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Sheikh Nasser wins Japanese hearts, honored with highest medal

TOKYO, Nov 8, (KUNA): His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is visiting Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Government, to be decorated with the “Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.”

The recognition has been conferred upon His Highness by His Majesty Emperor Naruhito of Japan, pursuant to a decision by the Cabinet of Japan, in recognition of His Highness’s distinguished role in strengthening Kuwaiti-Japanese relations.

His Highness Sheikh Nasser said, in a press release on Saturday,

that relations between the two countries are deeply rooted, as Japan was among the first nations to recognize the independence of Kuwait in 1961 and promptly proceeded to exchange ambassadors.

“Since then, strong diplomatic ties have flourished between the two nations, founded on constructive cooperation, mutual respect, and the advancement of shared interests,” Sheikh Nasser added.

His Highness also affirmed that the people of Kuwait will never forget the honorable stance of the Japanese Government and its noble people during the brutal Iraqi invasion, when Japan supported Kuwait’s just cause and called for the restoration of its legitimate government.

He pointed out that Japan also dedicated its resources and support to the liberation of Kuwait and dispatched units of the Japan Self-Defense Forces to the Arabian Gulf, marking the first time such forces were deployed outside Japanese territory.

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Amiri Diwan mourns royal’s passing away

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8, (KUNA): The Amiri Diwan on Saturday mourned the demise of Sheikh Sabah Jaber Fahad Al-Malek Al-Sabah at the age of 60. The funeral service is to take place on Sunday morning.

Opinion

■ Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

O Government of stability, strengthen your prosperity

OFFICIAL bodies, including the Central Bank of Kuwait, have issued reports published in newspapers over the past nine months, indicating a decline in consumer spending in the country.

First and foremost, this is a natural and expected situation, as recent government decisions did not keep pace with economic activity and continued to treat the matter as routine.

However, current figures suggest this decline signifies an emerging problem, which can be easily resolved to revitalize spending. This can be achieved by reversing decisions that have negatively impacted economic activity, such as the suspension of licenses, withdrawal of permits, and the halt of certain BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) projects, which are vital drivers of domestic spending.

It is globally recognized that there are two sides to strategic spending – domestic and foreign investments. The government is the major spender because its projects stimulate markets and encourage consumption. Nevertheless, an overzealous pursuit of every violation, no matter how minor, to halt projects only breeds fear of the future, thus, discouraging both investors and citizens from spending.

At this point, there is a paradox: data on strategic partnerships with major countries, while there is a decrease in spending. Large-scale projects necessitate stronger public-private

partnerships for each sector to play its role effectively.

Undoubtedly, this necessitates flexible procedures and encouraging citizens to seize available opportunities to reap benefits, rather than, as we have previously mentioned, hindering investors’ work through seemingly arbitrary decisions.

These decisions have negatively affected small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which are the natural link between the government, large projects and consumers. This sector is still struggling to recover from the crisis it suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are many solutions to this emerging problem. Among the most important solutions are lifting the suspension of licenses, refraining from withdrawing permits and attracting investments.

Furthermore, opening the door for local and foreign investors to spend on projects that can generate liquidity is crucial.

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Total support for anti-graft deal

Kuwait calls for stronger UN action against Islamophobia

NEW YORK, Nov 8, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has called for promoting United Nations mechanisms to monitor Islamophobia and follow up on manifestations of hatred against Muslims, underling its absolute support for U.N. Special Rapporteurs’ efforts in combating discrimination and hatred.

The statement was read out by Kuwaiti Diplomatic Attaché at the U.N. Abeer Al-Methen before the U.N. General Assembly’s social, humanitarian and cultural committee under the agenda item “Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child”, late Thursday.

She added that the State of Kuwait believes that human diversity is the source of power and that respecting differences is the way of attaining coherence and

peace, boasting that his country hosts people from more than 170 nationalities in a coherent human fabric that reflects values of tolerance and justice.

However, the Kuwaiti diplomat warned of manifestations of Islamophobia and religious hatred discourse, which are so worrying that they jeopardize social fabric and undermine values of human respect.

Al-Methn commended UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief Nazla Ghanem’s efforts in highlighting the alarming surge in manifestations of hatred against Muslims, quoting her as saying that Islamophobia is “the fastest growing form of religious discrimination in the world.”

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Japan ready to back Kuwait’s environmental goals – envoy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8, (KUNA): Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Kenichiro Mukai affirmed on Saturday his country’s readiness to share Japanese technology and expertise to support Kuwait’s environmental goals.

In a statement to KUNA on the sidelines of the 26th edition of the annual “Operation Turtle” beach cleanup campaign at Shuwaikh Beach, Ambassador Mukai praised the campaign as a “symbol of friendship between Kuwait and Japan.”

The Ambassador commended members of the Japanese Society in Kuwait, the Environment Public Authority (EPA), Kuwait Municipality, and Kuwait Environ-

ment Protection Society (KEPS) for their dedication and efforts in organizing this event.

Regarding the recent Japanese conferment of Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, Ambassador Mukai expressed deep appreciation for Sheikh Nassers distinguished contributions to enhancing and strengthening Kuwaiti-Japanese relations.

For his part, President of KEPS Dr. Wajdan Al-Oqab said the campaign aims to raise awareness about the dangers of pollution and the importance of protecting endangered sea turtles.

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Photo by Mohammad Morsi

A prayer taking place in one of the Kuwaiti mosques.

Kuwait mosques hold prayer, ask for rain in supplications

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: In accordance with the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him), the Ministry of Islamic Affairs opened the doors of mosques Saturday morning for worshippers to perform the Istisqa prayer to ask for rain.

The prayer was held in 125 mosques in various governorates. During the prayer, worshippers supplicated to Allah Almighty, asking for rain and praying that He will bless the country with security, safety and prosperity.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Suleiman Al-Suwailem conducted an inspection visit to the Grand Mosque to personally look into the ongoing preparations to ensure the readiness of the facilities and services, in addition to addressing the most pressing technical and administrative issues to better serve the mosque visitors.

The Grand Mosque Administration director and several other officials warmly welcomed Al-Suwailem, presenting the measures

taken to prepare the facilities and develop the service system. They also provided an overview of the work progress and plans for upcoming religious events.

Al-Suwailem emphasized the importance of raising the level of preparedness and providing a comprehensive environment to guarantee the comfort of worshippers. He stressed the need to continue working according to the highest quality standards, reflecting the mission of the ministry and its role in serving the houses of Allah.

It is worth noting that the prayer for rain (Istisqa) is performed when drought occurs and there is a dire need for water for humans, animals and plants. It is a confirmed Sunnah (recommended practice) performed by an Imam. It consists of two rak’ahs (units of prayer) -- the first begins with seven takbirs (saying “Allahu Akbar”) and the last with five. After the prayer, the Imam delivers a sermon, then supplicates, raising his hands along with the worshippers to the Creator, asking Him—may His power be glorified—for relief and rain for His servants and all living beings.



KUNA photo

The race begins ... with military and civilians taking part.

Over 1,000 turn up on Jaber Bridge

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The first ever police marathon, organized by the Ministry of Interior under the patronage of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, started Saturday morning on Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Bridge.

Around 1,100 military personnel and civilians participated in the race aimed at enhancing the physical fitness of security personnel and strengthening ties with the community.

Chairman of the Police Officers Club Board of Directors Brigadier General Abdul Mohsen Al-Akshan disclosed that the race aims to encourage military personnel to maintain their physical fitness. He also confirmed the commitment of the minister to involve the community in all events, including sports, which demonstrate the positive impact of the marathon on the physical fitness of security personnel, enabling them to perform their duties to their fullest capacity.

Al-Akshan told reporters “the ministry has been keen on ensuring the success of this

marathon. We have witnessed a genuine desire among everyone to participate. This is just the beginning of what you will see in the coming days. One of the modern projects that the ministry is keen on implementing for its personnel and their families is the modernization and renovation of the Club, giving it a modern look that keeps pace with development and provides all the needs of visitors.” He added the camping site of the ministry will open soon with all the necessary amenities. “Based on the instructions of Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, it will welcome all citizens, not just the ministry personnel and their families. It will be a tourist destination with recreational activities and tents for everyone to enjoy,” he revealed.

He also unveiled various plans like the marathon for women and for children, in addition to the Police Friends 2 event for the children of ministry personnel.

On the other hand, Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Mansouri, Vice President of the Police Union Council, said the marathon is the first of its kind in the history of the ministry,

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait’s Public Authority for Civil Aviation announced on Friday that a Kuwait Airways aircraft bound for the Philippines experienced a minor incident at Kuwait International Airport on Friday before takeoff, with no injuries reported.

The authority’s spokesperson **Abdullah Al-Rajhi** said in a press statement that the aircraft, carrying 284 passengers, encountered a technical malfunction in the braking system at approximately 4:24 am while being moved on the tarmac.

He confirmed that all passengers and crew members of Flight KU417 are safe and in good health, adding that the damage was limited to the aircraft’s fuselage. (KUNA)

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KUWAIT CITY: The seventh batch of two Eurofighter Typhoons has joined the Kuwaiti fleet of the super-sonic multirole jet fighters at the Salem Al-Sabah Air Base on Thursday.

The acquisition of two twin-engine aircraft is part of a strategy to enhance the defense capability of the Kuwaiti Army and preparedness of the Air Force, according to a statement from the General Staff of the Kuwait Army. (KUNA)

KNPC plans to increase gas production to meet demand

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) aims to increase the production of its gas plants in Umm Al-Aish and Shuaiba from 17 million gas cylinders in the 2024-2025 fiscal year to approximately 18.3 million cylinders by 2026-2027.

According to informed sources, KNPC seeks to meet the needs of the local market by boosting production at the gas plants, especially in light of the expanding population and the construction of new residential cities, supported by the Ministry of Interior’s facilitation of entry into Kuwait through various types of visit visas.

The company is currently preparing a series of projects to protect the environment and air quality, the most important of which is a project to reduce flaring gases during the daily operation of the clean fuels units at the Ahmadi Port refinery. KNPC is also working to complete projects for the former flaring gas recovery units at the Abdullah Port and Ahmadi Port refineries, which will reduce energy consumption at both refineries and save gas.

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Photo by Rizk Taufiq

Huge turnout at the Egyptian embassy to cast vote.

Egyptians in Kuwait go to polls

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Voting began on Friday for the Egyptian community in Kuwait as part of the first phase of the 2025 parliamentary elections, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The polling station at the Mishref

Fairgrounds witnessed a significant turnout, with community members arriving early in the morning to cast their votes and select their representatives for the new parliament.

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9 Landmark Group reports strong growth in Kuwait, accelerates expansion and digital transformation

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:45	Asr	14:36
Sunrise ..	06:06	Maghrib ..	16:57
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:16

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Rather hot and partly cloudy with light variable wind, with speeds of 06-22 km/h.

By Night: Mild to rather cold and partly cloudy with light vari-

Weather

able wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 06-30 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	29	18
Kuwait Airport	32	12
Abdaly	34	12

Jahra	33	14
Failaka Island	26	12
Salmiyah	26	21
Ahmadi	33	15
Nuwaisib	29	14
Wafra	30	12
Salmy	29	13

Other Voices

A successful partnership between public and private sectors: An effective model for achieving sustainable development

By Lawyer Abdulrahman Al-Houti

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) contracts represent a contractual framework for extensive cooperation between the public sector and the private sector whether with local private companies or a consortium of local and foreign entities under the supervision of the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP). Such partnerships encompass financing, management, profit and risk sharing, until the project concludes with the transfer of assets back to the State or the continuation of joint operation, as agreed by both parties.

The PPP model is considered one of the State's most important tools for implementing vital infrastructure projects—such as roads, housing developments, and power stations—without imposing significant burdens on the general budget. Under this model, the investor undertakes the financing and construction of the project at its own expense, operates it for a specified period to recover its costs and earn a reasonable profit margin, and subsequently transfers it to the competent public authority upon expiry of the operation period.

While the PPP framework offers considerable opportunities for local and foreign companies to participate in major national projects such as Souq Al-Mubarakiya, Al-Zour Power Station, and housing projects, it simultaneously requires a precise understanding of the legal and procedural frameworks governing such partnerships. Hence, expert legal representation in PPP projects is indispensable for any investor seeking to compete effectively in such large-scale ventures.

Drawing on our extensive legal experience with the PPP system and the cases we have handled under this contractual framework, we

affirm that a successful partnership under a PPP contract begins with a balanced agreement that safeguards the interests of both parties and ensures equitable risk allocation. It transforms the role of private sector companies in public sector contracts from that of a mere contractor to that of a strategic partner in achieving the State's developmental objectives and strategic plans.



Al-Houti

From a legal perspective, Law No. 116 of 2014 regarding Public-Private Partnerships is based on clear principles concerning the obligations of both parties in relation to financing, execution, operation, and maintenance, while establishing binding timelines for each stage.

The law also provides flexibility to amend certain contractual terms in response to changing economic or legal circumstances.

Among the key legal points for the private sector are those related to investment guarantees and protections. It is essential that each PPP contract includes an explicit clause providing for compensation in the event of early termination or contractual breach by either party, as well as mechanisms to ensure fair competition through public bidding processes.

We further recommend clearly defining dispute resolution mechanisms—such as arbitration or amicable settlement—where mutually agreed, while maintaining the judiciary as the ultimate forum in the absence of an arbitration clause.

There have been numerous notable judicial decisions in this field, in-

cluding cases in which we secured judgments in favor of investors.

Such rulings have been pivotal in clarifying the interpretation of the law and have contributed to establishing legal principles and judicial precedents that investors may rely upon to safeguard their rights in projects offered through the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects.

While the investor's rights under the PPP contract must be clearly protected, the public sector—representing the State—must likewise preserve its rights through an agreement that achieves financial balance between the investor's fair return and the cost of the service borne by the State and its citizens.

It should also be noted that Kuwaiti law has established a rigorous framework for governance and transparency across all stages of the PPP process, including strict obligations relating to financing, guarantees, and risk distribution. In this context, an investor's readiness extends beyond financial capability and technical capacity; it also encompasses the ability to comprehend the legal landscape in depth, to ensure proper protection of corporate interests throughout the duration of the partnership and its long-term relationship with the government, in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations applicable to project execution.

Specialized legal representation plays a vital role in supervising the contractual and legal aspects of project implementation—ensuring accurate risk assessment, adequate legal safeguards, and effective preventive mechanisms to avoid disputes and mitigate risks. Its function extends beyond dispute resolution, enabling companies to establish a stable and legally sound relationship with public entities—forming the foundation for any successful and sustainable partnership.

Kuwait calls for global action to protect children in conflict

Mansouri urges lasting support beyond immediate aid

NEW YORK, Nov 8, (KUNA): Kuwait stressed that addressing the plight of children affected by armed conflicts must go beyond immediate relief efforts to encompass a comprehensive and sustainable commitment to empowerment and protection.

It warned that the suffering of children in conflict zones has surpassed the limits of a humanitarian crisis and now poses a direct threat to the social fabric and future of affected communities.

This came in a statement delivered by Kuwaiti Diplomatic Attache Mariam Mansouri, before the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, which deals with social, humanitarian, and cultural issues, under the agenda item "Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child."

Mansouri said that the world is marred by conflicts and crises that strip children of their



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Diplomatic Attache Mariam Mansouri, delivering a statement before the third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

right to a dignified life, adding that children in Gaza witness the most horrific scenes of violence daily, and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, and Sudan, children face killing, forced recruitment, deprivation of education, and displacement.

She emphasized that this grim reality places a pressing moral and humanitarian responsibility upon the international community.

She highlighted Kuwait's longstanding humanitarian role in defending the rights of children in crisis areas through its consistent and principled humanitarian approach, and noted that Kuwait has become one of the largest donors to programs aimed at rehabilitating the lives of children in conflict zones, including initiatives supporting the education of more than two million children in such areas, as well as contributions to their health and psychological care in countries like Syria and Yemen, in close cooperation with relevant UN agencies.

Mansouri also expressed Kuwait's appreciation for the dedicated efforts of special rapporteurs and experts who continue to shed light on the harsh realities and grave challenges depriving children of their safety and innocence.

She concluded Kuwait's statement by reaffirming the country's steadfast commitment to continue working with the international community to strengthen the legal framework for protecting children in armed conflicts, calling for the adoption of a comprehensive strategy that ensures every child, wherever they may be, enjoys their right to a dignified life, education, care, and safety.



Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah (second from right) meets with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan (third from right) and accompanying officials to discuss enhanced cooperation and investment opportunities between Kuwait and Kerala.

Kuwait Deputy PM receives Kerala Chief Minister

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah received Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of the Indian state of Kerala at the Al Bayan Palace in Kuwait. The meeting focused on enhancing cooperation between Kuwait and Kerala across key sectors. Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem, Minister of Finance and Chairman of Kuwait Investment Authority was also present during the meeting.

Both sides highlighted the long-standing historical relations between India and Kuwait. Sheikh Fahad praised the invaluable contribution of the Indian community particularly from Kerala to Kuwait's development and reaffirmed the government's continued support for the expatriate population. Kerala Chief Minister Vijayan expressed his gratitude for Kuwait's closeness towards Kerala community and presented Kerala as

an investment friendly destination highlighting various opportunities in infrastructure, tourism, technology etc.

Kerala Chief Secretary Dr. Jayathilak IAS, Lulu Group Chairman Yusuf Ali MA and officials from the Indian embassy accompanied the Chief Minister during the meeting.

Later in the day, Chief Minister also met Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director Board Member of Kuwait Investment Authority and Director-General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA). Sheikh Meshaal announced that a high level Kuwait delegation will visit Kerala soon to explore investment possibilities. The Chief Minister also held a meeting with Khalifa Abdullah Dahi Al-Ajil Al-Askar, Minister of Trade and Industry and highlighted Kerala's industrial potential and investor friendly policies.

Kuwait envoy in Indonesia hands credentials to President Subianto

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Ambassador Khaled Al-Yaseen handed his credentials to Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta on Saturday.

During the meeting, Al-Yaseen conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's greetings and wishes for perpetual progress and prosperity for Indonesia, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Kuwait said in a press release, a copy of which was obtained by KUNA. He underlined the significance of

special relations between the State of Kuwait and Indonesia, pointing out both sides' willingness to promote bilateral cooperation in various fields to new horizons.

He added that the State of Kuwait is interested in developing relations with Indonesia to serve both friendly countries' interests by raising trade exchange, spurring investments and promoting cooperation in vital fields covering energy, clean energy, advanced technology and food security.



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti Ambassador Khaled Al-Yaseen with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta.



Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah with his physician, Dr. Adam Raphael.

Editor-in-Chief values outpouring of love

Al-Jarallah expresses profound gratitude after successful surgery

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: By the grace of Allah, the second surgery performed on Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah at a French hospital was successful. He is currently recovering under the close monitoring and direct supervision of his physician, Dr. Adam Raphael.

Al-Jarallah expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone who inquired about his well-being, visited him and offered their congratulations, both from within Kuwait and abroad. He valued the outpouring of love and loyalty that filled his heart, and affirmed that their sincere prayers were a great support for him throughout his treatment.

He extended special thanks to the medical team that oversaw his case, especially Dr. Adam Raphael, in recognition of their dedicated efforts and continuous care. He also expressed his deep appreciation to Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to France Abdullah Al-Shaheen and Head of the Health Office Abdullah Al-Mousawi for their kind attention and follow up since the beginning of his treatment. He thanked Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait for his kind visit and brotherly gesture.

Kuwait-Jordan talks enhance tourism, cultural partnership

RIYADH, Nov 8, (KUNA): The visiting Kuwait Minister of Information, Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Almutairi has held talks with Jordanian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Imad Al-Hijazin on means of enhancing tourism cooperation.

The two ministers held the discussions on sidelines of the 26th session of the UN Tourism Assembly, currently held in the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

They affirmed during the session significance of boosting cooperation in the sectors of tourism and culture, examining blueprints for promoting the coordination in these two fields.

Moreover, the Kuwaiti and Jordanian ministers praised the deep-rooted relations bonding the two brotherly countries in diverse spheres and expressed desire to hold further talks of such level in the future to expand the cooperation on a wide scale.



KUNA photo
A special meeting was held between the Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, and the Jordanian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Imad Al-Hijazeen.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Silence in the face of wrong is crime ... covering up corruption is betrayal

“THIRTY-FIVE years have passed, governments have changed, parliaments have come and gone, and slogans have shifted, yet financial and administrative corruption remains deeply entrenched,” Kuwaiti writer **Emad Khamis Al-Aqab** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This is not a temporary phase but an era marked by silence, complicity, and a lack of genuine will for reform. Public funds have been plundered, competent individuals sidelined, and accountability has become a seasonal slogan, raised during crises and forgotten soon after. According to Article 98 of the Constitution, the government is obligated to present its work program and monitor its implementation. Yet, successive government programs have remained mere words on paper, lacking clear indicators and accountability, with accountability often replaced by a policy of compromise.

“Senior officials have been reshuffled despite their failures, and loyalty has become more important than competence, turning positions into a means of securing privileges rather than fulfilling national responsibilities. When the incompetent are rewarded and the capable are persecuted, it is no surprise that corruption takes root. The State Audit Bureau (SAB) was established under Article 151 of the Constitution to oversee public funds, yet its role has been reduced to producing annual reports without follow-up or accountability.

“As for the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), it appears incapable of making a tangible impact, as if it were created to appease the public rather than protect public funds. Oversight has lost its prestige, prioritizing caution over exposing corruption itself. Oversight that fears speaking the truth becomes complicit in forgery. Articles 99 and 100 of the Constitution grant members of the National Assembly the authority to question and interrogate the government. Yet, these powers have often been turned into tools for political pressure and bargaining, rather than tools of reform and accountability.

“Instead of serving as the guardian of the Constitution, the National Assembly has become part of the problem, as personal conflicts and electoral maneuvering overshadow the spirit of national service. A parliament that fears confrontation cannot protect the Constitution. We have heard much rhetoric from political factions but seen little action. Some of these factions remained silent while in power, some opposed it only after losing influence, and others turned to populism as a path to electoral gain. The unifying national project has collapsed, organized political awareness has disappeared, and the scene is now driven by reactions rather than vision. When everyone remains silent... corruption speaks.

“What has unfolded over the past 35 years is accumulated corruption enabled by institutional complicity. Governments are weak in decision-making, oversight is powerless, and the National Assembly is consumed by petty disputes. Remaining silent in the face of wrongdoing is a crime, and covering up for the

corrupt is a betrayal of the Constitution. Reform will not come from reshuffling faces but from rebuilding oversight and political systems on the foundations of competence and accountability. A nation is not built on favoritism but on truth, conscience, and the courage to confront oneself before confronting others.”

Also:

“I received an invitation from the Kuwait Farmers’ Union to attend a meeting after they raised concerns about a decision to shut down desalination plants on farms, despite the absence of an alternative or permanent source of irrigation water in Abdali and Wafra farms,” farmer in the Wafra Agricultural Area **Abdullah Al-Kandari** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Looking back 35 years, when the desalination plants began operating in Wafra and Abdali farms, both areas experienced significant development. These plants contributed to nearly doubling the cultivated land. Anyone who studies the maps of Kuwait can see how much cultivated land has expanded thanks to the desalination plants. This fact counters claims of a negative environmental impact from the highly saline water produced by the plants. The saline water is reused to cultivate salt-tolerant trees such as willow, bluebell, and papyrus, as well as to create fish ponds for raising salt-tolerant species like tilapia.

“The environmental impact of highly saline water can be mitigated through simple measures, such as digging water-filled trenches up to one meter deep, lining them with impermeable plastic, and using the water to irrigate farm hedges like tamarisk, jujube, willow, and even date palms. It can also be used for cooling purposes by using palm fronds instead of cardboard cooling pads in greenhouses. The remaining salt in the water can be repurposed as animal feed. If farmers’ vision of agricultural drainage canals leading to the sea were realized, it would eliminate any harm to the agricultural environment.

“One of the problems with prohibiting desalination plants on farms is the huge demand for water pumps, which requires transporting water via tankers. This places a huge strain on roads and increases pollution from truck exhaust. For example, a farmer in Al-Abdali brings five water tankers to his farm daily, each with a capacity of twelve thousand gallons, in addition to the reduced amount of treated water supplied by the Al-Abdali treated water team. The farm owner has had to repeat this process multiple times. Each time, the supplied water was reduced until the treated water was nearly nonexistent, forcing him to rely even more on tanker deliveries. This situation threatens to halt his farm’s production this summer due to rising costs and declining sales of his vegetables.”

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“In a historic moment that reflects the deep bonds between nations and stands as a pinnacle of Kuwaiti diplomatic achievement, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has been awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan,” Kuwaiti journalist **Hamed Al-Hameli** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This honor is far more than a ceremonial distinction... It is a living testament

to His Highness’s distinguished career and a clear acknowledgment of Kuwait’s respected position on the global diplomatic stage. We, the people of Kuwait, hold our heads high with pride and gratitude for this remarkable achievement, which adds yet another shining chapter to our nation’s illustrious record.

“The Order of the Rising Sun is one of Japan’s highest honors, conferred by direct order of the Emperor upon exceptional individuals whose efforts have strengthened peace and friendship between Japan and Kuwait, leaving an indelible mark on the history of international relations. This award bestowed upon His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is not a coincidence, but rather the result of continuous efforts and outstanding contributions to strengthening the bonds of friendship between Kuwait and Japan.

“During his tenure as Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah emerged as a true architect of Kuwaiti diplomacy. Under his leadership, Kuwaiti-Japanese relations witnessed a remarkable leap forward, reflected in strategic agreements in the energy and investment sectors. These agreements positioned Kuwait as a key partner for Japan in securing its energy needs while simultaneously opening new doors for Japanese investment in Kuwait’s development projects.

“Joint programs, including scholarships, workshops, and cultural exhibitions, enriched both nations and deepened mutual understanding. Kuwait’s steadfast support alongside Japan on global peace and security issues further reinforced mutual trust and laid the foundations for a long-term, sustainable partnership.

“These contributions were not merely fleeting policies, but rather the embodiment of a far-sighted vision firmly established by His Highness, which made Kuwait a model of friendly and effective diplomacy. Japan, with its long-standing history of honoring excellence, recognized in His Highness a leader truly worthy of the highest esteem. The awarding of this medal to His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is a source of pride for every Kuwaiti, symbolizing the value of wise leadership that sows goodness and reaps respect.

“With his humility and sincerity, His Highness never sought recognition, but devoted himself to serving his nation and elevating its stature among the nations of the world. Today, this grand distinction stands as a testament to Kuwait’s ability, through its devoted sons, to build bridges of friendship with the greatest nations.

“We extend our heartfelt congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and raise our hands in prayer for His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (May God protect him), and for His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. We ask God to bless Kuwait with continued glory and prosperity. This medal is not an end, but rather the beginning of new chapters in Kuwaiti-Japanese cooperation under a wise leadership that takes pride in the accomplishments of its people. With you, Your Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad, the medals themselves are honored and elevated.”

— Compiled by Simi K.Kutty



KFF photo

The trainees battling a fire in full gear.

More than 50 KFF officers end course to up fire-fighting skills

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) concluded its Building Fire-fighting Course for non-commissioned officers on Thursday, in the presence of acting Deputy Chief for Civil Protection at KFF Brigadier General Omar Abdulaziz Hamad, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press release, KFF explained that the Human Resources Development Department organized the course, which included theoretical lectures and practical field exercises. The program aimed to enhance firefighters’ skills in ventilation, search and rescue, basement operations, and decision-making during fire

incidents. More than 50 firefighters participated over the month-long course. The course incorporated the latest firefighting techniques and specialized equipment for rescue and firefighting operations, boosting the participants’ practical and field capabilities.

At the end of the training, Brigadier General Omar Hamad thanked the participants for their efforts and dedication, emphasizing the importance of ongoing training programs to support professional development, improve firefighter efficiency, and strengthen the force’s readiness to protect lives and property.

8 lawyers get the sack

Asian arrested with various drugs

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Jahra patrol officers arrested an Asian man for the possession of crystal meth, chemical drugs and cigarettes that are ready for use. According to a security source, Jahra security personnel were patrolling the area when they noticed the suspicious behavior of an Asian man who appeared to be under the influence of drugs.

Upon investigation, the officers found several bags containing crystal meth, chemical drugs and cigarettes in the possession of the suspect.

The suspect and the seized items were referred to the concerned authorities.

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8 lawyers lose job: The Board of Directors of the Kuwait Society for Lawyers, in its latest meeting, decided to revoke the membership of eight lawyers for failing to meet one of the registration requirements outlined in the law regulating the legal profession, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The board also approved referring several complaints to the Disciplinary Committee after confirming that some lawyers had committed serious professional violations.

The board emphasized that the society will not tolerate any conduct that undermines the honor of the profession or breaches its ethical standards.

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Shell found in desert: Patrol officers re-

sponded to a report from a passerby who discovered a shell in Al-Layyah desert, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A security source told the daily that the concerned authorities received information regarding a shell believed to be a remnant from the invasion. Patrol officers immediately proceeded to the site and cordoned off the area until the competent authorities arrived to handle the situation and remove the shell.

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Asian attempts suicide: An Asian man attempted suicide by cutting his wrists, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A security source informed the daily that the colleagues of the man reported the suicide attempt to the Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry. Securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location, where first aid was administered, before the man was taken to the hospital.

The man is under tight security and will be questioned about the reasons that prompted him to try to end his own life once his condition stabilizes.

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One hurt in fire: A fire broke out in a residential building in Salmiya on Thursday afternoon, resulting in one casualty, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily. The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) stated in a press release that firefighters from Al-Bida’a and Salmiya fire stations rushed to the scene after receiving reports of the fire. They evacuated the building and extinguished the blaze before it could spread further. The casualty was handed over to paramedics for treatment.

Cyber crime sleuths nab 5 suspect for promoting ‘gambling’ via Net

Iraqi woman not guilty of smuggling drugs

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Cybercrime Department arrested an individual for promoting and participating in illegal online gambling activities through Snapchat, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the arrest followed close monitoring of suspicious activity on a Snapchat account. The account owner was using it to promote gambling websites and collect money from followers outside Kuwait, in violation of Kuwaiti law.

The suspect was exploiting the application to create the illusion of generating fictitious financial

gains in exchange for money transfers via banking applications, and then blocking his followers after receiving the funds.

Further investigation revealed that the suspect had visited gambling establishments and recorded some of his alleged winnings to deceive victims with promises of quick profits and to promote online gambling activities.

Thorough investigations and security coordination enabled authorities to identify the suspect through information from his account.

The suspect confessed to the charges and was referred to the Public Prosecution for Media, Information, and Publishing Affairs for legal proceedings.

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Woman not guilty: The Drug Control General

Department (DCGD) officers, under the supervision of DCGD Director General Brigadier General Mohammad Qabazard and his assistant, Brigadier General Sheikh Hamad Al-Sabah, succeeded in clearing an Iraqi woman’s name after uncovering a scheme orchestrated by her Lebanese ex-husband, who was deported earlier, to implicate her in a drug smuggling and possession case, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Case files indicate that when the woman arrived at Abdally border, customs officers got suspicious of her vehicle as the scanners detected the presence of suspicious items. With the use of sniffer dogs, they discovered that the spare tyre contained contraband. A thorough inspection ensued, leading to the discovery of 8,000 Lyrica pills. The woman was referred to DCGD.

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Real estate exhibitions in Kuwait poised for positive turning point

Revival may spark demand, renew investor interest

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Amidst the conflicting discussions circulating in the real estate sector regarding the anticipated return of real estate exhibitions to Kuwait next year after a hiatus of several years, the focus now is on the local market’s readiness to host this type of event.

Real estate exhibitions are considered among the most important tools for promoting real estate and attracting investments, both domestic and foreign.

Two real estate experts confirmed

to the newspaper that this return could be a positive turning point, revitalizing the real estate market and giving individual investors the chance to directly explore opportunities and projects in a well-regulated and competitive environment. They agreed that the successful return of real estate exhibitions in Kuwait hinges on clear regulations and effective oversight, which ensure the credibility of the information presented and protect investors from manipulation, violations or illegal practices.

They stressed the need for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in cooperation with other concerned authorities, to conduct field visits to real estate projects on offer, especially those originating from outside Kuwait. This should be done by communicating with Kuwaiti embassies abroad to verify the legality of the

projects, their developers, and their compliance with local legislation.

Real estate expert Qais Al-Ghanim affirmed that the return of real estate exhibitions to Kuwait is a positive step in principle, given its impact on stimulating buying and selling activities in the local market and opening new horizons for individual investors to explore real estate opportunities both domestically and internationally.

He explained to the newspaper that exhibitions allow investors to view and compare diverse projects in one place, raising their investment awareness and enabling them to make informed decisions based on realistic data, free from misleading marketing campaigns. He emphasized that the success of these exhibitions extends beyond mere promotion, as it also requires sound regulatory and legal

decisions from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Real estate expert and appraiser Abdulmohsen Al-Zamel believes that the return of real estate exhibitions is a positive step, signaling the beginning of market recovery and a gradual restoration of confidence after a period of slowdown. He pointed out that the Kuwaiti market is more mature now and better able to adapt to changes in investment patterns and demand.

He told the newspaper that exhibitions are not just a marketing tool, but rather a comprehensive economic platform for stimulating the market and boosting demand. He said major events like Cityscape send a message of confidence, locally and internationally, that Kuwait is a safe and attractive investment environment.



KUNA photos
The society’s president, Mohammad Thallab and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Mabarah, Ibrahim Al-Baghli open the exhibition.

Kuwait Caricature Society hosts Al-Baghli Award artwork exhibit

KUWAIT CTY, Nov 8, (KUNA): Kuwait Caricature Society on Thursday organized a gallery in collaboration with Ibrahim Al-Baghli Faithful Son Charity displaying works depicting human values as part of Al-Baghli award competition.

The society’s president, Mohammad Thallab, said in remarks to KUNA that up to 80 works and

paintings were displayed. Simultaneously, the society held a portrait exhibition about “mama Anissa,” renowned for children educational and entertainment programs, shedding light on her personality and her role in children upbringing.

There are 36 pieces by Kuwaiti artists among the displayed paintings.

Kuwait witnesses November ‘Beaver Moon’ supermoon

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Kuwait’s sky witnessed a remarkable astronomical event on Thursday evening with the appearance of the November moon, known as the “Beaver Moon,” the largest and closest supermoon of the year. The moon reached its full phase on Thursday as it made its closest approach to Earth, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Beaver Moon appeared exceptionally large, about eight percent bigger than usual, creating a breathtaking natural spectacle.

The full “Beaver Moon” was also visible in other countries on Wednesday evening. Its name comes from the traditions of ancient North American peoples, who observed it at this time of year when beavers begin building dams and storing food for winter. This is the second of three consecutive supermoons in 2025, each occurring at the moon’s closest point to Earth.

A stunning image captured in Queensland, Australia, shows the golden moonlight reflecting on the water, creating a mesmerizing scene.



KUNA photo
The super Beaver Moon graces Kuwait’s skies in a remarkable astronomical event.

Keep youth efforts clear of political tension

ACD chief commends role of sports in bringing nations closer to each other

MOSCOW, Nov 8, (KUNA): Secretary-General of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Nasser Al-Mutairi said Friday that sports serve as a bridge of rapprochement and confidence building among different nations.

Sports boost the spirit of unity, cooperation and understanding among people with different cultures away from political backgrounds, he said in a speech to the plenary session of the 13th International Sports Forum.

The Forum, themed “Russia - a Country of Sports,” was hosted in Samara city, southwestern Russia, on November 5-7.

Al-Mutairi noted that the first meeting of the ACD ministers of sports, held on November 5 on the fringes of the Forum, gave a strong momentum to sports cooperation among the ACD member countries.

The ministerial meeting built on the ini-

tiative of “sports diplomacy,” launched by the third ACD summit in Doha, capital of Qatar, in October 2024.

It reflects the desire shared by the ACD members to utilize sports as a means of enhancing understanding and friendship across the Asian continent, he added.

Al-Mutairi underscored, in statements to KUNA, the need of keeping sports away from any political polarizations in order to help promote the humanitarian values and empower the youth to work for peace and coexistence.

The 13th International Sports Forum gathered large number of sports ministers and experts from around the globe to discuss the future of international sports cooperation and the role of the sports diplomacy in achieving the goals of sustainable development, he went on.

During the three-day event, Al-Mutairi had separate meetings with the ministers of sports of Russia and Kazakhstan, and deputy minister of sports of Iran on how to benefit from the successful experiments in the modernization of the sports sector.

Russian President Vladimir Putin delivered a speech to the opening meeting of the Forum on Wednesday.



Al-Mutairi



KUNA photo
TEC opens the fourth season of Winter Wonderland Kuwait with a new look.

4th Winter Wonderland season returns with record attractions

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Acting Marketing Director at the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) Abdullah Khaled Al-Rifai said the opening of the fourth Winter Wonderland is a valuable addition to the tourism and entertainment sector in the country.

Al-Rifai announced that the facility features numerous additions and surprises for visitors, indicating he expects it to attract more than 800,000 visitors this season.

He expressed his happiness over the opening of the fourth season of Winter Wonderland, located on the Arabian Gulf, spanning 129,000 square meters. He said the facility includes 70 rides for both children and adults, in addition to five new rides.

Regarding the new attractions, he disclosed that the most prominent new ride is the ‘Hollenblitz’, considered the world’s largest indoor roller coaster. ‘Round the World’, the tallest ride in Kuwait at 60 meters, ‘Slingshot’, ‘Flya’ and ‘Word Boost’, in addition to a concert theater.

On ticket prices, he said the price has been reduced to KD2 and tickets can be

purchased through the TEC app, indicating the Winter Wonderland season runs from Nov 6, 2025 until the end of April 2026.

He also announced the opening of the ‘Key Land’ and ‘June’ projects on Nov 16.

He emphasized that the ‘Visit Kuwait’ app, in cooperation with the Ministry of Information, is a major supporter of tourism projects in Kuwait, as it aims to attract visitors from outside Kuwait.

He said the public sector and government agencies are working hard to realize Kuwait Vision 2035, explaining that the opening of such projects with the cooperation and participation of the private sector will boost the Kuwaiti economy and enhance its position on the tourism map once again.

He added that TEC granted numerous investment opportunities to the private sector and young entrepreneurs during the fourth season of Winter Wonderland, indicating there are 40 investment opportunities like restaurants, cafés and retail outlets, as well as 266 job opportunities for Kuwaiti youths through the LOYAC Association. He stressed that this highlights the role of TEC in employment, social responsibility and experience development.

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Cutting-edge degrees added

MoHE greenlights new academic programs for UK, US institutions

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal issued two ministerial decrees approving the addition of several new academic programs and degrees to the lists of higher education institutions recommended by the National Commission for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education in the United Kingdom and the United States, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Dr. Al-Jalal

The first decree added the Fire Safety Engineering program at the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom for both undergraduate and graduate studies, provided the program is offered through traditional attendance and the study period does not exceed the specified duration for awarding the degree.

The second decree added several academic programs, including Kinesiology for master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Public Health (maternal, child, and adolescent health) at the University of California, Berkeley (part of Merit University), and Communication for bachelor's and doctoral degrees at the University of Pennsylvania (part of Merit University). The decree also included master's programs in Robotics at Northwestern University, Artificial Intelligence Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, and Robotics & Autonomous Systems at Boston University, as well as master's and doctoral programs in Behavioral Nutrition at Columbia University in New York, all part of Merit University. The decision requires full-time, in-person attendance at the universities' campuses outside Kuwait after fulfilling all academic accreditation requirements. The decrees are effective from the date of issuance and will be published in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-youm".

Kuwait Int'l Airport secures vital backup power supply

Rolls-Royce to supply seven 20-cylinder generators

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Rolls-Royce announced the supply of seven generators to the new Terminal Two at Kuwait International Airport to provide backup power for the terminal in order to ensure the stable operation of vital airport infrastructure.

According to Gulf Business magazine, Rolls-Royce is

scheduled to deliver the 20-cylinder generators from the 4000 and DS 3600 series for operation in the new Terminal Two. These generators will ensure continuous power supply to the catering facilities, central power infrastructure and other vital operations at the airport. Meanwhile, the 2024 annual report issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA) revealed that it achieved savings for member states estimated at \$540.51 million. The newspaper obtained a copy of the report, indicating that the savings are primarily from reduced investments in power plant construction, lower operating costs

and operational reserves, prevention of scheduled power cuts during emergencies, and trading energy on an economic basis. It affirmed that these savings were reviewed by the Advisory and Governance Committee and approved by the Board of Directors during its 132nd meeting in 2025. It stated that the total savings increased by \$249.27 million, compared to \$291.24 million in 2023. It added that the value of these savings reflects a remarkable increase in efficiency and economic benefits from regional energy cooperation. It shows savings in various categories that contribute to reducing costs for member states through shared installed capacity or op-

erational reserves, savings or gains from electricity exchange and trading, preventing outages and scheduled power cuts, reducing carbon emissions or lowering costs by establishing a fiber optic network. It confirmed that the exchange and trade of electrical energy between countries witnessed remarkable growth during the period mentioned, as official data showed an increase in the amount of energy exchanged and financial returns, reflecting improved infrastructure and increased regional cooperation. It stated that the total amount of energy exchanged during the year reached 1,795,960 megawatt-hours, a significant increase over the average energy exchanged from nine years ago until 2024.

35-year investment set to generate KD20m revenue

PAHW signs KD8.91 mln contract for private school in Jaber Al-Ahmad City

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) signed a partnership agreement for an investment opportunity (J6-F) to develop a private school in Jaber Al-Ahmad Residential City. Present at the signing ceremony were acting Director General of PAHW Rashid Al-Enezi, several other

officials at the Authority and representatives of the winning company. Speaking on the sidelines of the signing ceremony, acting Deputy Director General for Investment and Private Sector Projects Ahmed Al-Ansari confirmed that this project is in line with the efforts of PAHW to provide high-quality educational services in new residential cities by activating the role of the private sector in implementing development projects that strength-

en the service infrastructure. He revealed that the project will be implemented in an area measuring 9,297 square meters at a cost of KD8.91 million, indicating that the expected operating cost during the investment period is around KD200 million. He expects the project to generate more than KD20 million revenues for PAHW over the 35-year investment period.



KUNA photo

The Second World Summit for Social Development concludes in Doha.

Second World Summit for Social Development concludes in Doha

DOHA, Nov 8, (KUNA): The Second World Summit for Social Development, hosted by Qatar on November 4-6, concluded on Thursday, with a wide international praise of its outcomes and results. In a closing ceremony, the summit welcomed again the Doha Political Declaration, which was approved by the conference and stressed agreement on eradicating poverty, provid-

ing proper job opportunities to all and achieving social integration as main elements for sustainable development. Delivering a closing speech, President of the UN General Assembly's 80th session Annalena Baerbock said the Doha Summit is a new beginning for advancing social development globally and achieving numerous goals related to improving education,

healthcare services, communications, and other vital aspects that serve communities. She explained that the summit represented a turning point, as it moved from the stage of diagnosing problems to taking practical measures to solve them, thanks to multilateral efforts by governmental and UN organizations, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Municipal Council to hold 9th session

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Municipal Council, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri, will hold its ninth session for the fourth term on Monday to discuss the following: Request of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to cancel a site designated for a mosque and parking area in the Diplomatic Quarter. Request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to allocate the same site for the installation of a flagpole.

Al-Ahmad Street, Request of the Projects Sector at Kuwait Municipality to amend the building ratios and commercial uses within the project, Reasons behind the Kuwait Municipality's delay in handing over alternative sites to the Ministry of Education for relocating schools from private residential areas, Request of the Public Institu-

tion for Social Security (PIFSS) to allocate part of the parking area to serve its headquarters in Mubarak Al-Abdullah, Request of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to cancel a site designated for a mosque and parking area in the Diplomatic Quarter, Request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to allocate the same site for the installation of a flagpole.

Continued from Page 1

O Government

Combined with government spending, this will boost commercial, construction and service sector activities. Indeed, regulation is necessary, but it should be implemented gradually, not gradually, as it happened recently, which negatively impacted commercial, industrial and even agricultural activities. Prosperity begins with ensuring the foundations of stability, particularly by encouraging people to spend and creating incentives that allow investors and citizens to operate freely and without obstacles. The basis of this is the exchange of benefits between the State and its citizens, which contributes to expanding the investment base, leading to sustainable and inclusive economic growth, implementation of new projects, increased job opportunities, and ultimately, greater consumer spending. This also benefits the State, which collects taxes and fees, thus, contributing to further prosperity.

‘Nowhere to

He reiterated that the Interior Ministry is working hard to curb the spread of drugs. He said the new decree-law stipulates deterrent measures for drug traffickers and users, hoping that the law will be effective, and that everyone will understand that it is applicable to all violators. He disclosed that after the publication of the law in the official gazette, awareness programs about the new law will be launched. He implored Allah Almighty to protect the society from drugs, affirming that Kuwait and other Gulf countries in general are envied for the blessings they enjoy. He called for full support for the implementation the law, considering that protecting society from the most dangerous phenomenon targeting the youths is a shared responsibility. He added the law will deter drug dealers and users, as it will be applied to them firmly and fairly. He urged the Kuwait Bar Association and other concerned authorities to do their part in raising public awareness on the law. He revealed that the Public Relations and Security Media General Department at the Ministry of Interior will launch a comprehensive awareness campaign to explain the law and its implementation mechanism, along with daily alerts about its implementation, similar to what was done with the new traffic law. He warned drug users and dealers that they will face the full force of the law, which will be applied on everyone regardless of status or position. He

expects the new law to significantly reduce the number of drug users and dealers. He said the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are focusing on combating drugs, stressing these countries are coordinating their efforts to protect Gulf societies from drugs.

Egyptians in

The Egyptian National Elections Authority announced the start of voting for Egyptians abroad. New Zealand was the first polling station to open, due to the 11-hour time difference with Egypt. A total of 139 sub-polling centers in 117 countries worldwide are receiving Egyptian voters abroad on November 7 and 8, with the second phase of the elections scheduled for November 21 and 22. The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed in a statement that all necessary facilities have been provided at polling stations to ensure a smooth and convenient electoral process, accommodate the largest possible number of Egyptian expatriates, and give citizens the opportunity to participate. An operations room has been set up at the ministry's headquarters, operating around the clock in coordination with the National Elections Authority.

Japan ready

Dr. Al-Oqab added that most waste collected during cleanups consists of single-use plastics, warning that by 2050 plastic could outweigh fish in the world's oceans. Deputy Director-General for Projects Sector Affairs at Kuwait Municipality Eng. Maysa Boushehri, affirmed the Municipality's commitment to sustainability through projects aimed at protecting natural resources and enhance the quality of life. Shereefa Al-Salem of the EPA stressed that the campaign reflects national unity and community responsibility in safeguarding biodiversity and ensuring a clean, sustainable environment for future generations. Operation Turtle, launched in 2000, is organized by the Japanese Society in Kuwait in cooperation with the Kuwait Environment Protection Society. The campaign annually draws wide participation from various government agencies and civil society organizations, including Ministry of Social Affairs, Kuwait Boy Scout Association, Kuwait Metaldetecting Club, Kuwait Oil Company, and Kuwait Girl Scout Association.

KNPC plans

KNPC possesses advanced technologies that allow it to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to protect the environment. KNPC CEO Wadha Al-Khatib's commitment to environmental protection is in line with Kuwait's strategy to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, as well as the directives of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) CEO Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah regarding the commitment of its subsidiaries to environmental preservation. KPC carried out extensive maintenance operations at most of its facilities last year, particularly at the Ahmadi Port and Abdullah Port refineries. These operations aim to maintain consistent production levels in all facilities. It is worth highlighting that the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) announced three new tenders for KPC - one for mechanical maintenance of the workshop at the Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery, one for mechanical maintenance of the production unit facilities at the Ahmadi Port refinery, and one for mechanical maintenance of the clean fuels units and liquefied gas plant facilities at the Ahmadi Port refinery. CAPT stated that the deadline for submitting bids for all three tenders is November 25, with a preliminary meeting scheduled for November 11. The tenders were originally planned for issuance on October 25.

Kuwait calls

Kuwait affirmed on Friday its steadfast commitment to the principles of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), and its continued support to the International Anti-Corruption Academy as well as efforts aiming to boost integrity and build institutional capabilities on national and international levels. This was announced during Kuwait's speech delivered by Third Secretary of Kuwait Permanent Delegation in Vienna Munira Al-Tayyar during the 14th session of the assembly of states parties to the academy. Al-Tayyar noted that Kuwait has adopted an inclusive national vision to boost integrity and wise governance through carrying out a national strategy to combat corruption, supervised by the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), in cooperation with national bodies and civil society organizations. She underlined the importance of permanent financial and technical backing to the academy to help it perfectly achieve its educational and

research missions in a manner that enhances its status as a global distinguished center in this domain. Al-Tayyar stated that Kuwait is keen on bolstering international solidarity and multilateral partnerships to face corruption it all its forms. Concluding the speech, Al-Tayyar affirmed that Kuwait is ready to continue its close collaboration with the academy and countries party to achieve common goals in strengthening integrity, the rule of law and sustainable development.

‘Men-in-uniform’

with the participation of the National Guard, Kuwait Army and Kuwait Fire Force, indicating the five-kilometer marathon is considered an elite event. He said the marathon has three categories: ministry personnel, all military institutions and the three-kilometer race for civilians. He added that the number of participants reached 1,100 -- 400 military personnel and the rest are civilians. He added an exhibition was held on the sidelines of the marathon, showcasing all sectors in the ministry, indicating each sector displayed military vehicles and security equipment.

Sheikh Nasser

He further noted that the reciprocal visits between the leaderships and officials of both countries over more than six decades has greatly contributed to the strengthening and deepening of bilateral relations. The most recent of these visits was the visit of the representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, in May of this year. His Highness explained that the visit further enhanced Kuwaiti-Japanese cooperation and opened new horizons for partnership. Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad expressed confidence that the ongoing progress in political, cultural, economic, and other fields reflects the mutual commitment of both leaderships to enhance bilateral relations, expressing hope that the coming period will witness further cooperation to fulfill the aspirations of the two friendly peoples. The government of Japan has announced Monday the honoring of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, in recognition of his efforts to bolster bilateral relations.

Qortuba road partially closed

SAB's KD25.75m Northern HQ project gets go-ahead

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) has approved a contract with the Ministry of Public Works to construct its new northern building at a total cost of about KD25.75 million. This is one of several construction projects undertaken by the ministry for various government entities to provide modern buildings that meet the highest technical and engineering standards. The new building will be located in Shuwaikh, covering an area of about 10,000 square meters, and will be similar to the design of the existing building. Sources said the new building will consist of eight floors, two basements, two floors above the existing parking area adjacent to SAB, and a bridge connecting the current building to the new one. The ministry affirmed that it is com-

mitted to meeting the needs of the beneficiary entity, providing a suitable work environment for employees, and utilizing the latest construction and facilities management technologies to realize the functional objectives of the project. It is worth noting that the ministry obtained approval from the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to award the contract to the best bidder, both financially and technically, for the tender and the consultancy agreement. On the other hand, the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) announced Thursday the temporary closure of the entrance to Qortuba from the Fifth Ring Road for 24 hours, starting at midnight Friday until midnight Saturday, to complete the asphalt surface layer, in coordination with the General Traffic Department. The Authority urged road users to exercise caution and follow traffic instructions to ensure smooth traffic flow and the safety of everyone.

Kuwait Farmers Union starts allocating stalls for Al-Abdali

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Kuwait Farmers Union announced the start of allocating stalls to productive farmers wishing to market Kuwaiti produce at the union's seasonal agricultural market in Al-Abdali agricultural area, next to Al-Shuraian Mosque, reports Al-Seyassah daily. The union urged farmers who are interested in using the market stalls to submit a formal application along with the following documents - a copy of their agricultural land ownership contract, an agricultural census certificate

from the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), a copy of the agricultural land ownership signature authorization, a copy of the landowner's civil ID, and copies of the civil IDs of any workers involved in sales at the market, provided the workers are sponsored by the same landowner. Applications will be accepted from November 4 to 11 during official working hours at the union's administration office in Rabia from 8:00am to 3:00pm, Sunday through Thursday.

Al-Ahmadi to host entrepreneurs forum

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8, (KUNA): Al-Ahmadi Governor and president of the Green Urban Development Initiatives Committee (GUDI) Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah announced holding an entrepreneurs forum on Sunday, with the attendance of ministers and over 100 entrepreneurs for protecting Kuwait's environment. In a statement to KUNA on Saturday, Sheikh Humoud Al-Jaber said the forum will see the participation of in-

dividual entrepreneurs, as well as those from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) subsidiaries and from private and foreign companies. They are interested in granting donations and launching initiatives for creating green areas on main roads and developing public parks to achieve sustainable development and protect the environment, as well as painting bridges and walls across the country for aesthetic purposes, he noted.

Cornell University to pay \$60M in deal with White House to restore federal funding

WASHINGTON, Nov 8, (AP): Cornell University has agreed to pay \$60 million and accept the Trump administration's interpretation of civil rights laws in order to restore federal funding and end investigations into the Ivy League school.

Cornell President Michael Kotlikoff announced the agreement on Friday, saying it upholds the university's academic freedom while restoring more than \$250 million in research funding that the government withheld amid investigations into alleged civil rights violations. He said the government's funding freeze had stalled research, upended careers and threatened the future of academic programs.

The university agreed to pay \$30 million directly to the US government along with another \$30 million toward research that will support US farmers.

The agreement is the latest struck between US President Donald Trump's administration and elite colleges he has accused of tolerating antisemitism and promoting far-left ideas. Trump is still locked in a standoff with Harvard, the nation's oldest and wealthiest university, and lately has tried an incentive-based approach by offering preferential access to federal funding for other schools that sign onto his political agenda.

Kotlikoff said the agreement revives the campus' partnership with the federal government "while affirming the university's commitment to the principles of academic freedom, independence, and institutional autonomy that, from our founding, have been integral to our excellence."

The six-page agreement is similar to one signed by the University of Virginia last month. It's shorter and less prescriptive than others signed by Columbia University and Brown University.

A statement from Cornell's chapter of the American Association of



A woman walks by a Cornell University sign on the Ivy League school's campus in Ithaca, New York on Jan 14, 2022. (AP)

University Professors said the deal "omits many of the worst provisions" in agreements struck by other colleges. Still, it said Cornell's deal poses a threat to academic freedom and goes beyond what the law requires.

"One of the major concerns with these agreements generally has been, if you make a deal with somebody when they're just extorting you, well, that only encourages future extortion," said David Bateman, the chapter president, in an interview.

ICE to open national call center to find unaccompanied migrant kids

WASHINGTON, Nov 8, (AP): US Immigration and Customs Enforcement plans to open a national call center to help local and state law enforcement agencies find unaccompanied migrant children who entered the country illegally, according to a federal contracting document released this week.

ICE said it has an "immediate need" to establish an around-the-clock call center in Nashville, Tennessee, capable of handling 6,000 to 7,000 daily calls to help law enforcement with "locating unaccompanied alien children."

ICE seeks to open the call center by the end of March and be fully operational by June. It requests information on the number of interested vendors and what technology they can use to "maximize call efficiency."

ICE also issued another notice seeking information on vendors able to transport thousands of detainees daily from across Texas, where a new state law taking effect next year mandates all counties with a jail enter into ICE partnerships.

The proposed call center and transport programs come as the government pours \$170 billion into



A protester holds a sign as law enforcement officers stand outside a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Portland, Oregon on Oct 21. (AP)

immigration and border security following the passage of the Republican Party's big bill which President Donald Trump signed into law in July. There has been an explosion of partnerships with local and state law enforcement agencies to enforce immigration laws.

The Trump administration's immigration crackdown has also included several policy changes

focused on unaccompanied minors and ramped up attempts to deport them. About 2,000 unaccompanied children were in government custody as of July.

An unaccompanied migrant child is defined by the US government as someone who is under 18, lacks lawful immigration status and has no parent or guardian in the country to take custody of them.

Obama celebrates Tuesday wins

Biden urges on Nebraska Dems as underdogs in his return to Omaha political stage

OMAHA, Neb., Nov 8, (AP): Joe Biden slowly but steadily walked onto the stage in Omaha on Friday. As he did, 800 people in the downtown Hilton ballroom rose to their feet cheering.

"Did you see the results Tuesday?" he asked, igniting another round of cheers as he listed Democratic victories from governorships in New Jersey and Virginia to the mayoral seat in New York to a redistricting decision in California.

It was a joyful return to the political stage for the former president, whose party's effort to remain in the White House was rejected just over a year ago. Biden called for a political comeback, though not for himself, but to an audience hungry for a fight.

"You know what it feels like to be outnumbered," he told Democrats in Nebraska, where Republicans have carried the state in every presidential election since 1968. "But every election, you put up the yard signs and you make your voices heard. The country needs you badly."

It was the kind of pep talk that sells in a place where Democrats lose statewide but have staged winning races for the Omaha area's 2nd District electoral vote, elected a Democratic mayor for the first time since 2009 and feel energized about capturing the 2nd District seat in 2026.

Biden heaped on the encouragement, but returned repeatedly to his view of his lone term's high points, curbing COVID-19 and beginning the economic recovery from the epidemic.

He didn't touch the difficulties he had last year, nor the year of debate Democrats have engaged in over how they lost the presidency to Republican Donald Trump.

In the summer of 2024, Biden waited more than three weeks from his disastrous debate performance in June with Trump, prompting panic among Democrats, before announcing in July he would not seek another term, and then endorsing then-Vice President Kamala Harris as his successor on the ticket.

Harris had written in a book published in September that she and others in Biden's orbit should have been more aggressive in encouraging him to consider stepping aside sooner.

The closest Biden came to acknowledging the difficult decision was an oblique joke.

"I have the dubious distinction. I'm the youngest ever man elected to the US Senate and I'm the oldest president," he playfully rued.

Although Biden's delivery was quiet but upbeat, he at times garbled his words and was sometimes so quiet he was inaudible from the amplified podium. Yet he would come charging back with fiery attacks on the Trump



Former US president Joe Biden speaks during the Ben Nelson Gala on Nov 7, in Omaha, Neb. (AP)

administration and calls for action.

"What we have to do is repair our faults, and that's what we began to do on Tuesday," he shouted.

Tuesday's victories, a boon to Democrats across the country, were a timely lift for Biden.

But he also benefited from an atmosphere of respect.

Earlier in the program, he remained seated but beamed when the audience stood after Kentucky Gov. Andy Bes-

hear, also a guest at the fundraiser, hailed him "for a lifetime of service to our country."

"He was a president who governed not for red states, not for blue states but for the entire United States," said Beshear.

Throughout Biden's 30-minute remarks, the audience rose cheering.

He returned to well-worn campaign themes promoting the middle class, equality and the nation's responsibility as an example to other nations.

He called them principles "we've never walked away from." Straining to punctuate by raising his voice, he said, "We're not going to walk away from them now."

It was Biden's second public appearance in the past week, and second since completing a round of radiation therapy treatment in October for the aggressive form of prostate cancer he was diagnosed with after leaving office. He said nothing of his health, and when he mentioned cancer it was not about his own. It was about his late son Beau, who died in 2015.

It was the first purely political appearance for Biden since Labor Day 2024, when he appeared with Harris for a labor event in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a full two months before the Nov. 5, 2024, election.

Also:

WASHINGTON: Former US president Barack Obama made a surprise appearance at a progressive event in Washington, telling the crowd that American voters are rejecting the Trump agenda and offering hope that divisions within the Democratic party can be bridged.

"We had a good night on Tuesday," Obama told the crowds that erupted in loud cheers as he began speaking at a taping event for the podcast "Pod Save

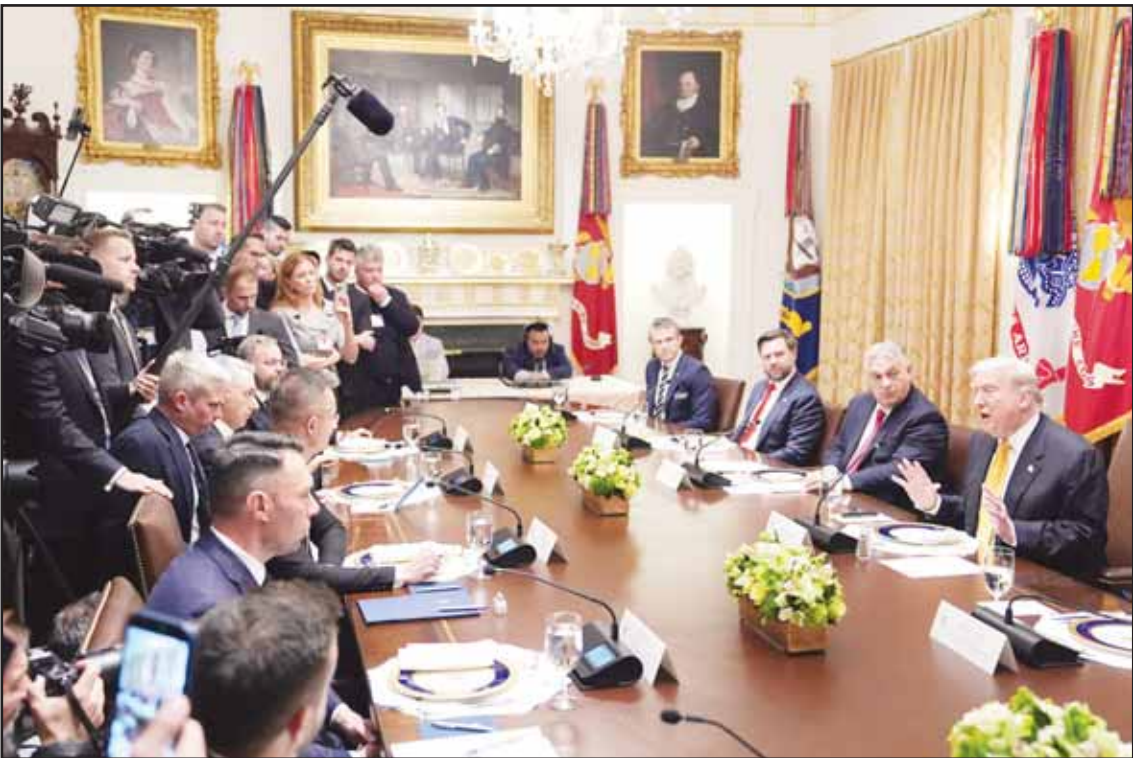
America."

"It was a good reminder that the American people are paying attention," he said. "They don't want cruelty. They are not looking for people on the top trying to entrench themselves in power."

The victories of **New York City** Mayor-elect **Zohran Mamdani**, a democratic socialist, and Democrats **Abigail Spanberger** and **Mikie Sher-rill** in **Virginia** and **New Jersey's** gubernatorial elections have spurred discussions about how a split between progressives and moderates will be addressed as the party hones its message in preparation for the 2026 midterms.

The AP Voter Poll, which surveyed more than 17,000 voters in New York City, Virginia, New Jersey and **California**, where a state proposition to redraw congressional districts succeeded, found that most voters disapproved of President **Donald Trump's** performance, and many thought his aggressive approach to immigration had "gone too far."

Obama recognized "there is a lot of work to do," but said different factions "are getting along" and "not in some cliché or phony way." Sen. **Bernie Sanders**, a democratic socialist who supported **Mamdani**, told reporters earlier this week that it was no secret that there was division among Democrats.



US President Donald Trump, (from right), speaks to reporters during a meeting with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán as Vice President JD Vance listens in the Cabinet Room of the White House on Nov 7, in Washington. (AP)

Orbán says Trump will not punish Hungary for buying Russian energy

WASHINGTON, Nov 8, (AP): Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán says his country has received an exemption from US sanctions on Russian energy after a meeting in the White House with President Donald Trump, an allowance that will keep Russian oil and gas flowing to Hungary in a sign of the close affinity between the two leaders.

Orbán, a longtime Trump ally, had come to Washington seeking to convince the president to allow Hungary to continue importing Russian oil and gas without being subject to sanctions Trump's administration has placed on Russian fossil fuels. A White House official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly, said Hungary will get an exemption for a year.

Hungary has also been under heavy pressure to end its reliance on Russian energy from the European Union, most of which has heavily cut or ceased its imports of Russian oil and gas.

The nationalist Hungarian leader has called access to Russian energy a "vital" issue for his landlocked country, and said he planned to discuss with Trump the

"consequences for the Hungarian people" if the sanctions took effect.

During a press briefing with Hungarian media following his talks with Trump, Orbán said Hungary had "been granted a complete exemption from sanctions" affecting Russian gas delivered to Hungary from the TurkStream pipeline, and oil from the Druzhba pipeline.

"We asked the president to lift the sanctions," Orbán said. "We agreed and the president decided, and he said that the sanctions will not be applied to these two pipelines."

Hungary agreed to buy US liquefied natural gas (LNG) as part of the discussions, the U.S. State Department said in a fact sheet, noting contracts were expected to be worth about \$600 million. The two nations also agreed to work together on nuclear energy, including small modular reactors.

Hungary will also purchase nuclear fuel from the US-based Westinghouse Electric Company, Orbán said. That fuel will be used to power Hungary's Paks nuclear plant, which until now has relied on Russian-supplied nuclear fuel, though

Hungarian officials earlier stressed that Budapest will continue its purchase of Russian nuclear fuel as well.

A large delegation of cabinet members, business leaders and numerous right-wing political influencers with close connections to Hungary's government accompanied Orbán to Washington. The delegation rented a 220-passenger commercial jet from Hungarian carrier Wizz Air for the journey.

Prior to Orbán's arrival on Thursday, a bipartisan group of US senators introduced a resolution calling on Hungary to end its dependence on Russian energy.

The resolution was co-signed by 10 senators including Republicans Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Chuck Grassley of Iowa, as well as Democrats Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire and Chris Coons of Delaware. It "expresses concern that Hungary has shown no sign of reducing its dependence on Russian fossil fuels," and urges Budapest to adhere to a European Union plan to cease all Russian energy imports into the bloc by the end of 2027.

Russian strikes hit apartment block and energy sites in Ukraine, killing four people

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 8, (AP): A Russian drone slammed into a tower block in eastern Ukraine early Saturday while many were sleeping, killing three and injuring 12 people, Ukrainian authorities reported.

The attack in Dnipro, Ukraine's fourth-largest city, was part of a large Russian missile and drone barrage across the country that targeted power infrastructure and also killed a worker at an energy company in Kharkiv, farther north, a local official said. In eastern Ukraine, fighting for the strategic city of Pokrovsk has reached a key stage, with both Kyiv and Moscow vying to persuade U.S. President Donald Trump that they can win on the battlefield.

A fire broke out and several apartments were destroyed in the nine-story building in Dnipro, the emergency services said. Rescuers recovered the bodies of three people and two children were among the injured.

Russia fired a total of 458 drones and 45 missiles, including 32 ballistic missiles. Ukrainian forces shot down and neutralized 406 drones and nine missiles, the air force said, adding that 25 locations were struck.

Authorities switched off power in several regions due to the attacks, Ukrainian Energy Minister Svitlana Grynchuk said in a post on Facebook.

Almost four years after its all-out invasion, Russia has been pummeling Ukraine with near-daily drone and mis-



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters evacuate a resident following a Russian rocket attack that hit a multi-storey apartment building in Dnipro, Ukraine on Nov 8. (AP)

sile strikes, killing and injuring civilians. The Kremlin claims its only targets are linked to Kyiv's war effort. Russia's Defense Ministry asserted Saturday that the nighttime strikes hit military and energy sites supplying Ukrainian forces.

Moscow and Kyiv have traded almost daily assaults on each other's energy targets as US-led diplomatic efforts to stop the nearly four-year war had no impact on the battlefield.

Ukraine's long-range drone strikes on Russian refineries aim to deprive Moscow of the oil export revenue it needs to

pursue the war. Russia wants to cripple the Ukrainian power grid and deny civilians access to heat, light and running water in what Kyiv officials say is an attempt to "weaponize winter."

Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said in a post on X that the strikes damaged "several major energy facilities" around Kharkiv and Kyiv, as well as in the central Poltava region. An energy company worker was killed in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second city, regional head Oleh Syniehubov said in a post on Telegram.

Europe

13 suspected gang members held in Spain: Spanish police arrested 13 suspected members of the Venezuelan Tren de Aragua gang, seized a stash of illegal drugs and dismantled two drug laboratories, authorities said Friday.

The arrests were made in five cities in the first operation in Spain to dismantle a suspected cell of the Venezuelan prison gang, which the US government designated a foreign terrorist organization in February, police said in a statement.

The gang has become a key reference in the Trump administration's military strikes against suspected drug vessels in the eastern Pacific and Caribbean, and in its domestic immigration crackdown.

As part of the operation, Spanish police said they dismantled two laboratories used to make tuzi - a mixture of cocaine, MDMA and ketamine. (AP)

□ □ □

Van crashes in Bulgaria, 6 migrants dead: A van carrying nine migrants who entered Bulgaria illegally crashed while being chased by police near the country's eastern Black Sea coast, killing six of the migrants, officials said Friday.



A vehicle is seen crashed out of a road after a police chase near Burgas, Bulgaria on Nov 7. (AP)

The incident occurred near the city of Burgas shortly before midnight Thursday as police tried to stop the van, which had Romanian registration plates, Border Police Chief Anton Zlatanov told reporters.

He said the driver repeatedly refused to stop at the signals given and, eventually, attempted to evade spike strips set by the police. The driver lost control and the van slipped off the road, overturned and plunged into a lake bordering the highway, killing six migrants at the scene. (AP)

Vietnamese clear debris and repair roofs on their homes

Typhoon Kalmaegi rampages across Vietnam as Philippines prepares for new storm

DAK LAK, Vietnam, Nov 8, (AP): Typhoon Kalmaegi brought fierce winds and torrential rains to Vietnam on Friday, killing at least five people, flattening homes, blowing off roofs and uprooting trees. In the Philippines, where the storm left at least 204 dead earlier in the week, survivors wept over the coffins of their loved ones and braced for another typhoon.

As the storm moved on, recovery work began in battered towns and villages in both countries. Across central Vietnamese provinces, people cleared debris and repaired roofs on their homes.

Jimmy Abatayo, who lost his wife and nine close relatives after the typhoon unleashed flooding in the central Philippine province of Cebu, was overwhelmed with sorrow and guilt as he ran his palm over his wife's casket.

"I was able to swim. I told my family to swim, you will be saved, just swim, be brave and keep swimming," said Abatayo, 53, pausing and then breaking into tears. "They did not hear what I said because I would never see them again."

In Cebu, 141 people died, mostly in floodings. Villagers on Friday gathered

to say goodbye to their dead, including at a basketball gym turned funeral parlor where relatives wept before a row of white coffins bedecked with flowers and small portraits of the deceased.

A state of national emergency declared by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr on Thursday was still effect in the Philippines, as the country braced for another potentially powerful storm, Typhoon Fung-wong, known locally as Uwan.

Marcos, who visited Cebu on Friday, said an unusually large volume of rain overwhelmed dikes and flood-control safeguards and caused rivers to rapidly overflow on Tuesday, flooding nearby residential communities, where residents scrambled to climb to the upper floors or roofs of their houses in panic.

Across the country, Kalmaegi left at least 204 people dead and 109 missing, the Philippines Office of Civil Defense said, and more than half a million people were displaced.

Nearly 450,000 were evacuated to shelters, and nearly 400,000 remained in evacuation centers or homes of relatives as of Saturday.

The weather bureau said Fung-wong



This aerial photo shows a building submerged in flooding in Dak Lak, Vietnam on Nov 7, after Typhoon Kalmaegi lashed Vietnam with fierce winds and torrential rains. (AP)

would come early next week and predicted it would span an estimated 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) before making landfall late Sunday or early Monday in northern Aurora province. It could also potentially affect the densely populated capital region of Manila.

State media said five people were killed in Vietnam - three in Dak Lak

and two in Gia Lai provinces - while three remained missing in Quang Ngai.

Fifty-two houses collapsed and nearly 2,600 others were damaged or had their roofs blown off, including more than 2,400 in Gia Lai alone. The storm also caused multiple power grid failures and knocked down hundreds of power poles, cutting electricity to

more than 1.6 million households. Authorities said Saturday that power had been restored to most areas, but about 500,000 households remained without electricity.

Factories lost their roofs and equipment was damaged because of flooding in Binh Dinh province.

In hard-hit Quy Nhon, residents woke up to find corrugated metal roofs and household items scattered along the streets. Later on Friday, families crowded into a brightly lit shopping mall - one of the few places with back-up power in the city - clutching tangled extension cords and their phones. Children rejoiced at the unexpected outing while parents lined up at every available outlet, charging their devices and anxiously calling relatives to make sure they were safe.

As the skies cleared and sunlight broke through on Friday morning, residents in Dak Lak province stepped out to assess the wreckage left behind.

Streets were littered with fallen branches and twisted sheets of metal, and muddy water still pooled in low-lying areas where the river had surged to record heights overnight. Shopkeepers dragged out waterlogged goods to

dry in the sun, while families swept mud from their doorsteps and patched together missing roof tiles.

Many areas in Vietnam reported uprooted trees, damaged power lines and flattened buildings as Kalmaegi weakened into a tropical storm and moved into Cambodia on Friday.

In Vietnam's financial capital Ho Chi Minh City, many waded through flooded streets Friday as high tides and lingering rains from Typhoon Kalmaegi swamped low-lying neighborhoods.

In Lam Dong province, officials evacuated around 100 households near an irrigation lake after discovering leaks in the dam. Local authorities told state media that the evacuation was a precaution to prevent a potential disaster.

Kalmaegi struck Vietnam as the country's central region was still reeling from floods caused by record-breaking rains. Authorities said more than 537,000 people were evacuated, many by boat, as floodwaters rose and landslides loomed. The storm was forecast to dump up to 24 inches (600 millimeters) of rain in some areas before moving into Laos and northeast Thailand later on Friday.

Multiple explosions shake mosque in Indonesian high school and injure 54

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Nov 8, (AP): Indonesian authorities said Friday they have identified a 17-year-old boy as the suspect in an attack that shook a mosque at a high school in the capital, Jakarta, injuring at least 54 people, mostly students.

Witnesses told local television stations that they heard at least two loud blasts around midday, just as the sermon had started at Friday prayers, from inside and outside the mosque at SMA 72, a state high school within a navy compound in Jakarta's northern Kelapa Gading neighborhood.

Students and others ran out in panic as gray smoke filled the mosque.

Police said they had recovered a toy submachine gun belonging to the suspect and inscribed with what appeared to be white supremacist slogans. However, they brushed away speculation that the blasts were a terror attack.

"The suspect is a 17-year-old male student" who was undergoing surgery, Deputy House Speaker Sufmi Dasco Ahmad told reporters after visiting victims at a hospital. He gave no more details.



Military personnel stand guard at the gate of a school after explosions in Jakarta, Indonesia on Nov 8. (AP)

National Police Chief Listyo Sigit said the suspect was one of two students having surgery for injuries from the blasts.

"Our personnel are currently conducting an in-depth investigation to determine the suspect's identity and the environment where he lives, including his house and others," Sigit

told a news conference at the presidential palace in Jakarta.

Sigit said investigators are still collecting information to determine a motive, including how the suspect was able to assemble a toy submachine gun with words inscribed on it including "14 words. For Agartha," and "Brenton Tarrant: Welcome to hell."

North Korean and Russian military officials discuss further cooperation in Pyongyang

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 8, (AP): Senior North Korean and Russian military officials discussed strengthening cooperation in their latest talks this week in Pyongyang, North Korean state media said Friday, as the two countries continue to align over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The report came days after South Korea's spy agency, in a closed-door briefing to lawmakers, said it had detected signs of recruitment and training activities in North Korea, possibly in preparation for additional troop deployments to Russia.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said North Korean officials, led by Pak Yong Il, vice director of the Korean People's Army's General Political Bureau, held talks Wednesday with a Russian delegation headed by Vice Defense Minister Viktor Goremykin.

KCNA said the two sides discussed expanding cooperation in line with the "deepened bilateral relations" developed under North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The report didn't mention any specific agreements. KCNA also said Goremykin's delegation separately met with North Korean Defense



In this photo provided by North Korean government, Russian Vice Defense Minister Viktor Goremykin, (second left), meets North Korean Defense Minister No Kwang Chol, second right, at an undisclosed place in North Korea on Nov 6. (AP)

Minister No Kwang Chol on Thursday.

When asked whether North Korean and Russian officials may have discussed additional North Korean troop deployments to Russia, Chang Yoon-jeong, a spokesperson for South Korea's Unification Ministry, said Seoul was closely monitoring the situation but wouldn't make assumptions.

The North Korean-Russian meetings came days after US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth traveled to South Korea for annual security talks between the allies on Tuesday and praised South Korean plans to raise its military spending in the face of threats by nuclear-armed North Korea and other regional uncertainties.



The Hellas Aphrodite is seen off the coast of Somalia in the Arabian Sea on Nov 7. (AP)

EU vessel reaches ship raided by pirates off Somalia; 24 crew safe

A European Union naval force on Friday reached a Malta-flagged tanker earlier attacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia, finding all its 24 mariners safe after an assault that raised renewed fears about piracy in the region.

The seizure of the Hellas Aphrodite, carrying a load of gasoline from India to South Africa, ended as the ESPS Victoria came along-

side the vessel.

Special forces from the Spanish frigate boarded the tanker and released the 24 crew members who had locked themselves inside the ship's citadel when the attack began Thursday, said the EU's Operation Atalanta, an anti-piracy coalition.

Operation Atalanta said "an early show of force" by the Victoria encouraged the pirates to flee the

vessel, without elaborating. The operation included a helicopter, a drone and another aircraft alongside the frigate.

"The threat assessment in the area surrounding the incident remains critical," Operation Atalanta warned. "The mother ship and the pirates remain in the area. A coordinated joint operation is ongoing to intercept the dhow used in this attack." (AP)

Technical glitch at Delhi airport resolved

NEW DELHI, Nov 8, (Xinhua): India's federal civil aviation ministry Friday night said the technical issue at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, which caused hundreds of flight delays across the country, has been resolved.

Airports Authority of India successfully addressed a technical issue in the Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS) at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, which had temporarily affected the processing of flight plan messages from Nov. 6, 2025, the ministry said in a statement.

The AMSS has now been restored to normal functionality, the ministry said.

Reports said nearly 800 flights were delayed at the Delhi airport after a major technical glitch hit its air traffic control system on Thursday evening, disrupting flight planning and causing a ripple effect across multiple airports.



Stray dogs roam in the outer compound of the Supreme Court of India, in New Delhi, India on Nov 7. (AP)

Also:

NEW DELHI: Six youths died by drowning in a river in India's eastern state of Jharkhand, confirmed the local police.

The incident occurred in the state's Dhanbad district. While the dead bodies of four youths were recovered, a search operation was underway to find the remaining two.

The youths had visited the river Damodar to take a holy dip on the occasion of the religious festival Kartik Purnima. They were swept away by a strong water current in the river, said the police.

Brazil's court panel unanimously rejects former president Jair Bolsonaro's appeal

SAO PAULO, Nov 8, (AP): The justices on Brazil's Supreme Court panel reviewing former president Jair Bolsonaro's appeal unanimously rejected his request on Friday.

Justice Alexandre de Moraes, the case's rapporteur, rejected all defense arguments, calling them "unfeasible," and said there were no omissions in the sentencing. He was later followed by Justices Flávio Dino, Cristiano Zanin and Cármen Lúcia.

The panel has until Nov. 14 to submit their votes, and the decision won't be finalized until then. Although unlikely, justices could change their votes before then.

Bolsonaro was convicted in September of attempting a coup following his 2022 electoral defeat and was sentenced to 27 years and three months in prison. He has been under house arrest since August.

His legal team filed an appeal on Oct. 28 seeking to reduce the sentence. The defense argued that Bolsonaro should not be convicted of both organizing a coup and attempting to violently abolish democracy, claiming the charges overlap and that cumulative penalties are unjust.

Bolsonaro has denied wrongdoing. He was convicted of attempting a coup after losing the 2022 race to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in a plot that prosecutors alleged included plans to kill Lula.

He was found guilty on other charges including participating in an armed criminal organization and attempted violent abolition of the democratic rule



Demonstrators rally in support of former president Jair Bolsonaro at the entrance to his residential complex, to denounce his house arrest order by the Supreme Court, in Brasilia, Brazil on Aug 5. (AP)

of law.

They also cited Justice Luiz Fux, the sole dissenting vote in the five-member panel that convicted Bolsonaro, arguing that even if Bolsonaro had attempted a coup, he "deliberately interrupted the course of events" and did not follow through.

However, Fux has since left the panel and will not participate in the review of the appeals.

De Moraes stated that there was sufficient evidence to prove Bolsonaro was aware of the coup plot that aimed to keep him in power.

"It was also demonstrated that the appellant acted freely and knowingly to spread false information about the electronic voting system and to draft a coup decree, which constituted the practice of a coup d'état and a violent attempt to abolish the rule of law," he said.

Bolsonaro will only start serving time once appeals are exhausted.

The trial made global headlines. US President Donald Trump ordered a 50% tariff on Brazilian imported goods and cited in part Bolsonaro's case, which he called a "witch hunt."

Pakistan-Afghanistan peace talks in Istanbul fail amid border tensions

ISLAMABAD, Nov 8, (AP): Peace talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Istanbul have ended without agreement, with the sides trading blame for the breakdown in negotiations aimed at easing border tensions and upholding a fragile ceasefire, officials said Saturday.

Tensions have escalated in recent weeks following deadly border fighting that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians. The violence erupted after explosions in Kabul on Oct 9, which Afghanistan's Taleban government said were drone strikes conducted by Pakistan and vowed to avenge. The clashes subsided after Qatar brokered a ceasefire on Oct 19, which remains tenuously in place.

Afghanistan's government spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, blamed Pakistan for the talks' failure, saying that "Pakistan's demands in the negotiations were unreasonable and the talks could not proceed, the meeting ended and the talks are at a standstill for now."

Speaking during a press conference from the southern Afghan city of Kandahar Saturday, Mujahid said Afghanistan "(does) not want insecurity in the region, and entering into war is not our first choice," but he noted that "if war breaks out, we have the right to defend



Smoke goes up after a shell exploded in a border area during clashes between Pakistan and Afghan forces, as seen from Pakistan side of the border near Chaman, Pakistan on Oct 15. (AP)

ourselves."

Earlier, he had reiterated in a written statement that Afghanistan "will not allow anyone to use its territory against another country, nor permit actions that undermine its sovereignty or security."

The two-day talks in Istanbul, mediated by Turkey and Qatar, were the third round of peace negotiations that were viewed as one of the most significant diplomatic efforts between the two neighbors since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan 2021.

Kuwaiti crude rises to \$65.72 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti crude oil price went up by 33 cents to reach USD 65.72 per barrel (pb) during Friday's trading, compared to USD 65.39 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Saturday.

Brent futures rose by 25 cents to USD 63.63 pb and West Texas Intermediate went up 32 cents to USD 59.75 pb.

Other Voices

Oil output at full blast despite price concerns

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

OIL production is running at full capacity. In other words, every oil-producing nation is focused on maximizing output for production and export, regardless of its impact on prices. Any increase in crude oil production inevitably puts downward pressure on prices. Currently, Brent crude is priced at \$63 per barrel. Meanwhile, many OPEC members face huge annual budget deficits, forcing them to seek loans from international banks, supported by their vast crude reserves.



Al-Harami

Today, the oil market faces the challenge of showing transparency in production and reserve capacity. Every oil producer is showcasing its output and reserves - the U.S. at 13.5 million barrels per day, Russia at 9.78 million as of June 2025, and Saudi Arabia at 13.3 million barrels per day including gas, with crude oil alone at 9.66 million barrels.

The oil-producing countries are now competing openly, showcasing and testing their production volumes, regardless of how low oil prices may fall. OPEC+ and other producers are flaunting their capacity like an open exhibition.

Oil prices do not seem to be a priority, and OPEC+ appears unconcerned, or is perhaps fed up with taking the lead in stabilizing the market, knowing it will be the last to benefit from any price recovery. As always, OPEC has to step in to take the leading role to balance oil prices. However, the group seems indifferent about the low oil prices, and how much further they will fall.

Brent crude currently stands at \$63 a barrel, yet no organization is calling for emergency meet-

ings. Instead, all are pushing more volumes into the market, testing their production capacity. It is astonishing that long-established oil organizations are seemingly unconcerned about the weakening of prices or about which producers OPEC may need to curb to restore market balance.

If OPEC+ aims to pressure U.S. producers to slow down and reduce output, it doesn't appear to be working. The U.S. continues to push for higher production, maintaining its position as the world's top oil producer at 13.5 million barrels per day, with ambitions to increase volumes further. U.S. producers are also opting for cost-cutting measures, such as reducing manpower, to maximize output and efficiency.

Meanwhile, U.S. shale producers are frustrated with current oil prices, blaming their administration for the price weakness, which threatens their operations and profit margins. Losses are mounting, and with OPEC unable, or unwilling, to intervene, shale producers must rely solely on their elected officials.

The U.S., by using oil as a strategic tool in its fight with Russia, should understand that boycotts are rarely foolproof. Russia, for instance, is countering such efforts by offering discounts of more than \$10 per barrel or utilizing its fleet as a bargaining tool. Losing top buyers like China, India, and Turkey is not an option for Russia, so it provides various incentives to secure their purchases.

No other oil producers can fully replace Russian supply, making the implementation of a boycott extremely difficult. Both Iran and Russia can always find alternative buyers at attractive prices. History shows that boycotts rarely succeed, as there are always ways to bypass them, with Iran and Russia serving as clear examples.

The result is an abundance of oil in the market, driving prices down and negatively affecting all producers alike.

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Reaffirming leadership with innovation

NBK recognized by GTR as the Best Trade Finance Bank in Kuwait for '25

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: In a further affirmation to its leadership in delivering innovative and highly efficient trade finance solutions that anticipate and meet the evolving needs of its clients, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has been recognized as the Best Trade Finance Bank in Kuwait 2025 for the fifth consecutive year, according to the annual survey published by Global Trade Review (GTR), a leading publication covering emerging markets, trade finance, commodities, and banking services.

NBK was recognized as one of the leading banks in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region for trade finance, following a survey of customers and specialized institutions that ranks the world's top financial organizations.

The magazine celebrates the achievements of the world's leading trade transactions and trade finance service providers and highlights excellence in the trade, commodity, supply chain, export finance and fintech markets.

This prestigious award underscores the Bank's strong position and leading share in the trade finance market, reflecting its involvement in key transactions across vital sectors. It highlights the Bank's exceptional customer service and value proposition, supported by its regional and international reach, as well as its experienced and dedicated team, committed to delivering the highest level of service.

NBK's strength in consolidating its leadership in financing major deals and projects is reflected in its robust balance sheet, extensive track record, and enduring, high-value relationships with clients both locally and globally.

The Bank continues to seize opportunities in local and regional markets, drawing on its longstanding role in leading mega-deal alliances and financing major strategic projects across multiple sectors, thereby consolidating its position as the premier partner for prominent local and regional corporations in driving their expansion plans



NBK headquarters

GTR is a leading international magazine in trade finance, specializing in publishing reports and analysis on trade and export finance, commodities, supply chains, as well as trade credit, treasury, and fintech. Each year, the magazine honors leading institutions worldwide through the GTR Leaders in Trade Awards and GTR Best Deals Awards, highlighting the top-performing organizations globally.

Najla Aleisa highlights role of local talent in marketing innovation

Gulf Bank reinforces commitment to local talent, storytelling, and wellness at the Kilmitain Forum



A group photo of the participants and media personnel; Najla Aleisa appears in the photo on the right.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: As part of its ongoing mission to empower youth, celebrate creativity, and promote wellness across the community, Gulf Bank proudly sponsored the Kilmitain Forum, held from November 6 to 8 at Al Andalus Complex. The event gathered Kuwait's leading marketing, communications, and creative professionals to discuss the future of innovation and local talent — values that lie at the heart of Gulf Bank's brand philosophy.

During the forum, Mrs. Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Officer at Gulf Bank, participated in a thought-provoking panel discussion alongside prominent industry figures. The discussion explored the evolving role of local talent, SMEs, and creative entrepreneurs in shaping Kuwait's marketing landscape and strengthening the connection between brands and communities.

"At Gulf Bank, we see marketing as a platform to empower — not just to promote," said Aleisa. "We've made it part of our DNA to collaborate with small businesses, young creatives, and local production teams. Every campaign we produce carries a Kuwaiti fingerprint — from the directors and designers to the photographers and storytellers behind the scenes."

Gulf Bank's initiatives continue to demonstrate its long-standing commitment to empowering the local community — from transforming billboard materials into eco-friendly tote bags in collaboration with IBRAH, a local tailor brand founded and managed by Shahad AlSabeeh, a young Kuwaiti entrepreneur, to sponsoring youth-focused programs such as

LOYAC's The Influencer, AlMoather, and Derasti Expo.

"These initiatives are not one-off projects," Aleisa added. "They reflect a national responsibility — a belief that progress is built through the creativity and ambition of our youth. Supporting local talent strengthens our brand's authenticity and deepens our connection with the community we proudly serve."

In addition to its panel participation, Gulf Bank hosted its sales team during the three-day forum to help visitors register for the upcoming Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, Kuwait's premier sporting event that celebrates fitness, health, and community spirit. To amplify engagement, the Bank also organized a flashmob on Friday, November 7, which turned Al Andalus Complex into a vibrant hub of energy and excitement — encouraging visitors to sign up for the marathon and embrace an active, healthy lifestyle.

"Through the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, we aim to raise health awareness across Kuwait and provide a platform for athletes and everyday fitness enthusiasts alike," said Aleisa. "We're proud to see this initiative grow year after year, reflecting our belief that a strong nation begins with a healthy, motivated community."

Earlier that week, on Tuesday, November 4, Aleisa led a three-hour interactive workshop on brand storytelling at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) in collaboration with Kilmitain. The workshop brought together aspiring Kuwaiti entrepreneurs eager



Najla Aleisa speaking during the forum.

to learn how to craft meaningful brand narratives that resonate emotionally with audiences. "Storytelling is at the heart of every successful brand," Aleisa told participants. "It's what transforms a product into a purpose and a transaction into a relationship. The creativity, curiosity, and ambition I witnessed from Kuwait's young entrepreneurs were truly inspiring."

She also discussed the creative and operational challenges that come with working directly with emerging talents and startups, noting that flexibility, mentorship, and structure are key to developing meaningful collaborations.

"We've seen a clear shift in consumer behavior — Kuwaiti consumers are increasingly loyal to brands that champion local talent, authenticity, and social responsibility," she added.

Through its sponsorship of the Kilmitain Forum, and its activation around the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, Gulf Bank reaffirmed its belief in creativity, innovation, health, and the limitless potential of Kuwaiti youth. The Bank continues to empower the next generation of creators, innovators, and entrepreneurs — a mission that lies at the heart of its purpose to drive progress and prosperity for Kuwait.

About Gulf Bank

Gulf Bank is one of Kuwait's leading financial institutions, committed to driving innovation, sustainability, and social impact. Through its strategic focus on youth empowerment, support for SMEs, and active engagement in the creative and wellness sectors, Gulf Bank continues to strengthen its role as a catalyst for national growth and inspiration.

Company sponsors 47th Otorhinolaryngology Conference

Zain backs national efforts to develop Kuwait's healthcare system

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Zain Kuwait supported the 47th Otorhinolaryngology Conference, organized by the Zain ENT Center in collaboration with the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS). This comes as part of Zain's ongoing support for the Center's activities, which continue to achieve milestone results across the Middle East, contributing to national and regional efforts to develop healthcare services.

Zain took part in the opening ceremony under the patronage and attendance of H.E. Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Chairman of the Otorhinolaryngology Departments Council and Conference President Dr. Mutlaq Al-Sihan, and Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti, alongside a distinguished group of medical specialists from Kuwait and abroad.

This participation reflects Zain's continuous support for the Ministry of Health's efforts to keep pace with the latest medical and surgical developments and to adopt advanced technologies that enhance the patient experience and the quality of care. The conference also served as a platform for interaction and knowledge exchange among leading experts and specialists, contributing to the development of medical skills and the enhancement of scientific collaboration.

This year's edition featured notable scientific contributions from Canada, Turkey, Russia, and Europe, in addition to broad participation from the GCC and the MENA region. Kuwaiti physicians and experts presented pioneering experiences in performing precise, advanced procedures in otorhinolaryngology and head and neck surgery using state-of-the-art methods.

The conference also included a number of specialized workshops in audiology, balance disorders, and speech difficulties, with particular focus on showcasing the latest global research and surgical technologies in these subspecialties, in addition to several major operations performed with visiting consultants.

Zain affirmed that its continued sponsorship aligns with its longstanding partnership with the Ministry of Health and aims to empower medical professionals to access the latest international best practices and transfer them to Kuwait's healthcare ecosystem, reinforcing the country's position as a regional hub for medical excellence.

The Zain ENT Center continues to achieve a series of milestone accomplishments, notably the first operation of its kind in a government



Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi and Dr. Mutlaq Al-Sihan with Waleed Al-Khashti, the Zain team, and the organizing committee.



Al-Awadhi and Al-Khashti in a group photo with the conference participants.

hospital in the Middle East to treat obstructive sleep apnea by implanting a smart device that stimulates the hypoglossal nerve under the tongue, performed by Kuwaiti physicians.

Additional achievements include successful cochlear implants for infants aged six and nine months after meningitis-related hearing loss, the introduction of the TRV device to treat motion-induced vertigo as the first of its kind in Kuwait, the establishment of an ENT clinic in Sabah Al-Ahmad operating two days a week, and the opening of a 24/7 specialized ENT

emergency clinic in Al-Mutlaa. Zain values the considerable organizational efforts made by the Zain ENT Center and its team and confirms its ongoing support for medical and educational initiatives that keep pace with global developments and elevate community health.

In line with Zain's commitment to enabling digital transformation in healthcare, Kuwait has recently opened a new chapter in the Guinness World Records by accomplishing an intercontinental robotic surgery that surpassed a geographic

distance of more than 12,000 kilometers between Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital in Kuwait and (Hospital da Cruz Vermelha in Brazil).

This achievement was realized through collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, Zain Group, and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS), with Zain providing advanced international MPLS communications infrastructure that enabled secure, high-speed connectivity between Kuwait and Brazil.

Five new stores to open by 2026 as retail footprint expands by 20%

Landmark Group reports strong growth in Kuwait, accelerates expansion and digital transformation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Landmark Group, the US\$7 billion+ omnichannel retail and hospitality conglomerate, has recorded exceptional performance across its Kuwait operations, underscoring the market’s growing importance within the Group’s regional portfolio.

During the past financial year (July 2024 – June 2025), Landmark achieved double-digit sales growth in Kuwait, accompanied by a 10 percent expansion in retail space. This strong momentum carried into the first quarter of the current financial year 2025 - 2026, driven by an exceptional Back-to-School season across its flagship brands such as Centrepoint, Max Fashion, and Home Centre.

Today, Kuwait stands among Landmark’s strongest GCC markets and is home to three of Max’s top-performing stores. Building on this success, Landmark is embarking on an ambitious expansion plan that will see five new stores open by 2026 across its flagship brands. Accordingly, the Group’s retail footprint in Kuwait is expected to grow by 20 percent, in line with Landmark’s wider US\$1 billion global plan to open 400 new stores by 2027.

The expansion also supports to Kuwait’s growing residential communities in Al Mutlaa and Sabah Al Ahmad, bringing Landmark’s value-driven retail experiences closer to customers. Over the past three years, the Group has opened six stores in Kuwait and remodeled thirteen existing ones, further elevating the in-store experience.

Advancing Kuwait’s Retail Transformation

Landmark continues to lead the region’s digital retail transformation. E-commerce currently accounts for nearly 20 percent of total sales regionally, with a seamless omnichannel model connecting stores and digital platforms.

The Group operates localized websites for Centrepoint, Max,



Rohit Nanda, Executive Vice President and Country Head – Kuwait, Landmark Group.

- Landmark delivers solid double-digit growth, reinforcing Kuwait’s position as a top GCC market
- Five new stores to open by 2026 as retail footprint expands by 20 percent
- A 2,000-strong team propels growth, with 80 percent of future leaders emerging from within
- Sustainability and Vision 2035 guide Landmark’s next chapter toward a net-zero future



Max Store



Home Centre Store



Centrepoint Store

and Home Centre offering Click & Collect, same-day delivery, and self-checkout services. A newly upgraded robotic fulfillment center in Kuwait now ensures faster delivery and enhanced inventory accuracy, underscoring Landmark’s drive to create a smarter, more connected shopping experience.

Empowering People and Talent from Within

With a workforce of around 2,000 employees, including a growing number of Kuwaiti nationals, Landmark continues to invest in its people as the cornerstone of its growth.

Through leadership and internship programs, the Group builds local capabilities and fosters a culture of inclusion and learning. Nearly 80 percent of Landmark’s future leaders in Kuwait are expected to emerge from within the organization reflecting its belief in empowering people to grow alongside the company.

Sustainability and Vision 2035

Guided by a deep commitment to responsible growth, Landmark integrates sustainability into every aspect of its operations, from using Better Cotton Initiative fabrics and FSC-certified recycled packaging to adopting LED lighting, smart-energy systems, and green-financed projects in new stores.

The Group also invests in youth empowerment, diversity, and community engagement, building pathways for the next generation of retail leaders.

These initiatives align with Kuwait Vision 2035, supporting the nation’s goals for diversification, sustainability, and human-capital development while advancing Landmark’s long-term ambition to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

“Kuwait stands at the heart of our success story, a market that truly embodies our values of innovation, inclusivity, and progress. The achievements we celebrate today reflect the passion of our people, the trust of our customers, and the strength of our partnerships across the country. Together, we’ve transformed challenges

into opportunities, and ideas into impact. As we move forward, our commitment is to continue redefining retail through smarter experiences, sustainable growth, and meaningful contributions to Kuwait’s future. Our journey here is about more than expansion, it’s about building a legacy of innovation and value that serves every community we touch.” said Rohit Nanda, Executive Vice President and Country Head – Kuwait, Landmark Group.

Seasonal Collections for Kuwait’s Shoppers

As the winter approaches, Landmark’s fashion and home brands are set to welcome customers to thoughtfully curated and value-driven seasonal collections across Kuwait. From con-

temporary outerwear and versatile essentials at Centrepoint and Max to refined comfort ranges at Home Centre, the Group continues to unite quality, design, and affordability under one roof.

Each collection reflects Landmark’s focus on everyday value and accessible style, reaffirming its role as a trusted lifestyle destination for families across Kuwait.

Looking Ahead

As Landmark enters its third decade in Kuwait, its mission remains clear: to make everyday life better through value, experience, and community contribution.

The Group continues to strengthen customer loyalty while shaping the future of retail through innovation, inclusion, and sustainable growth.

Economists warn of weak domestic demand and low consumption

China’s new five year plan: A high-stakes bet on self-reliance that won’t fix unbalanced economy

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



By Shaoyu Yuan
New York University

Every few years since 1953, the Chinese government has unveiled a new master strategy for its economy: the all-important five-year plan.

For the most part, these blueprints have been geared at spurring growth and unity as the nation transformed from a rural, agrarian economy to an urbanized, developed powerhouse.

The task that faced China’s leaders as they met in early October 2025 to map out their 15th such plan was, however, complicated by two main factors: sluggish domestic growth and intensifying geopolitical rivalry.

Their solution? More of the same. In pledging to deliver “high-quality development” through technological self-reliance, industrial modernization and expanded domestic demand, Beijing is doubling down on a state-led model that has powered its rise in recent years. President Xi Jinping and others who ironed out the 2026-2030 plan are betting that innovation-driven industrial growth might secure China’s future, even as questions loom about underpowered consumer spending and mounting economic risks.

As an expert on China’s political economy, I view China’s new five-year plan as being as much about power as it is about economics. Indeed, it is primarily a blueprint for navigating a new era of competition. As such, it risks failing to address the widening gap between surging industrial capacity and tepid domestic demand.

At the heart of the new plan are recommendations that put advanced manufacturing and tech innovation front and center. In practice, this means upgrading old-line factories, automating and “greening” heavy industry and fostering “emerging and future industries” such as aerospace, renewable energy and quantum computing.

By moving the economy up the value chain, Beijing hopes to escape the middle-income trap and cement its status as a self-reliant tech superpower.

To insulate China from export controls put in place by other countries to slow China’s ascent, Beijing is doubling down on efforts to “indigenize” critical technologies by pumping money into domestic companies while reducing dependence on foreign suppliers.

This quest for self-reliance is not just about economics but explicitly tied to national security.

Under Xi, China has aggressively pursued what the Chinese Communist Party calls “mil-

itary-civil fusion” - that is, the integration of civilian innovation with military needs.

The new five-year plan is poised to institutionalize this fusion as the primary mechanism for defense modernization, ensuring that any breakthroughs in civilian artificial intelligence or supercomputing automatically benefit the People’s Liberation Army.

China’s state-led push in high-tech industries is already yielding dividends that the new five-year plan seeks to extend. In the past decade, China has surged to global leadership in green technologies such as solar panels, batteries and electric vehicles thanks to hefty government support. Now, Beijing intends to replicate that success in semiconductors, advanced machinery, biotechnology and quantum computing.

Such ambition, if realized, could reshape global supply chains and standards.

But it also raises the stakes in China’s economic rivalry with advanced economies. Chinese prowess in building entire supply chains has spurred the United States and Europe to talk of reindustrialization to avoid any overreliance on Beijing.

By pledging to build “a modern industrial system with advanced manufacturing as the backbone” and to accelerate “high-level scientific and technological self-reliance,” the new plan telegraphs that China will not back down from its bid for tech dominance.

What the plan gives comparatively modest attention, however, is the lack of strong domestic demand. Boosting consumer spending and livelihoods gets little more than lip service in the communiqué that followed the plenum at which the five-year plan was mapped out.

Chinese leaders did promise efforts to “vigorously boost consumption” and build a “strong domestic market,” alongside improvements to education, health care and social security. But these goals were listed only after the calls for industrial upgrading and tech self-sufficiency - suggesting old priorities still prevail.

And this will disappoint economists who have long urged Beijing to shift from an overt, export-led model and toward a growth model driven more by household consumption.

Household consumption still accounts for only about 40% of gross domestic product, far below advanced-economy norms. The reality is that Chinese households are still reeling from a series of recent economic blows: the COVID-19 lockdowns that shattered consumer confidence, a property market collapse that wiped out trillions in wealth, and rising youth unemployment that hit a record high before officials halted the publication of that data.

With local governments mired in debt and facing fiscal strain, there is skepticism that bold social spending or pro-consumption reforms will materialize anytime soon.

With Beijing reinforcing manufacturing even as domestic demand stays weak, the likelihood is extra output will be pushed abroad - especially when it comes to EVs, batteries and solar technologies - rather than be absorbed at home.

The new plan is cognizant of the need to maintain a strong manufacturing base, particularly among beleaguered industrial farms and other older industries struggling to stay afloat. As such, this approach may prevent painful downsizing in the short run, but it delays the rebalancing toward services and consumption that many economists argue China needs.

Beijing has traditionally portrayed its five-year plans as a boon not only for China but for the world. The official narrative, echoed by state media, emphasizes that a stable, growing China remains an “engine” of global growth and a “stabilizer” amid worldwide uncertainty.

Notably, the new plan calls for “high-level opening-up,” aligning with international trade rules, expanding free-trade zones and encouraging inbound investment - even as it pursues self-reliance.

Yet China’s drive to climb the technological ladder and support its industries will likely intensify competition in global markets - potentially at the expense of other countries’ manufacturers. In recent years, China’s exports have surged to record levels. This flood of cheap Chinese goods has squeezed manufacturers among trading partners from Mexico to Europe, which have begun contemplating protective measures. If Beijing now doubles down on subsidizing both cutting-edge and traditional industries, the result could be an even greater glut of Chinese products globally, exacerbating trade frictions.

In other words, the world may feel more of China’s industrial might but not enough of its buying power - a combination that could strain With China’s 15th five-year plan, Xi Jinping is making a strategic bet on his long-term vision. There is no doubt that the plan is ambitious and comprehensive. And if successful, it could guide China to technological heights and bolster its claim to great-power status.

But the plan also reveals Beijing’s reluctance to depart from a formula that has yielded growth at the cost of imbalances that have hurt many households across the vast country.

Rather than fundamentally shift course, China is trying to have it all ways: pursuing self-reliance and global integration, professing openness while fortifying itself, and promising prosperity for the people while pouring resources into industry and defense.

But Chinese citizens, whose welfare is ostensibly the plan’s focus, will ultimately judge its success by whether their incomes rise and lives improve by 2030. And that bet faces long odds. (AP)

Shoppers prefer ‘chatbots’ for embarrassing purchases

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



By Jianna Jin
University of Notre Dame

When it comes to inquiring about - ahem - certain products, shoppers prefer the in-human touch.

That is what we found in a study of consumer habits when it comes to products that traditionally have come with a degree of embarrassment - think acne cream, diarrhea medication, adult sex toys or personal lubricant.

While brands may assume consumers hate chatbots, our series of studies involving more than 6,000 participants found a clear pattern: When it comes to purchases that make people feel embarrassed, consumers prefer chatbots over human service reps.

In one experiment, we asked participants to imagine shopping for medications for diarrhea and hay fever. They were offered two online pharmacies, one with a human pharmacist and the other with a chatbot pharmacist.

The medications were packaged identically, with the only difference being their labels for “diarrhea” or “hay fever.” More than 80% of consumers looking for diarrhea treatment preferred a store with a clearly nonhuman chatbot. In caparison, just 9% of those shopping for hay fever medication preferred nonhuman chatbots.

This is because, participants told us, they did not think chatbots have “minds” - that is, the ability to judge or feel.

In fact, when it comes to selling embarrassing products, making chatbots look or sound human can actually backfire. In another study, we asked 1,500 people to imagine buying diarrhea pills online. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: an online drugstore with a human service rep, the same store with a humanlike chatbot with a profile photo and name, or the same store with a chatbot that was clearly botlike in both its name and icon.

We then asked participants how likely they would be to seek help from the service agent. The results were clear: Willingness to interact dropped as the agent seemed more human. Interest peaked with the clearly machine-like chatbot and hit its lowest point with the human service rep.

As a scholar of marketing and consumer behavior, I know Chatbots play an increasingly large part in e-retail. In fact, one report found 80% of retail and e-commerce business use AI chatbots or plan to use them in the near future.

When it comes to chatbots, companies want to answer two questions: When should they deploy chatbots? And how should the chatbots be designed?

Many companies may assume the best strategy is to make bots look and sound more human, intuiting that consumers don’t want to talk to machines.

But our findings show the opposite can be true. In moments when embarrassment looms large, humanlike chatbots can backfire.

The practical takeaway is that brands should not default to humanizing their chatbots. Sometimes the most effective bot is the one that looks and sounds like a machine.

So far, we’ve looked at everyday purchases where embarrassment is easy to imagine, such as hemorrhoid cream, anti-wrinkle cream, personal lubricant and adult toys.

However, we believe the insights extend more broadly. For example, women getting a quote for car repair may be more self-conscious, as this is a purchase context where women have been traditionally more stigmatized. Similarly, men shopping for cosmetic products may feel judged in a category that has traditionally been marketed to women.

In contexts like these, companies could deploy chatbots - especially ones that clearly sound machine-like - to reduce discomfort and provide a better service. But more work is needed to test that hypothesis. (AP)

At the PWM awards, part of the Financial Times Group

KFH wins ‘Best Private Bank for Islamic Services-Middle East’ award

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) received the “Best Private Bank for Islamic Services-Middle East” award at the 2025 Global Private Banking Awards. The award was presented by Professional Wealth Management (PWM) magazine, part of the Financial Times Group, during a prestigious ceremony in London attended by select executives from major global financial institutions.

Representing KFH at the ceremony were KFH Deputy Group CEO, Private Banking, Wealth Management and Business Excellence, Alexander Liddle, and Deputy General Manager Private Banking and Wealth Management, Ghazi Faisal Al-Enezi.

KFH’s win is a new achievement, enhancing the bank’s track record of awards and honors from major, prestigious international institutions.

KFH’s prestigious “Best Private Bank for Islamic Services” award for 2025 is a testament to the dedicated private banking team’s efforts. The award validates KFH’s successful vision as a prominent global Islamic financial institution, offering an exceptional banking experience to its HNW and UHNW clients. This achievement moves KFH Group closer to its goal of becoming the leading global provider of Sharia-compliant private banking and wealth management, and to its vision of protecting and growing HNW client investments.

KFH stands out by offering a wide range of banking solutions and facilities that meet the evolving needs of its HNW clients. This includes a comprehensive suite of advisory services delivered by highly experienced relationship managers, all operating under the guidance of seasoned private banking and wealth management leaders.



Liddle and Al-Enezi receive the award.

It’s worth noting that KFH offers diverse packages of high-quality private banking and wealth management services and products including day-to-day banking, savings, real estate financing, investment and treasury services, and

other various modern solutions in investment and wealth management. KFH provides these unique solutions by leveraging its long-standing experience both from the region and internationally, managing regional and international investment portfolios, equity funds, international real estate, leasing funds and venture capital.

Furthermore, the bank’s network, which spans 10 countries, including Kuwait, Bahrain, the UK, Egypt, Turkey, and Germany, enables clients to access Sharia-compliant investment opportunities across various local and international markets.

The Global Private Banking Awards stand out as one of the financial sector’s most prominent international honors. They base their evaluation on rigorous criteria, including financial performance, innovation, service quality, and wealth management strategies. Winning this award provides worldwide validation of the level of progress achieved by private banking in the Middle East.

A judging panel of industry experts selects the winner of the “Best Private Bank for Islamic Services- Middle East”, as part of the Global Private Banking Awards. They conduct a comprehensive, data-driven evaluation based on key performance elements defined by Professional Wealth Management (PWM) magazine. This process relies on sufficient qualitative and quantitative data from the private banking portfolios of all institutions applying for the award.

The Professional Wealth Management (PWM) magazine, published by the Financial Times, specializes in analyzing the growth strategies of private banks and the regional financial centers where they operate.

White House emphasizes tax cuts

Trump refocuses messaging on affordability and inflation

WASHINGTON, Nov 8, (AP): President Donald Trump is adjusting his messaging strategy to win over voters who are worried about the cost of living with plans to emphasize new tax breaks and show progress on fighting inflation.

The messaging is centered around affordability, and the push comes after inflation emerged as a major vulnerability for Trump and Republicans in Tuesday’s elections, in which voters overwhelmingly said the economy was their biggest concern.

Democrats took advantage of concerns about affordability to run up huge margins in the New Jersey and Virginia governor races, flipping what had been a strength for Trump in the 2024 presidential election into a vulnerability going into next year’s midterm elections.

White House officials and others familiar with their thinking requested anonymity to speak for this article in order to not get ahead of the president’s actions. They stressed that affordability has always been a priority for Trump, but the president plans to talk about it more, as he did Thursday when he announced that Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk would reduce the price of their anti-obesity drugs.

“We are the ones that have done a great job on affordability, not the Democrats,” Trump said at an event in the Oval Office to announce the deal. “We just lost an election, they said, based on affordability. It’s a con job by the Democrats.”

The White House is keeping up a steady drumbeat of posts on social media about prices and deals for Thanksgiving dinner staples at retailers such as Walmart, Lidl, Aldi and Target.

“I don’t want to hear about the affordability, because right now, we’re much less,” Trump told reporters Thursday, arguing that things are much better for Americans with his party in charge.

“The only problem is the Republicans don’t talk about it,” he said.

As of now, the inflation outlook has worsened under Trump. Consumer prices in September increased at an annual rate of 3%, up from 2.3% in April, when the president first began to roll out substantial tariff hikes that suddenly burdened the economy with uncertainty. The AP Voter Poll showed the economy was the leading issue in Tuesday’s elections in New Jersey, Virginia, New York City and California.

Grocery prices continue to climb, and recently, electricity bills have emerged as a new worry. At the same time, the pace of job gains has slowed, plunging 23% from the pace a year ago.

The White House maintains a list of talking points about the economy, noting that the stock market has hit record highs multiple times and that the president is attracting foreign investment. Trump has emphasized that gasoline prices are coming down, and maintained that gasoline is averaging \$2 a gallon, but AAA reported Thursday that the national average was \$3.08, about two cents lower than a year ago.

“Americans are paying less for essentials like gas and eggs, and today the Administration inked yet another drug pricing deal to deliver unprecedented health care savings for everyday Americans,” said White House spokesman Kush Desai.

Trump gets briefed about the economy by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and other officials at least once a week and there are often daily discussions on tariffs, a senior White House official said, noting Trump is expected to do more domestic travel next year to make his case that he’s fixing affordability.

But critics say it will be hard for Trump to turn around public perceptions on affordability.

“He’s in real trouble and I think it’s bigger than just cost of living,” said Lindsay Owens, executive director of Groundwork Collaborative, a liberal economic advocacy group.

Owens noted that Trump has “lost his strength” as voters are increasingly doubtful about Trump’s economic leadership compared to Democrats, adding that the president doesn’t have the time to turn around public perceptions of him as he continues to pursue broad tariffs.

There will be new policies rolled out on affordability, a person familiar with the White House thinking said, declining to comment on what those would be. Trump on Thursday indicated there will be more deals coming on drug prices. Two other White House officials said messaging would change - but not policy.

A big part of the administration’s response on affordability will be educating people ahead of tax season about the role of Trump’s income tax cuts in any refunds they receive in April, the person familiar with planning said. Those cuts were part of the sprawling bill Republicans muscled through Congress in July.

This individual stressed that the key challenge is bringing prices down while simultaneously having wages increase, so that people can feel and see any progress.

There’s also a bet that the economy will be in a healthier place in six months. With Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell’s term ending in May, the White House anticipates the start of consistent cuts to the Fed’s benchmark interest rate. They expect inflation rates to cool and declines in the federal budget deficit to boost sentiment in the financial markets.

But the U.S. economy seldom cooperates with a president’s intentions, a lesson learned most recently by Trump’s predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden, who saw his popularity slump after inflation spiked to a four-decade high in June 2022.

The Trump administration maintains it’s simply working through an inflation challenge inherited from Biden, but new economic research indicates Trump has created his own inflation challenge through tariffs.

Since April, Harvard University economist Alberto Cavallo and his colleagues, Northwestern University’s Paola Llamas and Universidad de San Andres’ Franco Vazquez, have been tracking the impact of the import taxes on consumer prices.

In an October paper, the economists found that the inflation rate would have been drastically lower at 2.2%, had it not been for Trump’s tariffs.

The administration maintains that tariffs have not contributed to inflation. They plan to make the case that the import taxes are helping the economy and dismiss criticisms of the import taxes as contributing to inflation as Democratic talking points.

The fate of Trump’s country-by-country tariffs is currently being decided by the Supreme Court, where justices at a Wednesday hearing seemed dubious over the administration’s claims that tariffs were essentially regulations and could be levied by a president without congressional approval. Trump has maintained at times that foreign countries pay the tariffs and not U.S. citizens, a claim he backed away from slightly Thursday.

“They might be paying something,” he said. “But when you take the overall impact, the Americans are gaining tremendously.”

Reaffirming its commitment to empowering national youth & developing local talents

KIB concludes its participation in the fourth edition of Watheefti career fair

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) concluded its participation in the fourth edition of Watheefti, Kuwait’s largest and most prominent employment fair, which took place from October 16th to 18th, 2025, at The Arena – 360 Mall. Having been present for the third consecutive year, KIB’s participation highlighted the Bank’s unwavering dedication to supporting young Kuwaiti professionals and graduates in pursuing meaningful career paths in the banking sector.

Commenting on KIB’s continued involvement in the fair, Hadi Hadi, Acting General Manager of Human Resources at KIB said: “Every year, Watheefti reminds us that Kuwait’s greatest asset is its people, and KIB’s participation reflects our firm belief in the potential of Kuwait’s youth and our ongoing commitment to nurturing and empowering them to thrive in the private sector. Over the years, this platform has proven invaluable in connecting ambitious young professionals with career opportunities that align with their skills and aspirations, and we were proud to once again be part of this important national initiative.”

He added: “We were excited to meet ambitious individuals who are ready to shape the future of banking with fresh ideas and a passion for progress. Young professionals were able to see that a career at KIB is more than a role; it’s a partnership built on learning, collaboration, and shared success. At our booth, visitors had the opportunity to meet KIB representatives and learn more about the diverse roles, training programs, and development opportunities we offer.”

Hadi underscored that “KIB believes in investing in people, equipping them with the knowledge, tools, and experience they need to grow professionally and contribute to Kuwait’s sustainable economic progress. Whether someone dreams of becoming a financial analyst, a digital innovator, or a customer experience leader, our Bank provides the environment and support to turn



KIB team at the Watheefti career fair.

those ambitions into reality.”

During the three-day event, KIB’s Human Resources team received applications, conducted introductory discussions, and shared insights about the Bank’s dynamic work culture. The Bank’s participation also extended to promote greater financial literacy and awareness among attendees, in support of national initiatives such as the ‘Let’s Be Aware’ (Diraya) campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association in collaboration with local banks.

Bringing together top organizations and thought leaders, Watheefti 2025 created a bridge between employers and the next generation of Kuwaiti talent. It gathered leading institutions from across Kuwait’s private sector, offering a valuable opportunity for job seekers and recent graduates to explore diverse career paths, attend workshops, and network with industry experts. As in

previous editions, the fair featured conferences and sessions held at the Grand Hyatt alongside the exhibition at The Arena.

KIB continues to underscore its role as a notable financial institution that not only drives economic development but also prioritizes the growth and empowerment of Kuwait’s national talent. The Bank’s ongoing participation in Watheefti reaffirms its steadfast dedication to shaping the future of the Kuwaiti workforce and living up to its main slogan ‘Bank for Life.’

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari’ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of

its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: “Bank for Life”.

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.

Experts doubt probe will lower grocery prices

Trump accuses foreign-owned meat packers of inflating US beef prices & calls for investigation

WASHINGTON, Nov 8, (AP): President Donald Trump on Friday accused foreign-owned meat packers of driving up the price of beef in the U.S. and asked the Department of Justice to open an investigation.

The Republican president announced the move on social media days after his party suffered losses in key elections in which the winning Democratic candidates focused relentlessly on the public’s concerns about the cost of living. But experts said it’s unlikely that an investigation would result in lower prices at grocery stores, and a trade group representing meat packers said they’re not to blame.

Trump did not present evidence for his claims, writing on social media that “I have asked the DOJ to immediately begin an investigation into the Meat Packing Companies who are driving up the price of Beef through Illicit Collusion, Price Fixing, and Price Manipulation.”

He said he was taking the action to help ranchers, who were recently angered by his suggestion that the U.S. would buy Argentine beef to bring down stubbornly high prices for American consumers.

“We will always protect our American Ranchers, and they are being blamed for what is being done by Majority Foreign Owned Meat Packers, who artificially inflate prices, and jeopardize the security of our Nation’s food supply,” Trump said.

Beef prices have soared to record levels in part after drought and years of low prices led to the smallest U.S. herd size in decades. Trump’s tariffs on Brazil, a major beef exporter, have also curbed imports.

Meanwhile, demand for beef remains strong. Prices are high because consumers want to eat it, and they’re willing and able to pay for it, said

Glynn Tonsor, who leads the Meat Demand Monitor at Kansas State University.

Tonsor said the ownership mix in the meat packing industry has not changed significantly in the past four years.

Concentration in the meat packing business has been a longtime concern for farmers and politicians on both sides of the aisle. Four major meat-packing companies dominate the beef market in the United States.

There’s no evidence to back up claims that the big packers have undue market power and use it to drive up beef prices, said Derrell Peel, an agricultural economist at Oklahoma State University.

“The packing industry in this country has been investigated and researched for 50 years, and it’s been an issue for over a hundred years, at least, for some producers,” Peel said, expressing skepticism that consumers or producers will benefit from the investigation Trump announced.

“If the outcome is to break up the big packers, the outcome will be higher beef prices for consumers, and lower cattle prices for producers,” Peel said.

Oklahoma Sen. Markwayne Mullin said Friday that he and fellow Republican senators Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi and Tim Sheehy of Montana visited the White House earlier in the day to speak with Trump about recent volatility in the beef market. Mullin said Trump agreed to have the Justice Department look at the issue.

Mullin blamed meat processors, saying that “we’re seeing the same exact game play again out” as a 2019 lawsuit against large meatpackers for violating antitrust laws.

JBS, which is based in Brazil, is the largest U.S. beef producer and its second-largest producer of poultry and pork. Half of its annual revenue comes from the U.S., where it has more than 72,000 em-

ployees.

The company has faced price-fixing charges before. In 2022, JBS agreed to a \$52.5 million settlement with grocery stores and wholesalers who accused JBS, Arkansas-based Tyson Foods and other companies of working together to suppress the number of cattle being slaughtered in order to drive up beef prices.

JBS did not admit wrongdoing as part of that settlement. Messages seeking comment were left Friday with JBS USA.

Sen. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., last week called on the administration to renew an investigation into meat packers that was opened in Trump’s first term. Cramer’s office said he has pushed for such a probe since March 2020.

The Meat Institute, a trade group that represents JBS and other meat producers, said its industry is being pinched by the price of cattle, despite record prices for U.S. beef.

“For more than a year, beef packers have been operating at a loss due to a tight cattle supply and strong demand,” Meat Institute President and CEO Julie Anna Potts said in a statement. “The beef industry is heavily regulated, and market transactions are transparent. The government’s own data from USDA confirms that the beef packing sector is experiencing catastrophic losses and experts predict this will continue into 2026.”

Trump’s accusations have renewed a bipartisan presidential fight against rising food prices.

Then-President Joe Biden talked with independent farmers and ranchers about initiatives to reduce food prices by increasing competition within the meat industry. And then-Vice President Kamala Harris, who Trump defeated in winning reelection last year, used her campaign to vow to crack down on food producers and major supermarkets’ “price gouging.”

From Young Cosette to bankable ‘Chess’ star

Michele returns to Broadway’s Imperial Theatre

NEW YORK, Nov 8, (AP): Lea Michele was just a kid actor backstage at the Imperial Theatre on Broadway when she first heard a song from the musical “Chess” on a stereo. Some three decades later, she finds herself singing that same tune in the same theater.

The “Glee” and Broadway veteran, who got her professional start in “Les Misérables” at age 8, has returned, now a mother and a bankable star, to her old stomping grounds, which coincidentally is the very theater where “Chess” made its debut in 1988. “The Imperial Theatre really has a soul. Every show that’s ever been in it is absorbed in the walls. It’s a little eerie, but very powerful. Other theaters can feel a little sterile, but this does not feel that way,” she says.

She remembers exactly where she sat the first time she saw “Les Misérables” - orchestra left, six rows in - hearing Paige O’Hara as Fantine sing “I Dreamed a Dream” in the musical that she would soon join, playing Young Cosette and Young Eponine.

“I was in the show and I told my parents, I said ‘I love this. I want to do this for the rest of my life.’ And it’s really very emotional to be here 30 years later still working, thank God, back at this theater,” she says. The icing on the cake? An electrician on her return simply said: “Welcome home.”

“Chess,” which opens Nov. 16 and is set primarily in Bangkok and Budapest during the Cold War, tells the fictional story about two chess grandmasters - an American played by Aaron Tveit and a Soviet, portrayed by Nicholas Christopher - facing off to win for their respective nations,

a task complicated by the appearance of a woman they both love, played by Michele.

“This is the hardest character in a lot of ways that I’ve ever played,” Michele says. “She’s a woman. She’s strong. I don’t have comedy to lean on as a crutch or as a kind of like a protective cloak.” The show reunites Michele with Tony Award-winning director Michael Mayer, who directed her both in her breakout “Spring Awakening” in 2006 and also in “Funny Girl” in 2022.

Mayer also has great memories of the Imperial Theatre. It was the place where he saw his first Broadway show - “Pippin” in 1976 with Ben Vereen. He was in the back row of the mezzanine, eight seats in from the right aisle. “I sat there and everything came back,” he says.

The show, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson of ABBA, originated as a concept album in 1984 and includes the goosebump-raising “Anthem,” the pop-pulsing “One Night in Bangkok” - which reached No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100 - and the lilting “I Know Him So Well.”

The musical, first staged in London in 1986 and heavily revised for a Broadway production in 1988, has a cult fan base, but the Broadway production was a flop, lasting less than 90 performances. Attempts have been made to resuscitate it over the years with concerts and new stagings. A new story has been written for the latest iteration by screenwriter Danny Strong.

Michele is aware of the show’s somewhat spotty legacy and swirling questions about its workability. She compares

the noise to when she was launching “Spring Awakening” and people would wonder about how 1890 Germany with rock music and teenage sex would work.

“I think we’re just really excited for people to see what we’ve been able to do. We’re not ignoring the history of our show, but we just know what we have and I think that it will really all make a lot of sense once everyone gets to see it.”

The relationship between Michele and Mayer has evolved and deepened over the 25 or so years they’ve known each other. He says he’s watched her grow up and no longer feels like a father figure. Now they’re peers. “I feel like we’re not just colleagues, but we’re dear friends. I would almost say we’re family at this point,” he says. “I met her when she was 14 years old. We’ve been in each other’s lives for many, many years now. And being able to work together and have that sort of shorthand has been amazing.”

To prove it, he mentions that he had an idea the night before about a big change he wanted to make. “Lea woke up at 3 o’clock this morning with an idea,” he says. “We blurted it out to each other this morning at the start of rehearsal and it’s the same idea.”

Michele’s mind drifts back to those days when she was a child at the Imperial Theatre. The other girls in her dressing room played songs from Broadway shows like “Miss Saigon” and “Bye Bye Birdie” - including one from “Chess” called “Heaven Help My Heart.” Now it’s one of her songs.

“Here we are 30 years later now back at the Imperial. So that’s pretty crazy,” she says.



Lea Michele appears during a performance of ‘Chess,’ at the Imperial Theatre in New York. (AP)

TV

First UK show

Agatha Christie gets tech twist

LONDON, Nov 8, (AP): The scene: Outside a stately English home, a man and a woman attempt to solve a mystery. What’s unusual about this picture?

They’re using the internet. In a departure from what could be the logline for many a cozy English mystery before it, “Agatha Christie’s Tommy & Tuppence” marks the first time Agatha Christie’s work has been modernized for an English-speaking TV audience. In this six-part drama premiering next year, there are phones, social media and TikTok alongside the usual murky secrets, red herrings and nefarious crimes.

Speaking in late October on the set of the BritBox contemporary series shooting in the UK, writer and executive producer Phoebe Eclair-Powell says the makers were thrilled to get permission from Christie’s estate and have been careful not to “simplify” solving classic puzzles, like a locked room mystery, with new tech.

“We have used it, but carefully, sparingly, and when we think actually that it’s enhanced the original story that it’s adapted from,” explains Eclair-Powell.

She says that it’s been a “tricky” part of the process, but one they hope Christie herself would approve of.

In Japan, Korea, India and Sweden, there have already been Christie characters living in the modern age, but this is the first contemporary adaptation in the author’s native language.

“Phoebe came to us with a brilliant take on the stories which put them in the modern day and because of the energy & vitality of these characters it felt completely natural to say yes!” Christie’s great-grandson James Prichard, who manages the literary rights to her estate, wrote in an email.

The Associated Press joined stars Antonia Thomas (“The Good Doctor”) and Josh Dylan (“The Buccaneers”) in the library of a 17th century mansion. Thomas is delighted to appear in this modern mystery program, her first as a title character and says fans will enjoy the interpretation because, while it’s “grounded and modern,” she and Dylan are still “capering in a classic Agatha Christie way.”

She also hopes that it’ll attract new viewers who would normally be put off by the period setting of a more traditional Christie crime drama.



Antonia Thomas, left, and Josh Dylan appear on the set of the Agatha Christie series ‘Tommy & Tuppence’ in Beaconsfield, England on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025. (AP)

Film



This image released by Mubi shows Jennifer Lawrence in a scene frm ‘Die, My Love.’ (AP)

A raw, wild portrait of motherhood and madness

Lawrence goes for broke in ‘Die, My Love’

LOS ANGELES, Nov 8, (AP): A primal punk spirit rages through Lynne Ramsay’s “Die, My Love,” a jagged, go-for-broke psychodrama starring Jennifer Lawrence as an increasingly unhinged new mother and Robert Pattinson as her husband.

In this cauldron of marital nightmare, set in a ramshackle rural Montana home, there are fires, real and imagined, and a variety of wildlife. There’s an incessantly yapping dog, brought home by Jackson (Pattinson) shortly after the couple move in from New York. There’s a horse in the road, inopportunistly. And on the shirt on Grace (Lawrence) is a tiger. But, more than these animalistic flourishes, there is Grace, herself. In a moment early in the film, she prowls on all fours through tall grass, with a knife in her hand.

The shorthand description of Ramsay’s film, adapted from a 2012 novel by the Argentine writer Ariana Harwicz, is that it’s about a woman with postpartum depression. But that’s not quite right. It’s more about the power and urges of a woman who, like a beautiful, feral creature, is not taking to domestication.

That’s the appealing through line of “Die, My Love,” though it can be difficult to firmly grasp it in Ramsay’s piercing but tediously overamplified character study. Still, as unkempt and overwrought as “Die, My Love” is, it’s not a movie that’s timidly weighing in on parenting and gender roles. There’s plenty to admire in Ramsay’s uncompromising and delirious portrait of marital hell, particularly in the bracingly raw performance of Lawrence. The abandon with which she throws herself into the role is

enough to make you exclaim “Mother!”

Grace and Jackson have moved near his childhood home. Their house belonged to Jackson’s uncle before he killed himself. Jackson’s parents (Nick Nolte, Sissy Spacek) live nearby, and Spacek’s knowing eyes suggest they went through something not so dissimilar long ago, casting Grace’s struggles as part of a long, gothic American history. Soon after moving in, the couple dance ferociously before winding up naked on the floor.

That scene is announcement of the pitch Ramsay, the great Scottish filmmaker of “Ratcatcher” and “We Need to Talk About Kevin,” is working at and of how much her stars are with her on the ride. This is the first movie together for the former teen idols. But I found myself wondering if Lawrence and Pattinson’s evident chemistry works against the film.

Pattinson’s Jackson is some ways a stereotypical dude and foil to Grace. He drinks Budweiser, goes absent with work and can seem more interested in their young son, or the dog, than in Grace. But Pattinson has always exuded a bemused resistance to male tropes that makes him less of an oppositional force to Grace. Pattinson does a lot with concerned looks, as Grace’s behavior grows more extreme. But a more conventional leading man might have been better suited to the role, and clarified their dynamic.

But clarity is also not what Ramsay is after. Working from a script she penned with playwrights Enda Walsh and Alice Birch, Ramsay sticks resolutely to

Grace’s disturbed perspective. The sound design, by Tim Burns and Paul Davies, is purposefully chaotic, filled with barking and the children’s music Grace blares as she stomps half naked through the house, ignoring housework and indulging in sexual fantasies. (LaKeith Stanfield has a small, peculiar part.) Grace is also a writer who isn’t writing, so her manic mindset has some echoes with Jack Torrance in “The Shining.”

So, no, this isn’t postpartum, and Grace, herself, makes it clear. Her son is great, she says. “It’s everything else that’s f---ed.” What falls into everything else? It’s mostly the things that are trying to subtly and not so subtly conform Grace to a simple and restrictive mom persona. Heaven help the cheery suburban mothers who try to make small talk with her at a birthday party. Even the classic rock Jackson plays in his truck irks her. “I hate guitars,” she pronounces.

It helps for “Die, My Love” to get out of the house, where the movie is overwhelmingly, even oppressively set. “Die, My Love” might have benefited from more scenes like these that let Lawrence use her comedic talents more. Instead, a live-wire performance gets suffocated, and the conceptual force of the movie ends up feeling more oppressive to Grace than anything else.

“Die, My Love,” a Mubi release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for sexual content, graphic nudity, language and some violent content. Running time: 118 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

with the network. There will be no further comment at this time,” a Fox Sports spokesman told The Associated Press on Friday.

Sanchez has been off the air since police said he was stabbed during a fight with a truck driver outside an Indianapolis hotel on Oct. 4. He was in Indianapolis for Fox’s coverage of the Oct. 5 game between the Colts and the Las Vegas Raiders. Sanchez faces a felony battery charge, along with three misdemeanor charges, for what prosecutors have said was a fight over parking. Sanchez and Fox Sports also face a civil lawsuit filed by the driver, 69-year-old Perry Tole.

“It’s been a long month for Mark as he continues to recover from serious injuries while also grieving the loss of a close friend. While the recent news - and its timing - is understandably disappointing, our priority remains his continued healing and recovery,” Sanchez’s brother, Nick Sanchez Jr., said in a statement released Friday. “Mark deeply values his time at FOX and the exceptional colleagues he’s had the privilege to work with. Those relationships are meaningful and will endure.” Brees will replace Sanchez on Fox’s No. 4 NFL crew and will team up with play-by-play announcer Adam Amin and sideline reporter Kristina Pink. Brees’ first game will be Nov. 16. (AP)

People

‘Sorry Canada’

Harry apologizes over ‘Hat Gate’

LONDON, Nov 8, (AP): Prince Harry went to Toronto for events marking the end of World War I and found himself on an apology tour for offending Canadians.

Speaking to a military charity on Thursday night, the Duke of Sussex sought to once again address the “blue-hatted elephant in the room.” He was referring to his widely ridiculed choice to wear a Los Angeles Dodgers cap at a World Series game in Los Angeles against the Toronto Blue Jays.

It was seen as a major snub in Canada, a British Commonwealth nation, where his father, King Charles III, is the head of state. He was blasted on social media in the Great White North.

Harry apologized for the blunder and tried to put a humorous spin on the incident he referred to as “Hat Gate.”

“When you’re missing a lot of hair on top, and you’re sitting under floodlights, you’ll take any hat that’s available,” he joked in an interview with Canadian broadcaster CTV.

He then donned a Blue Jays cap that happened to be an arm’s length away.

The incident was perceived by some as a test of his allegiance between his birthplace and his adopted home in the U.S. The prince and his wife, Meghan, stepped down from royal duties in 2020 and moved to Canada briefly before settling in California.

The appearance of Harry and Meghan at Game 4 of the series - that LA went on to win in seven games - also rankled some Dodgers fans who were upset at their prime position behind home plate.

The couple sat in the first row - in front of LA royalty -- Dodgers great Sandy Koufax and LA Laker star Magic Johnson, who is a part owner of the team. Harry said the couple, who live about an hour west of Los Angeles in the ritzy coastal enclave of Montecito, had been invited to the game by the team owner.

He felt “under duress” and wore the hat as a polite gesture, something he told the Toronto audience that he thought Canadians - known for their civility - would support. Harry was in Canada for two days of events and meetings in advance of Remembrance Day on Tuesday that honors armed forces members who died in the line of duty.

“I am truly sorry for wearing a Dodgers cap,” he said to applause at a dinner for the True Patriot Love Foundation, a charity for Canadian service members and veterans.

He then played up his connections to the country, including the fact that his actor wife - before they married and when she was known as Meghan Markle - lived so long in Toronto filming the show “Suits” that many thought she was Canadian.

“Hopefully you can forgive her as a native Californian for her Dodger’s loyalty, even if for just one evening,” he said. “But all jokes aside, this city has always meant a great deal to me - you provided me a wife.”

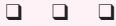
Variety

ISTANBUL: Turkiye has been re-elected as member of the Executive Board of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the 2025-2029 term.

In a press release, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said Turkiye will serve on the Executive Board for the third consecutive term, following its previous memberships for the 2017-2021 and 2021-2025 periods.

The re-election took place during the 43rd General Conference of UNESCO in Uzbekistan, according to the release.

As a UNESCO co-founder, Turkiye underlines its commitment to UNESCO’s goals and ideals, and will continue to contribute to international cooperation aimed at advancing the UN organization’s mission and preserving the shared values of humanity, it added. (KUNA)



LOS ANGELES: The 21st Chinese American Film Festival and the Chinese American TV Festival kicked off in Los Angeles, the US state of California,

on Thursday evening.

About 800 participants gathered for the cultural event, which aims to promote exchange and cooperation between the Chinese and U.S. film and television industries.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Chinese Consul General in Los Angeles Guo Shaochun said that over the past two decades, the festivals have become important platforms for cultural exchange between the two countries, promoting practical cooperation and helping audiences better understand and appreciate each other through the power of films.

China and the United States have the world’s most dynamic and closely connected film and television industries, Guo said. “With new technologies like AI and virtual production, there’s even more potential ahead.”

“By working together, we can make technology and creativity a new engine for China-US cooperation in film and television,” he added. (Xinhua)



NEW YORK: Fox Sports has let go of NFL analyst Mark Sanchez and hired Drew Brees in his place.

“We can confirm that Mark Sanchez is no longer

A symbol of ‘renaissance’

Louvre vows to restore imperial crown dropped by thieves

PARIS, Nov 8, (AP): The diamond and emerald-studded crown of Empress Eugénie, which was found damaged outside the Louvre after apparently being dropped during the Oct. 19 robbery, will be restored as a symbol of “renaissance,” the museum’s director Laurence des Cars said Friday.

Thieves made away with eight objects on display at the Paris museum, including a sapphire diadem, necklace and single earring from a set linked to 19th-century Queens Marie-Amélie and Hortense. They forced their way through a window into the Apollo Gallery with the help of a freight lift, using disc cutters to cut through display cases and steal the jewels.

Only Empress Eugénie’s imperial crown, with more than 1,300 diamonds, was recovered on the day of the robbery outside the museum.

Des Cars said the crown was likely damaged when it was removed from its display case through a “small cut” made by the disc cutter, rather than when it fell down on the ground.

“All of the most important pieces, the diamonds and emeralds, are actually still there,” she said in an interview with the France Info news broadcaster. “A few small pieces of diamonds are missing, but that’s about it,” she said, adding that “one of the eight gold eagles on the crown is missing.”

Des Cars confirmed the crown will be restored with financing from patrons who already offered their support.

“We’re going to set up a scientific committee to supervise the restoration and it will be a beautiful symbol of the Louvre’s renaissance,” she said.

Des Cars offered to resign on the day of the robbery, which was refused by the culture minister.

“I saw a tragic, brutal, violent reality for the Louvre, and as the person in charge, after all the hard work done by the teams that day - it felt right to offer my resignation,” she said.

Des Cars said she pushed for modernizing the museum soon after she was named its head in 2021. Problems she listed include “the obsolescence of our technical facilities, the dilapidation of the building, structural issues related to

welcoming visitors and overcrowding in the pyramid, which was designed for four million visitors but now welcomes nine million, and the problem with the display of the Mona Lisa, which is very unsatisfactory.”

Her comments come a day after France’s court of auditors urged the Louvre to speed up its security modernization plans as a priority. The report, focusing on the 2018-2024 period and conducted before the robbery, said the museum’s investments prioritized “visible and attractive operations,” such as buying new pieces of art and improving visitor experience, rather than security.

Des Cars rejected the criticism, arguing that the Louvre is tasked with all missions together.

The decade-long “Louvre New Renaissance” plan, which includes security improvements, was launched earlier this year. It is estimated to cost up to 800 million euros (\$933 million) to modernize the museum’s infrastructure, ease crowding and give the famed Mona Lisa a dedicated gallery by 2031.



A police car parks in the courtyard of the Louvre museum, one week after the robbery, on Oct. 26, 2025, in Paris. (AP)

Television



Cara Buono arrives at the world premiere of the fifth season of ‘Stranger Things’ on Thursday, Nov. 6, at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

Latin icon’s treasures to go public

Grammy Museum announces Selena exhibit outside Texas for first time

NEW YORK, Nov 8, (AP): Thirty years after Tejano music legend Selena Quintanilla-Pérez was killed at 23, regional Mexicana music is now celebrated on the global stage - no doubt a result of her unending influence.

This year, there have been a number of celebrations for the “Bidi Bidi Bom Bom” singer, including the forthcoming Netflix documentary “Selena y Los Dinos.” Now, there’s another reason to celebrate the singer known to fans as Selena: In 2026, the Grammy Museum will launch a special pop-up exhibit celebrating the Latin music icon.

“Selena: From Texas to the World” runs from Jan. 15 to March 16 at the museum in downtown Los Angeles.

The exhibit was curated in close collaboration with Suzette Quintanilla, Selena’s sister and president of Q Productions. It will display personal artifacts from the Selena Museum in Corpus Christi, Texas. The exhibit will mark the first time these items have been shown outside of Selena’s home state.

Suzette Quintanilla “really hand-picked the items that we’re going to have the pleasure of displaying in the pop up,” said Grammy Museum curator Kelsey Goelz in an interview with The Associated Press. “Selena’s legacy is not going anywhere. The conversation is still going. So, you know, why not start allowing fans to see some more stuff?”

All of the items at the Grammy Museum pop-up have been sourced directly from the Selena Museum, save for guitars lent from the personal collection of Chris Pérez, the lead guitarist of Selena y Los Dinos who was married to the singer.

About 15 items are coming from the Selena Museum, says Goelz.

“I think the most spectacular (item) would be her Grammy gown that she wore to the ‘94 Grammys, when she



Tejano singer Selena Quintanilla performs at the Astrodome during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on Feb 26, 1995. (AP)

won best Mexican/Mexican American album. It’s a very beautiful white beaded gown,” she says. “And then also the leather outfit she wore on the cover (of her 1994 album) ‘Amor Prohibido,’ the ruffle collar, the hoop earrings. Just, like, these little things, like the hoop earrings, make Selena, Selena. We’re also getting the microphone she used in her final performance that still has her lipstick on it.”

“It’s just so intimate and it’s so special to get to bring this to LA,” she continued.

It’s an appropriate home for a Selena exhibit: In 2017, she received a posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. At the time, according to a Hollywood Chamber of Commerce spokesperson, the crowd was the largest-ever for a Walk of Fame ceremony, breaking a 1998 record set by onlookers at the unveiling of the star for Mexican singer Vicente Fernández.

Selena’s Grammy and Lifetime Achievement Award will be on display at the Grammy Museum, as well as hand-drawn fashion designs from the singer’s teen years.

All descriptions in the exhibit will be available in English and Spanish, a reflection of Selena’s biculturalism and bilingualism. Attendees can also expect “a fan engagement moment,” says Goelz. “We really want to create an experience that’s interactive.”

“It’s incredibly special to share these treasured items, for the very first time outside of our Selena Museum, at the iconic Grammy Museum in Los Angeles,” Suzette Quintanilla said in a statement. “Selena and our band were extremely proud to receive a Grammy for our live concert. This exhibit is a beautiful tribute to her spirit, her culture and the unwavering love she had for fans.”

Selena’s superstardom arrived in the early 1990s, with her unique blend of Tejano, pop, cumbia and other musical styles manifesting in huge hits like “Bidi Bidi Bom Bom,” “Como la Flor,” “Amor Prohibido,” “No Me Queda Mas” and “Tu Solo Tú.”

Known as The Queen of Tejano, Selena broke barriers for women in Latin music. She opened the floodgates for a new generation of contemporary artists of Latin descent who would go on to enjoy huge popularity with mainstream American audiences. She often sang in Spanish and spoke in English, reflecting a cross-cultural identity that resonated with listeners.

In 1997, a biographical film about her life, “Selena,” would quickly become a classic and boost the career of lead Jennifer Lopez.

Selena was killed by her fan club’s president, Yolanda Saldívar, in 1995. Saldívar is serving a life sentence in Texas. She was denied parole in March of this year.

Music

Gaga, Antonoff and Cirkut among top nominees

Lamar leads 2026 Grammy nominations

NEW YORK, Nov 8, (AP): Not like us? More like him: Kendrick Lamar leads the 2026 Grammy Award nominations, announced Friday.

The rapper is up for nine trophies at February’s ceremony: record, song and album of the year - marking the third time he’s had simultaneous nominations in those big categories - as well as pop duo/group performance, melodic rap performance, rap song and rap album. He’s also nominated twice in the rap performance category.



This combination of photos shows Jack Antonoff, (left), Kendrick Lamar, center, and Lady Gaga. (AP)

Lamar, who is riding the success of last year’s blockbuster “GNX” album, has 22 Grammy career wins and 66 nominations. “GNX” is his fifth consecutive studio album to be nominated for album of the year, something no other artist has ever done. If it wins, it will be his first win in the category. And it will be only the third rap album to win the top prize, following Outkast in 2004 for “Speakerboxxx/The Love Below” and Lauryn Hill in 1999 for “The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill.”

Lady Gaga, Jack Antonoff and Canadian record producer/songwriter Cirkut follow Lamar with seven nominations each.

Lady Gaga is up for song, record and album of the year - her first time receiving nominations in all three categories simultaneously. She could also score potential wins in the pop solo performance, pop vocal album, dance pop recording and traditional pop vocal album categories.

Antonoff is nominated in the record, album and song of the year categories twice, for his work with Lamar and Sabrina Carpenter. He’s also nominated for rap song for the first time. That’s for “tv off” with Lamar, featuring Lefty Gunplay.

Antonoff and Cirkut will face off in the producer of the year, non-Classical category. If Antonoff wins, he will tie Babyface’s record of most career wins in the category, with four.

That’s not all. Cirkut is up for both record and song of the year, twice - for Lady Gaga’s “Abracadabra” and Rosé and Bruno Mars’ “APT.” - as well as album of the year and best dance pop recording.

included in the bunch, as “Wildflower” was released on her spring 2024 album, “Hit Me Hard and Soft,” ahead of the eligibility window. However, there is a Recording Academy rule that allows albums released during the previous ceremony’s eligibility period to be considered, “provided the same tracks were not entered the previous year and the album did not win a Grammy,” with a few exceptions. By that rule, Eilish’s “Wildflower” - which was not previously entered - is eligible.

Song of the year - an award for a track’s songwriters, which sometimes include the performer but not always - is made up of an almost identical list to record of the year, except Roan is replaced by “Golden” from the “KPop Demon Hunters” soundtrack.

“The Grammy Awards are our opportunity to honor the people who make this community so vibrant and this year’s nominees remind us of the incredible talent that is driving music forward,” said Recording Academy CEO Harvey Mason jr. in a statement. “From emerging talent to influential icons, these nominees reflect today’s broad and diverse musical landscape, and I am excited to celebrate them in the coming weeks ahead.”

There are a number of first-time nominees as well this year, including Tate McRae, Zara Larsson, PinkPantheress, JID and Timothée Chalamet. You read that correctly.

Sabrina Carpenter; “Disease,” Lady Gaga; “The Subway,” Chappell Roan; “Messy,” Lola Young.

■ **Best Pop Duo/Group Performance:** “Defying Gravity,” Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande; “Golden,” HUNTR/X: EJAE, Audrey Nuna, REI AMI; “Gabriela,” Katseye; “APT.,” Rosé and Bruno Mars, “30 for 30,” SZA with Kendrick Lamar.

■ **Best Rap Performance:** “Outside,” Cardi B; “Chains & Whips,” Clipse, Pusha T and Malice, featuring Kendrick Lamar and Pharrell Williams; “Anxiety,” Doechii; “TV Off,” Kendrick Lamar featuring Lefty Gunplay; “Darlin, I,” Tyler, the Creator featuring Teezo Touchdown.

■ **Best Pop Vocal Album:** “Swag,” Justin Bieber; “Man’s Best Friend,” Sabrina Carpenter; “Something Beautiful,” Miley Cyrus; “Mayhem,” Lady Gaga; “I’ve Tried Everything but Therapy (Part 2),” Teddy Swims.

■ **Best Rap Album:** “Let ... Sort Em Out,” Clipse, Pusha T and Malice; “Glorious,” GloRilla; “God Does Like Ugly,” JID, “GNX,” Kendrick Lamar, “Chromakopia,” Tyler, the Creator.

■ **Best Contemporary Country Album:** “Patterns,” Kelsea Ballerini; “Snipe Hunter,” Tyler Chilers; “Evangeline vs the Machine,” Eric Church; “Beautifully Broken,” Jelly Roll; “Postcards from Texas,” Miranda Lambert.

■ **Best Traditional Country Album:** “Dollar a Day,” Charley Crockett; “American Romance,” Lukas Nelson; “Oh What a Beautiful World,” Willie Nelson; “Hard Headed Woman,” Margo Price; “Ain’t In It For My Health,” Zach Top.

■ **Best R&B Album:** “Beloved,” Giveon; “Why Not More?,” Coco Jones; “The Crown,” Ledisi; “Escape Room,” Teyana Taylor; “Mutt,” Leon Thomas.

■ **Best Dance/Electronic Album:** “EUSEXUA,” FKA twigs; “Ten Days,” Fred again...; “Fancy That,” PinkPantheress; “Inhale/Exhale,” Rüfüs du Sol; “... Skrillex You Think Ur Andy Warhol but UR Not! 3,” Skrillex.

■ **Best Rock Album:** “private music,” Deftones; “I quit,” HAIM; “From Zero,” Linkin Park; “Never Enough,” Turnstile; “Idols,” YUNGBLUD.

■ **Best Alternative Music Album:** “Sable, Fable,” Bon Iver; “Songs of a Lost World,” The Cure; “Don’t Tap the Glass,” Tyler, the Creator; “Moisturizer,” Wet Leg; “Ego Death at a Bachelorette Party,” Hayley Williams.

■ **Best Jazz Vocal Album:** “Elemental,” Dee Dee Bridgewater and Bill Charlap; “We Insist 2025!,” Terri Lyne Carrington and Christie Dashiell; “Portrait,” Samara Joy; “Fly,” Michael Mayo; “Live at Vic’s Las Vegas,” Nicole Zuraitis, Dan Pugach, Tom Scott, Idan Morim, Keyon Harrold and Rachel Eckroth.

■ **Best Jazz Instrumental Album:** “Trilogy 3 (Live),” Chick Corea, Christian McBride and Brian Blade; “Southern Nights,” Sullivan Fortner featuring Peter Washington and Marcus Gilmore; “Belonging,” Branford Marsalis Quartet; “Spirit Fall,” John Patitucci featuring Chris Potter and Brian Blade; “Fasten Up,” Yellowjackets.

■ **Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album:** “Wintersongs,” Laila Biali; “The Gift of Love,” Jennifer Hudson; “Who Believes in Angels?,” Elton John and Brandi Carlile; “Harlequin,” Lady Gaga; “A Matter of Time,” Laufey; “The Secret of Life: Partners, Volume 2,” Barbra Streisand.

■ **Best Gospel Album:** “Sunny Days,” Yolanda Adams; “Tasha,” Tasha Cobbs Leonard; “Live Breathe Fight,” Tamela Mann; “Only on the Road (Live),” Tye Tribbett; “Heart of Mine,” Darrel Walls, PJ Morton.

■ **Best Contemporary Christian Music Album:** “Child of ...,” Forrest Frank; “Coritos Vol. 1,” Israel & New Breed; “King of Hearts,” Brandon Lake; “Reconstruction,” Lecrae; “Let the Church Sing,” Tauren Wells.

■ **Best Latin Pop Album:** “Cosa Nuestra,” Rauw Alejandro; “Bogotá (Deluxe),” Andrés Cepeda; “Tropico-queta,” Karol G; “Cancionera,” Natalia Lafourcade; “¿Y ahora qué?,” Alejandro Sanz.

In addition to Lady Gaga’s “Mayhem” and Lamar’s “GNX,” the album of the year category is rounded out by Carpenter’s “Man’s Best Friend,” Bad Bunny’s “Debí Tirar Más Fotos,” Justin Bieber’s “Swag,” Clipse, Pusha T & Malice’s “Let ... Sort Em Out,” Leon Thomas’ “Mutt” and Tyler, the Creator’s “Chromakopia.”

This is the first time three albums have been up for both rap album and album of the year: “GNX,” “Let ... Sort Em Out” and “Chromakopia.”

Additionally, Bad Bunny’s “Debí Tirar Más Fotos” is only the second time an all-Spanish language album has been nominated for the top prize. The first was also a Bad Bunny release - in 2023, for “Un Verano Sin Ti.” Harry Styles’ “Harry’s House” won that year.

Carpenter, Bad Bunny, Leon Thomas and Serban Ghenea all boast six nominations. Andrew Watt, Clipse, Doechii, Sounwave, SZA, Turnstile and Tyler, the Creator have five each.

Only recordings commercially released in the US between Aug. 31, 2024 through Aug. 30, 2025 were eligible for nominations. The final round of Grammy voting, which determines its winners, will take place Dec. 12 through Jan. 5.

In the best new artist category, global girl group Katseye, Olivia Dean, The Marias, Addison Rae, sombr, Leon Thomas, Alex Warren and Lola Young will all go head-to-head.

The record of the year category is made up of Bad Bunny’s “DiMF,” Carpenter’s “Manchild,” Doechii’s “Anxiety,” Billie Eilish’s “Wildflower,” Lady Gaga’s “Abracadabra,” Lamar and SZA’s “luther,” Chappell Roan’s “The Subway” and Rosé and Bruno Mars’ “APT.”

Rosé, perhaps best known as one-fourth of the juggernaut girl group BLACKPINK, is the first K-pop artist to ever receive a nomination in the record of the year field.

Some may be surprised to see Eilish

The 2026 Grammy Awards will air Feb. 1 live on CBS and Paramount+ from the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles.

Here’s a list of nominees in select categories.

■ **Album of the Year:** “Debí Tirar Más Fotos,” Bad Bunny; “Swag,” Justin Bieber; “Man’s Best Friend,” Sabrina Carpenter; “Let ... Sort Em Out,” Clipse, Pusha T and Malice; “Mayhem,” Lady Gaga; “GNX,” Kendrick Lamar; “Mutt,” Leon Thomas; “Chromakopia,” Tyler, the Creator.

■ **Record of the Year:** “DiMF,” Bad Bunny; “Manchild,” Sabrina Carpenter; “Anxiety,” Doechii; “Wildflower,” Billie Eilish; “Abracadabra,” Lady Gaga; “luther,” Kendrick Lamar with SZA; “The Subway,” Chappell Roan; “APT.,” Rosé and Bruno Mars.

■ **Song Of the Year** (Songwriter’s Award): “Abracadabra,” Henry Walter, Lady Gaga and Andrew Watt; “Anxiety,” Jaylah Hickmon; “APT.,” Amy Allen, Christopher Brody Brown, Rogét Chahayed, Henry Walter, Omer Fedi, Philip Lawrence, Bruno Mars, Chae Young Park and Theron Thomas; “DiMF,” Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, Scott Dittrich, Benjamin Falik, Hugo René Sención and Tyler Thomas Spry; “Golden,” EJAI and Mark Sonnenblick; “luther,” Jack Antonoff, Roshwita Larisha Bacha, Matthew Bernard, Ink, Scott Bridge-way, Sam Dew, Kendrick Lamar, Mark Anthony Spears, Solána Rowe and Kamasi Washington; “Manchild,” Amy Allen, Jack Antonoff and Sabrina Carpenter; “Wildflower,” Billie Eilish O’Connell and Finneas O’Connell.

■ **Best New Artist:** Olivia Dean; Katseye; The Marias; Addison Rae; sombr; Leon Thomas; Alex Warren; Lola Young.

■ **Songwriter Of The Year:** Amy Allen; Edgar Barrera; Jessie Jo Dillon; Tobias Jesso Jr.; Laura Veltz.

■ **Best Pop Solo Performance:** “Daisies,” Justin Bieber; “Manchild,”



This combination of photos shows Billie Eilish, (from left), Timothee Chalamet, and The Weekend. (AP)

New research offers hope for autoimmune disease patients

Autoimmune diseases mostly impact women – what to know

NEW YORK, Nov 8, (AP): Our immune system has a dark side: It's supposed to fight off invaders to keep us healthy. But sometimes it turns traitor and attacks our own cells and tissues.

What are called autoimmune diseases can affect just about every part of the body - and tens of millions of people. While most common in women, these diseases can strike anyone, adults or children, and they're on the rise.

New research is raising the prospect of treatments that might do more than tamp down symptoms. Dozens of clinical trials are testing ways to reprogram an immune system-gone-rogue, with some promising early successes against lupus, myositis and certain other illnesses. Other researchers are hunting ways to at least delay brewing autoimmune diseases, spurred by a drug that can buy some time before people show symptoms of Type 1 diabetes.

"This is probably the most exciting time that we've ever had to be in autoimmune," said Dr. Amit Saxena, a rheumatologist at NYU Langone Health.

Here are some things to know.

They're chronic diseases that can range from mild to life-threatening, more than 100 with different names depending on how and where they do damage. Rheumatoid arthritis and

psoriatic arthritis attack joints. Sjögren's disease is known for dry eyes and mouth. Myositis and myasthenia gravis weaken muscles in different ways, the latter by attacking how nerves signal them. Lupus has widely varied symptoms including a butterfly-shaped facial rash, joint and muscle pain, fevers and damage to the kidneys, lungs and heart.

They're also capricious: Even patients faring well for long periods can suddenly have a "flare" for no apparent reason.

Many start with vague symptoms that come and go or mimic other illnesses. Many also have overlapping symptoms - rheumatoid arthritis and Sjögren's also can harm major organs, for example.

Diagnosis can take multiple tests, including some blood tests to detect antibodies that mistakenly latch onto healthy tissue. It usually centers on symptoms and involves ruling out other causes. Depending on the disease it can take years and seeing multiple doctors before one puts the clues together. There are efforts to improve: The National MS Society is educating doctors about newly updated guidelines to streamline diagnosis of multiple sclerosis.

The human immune system is a complex army with sentinels to detect threats like germs or cancer cells, a variety of soldiers to attack them, and peacemakers to calm things

down once the danger is over. Key is that it can distinguish what's foreign from what's "you," what scientists call tolerance.

Sometimes confused immune cells or antibodies slip through, or the peacemakers can't calm things down after a battle. If the system can't spot and fix the problem, autoimmune diseases gradually develop.

Most autoimmune diseases, especially in adults, aren't caused by a specific gene defect. Instead, a variety of genes that affect immune functions can make people susceptible. Scientists say it then takes some "environmental" trigger, such as an infection, smoking or pollutants, to set the disease into motion. For example, the Epstein-Barr virus is linked to MS.

Scientists are zeroing in on the earliest molecular triggers. For example, white blood cells called neutrophils are first responders to signs of infection or injury - but abnormally overactive ones are suspected of playing a key role in lupus, rheumatoid arthritis and other diseases.

Women account for about 4 of 5 autoimmune patients, many of them young. Hormones are thought to play a role. But also, females have two X chromosomes while males have one X and one Y. Some research suggests an abnormal-

ity in how female cells switch off that extra X can increase women's vulnerability.

But men do suffer from autoimmune diseases. One especially severe one named VEXAS syndrome wasn't discovered until 2020. It mainly affects men over 50 and in addition to typical autoimmune symptoms it can cause blood clots, shortness of breath and night sweats.

Certain populations also have higher risks. For example, lupus is more common in Black and Hispanic women. Northern Europeans have a higher risk of MS than other groups.

According to investment research company Morningstar, the global market for autoimmune disease treatments is \$100 billion a year. That's not counting doctor visits and such things as lost time at work. Treatment is lifelong and, while usually covered by insurance, can be pricey.

Not so long ago there was little to offer for many autoimmune diseases beyond high-dose steroids and broad immune-suppressing drugs, with side effects that include a risk of infections and cancer. Today some newer options target specific molecules, somewhat less immune dampening. But for many autoimmune diseases, treatment is trial and error, with little to guide patient decisions.

Laureate revolutionized genetics, forensics

James Watson, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, has died at age 97

NEW YORK, Nov 8, (AP): James D. Watson, whose co-discovery of the twisted-ladder structure of DNA in 1953 helped light the long fuse on a revolution in medicine, crimefighting, genealogy and ethics, has died. He was 97.

The breakthrough - made when the brash, Chicago-born Watson was just 24 - turned him into a hallowed figure in the world of science for decades. But near the end of his life, he faced condemnation and professional censure for offensive remarks, including saying Black people are less intelligent than white people.

Watson shared a 1962 Nobel Prize with Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins for discovering that deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, is a double helix, consisting of two strands that coil around each other to create what resembles a long, gently twisting ladder.

That realization was a breakthrough. It instantly suggested how hereditary information is stored and how cells duplicate their DNA when they divide. The duplication begins with the two strands of DNA pulling apart like a zipper.

Even among non-scientists, the double helix would become an instantly recognized symbol of science, showing up in such places as the work of Salvador Dali and a British postage stamp.

The discovery helped open the door to more recent developments such as tinkering with the genetic makeup of living things, treating disease by inserting genes into patients, identifying human remains and criminal suspects from DNA samples, and tracing family trees and ancient human ancestors. But it has also raised a host of ethical questions, such as whether we should be altering the body's blueprint for cosmetic reasons or in a way that is transmitted to a person's offspring.



President of the Russian Academy of Sciences Vladimir Fortov, (right), returns a Nobel prize medal which was sold at auction to a Russian businessman, to US Nobel laureate, biologist James Watson at the Russian Academy of Sciences, in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, June 17, 2015. (AP)

passed away a day earlier.

"He never stopped fighting for people who were suffering from disease," Duncan Watson said of his father.

Watson's initial motivation for supporting the gene project was personal: His son Rufus had been hospitalized with a possible diagnosis of schizophrenia, and Watson figured that knowing the complete makeup of DNA would be crucial for understanding that disease - maybe in time to help his son.

He gained unwelcome attention in 2007, when the Sunday Times Magazine of London quoted him as saying he was "inherently gloomy about the prospect of Africa" because "all our social policies are based on the fact that their intelligence is the same as ours - where all the testing says not really." He said that while he hopes everyone is equal, "people who have to deal with Black employees find this is not true."

He apologized, but after an international furor he was suspended from his job as chancellor of the prestigious Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. He retired a week later. He had served in various leadership jobs there for nearly 40 years.

In a television documentary that aired in early 2019, Watson was asked if his views had changed. "No, not at all," he said. In response, the Cold Spring Harbor lab revoked several honorary titles it had given Watson, saying his statements were "reprehensible" and "unsupported by science."

Watson's combination of scientific achievement and controversial remarks created a complicated legacy.

He has shown "a regrettable tendency toward inflammatory and offensive remarks, especially late in his career," Dr. Francis Collins, then-

director of the National Institutes of Health, said in 2019. "His outbursts, particularly when they reflected on race, were both profoundly misguided and deeply hurtful. I only wish that Jim's views on society and humanity could have matched his brilliant scientific insights."

Long before that, Watson scorned political correctness.

"A goodly number of scientists are not only narrow-minded and dull, but also just stupid," he wrote in "The Double Helix," his bestselling 1968 book about the DNA discovery.

Success

For success in science, he wrote: "You have to avoid dumb people. ... Never do anything that bores you. ... If you can't stand to be with your real peers (including scientific competitors) get out of science. ... To make a huge success, a scientist has to be prepared to get into deep trouble."

It was in the fall of 1951 that the tall, skinny Watson - already the holder of a Ph.D. at 23 - arrived at Britain's Cambridge University, where he met Crick. As a Watson biographer later said, "It was intellectual love at first sight."

Crick himself wrote that the partnership thrived in part because the two men shared "a certain youthful arrogance, a ruthlessness, and an impatience with sloppy thinking."

Together they sought to tackle the structure of DNA, aided by X-ray research by colleague Rosalind Franklin and her graduate student Raymond Gosling. Watson was later criticized for a disparaging portrayal of Franklin in "The Double Helix," and today she is considered a prominent example of a female scientist whose contributions were overlooked. (She died in 1958.)

Watson and Crick built Tinker Toy-like models to work out the molecule's structure. One Saturday morning in 1953, after fiddling with bits of cardboard he had carefully cut to represent fragments of the DNA molecule, Watson suddenly realized how these pieces could form the "rungs" of a double helix ladder.

His first reaction: "It's so beautiful."

Figuring out the double helix "goes down as one of the three most important discoveries in the history of biology," alongside Charles Darwin's theory of evolution through natural selection and Gregor Mendel's fundamental laws of genetics, said Cold Spring Harbor lab's president, Bruce Stillman.

Following the discovery, Watson spent two years at the California Institute of Technology, then joined the faculty at Harvard in 1955.

WASHINGTON, Nov 8, (AP): Don't lose sleep over headlines linking melatonin to heart failure.

That's the message after some scary-sounding reports about a preliminary study involving the sleep-related supplement. It raised questions about the safety of long term use of melatonin for insomnia.

Doctors have long known that too little or interrupted sleep raises the risk of heart disease. But heart experts say this kind of so-called observational study can't prove that melatonin use plays any role - instead of the insomnia patients were trying to treat.

"We should not raise the alarm and tell patients to stop taking all their melatonin," said Dr. Pratik Sandesara, an interventional cardiologist at Emory Healthcare who wasn't involved with the research.

Our bodies naturally produce melatonin, a hormone that regulates our sleep cycles. Levels normally increase as it gets darker in the evening, triggering drowsiness.

People may take lab-produced melatonin to help them fall asleep or to adjust for jet lag or time changes.

The new study used international electronic health records, tracking adults diagnosed with insomnia who had a melatonin prescription that suggested they used the supplement for at least a year.

Over five years, 4.6% of the chronic melatonin users developed heart failure compared to 2.7% of insomnia patients whose charts showed no melatonin use, the researchers found. The study is being presented at an American Heart Association meeting but



The label for a bottle of melatonin pills is seen in New York on Thursday, June 2, 2022. (AP)

hasn't undergone peer review.

But only certain countries require a melatonin prescription. It's over-the-counter in the US, meaning Americans in the study might have used the supplements without it being recorded, said Northwestern University cardiology chief Dr. Clyde Yancy, who wasn't involved in the study. The study also did not show dosages.

Also, US supplements don't require government approval, meaning brands can vary in their ingredients. The researchers, from SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, characterized the findings as a call for more research.

Meanwhile, patients wondering

about melatonin should talk it over with their doctors, said Emory's Sandesara. Generally doctors recommend it for short-term use, like for jet lag.

Yancy noted that while the study doesn't prove there's a danger from long term melatonin use, there's also no evidence that people should use melatonin indefinitely.

And one key to better shut-eye is to practice better sleep hygiene, like making sure your room is dark.

"When we expose ourselves to blue light in particular at night, we are diminishing our melatonin levels. That's science," he said. Sleep problems aren't about "just being sleepy and tired - they're putting yourself at risk."

Over 100 million American adults are obese

US to lower costs of obesity drugs

WASHINGTON, Nov 8, (AP): President Donald Trump unveiled a deal Thursday with drugmakers Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk to expand coverage and reduce prices for the popular obesity treatments Zepbound and Wegovy.

Known as GLP-1 receptor agonists, the drugs have soared in popularity in recent years, but patient access has been a consistent problem because of their cost - around \$500 a month for higher doses - and insurance coverage has been spotty. More than 100 million American adults are obese, according to federal estimates.

Coverage of the drugs for obesity will expand to Medicare patients starting next year, according to the administration, which said some lower prices also will be phased in for patients without coverage. Starting doses of new, pill versions of the treatments also will cost \$149 a month if they are approved.

"(It) will save lives, improve the health of millions and millions of Americans," said Trump, in an Oval Office announcement in which he referred to GLP-1s as a "fat drug."

Thursday's announcement is the latest attempt by the Trump administration to rein in soaring drug prices in its efforts to address cost-of-living concerns among voters. Pfizer and AstraZeneca recently agreed to lower the cost of prescription drugs for Medicaid after an executive order in May set a deadline for drugmakers to electively lower prices or face new limits on what the government will pay.

As with the other deals, it's not clear how much the price drop will be felt by consumers. Drug prices can vary based on the competition for treatments and insurance coverage.

The obesity drugs work by targeting hormones in the gut and brain that affect appetite and feelings of fullness. In clinical trials, they helped people shed 15% to 22% of their body weight -- up to 50 pounds or more in many cases.

Patients usually start on smaller doses and then work up to larger amounts, depending on their needs. They need to stay on the treatments indefinitely or risk regaining weight, experts say.

The medications have proven especially lucrative for Lilly



Boxes for the medications Wegovy and Zepbound are arranged for a photograph in California, May 8, 2025. (AP)

ly and Novo. Lilly said recently that sales of Zepbound have tripled so far this year to more than \$9 billion.

But for many Americans, their cost has made them out of reach.

Medicare, the federally funded coverage program mainly for people ages 65 and over, now covers the cost of the drugs for conditions such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, but not for weight loss alone. Trump's predecessor, Joe Biden, proposed a rule last November that would have changed that, but the Trump administration nixed it.

Few state and federally funded Medicaid programs, for people with low incomes, offer coverage. And employers and insurers that provide commercial coverage are wary of paying for these drugs in part because so many people might use them.

The \$500 monthly price for higher doses of the treatments also makes them unaffordable for those without insurance, doctors say.

Unprecedented water, energy crisis in Iran

No rain may force evacuations in Tehran

TEHRAN, Iran, Nov 8, (AP): Iran's president has warned that the capital is facing an unprecedented water and energy crisis as reservoirs have plunged to historic lows, threatening supplies of drinking water and electricity generation, it was reported on Friday.

"If it doesn't rain in Tehran by late November, we'll have to ration water. And if it still doesn't rain, we'll have to evacuate Tehran," President Masoud Pezeshkian was cited as saying on Thursday by the SNN.ir semi-official news agency.

Pezeshkian described the situation as "extremely critical," citing reports that Tehran's dam reservoirs have fallen to their lowest level in 60 years.

The city has entered its sixth consecutive year of drought, with some dams at less than 10% of capacity.

Officials say that in the east of Tehran, the Lattan Dam - one of five key reservoirs - is only about 9% full.

"Lattan's water storage is just nine million cubic meters," Deputy Energy Minister Mohammad Javanbakht said recently, calling the situation "critical."

Tehran, a sprawling city of about 9.1 million residents located within a province of roughly 14.5 million people, relies heavily on hydropower. But as rivers and wetlands have dried up, power output has plummeted, forcing some plants offline for lack of cooling water. Officials have described the water shortage as "unprecedented."

Iran's energy system remains highly dependent on hydropower and fossil fuels, while solar and wind together make up only a small share of total capacity.

Sanctions, investor skepticism and decades of underinvestment have stalled diversification efforts.

Experts say the link between water availability and electricity generation has become increasingly evident, as hydropower output drops and thermal plants struggle with cooling shortages.

Critics also fault long-standing policies that placed water-hungry industries - including steel, cement and petrochemicals - in some of the country's driest regions.

Lawmaker Reza Sepahvand said such "wrong policies" diverted rivers to inland factories that should have been built on the coast. Iran's National Water and Spatial Planning organization now urges relocating those industries to coastal zones that could use desalinated water.

Sudan records nearly 2,000 cholera deaths

Dutch to cull poultry after bird flu detection

THE HAGUE, Nov. 8, (Xinhua): The Netherlands has ordered the culling of around 120,000 chickens at a poultry farm in the northern province of Friesland after a highly pathogenic strain of bird flu was detected, the agriculture ministry announced on Friday night.

To prevent further spread of the virus, the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) will cull all birds at the site in the village of Droegham.

A transport ban has been imposed immediately within a 10-km radius region, covering the movement of poultry, eggs, manure, and used bedding.

Another poultry farm located 1 km from the infected site is being tested for bird flu and will be intensively monitored for 14 days, while three other farms within 3 km are being screened, according to the statement.

The outbreak comes as the Netherlands had already imposed a national housing order for poultry since Oct. 16, requiring all commercial farms to keep birds indoors and non-commercial owners to take measures to prevent contact with wild birds.

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HIV: Zambia has approved Lenacapavir, a long-acting injectable antiretroviral (ARV) drug, for the prevention of HIVAIDS, with the government describing it as a major milestone in the country's fight against the pandemic.

Minister of Health Elijah Muchima said on Friday that the approval of the drug reaffirms the government's commitment to ending HIV as a public health threat by 2030 through the introduction of innovative and highly effective prevention technologies.

Lenacapavir is administered once every six months and offers protection against HIV infection for the same duration.

According to Muchima, the registration of the drug makes Zambia the second country in Africa, after South Africa, to do so.

He noted that the introduction of the drug has significant implications for HIV prevention in Zambia, which continues

to record about 30,000 new infections annually, particularly among adolescent girls and young women.

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Cholera: The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has warned that conflict-driven challenges have further exacerbated the ongoing cholera outbreak in Sudan, as the country recorded nearly 2,000 cholera-related deaths since the start of 2025.

Since the start of this year, Sudan has recorded 71,373 cholera cases and 1,996 deaths, marking the highest number of fatalities from cholera in Africa during the period, Yap Boum II, deputy incident manager for mpxo at the Africa CDC, said during an online media briefing on Thursday evening.

Boum expressed concern over conflict-induced challenges that are both driving the spread of cholera, while also hindering response efforts.

All 18 states in Sudan are affected by the ongoing cholera outbreak, with current hotspot areas including North Kordofan, White Nile, and Darfur, and the country's capital, Khartoum.

The Africa CDC has identified conflict-induced water-system failures, widespread displacement, and access constraints as major drivers of the rapid surge in cholera cases across Sudan this year.

Boum expressed worry over several challenges hindering cholera response efforts in Sudan, including the existing "very large caseload," surveillance gaps mainly in Darfur, and constrained access to care.

He said multiple rounds of oral cholera vaccine are being conducted in Khartoum and other high-burden states to curb the spread.

Meanwhile, the Africa CDC official raised alarms over the rapid transmission of cholera in Angola and Burundi. After a period of decline, Angola has seen a sharp resurgence over the past five weeks, signaling a potential new wave.

Data from the African Union's specialized healthcare agency showed that 23 African countries have reported 300,117 cholera cases and 6,927 deaths since the start of this year.

Football for Humanity wraps up, blending diplomacy and humanitarian action to aid Palestinian children



Photo of the VIP attendees



Closing ceremony of Football for Humanity

Held under the patronage of Kuwait's Foreign Minister, with support from the United Nations, FIFA's Talent Development Scheme

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Kuwait concluded the first edition of the Football for Humanity initiative — a UN-backed diplomatic sports initiative dedicated this year to children in Palestine.

Held under the patronage of H.E. Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the initiative was organized in partnership with the United Nations — represented by UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait — and supported by the FIFA Talent Development Scheme, 11 participating embassies, and Kuwait's private sector, in an effort to harness the global popularity of football to advance humanitarian diplomacy and deliver tangible support to children affected by crises.

The event was attended by Minister Plenipotentiary Abdulaziz Saud Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs; Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs, Ambassador Sheikhha Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah; and the Ambassadors of Italy, France, Brazil, Spain, Belgium, Palestine, Tunisia, Egypt, the United Kingdom, India, and Armenia. Also in attendance were Sheikhha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chairperson of Al-Nowair Foundation and Chair of the Initiative's Organizing Committee, and Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef, President of the Kuwait

Football Association.

H.E. Minister Plenipotentiary Abdulaziz Saud Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs and Member of the Initiative's Board of Trustees, said: "The success of Football for Humanity reaffirms Kuwait's commitment to humanitarian diplomacy and global cooperation in promoting peace and supporting vulnerable communities. We value the partnership of the United Nations and participating embassies in Kuwait and look forward to building on this diplomatic engagement in future editions."

H.E. Ghada Hatem ElTahir, Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator in the State of Kuwait, and a member of the initiative's Board of Trustees, said: "The success of Football for Humanity reflects the strong partnership between Kuwait and the United Nations in advancing humanitarian efforts and sustainable development. This first edition showed how sport can bridge divides, promote peace, and inspire solidarity, and we look forward to building on this momentum in future editions with broader reach and deeper impact."

Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chairperson of Al-Nowair Non-Profit Foundation, Chair of the Organizing Committee, and member of the initiative's Board of Trustees, said: "As the first edition of Football for Humanity concludes, we take great pride in what has been achieved. The initiative reflects a unique Kuwaiti, UN, and diplomatic collaboration that opened new horizons for using sport to build peace and promote safe, cohesive communities for children worldwide. What we accomplished was only possible through our partners' shared belief in equal opportunities for children in crisis-affected communities, and we see this as the

beginning of a global movement that puts humanity at the heart of football."

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Football Association and Member of the Initiative's Board of Trustees, said: "The Kuwait Football Association is proud to support Football for Humanity, reflecting our belief in sport's role in building people, strengthening communities, and promoting the values of unity and solidarity. This partnership embodies our mission to use football as a platform for social and humanitarian impact, in line with Kuwait's standing as a hub for humanitarian action. We also value our close collaboration with FIFA's Talent Development Scheme, which highlights the shared commitment of local and international institutions to the initiative's noble goals."

Balsam Al-Ayoub, Advisor to the Initiative, Member of the Board of Trustees, and former international fencing champion, said: "Football for Humanity is a real and tangible example of the positive impact football can create in our world. Through this initiative, we are helping shape a better reality for every child whose life has been affected by conflict or disaster. It's more than just a game — it's a gateway to the future, driven by our belief that sport is one of the most powerful tools for community development, empowerment, and peace. As a Kuwaiti athlete, I feel proud to witness this event, which reflects Kuwait's enduring humanitarian and sporting legacy built across generations."

The Football Tournament

The youth tournament brought together over 400 boys and girls aged 8–12 from different nationalities, who played friendly matches in support of children in Palestine. Both the open-

ing and closing ceremonies featured artistic performances expressing solidarity and unity through sport, alongside an exhibition match by Kuwait's U-17 women's team at the Jaber Al-Ahmad Youth Center.

For the first time in Kuwait and the region, matches were self-managed by the children, played without referees, and rewarded with a green card for sportsmanship instead of penalties. The tournament had no scores or rankings, reflecting the initiative's vision of football as a platform for empathy, ethics, and human connection.

The Charity Auction

Yesterday, Football for Humanity announced an extension of its charity football auction until 20 November, giving participants worldwide more time to bid on rare and exclusive memorabilia whose proceeds will go to support Palestinian children through the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. Winners will be announced on the initiative's social media channels.

Items up for auction include a signed Kuwait national team jersey from the 1982 World Cup by legend Jassem Yaqoub, a Barcelona jersey signed by Spanish legend Andrés Iniesta, an AC Milan jersey signed by Italy's World Cup champion Andrea Pirlo, and a Brazil national team jersey signed by Vinicius Júnior, Alisson Becker, and Raphinha, among others. The collection also features jerseys from Belgium and Italy, and two footballs signed by members of Tunisia's national team. Each item is accompanied by an official certificate of authenticity.

International and Local Partnerships

In line with SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals, Football for Humanity built a broad coalition uniting governments, NGOs, UN

agencies, the private sector, and civil society to advance shared humanitarian and development objectives. The initiative was held under the patronage of Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and co-organized in partnership with the United Nations, represented by UNICEF, UNESCO, and WHO, with the support and participation of the embassies of Italy, France, Brazil, Spain, Belgium, Palestine, Tunisia, Egypt, the United Kingdom, India, and Armenia, and the FIFA Talent Development Program.

The initiative also received strong backing from Kuwait's private sector, including Al Hamra Shopping Center, Makhazen (formerly Agility Public Warehousing Co.), Kout Food Group – Pizza Hut Kuwait, and VO Creative Platform. Together, these partnerships reflect a shared commitment to using football as a platform to promote human values and strengthen cooperation for future joint initiatives.

Football for Humanity is guided by a Board of Trustees comprising leaders from Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations, ambassadors from 11 countries, and senior Kuwaiti officials, ensuring its diplomatic standing and humanitarian credibility. The initiative represents an unprecedented UN–diplomatic–sports alliance, with Kuwait serving as the host nation for a global movement that transforms football's unifying power into tangible support for children affected by crises. It also lays the foundation for future editions that will expand each year to address broader humanitarian causes.

To bid on or view the auction, visit: <https://4mazad.com/products/products/71>

For the latest updates, follow the initiative on Instagram: [instagram.com/footballhumanitykw](https://www.instagram.com/footballhumanitykw).

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For further details please contact:
Tel: 25327651 Fax: 25327648

Kuwait Club looks to extend lead as Al-Fahaheel climbs standings

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The eighth round of the Zain Premier League concludes this evening, with Al-Arabi visiting Al-Nasr at 5:25 PM at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, while the round's marquee clash features Kuwait against Kazma at 7:40 PM at Al-Sadaqa wal-Salam Stadium.

League leader Kuwait Club (16 points) is aiming for its sixth victory of the season to strengthen its hold on the top spot. The "White" team comes off a hard-fought 1-0 win over Al-Nasr in the previous round and is keen to maintain momentum during a period of solid technical stability.

Kazma (third place, 11 points), meanwhile, is looking to bounce back after a 1-1 draw with Al-Fahaheel in the last round and hopes to deliver Kuwait's first league defeat of the season.

In the other headline match, Al-Arabi

(second place, 14 points) aims to capitalize on a morale-boosting 4-0 win over Al-Jahra in the previous round as they con-

tinue their challenge for the league lead. Al-Nasr, currently bottom of the table with zero points, seeks their first victory



Al-Fahaheel and Al-Salmiya players fight for the ball.

or at least their first point of the season.

The Football Association has scheduled two postponed sixth-round matches for December 28: Al-Tadhamon vs. Al-Arabi at Al-Awal Stadium and Kuwait Club vs. Al-Fahaheel at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium. These matches were delayed due to Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi's participation in the Asian Challenge League at the end of October.

Al-Fahaheel moved up the table after defeating Al-Salmiya 2-1 at Thamer Stadium, opening the eighth round. The win takes Al-Fahaheel to 10 points, sixth place, while Al-Salmiya remains on 11 points.

Meanwhile, Al-Tadhamon and Al-Shabab played out a 1-1 draw at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, lifting Al-Shabab to 10 points and Al-Tadhamon to 5 points.

The league will pause after this round until mid-December due to FIFA international match dates and the Arab Cup, set to take place in Doha, Qatar, from early December until the 18th.

Under the theme ‘Our Social Responsibility Has Gone National’

Burgan Bank celebrates fans and community at FIP World Cup Pairs 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Coinciding with the final championship of the FIP World Cup Pairs 2025 today, and in light of the tournament’s strong appeal among audiences across Kuwait, Burgan Bank, the tournament’s Platinum Sponsor, has unveiled a series of distinguished initiatives that celebrate the nation’s passion for sports, foster a community spirit and positive engagement among spectators.

As part of its sponsorship of the tournament, Burgan Bank has produced a special song in honor of the tournament - a vibrant tribute to Kuwait’s passionate audience, visitors and athletes.

Performed by Khalid Al Mulla, Bibi Abdulmohsin, and Abdul salam Mohammed, the track celebrates fans as the beating heart of the game - those whose energy, pride, and unity elevate every rally and turn each victory into a shared national celebration.

Blending modern production with authentic local emotion, the song’s rhythm and lyrics



A variety of activities and games in the Fan Zone area.

embody the excitement, enthusiasm, and unbreakable bond between athletes and supporters - echoing the spirit of the championship itself.

Adding to the excitement, Burgan Bank’s (Fan Zone) has become one of the tournament’s most popular attractions.

Open throughout the nine-day event, Burgan Bank booth and different interactive zones

within the Fan Zone area offers families, friends, and fans a variety of interactive activities, games, competitions, and giveaways, making it a fun and engaging experience that extends beyond the court.

The activation reflects Burgan Bank’s commitment to connection, inclusivity, and social well-being, aligning with the Bank’s comprehensive social responsibility and ESG pillars.

By merging creativity with community engagement, Burgan Bank continues to strengthen its relationship with the public, transforming its Platinum Sponsorship into an experience that resonates with Kuwait’s cultural identity and collective pride.

As the world’s top padel athletes compete on Kuwait’s soil, Burgan Bank stands proud to be part of this historic milestone – one that not only elevates Kuwait’s sporting presence globally but also celebrates the people who make every moment count and every experience unforgettable.



The Burgan Bank team at its booth during the tournament.



Snapshot of the matches.



Officials addressing the media.

Al-Mutairi hails the team’s success

Basel Al-Sabah racers shine in Qatar Sand Drag

DOHA, Nov 8, (KUNA): Racers from Kuwait’s Basel Al-Sabah Racing Club delivered outstanding performances in the motorcycle category during the first round of the Qatar Sand Drag Racing competition, securing several top positions.

In the Modified motorcycle category, Jassem Dashti took first place, Abdulsamad Al-Shatti finished second, and Fahad Dashti claimed third. In the Modified Pro category, Abdullah Abdulaziz secured first place.

In the Open motorcycle category, Abdulaziz Al-Haddad came in second, while teammate Ibrahim Jumaa finished third. In the Motocross category, Dhari Al-Ansari earned second place.

Saif Al-Mutairi, Director of



Kuwait's Basel Al-Sabah team in a group shot after dominating the Qatar Sand Drag event.

Basel Al-Sabah Racing Club, expressed his delight at the club’s strong showing, telling KUNA on Friday that he was proud of the racers’ skill and

performance. He added that club members are also competing in the car category, which began on Friday evening.

Al-Mutairi noted that the

competition will run across five rounds from November to April, and he wished all club members continued success in the upcoming events.

Kuwait Club tops standings after dominant victory against Al-Nasr

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Kuwait Club took the lead in the basketball league after a commanding 119-68 victory over Al-Nasr in the third round, which also featured Al-Sulaibikhat’s impressive 122-89 win over Al-Arabi.

The round kicked off last Thursday with Al-Qadsia securing a hard-fought 101-97 win over Kazma, while Al-Qurain cruised past Al-Sahel 113-60.

Kuwait Clubnow sits at the top of the standings with 6 points from 3 wins and no losses, followed by Kazma, Al-Qadsia, Al-Qurain, and Al-Sulaibikhat, each with 5 points. Al-Nasr is sixth with 4 points, Al-Arabi seventh with 3 points (ahead of Al-Sahel on point difference), while Al-Sahel remains last with 3 points.

The league, featuring 8 teams, is structured in three rounds. The top four teams advance to the semifinals, where the first-place team meets the fourth and the second faces the third in a best-of-three series. The first team to win two games moves on to the final.

Kuwait Club dominated Al-Nasr



A Kuwait Club player goes for the basket as Al-Nasr players try to defend.

from the start, with the first quarter ending 44-15, the second 76-36, and the third 97-57, before sealing the match at 119-68.

Meanwhile, Al-Sulaibikhat’s convincing 112-89 victory over Al-Arabi highlighted its determination to secure a semifinal spot.

Giannis drops 41 as Bucks begin NBA Cup title defense with win

Spurs halt Rockets streak

MILWAUKEE, Nov 8, (AP): Giannis Antetokounmpo had 41 points, 15 rebounds and nine assists and the Milwaukee Bucks opened their NBA Cup title defense with a 126-110 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

The Bucks improved to 9-0 in the NBA Cup’s group play stage during the event’s three-year history. Milwaukee lost to Indiana in the semifinals two seasons ago and beat Oklahoma City 97-81 last year in the NBA Cup title game.

Antetokounmpo scored 19 points in the fourth quarter to help the Bucks pull away. He shot 16 of 32 from the floor, the first time this season he shot below 61.5%.

Milwaukee’s Myles Turner had 23 points - his highest total since joining the Bucks this year - and Ryan Rollins added 20.

Matas Buzelis had 20 points and eight rebounds for Chicago. Josh Giddey had 16 points, 14 assists and seven rebounds for the Bulls.

Giddey had triple-doubles in his last two games. He’s the first Bulls player to have triple-doubles in consecutive games since Michael Jordan in April 1989.

Spurs 121, Rockets 110

In San Antonio, Harrison Barnes scored 24 points, Julian Champagnie and Victor Wembanyama added 22 points apiece and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Houston Rockets in the NBA Cup opener for both teams.

Kevin Durant scored 24 points and Alperen Sengun added 22 for Houston, which had its five-game winning streak halted.

Barnes scored the game’s final four points on a pair of free throws and a breakaway dunk after a steal at midcourt with 12 seconds remaining.

Champagnie had nine points in the final quarter and finished 6 for 13 on 3-pointers. Champagnie also



Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon, right, drives past Golden State Warriors forward Jimmy Butler III in the first half of an NBA Cup basketball game in Denver. (AP)

collected and saved a contested offensive rebound and scooped a loose ball on the defensive end with the Spurs up 115-108.

Nuggets 129, Warriors 104

In Denver, Nikola Jokic scored 26 points, Jamal Murray added 23 and the Denver Nuggets improved to 5-0 at home in a rout of the Golden State Warriors, who were without Stephen Curry again.

Jokic, who sat out the entire fourth quarter, finished one rebound and one assist shy of his sixth triple-double of the season.

The Nuggets have won six of seven since their opening-night loss to the Warriors, including three wins to start their four-game homestand that concludes Saturday night against the Indiana Pacers.

Thunder 132, Kings 101

In Sacramento, Isaiah Hartenstein had a career-high 33 points along with 19 rebounds and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Sacramento Kings.

The 7-foot Hartenstein made 14 of 17 shots and had three assists and three blocks.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 30 points to help the Thunder (9-1) bounce back two nights after suffering their only loss of the season in Portland.

Cason Wallace scored 15 points and Isaiah Joe added 13 as the Thunder won their first game of the NBA Cup tournament.

Oklahoma City led by 23 and took advantage of the absence of Sacramento big man Domantas Sabonis, outscoring the Kings 60-34 in the paint. Sabonis sat out his second consecutive game with sore ribs.

Pistons 125 Nets 107

In New York, Cade Cunningham had 34 points and 10 assists, Jalen Duren added 30 points and 11 rebounds and the Detroit Pistons beat the Brooklyn Nets in an NBA Cup group opener.

Cunningham was 13 for 18 from the field and made all six of his free throws to help lead Detroit to its fifth straight victory and a 7-2 record. The All-Star point guard has averaged 29.8 points and 11.2 assists while shooting 54% from the field during the streak.

Raptors 109 Hawks 97

In Atlanta, Brandon Ingram scored 20 points and the Toronto Raptors rallied to beat the Atlanta Hawks for their second straight NBA Cup victory and fourth overall.

Down 13 in the second quarter, Toronto took the lead at 82-81 on Scottie Barnes’ layup midway

through the fourth. Immanuel Quickley hit a 3-pointer to make it 85-81 and the Raptors pulled away in the opener of a five-game trip.

Magic 123, Celtics 110

In Orlando, Franz Wagner scored 27 points, Desmond Bane added 22 points and seven assists and the Orlando Magic beat the Boston Celtics in their NBA Cup opener.

Jaylen Brown scored 32 points for the Celtics. Payton Pritchard added 27 points and Derrick White had 16 points and 10 assists.

The Celtics and Magic are grouped with Brooklyn, Detroit and Philadelphia in East Group B of the NBA’s in-season tournament. It was their first meeting since the Celtics eliminated the Magic in five games in a first-round playoff series in April.

Paolo Banchero finished with 15 points and nine rebounds for the Magic.

Cavaliers 148, Wizards 114

In Washington, Donovan Mitchell scored 24 points, Darius Garland had 20 points and nine assists and the Cleveland Cavaliers routed the Washington Wizards to improve to 1-1 in NBA Cup play.

Cleveland fell a point shy of matching the franchise record for a regulation game, set at Denver in a 149-135 victory last Dec. 28. The overall mark came in a 154-153 quadruple-overtime victory at home over the Los Angeles Lakers on Jan. 29, 1980. The Cavaliers also had 148 points at home in a December 1991 victory over Miami.

The Cavaliers have won three straight after dropping their Cup opener a week ago at home to Toronto, a game Mitchell missed because of hamstring tightness.

Heat 126, Hornets108

In Miami, Norman Powell scored 25 points and the Miami Heat enjoyed a record-setting first quarter on the way to a victory over the Charlotte Hornets in an NBA Cup game Friday night, giving coach Erik Spoelstra a win a day after his home burned down.

Andrew Wiggins scored 22 points and Pelle Larsson added 19 for Miami.

Kuwait’s Olympic and youth teams launch preparations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Training kicked off for the Kuwait Olympic (Under-23) team at the Union’s Al-Adailiya fields as it gears up for the Under-23 Gulf Cup in Qatar, scheduled from December 4 to 16.

The team’s Croatian coach, Verdo Milin, named a 31-player squad for the training sessions ahead of the team’s Dubai camp from November 14 to December 2, which will serve as final preparation for the tournament.

The Olympic squad features players born in 2005–2006, part of a long-term plan aimed at qualifying for the AFC U23 Championship and ultimately the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, while the Gulf Cup itself will feature players born in 2003–2004.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait youth national team has begun its training program in Thailand, continuing itspreparation for upcoming regional and international competitions.

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NEWS



Kuwait's Saud Alshamroukh swims during the 1,500m Freestyle opening round at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh.

Sports

Kuwait rules shooting range with 7-medal haul

Flawless performance

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Kuwaiti national shooting team emerged victorious at the Asian Shooting Championship, which concluded at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. The team captured two gold medals on the final day, bringing their overall tally to 7 medals — 4 gold, 2 silver, and 1 bronze — sweeping all gold medals in the tournament.

On the closing day, Abdulaziz Al-Mandel secured the men's skeet gold, finishing ahead of Pakistan's Usman Chand, who won silver, and fellow Kuwaiti Ammar Haroun, who took bronze. In the women's skeet event, Iman Al-Shammakh continued Kuwait's stellar performance by claiming gold, while Qatar's Sarah Mohammed earned silver and Kazakhstan's Adel Sadakbaeva took bronze.

Engineer Duai Al-Otaibi, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and President of both the Kuwaiti and Arab Shooting Federations, dedicated this remarkable achievement to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on behalf of all Kuwaiti shooting athletes, extending his prayers for the Amir's continued health and wellbeing. Al-Otaibi affirmed that the Kuwait Shooting Federation will continue its mission to achieve further successes in upcoming competitions, under the patronage of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, as well as with the support of the Kuwaiti government.

He highlighted the importance of the 2025 championship, describing it as a key preparatory stage for Kuwaiti shooters ahead of the qualifying tournaments for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games. The team's impressive results this year, he said, reflect the federation's effective strategy in preparing athletes for Olympic-level competition.

Al-Otaibi also expressed his appreciation to Minister of Information, Culture, and State Minister for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi for his ongoing support of Kuwaiti shooting. He commended the Public Authority for Sports and all relevant government bodies for their contributions in providing the facilities and logistical support that ensured the championship's success.

Finally, he praised the efforts of the organizing committee and technical officials, noting that their dedication was key to delivering a flawless and memorable tournament.



Top shooters recognized in Skeet competition.

KUNA photo

Sheikh Fahad commends Saudi excellence

All eyes on Riyadh as Islamic Solidarity Games begin

RIYADH, Nov 8, (KUNA): The sixth edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games officially got underway in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, featuring more than 3,000 male and female athletes from 57 countries.

The opening ceremony took place at the Janadriyah Camel Field, attended by Kuwait's Minister of Information, Culture and State Minister for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, along with the President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser.

Sheikh Fahad praised Saudi Arabia's exceptional organization of the event, describing the opening ceremony as "remarkable." He said the Games serve as a vital platform to strengthen cooperation and unity among Islamic nations through sport, embodying the values of brotherhood and peace that define the Islamic Solidarity Sports Movement.

He added that the event reflects the

true spirit of unity and understanding among the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, congratulating Saudi Arabia's leadership and people on the successful launch of the Games.

Sheikh Fahad noted that the impressive organization of the opening ceremony highlights the Kingdom's strong capabilities in hosting major international sporting events — a new milestone added to its growing record of sports achievements in recent years.

He emphasized that Kuwait's participation in the Games reflects its continued commitment to active presence in regional and international sports competitions, as well as its support for national athletes to represent the country with pride. He expressed confidence that the Kuwaiti participants would deliver performances worthy of the nation's sporting reputation.

During the parade, swimmer Saud Al-Shamroukh and weightlifter Zahraa



President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser

Kamshad carried Kuwait's flag. Kuwaiti swimming champion Saud Alshamroukh claimed first place in the first round of the 1,500m freestyle at the finals of the Islamic Solidarity Games, finishing with a time of 4:38.16.

His fellow Kuwaiti, Khaled Alotaibi, also advanced to the finals of the 400m individual medley, securing fourth place with a time of 7:43.4.

Kuwait's delegation includes 65 athletes competing in 11 sports: swimming, jiu-jitsu, karate, weightlifting, esports, camel racing, athletics, fencing, equestrian, duathlon, and handball.

In today's competitions, Al-Otaibi will race in the men's 200m individual medley heats at 10 a.m. at the Olympic Complex pool. Weightlifter Mohammed Al-Otaibi will compete in the men's 65kg event at 11 a.m., while Mohammed Reda will participate in the 71kg category at 5 p.m. at Boulevard Square.

The Kuwaiti weightlifting team features Fahad and Mohammed Al-Otaibi, Mohammed Abdulredha, Humaid Akbar, Saud Al-Mutairi, Sarah Al-Hawal, Amal Al-Shuraifi, Zahraa Kamshad, and Hanan Al-Ameer.



The opening ceremony of the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh.

Kuwait gymnastics team competes among the world's best in Portugal

LISBON, Nov 8: The Kuwait women's rhythmic gymnastics national team is taking part in the ongoing "Gym Gym" International Championship in Lisbon, Portugal, which features top talents from around the globe.

The Kuwaiti delegation arrived in the Portuguese capital and is headed by team administrator Noura Al-Murshid. The team includes four gymnasts — Sarah Al-Bannai, Raya Al-Qassar, Nabila Al-Kharafi, and Talia Behbehani — supported by coaches Laura Traets from Bulgaria and Viktoria Vasyuk from Ukraine.

The participation of Kuwait reflects the Kuwait Gymnastics Federation's commitment to giving athletes exposure to high-level international competition, helping them develop their skills through interaction with advanced global training programs.

Kuwait's presence at this event also highlights the growing stature of rhythmic gymnastics in the country, which has increasingly demonstrated the ability to compete and



The Kuwaiti delegation.

achieve strong results on the international stage, thanks to sustained support and developmental initiatives by the federation.

The Kuwait Gymnastics Federation expressed its best wishes to the national team, expressing confidence that the gymnasts will deliver an outstanding performance that honors Kuwait and showcases the sport's progress at home.

Important challenge ahead of the T20 World Cup

India clinches series win over Australia after another washout

BRISBANE, Australia, Nov 8, (AP): Shubman Gill's India squad is taking confidence out of a rain-marred 2-1 series win over Australia ahead of the Twenty20 Cricket World Cup it is co-hosting with Sri Lanka early next year.

India raced to 52 without loss in 4.5 overs in Game 5 on Saturday before lightning forced players and officials off the field at the Gabba.

The rain set in soon after, and the match was called off more than two hours later without a further ball being bowled.

Shubman Gill plundered the bowling, stroking six boundaries as he scored 29 off 16 deliveries. Abhishek Sharma had two prievies and was 23 off 13, including a flat-batted six over mid-wicket.

In the process, Abhishek passed 1,000 career runs in T20 international cricket in just his 28th innings, second on India's all-time list behind Virat Kohli, who reached the milestone in 27.

He said taking on the Australian bowling from the very first over was his plan coming into the tour.

"When you're playing like this, when you want to dominate the opposition, you have to have that confidence and that ability," Abhishek said. "I think the

captain and coach always back me in that."

It was the second washout of the series, after Game 1 in Canberra was abandoned after 9.4 overs on Oct. 29.

India took a 2-1 series lead with a 48-run victory Thursday on the Gold Coast, where Washington Sundar took three wickets in five deliveries to snuff



Shubman Gill of India bats during a T20 cricket international between India and Australia in Brisbane, Australia. (AP)

out Australia's run chase.

Gill said beating Australia at home was an important challenge ahead of the T20 World Cup, and gave the selectors plenty of options to build a squad for a title defense.

"Good headache to have," he said, adding that India's win in the Women's ODI World Cup on home soil earlier this month had increased expectations.

"There's a lot of excitement, support and responsibility at home." Responding to a question about the key takeaways from the series in Australia, Gill pointed to the trophy and smiled.

"There's never anything like all bases covered. We always learn from this game," he said. "Until now, things look good ... let's continue that."

Both teams now turn attention from the shortest to the longest format in international cricket.

Australia's next assignment is the first Ashes test against England in Perth starting Nov. 21. India is hosting South Africa in a two-test series starting Nov. 14.

Two uncharacteristic dropped catches had Australia under pressure after skipper Mitch Marsh won the toss and sent India in to bat on Saturday.

Tottenham and Man United both score stoppage-time goals in 2-2 draw

LONDON, Nov 8, (AP): Tottenham and Manchester United both scored stoppage-time goals in a wild finish to their 2-2 draw in the Premier League on Saturday.

Just when it looked like Richarlison's glancing header in the first minute of added-on time had sealed victory for Tottenham, United equalized with a header of its own from Matthijs de Ligt five minutes later.

United extended its unbeaten streak in the league to five games - three wins followed by two away draws - for its best run in the one-year tenure of Ruben Amorim, who is clearly benefitting from having more time to prepare for games

because of no European involvement this season.

Tottenham has only won one of its six homes games so far, yet showed commendable resilience to fight back from conceding a 32nd-minute goal to Bryan Mbeumo - his fifth of the campaign.

The hosts dominated the second half and grabbed an equalizer in the 84th through substitute Mathys Tel's shot that deflected in off De Ligt. Tel had only been on the field for five minutes, having come on for Xavi Simons in a substitution that was jeered by some sections of the home crowd at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

When Richarlison glanced in Wilson Odobert's edge-of-the-area shot, Tottenham looked a big favorite for all three points - especially considering United was down to 10 men at that point because of an injury to substitute Benjamin Sesko. United had used all five substitutes and couldn't replace the striker.

There was still time for De Ligt to find space at the back post at a corner to direct a header goalward and over the line before Tottenham goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario clawed the ball away.

At the conclusion Tel said he had a "50-50" feeling.

"Second half, our reaction was good, we

changed the game," the French forward said. "But we're also mad because we had to win today."

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Former Premier League soccer player **Joey Barton** was convicted of sending grossly offensive social media posts about two female pundits and a broadcaster who works on British television.

A jury at Liverpool Crown Court found the 43-year-old Barton "crossed the line between free speech and a crime" in six posts he made on X about **Lucy Ward** and **Eni Aluko**, who are both former players, and TV presenter

Jeremy Vine.

Barton was cleared of six other counts that he sent a grossly offensive electronic communication with intent to cause distress or anxiety from January to March 2024.

Barton was a midfielder for **Manchester City**, **Newcastle**, **Queens Park Rangers** and **Burnley**. He retired in 2017 and has since had managerial spells with lower-league teams **Fleetwood Town** and **Bristol Rovers**.

He is now a social commentator with 2.7 million followers on X.

Barton was bailed ahead of sentencing on Dec. 8.