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## Opinion

### Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

## HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed does not seek awards, they seek him

SPEAKING of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed is to speak of a multifaceted leader who embodies a rare blend of political acumen and diplomacy. He is one of the most dedicated figures committed to serving Kuwait in every position he holds.

This is why he is recognized as a statesman of the highest caliber, working with calm, wisdom, and patience.

Despite the injustice he suffered at the hands of his political allies, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed would never wrong anyone. During the period when the National Assembly held sway over the state, he was the target of baseless accusations, yet he never retaliated in kind.

His personality is enriched by diverse cultural influences and linguistic backgrounds. He is a naturally gifted diplomat and has managed the tasks entrusted to him with great competence, making him one of the most prominent regional figures on the international stage. Therefore, when His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed receives an award, it is truly well-deserved.

From the very beginning, His Highness was distinguished by his dedication and commitment to his responsibilities. Everyone recalls his pivotal role during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, when he launched Kuwait Radio from Khafji, highlighting the nation's resilience both inside and outside Kuwait. As Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Highness handled the crisis with exceptional wisdom and competence during one of the most critical periods in Kuwait's history.

I also remember him clearly during the political confrontations when certain parliamentary groups attempted to undermine the government's prestige by targeting him personally. True to his nature, His Highness adopted a wise and measured approach, turning to the courts and avoiding the uproar that engulfed Kuwait at the time. He believed that the truth could not be concealed, and trusted in the integrity of

the judiciary to protect the innocent from attempts to tarnish their reputations for malicious purposes.

His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed began his term as Prime Minister with an open heart, extending a hand to all in cooperation, as serving Kuwait was always his sole objective. Patriotism and loyalty to Kuwait were his primary criteria in distinguishing between citizens; beyond that, everyone was treated equally, with the freedom to express their opinions within the bounds of the law.

His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed left the Cabinet with a clean record, despite the unjust accusations and political rivalries directed at him. Nevertheless, he maintained a minimum level of good relations and did not sever ties with anyone. He continues to attend social occasions, sharing in the joys and sorrows of the people.

He believes that a political opponent is not an enemy, but simply someone with whom he holds a difference of opinion. He embodies the Quranic verse, "The good deed and the evil deed cannot be equal. Repel [evil] with that which is better, and verily, he, between whom and you there was enmity, will become as though he were a close friend."

Ultimately, only the truth prevails, as the Quran states, "But none is granted it except those who are patient, and none is granted it except one having a great share [of good]."

This is why His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed is a beloved figure among all Kuwaitis and holds a distinguished place in the world of diplomacy.

His receipt of the Order of the Rising Sun, the oldest and most prestigious order in the world, came as

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## HH Amir receives Crown Prince, senior officials

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah.

His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah.

# Will tourist influx be catalyst in spending?

Buying spree takes downturn by 4.66%: report

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Spending in the first nine months of 2025 totaled KD 34.35 billion, down 4.66 percent, or KD 1.67 billion, compared to the same period in 2024.**

The Central Bank of Kuwait recently released financial data for the first ten months of 2025. Some of these figures indicate a decrease in consumer spending, which has raised concerns among the public and contributed to a generally negative atmosphere.

In this regard, several economic experts told the daily that this drop reflects a slowdown in food and other markets.

According to financial analyst and economist Sultan Al-Jazzaf, some observers view this as the early signs of an economic slowdown. However, there is no need for alarm, as all economic indicators, from both the World Bank and local banks, continue to show positive prospects for the Kuwaiti economy.

Al-Jazzaf highlighted World Bank data showing that Kuwait's economy is growing at a rate of 2.5 percent and could reach 3 percent by the end of 2025.

He said, while consumption by the general population has declined, the most significant development has been an 11 percent increase in government spending, an increase not

seen in years, along with improved oil revenues.

Al-Jazzaf attributed Kuwait's current economic growth to the unprecedented economic and legislative reforms underway.

The data also indicated a drop in online spending during the first nine months of 2025, which amounted to approximately KD 13.11 billion, compared to KD 14.35 billion in the same period of 2024, which is a decrease of KD 1.24 billion, or 8 percent.

Al-Jazzaf stated that the economic cycle sometimes experiences periods of fluctuation, and the current decline in consumer spending may be temporary, resulting from specific circumstances, changes in consumer behavior, or the saturation of needs and goods.

He believes that facilitating tourist, family, and business visits will play a role in boosting consumer spending by the end of this year and into the next.

Furthermore, food security consultant and economist Mohammed Al-Furaih attributed the decline in consumer spending in Kuwait this year, compared to last year, to the political situation in the region.

He explained that regional wars and crises have affected the economic conditions of many countries, contributing to higher maritime transport costs and, consequently, increased product prices. Consumers generally do not forgo purchasing food items even when prices rise, but they tend to be more cautious with luxury or non-essential goods, such as cars.

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KUNA photo

A stall offering Kuwaiti products at the charity bazaar.

## Kuwait Embassy takes part in New Delhi Charity Bazaar

NEW DELHI, Nov 9, (KUNA): The Embassy of the State of Kuwait in New Delhi participated in the 35th annual Charity Bazaar organized by the Delhi Commonwealth Women's Association and the International Women's Club in the Indian capital.

In a statement to KUNA on Sunday, Kuwait's Ambassador to India Meshal Al-Shemali said that the annual participation of Kuwait in the charity bazaar, held with the support of civil society organizations, reflected Kuwait's commitment to noble actions that enhanced social solidarity with the marginalized and address the needs of the less fortunate in society.

Ambassador Al-Shemali, who was the guest of honor at this year's charity bazaar, hailed the Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its continuous support of efforts abroad in providing support and contributions for humanitarian and charitable projects.

He also expressed his gratitude to Kuwaiti entities that contributed major donations, including Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways, which offered travel vouchers as prizes in a raffle held during the bazaar.

Several Arab and foreign embassies accredited in the Indian capital, as well as Indian companies, participated in the one-day bazaar, which was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, showcasing diverse products.

## Arab cooperation vital: Al-Roumi

### Kuwait, Iran to tackle climate change, environs

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (KUNA): The representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Oil Tariq Al-Roumi participated in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) summit held in Belem, Brazil, on November 6 and 7.

On the sidelines of the summit, Minister Al-Roumi met with energy and environment ministers and officials from several countries, in the presence of Kuwait's Ambassador to Brazil Talal Al-Mansour.

In a meeting with the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Head of Iran's Department of Environment Shina Ansari, Minister Al-Roumi discussed a number of topics related to the environment and climate

change.

Ansari invited the Kuwaiti minister to visit Tehran to continue coordinating and cooperating in the fields of environment and sustainable energy.

Minister Al-Roumi also met with the Jordanian Minister of Environment Ayman Suleiman.

During their meeting, they emphasized the importance of strengthening Arab cooperation in the areas of environmental protection and addressing the effects of climate change.

They also discussed ways to enhance the exchange of experiences between the two countries in the areas of

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## Resolution 1325

### Women empowerment key to progress: official

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by the Human Rights Affairs Department, organized a workshop on Sunday to design and prepare a national action plan for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The workshop was held in cooperation with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and included representatives from national bodies that are members of the National Committee for the Implementation of the Resolution, as well as experts and specialists from international organizations.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights, Ambassador Sheikhha Jawaher Al-Sabah, highlighted in her opening remarks that this event is being held on the 25th anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1325 and the

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## Family basis of building stable, prosperous society – minister

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed that the family is the cornerstone of building a prosperous and stable Gulf society, stressing that developing policies supporting the family is no longer an option as it is imperative to ensuring social security and sustainable development.

In her speech at the opening of the Fifth Gulf Family Policy Forum with the theme, "The Gulf Family between Digital Challenges and Human Investment Opportunities," at the St. Regis Hotel on Sunday,

Al-Huwailah said the forum complements joint Gulf efforts to highlight the importance of the family as the nucleus of society and its vital role in dealing with the changes brought about by the digital age. She emphasized the need to invest in individuals and build their skills as the foundation for a promising future.

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An aerial drone photo taken on Nov. 9, 2025 shows buildings shrouded in fog in Kuwait City. (Xinhua)

## Flights back to normal after many diversions

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Kuwait International Airport resumed normal operations after the diversion of 17 flights to airports in neighboring countries, such as Dammam, Basra, Doha and

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## Nationality of eight individuals revoked

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Two decrees were published in the official gazette "Kuwait al-Yaum" on Sunday revoking the Kuwaiti citizenship of eight individuals, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

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## Newswatch

**RIYADH:** Kuwait's Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi discussed Sunday with Syrian Minister of Tourism Mazen Al-Salehani ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 26th UN Tourism General Assembly currently taking place in Riyadh.

Both ministers stressed the importance of strengthening joint coordination in tourism and culture and reviewed plans to advance cooperation in these fields.

They also praised the strong relations between the two countries and expressed keenness to hold further meetings to broaden cooperation prospects.

The Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi led Kuwait's delegation attending the 26th session of the United Nations Tourism General Assembly, held in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. (KUNA)

## 'Ban on cash use in gold trade is step towards transparency'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Experts in the precious metals sector praised Ministry of Commerce and Industry Decision No. 182/2025 banning cash transactions in the trade of gold, precious stones and precious metals.

They consider the decision a strategic step towards a safe and transparent business environment, in line with Gulf trends to regulate money flow in the sector and transform it into a digital system subject to banking supervision.

The experts confirmed to the newspaper that the gold market in Kuwait entered a new phase with the issuance of this decision, which tightens oversight of the sector by obligating all companies and institutions operating in the sector to use bank transfers and electronic payment methods approved by the Central Bank of Kuwait. They also affirmed the implementation of strict legal measures against violating establishments, ranging from immediate closure to referral to investigative authorities.

Gold expert Alamar Al-Mousawi said the decision puts the market on the right track, as it raises transparency levels and limits any transaction outside the regulatory framework. He explained that the gold trade is one of the sectors most vulnerable to exploitation in illegal activities due to the nature of its products and their high value. He stressed that halting cash transactions reduces the risks of manipulation and strengthens trust between buyers and sellers. He asserted that the decision fulfills this need and brings Kuwait closer to the best international practices. He also underscored the importance of this step in keeping pace with the Gulf trend to

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KUNA photo

Acting Undersecretary of the Kuwait Ministry of Islamic Affairs Dr. Suleiman Al-Suweilem and Saudi Deputy Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Abdulfattah Mashat sign an agreement on organizing the affairs of Kuwaiti pilgrims.

## Deal inked on pilgrim facilitations

JEDDAH, Nov 9, (KUNA): Acting Undersecretary of the Kuwait Ministry of Islamic Affairs Dr. Suleiman Al-Suweilem and Saudi Deputy Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Abdulfattah Mashat signed an agreement on organizing the affairs of Kuwaiti pilgrims for the 1447 Hijri Hajj season.

In a statement to KUNA on Sunday, Dr. Al-Suweilem said the agreement involves determining the number of Kuwaiti pilgrims allowed in the season, arranging to receive the pilgrims upon arrival in Saudi Arabia, facilitations and health requirements.

The Ministry is taking part in the fifth edition of the Hajj Conference and Exhibition, set to kick off later today in Saudi and held until November 12.



**8 National Bank of Kuwait introduces NBK Ebtakir, Kuwait's ground breaking intrapreneurship initiative**

**8 KCCI: US remains Kuwait's top investment destination**

**9 Kuwait Finance House enhances financial literacy**

| Prayer Timings |       |            |       |
|----------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Fajr .....     | 04:45 | Asr .....  | 14:35 |
| Sunrise ..     | 06:07 | Maghrib .. | 16:57 |
| Zohr .....     | 11:32 | Isha ..... | 18:16 |

# Local

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for light fog forming at night.

**By Night:** Rather cold with light to light northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for light fog forming over some areas.

| Station        | Max Exp | Min Rec |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Kuwait City    | 28      | 18      |
| Kuwait Airport | 30      | 16      |
| Abdaly         | 31      | 13      |
| Jahra          | 31      | 15      |
| Failaka Island | 25      | 15      |
| Salmiyah       | 27      | 20      |

## Honouring those lost to conflict and terrorism

# British Embassy hosts ‘Remembrance Service’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: On Sunday Nov 9, the British Embassy hosted its annual “Remembrance Service” honouring those who have lost their lives due to conflict or terrorism.

The service, officiated by The Reverend Dr Michael Mbona, brought together a diverse group of attendees including senior officials and representatives from Kuwait Ministry of Defence, Kuwait Armed Forces, Kuwait Coast Guard, and Kuwait National Guard, esteemed Ambassadors and Defence Attachés, veterans, and serving members of Kuwait and the UK’s respective militaries, to pay their respects to the fallen- be they troops who died in service for their countries or civilians killed as a result of war or acts of terror.

Many attendees wore poppies - the flower to bloom on the devastated battlefields of World War One - as a symbol of both remembrance and hope for a more peaceful future.

During his speech, H.E. Sheikh Dr Abdullah Meshal Al Sabah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defence, said: “For the people in Kuwait, this occasion holds deep meaning. We will never forget the brave men and women of the United Kingdom and the coalition forces who stood by Kuwait during the darkest days of the occupation and fought for its liberation in 1991.”

Captain Neil Marriott, UK Defence Attaché, said: “Remembrance is a solemn moment to honour those who gave their lives so that we might enjoy the freedoms we have today. The horrors of war serve as a stark reminder of the cost of conflict and the enduring importance of pursuing peace. We remember not only the fallen, but the values they stood for. I am also deeply grateful to all those who joined us at the Embassy to mark this occasion - their presence helped make it a truly meaningful act of remembrance.”



Photos by Samer Shaqir

Top & above: Photos during the ‘Remembrance Service’ honouring those who have lost their lives due to conflict or terrorism.

# Kuwait leading investor in Tunisia, ambassador says

20 institutions drive growth

**By Fares Ghaleb**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed Karim Boudali said Kuwait is among the most important investors in Tunisia, with 20 Kuwaiti or Kuwaiti-owned institutions in 10 governorates.**

In a statement to the newspaper, Boudali revealed that 16 of these institutions operate in the tourism and services sector, with total investments amounting to 676 million Tunisian dinars. He pointed out that given the opportunities and potentials in both countries, cooperation in this sector remains open to more development.

He confirmed that discussions are ongoing between the Tunisian and Kuwaiti sides to expand investments. “Kuwaiti investment in Tunisia is important, particularly in sectors of mutual interest, such as food security, health, information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence, and renewable energy. It should be noted that the Minister of Economy and Planning discussed this with Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) during his visit to Kuwait in April 2025, with the aim of strengthening cooperation between the two countries in these various fields,” he added.

He stated that “one of the important projects currently underway in Tunisia is the rehabilitation and reclamation of the Gulf of Monastir, which could be an area for Kuwaiti investment in our country to achieve mutual benefit for both nations.”

He announced efforts to overcome all obstacles to the development of trade exchange, indicating that work is in progress to open a direct air route and a direct air cargo route between the two countries, which will undoubtedly strengthen trade cooperation.



Mohamed Karim Boudali, Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait

He pointed out that the positive momentum in Tunisian-Kuwaiti relations resulted in the convening of the fourth session of the Tunisian-Kuwaiti Joint Committee in Tunis in November 2024, chaired by the foreign ministers of both countries. “This session resulted in the signing of 14 cooperation agreements covering several sectors like investment, industry, trade, transport, tourism and social affairs. The contract for the construction and equipping of four regional hospitals in Tunisia (Ghardimaou, Jelma, Hafouz and Makthar) was signed on March 17, 2025, in Tunis. This project is funded by the Tunisian State budget and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED),” he disclosed.

He added that during the meeting of the Tunisian and Kuwaiti civil aviation authorities in Tunis on April 26, 2025, an agreement on air services was signed, which could pave the way for the resumption of direct flights between the two countries and for exploring the possibility of establishing a direct cargo air route.

He expressed Tunisia’s appreciation for the vital role that Kuwait plays in supporting development in Tunisia, stemming from its belief in and commitment to the principle of fraternal solidarity in its foreign policy. “Kuwaiti investments

are among the first and most important Arab investments in Tunisia. KIA is active in our country through its investment arm, Equity Capital -- one of the largest diversified investment institutions in Tunisia. Equity Capital manages an investment portfolio that includes companies operating in financial services, real estate, industry, food, agribusiness, telecommunications, media, technology, retail and other service sectors. In addition, the Tunisian-Kuwaiti Bank serves as a model of successful and fruitful cooperation between the two countries in the financial sector,” he elaborated.

He praised the cooperation with KFAED, as it reflects the strength of the historical relations between Tunisia and Kuwait. He emphasized that the Fund has been and remains a key partner in supporting development efforts in Tunisia since its establishment. “It is considered one of the most important institutions that supported the development path in our country by financing numerous projects in vital sectors. These projects have had a positive impact on the Tunisian economy and on its development and economic activities. Since the start of cooperation with KFAED in December 1963, the Fund has contributed to financing at least 38 projects and is currently financing nine development projects in several vital areas in our country, such as the refurbishment and development of the railway lines for transporting phosphates, and the project to build and equip four hospitals,” he added.

Regarding plans for upcoming joint committee meetings and high-level visits, Boudali confirmed that Tunisia and Kuwait intend to hold the eighth session of the Tunisian-Kuwaiti Joint Trade Committee in Tunis. He said the two sides are also working toward holding a meeting of the Joint Technical Committee on Youths in Kuwait this year, which presents an opportunity to sign the draft executive program for cooperation between the two countries in the field of youths for the years 2025, 2026 and 2027.

## Other Voices

# Carabinieri spirit takes root in Kuwait

**By Nasser Al-Hajeri**

**O**n 5 November 2025, during Italian Unity and Armed Forces Day, the Kuwait Section of the National Carabinieri Association was officially inaugurated. This special occasion marked the first time the Association opened a section in the Middle East, showing how its spirit of service continues to grow beyond Italy.

The National Carabinieri Association was founded in Milan on 1st of March 1886 by retired members of the Carabinieri Corps who wanted to support one another and continue serving their communities. Over the years, it has grown into a large family of active and former Carabinieri who take part in volunteer work, community projects, and emergency assistance. Guided by the phrase “once a Carabinieri, always a Carabinieri,” its members stay true to their mission of helping others. Today, the Association counts around 220,000 members in more than 1,700 sections across Italy and 38 sections abroad.

The Kuwait Section begins with eight founding members led by Lt. Col. Francesco Filippo Cinnirella, who serves as its first President. Lt. Col. Cinnirella is also the Deputy Defense Attaché at the Embassy of Italy in Kuwait, where he continues to strengthen ties between Italy and Kuwait through



Lt. Col. Francesco Filippo Cinnirella and founding members of the National Carabinieri Association's Kuwait Section stand during the official inauguration on Italian Unity and Armed Forces Day, marking the Association's first Middle East chapter.

his work and dedication. Under his leadership, the new Section aims to carry forward the Association’s long-standing mission of volunteer work and community support. Members will help build closer links between Italian Carabinieri and the Kuwaiti community, take part in local initiatives, and represent the values of the Carabinieri with pride and commitment.

The opening of the Kuwait Section during Italian Unity and Armed Forces Day made the event even more meaningful. It reflected

shared values of unity, loyalty, and service that both nations deeply respect. The new Section hopes to grow over time, welcome more members, and play an active role in supporting the local community.

The establishment of this Section is a proud step for the National Carabinieri Association. Through the efforts of its founding members, it brings the Carabinieri’s strong tradition of service and solidarity to Kuwait, showing that the values of duty, respect, and kindness know no borders.

## Organizers promise captivating showcase

# Youth Theatre Festival set for Nov 17 opening

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA):** A Kuwaiti youth theatre festival is tantamount to a platform allowing young thespian talents the opportunity to express their artistic views, an official said on Sunday.

The annual festival, sponsored by Kuwait’s Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, is gradually tweaked in a bid to keep up with the “aspirations” of young theatrical talents, Youth Public Authority Acting Deputy Director General Waleed Al-Ansari said in a statement.

Ahead of the festival’s opening on November 17, he praised the efforts of the event’s organizers to ensure that festivities ensue in a manner that depicts the rich history and prominence of the event, the official underlined.

Emphasizing the competitiveness of the theatre festival, its chief Dr. Mohammad Al-Mezel said participants are putting in the final preparations ahead of the event, calling on theatre aficionados not to miss what promises to be a theatrical spectacle.



# GCC Power 2025 Conference kicks off in Kuwait

Energy Ministry highlights focus on energy transition and grid cooperation

**By Mohammad Ghanem**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9:** Official spokesperson of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Eng. Fatima Jawhar Hayat said Kuwait will host the Gulf Power Conference and Exhibition (GCC Power 2025), organized by the Regional Committee for Electrical Power Systems of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC CIGRE) in cooperation with the ministry, on Nov 10-12, under

the patronage of Minister of Electricity, Water, Renewable Energy and Finance, and acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem.

In a press statement on Saturday, Hayat explained that hosting this prominent regional event affirms the leading position of Kuwait in the fields of electricity and renewable energy in the region, and embodies its vision to support the energy transition and the green economy, in addition to strengthening joint Gulf cooperation in the fields of new and renewable energy.

She stated that the conference is one



MEWRE photo  
Eng. Fatima Jawhar Hayat, MEWRE official spokesperson

of the most important Gulf events in the electricity and new and renewable energy sector, with the participation of experts and researchers from the GCC countries to discuss the latest technological and scientific developments and review successful experiences

in the fields of electricity generation, transmission and distribution.

She revealed the main topics of the conference include the operation and control of electrical power systems, development of electrical grids, system economics, electricity markets and regional operations, distribution systems and their smart solutions, power stations and high-voltage equipment, automation and integrated control of networks, transformers, transmission lines and cables, and interconnection network technologies.

She said the conference is a reliable Gulf platform for exchanging experiences and knowledge, discussing ways to develop the electricity infrastructure, and promoting innovation and sustainability in this vital sector. "It also presents a vital opportunity to showcase the experiences of Kuwait in the areas of energy conservation and efficiency, and digital transformation,

thus, strengthening its regional position within the framework of joint Gulf cooperation," she concluded.

Meanwhile, the latest annual plan follow up report issued by the Secretariat General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development revealed that the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy achieved 80.9 percent completion rate in its digital transformation project as of June, indicating the project is scheduled for completion on March 31, 2027.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the report, stating that 16 government entities, including the ministry, are participating in the program, which comprises 23 projects with allocated funding totaling KD13.026 million, adding that 13 of these projects are in the implementation phase, two are in the preparatory phase and eight have yet to commence.

In another development, the State Audit Bureau (SAB) is currently reviewing 12 contracts of the ministry, including tenders, direct contracting and extensions, with a total cost of KD21.969 million. The ministry is waiting for SAB to complete its review and audit of these contracts, as well as its approval to sign contracts with the winning companies that were previously awarded the tenders by the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) in accordance with applicable regulations and procedures.

These contracts aim to modernize the electricity and water networks by repairing underground cables and cable feeders, constructing emergency network buildings in Al-Salam, carrying out power disconnection and reconnection works, and replacing electricity meters in Hawally, Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Ahmadi governorates.

## Other Voices

# Passenger rights and responsibilities of the air carrier

**By Lawyer Abdulrahman Al-Houti**

The legal relationship between passengers and airlines is governed by a set of rules established under the Montreal Convention of 1999, to which Kuwait acceded pursuant to Law No. 30 of 2002.

This convention serves as the primary reference for the international air transport sector in addressing passenger complaints related to flight delays, cancellations, or lost luggage. It establishes a unified legal framework outlining the airline's liability toward passengers, cargo, and baggage.

Article 19 of the Convention provides that the carrier is "liable for damage caused by delay in the carriage of passengers, baggage, or cargo," unless it proves that all reasonable measures were taken to avoid such damage. Article 22 sets the limits of the carrier's financial liability and establishes procedures for dispute resolution.

Accordingly, a passenger affected by a delay has the right to claim compensation for losses incurred, whether



Al-Houti

material or moral, particularly if the delay has caused significant psychological or emotional harm.

In the event of a delay, the responsible airline is obliged to provide passengers with immediate assistance, including meals and refreshments, as well as hotel accommodation if the delay exceeds a specified duration, according to the distance and waiting time of the affected flight.

In the case of flight cancellation, airlines are required to notify passengers in a timely manner and allow them to choose between a refund of the ticket price or rebooking on an alternative flight without additional charges at the earliest opportunity. Passengers are entitled to compensation if they were not notified sufficiently in advance or if the cancellation caused actual harm. It should be noted that Article 22 of the Montreal Convention sets

a ceiling on compensation for damages resulting from delays or cancellations, unless the passenger proves gross negligence by the airline, in which case the compensation limit may be raised. Courts also retain the authority to assess appropriate compensation in such cases.

Another common issue faced by passengers is lost, damaged, or delayed baggage. The Montreal Convention holds the airline responsible for damage to passenger baggage occurring during the period in which the baggage is under the carrier's control.

In this context, it is important to highlight that the Civil Aviation Law No. 85 of 2025, issued in August, introduced several significant amendments aimed at strengthening the application of the Montreal Convention standards. These amendments position Kuwait among the countries actively updating their aviation laws to protect passenger rights and ensure justice in the air transport sector.

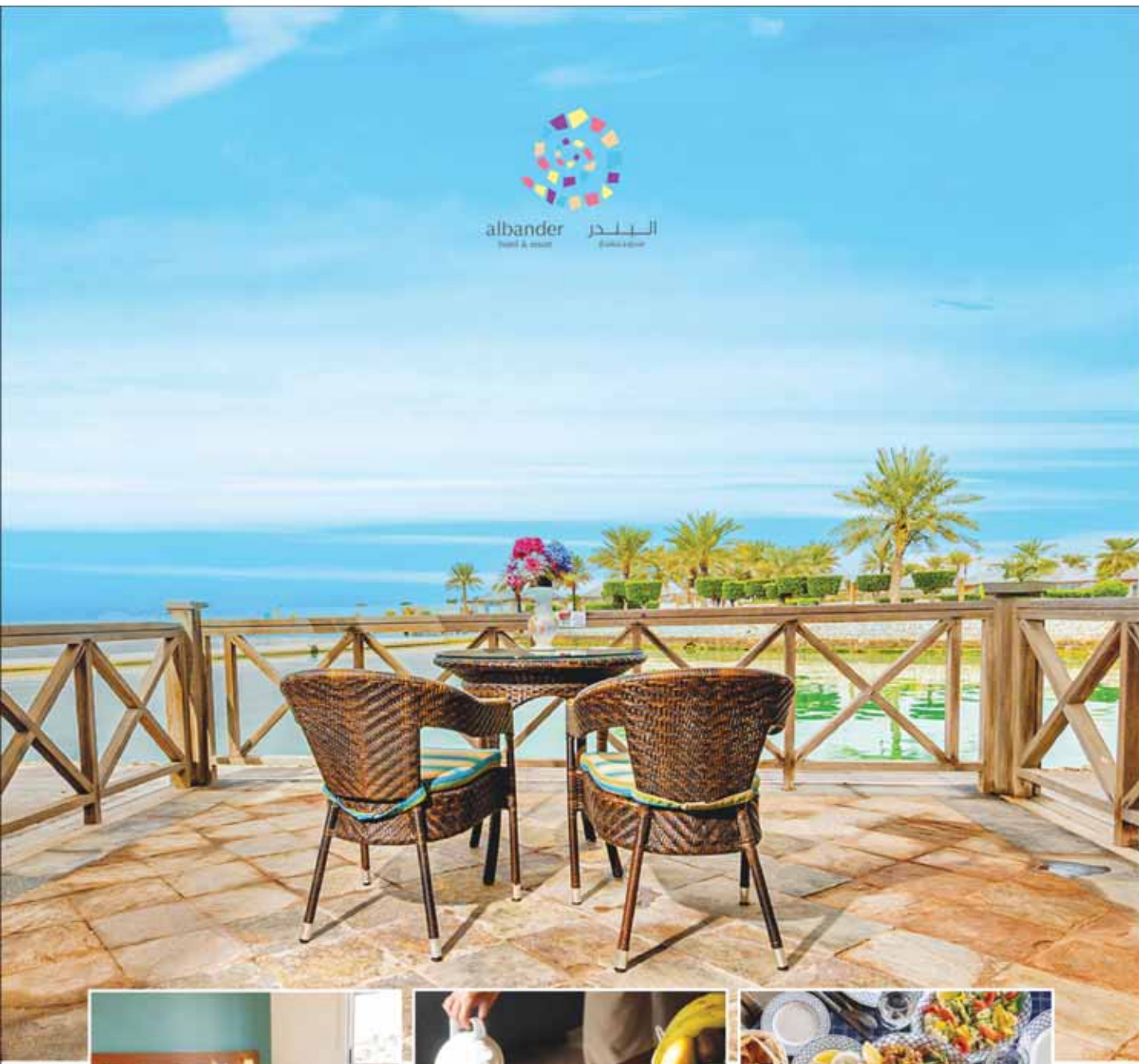
The new law stipulates that the authority shall, when the carrier is liable for damages to passengers, bag-

gage, or cargo, apply the provisions of the 1999 Montreal Convention, its amended protocols, and any other international agreements to which Kuwait is or may become a party.

Additionally, the law establishes a Compensation Board, chaired by a delegated judge from the Supreme Judicial Council, to examine and adjudicate passenger claims for damages under the airline's responsibility, and to enforce the carrier's compliance with the Board's decisions in accordance with the Convention's provisions.

Passengers or the airline may appeal a compensation decision to the competent court within ten days of notification. The appeal must be reviewed within one week, and the court's ruling on the appeal is final and not subject to further challenge by any means.

It is therefore evident that Kuwaiti domestic laws are aligned with international efforts to protect passengers' legal rights, recognizing that an airline ticket constitutes a binding contract, which forms the basis of the carrier's obligations toward passengers.



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## 300 specialists share expertise

# Kuwait highlights need for Arab cooperation in thoracic surgery

TUNIS, Nov 9, (KUNA): Dr. Youssef Al-Eid, a thoracic surgeon at the Chest Diseases Hospital in Kuwait, called on Saturday for unifying Arab scientific efforts to develop thoracic surgery and enhance the efficiency of medical personnel in this specialty.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) at the conclusion of the First Arab Conference on Thoracic Surgery in Tunis, Dr. Al-Eid said that holding the first session of this conference, with the participation of 300 specialists from 19 Arab countries — including Kuwait — in addition to international participants, represents an important step toward advancing thoracic surgery in the Arab world and exchanging expertise. He praised the high level of organization and the wide participation of academic surgical centers from across the region.

He stated that Kuwait's active participation in the conference comes as part of efforts to strengthen Arab scientific cooperation and exchange knowledge in the field of thoracic surgery, especially with the attendance of a distinguished group of thoracic surgeons from various Arab countries.

Alongside Dr. Al-Eid, Kuwait was also represented by Dr. Issa Al-Ghunaim, a consultant thoracic surgeon, who participated remotely via video conference. Both doctors presented scientific lectures on the latest developments in treatment methods and modern surgical techniques for chest diseases, highlighting evidence-based practices and minimally invasive approaches in lung and mediastinal surgery.

Dr. Al-Eid also took part in several spe-



KUNA photo  
Dr. Youssef Al-Eid, a thoracic surgeon at the Chest Diseases Hospital in Kuwait.

cialized workshops and held coordination meetings with fellow thoracic surgeons from various Arab countries to enhance collaboration and exchange scientific expertise. These meetings additionally facilitated field visits and medical exchange programs, enabling Arab physicians to observe surgical procedures in different centers across the region.

The three-day conference featured more than 60 scientific presentations delivered by 65 speakers, in addition to 180 research papers showcasing the latest innovations and technologies in thoracic surgery. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about the latest medical technologies and equipment in the field, particularly the integration of artificial intelligence and robotic surgery techniques.

## Delivery of 1.4 million copies assured

# Gov't starts printing 2nd batch of secondary school textbooks

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Following the successful completion and delivery of the textbooks for the first semester of the current academic year, the Government Printing Press at the Ministry of Information has started printing the second batch of the secondary school replenishment textbooks, reports Al-Rai daily quoting an official source.

The source disclosed this batch includes 70 books -- around 1.4 million copies for Grades 10, 11 and 12 for the Science and Literature strands.

The source affirmed that the textbooks will be delivered to the warehouses of the ministry before February, so the Supplies and Warehouses Department can distribute them to secondary schools way before the start of the second semester. "We have the capacity to print textbooks for all educational levels, but we are awaiting the plan of Education Minister Eng. Jalal Al-Tabtabaei

for the upcoming academic year," the source added.

The source stated that the ministry is considering several options for managing textbooks in the next academic year, indicating these options include increasing the quantities assigned to the Government Printing Press or studying proposals to reduce the annual KD8 million budget allocated for textbook printing. "One such proposal is establishing a dedicated printing press in the ministry, with the latest technology and modern printing equipment.

According to the source, the proposed printing press will be provided with all the necessary supplies like paper and raw materials. "This will generate job opportunities for young Kuwaitis, eliminate lengthy bureaucratic procedures that often delay the operations of the ministry, and remove the need for external regulatory approvals.

## Part of 4th Ring Road partially open

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), in cooperation with the General Traffic Department, announced the opening of a part of the Fourth Ring Road opposite the nurseries (Al-

Mashtal) leading towards Jahra. The opposite part of the Fourth Ring Road, opposite Safat Al Ghanim and Sultan Center, will be closed from Sunday until further notice, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Chamber honors members and sponsors at milestone anniversary

AmCham Kuwait celebrates 40 years of excellence at annual gala dinner

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The American Chamber of Commerce in Kuwait (AmCham Kuwait) celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a grand gala dinner at the Four Seasons Kuwait, uniting government officials, diplomats, business leaders, and members of the AmCham community to honor four decades of collaboration, partnership, and impact.

The evening began with a captivating performance by a traditional Kuwaiti band performing the stick dance, followed by welcome remarks from Paola de la Roche, Executive Director of AmCham Kuwait, who invited attendees to leave messages on the commemorative 40th Anniversary Canvas and capture memories at the event's photo booth.

Mr. Pete Swift, Chairman of AmCham Kuwait, delivered opening remarks reflecting on the Chamber's journey since its founding in 1985 and expressing gratitude to members, staff, the board, and sponsors for their support.

Dr. Rawda Awwad, President of the American University of Kuwait (AUK) and Diamond Sponsor, shared:

“At AUK, we're building the people who will walk across the bridges that AmCham has built between Kuwait and the United States. For over forty years, AmCham has connected ideas and industries; at AUK, we prepare the graduates who will carry that partnership forward. When business and education work together, we create more than opportunity: we create continuity, understanding, and progress.”

The gala honored AmCham Kuwait's valued sponsors and partners:

- Diamond Sponsor: American University of Kuwait (AUK)
- Platinum Sponsors: KGL – Kuwait & Gulf Link Transport Company and KRH
- Gold Sponsor: Gulf Insurance Group (GIG)
- Silver Sponsors: Al Tamimi & Company, Kuwait Chemical Company (KCHC), and Saudi Arabian Chevron
- Travel & Tourism Partner: IFA International Travel & Tourism
- Hotel Partner: Four Seasons Kuwait
- Strategic Partner: Zone Kuwait Company

**40th Anniversary Excellence Awards**



Leaders, diplomats, and sponsors gather to mark milestone anniversary.

Presented by Paola de la Roche and Dr. Arezou Harraf, Vice-Chair of AmCham Kuwait, the awards recognized members and partners who have made significant contributions to AmCham's mission. Awardees included:

- 1) More Than 15 Years of Membership:
  - American University of Kuwait
  - Citi
  - EY
  - Saudi Arabian Chevron
  - Equate Petrochemicals
  - KGL
  - KRH
  - Raytheon RTX
  - Al Mulla Behbehani Motor Co.
  - Boeing Company
- 2) Founders and Honorary Members Award:
  - Mr. Fred Shuaibi

- Mr. Jafar Behbehani

- 3) Most Supportive Raffle Sponsors:
  - Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons
  - Union Trading Company (UTC)
- 4) Travel and Tourism Partner of Choice:
  - IFA International Travel & Tourism
- 5) Champions 2025:
  - KGL
  - KRH
  - Lockheed Martin
  - Saudi Arabian Chevron
- 6) Pillar of Legal Support Award:
  - Al Tamimi & Company
- 7) Business Council Partner:
  - British Business Forum
  - German Business Council Kuwait
  - Portuguese Business Council Kuwait

- Indian Business Professionals Council Kuwait
- Lebanese Business Council Kuwait
- Canadians in Kuwait

- 8) Printer of Choice:
  - Platinum Printing Press
- 9) Trusted Visual Media Partner:
  - Dlights Event Management Company

A highlight of the evening was the raffle, showcasing the generosity of AmCham Kuwait's sponsors and partners. Attendees had the chance to win a variety of prizes, including vouchers from Best Al Yousifi, dining and experience vouchers from Crowne Plaza Farwaniya, exclusive dining experiences from Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait, a selection of dining and activity vouchers from Holiday Inn Salmiya, a hotel stay and theme night experiences from Hyatt Regency Al Kout Mall, home appliance vouchers from Union Trading Company (UTC), lifestyle and shopping vouchers from Alshaya Group, premium gifts from Desert Star Trading Co., snack boxes from Kitco Company, shopping vouchers from Monoprix, beauty vouchers from Polish & Puff Beauty Salon, and the grand prize round-trip ticket to the United States courtesy of IFA International Travel & Tourism. Winners were celebrated on stage alongside representatives from each sponsor.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Arezou Harraf thanked all members, sponsors, and partners, emphasizing that AmCham Kuwait's success over four decades has been built on collaboration, inclusion, and shared purpose. Attendees were invited to leave messages on the 40th Anniversary Canvas, creating a lasting keepsake of this milestone celebration.

**About AmCham Kuwait**

Founded in 1985, AmCham Kuwait is a non-profit organization composed of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. The Chamber advocates for American interests in Kuwait and promotes collaboration, dialogue, and growth across the business community. For more information, visit [www.amchamkuwait.org](http://www.amchamkuwait.org) or follow @abck1985 on social media.

Other Voices

Khaled Montasser – the doctor of minds

By Ahmad alsarraf

Dr. Khaled Montasser, who closed his clinic to dedicate himself to a higher calling, is regarded as one of the best challengers of rigid mindsets dominating various religious and media platforms in Egypt.

Known for his sharp logic, clear arguments, and ability to counter destructive and regressive voices, Dr. Montasser was recently confronted by a preacher who demanded that he stop discussing religion and return to his medical practice.

Dr. Montasser's response (paraphrased) was, “The esteemed scholar asks me to devote myself to medicine, ignoring the fact that neither he nor any other religious figure in Egypt has fully committed to their known religious duties. Instead, they dominate the media, issuing pronouncements on every subject, from astronomy, medicine, physics, sports, fashion, and genetics, to sanitation, in-vitro fertilization, bestiality, infant marriage, and even suspended pregnancy.”

He said he closed his dermatology clinic more than three years ago to dedicate himself to addressing questions, enlightening minds, promoting scientific thought, combating superstition, and protecting vulnerable patients from exploitation. He also criticized the pressure some religious figures exert on the public, referring to them as “brokers of heaven”, which is the title of one of his most famous books.



alsarraf

Dr. Montasser explained that he realized curing millions of people with mental and intellectual issues had become more important to him than treating ten or a hundred skin conditions. Preserving the nation's intellect is more vital than caring for physical skin. While a thousand doctors could treat dermatology patients more effectively than he could, many intellectuals have neglected their duty to enlighten minds, confront the spread of ignorance, and engage with religious thought, fearing a loss of popularity, lack of public support, and the discomfort of stepping outside the safety of the herd.

Dr. Montasser said that he, since closing his clinic, has written a novel aimed at exposing and unmasking the Islamist movement, and affirmed that he will continue to be a chronic headache for all religious charlatans and purveyors of superstition until the torch is passed to a worthy successor among the thousands of young people.

In response to their demand that non-religious figures focus solely on their medical research, one must ask - if Dr. Magdi Yacoub, Dr. Mohamed Ghoneim, or Dr. Mohamed Aboulghar had written the same critiques as Dr. Khaled Montasser, would they have been accepted and implemented simply because these doctors are fully devoted to their scientific work?

The truth is revealed. Most religious figures aim to monopolize the field for themselves. Simply put, Dr. Montasser's writings challenge and unsettle them, and they do not know how to respond. As usual, they resort to direct accusations of atheism, insults, and slander against those who oppose them.

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Kuwait innovators plug into global accelerator program

SACGC talent gains exposure, investor insights

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity said that 10 Kuwaiti innovators were heading to Silicon Valley, San Francisco, to join in the accelerator program Plug and Play, powered by SACGC - a subsidiary of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

The ten-day program provides the participants with a chance to share experience with entrepreneurs, experts, academics and investors from around the globe to empower innovation in corporations, startups and universities, said a SACGC statement on Saturday.

The program fosters the skills of partners through brainstorming ideas about the models of businesses, the strategies of investment attraction, and adequacy of products to markets, notably the US market.

The partners are expected to demonstrate their projects in such areas as education, health, food and water security, energy, environment, AI, and digital transformation to decision-makers and investors on Demo Day, or the final day.

Expressing its best wishes for the participants, the SACGC reaffirmed commitment to helping the national cadres have access to the global markets, and opening new horizons for innovation.



SACGC photo Kuwaiti innovators participating in the Silicon Valley 2025 Accelerator Program in San Francisco.

Continued from Page 1

HH Sheikh Nasser

recognition of his tireless efforts to strengthen relations between Kuwait and Japan.

His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed is among those to whom honors comes, not those who seek them.

Women empowerment

30th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which together constituted a qualitative leap in the empowerment of women at both the national and international levels.

Sheikha Jawaher noted that Kuwait has been progressing in implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda through the formation of the National Committee for the Implementation of Resolution 1325, chaired by the Foreign Ministry and with the participation of relevant national entities, adopting a comprehensive institutional approach to enhancing women's role in prevention, protection, participation, and decision-making.

She added that recent years have witnessed pioneering achievements for Kuwaiti women in various fields, having joined the military and police forces, assumed leadership positions in the diplomatic corps, and contributed effectively to the fields of economics, science, technology, and engineering.

Sheikha Jawaher emphasized that these steps reflect Kuwait's commitment to the principle of equal opportunities and gender equality, and translate the strategic objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035, which considers women's empowerment a fundamental pillar of sustainable development.

She commended the ongoing technical cooperation between the Foreign Ministry and the UN's ESCWA in supporting the work of the National Committee and developing the proposed national action plan.

Sheikha Jawaher affirmed the Ministry's commitment to strengthening partnerships with UN organizations and relevant national entities to develop policies that are more responsive to the needs of women and society.

She also affirmed that this workshop represents an important step towards preparing a comprehensive national action plan for implementing Security Council Resolution 1325, reflecting the unique nature of the Kuwaiti experience and its commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation, noting that empowering women in Kuwait is an investment in the country's future, stability, and social security.

Kuwait, Iran

environmental management and renewable energy projects.

The Kuwaiti oil minister said the bilateral meetings he held during the summit aimed to boost joint cooperation on environmental and climate issues.

He clarified that these meetings were a “great chance” to share views on key issues such as switching to clean energy and international commitments to reduce carbon emissions.

Kuwait's participation in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) is part of its ongoing efforts to support

international efforts to address the challenges of climate change and achieve sustainable development, and to reaffirm its commitment to responsible environmental policies in line with the United Nations' climate and clean energy goals.

Nationality of

A Cabinet decree annulled the citizenship certificates of seven individuals and also revoked the citizenship of those who acquired it through them, in accordance with Article 21-bis-A of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 on the Nationality Law and its amendments.

Also, the Higher Committee for Citizenship Verification issued a decision revoking the citizenship of a woman, based on Article 11 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 concerning the Kuwaiti Nationality Law and its amendments.

Flights back

Bahrain, on Sunday.

Official spokesperson of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Abdullah Al-Rajhi confirmed that the airport resumed takeoffs and landings, following the stabilization and general improvement of weather conditions throughout the country.

Al-Rajhi stated that the safety of passengers and aircraft is the top priority of the DGCA, stressing that all the necessary operational measures are being taken in coordination with other concerned authorities and airlines to ensure the highest standards of air safety. He reiterated that the operational situation at the airport is stable and flights are operating as scheduled in coordination with the airlines and other concerned authorities.

Earlier, the DGCA announced that horizontal visibility dropping below 100 meters due to dense fog led to the diversion of several flights to neighboring airports.

Meanwhile, weather and environmental forecaster Issa Ramadan revealed on his account on the ‘X’ platform that the type of fog that formed Sunday was dense radiation fog, which mostly affected coastal areas with high humidity and light southeasterly winds. He added “it is expected to form intermittently over the coming days, particularly at night and in the early morning, depending on humidity and calm wind. Radiation fog is the most common type, forming on clear, calm nights when the earth radiates heat rapidly, cooling the air in contact with it. If the air is sufficiently humid, water vapor condenses, forming fog. This often occurs in the early morning hours and usually dissipates after sunrise.”

‘Ban on cash

regulate the movement of funds in the sector and transform it into a regulatory system.

Mohammad Al-Rashed, CEO of Qasr Al-Sabaik for Precious Metals, praised the decision, asserting that it is a vital step, which increases confidence in the market, protects consumers, and raises standards of integrity in the gold trade. He pointed out that obligating companies to use electronic payment methods aligns with the efforts of the State to combat

money laundering and develop the business environment.

He emphasized that the gold sector requires the highest levels of accuracy and reliability, and that the decision contributes to raising market efficiency and investor confidence. He affirmed his commitment to implement the directives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Central Bank of Kuwait, indicating that he has adopted electronic payment systems for years, affirming the principle of transparency and enhancing trust.

He stressed that the decision puts the Kuwaiti gold market on the cusp of a more transparent and regulated phase, bringing it closer to the advanced Gulf experience in regulating precious metals trading. He said the market is now preparing for a new commercial environment governed by the banking system, which will provide stronger consumer protection and limit irregular transactions.

He confirmed that the decision is in line with modern Gulf policies on comprehensive electronic oversight of gold trading. He revealed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) adopted the ‘UAE Gold Chainlink System’ in 2022, a system that mandates electronic tracking of payments to ensure transparency, while Saudi Arabia implemented a stringent electronic system to closely monitor cash transactions, with the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority announcing electronic monitoring of gold transactions and mandating shops to use non-cash payment methods. He added the Capital Market Authority in Oman has emphasized the prohibition of cash transactions in the precious metals trade, in support of financial oversight and to prevent tax evasion.

Family basis of

According to Al-Huwailah, the digital challenges are now affecting the structure and stability of the family, including changing patterns of dialogue within the family and the emergence of what is known as ‘digital silence’ between generations due to the excessive use of technology and social media. She also mentioned the risks associated with cybersecurity and the impact of digital content on the values and traditions of Gulf society.

She called for turning these challenges into an opportunity to strengthen family communication, develop emotional intelligence, and improve dialogue skills among all family members. She underscored the importance of utilizing technology as a tool for empowerment, not isolation, by employing it in education, training, and the development of human skills through effective partnerships between educational and media institutions, civil society and governments.

She confirmed that Kuwait continues its national and regional efforts, in line with the directives of its wise political leadership, represented by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, aimed at consolidating family values and strengthening social cohesion.

Moreover, Director General of the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs Mohammad Al-Obaidli pointed out that rapid digital transformations present Gulf families with challenges that impact identity and social cohesion. He stressed the need to develop flexible and innovative social policies, which keep pace with these changes.

Will tourist

Al-Furaih urged Kuwait to invest in land outside Kuwait for the establishment of farms for cattle and broiler chickens, as well as other food processing and industrial facilities.

He said this approach could create opportunities to diversify national revenue streams and help control price increases.

Al-Furaih also recommended that Kuwait acquire large tracts of land in countries suitable for wheat cultivation, such as Egypt, Russia, or other Asian nations, to produce wheat for the country.

He further emphasized the importance of supporting small business owners, particularly those in manufacturing, to reduce reliance on imports.

Also, economic expert Lawyer Athbi Al-Tahnoon stated that the significant rise in gold prices this year has contributed to a decrease in purchasing power for the majority of consumers.

He highlighted that global economic and political conditions have affected not only Kuwait but many other countries as well.

Lawyer Al-Tahnoon believes the decline in consumer spending is temporary and is expected to rebound with the implementation of decisions related to foreign investment and other upcoming measures aimed at improving the economic situation.

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Trump unlikely to compromise any time soon

## US government shutdown reaches its 40th day as senators work through crucial weekend

WASHINGTON, Nov 9, (AP): The government shutdown stretched into its 40th day Sunday even as senators stayed in Washington for a grueling weekend session hoping to find an end to the funding fight that has disrupted flights nationwide, threatened food assistance for millions of Americans and left federal workers without pay.

The Senate has so far shown few signs of progress over a weekend that could be crucial for the shutdown fight. Republican leaders are hoping to hold votes on a new package of bills that would reopen the government into January while also approving full-year funding for several parts of government. But the necessary Democratic support for that effort was far from guaranteed.

“We’re only a handful of votes away” from passing a bill to reopen the government, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-SD, said Saturday.

Still, Democratic leaders are pushing hard for an extension of subsidies for health plans offered under the Affordable Care Act marketplace. Republicans have rejected that offer, but signaled openness to an emerging proposal from a small group of moderate Democrats to end the shutdown in exchange for a later vote on the “Obamacare” subsidies, which make coverage more affordable.

For those enrolled in Affordable Care Act exchanges, premiums on average are expected to more than double next year if Congress allows the enhanced subsidies to lapse.

Vermont Sen Bernie Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Democrats, said the pledge to hold a vote on extending the health care subsidies would be a “wasteful gesture” unless “you have the commitment of the speaker of the House that he will support it and that the president of the United States will sign it.”

President Donald Trump has made clear he is unlikely to compromise any time soon. He pressed Republicans again over the weekend to get rid of the Senate’s filibuster rules that prevent the chamber from advancing on most legislation unless there is support from 60 senators.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-NH, and others, negotiating among themselves and with some rank-and-file Republicans, have been discussing bills that would pay for parts of government - food aid, veterans programs and the legislative branch, among other things - and extend funding for everything else until December or



Speaking to reporters, US Senate Majority Leader John Thune responds to Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer to reopen the government if Republicans extend expiring health care subsidies for one year, at the Capitol in Washington on Nov 7, day 38 of the government shutdown. (AP)

January. The agreement would only come with the promise of a future health care vote, rather than a guarantee of extended subsidies.

It was unclear whether enough Democrats would support such a plan. Even with a deal, Trump appears unlikely to support an extension of the health benefits. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La, also said this past week that he would not commit to a health vote.

## US Justice Dept issues flurry of subpoenas in fresh inquiry into Trump-Russia probe

WASHINGTON, Nov 9, (AP): The Justice Department has embarked on a fresh investigation into one of President Donald Trump’s chief grievances, issuing a flurry of subpoenas related to the US government’s inquiry into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, multiple people familiar with the matter said Friday.

The grand jury subpoenas issued out of the Southern District of Florida seek documents related to the preparation of the Obama administration’s intelligence community assessment, made public in January 2017, that detailed how Russia waged a covert influence campaign to help Trump defeat Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

It was not clear whether the new inquiry might produce criminal charges or even what criminal allegation was being examined. But its mere existence underscores the extent to which Trump is determined to make good on his pledge to seek retribution over an election interference investigation that shadowed him before he took office in 2017 and continued to cast a cloud over much of his first term. It also comes as the Justice Department has investigated and in some cases prosecuted Trump’s political foes, including former FBI Director James Comey, who was fired by Trump months into his first term in the White House amid



US Attorney General Pam Bondi speaks during a press conference on April 9 at Port Everglades, Florida. (AP)

the Russia investigation.

The full list of people who were receiving subpoenas was not immediately known. But a person familiar with the matter identified some of the current, future or intended recipients as former CIA Director John Brennan as well as Peter Strzok and Lisa Page, two FBI employees who were involved in the Russia investigation and who traded pejorative text messages about Trump. Strzok, a top counterintelligence agent, was later fired and Page,

an FBI lawyer, resigned. As many as 30 subpoenas were expected to issued, the person said.

The Trump administration has freshly scrutinized the intelligence community assessment in part because a classified version of it incorporated a summary of the “Steele dossier,” a compilation of Democratic-funded opposition research that was assembled by former British spy Christopher Steele and was later turned over to the FBI.

## Ukrainian strikes disrupt power and heating to two major cities in Russia

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 9, (AP): Ukrainian strikes disrupted power and heating to two major Russian cities near the Ukrainian border, local Russian officials reported Sunday.

The report comes as Russia and Ukraine have traded almost daily assaults on each other’s energy infrastructure and U.S.-led diplomatic efforts to stop the nearly four-year war have not advanced.

Elsewhere, Ukraine’s top diplomat accused Moscow of deliberately endangering nuclear safety, as he said Russia’s mass drone and missile attack on Friday struck substations that power two nuclear power plants.

Andrii Sybiba’s comments came as Moscow and Kyiv continue to blame each other for strikes that severed the main power supply for weeks to Europe’s largest atomic plant. A drone strike temporarily caused blackouts and cut heating to parts of Voronezh, regional Gov. Alexander Gusev said. He said several drones were electronically jammed during the night over the city, home to just over 1 million people, sparking a fire at a local utility facility that was quickly extinguished.

Russian and Ukrainian news channels on Telegram claimed the strike targeted a local thermal power plant.

A missile strike late on Saturday also caused “serious damage” to power



In this image made from video provided by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Nov 7, a Russian army soldier fires a Fagot anti-tank missile system towards a Ukrainian position at an undisclosed location. (AP)

and heating systems supplying the city of Belgorod, local Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov reported the following morning. Some 20,000 households were affected, he said.

Belgorod had a population of some 340,000 people at the last census in 2021, and is the administrative center of a region of the same name.

Russia’s defense ministry said Sun-

day that its forces destroyed or intercepted 44 Ukrainian drones during the night that flew over two southwestern regions, Bryansk and Rostov. The statement made no mention of either the Voronezh or Belgorod provinces, nor specify how many drones Ukraine launched.

Months of Ukrainian long-range drone strikes on Russian refineries have aimed to deprive Moscow of the oil export revenue it needs to pursue the war. Meanwhile, Kyiv and its western allies say Russia is trying to cripple the Ukrainian power grid and deny civilians access to heat, light and running water for a fourth consecutive winter, in what Ukrainian officials call “weaponizing” the biting cold.

Russia’s mass drone and missile strikes Friday hit power substations that supply two of Ukraine’s nuclear power plants, according to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba.

“Russia once again targeted substations that power the Khmelnytskyi and Rivne nuclear power plants,” Sybiba said in a statement on X late Saturday. “These were not accidental but well-planned strikes. Russia is deliberately endangering nuclear safety in Europe.”

Sybiba called for an urgent meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency board of governors to respond to the risks posed by the attacks.

the coast of the island of Tenerife on Saturday, according to emergency services.

A man and a woman died and several others were injured after strong waves pulled them into the ocean in the municipalities of La Guancha, Puerto de la Cruz and Santa Cruz de Tenerife, emergency services said. A third man was found dead floating in the ocean near a beach in Granadilla.

Authorities had warned people of a tidal surge and strong winds, advising them not to walk along coastal paths and avoid putting themselves at risk by taking photos and videos of the rough seas. (AP)

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**Slovenia deploys army to aid police:** The Slovenian government on decided to deploy the army to assist the police in joint border patrols, following a recent fatal incident in the country’s southeast.

At the same meeting, a comprehensive bill was also adopted, granting additional powers to law enforcement and the judiciary to combat crime and improve safety in high-risk areas.

The measures were introduced after the killing of a 48-year-old man in Novo Mesto in late October, allegedly by a member of the Roma community. The incident sparked public debate over security and led to the resignations of the interior and justice ministers.

Under an amended defense act, soldiers will join police patrols but will not exercise police powers. Their role will include assisting with migration management and transport operations, allowing more police officers to focus on criminal investigations and public safety duties. (Xinhua)

### America

**Car crash in Florida kills 4, injures 11:** A speeding car fleeing police slammed into a crowded bar early Saturday, killing four people and injuring 11 in a historic district of Tampa, Florida, that is known for its nightlife and tourists.

An air patrol unit spotted the silver sedan driving recklessly on a freeway at about 12:40 am after it was seen street racing in another neighborhood, the Tampa Police Department said in a statement. The Florida Highway Patrol caught up with the vehicle and tried to perform a PIT maneuver, which involves bumping the rear fender to cause a spinout, but it was unsuccessful.

Highway patrol officers “disengaged” as the vehicle sped toward historic Ybor City near downtown, police said, and ultimately the driver lost control and hit more than a dozen people outside the bar, Bradley’s on 7th.

Three people died at the scene, and a fourth died at a hospital. As of Saturday afternoon, two people were hospitalized in critical condition, seven were listed as stable and two had been treated and discharged, police said. Additionally there were two people who had only minor injuries and declined treatment at the scene.

Officers identified the suspect as 22-year-old Silas Sampson, who was booked Saturday and was being held at the Hillsborough County Jail. Court documents show Sampson was charged with four counts of vehicular homicide and four counts of aggravated fleeing or eluding with serious bodily injury or death, all first-degree felonies. (AP)

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**UPS cargo plane crash toll stands at 14:** The number of victims of a UPS cargo plane crash stood at 14 with nobody believed to be still unaccounted for among the missing, the mayor of Louisville, Kentucky, said Saturday.

The 13 victims located at the crash site matched the total number of missing people reported to police, Mayor Craig Greenberg said in a post on X.

“We believe the total number of victims will be 14,” counting one person who died Friday in a hospital, Greenberg wrote.



A car that crashed into a local business is shown on Nov 8, in Tampa, Fla. (AP)

The Jefferson County coroner was working to identify the victims and would make their names public as soon as those identities were confirmed, Greenberg added.

The crash Tuesday at UPS Worldport killed the three pilots on the MD-11 bound for Honolulu. A large fire developed in the left wing and an engine separated on takeoff, causing the plane to crash into businesses. (AP)

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**Hospital police officer killed in N.Carolina:** A police officer was shot and killed during a struggle in the emergency department lobby at a North Carolina hospital Saturday.

The shooting happened around 9 am at the WakeMed Garner Healthplex, killing WakeMed Campus Police Officer Roger Smith, according to a WakeMed statement.

A “person of interest” in the shooting was in custody, said a Garner Police Department statement.

The emergency department lobby was closed, and hospital officials were working with local police and state investigators. Further details about what happened weren’t immediately released.

“Law enforcement officers put themselves in harm’s way to keep us safe, and we are forever grateful for Officer Smith’s sacrifice,” North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein said in a statement on X. (AP)



Demonstrators carry banners reading ‘No to the labour package’ and ‘Demand a better life’ during a national protest by workers unions against a new labour package being prepared by the government in Lisbon, Portugal on Nov 8. (AP)

### Tens of thousands in Portugal protest proposed labor reforms

Tens of thousands of people in Lisbon took to the streets Saturday to protest labor reforms put forth by the center-right government. The protest was organized by the country’s main labor union in opposition to an overhaul of labor laws that Prime Minister Luis Montenegro’s government says are aimed at improving productivity and flexibility in the job market. Opponents want the package withdrawn and say it threatens workers’ rights. Demonstrators carried posters that read “No to the labor package” and called for higher wages.

The reforms would make worker dismissals easier. Other controversial elements include a limit on how

long breastfeeding women can claim a flexible work schedule and reduced miscarriage bereavement leave.

Portugal’s current minimum wage stands at 870 euros (about \$1,007) per month. Protesters carried signs calling for it to rise to 1,050 euros (\$1,214) in 2026.

Montenegro, who leads the center-right Democratic Alliance, heads a minority government in the European Union nation of 10.6 million people. The bill has to go to parliament where it’s expected to pass with the support of Chega, the far right and largest opposition party.

Organizers of Saturday’s protest announced a general strike on Dec 11. (AP)

## Charles leads Britain’s Remembrance Sunday ceremony for war dead

LONDON, Nov 9, (AP): King Charles III led Britain’s annual ceremony of remembrance for the country’s war dead on Sunday, under November sunshine and the shadow cast across Europe by the almost 4-year-old war in Ukraine.

As Parliament’s Big Ben bell tolled 11 am, thousands of military personnel, veterans and members of the public gathered in central London fell still for two minutes of silence, broken by a single artillery blast and Royal Marines buglers sounding “The Last Post.”

The 76-year-old king, dressed in the uniform of an army field marshal, laid a wreath of red paper poppies on a black background at the base of the Cenotaph war memorial. Erected over a century ago to honor the British and allied troops killed in World War I, it has become the focus of annual ceremonies for members of military and civilian services killed in that war and subsequent conflicts.

The national ceremony of remembrance is held every year on the nearest Sunday to the anniversary of the



Britain’s Prince William, (left), and Britain’s King Charles III take part in the Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the Cenotaph on Whitehall in central London on Nov 9. (AP)

end of World War I on Nov 11, 1918, at 11 a.m. Similar memorial services are held in dozens of towns and cities across Britain and at UK military bases overseas.

A military band played as heir to the throne Prince William followed his father in laying a wreath on the simple Portland stone monument inscribed with the words “the glorious dead.”

### Europe

**Greece to toughen gun laws:** Greece will tighten laws on illegal gun possession to curb gun violence, Citizen Protection Minister **Michalis Chrysochoidis** said Friday.

Under a draft bill to be submitted to parliament in the coming days, penalties for illegal firearm possession will be increased, with even harsher sentences for repeat offenders. The legislation will also impose stricter rules for issuing legal gun permits, including those for sport shooting.

Chrysochoidis announced the measures during a press conference on Crete, days after a gunfight between two feuding families near Heraklion left two people dead following a land dispute. Illegal gun ownership has long been common on Crete, where fatalities often result from both celebratory gunfire and clashes involving local crime groups. Despite this, the island remains one of Greece’s safest regions, accounting for just two percent of national thefts, the minister said. (Xinhua)

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**3 dead in tidal surge on Spain’s Canary:** Strong waves killed three people on Spain’s Canary Islands by pulling them into the Atlantic Ocean during a tidal surge, officials said Sunday.

Another 15 were injured in four different incidents along



Chrysochoidis

Asia

**Powerful quake strikes off coast of Japan:** A powerful quake rattled northern Japan Sunday evening, followed by several more temblors, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. A tsunami advisory was issued.

The earthquake, with an upgraded magnitude of 6.9 and depth of 16 kilometers (10 miles), struck off the coast of Iwate prefecture at 5:03 p.m. Japan time.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, or any reports of abnormalities at the two nuclear power plants in the area.

The agency issued an advisory for a tsunami of up to 1 meter (3 feet) along the northern coastal region, and subsequently said the water could reach as high as 3 meters in some spots.

A tsunami of about 10 centimeters (4 inches) was detected at Ofunato city in Iwate Prefecture, Ominato port, Miyako and Kamaishi, and subsequently as high as 20 centimeters (8 inches) in the coastal area of Kuji.

The tsunami that followed in Ofunato also reached 20 centimeters (8 inches), according to the agency.

Tsunami waves that follow earthquakes can continue for a few hours afterward, hitting the coast repeatedly, and can possibly get bigger with time.

While the advisory was in place, people were warned to stay away from the ocean and coastal areas and told more shaking could follow in the area. (AP)

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**7 migrants dead after boat capsizes near Malaysia:** Rescuers in Malaysia recovered the bodies of seven migrants from Myanmar and found 13 alive from a boat that capsized with dozens aboard, officials said Sunday.

The vessel had departed from the town of Buthidaung, in Myanmar's Rakhine state, carrying some 300 people, said First Adm. Romli Mustafa from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, citing a preliminary investigation.

Police and the maritime agency said the passengers were believed to have been split into three smaller boats once the vessel neared Malaysia. One of the boats was believed to have sank near Tarutao island in southern Thailand on Thursday, and some of the victims drifted into Malaysia's northern resort island of Langkawi, the authorities said.

The timing and exact location of the incident is not known. The fate of the other



A survivor (left) rests aboard a boat on waters off Kedah, Malaysia on Nov 9. (Xinhua)

two boats is also unclear, officials said.

Local media quoted the Kedah state police chief in northern Malaysia, Adzli Abu Shah, as saying that some of those rescued were Rohingya Muslims, from Myanmar, where they have faced persecution for decades. Romli warned in a statement that cross-border syndicates are becoming increasingly active in exploiting migrants using perilous sea routes. (AP)

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**2 killed after fishing boat capsizes off S.Korea:** Two people were killed and three others went missing on Sunday after a Chinese fishing boat capsized in

waters off Gageo Island, about 420 km southwest of South Korea's capital Seoul.

It was reported around 6:50 am local time (2150 GMT Saturday) that the 98-ton ship was overturned in international waters, some 81 km away from the island, according to the South Korean coast guard.

The Chinese consulate general in Gwangju confirmed the report to Xinhua.

Among the 11 crew members aboard the ill-fated vessel, six were rescued by another Chinese fishing boat sailing in nearby waters. The rescued had no major health problems.

The coast guard, which arrived at the scene, rescued two more sailors in cardiac arrest, but they died. The remaining three were still unaccounted for. (Xinhua)

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**8 missing in east China boat collision:** Eight people went missing after a merchant ship collided with a fishing boat off the coast of east China's Shandong Province on Sunday morning, according to local maritime authorities.

The accident occurred around 5 am near Weihai City, causing the fishing boat to sink. Records indicated nine people were on board, and rescuers were able to save one person, who is in stable condition.

Vessels and helicopters have been deployed to search for the remaining eight, and rescue efforts are currently underway. (Xinhua)

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**Indonesia police probe ties between suspect, hate groups:** Indonesian police seized explosive powder and writings from the home of a 17-year-suspect in an attack on a mosque at a high school that injured scores of students, and are investigating his possible links to hate groups, officials said Saturday.

The suspect was among the 54 injured in Friday's blast in Jakarta and was still recovering at a hospital, said National Police Chief Listyo Sigit after visiting him and the victims. The suspect was one of two students having surgery for injuries from the blasts.

"The suspect's condition has improved, and hopefully this will make it easier for us to question him after he recovers," said Sigit, adding that police currently only have one suspect. "However, we will not stop here. We will continue to investigate whether other individuals or groups were involved."

At least two loud explosions occurred around midday at the mosque, just as the Friday sermon started, at SMAN 72, a state high school within a navy's residential complex, in Jakarta's northern Kelapa Gading neighborhood. It prompted worshippers to flee in panic as gray smoke filled the mosque. (AP)

‘Rain and wind were so strong there was nearly zero visibility’

# Super Typhoon Fung-wong slams into Philippines after killing 2, displacing 1 mln people

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 9, (AP): Super Typhoon Fung-wong slammed ashore on Sunday in the northeastern coast of the Philippines, where the massive storm had already left at least two people dead and forced more than a million people to evacuate from flood- and landslide-prone areas, officials said.

The typhoon blew into Dinalungan town in Aurora province Sunday night after setting off fierce rain and wind in northeastern Philippine provinces all day from offshore, with sustained winds of up to 185 kph (115 mph) and gusts of up to 230 kph (143 mph).

The biggest typhoon to threaten the Philippines in years, Fung-wong could cover two-thirds of the archipelago with its 1,800-kilometer (1,118-mile)-wide rain and wind band, forecasters said. It approached from the Pacific while the Philippines was still dealing with the devastation wrought by Typhoon Kalmaegi, which left at least 224 people dead in central provinces on Tuesday before pummelling Vietnam, where at least five were killed.

A villager drowned in flash floods in the eastern province of Catanduanes and another died in Catbalogan city in eastern Samar province when she was hit by debris, officials said.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr has declared a state of emergency due to the extensive devastation caused by Kalmaegi and the expected calamity from Fung-wong, which is also called Uwan in the Philippines.

Tropical cyclones with sustained winds of 185 kph (115 mph) or higher are categorized in the Philippines as a super typhoon, a designation adopted years ago to underscore the urgency tied to more extreme weather disturbances.

"The rain and wind were so strong there was nearly zero visibility," Roberto Monterola, a disaster-mitigation officer for Catanduanes, told The Associated Press by telephone.

Despite calls for residents to evacuate Saturday, some still stayed on.

"Our personnel rescued 14 people who were trapped on the roof of a house engulfed in flood in a low-lying neighborhood," Monterola said. "A father also



In this photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, rescuers evacuate people to safer grounds in Quezon province, eastern Philippines as Typhoon Fung-wong enters the country on Nov 9. (AP)

called in panic, saying the roof of his house was about to be ripped off by the wind. We saved him and four relatives."

Over a million people were evacuated from high-risk villages in northeastern provinces, including in Bicol, a coastal region vulnerable to Pacific cyclones

and mudflows from Mayon, one of the country's most active volcanoes.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. warned about the potentially catastrophic impact of Fung-wong in televised remarks Saturday. He said the storm could affect a vast expanse of the country, including Cebu, the central province hit hardest by the previous typhoon, and metropolitan Manila, the densely populated capital region.

More than 30 million people could be exposed to hazards posed by Fung-wong, the Office of Civil Defense said.

Teodoro asked people to follow government orders and seek shelter away from villages and towns prone to flash floods, landslides and coastal tidal surges. "We need to do this because when it's already raining or the typhoon has hit and flooding has started, it's hard to rescue people," Teodoro said.

The Philippines has not called for international help following the devastation caused by Kalmaegi, but Teodoro said the United States, the country's longtime treaty ally, and Japan were ready to provide assistance.

As Fung-wong approached with its wide band of fierce wind and rain, several eastern towns and cities lost power, Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense said.

Authorities in northern provinces that could be hit or sideswiped by Fung-wong preemptively shut schools and most government offices on Monday and Tuesday. At least 325 domestic and 61 international flights have been canceled over the weekend and into Monday, and more than 6,600 commuters and cargo workers were stranded in seaports, where the coast guard prohibited ships from venturing into rough seas.

Authorities warned of a "high risk of life-threatening and damaging storm surge" of more than 3 meters (nearly 10 feet) along the coasts of more than 20 provinces and regions, including metropolitan Manila.

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



This photo provided by the Parana state government shows homes destroyed by a tornado in Rio Bonito do Iguacu, Parana state on Nov 8. (AP)



This satellite image from Vantor shows a smoke from a fire at the Saudi hospital in el-Fasher, Sudan, on Nov 6. (AP)

**Powerful tornado in Brazil kills 6, injures hundreds more**

A powerful tornado in Brazil's southern state of Parana killed six people and injured hundreds Friday night, state officials said Saturday. Dozens of homes were destroyed.

The tornado, which hit speeds of more than 250 kph (155 mph), prompted the government to declare an emergency in the affected region.

State officials in a statement said at least one person was missing hours after the tornado touched down. Five of the killed were adults and the sixth was a 14-year-old girl.

The government said that more than 750 people, including children and pregnant women, had received medical attention. Of those, at least 10 underwent surgery and nine remained in serious condition.

The tornado downed trees, overturned vehicles and lifted the roofs of several structures.

Gov. Carlos Massa Ratinho Jr. declared three days of mourning in the state of Parana to honor the dead. Five of the victims were from the municipality of Rio Bonito do Iguacu and one was from Guara-puava. (AP)

**Thousands flee to overcrowded camps after Sudan's RSF captures el-Fasher**

Tens of thousands of Sudanese have fled to overcrowded camps to escape reported atrocities by a paramilitary force since it captured el-Fasher in the western Darfur region, an aid group said Saturday, and the UN human rights chief warned that many others are still trapped.

Those who reach shelter in Tawila, about 70 kilometers (43 miles) from el-Fasher, find themselves stranded in a barren area with barely enough tents, many of them improvised from patched tarps and sheets, according to a video posted by the group Sudan's IDPs and Refugee Camps. It shows children running across the area as a few adults carry a large pot of food, hoping it will be enough to feed the growing crowds of displaced.

Since the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) seized el-Fasher from the rival military Oct. 26, more than 16,200 people have fled to the camps in Tawila, said Adam Rojal, spokesperson for the aid group. The International Organization for Migration estimates that around 82,000 people had fled the city and surrounding areas as of Nov. 4, heading to safe spots including Tawila, an area already overcrowded with the displaced from previous attacks. (AP)

# Paz sworn in as Bolivia's new leader, ending 20 years of one-party rule

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Nov 9, (AP): Conservative politician Rodrigo Paz was sworn in as Bolivia's new president on Saturday, ushering in a new era for the Andean nation after nearly 20 years of one-party rule.

Paz took the oath of office before lawmakers and foreign leaders.

The inauguration of Paz, 58, has generated anticipation among Bolivians weary of the severe fuel shortages and high food prices that have come to characterize the country's worst economic crisis in 40 years. To widespread surprise, he beat out his far more prominent right-wing opponent, former president Jorge "Tuto" Quiroga, in Bolivia's presidential runoff last month.

Paz inherits an economy in shambles after 20 years of rule by the Movement Toward Socialism party, founded by charismatic former president Evo Morales. The party had its heyday during the commodities boom of the early 2000s, but natural gas exports have sputtered and its statist economic mod-



Bolivian President Rodrigo Paz, accompanied by his family, waves to supporters from the government palace after his swearing-in ceremony in La Paz, Bolivia on Nov 8. (AP)

el of generous subsidies and a fixed exchange rate has collapsed.

With US dollars scarce and chronic fuel shortages, a majority of voters chose Paz to lift them out of the eco-

omic crisis. He pitched major reforms but at a more gradual pace than Quiroga, who advocated an International Monetary Fund bailout and fiscal shock program.

Subcontinent

**Sri Lanka identifies high-crime zones:** Sri Lankan authorities have identified six police divisions in the Western and Southern Provinces as high-crime zones, a senior government minister told parliament on Saturday.

Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs **Ananda Wijepala** said the government has launched several measures to curb criminal activity in these locations.

In addition to increasing regular police patrols, officers in plain clothes have been deployed for surveillance, and dedicated elite police motorcycle units are being established in the identified areas, he said.

Wijepala added that while targeted operations are being carried out in high-crime divisions, police across the country are also conducting random checks on residences, vehicles and individuals to locate illegal weapons and contraband. (Xinhua)

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**2 killed as trucks collide in Pakistan:** Two people were killed and another injured when two trucks carrying vegetables collided in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, rescue officials said on Saturday.

The accident took place early in the morning near the Grand Trunk (GT) Road in the Sohawa area of Jhelum



Wijepala

district after a truck reportedly suffered a brake failure and crashed into another vehicle from behind.

"The second truck veered off the road and hit a tree, killing its driver and a helper on the spot, while another was injured," Saeed Ahmed, the Rescue 1122 in-charge in Jhelum, told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

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**1 killed, 1 injured in Delhi massive blaze:** One person was killed and another suffered severe burns in a massive fire that broke out inside a slum in India's national capital territory Delhi, officials said Saturday.

The fire broke out on Friday night near the Rithala metro station in the Rohini area of the city.

According to Delhi Fire Services' officials, around 500 shanties were gutted and razed to the ground in the fire. It took several hours for the firefighters to contain the fire.

Television images showed thick plumes of smoke rising from the area even as firefighters tried to sprinkle water, and locals scrambled to save their belongings and move to safer places. (Xinhua)

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**Bangladesh set to launch political dialogues:** Bangladesh's Election Commission will hold its final talks with political parties next week to prepare for the country's 13th general election slated for February.

Due to the limited time, Akhtar Ahmed, the commission's senior secretary, told media that they will invite 53 registered political parties in groups.

According to the official, this will be the last step before the commission announces the full election schedule next month. (Xinhua)

Boursa Kuwait general index drops 0.32%

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Sunday's trading session lower, with the general index slipping 28.49 points, or 0.32 percent, to 8,884.72 points. Total trading volume reached 491.2 million shares across 24,160 cash transactions, with a total turnover of KD 88 million (about USD 269.2 million).

The main market index saw a sharper decline, dropping 91.27 points, or 1.08 percent, to 8,386.19 points. Trading in this segment included 342.3 million shares through 16,605 transactions, valued at KD 37 million (around USD 113.2 million).

Business

In collaboration with Plug and Play

National Bank of Kuwait introduces NBK Ebtakir, Kuwait's ground breaking intrapreneurship initiative

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), the region's leading financial institution, announced the launch of NBK Ebtakir, Kuwait's first intra-preneurship program, in partnership with Plug and Play, the world's largest innovation platform. The initiative marks a significant step in NBK's journey to foster a culture of creativity, empower employees, and embed innovation at the heart of its operations.

NBK Ebtakir is designed to unleash the innovative potential of NBK's workforce by transforming employees into active drivers of change. Through intensive training, mentorship, and exposure to global innovation frameworks, participants will gain hands-on experience in design thinking, artificial intelligence, and rapid prototyping, equipping them with the skills to turn their ideas into impactful banking solutions.

A total of 50 NBK employees were selected following a rigorous assessment process conducted by Plug and Play. Over six months, they will collaborate in cross-functional teams to develop ideas that address real customer and operational challenges. The most promising concepts will be incubated and piloted across NBK's network, while the winning team will earn the opportunity to visit Silicon Valley, engage with Plug and Play's innovation ecosystem, and present their project to global technology and financial leaders.

Commenting on the launch of this innovative program, Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer at the National Bank of Kuwait, said: "With NBK Ebtakir, we are reaffirming our belief that the most powerful innovations begin within our own organization. We firmly believe that empowering employees and encouraging them to think and act like entrepreneurs, is the key to fostering a culture where creativity, accountability, and forward-thinking drive development across the Bank's diverse business lines."

"This initiative reaffirms NBK's commitment to supporting its people, who are the driving force behind change and progress. Through Ebtakir, which bridges innovation with execution, teams will be equipped with the tools they need to translate bold ideas into practical solutions that enhance our customers' experiences and reinforce the Bank's leadership in a rapidly evolving industry," Al-Ablani added.

Meanwhile, Dr. Philipp Gneiting, Partner at Plug and Play, commented: "We are proud to partner with NBK on this visionary initiative that places people at the center of innovation. Through NBK Ebtakir, we aim to empower employees to think like entrepreneurs, experiment boldly, and drive transformation from within. This program reflects NBK's commitment to shaping the future of banking through creativity, collaboration, and forward-thinking leadership, and we are excited to connect Kuwait's brightest talent with our global innovation ecosystem."

NBK continues to demonstrate its commitment to digital transformation, cultivating intrapreneurial talent, further reinforcing the Bank's role as a pioneer in financial innovation. The Bank continues to invest in its people as the foundation of its long-term success, advancing a comprehensive strategy that integrates innovation, digital transformation, and employee development. The Bank's ongoing ef-



Mr. Emad Al-Ablani



Dr. Philipp Gneiting

forts to foster creativity and empower talent across all divisions reflect its commitment to building a future-ready organization equipped to meet the evolving needs of customers and the broader financial ecosystem. By championing initiatives such as NBK Ebtakir, the Bank not only reinforces its leadership in innovation but also reaffirms its vision to cultivate a dynamic workplace culture, one that nurtures growth, inspires excellence, and positions its employees as the driving force behind the Bank's continued advancement.

Building on its strong foundation in talent development, NBK invests in comprehensive programs that cultivate leadership, technical expertise, and a culture of continuous learning. Key initiatives include NBK Academy, which equips fresh graduates with essential banking skills, and NBK Tech Academy, which develops digital and technological capabilities among young professionals. Through specialized training and leadership programs, NBK prepares its employees to navigate evolving markets and contribute to the Bank's long-term strategic goals. NBK Ebtakir further reinforces this legacy, empowering staff, inspiring innovation, and ensuring every employee actively shapes the future of financial services in Kuwait and beyond.

About NBK  
National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has stood as a cornerstone of Kuwait's financial system for over seven decades. Established in 1952 as the first local bank and shareholding company in the GCC, NBK has grown into Kuwait's largest



financial institution and a prominent regional player, with operations spanning the GCC, Europe, Asia, and the United States. Its extensive network of more than 138 branches across 13 countries underpins a reputation for financial strength, prudent governance, and innovation. Guided by foresight, purpose, and a steadfast commitment to sustainable growth, NBK continues to shape the future of banking while addressing the evolving needs of its clients, employees, and communities. For more information, please visit: [www.nbk.com](http://www.nbk.com)

About Plug and Play  
Plug and Play is the world's leading innovation platform, connecting startups, corporations, venture capital firms, universities, and government agencies. Headquartered in Silicon Valley, the platform operates in 60 locations across five continents. Plug and Play offers corporate innovation programs that support partners at every stage of their innovation journey, from education to execution. It also runs startup acceleration programs and has built an in-house venture capital arm to drive innovation across multiple industries. The firm has invested in hundreds of successful companies, including Dropbox, Guardant Health, Honey, Lending Club, N26, PayPal, and Rappi. For more information, please visit [plugandplay-techcenter.com](http://plugandplay-techcenter.com)

KCCI: US remains Kuwait's top investment destination

Bilateral trade hits \$3.4 bln

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) affirmed that the United States remains the most significant and top destination for Kuwait's public and private investments.

KCCI notes that for more than three decades the US has consistently ranked among Kuwait's three largest trading partners, with bilateral trade reaching USD 3.4 billion in 2023.

The statement came as KCCI hosted a US commercial and economic delegation on Sunday, comprising several energy-sector companies and led by Commercial Counselor at the US Embassy in Kuwait, Darryl Cheng. The meeting was attended by representatives of government entities, Kuwaiti companies, and interested business owners.

KCCI said the visit contributes to strengthening bilateral economic ties between the two countries, adding that such direct discussions between counterparts help build effective channels for deeper cooperation, especially given Kuwait's investment presence in the US that dates

back more than six decades.

The Chamber noted that Kuwait's long-standing investment experience in the US has established strong and wide-ranging bridges of trust, supporting mutual strategic cooperation.

It emphasized that the US continues to be the primary destination for Kuwaiti overseas investments, highlighting the energy sector as a major opportunity to further enhance economic collaboration.

On his part, Cheng said in remarks during the meeting that the gathering represents an opportunity to expand cooperation between the two countries. He affirmed US companies' interest in forming bilateral partnerships with their Kuwaiti counterparts, particularly in the sectors of infrastructure, machinery, manufacturing, energy, oil and gas, among others.

Representatives from the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), the Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPPA), the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) delivered presentations outlining key ongoing projects and available investment opportunities under the "New Kuwait 2035" vision.

Initiative aims to enhance customer banking experience

Burgan Bank launches Al Rateb Account for Kuwaiti employees

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: In its latest effort to enrich customers' banking journey with added value, Burgan Bank presents Kuwaiti employees with salary account, Al Rateb, tailored conveniently to meet their needs and financial aspirations. The account enables customers to manage their salaries with ultimate ease as well as benefit from valuable benefits that include a cash gift of up to KD 2,000—terms and conditions apply.

This step comes aspart of the Bank's robust strategy for reinforcing customers' banking experience,its ongoing efforts to advancing the services that elevate their daily transactions, and commitment to developing unique account features and benefits.

"Our customers are our top priority, and therefore our strategy is always centered on meeting their needs and fulfilling their aspirations," said Mr. Mohammed Jumaah Al-Yaseen, Deputy General Manager – Retail Banking at Burgan Bank. "Al Rateb salary account is specially designed for Kuwaiti employees to provide a unique banking experience that combines convenience and ease, valuable benefits including the highest cash gift in the market of up to KD 2,000, and the highest levels of security and trust in all banking transactions. When a customer chooses to transfer their salary to Al Rateb, their choice reflects their trust in Burgan Bank as a trusted partner that supports them at every step of their financial journey. With this account, our goal is to enhance customer satisfaction and



enrich their banking experience to suit their modern lifestyle."

Stemming from its commitment to providing an outstanding banking experience, Burgan Bank offers a wide range of services through its new branches, which are equipped with the latest technology to facilitate all banking transactions and in-branch operations, including Al Rateb account management. The tech-enabled branches also present a suite of premium benefits and services that guarantee all transactions are fulfilled fast, conveniently, and with the highest level of service quality.

It serves to note that, as part of Burgan Bank's commitment to spreading financial literacy and protecting customers from fraud, the Bank continues to supports the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association's (KBA) "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) banking awareness campaign through its branches

and ATMs screens as well as the bank awareness camapgins and social media platforms. This campaign provides ongoing awareness of customer rights and responsibilities, enabling them to make sound financial decisions.

Al-Rateb Salary package and the one-time cash gift are available to all new Kuwaiti customers employed in the government sector and listed private companies – subject to terms and conditions. In addition, Al-Rateb customers can choose from a wide range of credit and debit cards which provide flexible benefits and exclusive services designed to meet their different needs and keep pace with their lifestyle.

More information on how to open an Al-Rateb salary account is available on the Burgan Bank website ([www.burgan.com](http://www.burgan.com)), the Burgan Mobile application, or by calling the contact center at 1804080.

Dizlee centralizes over 280 services from 47 partners

Zain's Dizlee and Aduna partner to expand API ecosystem across MENA

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Dizlee, Zain Group's API (application programming interface) digital monetization ecosystem provider has entered a strategic partnership with Aduna, enabling faster deployment of new digital services across multiple Zain markets and Omantel, opening new revenue streams and enhancing the customer mobile experience.

Aduna,a global aggregator of standardized network API, is a venture between some of the world's leading telecom operators and Ericsson, dedicated to enabling developers worldwide to accelerate innovation and adoption by leveraging networks to their full potential via common network APIs. This collaboration will allow Dizlee to act as the gateway between Zain operating companies, Omantel and Aduna, enabling faster deployment of new services across multiple countries.

With Zain joining Aduna's growing global ecosystem, the Group will contribute APIs such as SIM Swap detection, Number Verification, Identity, and fraud prevention, enabling businesses to access trusted telcgrade solutions.

Through Dizlee, Aduna will drive adoption and scale commercialization across multiple markets, unlocking the full value of network assets while helping enterprises safeguard their customers and deliver innovative digital services.

Monetization opportunities are enabled through individual Zain operations' collaboration with Aduna, offering Zain network APIs to banks, fintechs, insurers, and government entities that require trusted, telcgrade data to enhance their services. These prospects can be rapidly scaled across multiple markets by leveraging Aduna's standardized approach

Malek Hammoud, Zain Group Chief Digital and Investment Officer, commented, "Dizlee's regional success in API leadership is the result of collaboration with visionary partners. Through this partnership, we are combining the Network APIs from all Zain operating companies under a unified platform based on the CA-MARA protocol, ensuring global interoperability and standardization. Aduna leverages the aggregation of these APIs from multiple operators worldwide, providing a standardized foundation that fosters collaboration, accelerates adoption, enhances user experiences, and drives industry growth."

Hammoud added, "This partnership is strategically important for Zain's operations across the regionand Omantelas it opens new revenue streams from B2B clients such as fintech, insurance, e-commerce, and government agencies, while positioning us as regional leaders in the rapidly growing network API economy."

Anthony Bartolo, CEO of Aduna,"Our partnership with Dizlee marks an important milestone in Aduna's expansion across MENA. By connecting Zain's extensive footprint and Omantel's reach with Aduna's global aggregation platform, we are unlocking the full

- Dizlee's gateway role between Zain entities and Aduna will enable faster deployment of new services, enhance customer experiences and drive revenue growth
- Providing a platform to foster collaboration, Aduna is a venture between leading telcom operators and Ericsson

value of standardized Network APIs. Together, we will accelerate innovation, protect end users, and empower enterprises to deliver next-generation digital services across the region and beyond."

Dizlee's success story has seen it centralize and monetize Zain APIs and most of Zain's digital services, creating a streamlined, unified core API ecosystem for all operations across Zain markets and Omantel, offering innovative entertainment and gaming solutions, direct operator billing, messaging, digital authentication, CPaaS(Communication Platform as a Service) and more. This centralized approach has enabled the company to operate with unmatched agility and coordination, highlighting Dizlee's role as a crucial pillar in Zain's '4WARD-Progress with Purpose' digital strategy.

The use of APIs has experienced significant growth, with Dizlee playing a pioneering role regionally in its development, with use cases extending to areas including:

- Number Verification: Enabling fintechs and banks to verify customers instantly without SMS OTPs.
- SIM Swap Detection: Protecting mobile banking and e-wallet users from fraud.
- KYC/Identity APIs: Supporting government digital ID initiatives and secure customer onboarding.
- Carrier Billing / Direct Carrier Billing APIs: Allowing partners to easily bill customers via telco accounts

**More on Dizlee**  
Since its launch in 2018, Dizlee has built a unified digital core for Zain and Omantel, streamlining operations and enabling over 280 services from 47 partners across gaming,

entertainment, advertising, and APIs. By centralizing and exposing APIs, it accelerates partnerships, shortens time-to-market, and strengthens Zain's position as the only MENA operator offering a Group-wide, one-stop platform that connects partners to eight markets and over 50 million customers.



Committing to pan-Arab energy collaboration

AEO, OPEC chiefs discuss boosting cooperation, strategic alignment

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): Secretary General of the Arab Energy Organization (AEO) Jamal Al-Loghani on Sunday discussed with OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais ways to strengthen cooperation between both organizations.

AEO, formerly known as the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), told KUNA that Al-Loghani also reviewed with Al-Ghais the prospects of boosting joint action in light of the

organization's new strategic orientation, which aims at upgrading its activities to keep pace with global energy shifts.

Al-Loghani affirmed that AEO seeks to act as a pan-Arab energy organization primarily focused on oil and gas while expanding to wider energy domains, as Al-Ghais praised the reform steps and affirmed OPEC's readiness to support all efforts toward this transformation.

In support of the Diraya campaign

## Kuwait Finance House enhances financial literacy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continues its efforts to raise awareness of its latest services and products, as well as financial fraud, while simultaneously enhancing customer financial literacy.

These efforts are part of KFH’s support for the Diraya financial and banking awareness campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) and local banks.

This campaign aims to enhance customer awareness of available banking services and solutions, while promoting financial inclusion across all segments of society.

KFH successfully utilizes all its e-channels on so-

cial media platforms and its website, mobile app to disseminate awareness content.

These endeavors amassed a significant interaction with customers due to the distinctive and useful contents of KFH’s advanced services and products.

In conjunction with the rolling out of its new digital services, KFH has released several awareness contents.

These services include the first-of-its-kind instant credit and prepaid cards printing, WAMD instant payment in collaboration with KNET, transfers via Western Union network, AFAQ instant transfer service. KFH’s awareness efforts also encompassed explanatory videos on how to register a new user on

the mobile app, cardless cash withdrawals, ATMs services in addition to how to benefit from KFH on-line financial solutions. These videos among other awareness posts are available on KFH’s social media channels (@KFHgroup).

In line with the continued awareness efforts, KFH is committed to participating in initiatives and forums that focus on raising banking awareness.

These include its participation in the 5th Gulf Conference and Exhibition for Cybersecurity Challenges titled “A Secure Digital Environment”.

During its participation, KFH shed light on the concept of fraud in general, with a specific focus on cyber fraud, explaining the various methods of fraud that pose a threat to both individuals and the community.



‘First ever in GCC region’

## 26th UN Tourism General Assembly opens in Riyadh

RIYADH, Nov 9, (BUSINESS WIRE): The 26th session of the UN Tourism General Assembly opened today in Riyadh, marking a historic first for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region and the largest Assembly since UN Tourism was founded 50 years ago. Around 160 delegations from member states including ministers, senior officials, and leaders from across industry and civil society are coming together to celebrate five decades of international collaboration under the theme “AI-Powered Tourism: Redefining the Future.”

The Assembly is hosted by Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Tourism, with extensive cooperation and planning alongside UN Tourism and a wide range of partners. This collaboration underscores the Kingdom’s dedication to advancing the industry and facilitating impactful dialogue on the global stage.

For half a century, UN Tourism has advanced economic opportunity, cross-cultural understanding, and peace through travel. With the sector’s rapid digital transformation reshaping how people discover, book, and experience destinations, this year’s Assembly focuses on ensuring AI serves people and places supporting jobs, small businesses, destination stewardship, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Over the coming days, delegates will participate in four plenary sessions, numerous meetings of seven specialized committees, and the 124th and 125th sessions of the Executive Council – the organization’s highest executive body. The agenda is designed to foster discussions on how artificial intelligence and digital transformation can accelerate sustainable, inclusive growth and deepen international cooperation in tourism.

His Excellency Ahmed Al Khateeb, Minister of Tourism, said: “Saudi Arabia is proud to welcome the world to the 26th UN Tourism General Assembly as we celebrate 50 years of UN Tourism’s global cooperation and shared progress. This week marks a defining mo-

ment for our industry - a chance to shape how tourism grows in the decades ahead through stronger connectivity, greater sustainability, deeper investment in human capital, and innovation powered by AI.

Tourism is one of the world’s most powerful forces for prosperity and understanding - creating jobs, supporting small businesses, and connecting cultures. Guided by Vision 2030, the Kingdom is committed to ensuring that this growth continues to drive opportunity and inclusion - and to welcoming the world with the spirit of Saudi hospitality that defines who we are.”

UN Tourism Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili, said: “The UN Tourism General Assembly brings together tourism leaders from across the world to set the agenda and build a more innovative and inclusive sector. Over the next few days, first with the meeting of our diverse and dynamic Affiliate Members, and then with the sessions of our General Assembly, Riyadh will showcase the power of tourism, as a driver of transformation, modernisation and opportunity. Together, we can harness the power of technology to drive positive change, diversify our economies and create jobs for many millions of people everywhere.”

With the inaugural meetings set to take place today, Riyadh stands ready to welcome the world, with state-of-the-art venues and a vibrant hospitality sector that reflects Saudi Arabia’s commitment to global engagement and excellence.

As the host of the 26th session of the General Assembly, Saudi Arabia remains at the forefront of the drive to promote growth, sustainability and multilateral cooperation under the umbrella of UN Tourism. The Kingdom’s long-standing partnership with the UN agency is marked by active engagement, impactful joint initiatives and historic milestones including opening UN Tourism’s first Middle East regional office in Riyadh and Saudi Arabia’s two-term chairmanship of the Executive Council in 2023 and 2024.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Union of Investment Companies (UIC), through its training arm, the Investment Studies Center (ISC), concluded its specialized professional training program on “Best Practices in Preparing and Developing the Integrated Report,” on 09th November 2025, with the participation of professionals from the financial and investment sectors. The program came at a critical time, coinciding with the growing regulatory requirements issued by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) in the State of Kuwait concerning integrated reporting and its role in enhancing transparency, accountability, and comprehensive disclosure.

Throughout the program, participants engaged in an in-depth exploration of the nature and strategic importance of the Integrated Report, which has evolved from a traditional disclosure document into a comprehensive strategic tool that reflects how institutions create sustainable value over the short, medium, and long term. The program highlighted the interconnection between financial and non-financial performance, including governance, sustainability, risk management, human capital, and the broader operating environment. Participants also examined the essential elements of the Integrated Report in line with the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) framework and the relevant regulatory provisions set out in Book Fifteen of the Executive Bylaws of the CMA, particularly those relating to strategic objectives, the business model, governance, risks and opportunities, performance, and future outlook.

The sessions included practical case studies, examples of violations caused by the failure to prepare integrated reports, and detailed discussions on the governance structures necessary for producing high-quality integrated reports. Participants also learned how to evaluate performance, link results to strategy, examine the business model, and present the flow between inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and the resulting impact on the various capitals.

UIC emphasized, during the closing session, that empowering professionals with modern reporting competencies reflects its commitment to elevating the quality of corporate disclosure, strengthening the business environment, and enabling regulatory bodies to achieve higher levels of transparency and trust. This aligns with Kuwait’s Vision 2035, which aspires to build a knowledge-based economy driven by effective governance, sustainable performance, and institutional excellence.

IMPORTANCE OF THE PROGRAM FOR PROFESSIONALS IN FINANCE AND BUSINESS

The program underscored the growing importance of integrated reporting as a regulatory requirement



Group photo during the program.

and not merely an internal institutional practice. Trainers highlighted that gaining proficiency in this field has become essential for professionals in investment, governance, internal audit, sustainability, risk management, investor relations, and compliance. This is due to the significant role integrated reporting plays in:

- Enhancing the quality of disclosure and transparency
- Supporting decision-making for investors and stakeholders
- Demonstrating how organizations create long-term value
- Strengthening market confidence and improving sustainability indicators
- Aligning Kuwaiti companies with international best practices and modern reporting standards

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The program concluded with practical recommendations that participants and institutions can adopt immediately, including:

1. Adopting integrated thinking across the organization to ensure alignment between strategy, performance, governance, and risk.
2. Developing a clear and visual business model that connects inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and the overall impact on different capitals.

3. Strengthening the role of Boards of Directors in supervising the content of the integrated report and approving related policies.

4. Integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into the report in a balanced, accurate, and data-driven manner.

5. Establishing clear KPIs (both financial and non-financial) linked to strategic objectives.

6. Presenting risks and opportunities in a balanced manner with defined mitigation mechanisms and assigned responsibilities.

7. Ensuring the availability of both internal and external assurance to enhance report reliability and credibility.

8. Utilizing strategic storytelling in report preparation instead of merely providing numerical disclosures, enabling a clearer portrayal of the organization’s value creation journey.

UIC reaffirmed its commitment to continuing its role in developing the capabilities of professionals across the financial and investment sectors through advanced training programs that support corporate governance, transparency, and the adoption of global best practices. The Union emphasized that such initiatives contribute to reinforcing Kuwait’s position as a regional financial hub distinguished by efficiency, integrity, and sustainability.

BoE holds rates at 4%, signals potential December cut

## Central Banks on hold amid diverging economic data

By National Bank of Kuwait

Markets ended the week on a softer tone, with equities drifting lower as concerns over stretched tech valuations persisted despite mixed U.S. economic data. Manufacturing remained in contraction while services surprised to the upside, but investors stayed cautious ahead of the December Fed meeting. In FX, the USD weakened against both the EUR and JPY as expectations for a near term U.S. rate cut remained intact, while the GBP initially slipped following the Bank of England’s decision and guidance before recovering into Friday’s close. Gold was down on the week but recovered on Friday, supported by a softer dollar.

### United States

Manufacturing Sector Remains in Contraction

U.S. manufacturing weakened again in October, marking the eighth consecutive month of contraction. The ISM Manufacturing Index slipped by 0.4 points to 48.7, remaining below the 50 level that signals expansion. Output dropped sharply and employment continued to decline for a ninth straight month as companies cut staff. Price pressures eased as the prices paid index fell to 58.0, its lowest since early tariff periods, indicating softer input-cost inflation. Inventories fell at the fastest pace in a year and backlogs shrank, pointing to subdued demand. Out of eighteen industries, twelve reported contraction, mainly textiles and apparel, while only a few, including primary metals, recorded growth.

### Services PMI Surpasses Forecasts

In the U.S., the ISM Services PMI increased to 52.4 in October from 50.0, beating expectations and marking the strongest services sector expansion since February. Activity and new orders strengthened, signaling improving demand. However, employment remained in contraction territory due to uncertainty over the sustainability of growth. Survey respondents frequently mentioned the federal government shutdown as a drag on business activity and a risk for future layoffs. Meanwhile, price pressures intensified, with the prices paid index rising as companies reported higher input cost burdens from tariffs. Overall, the data point to a resilient but cost-squeezed services sector, with ongoing risks tied to labor and policy uncertainty.

### ADP Report Shows Pickup in Private Sector Hiring

U.S. private sector hiring picked up in October, with 42,000 jobs added after two months of declines, according to ADP. This represents a recovery from September’s revised loss of 29,000 jobs and a small drop in August. Because the gov-

ernment shutdown has halted the release of official labor market data, investors and economists are relying more on private sources such as ADP for direction. Most of the job gains came from trade, transportation and utilities, as well as education and health. Finance and construction also added workers. In contrast, information technology, leisure and hospitality, professional services and manufacturing all reduced their workforce. The data also showed that large companies were responsible for most of the hiring, while small and medium sized firms cut jobs. Weakness in the labor market was cited by the Fed as a reason for cutting rates in the previous meeting, however Chair Jerome Powell along with other speakers warned that a December cut is not necessarily set in stone. Despite the positive job report, as well as warnings by Fed speakers, markets still overwhelmingly favor a rate cut for the December meeting.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 99.56.

### United Kingdom

#### Bank of England Maintain Policy Rate

The Bank of England kept interest rates at 4% in a narrow decision that pointed toward a possible cut in December. Five members of the Monetary Policy Committee, including Governor Andrew Bailey, voted to hold rates steady, while four supported a reduction to 3.75%. The bank said September inflation of 3.8% was likely the peak, and meeting minutes showed Bailey was the most dovish among those who favored no change, noting that inflation risks had eased and become more balanced. He said rates are still expected to trend lower, but the committee needs clear evidence that inflation is moving back toward the 2% target before cutting again. Although the decision broke the pattern of quarterly rate reductions since August 2024, the BOE signaled that a December cut is on the table, with policymakers set to receive the government’s autumn budget and two further rounds of inflation and labor market data beforehand. Markets are slightly favoring a December rate cut, with nearly 15 bps of easing priced in.

The GBP/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 1.3157.

### Switzerland

**Inflation Falls Amid Currency Strength**

Swiss inflation slowed significantly in October, falling to 0.1% YoY from 0.2% in September and far below expectations. Core inflation also eased to 0.5% from 0.7%, reflecting widespread softness in price pressures. The decline stemmed mainly from cheaper imports due to a strong Swiss franc, which remains near multi-year highs.

The USD/CHF currency pair was last seen trading at 0.8048.

### Asia-Pacific

#### RBA Keeps Rate Unchanged

The Reserve Bank of Australia kept the cash rate at 3.6% and warned that inflation pressures are reemerging, with house prices, rents and services expected to rise faster through 2026. The board unanimously agreed that rates should remain unchanged and did not consider a cut, with Governor Michele Bullock cautioning that easing too soon could prevent inflation from continuing to fall. She said the path ahead is uncertain, noting it is possible rates stay on hold or move slightly lower, but policymakers are not committed to any specific trajectory. Core inflation climbed to 3% in September, its first acceleration since 2022, and updated RBA forecasts now show headline inflation rising to 3.7% by mid 2026 and core inflation to 3.2%, meaning the bank will no longer reach its earlier projection of 2.5% by 2027. Bullock added that the labor market remains tight despite a recent rise in unemployment, while Treasurer Jim Chalmers said unemployment and inflation are still relatively low but acknowledged that households and businesses may have hoped for another rate cut.

The AUD/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 0.6491.

### Kuwait

**Kuwaiti Dinar**

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30605.

### Other Voices

## Wall Street slips as big tech stocks drag markets lower

By Hassan F. Beidas

Wall Street stumbled last Thursday as major technology stocks tumbled, pulling the broader market down with them. The tech sector, which has been the driving force behind the market’s movements all year, led last week’s downturn and pushed every major index into the red.

The S&P 500 fell 1.1%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.8%. The Nasdaq Composite, which is heavily weighted toward tech, took the hardest hit—sliding 1.9%.

Some of the market’s biggest players were the main decliners. Nvidia shares dropped 3.7%, Microsoft fell 2%, and Amazon fell 2.9%. Due to their large valuations, these companies exert an outsized influence on the overall direction of the market.

Tech giants have already poured hundreds of billions of dollars into artificial intelligence, betting that AI will reshape industries and drive future growth. But some investors are beginning to question when—if ever—those massive investments

will translate into meaningful profits. The sheer scale of the AI boom suggests that a major economic shift would be needed to justify such spending.

As the AI frenzy intensifies, valuations for a few of the leading tech companies have soared to record highs. Nvidia, Apple, and Microsoft have each approached a staggering \$5 trillion in market capitalization for the first time.

Most of the tech stock companies known as the “Magnificent Seven” companies (Apple, Alphabet, Amazon, Microsoft, Nvidia, Meta, and Tesla) have never been more influential to the overall Wall Street. According to Dow Jones Market Data, their combined market capitalization now accounts for roughly 38% of the entire S&P 500 index. That means a move in one of these stocks can shift the indexes.

Despite their reputation for strong balance sheets and holding piles of cash, many of these tech companies have started taking on more debt to fund their costly AI ambitions. Meta recently issued \$30 billion of bonds, while Oracle issued 18 billion—of bonds both aimed at fueling their push into artificial intelligence.

To conclude in a positive note, the speculative fervor visible in markets hasn’t translated into investors in big listed companies abandoning their preference in holding these tech shares.



Beidas

# Trump was already cutting low-income energy assistance – the shutdown is making things worse as cold weather arrives

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



By Conor Harrison  
University of South Carolina

As fall turns to winter and temperatures begin to drop, millions of people across the U.S. will struggle to pay their rising energy bills. The government shutdown is making matters even worse: Several states have pushed back the start of their winter energy assistance because their federally allocated funds have yet to show up.

A 2023 national survey found that nearly 1 in 4 Americans were unable to pay their full energy bill for at least one month, and nearly 1 in 4 reported that they kept their homes at unsafe temperatures to save money. By 2025, updated polling indicated nearly 3 in 4 Americans are worried about rising energy costs.

Conservative estimates suggest that utilities shut off power to over 3 million U.S. households each year because the residents cannot pay their bills.

This problem of high energy prices isn't lost on the Trump administration.

On the first day of his second term in 2025, President Donald Trump declared a national energy emergency by executive order, saying that "high energy prices ... devastate Americans, particularly those living on low- and fixed incomes."

Secretary of Energy Christopher Wright raised concerns about utility disconnections and outlined a

mission to "shrink that number, with the target of zero."

Yet, the administration's 2026 budget proposal zeroed out funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, the federal program that administers funding to help low-income households pay their utility bills. While there appears to be continued bipartisan support for LIHEAP in Congress, on April 1, 2025, the administration laid off the entire staff of the LIHEAP office. These layoffs hinder the ability of the federal government to release LIHEAP funds, even when the government reopens.

Many people already struggle to cobble together enough help from various sources to pay their energy bills. As researchers who study energy insecurity, we believe gutting the federal office responsible for administering energy bill assistance will make it even harder for Americans to make ends meet.

We work with communities in South Carolina and Tennessee where many residents struggle to heat and cool their homes.

We see how high energy prices force people to make dangerous trade-offs. Low-income households often find themselves choosing whether to buy necessities, pay for child care or pay their utility bills.

One elderly person we spoke with for our research, Sarah, explained that she routinely forgoes buying medications in order to pay her utility bill.

Unfortunately, these stories are increasingly common, especially in low-income communities and communities of color.

LIHEAP, created in 1981, provides funding to

states as block grants to help low-income families pay their utility bills. In fiscal year 2023, the program distributed US\$6.1 billion in energy assistance, helping some 5.9 million households avoid losing power connections.

The program's small staff played critical roles in disbursing this money, providing implementation guidelines, monitoring state-level fund management and tracking and evaluating program effectiveness.

It is unlikely that other sources of funding can fill in the gaps if states do not receive LIHEAP funds from the federal government. The program's funding has never been high enough to meet the need. In 2020, LIHEAP provided assistance to just 16% of eligible households.

Our research has found that, in practice, many households rely on a range of local nonprofits, faith-based organizations and informal networks of family and friends to help them pay their bills and keep the heat on in winter.

For example, a research participant named Deborah reported that when faced with a utility shut-off, she "drove from church to church to church" in search of assistance. United Way in South Carolina received over 16,000 calls from people seeking help to pay their utility bills in 2023.

These charitable services are an important lifeline for many, especially in the communities we study in the South. However, research has shown that faith-based programs do not have the reach of public programs.

Without LIHEAP, the limited funds provided by nonprofits and the personal connections that peo-

ple patch together will be stretched even thinner, especially as other charitable services, such as food banks, also face funding cuts.

Although Congress has chosen to fund LIHEAP for 2026, the government shutdown threatens the program's ability to reach families in time for the cold months ahead. While summer heat is on the rise, cold-related deaths have been trending up as well. Cold snaps in early 2024 and again in 2025 left several people dead from hypothermia. These are preventable deaths that continued LIHEAP assistance could help avoid.

These threats to LIHEAP-especially coming alongside uncertainty about federal food assistance-put the goal of energy affordability for all Americans - and Americans' lives - in jeopardy. Until more affordable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, can be scaled up, an expansion of federal assistance programs is needed, not a contraction.

Increasing the reach and funding of LIHEAP is one option. Making home weatherization programs more effective is another.

Governments could also require utilities to forgive past-due bills, implement percent of income payment plans, and end utility shut-offs. About two dozen states currently have rules to prevent shut-offs during the worst summer heat.

For now, the cuts mean more pressure on nonprofits, faith-based organizations and informal networks. Looking ahead to another winter of freezing temperatures, we can only hope that delays to LIHEAP payments and cuts to LIHEAP staff don't foreshadow a growing yet preventable death toll. (AP)

## UPS crash disrupts US cargo operations

# FAA cuts 10% of US flights, raising cargo concerns ahead of holidays

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (AP): The Federal Aviation Administration's announcement of a 10% reduction in flight capacity across 40 major U.S. airports could put a strain on the air cargo as the peak holiday season approaches.

Several airports with major package distribution centers are on the list of airports that will reduce capacity - FedEx has hubs at the airports in Indianapolis and Memphis, Tennessee. UPS' biggest hub, Worldport, is in Louisville, Kentucky, the site of this week's deadly cargo plane crash.

Meanwhile, UPS and FedEx said late Friday they're grounding their fleets of McDonnell Douglas MD-11 planes "out of an abundance of caution" following a deadly crash at the UPS global aviation hub in Kentucky.

The crash Tuesday at UPS Worldport in Louisville killed 14 people, including the three pilots on the MD-11 that was headed for Honolulu.

MD-11 aircrafts make up about 9% of the UPS fleet and 4% of the FedEx fleet, the companies said.

Logistics companies say consumers shouldn't expect delays on their packages due to the reduction in flights - for now. But they put a strain on the supply chain ahead of the all-important holiday shopping season.

Patrick Penfield, a supply-chain management professor at Syracuse University, called the 10% reduction in flight capacity and the grounding of the MD-11 planes a "one-two punch" for cargo carriers and shoppers.

"This is such a stressful time for both companies, and you've got this surge in demand and then you just lost some of your capacity," Penfield said. "So they're already scrambling as it is during the holiday season, and they're going to scramble even more."

Penfield thinks that it could take weeks for UPS and FedEx to get their MD-11 fleets back in service after a thorough review. He estimated that during the mid-December time frame, when shipping is at its peak, shoppers could see delays in deliveries by a day or two. He recommends ordering holiday gifts early.

As for the 10% reduction in flight capacity, most air freight is international. The reduction in flights so far is only on domestic air travel, not global flights. Airlines transport about 35% of global trade by value but only about 1% of world trade by volume, according to the trade group International Air Transport Association.

The FAA order did not address cargo flights specifically, but directed air carriers at 40 airports to reduce their total daily scheduled domestic operations between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. local time at each airport by 10%. Air freight is carried not only on cargo planes, but also in the bellies of passenger aircraft.

Shipping companies said they're adjusting plans due to the cutbacks.

Both FedEx and UPS said many of



A FedEx cargo plane is shown on the tarmac at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

their flights take place at night, outside the restricted window. Both also said they had contingency plans to protect shipments of critical items like pharmaceuticals, medical devices and essential manufacturing goods.

FedEx says that it "made the necessary operational modifications to meet the requirements so that shipments continue to move safely and swiftly through our network," following the FAA order.

UPS said it has built a network "to be safe and resilient and we're confident we can keep delivering the reliable service our customers count on."

Separately, UPS noted that contingency plans are in place to ensure reliable service after the grounding of the MD-11s.

Western Global Airlines is the only other U.S. cargo airline that flies MD-11s, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium. The airline has 16 MD-11s in its fleet but 12 of them have already been put in storage. The company did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment outside of business hours on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Mike Short, president of Global Forwarding at global freight forwarder C.H. Robinson, said it was working with customers on contingency plans for the flight reductions if needed.

"While the FAA's 10% reduction in intra-U.S. flights will create some ripple effects in transportation, the impact on air freight overall is expected to be limited," he said. "Because most U.S. domestic air freight moves in the bellies of passenger aircraft versus cargo planes, reductions in commercial routes will tighten air capacity in those markets. So the domestic air market could see temporary constraints and longer transit times."

He said trucks and expedited ground networks can absorb some displaced volume, but "not without challenges given that short-term surges drive spot rate volatility and equipment reposi-

tioning."

Smaller, high-value goods like smartphones, chips, videogame consoles and electronic toys are more likely to be transported by air using both cargo and passenger planes.

Domestic overnight parcels and letters are also carried by air cargo, but trucks can pick of some of the slack if needed so delays on those are less likely, said Ed Anderson, a professor of supply chain and operations management for the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas.

Brandon Fried, executive director of the Airfreighters Association, which represents hundreds of air cargo companies, said flight reductions will worsen the disruption already being felt across the aviation sector as the federal government shutdown stretches on.

"Air cargo depends on every part of the aviation ecosystem working in sync," he said. "When capacity is cut and federal employees are stretched thin, the supply chain slows, and the longer this shutdown continues, the worse it will get."

Eytan Buchman, chief marketing officer for cargo booking platform Freightos, said fewer flights will put a strain on the domestic cargo-moving ecosystem.

"Typical safety valves will tighten and that may lengthen lead times and lift spot prices," he said. But the supply chain has grown more nimble in recent years so that might help, he added.

"The silver lining is that airlines have become very good at consolidating loads and adjusting fleets after five years of dramatic supply chain swings, so this won't translate to a simple one-to-one loss of capacity everywhere," he said. "I'd expect carriers to prioritize high-yield lanes, route via secondary hubs, and shift some domestic legs to other modes when it makes sense. Near term, space may feel a bit tighter and schedules less predictable on some connections."

## Xi underscores role of Guangdong

# China's high-standard opening up drives high-quality growth

BEIJING, Nov 9, (PRNewswire): Following President Xi Jinping's visits to Hainan and Guangdong, CGTN published an article on China's strategic priorities of high-standard opening up to drive high-quality growth. The piece outlines how this national vision is advanced through the examples of Guangdong as a pacesetter, pioneer and pilot zone, and Hainan Free Trade Port as a hub for global opportunities.

As China's 14th Five-Year Plan (FYP) covering the period 2021-2025 is nearing its end and the country prepares to unveil the blueprint for its 15th FYP, one message is clear: opening up remains at the heart of China's modernization drive.

During recent trips to Hainan Province and Guangdong Province, two frontiers of reform and opening up, Chinese President Xi Jinping laid out his vision for high-standard opening up as the pathway to achieving high-quality development.

### Hainan: A gateway for a new era

On December 18, the Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP) will officially launch island-wide special customs operations, a move Xi described as "a landmark of China's unwavering expansion of high-standard opening up and its contribution to an open world economy."

When hearing a work report in Sanya City on the building of the Hainan FTP, Xi emphasized that the FTP supports both Hainan's high-quality growth and China's broader new development paradigm. He called for institutional opening up, more open talent systems, and administrative reform to build a market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business environment.

Since 2018, Hainan has identified over 70,000 high-level professionals. It also issued more than 80 local laws and regulations to enhance its business environment. Its four pillar industries: tourism, modern services, high-tech and tropical agriculture, now account for nearly 70 percent of GDP.

Hainan's opening up also benefits global trade. The new Yangpu-Chancay shipping route enables Hainan tilapia to reach South America faster and Peruvian avocados to enter China fresher and cheaper. Multi-functional free trade ac-

counts (EF accounts) further facilitate cross-border settlements. According to Kuang Xianming, vice president of the China Institute for Reform and Development, the upcoming customs operation will also strengthen Hainan as a strategic hub for China-ASEAN cooperation.

### Guangdong: Pioneer and pacesetter of reform and opening up

Choosing Guangdong Province for his first domestic inspection after the fourth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, Xi underscored Guangdong's role as a pacesetter, pioneer and pilot zone of reform and opening up, noting that the province should take the lead, set an example and play a major role in shaping the 15th FYP for national economic and social development.

He called on the southern province to comprehensively deepen reform and opening up for high-quality development, and to advance the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) with sustained efforts.

He also called on the province to develop new quality productive forces, strengthen the integration of technological and industrial innovation, and build a modern industrial system with international competitiveness.

Guangdong's economic dynamism underscores this vision. In 2024, Guangdong's foreign trade reached 9.11 trillion yuan (\$1.3 trillion), up 9.8 percent, contributing nearly 39 percent of China's overall trade growth. From January to September, 24,000 new foreign-funded enterprises were established, up 33.7 percent year on year, bringing the total to over 360,000, with more than \$600 billion in utilized foreign capital.

At the 2024 Global Investment Promotion Conference for Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, global giants such as BASF, ExxonMobil, Pfizer, Panasonic, Tesla and Procter & Gamble signed 1,933 projects worth 2.26 trillion yuan, underscoring the GBA's attractiveness to global investors.

With the 15th FYP on the horizon, China is once again demonstrating that reform and opening up are not just policies of the past-they are the enduring engines of its future.

# Chipmaker crisis hits Honda, raises supply chain concerns

AMSTERDAM, Nov 9, (AP): A battle for control of a little-known chipmaker has threatened global auto production by choking off the semiconductor supply chain, though there are signs the crisis is inching toward a resolution.

The power struggle over Nexperia, a Chinese-owned Dutch semiconductor maker, highlights how technology supply chain vulnerabilities are squeezing auto makers, most notably forcing Honda to halt production at a Mexican factory making its popular HR-V crossover for North American markets. It also exposes how Europe is caught in the middle of the wider geopolitical showdown between Washington and Beijing.

Here's a look at the dispute:

The turmoil erupted into public view in mid-October, when the Dutch government announced it had invoked a rarely used World War II-era law to take effective control of Nexperia weeks earlier.

The Dutch ministry of economic affairs said it took action because of national security concerns. Officials said they intervened because of "serious governance shortcomings" at Nexperia, asserting control to prevent the loss of crucial tech know-how that could threaten Europe's economic security.

Nexperia's Chinese owner Wingtech Technology, a partially state-owned company, is at the heart of the dispute. Amid the boardroom battle, a Dutch court granted the ministry's request to oust Nexperia's Chinese CEO Zhang Xuezheng. American officials told the Dutch government he would have to be replaced to avoid trade restrictions, according to a court filing.

Nexperia makes simple semiconductors such as switches and logic chips. The auto industry - one of Nexperia's biggest markets - uses its chips for numerous functions, such as adaptive LED headlight controllers, electric vehicle battery management systems and anti-lock brakes.

Headquartered in the Dutch city of Nijmegen, Nexperia was spun off from Philips Semiconductors two decades ago. It was eventually purchased by China's Wingtech Technology in 2018 for \$3.6 billion.

Nexperia has wafer fabrication plants in Britain and Germany. It operates an assembly and testing center in China's southern manufacturing heartland of Guangdong - which accounts for around 70% of its end-product capacity - and similar centers in the Philippines and Malaysia.

The dispute is part of the broader struggle between the U.S. and China over tech supremacy, which has left Europe caught in the middle.

It stems from Washington's decision late last year to place Wingtech on its "entity list," which subjects companies to

export controls because of national security risks. In late September, the U.S. expanded that list to Wingtech's subsidiaries, including Nexperia's Chinese parent, to follow suit.

After the Dutch government asserted control of Nexperia, Beijing responded soon after, blocking the export of Nexperia chips from its assembly plant in the Chinese city of Dongguan. It blamed the Netherlands for "turmoil and chaos" in the chip supply chain.

There were signs of hope following last month's high-profile meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, when the White House said Beijing would ease the export ban as part of a U.S.-China trade truce.

Despite Beijing also confirming exports would be allowed to resume, Nexperia's Chinese unit said headquarters suspended shipments of wafers used to make chips to its Chinese factory, potentially crimping its ability to deliver finished products. Nexperia's head office hit back in a statement Wednesday, saying the Chinese unit refused to pay for the wafers and accused it of "ignoring the lawful instructions" from its global management team. The company said it can't guarantee the quality of any chips delivered from its China plant since Oct. 13.

Modern automobiles rely on so-called discrete chips made by companies like Nexperia, which, unlike more advanced microprocessors, perform a single function. Leaders at big carmakers spelled out their worries in the latest round of earnings calls, saying that finding a replacement for Nexperia at scale in the short term will be difficult.

"While Nexperia makes up only about 5% of the automotive silicon discrete market in term of revenue, its share is much higher in terms of discrete chip volume," S&P Global Mobility analysts wrote in a recent note.

Nexperia's parts are widely used across vehicle systems - often dozens to hundreds per vehicle - and carmakers in North America, Japan and South Korea are at risk, they added.

"It's an industrywide issue. A quick breakthrough is really necessary to avoid fourth quarter production losses for the entire industry," Ford CEO Jim Farley said.

General Motors CEO Mary Barra warned that production could be hit. The company has "teams working around the clock with our supply chain partners to minimize possible disruptions," she said.

Nissan CEO Ivan Espinosa told CNBC that the company is setting aside a 25 billion yen (\$163 million) provision for supply risks, in part to "absorb" the impact from the Nexperia crisis on production.

## Producer prices rise 0.1% month-on-month in Oct

# China's PPI decline narrows as factory prices show progress

BEIJING, Nov 9, (Xinhua): China witnessed signs of improvement in factory-gate prices in October 2025, with the decline in its producer price index (PPI) continuing to narrow, official data showed Sunday.

The PPI, which measures costs for goods at the factory gate, went down 2.1 percent year on year in October, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, noting that the decline narrowed by 0.2 percentage points from the previous month - marking the third consecutive month of narrowing.

NBS statistician Dong Lijuan attributed the narrowed

year-on-year decline in PPI to adjustments of production capacity in major industries, accelerated efforts to establish a modernized industrial system, and the unleashing of consumption potential.

On a monthly basis, the PPI went up 0.1 percent, representing the first rise this year, the data revealed. In October, improvements in the supply and demand structure led to price increases in certain sectors -- such as the coal mining and processing industry, Dong said, noting that international price changes also impacted the prices of some domestic industries.



Cyndi Lauper performs during the 2025 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 8, at L.A. Live in Los Angeles. (AP)



Elton John performs during the 2025 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. (AP)



Stevie Wonder performs during the 2025 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. (AP)

Salt-N-Pepa romp through ‘Push It’

## Lauper calls for courage at Rock Hall induction

LOS ANGELES, Nov 9, (AP): Cyndi Lauper turned “True Colors” into a defiant call for courage and the music of Outkast, Soundgarden and the White Stripes brought waves of emotion Saturday night at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Partway through the song, Lauper shouted the line “don’t be afraid!,” thrust her fist in the air and kept it there as the music stopped for a long and dramatic stretch.

She was then joined by Raye to sing “Time After Time” and Avril Lavigne for “Girls Just Want to Have Fun,” backed by an all-female band that included Gina Schock of the Go-Go’s. As Lauper called for the ladies to sing with her, Salt-N-Pepa - who earlier in the night donned their old tri-color jackets to rock the crowd with “Push It” for their induction - came dancing out and joined her.

Chappell Roan, who inducted Lauper while wearing a huge, ornamented, showgirl-style headpiece, said Lauper redefined what a pop star could look like, sound like, sing like.

Lauper looked at Roan during her speech when she said, “I know that I stand on the shoulders of the women in the industry that came before me. And my shoulders are broad enough to have the women that came after me stand on mine.”

Lauper came back for an all-star jam and sang a verse of inductee Joe Cocker’s “With a Little Help From My Friends” along with Teddy Swims, Bryan Adams and Chris Robinson of the Black Crowes. Cocker’s was one of several posthumous inductions, including a moving tribute to late Soundgarden singer Chris Cornell.

### Power

The power of women in music was called out loudly earlier in the evening at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles during the induction of Salt-N-Pepa.

“This is for every woman who picked up a mic when they told her she couldn’t,” Cheryl “Salt” James said in a rousing speech accepting her, Sandra “Pepa” Denton and DJ Spinderella’s entrance into the hall.

James brought up their fight to reclaim their master recordings from Universal Music Group.

“The industry still doesn’t want to play fair, Salt-N-Pepa have never been afraid of a fight,” James said.

They took the stage for a medley of their hits, opening with “Shoop” then sliding into “Let’s Talk About ...” before En Vogue joined them for their joint hit “What a Man.”

James apologized to the fans who “got in trouble for cutting their hair like us,” a line that reverberated later when Roan said that Lauper showed you could “have whatever hair color you want.”

Outkast didn’t perform together for the first time since 2016 as some had hoped, but the duo stood together on stage, surrounded by a crew of friends and cohorts as they gave grateful speeches after doing rock-paper-scissors to decide who would go first.

Andre 3000 gave a long, rambling funny speech - “I’m freestylin’ y’all!” - that ended in tears when he talked about their very beginnings in a basement “dungeon” in Atlanta in the early 1990s.

He choked out the words, “Great things start in little rooms.”

Andre sat out the performance but Big Boi, wearing shorts and a fur coat, started off an express tour through the Atlanta duo’s discography that included Tyler the Creator, JID and



Olivia Rodrigo performs during the 2025 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 8, at L.A. Live in Los Angeles. (AP)



Taylor Momsen, (center) performs with Kim Thayil of Soundgarden, left during the 2025 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. (AP)



Nancy Wilson, (left) and Toni Cornell perform. (AP)

Killer Mike.

Janelle Monáe joined them to shake her way through “Hey Ya” and Doja Cat delivered a sly and soulful take on “Ms. Jackson.”

Emotions ran deep during Soundgarden’s segment of the night, starting with the induction speech of Jim Carrey, the actor and Soundgarden superfan who seemed to be fighting off tears throughout as he talked about Cornell, who died from suicide in 2017.

“When you looked into his eyes, it’s like eternity was staring back,”

Carrey said. “For all time, his voice will continue to light up the ether like a Tesla coil.”

Each of his band mates, all major godfathers of the Seattle grunge scene, paid their own tearful tributes.

One of Cornell’s daughters, Lilian, spoke while another, Toni, sang a quiet rendition of his song “Fell on Black Days.”

“I am just really, really happy that he got to make music with his friends,” Lilian Cornell said.

Taylor Momsen, who co-starred as a child with Carrey in “How the Grin-



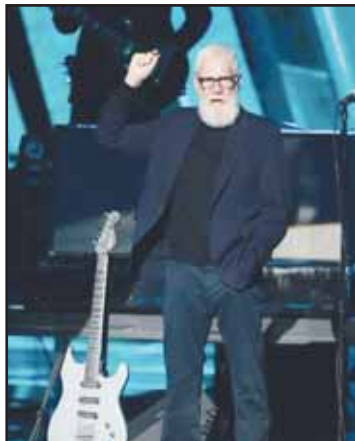
Missy Elliott, (from left), and Sandra Denton with Cheryl James, (right) of Salt-N-Pepa, react during the 2025 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. (AP)



Inductee Jack White of The White Stripes speaks during the 2025 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. (AP)



Brandon Flowers performs. (AP)



David Letterman, alongside the guitar that Warren Zevon gave to him, speaks during Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. (AP)

ch Stole Christmas,” and Brandi Carlile showed serious vocal power with

Bassist Hiro Yamamoto was among the few who brought up the politics from the stage.

“Thanks to my parents, whose story is American citizens who are rounded up and placed into prison camps just for being Japanese during World War II,” Yamamoto said to some of the biggest cheers of the night. “Well that affected my life greatly, and it really echoes strongly today. Let’s not add another story like this to our history.”

The White Stripes reunion that some fans had also hoped for didn’t happen. Their induction was among the highlights of the night anyway. Twenty One Pilots brought the house down with a version of the duo’s stadium-shaking anthem “Seven Nation Army” and Olivia Rodrigo and Feist delivered an acoustic version of “We’re Gonna Be Friends.”

Their fellow Detroit rock legend Iggy Pop began his induction speech by leading the crowd in a chorus of “Seven Nation Army” then remembered his thoughts on meeting them. “Cute kids, they’re gonna go places,” Pop said. “And they did.”

Drummer Meg White, who has led an almost entirely private life since the band broke up in 2011, did not show up for the ceremony, but Jack White said Meg, his ex-wife, helped him write the speech he delivered while wearing the band’s signature red and white.

Jack White shouted out several great duos from across culture and said that kind of one-on-one collaboration is “the most beautiful thing you can have as an artist and musician.”

He nearly cried several times as he told an Adam-and-Eve-like tale of “the boy and the girl” who made magic together.

Stevie Wonder led a funky and flashy tribute to the late Sly Stone to open the show that streamed live on Disney+. An edited version airs on ABC on Jan 1.

Wonder was joined by Questlove, Leon Thomas, Maxwell, Beck, Flea from the Red Hot Chili Peppers for renditions of Sly and the Family Stone hits “Dance to the Music,” “Everyday People” and “Thank You.” Jennifer Hudson joined them to wail through “Higher.”

### Inducted

Stone, who was inducted into the hall in 1993, died in June. Brian Wilson, who died two days later, got his own tribute from Elton John, who took the stage late in the show to sing the Beach Boys’ “God Only Knows.”

Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac inducted Bad Company, calling the British group founded by Paul Rodgers and Mick Ralphs in 1973 “classic rock legends.”

Rodgers had to skip the ceremony because of health issues and Ralphs died earlier this year, so drummer Simon Kirke was the only member on the stage. He was joined by an ad hoc super group that included Robinson and Heart guitarist Nancy Wilson, who blasted through “Feel Like Makin’ Love” and “Can’t Get Enough.”

The late singer-songwriter Warren Zevon was inducted by David Letterman, a friend and superfan who made Zevon a regular on his NBC late-night show, including an appearance when Zevon was dying of cancer in 2002.

“Warren Zevon is in my Rock & Roll Hall of Fame,” Letterman said. “Actually his own wing.”

Other inductees who got video tributes in the theater were Chubby Checker, session bassist Carole Kaye, session piano man Nicky Hopkins and record producer and executive Lenny Waronker.

their versions of Cornell’s mighty wail, backed by his band mates on “Rusty Cage” and “Black Hole Sun.”

‘I’m waiting for people to contact me for films’

# Fedora Man unmasked: Meet the teen behind Louvre photo

PARIS, Nov 9, (AP): When 15-year-old Pedro Elias Garzon Delvaux realized an Associated Press photo of him at the Louvre on the day of the crown jewels heist had drawn millions of views, his first instinct was not to rush online and unmask himself.

Quite the opposite. A fan of Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot who lives with his parents and grandfather in Rambouillet, 30 kilometers (19 miles) from Paris, Pedro decided to play along with the world’s suspense.

As theories swirled about the sharply dressed stranger in the “Fedora Man” shot - detective, insider, AI fake - he decided to stay silent and watch.

“I didn’t want to say immediately it was me,” he said. “With this photo there is a mystery, so you have to make it last.”

For his only in-person interview since that snap turned him into an international curiosity, he appeared for the AP cameras at his home much as he did that Sunday: in a fedora hat, Yves Saint Laurent waistcoat borrowed from his father, jacket chosen by his mother, neat tie, Tommy Hilfiger trousers and a restored, war-battered Russian watch.

The fedora, angled just so, is his homage to French Resistance hero Jean Moulin.

In person, he is a bright, amused

teenager who wandered, by accident, into a global story.

The image that made him famous was meant to document a crime scene. Three police officers lean on a silver car blocking a Louvre entrance, hours after thieves carried out a daylight raid on French crown jewels. To the right, a lone figure in a three-piece suit strides past - a flash of film noir in a modern-day manhunt.

The internet did the rest. “Fedora Man,” as users dubbed him, was cast as an old-school detective, an inside man, a Netflix pitch - or not human at all. Many were convinced he was AI-generated.

Pedro understood why. “In the photo, I’m dressed more in the 1940s, and we are in 2025,” he said. “There is a contrast.”

Even some relatives and friends hesitated until they spotted his mother in the background. Only then were they sure: The internet’s favorite fake detective was a real boy.

The real story was simple. Pedro, his mother and grandfather had come to visit the Louvre.

“We wanted to go to the Louvre, but it was closed,” he said. “We didn’t know there was a heist.”

They asked officers why the gates were shut. Seconds later, AP photog-

rapher Thibault Camus, documenting the security cordon, caught Pedro mid-stride.

“When the picture was taken, I didn’t know,” Pedro said. “I was just passing through.”

Four days later, an acquaintance messaged: Is that you?

“She told me there were 5 million views,” he said. “I was a bit surprised.” Then his mother called to say he was in The New York Times. “It’s not every day,” he said. Cousins in Colombia, friends in Austria, family friends and classmates followed with screenshots and calls.

“People said, ‘You’ve become a star,’” he said. “I was astonished that just with one photo you can become viral in a few days.”

The look that jolted tens of millions is not a costume whipped up for a museum trip. Pedro began dressing this way less than a year ago, inspired by 20th-century history and black-and-white images of suited statesmen and fictional detectives.

“I like to be chic,” he said. “I go to school like this.”

In a sea of hoodies and sneakers, he shows up in a three-piece suit. And the hat? No, that’s its own ritual. The fedora is reserved for weekends, holidays and museum visits.



Pedro Elias Garzon Delvaux poses with an Associated Press photo of him outside the Louvre on the day of the crown jewels heist, Saturday, Nov. 8, in Rambouillet, south of Paris. (AP)

At his no-uniform school, his style has already started to spread. “One of my friends came this week with a tie,” he said.

He understands why people projected a whole sleuth character onto him: improbable heist, improbable detective. He loves Poirot - “very elegant” - and likes the idea that an unusual crime

calls for someone who looks unusual.

“When something unusual happens, you don’t imagine a normal detective,” he said. “You imagine someone different.”

That instinct fits the world he comes from. His mother, Félicité Garzon Delvaux, grew up in an 18th-century museum-palace, daughter of a curator

and an artist - and regularly takes her son to exhibits.

“Art and museums are living spaces,” she said. “Life without art is not life.”

For Pedro, art and imagery were part of everyday life. So when millions projected stories onto a single frame of him in a fedora beside armed police at the Louvre, he recognized the power of an image and let the myth breathe before stepping forward.

He stayed silent for several days, then switched his Instagram from private to public.

“People had to try to find who I am,” he said. “Then journalists came, and I told them my age. They were extremely surprised.”

He is relaxed about whatever comes next. “I’m waiting for people to contact me for films,” he said, grinning. “That would be very funny.”

In a story of theft and security lapses, “Fedora Man” is a gentler counterpoint - a teenager who believes art, style and a good mystery belong to ordinary life. One photo turned him into a symbol. Meeting him confirms he is, reassuringly, real.

“I’m a star,” he says - less brag than experiment, as if he’s trying on the words the way he tries on a hat. “I’ll keep dressing like this. It’s my style.”

Trier’s latest film resonates deeply with cast

# In ‘Sentimental Value,’ art imitates life

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (AP): Joachim Trier, Stellan Skarsgard and Renate Reinsve have gathered in a backstage room at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall. A screen on the wall shows the crowd inside, raptly watching their film, “Sentimental Value.” They have all consciously sat facing away from the movie.

But if there’s one moment from the film they sometimes sneak in for, it’s the final scene. At festivals, they’ve sometimes taken the stage for a Q&A with tears still in their eyes.

“The ending always moves me,” Skarsgard says. “On the paper, it really scared me. It could have been sentimental hell, not ‘Sentimental Value.’ What was important to me was that nothing was resolved. I hate the word closure. There’s no closure in life. But there’s something more beautiful.”

“Sentimental Value,” written and directed by Trier, builds its emotional power subtly through scenes that, like much of the acclaimed Danish-Norwegian filmmaker’s filmography, pulse with the rhythm of life. By the time the film reaches its crescendo, a simple exchange of looks is enough to leave you stirred to your core.

That effect isn’t new to fans of Trier’s previous films, like “Oslo, August 31st” or his previous one, “The Worst Person in the World,” which starred Reinsve. But “Sentimental Value” is uniquely personal statement for Trier that also happens - because it’s so much about the intermingling of life and art, and how one enriches the other - to resonate deeply with his two stars.

Skarsgard plays the venerated filmmaker Gustav Borg, who has long been estranged from his family. But after the death of his ex-wife, Borg comes back into the lives of his daughters Nora (Reinsve) and Agnes (Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas). Like her father, Nora is tough and stubborn, and her outlet is in performance. Gustav wants her to star in his new and highly autobiographical film, a project that also draws the interest of an American starlet (Elle Fanning).

Both Reinsve and Skarsgard have direct similarities to their character. Reinsve, 37, experienced a breakthrough in “The Worst Person in the World.” Skarsgard, 74, is the father of eight, many of them actors. But “Sentimental Value,” the Grand Prix winner at the Cannes Film Festival, has deeper reverberations for them, and for Trier.

In a conversation that, like one of Trier’s films, featured embraces and tears and the gratification of feeling seen, the three reflected on making a film poised between life and fiction.

**AP:** Like Gustav does for Nora, Joachim wrote this with both of you in mind. What did you think?

**Reinsve:** For me it was nerve-racking because he knows me so well. I didn’t know what he was going to find. He’s very smart and very wise, so what he finds is probably the truth.

**Trier:** The revealing of something in art is what interests us. So one might think I know too well what to do, but it’s a compliment to these actors that they’re able to come into a position of control and craft and yet (laughs) unhide themselves in unusual ways in front of the camera. You want that. You yearn for it. What, you were worried I’ll reveal something you don’t want to show?

**Reinsve:** Yeah.

**Trier:** But you are so brave.

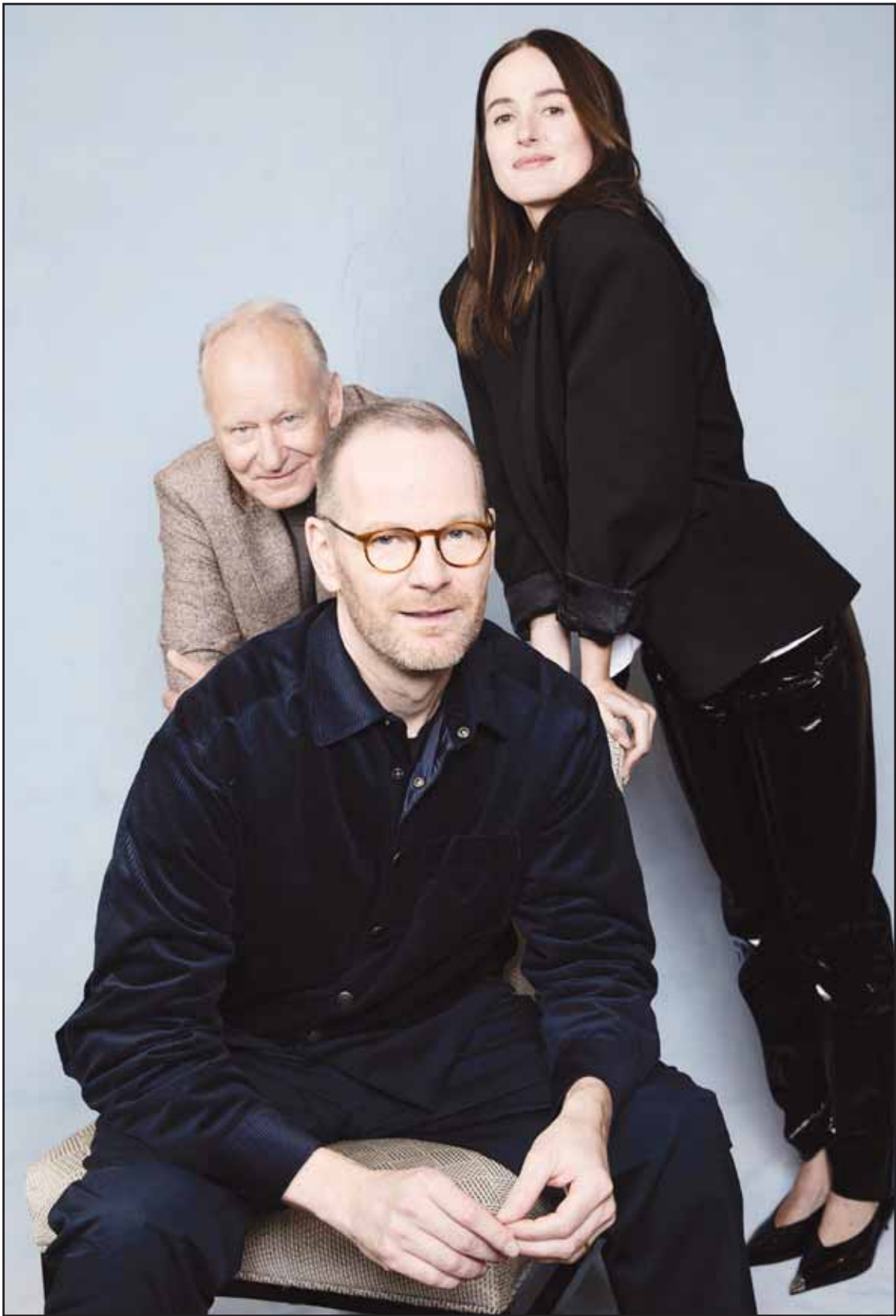
**Reinsve:** But I became brave with you. In the theater, I worked on a lot of characters that you build and construct. You’re making it big for the audience. Playing Julie in “The Worst Person in the World,” you encouraged me to let go of that. I remember one of our first conversations, I was worried because I didn’t know how to build her. And you said, “But do you have to? Can’t you just find it in you?” For me that was so scary.

**AP:** How did you respond, Stellan?

**Skarsgard:** It’s flattering in a way, but you’re not sure if it’s flattering. The character on the paper wasn’t really what he is in the film. I remember I said to you, “Can’t you get over your problems with your father?”

**Trier:** And I said, (voice intentionally squeaking) “I’m over them!”

**Skarsgard:** The hard edges of the character were very obvious in the script, but the compassion wasn’t.



Stellan Skarsgard, (from left), Joachim Trier and Renate Reinsve pose for a portrait to promote ‘Sentimental Value’ on Tuesday, Nov. 4, in Los Angeles. (AP)

**Trier:** When you came into it, that solved it. I mean, character is something that happens with actors.

**AP:** Renate, did you connect with a character that lets her emotions out in acting? To me, the film deepens when everything pours out of Nora, but it’s for a scene.

**Skarsgard:** Oh, that’s the best.

**Trier:** We love that scene.

**Reinsve:** Before I worked with Joachim, I played a lot of characters that keep their emotions really inside and aren’t able to let them out. Joachim built that trust because of how he worked and how he sees people. It was safe to let go of something in there. He sits beside the camera and whispers. He can tap into the actor’s instinct. I’m a person or an actor who has a lot of resistance, which is good for the dynamic in a character. But it can also hinder you from letting go of something you need to. Joachim sits there and knows what the actor wants to do and he says, “Let yourself do it.” It feels like we’re doing it together.

**AP:** In “Sentimental Value,” art can be a solution to the character’s real problems. Has it been that way for you?

**Skarsgard:** I’ve always seen acting as a way of being able to do what you can’t do in your private life. I’m pretty reserved, in a way. I am!

**Reinsve:** Not with us.

**Trier:** I hear you say that!

**Skarsgard:** But it’s fantastic to have this art where you can also test every-

thing. Can I feel that? Wow! Yeah! It’s like a child playing in a sandbox. It’s the same mechanism. They play other people from day one. Maybe it’s evolutionary: mimicking the adults to survive.

**Reinsve:** We’re still children mimicking the adults.

**AP:** Joachim, you had your first children while making the film. That must have played a role in such an intergenerational story.

**Trier:** It’s funny because a lot of people have trouble making art of a personal sort. They sing a strange, sensual love song in a band and they’re shy that their parents will hear it. Or you write a book that’s transgressive. I’m the opposite. I’m rather proud that I’ve done personal films because my kids will see them. Maybe they’ll see them and think they’re stupid or my opinions are weird. That’s OK, but they were me. I think this film came out of a climate in my life when I was thinking about these things.

**AP:** Your films have a way of breathing, of allowing for time. The ending of “Sentimental Value” is that way.

**Trier:** That was when I knew I had the film I wanted to make, when I had the idea of ending. We were all nervous about it. The last day of the shoot. I’m so proud of you two. My dream came true.

**AP:** That moment includes a lot of back-and-forth. It has a rhythm, though, Stellan, you have your own rhythm in

every scene I’ve ever seen you in.

**Skarsgard:** I’m glad that you say I have a rhythm because I really care about rhythm. Scenes are to me like music pieces. He wrote this for me and the (expletive) and he’s seen what I’ve been longing for: the acting between the lines. (Skarsgård begins tearing up.) I’m getting emotional.

**Trier:** I think you are incredibly smart with screenwriting, so much so that I was nervous going in. You’re very blunt in a very warm way. You say “(Expletive) this” or “You don’t need this.”

**Skarsgard:** It’s being allowed to do a film that’s not written in a head of a director. He’s exploring it. There’s nothing like it. (Again Skarsgård gets emotional before shaking his head.) Enough!

**AP:** Renate, how do you relate to that final moment?

**Reinsve:** This is it. I feel this moment is it. It brings to the surface something we’re longing for. The human mind needs to create a narrative and make things black or white to protect itself. That’s a problem in the world, being so polarized. The wisdom is being safe enough to create a space to let anything happen and see the nuances between people. There are no sets like Joachim’s sets. It’s a process - what is it? Art creates life, imitates...

**Skarsgard:** You never get it right.

**Reinsve:** I never get it right. But it’s both ways! Here, art imitates life, life imitates art. It’s both ways.

Uncomfortable history

# Stolen jewels spotlight France’s colonial past

PARIS, Nov 9, (AP): As French police race to track where the Louvre’s stolen crown jewels have gone, a growing chorus wants a brighter light on where they came from.

The artifacts were French, but the gems were not. Their exotic routes to Paris run through the shadows of empire - an uncomfortable history that France, like other Western nations with treasure-filled museums, has only begun to confront.

The attention sparked by the heist is an opportunity, experts say, to pressure the Louvre and Europe’s great museums to explain their collections’ origins more honestly, and it could trigger a broader reckoning over restitutions.

Within hours of the theft, researchers sketched a likely colonial-era map for the materials: sapphires from Ceylon (Sri Lanka), diamonds from India and Brazil, pearls from the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean and emeralds from Colombia.

That doesn’t make the Louvre robbery less criminal. It does complicate the public’s understanding of what was lost.

“There is obviously no excuse for theft,” said Emiline C.H. Smith, a criminologist at the University of Glasgow who studies heritage crime. “But many of these objects are entangled with violent, exploitative, colonial histories.”

While there’s no credible evidence these specific gems were stolen - experts say that doesn’t end the argument: What was legal in the imperial age could still mean plunder in today’s lights. In other words, the paperwork of empire doesn’t settle the ethics.

Meanwhile, the heist investigation grinds on. Police have charged suspects, but investigators fear the jewels could be broken up or melted down. They are too famous to sell as they are, but easy to monetize for metal and stones.



The Koh-i-Noor diamond, set in the Maltese Cross at the front of the crown made for Britain’s late Queen Mother, is seen on her coffin as it is drawn to London’s Westminster Hall on April 5, 2002. (AP)

The museum did not respond to requests for comment.

The stolen tiaras, necklaces and brooches were crafted in Paris by elite ateliers, and once belonged to 19th-century figures such as Marie-Amélie, Queen Hortense, and the wives of two Napoleons, Empress Marie-Louise of Austria and Empress Eugénie. Their raw materials, however, moved through imperial networks that converted global labor, resources - and even slavery - into European prestige, experts say.

**Historian**

Pascal Blanchard, a historian of France’s colonial past, draws a line between craftsmanship and supply. The jewels “were made in France by French artisans,” he said, but many stones came via colonial circuits and were “products of colonial production.” They were traded “under the legal conditions ... of the time,” ones shaped by empires that siphoned wealth from Africa, Asia and South America.

Some French critics press the point further. They argue that national outcry over loss should sit beside the history of how imperial France acquired the stones that court jewelers later set in gold.

India is waging the best-known battle over a single colonial-era treasure - the Koh-i-Noor diamond.

India has repeatedly pressed the U.K. to return the mythologized 106-carat jewel, now set in the Queen Mother’s crown at the Tower of London. It likely originated in India’s Golconda diamond belt - much like the Louvre’s dazzling Regent diamond, one that was also legally acquired in imperial times and spared by the Oct. 19 robbers.

The Koh-i-Noor passed from court to court before landing in British hands, where it is hailed in London as a “lawful” imperial gift and denounced in India as a prize taken under the shadow of conquest. A 2017 petition to India’s Supreme Court seeking its return was dismissed on jurisdictional grounds, but the political and moral dispute endures.

**Information**

The Louvre provides scant information about how the gems in the French crown jewels - showcased in the Apollo Gallery until the theft - were originally extracted.

For example, the Louvre’s own catalog describes the stolen diadem of Queen Marie-Amélie as set with “Ceylon sapphires” in their natural, unheated state, bordered with diamonds in gold. It says nothing about who mined them, how they moved, or under what terms they were taken.

Provenance isn’t always a neutral ledger in Western museums. They sometimes “avoid spotlighting uncomfortable acquisition histories,” Smith said, adding that the lack of clarity about the gems’ origins is likely no accident.

Variety

**LONDON:** Pauline Collins, the versatile British actress who won a cult following for her portrayal on stage and on screen of Shirley Valentine, a disillusioned middle-aged housewife finding excitement in Greece, has died. She was 85.

In a statement Thursday, her family said that Collins died peacefully at her care home in north London this week, having endured Parkinson’s for several years.

In a long career that spanned television, film and theater, Collins was adept at playing an array of roles, all



Collins

of which she infused with her trademark authenticity that indisputably earned her the status of a “national sweetheart” in the U.K. (AP)

□ □ □

**BOGOTA, Colombia:** Colombian photographer Edgar Jiménez walks around a room exhibiting “Adam and Eve,” his portrait of two of the first hippopotamuses that were brought to Colombia by late drug kingpin Pablo Escobar in the 1980s.

Jiménez, who once served as Escobar’s personal photographer, recalls taking the picture from only four meters (13 feet) away, without any kind of protection and unaware of the danger they posed. That same pair of hippos later attacked and killed a camel.

“The hippos were bought from a zoo in the United States that buys and captures animals from Africa,” recalls the 75-year-old photographer, who was also tasked with keeping an inventory of all the animals housed at Escobar’s Hacienda Nápoles in the country’s northeast. (AP)

Guidelines on why and how to clean reusable bottles

Yes, you do need to clean your water bottle: experts

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (AP): You keep your trusty reusable bottle filled with only clear, delicious water. Do you still need to wash it?

Experts say reusable bottles get grubby no matter what liquid they're filled with, and it's important to clean them regularly.

Water bottles pick up germs from our mouths when we take a sip, and from our hands when we touch the straw or lid. They're covered in tiny, tough-to-reach nooks and crannies which can become breeding grounds for mold, bacteria and other microbes if left un-scrubbed.

"It seems like something mundane, but it is extremely important," said nurse practitioner Michele Knepper, who works at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Unclean water bottles can cause stomach aches and itchy throats and even exacerbate allergies and asthma.

Experts disagree on when and how you should wash them, but they're all in agreement on one thing: Give your water bottle a tender loving clean, because something is better than nothing at all.

"Is it that big of a deal? No. But it's also not difficult to just wash your water bottle," said Dr. Mike Ren, a family medicine physician at Baylor College of Medicine.

Some tips for a squeaky clean water bottle (bold)  
Experts say the gunk doesn't care what your water



A reusable water bottle is washed in New York on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025. (AP)

bottle is made of. Reusable metal, plastic and glass bottles all grow germ, but plastic bottles are more likely to get scratches or dings on the inside where microbial life can cozy up.

The best cleaning routine is a simple one: Use a sponge or bottle brush to scrub inside and out with warm, soapy water, rinse it out and let it dry so it's ready for the next refill. A narrow or pipe cleaner-shaped tool can be useful to get into straws and tight crevices.

For a deeper wash, scientists recommend popping the bottle in the dishwasher if it's safe to do so, or

dissolving a denture or retainer-cleaning tablet in the bottle overnight. Scrubbing with a warm water solution of vinegar or baking soda works too.

Many experts recommend doing a simple, soapy water clean every day and a deeper clean once a week. If daily cleaning feels a little extra, Ren said to try to get to it at least every other week or so while maintaining other good habits like rinsing the mouthpiece over the sink during each refill.

But if you fill your reusable bottle with other beverages like protein shakes or exercise drinks, it really is important to clean every day. Sugary drinks leave a residue that bacteria love to snack on.

Do you need to dump the water in your bottle every day? (bold)

Is it okay to leave water in a reusable bottle overnight? Experts disagree.

Some say to dump the dregs out every refill, while others recommend emptying every few hours. Ren says it's likely okay to leave some inside overnight, but to empty old water at least every few days.

"Guidelines are guidelines," Ren said. "Everyone's going to do it a little bit differently."

If there's visible mold on the bottle or the liquid inside has a weird smell, don't drink it. Avoid refilling disposable plastic water bottles since chemicals can leach into the water, and they're even more full of cracks and crevices that can harbor germs.



A flyer for the World Diabetes Open Day event organized by Dasman Diabetes Institute.



Citizens protest against what they called the government's lack of action to combat air pollution in the capital city New Delhi, India, Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025. (AP)

AQI breaches 400 mark

Air pollution in New Delhi soars to hazardous levels

NEW DELHI, Nov 9, (Agencies): Indian capital New Delhi recorded on Saturday evening dangerous level of air pollution as several districts registered above 400 mark making the capital one of the most polluted regions in the country.

According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the 24-hour average Air Quality Index reported at 4 p.m. every day, stood at 361 on Saturday.

Several cities in the capital registered above 400 as monitoring stations reported an AQI of 404 at Alipur, 402 at ITO, 406 at Nehru Nagar, 411 at Vivek Vihar, 420 at Wazirpur, and 418 at Burari.

Any reading above 400 in a maximum 500 scale is considered dangerous even for the healthy people.

However, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas has not yet imposed the measures of Stage-III action plan including banning constitutions and demolition, restricting diesel run vehicles or suspending activities of crushers.

The Commission held meetings with the officials of the neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana and gave strict instructions for abatement of pollution from stubble burning, vehicular emissions, industrial sources, dust from construction and demolition activities and road dust.

Delhi is considered one of the most polluted cities in the world according to several studies on global air quality.

The deteriorating air quality is attributed to use of crackers during festivals, industrial and vehicular pollution, construction related pollution and burning of stubbles in neighbouring states. Air pollution continued to give adverse health issues to the people living in Delhi, as the AQI remained in the red zone on Saturday.

Meanwhile, at some places, the AQI breached the 400-mark, indicating the "severe" category.

Media reports suggested that the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi had predicted that Delhi's air quality would remain in the "Very Poor" category over the next few days.

Study warns of quality gaps in low-cost generics

BP pills recall may point to higher safety risks in older generic drugs

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

By C. Michael White  
University of Connecticut

A generic blood pressure drug called prazosin, made by Teva Pharmaceuticals, is being recalled by the Food and Drug Administration because it contains elevated levels of cancer-causing chemicals called nitrosamines.

The recall, which Teva announced on Oct. 7, 2025, affects more than 580,000 prazosin capsules. Prazosin is prescribed to around 510,000 patients yearly and is used to treat post-traumatic stress disorder as well as high blood pressure.

I am a pharmacologist and pharmacist who has studied nitrosamine contamination of popular blood pressure, diabetes and heartburn drugs, as well as other issues in generic drug manufacturing.

Prazosin has been available as a generic medication for more than 25 years and, like many generics that have been around that long, is now produced by multiple manufacturers. This ratchets up competition on price, which may explain why older generics are more prone to manufacturing issues that may harm patient health.

Nitrosamines are by-products of many common chemical reactions. They form when a type of chemical building block called a nitrite group interacts with another type called an amine group.

Industrial processes like rocket fuel, rubber and sealant manufacturing can produce high concentrations of nitrosamines during chemical reactions. Bacon, pepperoni and salami are high in nitrite preservatives that interact with the amine groups in the meats to form small amounts of nitrosamines. The chemical reaction that happens when chlorinated water interacts with naturally occurring chemicals that contain nitrogen and oxygen can also form small amounts of nitrosamines.

Occasional and small exposures to nitrosamines are not thought to be dangerous. But some studies have found that certain nitrosamines are carcinogenic when ingested in high amounts for long periods of time.

European regulators first discovered in 2018 that prescription drugs could also be contaminated when testing revealed that an active ingredient in a blood pressure drug called valsartan contained a nitrosamine chemical. Since the Chinese company that made the drug's active ingredient sold it to multiple manufacturers of valsartan tablets, many compa-



The Food and Drug Administration seal is seen at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building Auditorium in Washington, April 22, 2025. (AP)

nies, including Teva Pharmaceuticals, recalled the drug at the time.

The FDA then launched a major effort to identify nitrosamines in prescription and over-the-counter drugs and to define unsafe levels for tablets and capsules. It published an initial industry guidance in 2021 and an updated version in 2024.

Based on the agency's new testing requirements, drug-makers have identified nitrosamine contamination in widely used blood pressure, diabetes, heartburn, antibiotic and smoking cessation drugs. Most of the recalled drugs were contaminated during the chemical processing at a manufacturing plant.

Teva Pharmaceuticals' prazosin is just one of many generic versions - but it's the only one that is contaminated. You can determine whether your medication came from Teva by looking at your prescription label. Search for the abbreviations MFG or MFR, which stand for "manufacturing" or "manufacturer." If it says "MFG Teva" or "MFR Teva," that means Teva Pharmaceuticals supplied the medication.

The first four numbers of a National Drug Code, abbreviated as NDC on the prescription label, also reveal the manufacturer or distributor. Teva products have the number 0093.

If Teva Pharmaceuticals is the distributor, a pharmacist can cross-reference your prescription number to obtain the lot number and compare it with the posted lot numbers on the FDA website for recalled prazosin. If your product has been recalled, your pharmacy may have other generic versions of prazosin in stock that are not part of this recall. (AP)

Metsera buyout

Pfizer seals deal for obesity drug

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (AP): US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer signed a deal to purchase development-stage obesity drugmaker Metsera Inc., winning a bidding war against Novo Nordisk, the Danish drugmaker behind weight-loss treatments Ozempic and Wegovy.

Metsera, based in New York, has no products on the market, but it is developing oral and injectable treatments. That includes some potential treatments that could target lucrative fields for obesity and diabetes. The deal comes as Pfizer is attempting to develop its own stake in that market, several months after ending development of a potential pill treatment for obesity.

In a statement issued Friday, Metsera said Pfizer will acquire the company for up to \$86.25 per share, consisting of \$65.60 per share in cash and a contingent value right entitling holders to additional payments of up to \$20.65 per share in cash.

Metsera cited U.S. antitrust risks in Novo's bid, saying in its statement that the board has determined Pfizer's revised terms represent "the best transaction for shareholders, both from the perspective of value and certainty of closing."

The deal comes three days after Novo Nordisk raised the stakes in its push to outbid Pfizer, saying Tuesday it would offer to pay as much as \$10 billion for Metsera. That was higher than its previous bid of up to \$9 billion which sparked a lawsuit from Pfizer.

Pfizer had also altered the offer it made in September of nearly \$4.9 billion to provide more cash up front, Metsera had said.

New York-based Pfizer said in an email that it was happy with the terms of the deal, and expects to close the transaction shortly following the Metsera shareholder meeting on Nov. 13.

US probes

Infant botulism tied to recalled formula

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (AP): Federal and state health officials are investigating 13 cases in 10 states of infant botulism linked to baby formula that was being recalled, authorities said Saturday.

ByHeart Inc. agreed to begin recalling two lots of the company's Whole Nutrition Infant Formula, the Food and Drug Administration said in a statement.

All 13 infants were hospitalized after consuming formula from two lots: 206VABP/251261P2 and 206VABP/251131P2.

The cases occurred in Arizona, California, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and Washington.

No deaths were reported. The FDA said it was investigating how the contamination happened and whether it affected any other products.

Available online and through major retailers, the product accounted for an estimated 1% of national formula sales, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

People who bought the recalled formula should record the lot number if possible before throwing it out or returning it to where it was purchased, the CDC said in a statement.

They should use a dishwasher or hot, soapy water to clean items and surfaces that touched the formula. And they should seek medical care right away if an infant has consumed recalled formula and then had poor feeding, loss of head control, difficulty swallowing or decreased facial expression.

Infant botulism is caused by a bacterium that produces toxins in the large intestine.

Symptoms can take weeks to develop, so parents should keep vigilant, the CDC said.

A ByHeart spokesperson did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Saturday.

Wealthy nations urged to deliver on pledges

Climate summit hears from countries suffering harms from global warming

BELEM, Brazil, Nov 9, (AP): Officials from countries most vulnerable to global warming offered searing dispatches of life on the front line of a warming planet Friday, as world leaders gathered on the edge of the Amazon rainforest for the annual United Nations climate talks.

In preliminary meetings ahead of Monday's official kick-off, officials have sought to build support for initiatives to protect forests and to streamline carbon markets, which seek to reduce the emissions that drive warming. But the meetings also took time to hear impassioned testimony about the harms climate change is dealing around the world.

Haitian diplomat Smith Augustin, whose country was pummeled by Hurricane Melissa, appealed to wealthier countries that produce the greatest share of the world's greenhouse gas emissions to help Haiti prepare for even bigger storms. Developed countries pledged \$300 billion to help poor nations cope with the ravages of climate change at last year's climate summit in Azerbaijan, but that has yet to be met. "The hurricanes and the heavy rain devastated my country," said Augustin. "I want to stress that developing countries, and especially the small island states, are the least responsible for climate change."

Kithure Kindiki, Kenya's vice president, said rescuers in his country are still searching for scores of people missing after a deadly landslide triggered by torrential rain sent walls of muddy water crashing into villages last week.

"A previously once-in-a-century cycle of extreme droughts alternating with devastating floods continues to wipe out lives, livelihoods and reverse the gains in our development agenda," he said. "This has now become common." And Kalani Kaneko, the foreign minister of the Pacific Island nation of the Marshall Islands, said his country already is living a nightmare.

"All we have to do is look out our front doors to witness the impact of climate change," he said. "Now the sea rises, the coral dies and the fish stock leaves our shores for cooler waters. ... What will happen when the next storm comes to us?"

World leaders who were not in the room on Friday were perhaps as important as those who were.

US President Donald Trump, who calls climate change a hoax and prioritizes fossil fuels, boycotted the summit, leaving a hole that many other world powers sought to fill.

Although China's leader, Xi Jinping, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India also skipped the conference, the officials sent in their place used the podium to assure the gathering that multilateralism was not dead just because the U.S. wished it so.

Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang highlighted his



People stay inside a shelter for families displaced by gang violence, flooded by rain brought by Hurricane Melissa, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Oct. 29, 2025. (AP)

country's massive installations of wind and solar power, presenting Beijing as a leader in the clean energy transition.

"China is a country that honors its commitments," Xuexiang said, the Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported Friday. "China will accelerate the green transition in all areas of economic and social development."

Indian diplomat Dinesh Bahata on Friday also touted his country's expansion of renewables to half of all energy capacity, portraying the Global South as bending toward the future of affordable, clean power while political calculations trapped wealthier nations in an outdated addiction to fossil fuels.

"While developing countries take decisive climate action," he said, "other countries fall short."

Over hours of speeches, some officials were more blunt. Maina Vakafua Talia, the environmental minister of the island nation of Tuvalu, addressed Trump directly.

"Mr. President, this is a shameful disregard for the rest of the world," he said of the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

The White House countered with a statement that said Trump "will not jeopardize our country's economic and national security to pursue vague climate goals that are killing other countries."

Attendees said they made significant progress on two initiatives over the past two days: Financial incentives to support endangered forests and a shared global carbon market.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was working to win support for a signature new fund that would pay 74 developing countries to better preserve their rainforests.

Amazon fire

DiCaprio funds project after false 'fire' claim

BELEM, Brazil, Nov 9, (AP): Being falsely accused of setting fire in the Amazon with funds from an Oscar-winning actor eventually became a blessing in disguise for Caetano Scannavino, the coordinator of a nonprofit organization in the heart of the rainforest.

Brazil's then President Jair Bolsonaro falsely claimed in November 2019 that actor Leonardo DiCaprio had funded nonprofit groups that he alleged were partly responsible for setting the fires. The accusation, though false, created risks for Scannavino and his work promoting sustainable development and citizens' rights in a region along the Tapajós River popular with tourists for its blend of rainforest and beaches.

Four of Scannavino's friends who volunteered as forest firefighters were jailed for two days and then prosecuted as alleged perpetrators of fires in the region, only to be cleared later. Police scrolled through documents of Scannavino's Saúde e Alegria nonprofit for weeks. Scannavino received anonymous threats, and his car was set on fire.

But Bolsonaro's comments helped DiCaprio take notice of Scannavino's work and decide to sponsor his work through Re:wild, a nonprofit conservation group that the actor helped found. Their partnership has already lasted five years, the Brazilian activist said.

"When the accusations emerged, DiCaprio came out to say he was not funding us, but added we deserved his support after he saw our work," Scannavino told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "I've never been with him or spoken to him. But he gives us support, uses his social media to show what this partnership does."

The 59-year-old Scannavino became the coordinator of Saúde e Alegria, or Health and Happiness, in 1988 to promote integrated and sustainable community development in Para state, whose capital Belem will host the United Nations' Conference of the Parties, or COP30, next week. Scannavino arrived in Belem on Tuesday from Santarem, the city where the initiative is based, after a two-day boat ride that featured broadcasts with journalists, activists and climate experts.

The project started as a health care initiative, but it has since grown to work with rural communities to improve their quality of life and exercise of citizenship.

One project sponsored by DiCaprio's institute is the Forest Economy EcoCenter in Santarem, which serves as a hub for processing, storage and commercialization of products made by locals. Organizers said the facility enhances the economic viability of sustainable practices in the region.



DiCaprio

# Ahmed spins out SA for 143 as Pakistan wins series

Spinner flummoxes inexperienced batters

**FAISALABAD, Pakistan, Nov 9, (AP):** Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed flummoxed inexperienced batters of South Africa with a career-best 4-27 and led Pakistan to a series-clinching seven-wicket victory in the third and final ODI.

South Africa, which finally won its first toss on the tour of Pakistan after losing seven in a row across formats, was bowled out for 143 in 37.5 overs, losing its last eight wickets for just 37 runs.

Opening batter Saim Ayub then hit a belligerent 77 with 11 fours and a six that carried Pakistan to 144-3 in just 25.1 overs for a 2-1 victory in the series.

Pakistan won the first game narrowly by two wickets, and South Africa bounced back with the help of Quinton de Kock's unbeaten century to win the second game by eight wickets in Faisalabad, which hosted its first international games after 17 years.

South Africa drew the two-test series 1-1, but Pakistan fought back to beat the Proteas 2-1 in the T20 series with back-to-back wins in Lahore.

The left-handed opening pair of de Kock and Lhuan-dre Pretorius gave South Africa its third successive 70-plus start before the Proteas got strangled against the spinners on a tricky wicket.

The pair started cautiously against Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi's left-arm pace and off-spinner Ayub before cutting loose against fast bowler Haris Rauf.

Rauf, who returned after serving a



Pakistani players and officials pose for winner's trophy on the end of third one day international cricket match between Pakistan and South Africa, in Faisalabad, Pakistan. (AP)

two-match ban for violating the ICC code of conduct during the Asia Cup in late September, was smashed for three boundaries in his first over, and de Kock got his first runs with two back-to-back boundaries against Afridi as the pair put on 72 runs.

Off-spinner Salman Ali Agha provided the breakthrough when he beat Pretorius caught at long-on for 39, and shortly afterwards Tony de Zorzi chipped away an easy catch at extra cover.

De Kock became the second-fastest South African batter to complete 7,000 ODI runs in 158 innings after Hashim Amla and raised his half-century with

a reverse sweep against the left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz. However, only two balls later, he tried to slog sweep Nawaz and was out lbw for 53 off 70 balls that triggered a spectacular South African collapse.

Abrar picked up three wickets in his two overs as he beat debutant Rubin Hermann with a googly and clean bowled the left-hander, knocked back the leg stump around the legs of Donovan Ferreira, and then hit the off stump of Corbin Bosch of a delivery that kept very low.

South Africa batters paid heavily for going onto the back foot against the spinners as Bjorn Fortuin was

out plumb leg before wicket against Nawaz, who finished with 2-31.

Afridi then finished off tailenders with two wickets in two balls as South Africa, playing without seven front-line white-ball players in the ODI series, got bowled out with more than 12 overs to spare.

"Not enough runs, we were probably looking at 250," South Africa captain Matthew Breetzke said. "It was tough conditions and unfortunately we lost too many wickets there ... Abrar bowled really nicely. Unfortunately, I got out in his last over. I was looking to be more positive after that, but yeah, there was a variable bounce."

Pakistan wobbled early when Fakhar Zaman fell for his second successive duck and was clean bowled by Nandre Burger off his second ball.

Ayub survived a close lbw against Burger but cut close against the pace as he raced to his half century off 39 balls with Babar Azam (27) also showing signs of returning back into batting rhythm with his trademark cover drives. Both added better than run-a-ball 65 for the second wicket stand before Babar got run-out while going for the third run, but couldn't beat the throw of Bosch from third and was short of his crease.

With only 14 required for victory,

Ayub holed out to long-on to give left-arm spinner Fortuin consolation wicket as Mohammad Rizwan (32 not out) and Agha finished off the game with nearly half the overs to spare.

"It has been teamwork and we have worked very hard across the formats, so credit goes to the players," Afridi said after leading Pakistan to victory in his debut series as ODI skipper.

"We didn't get so much help in the first five-six overs, but when the spinners came in, they made it tough. When you play international cricket, you have to be ready for all situations, so every player who came in took their chances."

## Pulisic returns from injury

### Milan squanders 2-0 lead to draw with relegation-threatened Parma

**MILAN, Nov 9, (AP):** United States international Christian Pulisic returned from injury and came close to scoring the winner for AC Milan in a 2-2 draw at relegation-threatened Parma on Saturday after the visitors squandered an early 2-0 lead.

Juventus was left in fifth, three points behind the top two, after a 0-0 draw at home to Torino in a derby match.

Milan would have gone top with a win and taken the lead in the 12th minute, Christopher Nkunku laid the ball off to Alexis Saelemaekers, who cut inside and drilled a precise shot into the bottom left corner.

Saelemaekers also earned the penalty that saw the Rossoneri double their lead in the 25th, although it was needless from Parma as the Belgian winger was dribbling his way toward the byline when he was fouled by Iliman Ndiaye.

Rafael Leão stroked the ball into the bottom left corner.

Milan appeared to be in complete control, but Parma got back into the match in first-half stoppage time when Adrián Bernabé curled a left-foot strike into the far top corner from the left edge of the area.

And Parma leveled in the 62nd minute when Enrico Delprato headed in Sascha Britschgi's cross.

Pulisic was brought on in the 70th minute for his first appearance in nearly a month, following a hamstring injury on international duty.

And he almost had a decisive impact six minutes later as he raced onto Leão's backheeled flick and only had the goalkeeper to beat, but fired just past the right post. It was a precious point for Parma, which moved two points above the drop zone. Both goalkeepers were decisive as Juventus was held to another disappointing draw.

Torino goalkeeper Alberto Palcari pulled off a quick reaction save to keep out a header from U.S. midfielder Weston McKennie.

His Juventus counterpart, Michele Di Gregorio, had earlier denied Ché Adams with a one-handed save.

Juventus won Luciano Spalletti's first match in charge - 2-1 at Cremonese last weekend - but was held to a draw by Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Lecce and Hellas Verona played out a 0-0 draw, which did little to help either side at the wrong end of the table.

Verona remained winless and second from bottom in the standings, two points from safety and four below Lecce.

Cagliari remained level with Lecce after also holding Como to a goalless draw. Como was just three points below the top four ahead of the rest of the weekend's fixtures.



AC Milan's Christian Pulisic fights for the ball with Parma's Oliver Sorensen Jensen during the Serie A soccer match between Parma and Milan in Parma, Italy. (AP)

## Best of the Rest

**S. Korea wins title, China claims bronze:** China secured the bronze medal at the 2nd Asian Women's U16 Volleyball Championship after edging Japan in a five-set thriller. At Prince Hamzah Hall in Hussein Youth City, Japan took the closely contested first set 28-26, but China fought back to win the next two sets 25-16 and 25-21. Japan leveled the score with a 25-21 fourth set, before China sealed the victory 15-13 in the deciding set.

South Korea captured the title after defeating Chinese Taipei 3-2 in the final.

The top four teams, South Korea, Chinese Taipei, China and Japan, earned qualification for the 2026 FIVB Volleyball Girls' U17 World Championship. (Xinhua)



**Victor earns Brazil call-up:** Nottingham Forest goalkeeper John Victor has been drafted into Brazil's squad for friendlies against Senegal and Tunisia, the Brazilian Football Confederation said.

The uncapped 29-year-old replaces Corinthians' Hugo Souza, who was ruled out due to a thigh injury. John was also called up by Brazil manager Carlo Ancelotti for friendlies against South Korea and Japan last month but was an unused substitute in both matches.

Brazil will meet Senegal at London's Emirates Stadium on November 15 and Tunisia at Pierre-Mauroy Stadium in Lille three days later.

The fixtures will provide one of the last chances for Ancelotti to assess his options before next year's FIFA World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. (Xinhua)

## Banged-up Hawks rout Lakers

# Mavericks end slide, Heat and Spurs keep momentum rolling

**WASHINGTON, Nov 9, (AP):** Naji Marshall scored a season-high 30 points, P.J. Washington Jr. had eight key points in the final five minutes and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Washington Wizards 111-105.

The Mavericks (3-7) snapped a four-game losing streak and won for the first time this season on the road.

Washington lost its eighth straight and fell to 1-9. CJ McCollum scored 25 points, but had just two after half-time. Cam Whitmore had a season-high 19 points.

The Wizards' only win of the season came on Oct. 24 when they beat Dallas 117-107. Washington is 0-5 at home.

### Heat 136, Trail Blazers 131

In Miami, Nikola Jovic scored a career-high 29 points off the bench and finished with nine rebounds and seven assists as Miami edged Portland.

Norman Powell scored 22 points for Miami, which got 16 points from Pelle Larsson, 15 from Andrew Wiggins and a 14-point, 12-rebound, seven-assist effort from Jaime Jaquez Jr. Kel'el Ware added 12 rebounds for the Heat. Heat improved to 4-0 at home this season.

Jovic's previous career-best was 24 points.

Deni Avdija - now averaging 25.3 points so far this season - scored 33 points for Portland, which was playing the first game of a five-game trip. The Trail Blazers got 21 points from Shaedon Sharpe, plus 18 apiece from Jrue Holiday and Jerami Grant.

### Spurs 126, Pelicans 119

In San Antonio, De'Aaron Fox scored 24 points in his season debut, Victor Wembanyama added 18 points and 18 rebounds, and San Antonio beat New Orleans.

Stephon Castle added 14 points and 14 assists as San Antonio won its second straight after two straight losses following a franchise-best 5-0 start.

Trey Murphy III scored 41 points on 15-for-22 shooting for the Pelicans. Murphy was 11 for 11 on 3-pointers, including a high-arcing 31-footer at the close of the third quarter to stun the sellout crowd.

Fox and Wembanyama played together for just the sixth time since San Antonio acquired the speedy point guard from Sacramento on Feb. 5 as part of a three-team trade with Chicago.



Atlanta Hawks forward Asa Newell (14) shoots against Los Angeles Lakers forward Jarred Vanderbilt (2) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Atlanta. (AP)

### Hawks 122, Lakers 102

In Atlanta, Mouhamed Gueye scored a career-high 21 points, Dyson Daniels had 10 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds, and the banged-up Atlanta Hawks beat the Los Angeles Lakers 122-102 on Saturday night to even their record at 5-5.

The Hawks led by 30 points despite playing without three of their five starters. All-Star Trae Young is sidelined with an MCL sprain. Nickail Alexander-Walker, Nikola Durisic, Jalen Johnson and Kristaps Porzingis (rest) were also inactive.

Yet Atlanta led 37-20 after one quarter behind 11 points from Gueye, who made his second start of the season and also had seven rebounds and seven assists. Daniels notched his 10th assist of the night and solidified a double-double just over four minutes into the third quarter. He also had a steal in his 62nd consecutive game, establishing a club record.

Atlanta held Lakers star Luka Doncic, averaging 40 points this season, to 17 points. He also had 11 assists, five rebounds and was 4 for 6 from the free

throw line. Doncic was done for the night halfway through the third quarter.

### 76ers 130, Raptors 120

In Philadelphia, Tyrese Maxey scored 31 points, Joel Embiid added 29 and Philadelphia beat Toronto.

Trendon Watford had 20 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists for Philadelphia, which lost all four games to Toronto last season.

RJ Barrett and Immanuel Quickley each scored 22 points for the Raptors, who had won four in a row. Toronto was playing the second contest of a back-to-back after beating Atlanta 109-97 on Friday night. Brandon Ingram chimed in 21 for the Raptors.

### Cavaliers 128, Bulls 122

In Cleveland, Donovan Mitchell scored eight straight points in 65 seconds, including the go-ahead basket with 34 seconds remaining, and Cleveland closed on a 12-0 run to beat Chicago.

Chicago built a 122-116 lead on two free throws by Tre Jones with 1:47 left before Mitchell caught fire, pouring in three successive buckets - including a

three-point play. Mitchell scored 26 of his 29 points in the second half as the Cavaliers rallied from 19 down.

De'Andre Hunter had a season-high 29 points and Evan Mobley posted 24 points and eight rebounds for Cleveland, which has won four straight. Mitchell also had six rebounds and six assists.

Isaac Okoro scored 19 points and Jalen Smith had 18 points and 11 rebounds in 19 minutes off the bench for the Bulls. Jones added 17 points and Josh Giddey provided 15 points, nine rebounds and six assists.

### Suns 114, Clippers 103

In Inglewood, Devin Booker had 21 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, and the Phoenix Suns held off the Clippers 114-103 on Saturday night for their second win over Los Angeles in three days.

Mark Williams scored 19 points for the Suns, who have won four of five. Phoenix kept a lead throughout the fourth quarter, and Booker's three-point play with 2:59 left got the Suns out of trouble after Los Angeles had trimmed the deficit to five.

## New Zealand edges West Indies to take 2-1 series lead

**NELSON, New Zealand, Nov 9, (AP):** Kyle Jamieson bowled a superb final over to seal a nine-run win for New Zealand over the West Indies Sunday in the third Twenty20 International.

New Zealand leads the three-match series 2-1 and Jamieson also bowled the last over in the second match on Thursday which New Zealand won by three runs. The West Indies won the first match by seven runs and all three matches have been decided in the final over.

New Zealand managed only 177-9 batting first but seemed headed for a comfortable win when the West Indies slumped to 88-8 in the 13th over at Saxton Oval.

Romario Shepherd scored 49 from 34 balls and Shamar Springer 39 from 20 as the West Indies rallied to reach the last over needing 14 runs to win with one wicket in hand and Shepherd and Akeal Hosein at the crease.

The onus again fell on the tall fast bowler Jamieson to bowl the final over and he held his nerve, conceding only two runs from the first four balls before dis-

missing Shepherd with the fifth ball to end the match.

Once again Sunday, the West Indies' tail came to the rescue of its brittle top order. The tourists lost two wickets in the second over of their innings bowled by Jacob Duffy, were 47-2 at the end of the first power play, then lost six wickets for 35 runs through the middle overs. Spinner Ish Sodhi took 3-34 and was player of the match.

"If you're taking it to the last over, then that means you're in the contest," West Indies captain Shai Hope said. "It's just unfortunate we didn't come out on the winning side in the last two."

Earlier, Devon Conway set up the New Zealand innings with 56 from 34 balls. New Zealand also suffered a late batting slump, losing six wickets for 31 in the last five overs.

Superb fielding by the West Indies produced three run outs and Jason Holder and Matt Forde bowled excellent spells. Forde took 2-20 and Holder 2-31 to contain New Zealand to a moderate total.

Conway overcame recent form struggles to post his first half century in seven innings. He hit a six in the

first over, bowled by the spinner Akeal Hosein and set the steady pace of the first half of the New Zealand innings.

Tim Robinson (23) and Rachin Ravindra (26) both made starts but couldn't go on.

New Zealand was 47-1 at the end of the six over power play and well-placed at 97-1 after 10 overs.

Conway reached his half century from 32 balls with another six off Hosein before falling in the 13th, the first of a trio of run outs.

Alick Athanaze pulled off a superb piece of fielding at deep midwicket and beat Conway with a direct hit at the non-striker's end.

Pressure again fell on Daryl Mitchell to give New Zealand's innings momentum in the later overs. He hit 41 from 24 balls with two fours and three sixes but even he couldn't fully get on top of the bowling, nor find a partner to see the innings out.

Michael Bracewell made 11 before being run out in another slick fielding effort by Rovman Powell.

Jimmy Neesham, Mitchell Santner, Mitch Hay and Kyle Jamieson all were out in single figures.

Sport keeps youth away from bad paths and negative thoughts

BCA hosts successful Champions League Season Four final in Kuwait



Bangladesh Cricket Association official hands over the trophy to the champion team's captain.



The Season Four Bangladesh Cricket Champions League winners pose with the trophy.



Joyous scenes as the team celebrates their Season Four Bangladesh Cricket Champions League victory.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The final match of the Champions League Season Four 2024-2025 T-20 cricket tournament, organized by the Bangladesh Cricket Association in Kuwait, and was held at the Al Rai Cricket Ground in Kuwait. 20 teams of expatriate players from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka participated in the tournament. Just as the arrival of winter brings joy to expatriate cricket lovers in Kuwait, the playground turns into a gathering of expatriates during the holidays. Expatriate cricket lovers came to the field to make the

tournament more enjoyable. In this tournament, which has been going on for a long time, Jleeb Expatriate Cricket Club, Kuwait, and B Bariya XI Cricket Club, Kuwait, reached the final by defeating 20 teams from different countries? After winning the toss and electing to bat, Jleeb Expatriate Cricket Club scored 183 runs for the loss of 9 wickets after the stipulated 20 overs. In response, B Bariya XI came out to bat with a target of 184 runs. But they were all out for 123 runs in 18.1 overs, and JilibProbashi Cricket Club won the

title by 60 runs. After the game, the guests distributed prizes among the winners under the chairmanship of the acting president of the organization, Mohammad Sarwady, and the direction of the general secretary, Moazzem Hossain. Present at that time were Bangladesh Cricket Association Advisor and Bangladesh Press Club President Moin Uddin Sarker Sumon, General Secretary A.H. Jubed, Advisor Shafiqul Islam, the organization's Operation Chairman Mosaroff Hossain, B. Baria XI Club Vice Pres-

ident Sohel Mirza Beg, Executive Head of the Committee Sheikh Monir Ahmed, Co-Executive Abul Hashem, and Technical Head Engineer Md. Mustafizur Rahman, Vice President, Kasedul Hossain, Organizing Secretary, AbulKalam, JKR CEO AzizulHaque, and numerous other players and spectators. Truly, sports not only develop the body and mind, but also keep the youth away from bad paths and negative thoughts. Such an arrangement plays a big role in bringing positive changes to society.

Al-Qadsia extends streak

League break provides a good opportunity: Al-Rashidi

By Hassan Mosa  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Al-Qadsia continued its upward climb in the Zain Premier League, securing a second straight win after defeating hosts Al-Jahra 2-0 at Mubarak Al-Ayyar Stadium in the eighth round.

Rashid Al-Dosari opened the scoring in stoppage time of the first half (45+1), while Abdullah Al-Awadhi sealed the victory with a goal in the 59th minute.

With the win, Al-Qadsia raised its tally to 14 points to temporarily move into second place, while Al-Jahra remained in eighth with seven points. It was Al-Qadsia's fourth win of the season and second in a row, following its 3-0 triumph over Al-Tadamon in the previous round.

Rising star Abdullah Al-Awadhi expressed delight at netting his first goal of the season for Al-Qadsia, describing the team's performance as convincing and spirited. He said that starting in the lineup motivates him to deliver stronger performances in the upcoming matches.

Meanwhile, Eid Al-Rashidi noted that the current league break provides a good opportunity to regroup



Al-Qadsia's Al-Awadhi expresses his joy over the goal.

and review past performances. He added that the season is still in its early stages and that Al-Qadsia remains a strong contender both domestically and in Gulf competitions, aiming to maintain momentum and readiness for the coming period. Algerian defender Sofiane

Bouchar acknowledged that recent poor results had put pressure on the players but emphasized that the three points against Al-Jahra were crucial. He praised the team's fighting spirit and vowed continued effort to stay among the league's top competitors.

On the other side, Al-Jahra captain Obaid Rafeh admitted that Al-Qadsia deserved the victory, adding that his team tried to match its opponent but "things didn't go as planned." He expressed confidence that Al-Jahra would bounce back in upcoming matches.

Nouriya Al-Sabah excels in dressage champ'ship debut

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Equestrian talent Nouriya Al-Sabah of Sahara Equestrian Club made a strong impression in her debut dressage competition, turning heads with her outstanding performance at the Kuwait Equestrian Federation Championship held at the Sahara Equestrian Resort, which attracted a large turnout of riders from clubs across the country.

Al-Sabah commented, "This was my first experience in dressage, and it was both exciting and enjoyable. I managed to secure a top position in the Federation championship." She highlighted that dressage forms the foundation of equestrian sports, while noting the growing popularity of show jumping competitions, particularly in the beginner 70 cm and 90 cm categories.

Nouriya cited Australian champion Edwina Tops-Alexander as her international role model, and locally she looks up to riders Ali Al-Kharafi and Yara Al-Hunaydi. She also praised coach Sabah Ali Al-Sabah for his dedication and support for both male and female riders.

She added, "I train daily at Sahara Equestrian Resort and actively participate



Rising Kuwaiti equestrian star Nouriya Al-Sabah.

in competitions. My goal is to compete internationally and proudly represent Kuwait at the highest level."

Al-Nassr stays unbeaten

Al-Ahli triumphs in Jeddah Derby

JEDDAH, Nov 9: Riyad Mahrez scored the decisive goal as Al-Ahli defeated Al-Ittihad in the Jeddah Derby during the eighth round of the Saudi Pro League (Roshn League), extending the reigning champions' recent struggles. The win moved Al-Ahli to 16 points in fifth place, while Al-Ittihad, winless in their last five league matches, remained on 11 points in eighth place.

Elsewhere, Al-Nassr continued their perfect run in the league by beating newly promoted NEOM 3-1, keeping their top spot with a flawless record after eight rounds. In another fixture, Dutch forward Georginio Wijnaldum rescued Al-Ittifaq with a late penalty to secure a 1-1 draw against Al-Shabab, after the home side had opened the scoring through Abdulaziz Al-Othman. After the round, Al-Ittifaq sits in 11th place with 9 points, while Al-Shabab is 13th with 7 points.



Mahrez cheers after finding the back of the net.

Sousa eyes first win

Kuwait heads to Cairo ahead of Arab Cup playoff

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Kuwait departed today for Cairo to begin a training camp that will run until November 20, featuring two friendly matches against Tanzania on November 14 and Gambia on November 18. The camp comes as part of preparations for the crucial Arab Cup playoff against Mauritania, scheduled for November 25 in Doha, Qatar.

Head coach Helio Sousa is focused on improving the team's overall readiness and fine-tuning tactics ahead of the decisive fixture. The Portuguese coach, appointed by the Kuwait Football Association in August to replace Juan Pizzi, is still chasing his first win with the "Blue." Sousa has so far overseen three matches — a 2-2 draw with Syria in September and back-to-back losses to Uzbekistan (0-2) and Morocco's Olympic side (0-1).



Kuwait national team head coach Helio Sousa is concentrating on enhancing the team's readiness and perfecting tactics ahead of the decisive clash.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abdulmajid Al-Bannai, head of the medical department at the Football Association, conducted a series of medical assessments in recent days to ensure player fitness before finalizing the Cairo squad.

The team continues to deal with several injury setbacks. Khaled Al-Murshid and Bader Tareq were both ruled out after sustaining injuries against Uzbekistan, while Mubarak Al-Faneeni, sidelined for nearly a month, also remains un-

available. On a brighter note, Shabib Al-Khalidi and Eid Al-Rashidi are expected to rejoin the squad. On the opposing side, Mauritania's head coach Martins Lopez Garai has announced his 25-man roster for the upcoming playoff, with training to begin tomorrow. The Mauritanian team will also play two friendlies against Tunisia and Libya as part of their preparations.

Garai handed first-time call-ups to Mohamed Sar of FC Nouadhibou and academy prospect Abdulrahman Soumare, while Biyat Al-Kouri, Aboubakar Koita, and other foreign-based players were left out after their clubs declined to release them.

In a setback for Mauritania, the Football Federation confirmed that international midfielder Mohsen Bedda suffered a serious injury — a complete tear of the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee — during last month's World Cup 2026 qualifier against Senegal.

S. Korea, Germany win 10m Air Rifle titles at ISSF Worlds

CAIRO, Nov. 9, (Xinhua): Ban Hyojin of South Korea and Germany's Maximilian Dallinger claimed gold medals in the women's and men's 10m air rifle events respectively at the 2025 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship Rifle/Pistol in Cairo on Saturday.

Both sealed their victories in thrilling final rounds in front of a cheering crowd at Egypt International Olympic City.

Olympic champion Ban delivered a composed performance to win the women's title with 255.0 points, narrowly beating China's junior world champion Wang Zifei, who scored 254.0 to take silver. India's Elavenil Valarivan secured bronze with 232.0.

The match was closely contested, as Ban and Wang, both 18, stayed head-to-head until the final round, where Ban held firm to win.

"I understood that the World Championship would be more difficult than the Olympics, so I trained harder than usual to be on the top," Ban told Xinhua after the final. "In the final, everything went well as I expected, but in qualification I had some issues with my points and condition, so that part was tougher."

She said she mentally prepared for the competitive atmosphere in Cairo. "I knew the crowd would be louder and the tension higher during the last shot, so I practiced for that mentally and told myself to treat it like the first shot," she said.

Later in the evening, Dallinger produced an equally dramatic finish in the men's final, scoring 252.0 points to edge Sweden's 2023 world champion Victor Lindgren, who finished with 251.7. Reigning Olympic champion Sheng Lihao of China took bronze with 229.9.

Trailing for most of the match,



Hanakawa Naoki of Japan competes during the 10m air rifle men's final of shooting at the 2025 ISSF World Championship Rifle/Pistol in Cairo, Egypt. (Xinhua)

Dallinger mounted a strong comeback in the closing rounds, overtaking Lindgren by just 0.3 points after

24 shots.

"The feeling is incredible," Dallinger said. "It's my first individual World Championship medal. The World Cup is nice, but the World Championship is different - more people are here, everyone is in top form."

"I knew Victor was a very strong shooter in the final, but I was hoping for the gold medal and I worked very hard for it, although I honestly didn't expect it."

The 29-year-old German described the win as a comeback after a difficult few years. "It was a very tough year for me, going up and down, and coming back like this means a lot," he said. "My next goal is to defend this title next year."

The 2025 ISSF World Championship is being held in Egypt from November 6 to 18, featuring more than 700 shooters from around the world.

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Newcastle United's Harvey Barnes, right, scores the opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Brentford and Newcastle United in London. (AP)

# Sports



Left-right: Photos from the marathon.

## Kuwaiti youth hosts first ‘Your Health Abroad’ marathon in London

LONDON, Nov 9, (KUNA): The fifth edition of the Kuwaiti youth initiative “Your Health Abroad” held its first marathon at Battersea Park, London.

The 5-kilometer marathon, supported by the Public Authority for Sport (PAS), ran from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm and attracted numerous Kuwaiti male and female students studying in the United Kingdom.

Noura and Nouf Al-Duajj and Ruqaiya Al-Hajras led the female participants, while Hassan Abdullah, Abdulrahman Sulaiman, and Faisal Al-Hajraf topped the male racers, according to PAS Deputy Director General Haya Al-Dahham.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Dahham emphasized PAS’s dedication to supporting Kuwaiti students abroad and promoting public awareness of the importance of sports. “The success of the fifth edition of the youth event, both inside and outside Kuwait, encourages us to continue organizing it in the future,” she said.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Metwa’, media sponsor of the event, added that the marathon brought together expatriate students and workers from Gulf countries, who expressed their joy in participating.

Earlier editions of the youth initiative were held in a woodland area near Leeds.

### Promising results for Kuwaitis at the Islamic Solidarity Games



KUNA photo  
Khaled Al-Otaibi reacts after finishing 7th.

RIYADH, Nov 9: Captain Ali Al-Mari, Assistant Secretary of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, was elected unopposed to the Executive Board of the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation for the 2025–2029 term. The announcement was made during the 23rd Arab National Olympic Committees meeting, held alongside the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, 2025.

Representing Kuwait at the meeting were Ali Al-Mari and Mohammed Al-Khalfan, Director General of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and head of the Kuwaiti delegation. The Kuwait Olympic Committee also participated in the 14th General Assembly of the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation, where Malaysia was selected to host the 7th

edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games in 2029.

Kuwait Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser attended the competitions to support the national team in weightlifting.

In swimming, Khaled Al-Otaibi finished 7th in the 400m individual medley after advancing from the preliminaries and also qualified for the 200m individual medley final, while Saud Alshamroukh did not make it to the 1500m freestyle final.

The weightlifting team faced a challenging first day: Sara Al-Huwail and Fahad Al-Otaibi finished 8th in the 48 kg and 60 kg categories, respectively, while Amal Al-Sharifi placed 7th in the 53 kg category. Fahad Al-Otaibi was unable to compete due to injury.

### Kuwaiti official: IIHF approves logo for Division IV World Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) has officially approved the logo for the 2026 Ice Hockey World Cup (Division IV), which will be hosted by Kuwait in April, Kuwait Winter Games Club President Fehaid Al-Ajmi announced.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Ajmi explained that the logo features a Kuwaiti player in the national uniform holding the country’s flag, and prominently displays the names of Kuwait and the championship. This marks the second time Kuwait will host the event.

Al-Ajmi highlighted that six teams will participate in the tournament, including Singapore, Armenia, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia, along with the host, Kuwait. The club has developed an ambitious plan to prepare the national team to perform at its best and showcase outstanding levels during the championship.



KUNA photo  
2026 Ice Hockey World Cup (Division IV) logo.

He also praised the support of Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi for backing Kuwait’s hosting of this major international event, as well as the efforts of the Public Authority for Sport in supporting winter sports in the country.

Kuwait’s hosting of this major international event, as well as the efforts of the Public Authority for Sport in supporting winter sports in the country.

### Crown Prince Cup playoff matches scheduled for late November



Crown Prince Cup trophy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Kuwait Football Association’s Competitions Department has confirmed the schedule for the playoff matches of this season’s Crown Prince Cup. Al-Shamiya will take on Sporty on November 21 at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium, with the winner advancing to face Al-Jazeera on November 27 to decide which team qualifies for the tournament’s preliminary round.

This season marks the first time the Crown Prince Cup is being held under this playoff format, following approval from participating clubs.

Additionally, Al-Jazeera, Al-Shamiya, and Sporty are competing in the Zain First Division League for the first time in their history.

# Messi steers Miami into semis

Cincinnati beats Crew to advance

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Nov 9, (AP): Lionel Messi and Inter Miami are three wins away from an MLS Cup title.

Messi scored a pair of first-half goals and added two assists, leading the way as third-seeded Inter Miami ousted sixth-seeded Nashville SC 4-0 on Saturday night in the decisive Game 3 of their first-round Eastern Conference playoff series.

Tadeo Allende scored a pair of goals about three minutes apart - both set up by Messi - in the second half to blow the game open for Inter Miami, which outscored Nashville 8-3 in the series. Messi had a hand in all eight of those goals, scoring five and assisting on the other three.

Inter Miami will go to FC Cincinnati for an East semifinal match - everything now is single-elimination, unlike Round 1’s best-of-three format - on Nov. 22 or Nov. 23. Cincinnati went 1-0-1 against Inter Miami this season, winning 3-0 at home on July 16 and playing to a scoreless draw at Fort Lauderdale on July 26. Messi was in the lineup for the first meeting, but not the second.

Messi is the heavy favorite to win his second straight MLS MVP award, and if that happens he would be the first back-to-back winner in league history. He also won the Golden Boot as MLS’ leading scorer this season, just finalized a new three-year deal to remain with the club through 2028 and seems to be playing his best soccer at the perfect time for Inter Miami.

Brenner Souza - known simply as “Brenner” - scored goals in the 67th and 86th minutes to help FC Cincinnati beat the Columbus Crew 2-1 on Saturday night and win the best-of-three series 2-1 in the first round of the



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi (10) controls the ball in front of Nashville SC midfielder Edvard Tagseth, during the second half of Game 3 in the first round of MLS soccer's Western Conference playoffs in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

MLS Cup playoffs.

Cincinnati plays No. 3 seed Miami or sixth-seeded Nashville in the one-game Eastern Conference semifinals.

Brenner’s second goal gave Cincinnati its first lead of the game. Samuel Gidi, on the counter-attack, tapped a short pass from near the penalty spot to the top of the 18-yard box, where Brenner took a step to his right and slipped a low shot inside the left post.

Andrés Herrera ran onto a long ball-ahead played by goalkeeper Patrick Schulte and bounced a first-touch cross to a charging Jacen Russell-Rowe for a half-volley finish from just outside the 6-yard box that gave the seventh-seeded Crew a 1-0 lead in the 63rd minute.

Brenner answered four minutes later for No. 2 seed Cincinnati with a first-touch goal, after a soft header by



Seattle Sounders forward Jordan Morris (13) and Minnesota United midfielder Joaquin Pereyra, right, collide while competing for the ball during the first half of Game 3 in the first round of MLS soccer's Western Conference playoffs in St. Paul, Minn. (AP)

Teenage Hadebe off a corner kick.

Roman Celantano had four saves.

The game marked the end of Darlington Nagbe’s career. The 35-year-old midfielder who won four MLS Cup titles - two (2020, ‘23) with the Crew - across 15 seasons, announced in October that this season, his 15th in Major League Soccer, would be his last.

Cincinnati opened the series with a 1-0 win before the Crew evened the series with a 4-0 victory in Game 2 with each team winning on its home field.

Dayne St. Clair scored and Andrew Thomas hit the crossbar in a penalty-kick shootout that was decided by the goalkeepers in the 11th round, and Minnesota United staged a short-handed rally to beat the Seattle Sounders in the rubber match of the best-of-three first-round series for the MLS Cup after a 3-3 tie in regulation

Thomas, who replaced starter Stefan Frei in the 89th minute with a shootout looming, appeared to injure a finger on a miss by Joaquin Pereyra to begin the shootout. He finished with a heavily-taped hand.

The fifth-seeded Sounders got off to an even faster start in the rubber match than they did in a 4-2 victory at home - when Obed Vargas scored in the 8th minute to give them a lead they never relinquished on Monday.

This time Albert Rusnák used assists from Danny Musovski and defender Nuhou Tolo to score in the 5th minute for a 1-0 lead. Musovski scored unassisted from the center of the box three minutes later for a two-goal lead.

Minnesota United cut it to 2-1 in the 19th minute when Pereyra scored off a set piece after a yellow card on Seattle’s Yéimar Gómez Andrade. It was Pereyra’s first goal in his sixth postseason appearance.

### Alcaraz tops de Minaur

### Rybakina defeats Sabalenka to claim 1st WTA Finals title

RIYADH, Nov 9, (Agencies): Former Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan defeated world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-3, 7-6 (0) to become the first Asian player ever to win the WTA Finals singles title on Saturday night.

Sabalenka held a better head-to-head record of 8-5 heading into Saturday’s final, with their most recent meeting was in this year’s Wuhan Open quarterfinals, where Sabalenka prevailed in straight sets. Since then, Rybakina has been riding a 10-match winning streak on the tour.

In the opening set, both players held serve through the first five games before Rybakina broke in the sixth, winning four points in a row. Despite facing two break points in the next game, she held firm behind powerful serves and aggressive baseline play, taking the set 6-3.

The second set proved much tighter, with both players holding serve through the first 12 games. Sabalenka had two break points, and set points, in the 10th game, but Rybakina saved both. In the tiebreak, Rybakina was unstoppable, sweeping seven straight points to seal the victory.

“I was trying to stay very focused,” Rybakina said after the match. “And I think even on the tiebreak, only when I heard the game, set, match then I realized that the match is finished, because I also had experience of being up on the tiebreak and losing it. So honestly, I was just focusing really at each point. And I’m very, very happy that I managed to win it and win it in two.” “She played incredible,” Sabalenka said. “I feel like I

did my best today. It didn’t work, but I think so many things I have to be proud of.”

Meanwhile, Carlos Alcaraz got his bid to win a first ATP Finals crown - and claim the year-end No. 1 ranking - off to a positive start on Sunday with a straight-set victory over Alex de Minaur.

Alcaraz recovered from a topsyturvy opening set to triumph 7-6 (5), 6-2 over the seventh-seeded De Minaur in the opening match of the season-ending event for the top eight men’s players.

American Ben Shelton makes his ATP Finals debut later Sunday against two-time champion Alexander Zverev.

Top-seeded Alcaraz is involved in a tussle with defending champion Jannik Sinner to end the year as No. 1 and the Spaniard can secure that - regardless of what his rival does - if he reaches the final.

Alcaraz seemed in firm control of the opening set. He had already broken De Minaur to love and threatened to do the same in the sixth game to go 5-1 up, but the Australian fought back to deuce before staving off another break point and then taking the game.

De Minaur then broke back and took the set to a tiebreaker where he had a 5-3 advantage before Alcaraz rallied.

The 22-year-old Alcaraz dominated the second set, dropping his serve early but winning all the other games and sealing the victory with a cross-court backhand on his second match point.

Taylor Fritz is also in the Jimmy Connors group with Alcaraz, De Minaur and Lorenzo Musetti, who replaced the injured Novak Djokovic.