmly guided a group of Chinese visitors through his greenhouses, where a cool breeze greeted them even before they stepped inside. Rows of lush plants and fruit trees stood in sharp contrast to the barren land outside. Tapping the steel frame and plastic roofing, Al-Azmi proudly operated an electric control switch for the automated water-cooling system, repeating the Arabic word “alsini,” meaning “China,” with a smile. “All of this equipment comes from China,” he noted.

From tape and sickles to electric tricycles and tractors, much of what keeps the farm running was imported from China.

A lifelong farmer who learned the craft from his father, Al-Azmi had long dreamed of transforming desert into fertile ground. For years, the harsh



Kuwaiti farmer Sari Al-Azmi works at his farm in Ahmadi Governorate, Kuwait, Oct. 31, 2025. In the Al-Wafra of Ahmadi Governorate in Kuwait, farmer Sari Al-Azmi operates an 85,000-square-meter farm in the desert. (Xinhua)

climate made that impossible.

But as Kuwait-China cooperation has ever deepened under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese technology began offering new solutions.

“In 2016, we began developing modern facility agriculture. To explore technologies and equipment, we visited several countries,” Al-Azmi recalled. It was at the Canton Fair in Guangzhou where he discovered the automated greenhouse system that would change his farm forever.

“China left us with a deep impression. In Guangzhou, we learned about

the latest agricultural technologies and brought many of them back to Kuwait,” he said.

Today, Al-Azmi’s farm spans 85,000 square meters and includes over 200 greenhouses equipped with Chinese cooling systems. Even when outside temperatures near 50 degrees Celsius, fans and water circulation keep the greenhouses below 30 degrees Celsius, overcoming one of the biggest challenges of desert farming.

According to the Kuwaiti Farmers’ Union, there are about 7,500 large-scale farms in the country, most located in Al Wafrah and Al Abdali. The

majority use Chinese-made equipment and materials, from heavy machinery and greenhouse fans to drip irrigation systems and fertilizers.

Driven by a mix of passion and pragmatism, Al-Azmi keeps a close watch on market prices. “Most fruits and vegetables in Kuwait rely on imports, and bananas here are usually quite expensive,” he said. “So I thought, now that we have these greenhouses, why not grow them ourselves?”

He started with eight banana trees. All survived, flourished, and produced saplings. Today, his farm boasts more than 20,000 banana trees.

“Our farming is not just for profit -- it’s to serve the country we love,” Al-Azmi said. “Imported bananas sell for about 0.6 Kuwaiti dinars (about 2 U.S. dollars) per kilogram, while our locally grown ones sell for 0.3 dinars. We’ve successfully halved the price. What makes our bananas unique is their freshness -- they go straight from the farm to the consumer.”

His farm now grows more than 30 kinds of fruits and vegetables, including oranges and dragon fruit. It has become a local landmark, attracting residents and even members of the Kuwaiti royal family. Al-Azmi has twice been received and commended by the country’s head of state.

As the sun set over the golden dunes, Al-Azmi was still eager to show the Chinese visitors more. Before they left, he lit a traditional Arab incense burner, a gesture of blessing and lasting friendship, and offered it to his guests.



KUNA photo

Kuwait’s Health Minister conducts field visit to KSP-owned pharmaceutical factory.

Minister visits KSP factory

Local drug manufacturing key to healthcare resilience: Dr. Awadhi

KUWAIT, Nov 6, (KUNA): Developing local pharmaceutical production is among the focal points of national healthcare “flexibility” plans, Kuwait’s Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said on Wednesday, citing such a measure as a joint endeavor between the public and private sectors.

Kuwait’s health ministry is committed towards putting in place an environment that is conducive to ratcheting up investment in local pharmaceutical production, the minister said as he toured a Kuwait Saudi Pharmaceutical Industries Company (KSP)-owned factory.

The development of the local pharmaceutical industry is a crucial step towards ensuring adequate supply, in line with Kuwait’s “Vision 2035,” development plan, he underlined, citing plans to open new factories in a bid to prop up pharmaceutical output through relying on the “competence” of national healthcare workers.

The minister’s visit to the KSP factory is part of health ministry plans to further expand and develop the national pharmaceutical industry given the significance of this sector, he was cited as saying in a ministry statement.



A patient receives a Botox injection at a clinic in Arlington, Va., on June 5, 2009. (AP)

‘Toxic side effects’

US warns websites selling fake Botox for cosmetics

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): US health regulators on Wednesday sent warning letters to 18 websites selling counterfeit or unapproved versions of Botox and similar injectable drugs commonly used to smooth wrinkles.

The Food and Drug Administration said it was taking action after receiving reports of injuries in connection with the products, including toxic side effects.

Botox is a diluted, purified form of botulinum, one of the most toxic substances in the world. The ingredient works by temporarily blocking nerve signals and causing muscles to relax. While most famously approved for cosmetic use, Botox is also approved in the U.S. for a number of medical conditions, including muscle spasms, eye disorders and migraines.

The FDA warning letters mostly went to cosmetic websites. In each case, the FDA said the companies were offering unofficial or mislabeled versions of Botox-like drugs that haven’t

been approved by the agency. In addition to the original drug, introduced by Allergan in 1989, the FDA has approved several competing versions.

FDA-approved Botox drugs carry the agency’s most serious warning, a boxed label alerting doctors and patients that the medications can cause serious or life-threatening side effects.

In rare cases, the toxin can spread beyond the injection site to other parts of the body, paralyzing or weakening muscles needed for breathing and swallowing. Signs of botulism include difficulty swallowing or breathing, slurred speech and muscle weakness. Those symptoms can occur several hours after an injection.

In a press release Wednesday, the FDA said patients should only receive the drugs from health professionals who are licensed and trained to administer them. Patients experiencing signs of botulism should “seek immediate medical care,” the agency noted.

Heart-safe cancer therapy

Experts use AI, eye scans to spot chronic illnesses earlier

MELBOURNE, Nov 6, (Xinhua): Researchers in Australia are developing an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that analyzes retinal images to detect chronic diseases such as cardiovascular and kidney conditions earlier and more accurately.

The research project is looking to develop a foundational AI model capable of detecting a wide range of systemic diseases from retinal images, according to a statement released Thursday by Australia’s Monash University, which led the study.

By using advanced AI to analyze retinal images linked with health data from hundreds of thousands, the team aims to generate accurate, non-invasive screening tools for earlier diagnosis, treatment, and prevention, it said, adding existing tools for detecting these conditions are often insufficiently personalized, invasive, or too costly to be widely used.

Instead of relying on onerous manual analysis of large image datasets, the project uses advanced AI on de-identified, linked, decades-long data to build a multimodal model that detects multiple systemic diseases more comprehensively than single-disease approaches, said Monash University Associate Professor Ge Zongyuan.

Optain Health President Zachary Tan, who co-led the study, said early identification through retinal imaging could enable timelier interventions and shift healthcare “towards prevention rather than treatment.”

Nicotinamide: Chinese researchers have revealed the heart-protective effect of nicotinamide -- a derivative of B vitamins -- in exploring the mechanisms of related cardiotoxicity in tumor treatment, according to Lanzhou University.

Their study uncovered the mechanisms by which immune checkpoint inhibitors induce early cardiotoxicity, and developed a new, safe and effective approach to preventing and treating cardiotoxicity in patients receiving tumor immunotherapy, the university said.

Conducted by researchers at the Lanzhou University First Hospital, the study has been published in the Science China: Life Sciences journal.

Having the potential to result in death, cardiac immune-related adverse events associated with anti-programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1), which is a type of immune checkpoint inhibitor, are becoming a concern. This study aimed to explore effective means of early warning and prevention, according to Bai Ming, a professor at the Lanzhou University First Hospital and the study’s leader.

The team first investigated the role of PD-1 in the early stages of cardiotoxicity and its underlying mechanisms by combining clinical data with experiments.

Then, the researchers conducted randomized controlled trials to verify the preventive effect of nicotinamide against early cardiotoxicity related to PD-1.

COP30 aims to turn pledges into concrete results

UN climate summit kicks off with hopes for action despite US absence

BELEM, Brazil, Nov 6, (AP): World leaders descending on the United Nations annual climate summit in Brazil this week will not need to see much more than the view from their airplane window to sense the unfathomable stakes.

Surrounding the coastal city of Belem is an emerald green carpet festooned with winding rivers. But the view also reveals barren plains: some 17% of the Amazon’s forest cover has vanished in the past 50 years, swallowed up for farmland, logging and mining.

Often called the “lungs of the world” for its capacity to absorb vast quantities of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that warms the planet, the biodiverse Amazon rainforest has been increasingly choked by wildfires and cleared by cattle ranching.

It is here on the edge of the world’s largest tropical rainforest that Brazil’s President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva hopes to convince world powers to mobilize enough funds to halt the ongoing destruction of climate-stabilizing tropical rainforests in danger around the world and make progress on other critical climate goals.

Organizers are hoping this year’s Conference of Parties - known less formally as COP30 - will yield commitments of money and action to support the goals laid out at previous such meetings, billing it as the “Implementation COP.” But they’ll have to overcome reduced participation from the world’s biggest emitters as the heads of the world’s three biggest polluters - China, the United States and India - will be notably absent.

These tensions are on display as a preliminary leaders’ gathering gets underway on Thursday before formal UN climate talks kick off next week.

President Donald Trump, who withdrew the US from the Paris climate accords the same day he entered office, won’t send any senior officials. China will send its deputy prime minister, Ding Xuexiang.

That leaves the rest of the summit’s leaders - including UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and French President Emmanuel Macron - to confront not only the consequences of an intensifying global climate crisis but a daunting set of political challenges.

Advocates and diplomats have raised concerns that the absence of the



Indigenous people and activists take part in a demonstration in defense of the Amazon during the COP30 U.N. Climate Summit, in Belem, Para state, Brazil, Thursday, Nov. 6. (AP)

US - which has at times played a key role in convincing China to restrain carbon emissions and securing finance for poor countries - could signal a more global retreat from climate politics.

“Trump’s stance affects the whole global balance. It pushes governments further toward denial and deregulation,” said Nadino Kalapucha, the spokesperson for the Amazonian Kichwa Indigenous group in Ecuador. “That trickles down to us, to Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, where environmental protection is already under pressure.”

Trump’s close ideological ally, President Javier Milei of Argentina called human-caused climate change a “socialist hoax,” threatened to quit the Paris Agreement and pulled Argentine negotiators out of last year’s summit in Azerbaijan as part of what he described as a reassessment of climate policy.

Lula, who has presented himself as a champion of climate diplomacy and has been widely praised for reducing deforestation in the Amazon, is hoping to use the conference to push forward action on key climate goals, in contrast to the summits of the past two years that drew legions of oil, gas and coal executives to the major oil-producing nations Azerbaijan and the United Arab Emirates.

He’s expected to launch on Thursdays an initiative called the Tropical Forests Forever Fund, which aims to support more than 70 developing countries that commit to rainforest preservation. The official COP website describes the initiative as a “permanent

trust fund” that would generate about \$4 from the private sector for every \$1 contributed.

“We will go past the negotiation of rules to implementation,” Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira told reporters late Wednesday. “It will be the moment when global leaders face with honesty the challenge of climate change.”

But Brazil is also a major oil producer, and contradictions abound. Despite his climate bona fides, Lula has drawn outrage over his decision to grant state oil firm Petrobras a license to explore oil near the mouth of the Amazon River.

“I don’t want to be an environmental leader,” Lula said Tuesday. “I never claimed to be.”

A town of 1.3 million inhabitants, Belem had just 18,000 hotel beds before its preparations to host the conference, which typically draws tens of thousands of delegates, environmentalists, company executives, journalists and other members of civil society.

Foreign officials and journalists scrambled to reserve rooms as prices surged to surreal heights. Some booked spots on one of a few docked cruise ships brought into a nearby port for the occasion.

Public schools, military facilities and even the local Internal Revenue Building have been outfitted with air-conditioning and bunk beds to become makeshift hostels. The more adventurous or frugal participants can pay \$55 a night to crash in hammocks in a facility that normally caters to cats.

Ebola eases

DRC launches vaccine ‘drive’

KINSHASA, Nov 6, (Xinhua): The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) will launch a nationwide vaccination campaign against measles and rubella late November, covering almost all provinces, but in a phased approach, Health Minister Roger Kamba has said.

“It makes no sense to say that we are going to vaccinate everyone at once,” Kamba told a press briefing Wednesday in Kinshasa, the capital. “Even in areas not yet reached, once a number of zones have been well vaccinated, we can already move forward.”

“For these two diseases, measles and rubella, we are going to vaccinate almost all provinces. The introduction of the vaccine will take place at the end of this month, but we will do it by blocks,” he said.

The first block, he said, will begin with the Grand Katanga region, Bas-Uele Province, Haut-Uele Province, and Ituri Province. “It is not because we do not want to, but simply because technically we cannot do it all at once.”

According to the minister, the campaign plans to vaccinate more than 30 million children across the country.

Kamba acknowledged that access remains a challenge in areas under the control of March 23 Movement rebels.

He confirmed that talks are ongoing with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to create humanitarian corridors. “Not long ago, we were in New York with ICRC representatives and discussed the need for humanitarian corridors to deliver inputs -- whether medicines or vaccines.”

Noting that the number of disease cases is often higher in occupied areas, Kamba urged efforts to free those territories and to allow humanitarian access for public health programs.

Turning to the latest Ebola outbreak, declared in early September in Kasai Province, he said the situation is under control.

“The last patient was discharged cured on Oct. 19. We currently have no hospitalized cases, and we are approaching 26 days without any new case,” Kamba said. “We can say that, for now, Ebola is under control.”

New hope for treatment-resistant epilepsy patients

Study shows seizure reduction in chronic epilepsy

MANHASSET, N.Y., Nov 6, (AP): For the millions of people worldwide living with severe forms of epilepsy, some do not respond to medication and it can be difficult to find lasting relief. Patients with a severe epileptic condition called focal treatment-resistant epilepsy (FTRE) could experience seizures that start in a specific part of their brain and continue to occur despite significant and appropriate efforts to control them with medication. A new FTRE study, led by Northwell Health’s Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research researchers and recently published in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) Neurology, offers a hopeful but complex message: Many patients with FTRE often experience a significant drop in their seizure frequency over time, but there are questions about whether these improvements are solely due to specific treatments or to the natural course of the disease itself.

Part of the Human Epilepsy Project 2 (HEP2), the longitudinal study, co-led by Ruben Kuzniecky, MD, a neurologist at Northwell’s Lenox Hill Hospital and member of The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, followed 146 adults across the United States who had FTRE and had tried at least four different seizure medications, all of which failed to be effective. For one-and-a-half to three years, the researchers carefully tracked their daily seizures, changes in medication and whether they used implanted devices like brain stimulators.

The study’s extensive findings revealed that nearly 70 percent of participants saw a significant decrease in how often they experienced seizures over the study period. While this is a substantial improvement in their daily lives, achieving complete seizure freedom for long stretches was less common -- about 13 percent had no seizures for three months, 7.8 percent for six months, and just over 3 percent remained seizure-free for a year or more. The researchers also looked at how different treatments played a role. More than half of the patients had a new anti-seizure medication added, and two-thirds of that group experienced fewer seizures. Newer medications seemed particularly helpful in these improvements.

“This research sheds light on the challenges patients living with chronic, treatment-resistant epilepsy face,” said Dr. Kuzniecky, who is also a professor and vice chair of academic affairs at The Barbara and Donald Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. “Our findings confirm that seizure frequency can decrease significantly over time, but they also raise important questions about whether these improvements stem from the natural history of the condition or from the active management strategies employed. Discovering this distinction is crucial for developing more precise and effective treatment approaches.”

The research also showed that while neuromodulation devices like deep brain stimulators, responsive

neurostimulators and vagal nerve stimulators were found to influence seizure reduction, a key insight was that the seizure frequency in patients using these devices did not significantly differ from those who were not. This finding -- combined with the varied treatment adjustments throughout the observational study -- showed the complexity in isolating the precise impact of individual interventions. Researchers concluded that it remains unclear whether these long-term reductions reflect the natural evolution of FTRE or are primarily driven by the active, multifaceted management strategies implemented over time.

“This research offers invaluable insights into the dynamic nature of treatment-resistant epilepsy,” said Souhel Najjar, MD, chair of Neurology at Lenox Hill Hospital and Staten Island University Hospital. “By challenging conventional assumptions about intervention-specific ‘disease-modifying effects,’ this study sets the stage for more rigorous research to unravel the true drivers of improvement, ultimately guiding us toward more personalized and effective treatments for patients.”

Dr. Kuzniecky recently published in JAMA research predicting epilepsy drug resistance. He and his colleagues found that patients with frequent seizures at diagnosis and a history of psychiatric disorders are less likely to respond successfully to anti-seizure medications.

Blazers topple unbeaten Thunder in dramatic comeback



Sacramento Kings guard Russell Westbrook (18) attempts to dribble by Golden State Warriors guard Brandin Podziemski (2) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif. (AP)



Los Angeles Lakers center Deandre Ayton, left, and San Antonio Spurs forward Victor Wembanyama reach for a rebound during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

Lakers survive frantic final second for win over Spurs

PORTLAND, Nov 6, (AP): Deni Avdija had 26 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, Portland erased a 22-point deficit in a 121-119 victory over Oklahoma City.

Jrue Holiday added 22 points, including two clutch free throws that put Portland ahead 121-118 with six seconds left. Jerami Grant scored 20 off the bench as the Trail Blazers ended the defending NBA champions their first loss of the season.

With the Thunder trailing by three, Isaiah Joe was fouled on a jumper with 0.5 seconds left. After a replay review showed Joe's toe was on the 3-point line, he made his first free throw but missed the second on purpose. Oklahoma City came up empty on a last-second tip-in attempt.

Thunder star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points and Aaron Wiggins added 27. Oklahoma City was without several players who played Tuesday night, as Chet Holmgren, Lu Dort and Alex Caruso all sat out.

Lakers 118, Spurs 116

In Los Angeles, Luka Doncic had 35 points, 13 assists, nine rebounds and five steals, and Los Angeles rallied in the fourth quarter before surviving a frantic final second for a victory over San Antonio Spurs.

The Lakers finished the game on a 21-10 run, but the Spurs got one last chance when Marcus Smart committed an inbound violation after Kelly Olynyk's putback layup with 1.2 seconds left.

Justin Champagnie then drew a foul from Jake LaRavia while trying to tip in the Spurs' inbound pass, but Champagnie missed his first free throw, and nobody could tip in the second miss at the buzzer.

Deandre Ayton had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who extended their impressive start to the season with a furious rally from a nine-point deficit midway through the fourth quarter. Doncic scored eight points in the fourth, including a clutch go-ahead 3-pointer with 2:31 to play.

Victor Wembanyama had 19 points and eight rebounds before fouling out with 1:39 to play for the Spurs, who have lost two straight after a 5-0 start. Stephon Castle and Jeremy Sochan had 16 points apiece.

Pistons 114, Jazz 103

In Detroit, Cade Cunningham scored 19 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter as the Detroit Pistons won their fourth straight, beating the Utah Jazz.

Jalen Duren added 22 points and 22 rebounds for the Pistons, which improved to 6-2, and Ausar Thompson added 18.

Detroit, which came into the game second in field-goal defense at 42.9%, held Utah to 38.4% (33-86).

Former Piston Svi Mykhailiuk scored a career-high 28 for the Jazz, who have lost four of five. Lauri Markkanen added 25 and Jusuf Nurkic had 17 rebounds.

Cavaliers 132, 76ers 121

In Cleveland, Donovan Mitchell scored a season-high 46 points, Jarrett Allen had 24 points and 10 rebounds and Cleveland pulled away in the second half for a victory over Philadelphia.

Evan Mobley added 23 for Cleveland, which won its second straight.

Cavaliers' All-Star point guard Darius Garland had eight points in 26 minutes in his season debut. Garland missed the first seven games after offseason surgery on his left big toe. Philadelphia, which never led in the game, got 27 points apiece from Tyrese Maxey and Quentin Grimes.

Mitchell followed up Sunday's 37-point, eight 3-pointer performance against Atlanta by going 15 of 21 from the floor, 6 of 11 from long distance and making all eight of his foul shots against a 76ers squad that dropped games on back-to-back nights.

Joel Embiid did not play on Wednesday as Philadelphia is not having him play on consecutive nights early in the season due to left knee issues.

Celtics 136, Wizards 107

In Boston, Jaylen Brown scored 35 points and Boston shook off a double-digit first-quarter deficit to beat Washington and send the Wizards to their sixth straight loss.

Brown scored 16 points in the first quarter and had five rebounds and five assists before leaving the game with two minutes remaining in the third and Boston leading by 19 points. Neemias Queta had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Celtics, who had lost two in a row at home.

Alex Sarr scored 31 with eight rebounds and three blocked shots - his seventh straight game with at least two blocks. Washington has not beaten the Celtics in nine tries since March of 2023.

Knicks 137, Timberwolves 114

In New York, OG Anunoby scored 25 points, Jalen Brunson had 23 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds, and New York spoiled Anthony Edwards' return to the Minnesota lineup with a victory.

Josh Hart added 18 points for the Knicks, who controlled the second half and

improved to 5-0 at Madison Square Garden.

Edwards scored 15 points in 29 minutes after missing four games with a strained right hamstring, and the Wolves were outscored by 25 points when he was in the game.

There wasn't much the All-Star guard could have done to keep the game competitive. The Knicks outworked the Timberwolves, turning 21 offensive rebounds into 31 second-chance points, and outscored them 83-56 after trailing by four at halftime.

Julius Randle scored 32 points and Donte DiVincenzo had 21 in the arena that was their home before they were sent to Minnesota before last season in the deal that brought Karl-Anthony Towns to New York. Towns finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Nets 112, Pacers 103

In Indianapolis, Michael Porter Jr. had 32 points and 11 rebounds, and the Brooklyn Nets overcame the loss of leading scorer Cam Thomas to claim their first victory of the season in a road win over Indiana.

Porter made 10 of 20 shots, including four 3-pointers, as the Nets pulled away in the fourth quarter in a game of spurts that featured 12 lead changes and 10 ties. His final three-point play pushed the Nets ahead 110-103 with 22.1 seconds remaining.

Porter's extra scoring was needed after Thomas, who entered with a 24.4-point scoring average, exited midway through the first quarter with hamstring tightness. It's the same hamstring that limited him to 25 games last season.

The Nets, who had lost the first seven games this season, got four other double-digit efforts as Nic Claxton scored 18, Noah Clowney had 17, Tyrese Martin 16 and Terance Mann 15.

The Pacers, who are also now 1-7, were led by Pascal Siakam's 23 points and nine assists. Ben Sheppard scored 18. Backup center Jay Huff added 16 with four 3-pointers.

Rockets 124, Grizzlies 109

In Memphis, Amen Thompson had 28 points and 10 rebounds, Alperen Sengun added 20 points and 16 rebounds, and Houston defeated Memphis.

Jabari Smith Jr. and Tari Eason scored 16 apiece as Houston won its fifth straight game. Thompson and Sengun each had seven assists.

Cam Spencer led Memphis with 19 points, including 5 of 9 from 3-point range. Ja Morant had 17 points and eight assists, but was 6 of 19 from the field and made only one of his seven 3-point attempts. Santi Aldama scored 16 points.

‘Announcement marks another significant milestone’

Saudi-backed Aramco joins LPGA Tour schedule with Las Vegas tournament

WASHINGTON, Nov 6, (AP): Saudi Arabia finally has a deal with American golf under an agreement announced Wednesday for the LPGA Tour to co-sanction a PIF Global Series event at prestigious Shadow Creek in Las Vegas next spring.

The Aramco Championship will be held from April 2-5 at Shadow Creek with 120 players from the LPGA and the Ladies European Tour. The \$4 million purse rates among the highest outside the majors.

It's the first big announcement for Craig Kessler, who took over as LPGA commissioner in July. He said the Aramco Championship "reflects exactly where we're headed in building the global schedule for our tour."

"We often talk about routing, courses and purses, and this event checks every box," Kessler said. "We also recognize that partnerships like this - built on LET's longstanding collaboration with Golf Saudi and PIF - can help strengthen the women's game on a global scale and elevate opportunities for our athletes."

The Aramco Championship is one of five tournaments that make up the series, which the Public Investment Fund rebranded this year while raising the prize money.

It dates to a team concept in 2020. What started as the Saudi Ladies Team International was renamed the Aramco Team Series and has been a regular part of the LET schedule.

The Aramco series has been held in the U.S. each year, starting with Glen Oaks in New York in 2021 and twice on courses owned by President Donald Trump in New York and Florida.

Nelly Korda and Alison Lee are



In this file photo, Signage for LIV Golf is displayed during the pro-am round of the Bedminster Invitational LIV Golf tournament in Bedminster, N.J. (AP)

two-time winners of Aramco events, and several LPGA players have competed in them. Charley Hull of England, who has membership on both tours, has won Aramco events twice and was runner-up five times.

"We've had a strong relationship with Golf Saudi since 2020, and this next chapter - welcoming the LPGA to join us at Shadow Creek - highlights how far we've come in strengthening the global platform for women's golf," said Marta Figueras-Dotti, chair of the LET's board of directors.

PIF is the financial muscle behind LIV Golf, which launched in 2022 by luring away top names like Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau and Brooks Koepka with signing bonuses reported to top \$100 million in some

cases.

Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the PIF governor, signed a framework agreement with the PGA Tour and European Tour in June 2023 that ended their lawsuits and positioned PIF as an investor.

But that agreement was never finalized, the PGA Tour found a private equity investor in Strategic Sports Group and negotiations with PIF broke down after Trump brought together both sides shortly after he returned to office for a second term.

The PIF Global Series was different as Golf Saudi invested in the Ladies European Tour with a series of events that had the largest purses on the LET, though still well short of the majors.

"Women's golf continues to go from strength-to-strength and PIF has

a strong track record of backing that growth and investing in the future of the women's game," Al-Rumayyan said in a statement provided by the LPGA.

"Today's announcement marks another significant milestone as we work closely with great partners at the LPGA and LET to introduce a co-sanctioned event as part of next year's PIF Global Series. The future of women's golf has never been brighter, on and off the course."

Kessler said while he expects some negative reaction, "I've been blown away by the support from the LPGA and LET boards." He said he has spoken to dozens of players about the Las Vegas event. "The overwhelming sentiment was, 'What took so long?'"

The Aramco Championship is one of five tournaments in the PIF Global Series for 2026. The others are the PIF Saudi Ladies International on Feb. 11-14; PIF London Championship at Centurion Club outside London on Aug. 6-9; Aramco Korea Championship in South Korea on Oct. 8-11; and Aramco China Championship at Mission Hills on Nov. 5-8.

The Aramco series previously has played in Spain, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Only the co-sanctioned event at Shadow Creek - which has hosted the Match Play on the LPGA since 2021 - will count toward the LPGA's official money and its Race to CME Globe.

This will be the fourth co-sanctioned event between the LPGA and LET, joining two majors (Women's British Open and Evian Championship in France) and the Women's Scottish Open.

LPGA Tour, and Yamashita is after her third.

Shin Ji-yai of South Korea was a stroke off the lead and three more Japanese - Chisato Iwai, Akie Iwai, and Minami Katsu - were just two shots behind at the Seta Golf Club in western Japan.

Chisato Iwai and Akie Iwai are twin sisters.

In a very tight field, eight others golfers were just three off the pace. This included Minjee Lee of Australia. Lee won the KPMG Women's PGA Championship earlier this year, her third major title.

Defending champion Rio Takeda shot a 1-over 73 and was eight strokes back.

Original signed memorabilia from some of the world’s top footballers available for bidding online at 4mazad.com

Football for Humanity extends charity auction to November 20 to allow more participation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Football for Humanity, a United Nations-backed diplomatic sports initiative held under the patronage of Kuwait’s foreign minister, announced the extension of its charity football auction until November 20 to allow more participants around the world to bid on rare items, with proceeds going to support Palestinian children through the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

Embassies of the participating countries – including Italy, France, Brazil, Spain, Belgium, Palestine, Tunisia, Egypt, the United Kingdom, India, and Armenia – contributed exclusive signed memorabilia sourced directly from their national teams and clubs.

The collection was displayed at Al Hamra Shopping Center from October 19 to 31, and online bidding remains open at 4mazad.com until 9 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, with winners to be announced on social media.

Fans and collectors can bid on rare items including a signed Kuwait 1982 World Cup kit by Kuwaiti football legend Jassem Yaqoub, a signed Barcelona kit from Spanish legend Andrés Iniesta,

a, a signed AC Milan kit from Italy’s World Cup champion Andrea Pirlo, a Brazil national team kit signed by Vinícius Jr. of Real Madrid, Alisson Becker of Liverpool, Raphinha of Barcelona, among other Brazilian national team players.

Other highlights include a Belgium national team kit, signed memorabilia from the Italy national team and two footballs signed by Tunisia national team players.

Each piece comes with an official certificate of authenticity, guaranteeing its originality.

H.E. Manuel Hernández Gamallo, Ambassador of Spain to Kuwait, said: “The Spanish participation in this project comes through the football academies we have in Kuwait, including the Iniesta Football Academy. Andrés Iniesta, the most decorated Spanish player in history, is known worldwide for scoring the iconic winning goal in the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

“He has generously donated a signed kit, which will be auctioned to support children in Palestine.”

H.E. Christian Doms, Ambassador of Belgium to Kuwait, said: “We are



Image caption: Included in the Charity Auction a signed Kuwait 1982 World Cup kit by Kuwaiti football legend Jassem Yaqoub.

participating through the donation of a shirt from the Belgian national football team.

“The shirt has been signed by all the

players and will be auctioned to help young people in need.

“I believe this is a remarkable humanitarian initiative that truly deserves all support”

H.E. Lorenzo Morini, Ambassador of Italy to Kuwait, said: “We are proud to contribute to this initiative through the participation of Juventus and AC Milan academies in Kuwait, along with the donation of several exclusive memorabilia, including a rare AC Milan jersey signed by Italian football legend Andrea Pirlo, the 2006 World Cup champion.

“We are pleased to dedicate this jersey, among other collectibles, to the Football for Humanity initiative in support of its mission to help Palestinian children.”

H.E. Olivier Goffin, Ambassador of France to Kuwait, added: “We are pleased to support this initiative, with the participation of French football academies in Kuwait, and through the donation of an exclusive Paris Saint-Germain jersey signed by team captain Marquinhos.

“This contribution underscores our shared commitment to solidarity and humanitarian diplomacy, and we look forward

to amplifying this impact through the participation of football fans in the auction and the children’s matches on November 6 and 7.”

Football for Humanity, a United Nations-backed sports diplomacy initiative launched from Kuwait, aims to use the global appeal of football to promote humanitarian diplomacy and provide tangible support.

The first edition focuses on helping Palestinian children, with proceeds from the charity auction, youth tournament and community activities directed to them through the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

The initiative is organized by the non-profit Al-Nowair Foundation under the patronage of Foreign Minister Abdulla Ali Al-Yahya, and in partnership with the United Nations.

It is overseen by a board of trustees that includes representatives from the Foreign Ministry, the U.N., ambassadors from 11 countries and Kuwaiti officials.

Private-sector supporters include Al Hamra Shopping Center, Makhazen (formerly Agility Public Warehousing Co.) and Kout Food Group, the Pizza Hut franchisee in Kuwait.

Al-Tadamon takes on Al-Shabab

Al-Arabi seeks victory

Al-Qadsia targets key win against Al-Jahra to keep title hopes alive

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The eighth round of the Zain Premier League kicks off today with two encounters. Al-Salmiya will face Al-Fahaheel at Thamer Stadium at 5:25 p.m., while Al-Tadamon meets Al-Shabab at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 7:40 p.m.

The round continues on Saturday with a single fixture between Al-Qadsia and Al-Jahra at Mubarak Al-Ayar Stadium at 5:25 p.m., before concluding on Sunday with two headline matchups – Al-Arabi vs. Al-Nasr and Kuwait Club vs. Kazma.

Following this round, league action will pause until mid-December to accommodate international match days and the upcoming Arab Cup, which will kick off in early December in Doha, Qatar.

Al-Salmiya, Al-Fahaheel, Al-Tadamon, and Al-Shabab will all be looking to make amends and return to winning ways after recent disappointing results.

Al-Salmiya, sitting fifth with 11 points, played out a goalless draw with sixth-placed Al-Shabab (9 points) in the previous round. Al-Fahaheel, seventh with 9 points, shared a 1-1 draw with Kazma, while Al-Tadamon, ninth with 4 points, is eager to secure its second win of the season after suffering a 3-0 defeat to Al-Qadsia last week.

In tomorrow’s clash, Al-Qadsia (third, 11 points) aims for victory to stay within reach of league leader Kuwait Club, who holds a five-point advantage with a game in hand.



Al-Qadsia’s Bader Al-Mutawa weaves past defenders during the match.

A win would also lift Al- Al-Qadsia’s spirits and mark their fourth win of the campaign, and second in a row, following their 3-0 victory over Al-Tadamon in the last round.

Meanwhile, Al-Jahra (eighth, 7 points) hopes to capitalize on Al-Qadsia’s recent struggles, especially after the latter’s 1-1 draw with Sitra of Bahrain in the Gulf Champions League – a result that dented its semifinal hopes.

The Red Castle side will also be motivated to bounce back from its 4-0 loss to Al-Arabi in the previous round.

Kuwait Club locks horns with Al-Nasr

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The third round of the General Basketball League concludes today with two exciting matches at the Basketball Federation Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Kuwait Club will take on Al-Nasr at 5:00 p.m., followed by Al-Arabi vs. Al-Sulaibikhat at 7:30 p.m.

For the league leader, Kuwait Club, who has four points, the match against Al-Nasr is expected to be relatively smooth given its superior experience and squad depth. Al-Nasr captain Yousef Al-Mutairi and Pakistani star Imran Nazir face a challenging task against the Arab champion, whose roster features standout players including Hammad and Mohammed Adnan, Imran Johar, Alexander Al-Ghais, Sahoo Al-Sahoo, Ali Al-Hadhoud, Yousef Al-Hamdan, and Aziz Ramadan, along with three foreign stars – Americans Charlie Moore, Jamal Jones, and Frenchman Geoffrey Lavoigne.

The evening clash between Al-Arabi and Al-Sulaibikhat promises a tighter contest. Al-Arabi, under coach Hussein Al-Mousawi, aims for a win to recover from a slow start, having lost its first two games and sitting seventh out of eight teams. Meanwhile, Al-Sulaibikhat, coached by Fahad Barjas,



Al-Arabi player powers toward the basket in league showdown.

seeks to bounce back from their 87-101 defeat to Kazma in Round 2 and climb up the standings. The team will rely on key contributors Abdulrahman Al-Suhoul, Nawaf Al-Ataya, Dawood Al-Sada, Faisal Al-Huseini, and foreign players Michel Dixon (USA) and Solar Monji (Iran).

India leads T20 series 2-1 after Australia crashes against spin

Sundar takes three wickets in five deliveries

GOLD COAST, Australia, Nov 6, (AP): Washington Sundar took three wickets in five deliveries as India beat Australia by 48 runs in the fourth Twenty20 on Thursday.

India spinners claimed six wickets in all to usher an Australia collapse from 91-4 in 11.3 overs to 119 all out in 18.2 overs in pursuit of 168.

Australia lost its last seven wickets for 28 runs across 41 deliveries and out for its second lowest T20 total on home soil after 111 versus New Zealand in Sydney in 2022.

India has an unbeatable 2-1 lead in the series which ends on Saturday in Brisbane.

Sundar took 3-3 from 1.2 overs, left-arm spinner Axar Patel grabbed 2-20 in four overs, and Varun Chakravarthy picked 1-26.

Patel’s wickets and cameo of 21 not out off 11 balls, which helped to push India’s past 150, earned him the player of the match award.



India’s Abhishek Sharma bats during a T20 cricket international between India and Australia in Carrara, Australia. (AP)

“I got a chance to bat at No. 7 and it helped me understand the wicket,” Patel said. “The ball was not coming on and there was unexpected bounce. I tried bowling wicket to wicket. If I have an impact for my team it’s the best game for me.”

Shubman Gill scored 46 off 39 balls as India put up 167-8 after beginning sent in.

Wrist spinner Adam Zampa took 3-45 in four overs.

Chasing 168, Australia made a decent start between skipper Mitchell Marsh, who top-scored with 30 off 24 balls, and Matthew Short, opening in place of Travis Head.

Short scored 25 off 19 balls with two fours and two sixes.

But Patel trapped Short lbw and bowled Josh Inglis on 12. Then Shivam Dube dismissed Marsh in the 10th over and Tim David on 14 two overs later at 91-4.

Australia tried hard to stay in the contest but the spinners took over.

Chakravarthy bowled Glenn Maxwell for a sixth time then Sundar trapped Marcus Stoinis lbw and dismissed Xavier Bartlett next ball.

Nathan Ellis survived the hat trick ball in the 17th over.

Earlier, Gill and Abhishek Sharma gave India a flying start with 56 off 40 balls for the first wicket.

Sharma’s 21-ball 28 included three fours and a six.

Dube was sent up the order and added 22 off 18. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav chipped in 20 off 10. Gill stitched vital partnerships with both of them.

After Gill and Yadav departed, India was 125-4 in 15.1 overs and the middle order couldn’t hit hard, especially against Zampa. Nathan Ellis supported him with 3-21.

Man City and Liverpool in danger of losing more ground on Arsenal

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 6, (AP): The stage is set for the latest showdown between the Premier League’s most dominant teams in recent years when Manchester City hosts Liverpool on Sunday.

Both teams have had their problems this season but produced impressive wins in the Champions League midweek.

Defending Premier League champion Liverpool dominated Real Madrid with a 1-0 scoreline that did not reflect the superiority of Arne Slot’s team.

City followed that by routing Borussia Dortmund 4-1, with Phil Foden scoring twice and Erling Haaland hitting his 27th goal of the season for club and country.

City and Liverpool have shared the last eight English titles but both are playing catch up to league leader Arsenal, which adds the pressure on Sunday’s clash.

Defeat for second-placed City could see it trail the Gunners by nine points. Liverpool was third and could find itself 10 points behind if it loses for

the fifth time this season.

“Arsenal are more consistent than anyone,” City manager Pep Guardiola said. “But the season is so long and (you need) to be there (near the top) and see what happens.”

Arsenal could extend its lead before the Man City-Liverpool game as it travels to Sunderland on Saturday evening.

Manchester United is on a four-game unbeaten run and goes to Tottenham on Saturday.

Manager-less and winless Wolverhampton was on the bottom of the standings and plays Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Foden was back to his best, according to Guardiola, after an outstanding performance in City’s win against Dortmund.

Calls have been growing for veteran striker Danny Welbeck to get an England recall after the 34-year-old’s impressive start to the season. With six goals for Brighton, he is emerging as an unlikely contender for Thomas Tuchel’s World Cup

squad.

Rodri sat out City’s victory against Dortmund after only just returning from a hamstring injury, raising doubts about his availability on Sunday.

Liverpool was again without British record signing Alexander Isak midweek following a groin injury, but Slot was hopeful the Sweden international would be able to play some role against City.

Arsenal’s Viktor Gyokeres sustained a muscle injury against Burnley and was not involved in the midweek win against Slavia Prague.

Wolves need to start winning quickly or risk being cut adrift at the bottom of the table. The primary task is to find a coach willing to take on a job that looks more daunting by the week.

Former manager Gary O’Neil reportedly pulled out of talks to return to the club. Reports say former Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag and Middlesbrough boss Rob Edwards are also possibilities.

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NEWS



Inter Milan's Carlos Augusto celebrates after scoring during the Champions League soccer match between Inter Milan and Kairat in Milan, Italy. (AP)

Sports

Asian Shooting Championship wraps up

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Kuwait Asian Shooting Championship wraps up Friday, at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, with the men's and women's skeet finals scheduled for 12:30 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony.

Obeid Al-Oseimi, Secretary-General of both the Arab and Kuwaiti Shooting Federations and the tournament director, described the championship as a major success both organizationally and technically, featuring Asia's top shooters. The event also welcomed high-profile officials, including ISSF President Luciano Rossi and Asian Shooting Federation President Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah.

Al-Oseimi highlighted the impressive performance of Kuwait's national team in the trap events for men and women, securing five out of six medals – two golds, two silvers,

and one bronze – and expressed optimism about adding to this tally in today's final competitions.

He noted that the high level of Kuwait's shooters is a promising indicator for their preparation for Olympic qualifying events ahead of the Los Angeles 2028 Games, scheduled across 2026 and 2027, and reaffirmed the Kuwait Shooting Federation's full support for all national athletes.

Al-Oseimi also credited the championship's success to the strong support of Kuwait's leadership for shooting sports, as well as the collaboration and backing of the ISSF and the Asian Shooting Federation with the local organizing committee.

Chinese shooter Jin Shungo praised the championship as one of the best events he has ever participated in, commending its top-notch organization, ideal competition conditions, and the presence of Asia's



A shooter aims for a target during the Asian Championship.

elite athletes competing for gold. Shungo also lauded Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah for his efforts in developing shooting

sports across Asia, helping shooters become strong contenders at both continental and global levels, including the Olympics.

KFA sets Dec 23 for Amir Cup final

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): The Kuwait Football Association (KFA) announced that the final of His Highness the Amir Football Cup for the 2024-2025 season will take place on December 23.

KFA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yusuf Al-Sabah expressed his sincere gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his generous patronage of the tournament.

The final will feature Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi SC. Originally scheduled for last June, the match was postponed due to regional circumstances at the time.

Best of the Rest

De Rossi hired to manage Genoa: Former Roma captain and coach Daniele De Rossi was named to coach relegation-threatened Genoa on Thursday, replacing Patrick Vieira.

While Genoa did not provide details, De Rossi was reportedly given a contract through to the end of the season.

Vieira left last week with the team in last place and winless through nine rounds of Serie A.

Interim managers Roberto Murgita and Domenico Criscito then coached Genoa to its first win on Monday over Sassuolo. Genoa was 18th, one point above Hellas Verona and two points above bottom side Fiorentina. (AP)

Kuwait Winter Games Club signs 7 international stars



Al-Ajmi stands among the professionals.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): The Kuwait Winter Games Club has finalized contracts with seven professional foreign champions to compete in the 2025-2026 national ice hockey league.

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, club president Fehaid Al-Ajmi announced the signings, which include Russian striker Elia Dordoyeski, defenders Ann Tsylin and Vladislav Zilopov, goalkeeper Nikita Elpidiev, Serbian striker Bojan Ziderfilic, and Belarussian forwards Valeri Bitzovic and Denis Shrivite.

Al-Ajmi explained that the players will be distrib-

uted across the league's teams, including the Warriors, Kuwait Stars, Ice Stars, Kuwait Camels, and Kuwait Mooseheads, as the national league prepares for its April tournament.

The Kuwaiti national ice hockey team is also gearing up for the World Cup (fourth tier), which Kuwait will host in April. Over the past three years, Kuwait has finished second once and third twice in international competitions.

Teams from Singapore, Armenia, Iran, Indonesia, and Malaysia are expected to participate in the upcoming international championship in Kuwait.

Top players advance as World Padel Championship hits quarterfinal stage

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The World Padel (Doubles) Championship, running in Kuwait until November 9, has entered its decisive phase with the quarterfinals starting today at the Arena and Rafa Nadal Academy, featuring some of the world's top players.

The Round of 32 saw intense action in both the men's and women's categories. The world's second-ranked men's pair, Federico Chingotto and Alejandro Galán, advanced with a straight-sets victory over Francisco Morales and Miguel Lambert. Enrique Gionaga and Luis Queisada also progressed, defeating Javier Barahona and Javier García 2-1 in sets, while the sixth-ranked duo, Paquito Navarro and Jon Sanz, reached the quarterfinals with an easy win over José Destro and Víctor Ruiz.

In the women's draw, Tamara Clercisa and Marta Gallego moved into the Round of 16 after beating Italy's Giorgia Marchetti and France's Léa Godallier in straight sets. Marti-



World padel stars visit Al-Mubarakiya.

na Calvo and Alejandra Salazar also advanced, defeating Lara Arubarina and Juliette Pédahouria 2-0 in sets.

As part of the event's activities, the Public Relations Committee of

the Organizing Committee hosted a heritage tour for players, coaches, and staff at the historic Souq Al-Mubarakiya, highlighting Kuwait's rich cultural legacy.

Inter remains unbeaten as Barca stumbles

Haaland strikes again, City beats Dortmund

MANCHESTER, Nov 6, (AP): Inter Milan remained among the teams with a perfect record by beating Kairat 2-1 in the Champions League, while Barcelona was held at Club Brugge, and Erling Haaland extended his scoring streak in Manchester City's 4-1 home win over Borussia Dortmund.

Lautaro Martínez and Carlos Augusto scored a goal in each half for last year's runner-up Inter, which joined Bayern Munich and Arsenal as the only teams with four victories from four matches - the league phase's halfway point.

Kairat, the Kazakhstan club that remains among the winless teams in the league phase, equalized with Ofri Arad early in the second half before Augusto gave the hosts the victory.

"We knew we had to win the first four games, and did it," Inter defender Federico Dimarco said. "We have to think game after game, every match is tough in the Champions League."

Barcelona came from behind three times in its draw at Club Brugge, with Lamine Yamal being decisive in the team's comeback in Belgium. He scored in the 61st, and it was his shot in the 77th that led to an own-goal by Club Brugge midfielder Christos Tzolis for the 3-3 score.

Phil Foden netted twice for Man City, while Haaland scored his 27th goal in 17 matches for club and country this season. He has scored in five consecutive Champions League games for three different clubs, having also done it with Salzburg and Dortmund.

"Every time I come to a press conference, they give him another record," Man City coach Pep Guardiola said.

The Norway striker has scored 14 times in his last nine games. Only twice has he failed to score in a game this season.

José Mourinho's Benfica lost 1-0



Manchester City's Tijjani Reijnders, top, jumps for the ball besides Dortmund's goalkeeper Gregor Kobel during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Manchester City and Borussia Dortmund in Manchester, England. (AP)

at home to Bayer Leverkusen for its fourth straight loss in the league phase. Ajax also picked up its fourth consecutive loss after a 3-0 defeat to ninth-place Galatasaray at home.

Victor Osimhen converted two penalties in his hat trick for the visitors to reach six goals and overtake Haaland, Harry Kane, and Kylian Mbappé, who have five goals each.

Ajax has one win in its last seven matches across all tournaments.

Newcastle beat Athletic Bilbao

2-0 at St. James' Park with goals by Dan Burn and Joelinton, making it three wins and clean sheets in a row to move up to sixth in the table.

Atalanta won 1-0 at Marseille with a 90th-minute goal by Lazar Samardzic. Charles De Ketelaere missed a 14th-minute penalty for Atalanta.

In the early games, Chelsea drew 2-2 at Qarabag, while Pafos earned its first-ever league-phase win by beating Spanish club Villarreal 1-0

at home in Cyprus.

Foden scored twice, Haaland added another, and substitute Rayan Cherki completed the scoring for City after Waldemar Anton netted for Dortmund.

Foden's goals - swept low into the corner in each half - will have strengthened his case for an England recall when Thomas Tuchel names his squad this week.

It was City's third league-phase win to go with a 2-2 draw at Mona-

co. Dortmund was seeking its third victory.

"We are in a good position for the next game against Leverkusen, and if we can make one or two more victories, maybe we are close to finishing in the top eight," Guardiola said.

Carlos Forbs scored twice for Club Brugge in its back-and-forth home draw with Barcelona.

Club Brugge thought it had scored a winner in stoppage time after a blunder by Barcelona goalkeeper

Wojciech Szczesny, but the referee called for a foul when the goalkeeper lost possession inside the area.

Fermín López, Jules Koundé, and Eric García hit the woodwork for Barcelona.

Barcelona avoided another loss after already going down against defending champion Paris Saint-Germain at home. It won at Newcastle and against Olympiakos.

"We can do things better," Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said. "A 3-3 draw isn't a good result, but we came from behind."

Club Brugge has two losses and a win.

Substitute Alejandro Garnacho scored a second-half goal as Chelsea drew level with Qarabag.

Chelsea's Estevao, the man of the match, opened the scoring in the 16th minute, but the hosts from Azerbaijan rallied with goals from Leandro Andrade in the 29th and a penalty by Marko Jankovic in the 39th.

Garnacho struck in the 53rd for Chelsea, which was coming off Champions League victories over Ajax and Benfica after opening the league phase with a loss at leader Bayern Munich.

Qarabag has picked up seven points from its four games, having won its first two before losing 3-1 at Athletic Bilbao.

In the other early game, newcomer Pafos earned its first-ever league-phase win by beating Spanish club Villarreal 1-0 at home in Cyprus.

"This was a historic win for the club and for Pafos," defender David Goldar said. "Every year we grow and we are improving, and long may that continue. We've created something special here, but we also need to stay humble."

In its previous matches, Pafos lost 5-1 to Bayern at home and drew 0-0 at both Kairat and Olympiakos.

Villarreal, back in the Champions League for the first time since reaching the semifinals in 2022, remains winless after four matches. It was coming off three consecutive victories in matches in the Spanish league and Copa del Rey.