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Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Secretary General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Haitham Al-Ghais.



Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Secretary General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Haitham Al-Ghais, at Bayan Palace on Monday.

Amir, Crown Prince receive OPEC chief

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Monday Secretary General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Haitham Al-Ghais.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Secretary General of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Haitham Al-Ghais, at Bayan Palace on Monday.



Photos by Mohammad Morsi
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and other ministers attended the forum. Inset: Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Entrepreneurs Kuwait-building role wins praise

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah / Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Chairman of the Green Urban Development Initiatives Committee and Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad praised the efforts of Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, past and present, who turned challenges into opportunities and con-

tributed to building a modern State rooted in its values and optimistic about its future.

In a presentation at the inaugural Entrepreneurs Forum, Sheikh Hamoud Al-Jaber outlined four main focus areas for the Green Urban Development Initiatives Committee, which he chairs. The committee consists of representatives from 12 government entities, including the Ministries of Electricity, Water, Renewable Energy, Municipality, Social Af-

fairs, Information and Interior.

The main focus areas are identifying and developing green spaces throughout the country, studying and evaluating initiatives submitted by public and private entities and individuals, determining the feasibility of implementing these initiatives without any cost to the State, proposing viable development projects that promote

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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

The state of the economy is good, we just need positive government decisions

GOVERNMENT decisions are not predetermined, as they could be right or wrong. Reconsidering decisions is vital for the country to progress as needed.

Therefore, only those who can clearly articulate the risks and benefits of a decision should be held accountable for actions that concern the public.

Based on this, every government employs a 'decision-making team' of experts from various fields. Their main responsibility is to create all possible scenarios, both positive and negative, for any potential decision to prevent adverse societal impact. When the 'decision-making' team detects any signs of a crisis, it analyzes the issue and identifies the cause in order to prescribe a solution.

In prosperous and affluent nations like Kuwait, a crisis cannot arise without a cause. Often, this cause is governmental, as the executive branch holds the reins of power. It is the only entity capable of influencing the overall situation.

This applies to all countries. For example, the securitization of debt in 2007 and the leniency of the US government towards banks, which collectively triggered the 2008 global financial crisis—an event whose repercussions some nations still experience today.

The 'kitchen' functions as an early warning system, identifying risks and establishing safeguards to regulate the economic and social landscape. Any development in one area affects the other, negatively affecting the country as a whole. This leads to a decline in economic activity which, in turn, reduces tax revenues, thus, diminishing the government's ability to fund public services.

Furthermore, the 'kitchen' dictates the behavior of the Cabinet, not the other way around. A minister cannot make decisions based on personal interests or to satisfy a particular whim and expect others to sup-

port them. If a decision is successful, it is lauded, if it is wrong, it is glossed over by portraying its flaws as virtues.

I recall that in 2000, a global crisis led to domestic economic hardship, causing a significant reduction in public spending. However, a powerful speech delivered by HH the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, may Allah have mercy on him, during the last 10 days of Ramadan had a profound impact.

His speech, rooted in the Quranic verse, "And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient," reassured the people that Kuwait was doing well. This renewed confidence led to the resumption of spending.

Today, the Cabinet must prioritize implementing the directives of HH the Amir, such as expanding investment opportunities, boosting the competitiveness of the business environment, and forging strategic international partnerships.

Simultaneously, it is crucial to rectify past errors and simplify procedures, as an atmosphere of uncertainty discourages investment.

A recent study highlighted the strong financial position of Kuwait, with a sovereign wealth fund surpassing \$1 trillion that generates annual returns of \$50-60 billion.

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ahmed@aljarallah.com



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Lawyer helps Kuwaiti students

Passing illegally with cash bribes

BEIRUT, Nov 10: Following up on the daily's report of October 12 edition on Lebanon's investigations into the forgery of Kuwaiti students' results, a source familiar with the investigation revealed the involvement of several individuals, including a Lebanese lawyer identified only as M.S., reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The source explained that the lawyer received thousands of dollars in financial transfers from Kuwaiti students in exchange for falsifying their university grades and manipulating exam results, allowing them to pass illegally.

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KUNA photo
Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas meets the German Military Attaché to Kuwait Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Bayer.

Kuwait, German ties in focus

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10, (KUNA): Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas discussed on Monday with the German Military Attaché to Kuwait Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Bayer a number of issues of mutual interest.

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8 Al-Tijaria reports KD 12.6 mln profit for nine months of 2025

8 Zain, EPA partner to expand environmental awareness & boost sustainability initiatives

Kuwait charity donates \$1 mln aid for Gazans

AMMAN, Nov 10, (KUNA): Kuwait's Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society announced Monday the delivery of one million US dollars in urgent humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza in cooperation with the UN World Food Programme (WFP), as part of joint efforts to ease the worsening humanitarian crisis in the besieged territory.

Jassem Al-Nouri, the charity's adviser, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the aid comes in response to the dire living, health, and food conditions faced by Gaza residents.

He affirmed Kuwait's longstanding commitment to assisting those in need worldwide, adding that the charity's team had visited WFP warehouses in Jordan to follow up on the preparation of shipments and ensure compliance with international humanitarian standards before dispatching them to Gaza.

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any time," he stressed.

He pointed out that Kuwait has unique climatic advantages that make it a distinctive tourist destination from Oct 15 to April 15 each year, a feature that is not available in many neighboring countries.

He disclosed "we are currently streamlining procedures for visitors. Visas and residency permits are now readily available and easy to obtain. A Kuwaiti visa can be obtained in just five minutes through the modern systems launched by the Ministry of Interior. This exemplifies the country's rapid digital transformation and administrative development across various sectors."

He also confirmed his upcoming meeting with the Interior Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. He stated that each minister will present their individual agenda during the meeting, and that the details of the agenda will be announced later.

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Sheikh Fahad

Kuwait Airways to jack up travel stations to over 60

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Kuwait Airways is considering increasing its destinations from 58 to more than 60 next year.

According to informed sources, Chairman of Kuwait Airways Corporation Abdulmohsen Al-Faqan formed a technical committee following a brake malfunction on a Kuwait Airways flight bound for the Philippines. The committee is investigating the cause of the brake failure, which led to a minor nose-to-nose collision.

The board of directors of Kuwait Airways Corporation praised the safe disembarkation of passengers, emphasizing that no one was injured. The aircraft is currently undergoing comprehensive inspections to ensure operational safety.

It is worth highlighting that Kuwait Airways ranked 20th out of 109 airlines in the 2024 AirHelp Global Aviation Report. This ranking reinforces global confidence in the national carrier.

Meanwhile, through the official gazette "Kuwait al-Youm", Kuwait

Airways announced a public tender for general maintenance work on its buildings and facilities. The deadline for submitting bids is November 20. Bids must be deposited in the designated box at the Tenders and Auctions Committee headquarters in Kuwait Airways' main building.

Bidders are required to submit an initial guarantee of KD 15,000 in the form of a letter of guarantee or a certified cheque issued by an approved local bank. The guarantee remains valid for the entire duration of the tender and is interest-free. Creditors of the bidder are not permitted to seize the guarantee amount, and Kuwait Airways reserves the right to confiscate it if the winning bidder withdraws from the tender.

The tender will remain valid for 90 days from the date of bid opening.

Furthermore, Kuwait Airways also announced its intention to contract with a specialized entity to operate and manage a cafeteria within its premises for providing healthy and varied meals for employees and visitors while adhering to the highest standards of quality and safety.

In preparation for responding to inquiries from participating parties, a meeting will be held at 11:00am on November 13 in the meeting room of the Procurement, Projects, and Housing Department, located in Kuwait

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KUNA photo
Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi at the foundation-stone-laying ceremony in Sabah Medical Area.

'NBK Hospital growth model of public, private sector synergy'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed Monday that the third expansion of the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) Specialized Hospital for Children stands as a distinguished model of cooperation between the public and private sectors.

In a statement on the sidelines of the foundation-stone-laying ceremony at Sabah Medical Area, Dr. Al-Awadhi said the new expansion meets the latest international standards.

It includes five floors with 66 beds in intensive care units, private rooms, emergency wards, and laboratories.

The project observes infection-control measures and provides a child-friendly environment that supports both psychological and health needs, he noted.

NBK Group Chief Executive Officer Issam Al-Sager said cooperation between the Bank and the Ministry of Health in specialized medical projects began in 1996 with the establishment of the first building for pediatric hematology and oncology, followed by a second facility for stem-cell therapy.

Al-Sager added that the hospital's design received an international award from the University of Michigan for its environmental and psychological suitability for children.

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Day by Day

IF hardships come with their armies, and time brings pain after joy, do not expect anything from a brother or a friend. Can you even rely on your own shadow?

Just raise your hands to the heavens and seek help from Him. Only He will never forsake you. Days pass among people, and life never remains the same forever. How beautiful patience and perseverance are. Allah has promised every good to those who are patient. ... Yet tomorrow is a new day.

Zahed Matar

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:46	Asr	14:35
Sunrise ..	06:07	Maghrib ..	16:56
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:15

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for light fog forming at night.			
By Night: Rather cold with light to moderate southeasterly 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 over some areas.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	30	19	

Kuwait Airport	31	12
Abdaly	33	14
Bubyan	26	10
Jahra	32	17
Fallaka Island	27	14
Salmiyah	29	23
Ahmadi	30	16
Nuwaisib	29	15
Wafra	31	14

Undersecretary Al-Zamel highlights energy security and Gulf cooperation

Kuwait affirms GCC's major strides in power integration

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Adel Al-Zamel confirmed that the ministry is deliberating on the electricity storage battery project to gain a clearer understanding of the situation.

During his opening remarks at the GCC Power 2025 Conference and Exhibition on Monday, Al-Zamel disclosed that the expected storage capacity of the project ranges from 1,000 to 1,500 megawatts. He said the anticipated implementation in 2027 will be in two phases, based on the needs of the country.

Regarding electricity and water tariffs, he indicated that this matter is still under study, affirming the commitment of the ministry to consider those with limited income to ensure they are not negatively affected, while protecting national resources from waste and modifying the excessive consumption patterns of certain segments of the population.

On the Gulf electrical interconnection, Al-Zamel said there is an agreement in place to purchase power from the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA), from which Kuwait has benefited through the reduction of its energy production costs. He added that another agreement is planned for the upcoming spring and summer seasons. He stated that the ministry is nearing completion of a new interconnection line with the Gulf electricity grid to increase import capacity, indicating the project is expected to be completed this month.

About the law on purchasing power from third parties, he expects it to be issued soon. He said the law is linked to several regulations and decisions pertaining to the economic structure of the electricity sector, from power purchases to consumption tariffs and encouraging private sector production. He expects remarkable achievements in this area in the coming period. He stated that the ministry aims to produce around 4,500 megawatts of renewable energy by 2030, focusing on reducing pollution levels and encouraging investments in the sustainable energy sector amid a noticeable decline in renewable energy costs.

Al-Zamel also highlighted the ministry's efforts to develop smart grids and adopt modern technological solutions to improve operational efficiency and reduce emissions, supporting Kuwait's sustainable development goals and future vision.

He underlined that the electricity and water sector in GCC countries faces significant challenges, starting with rapid population and economic growth, rising demand for power and water, and the need to balance sustainable development with environmental protection - in addition to the technical challenges associated with the shift toward clean energy and digitalization.

The undersecretary said the GCC Power Conference and



Dr. Adel Al-Zamel, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.



Part of the the awarding ceremony.

Exhibition serves as a distinguished platform for sharing expertise, showcasing innovative solutions, and discussing best practices in the areas of power systems planning, operation, maintenance, grid interconnection, renewable energy integration, and artificial intelligence in network management, among other key topics that shape the future of the regional energy sector.

He stressed that Kuwait firmly believes that the future of energy in the Gulf relies on integration, cooperation, and continuous development, adding that the success of this conference represents a collective success for all GCC states.

"We look forward to seeing the conference sessions and scientific discussions generate constructive ideas and practical visions that will support the sustainable development journey in our countries and open new horizons for investment and innovation in the energy sector," Al-Zamel said.



Dr. Adel Al-Zamel during the GCC Power 2025 Conference ribbon cutting ceremony.

Photos by Samer Shaqir

For her part, Chairperson of GCC CIGRE and Conference President Engineer Athari Al-Mohammad said that the event, hosted by Kuwait, brings together an elite group of experts, researchers, and decision-makers from across the Gulf amid major developments in the energy sector.

Al-Mohammad added that the conference aims to foster constructive dialogue on the challenges facing Gulf power systems and to promote innovation in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

She explained that GCC CIGRE is a regional branch of the International Council on Large Electric Systems (CIGRE), which works to support scientific research, encourage technical knowledge exchange, and contribute to developing solutions that ensure energy sustainability across the Gulf region.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General of CIGRE International Philippe Adam stated that the organization seeks to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and technical expertise in the power systems sector among experts from around the world.

Adam noted that the conference provides a unique opportunity for technical professionals to share their experiences as operators, developers, innovators, or manufacturers of electrical grids and related equipment.

CIGRE's global support extends beyond organizing events, encompassing coordinated collective work aimed at consolidating and disseminating knowledge through technical publications accessible to all members, he added.

Adam concluded that these publications are the fruit of the ongoing voluntary work of more than 300 working groups, supervised by 16 study committees within the organization.

Kuwait urges unified effort to power Arab economic engine

Transport integration key to future: Al-Mashaan

CAIRO, Nov 10, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan emphasized the need to unify efforts and enhance Arab integration in the transport and logistics sector, describing it as a key pillar of economic development and regional connectivity.

Speaking on Monday while chairing the 38th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport, Al-Mashaan said the meeting's agenda includes strategic items that form a roadmap for advancing the Arab transport system, including support for the Palestinian economy and the development of infrastructure and essential services in Jerusalem - reaffirming the region's consistent stance.

She highlighted additional agenda items such as standardizing axle-load and dimension regulations for trucks operating between Arab states, activating the unified Arab land transport digital portal, and adopting smart and sustainable transport components within national strategies.

Al-Mashaan also noted that the



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti Minister of Public Works, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, during her chairmanship of the 38th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport.

agenda stresses boosting cooperation in maritime, rail, and river transport to improve port connectivity, enhance logistics efficiency, and strengthen partnerships with the Arab private sector, alongside encouraging investment in modern technologies to improve operational performance and reduce costs.

She affirmed Kuwait's commitment, during its presidency of the council, to supporting joint Arab cooperation and called for collective action to translate resolutions into tangible achievements.

The meeting is attended by Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister for Industrial

Development and Minister of Transport and Industry Kamel Al-Wazeer, Arab transport ministers, and Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs of the Arab League, Ambassador Dr. Ali Al-Malki.

The 38th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport, chaired by Kuwait, kicked off on Monday, to discuss several topics, including sustainable transport and cooperation in the logistics sector.

In his speech, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Economic Sector at the Arab League, Amba-

sador Dr. Ali Al-Malki affirmed that the transport sector is a fundamental element for achieving regional integration, improving the quality of life, and reducing poverty in the Arab region.

Al-Malki said that the importance of the transport sector in Arab countries increases by the labor-intensive sector, employing about 10 percent of the workforce. Therefore, developing this sector is a central element in achieving their main goals related to accelerating economic development and creating new job opportunities.

He noted that the transport sector contributes to about 22 percent of service revenues in the Arab region and about 7 percent of the gross domestic product of Arab countries.

"Technological advancements have played a leading role in the transportation sector, indicating that in the trucking and logistics sector, modern technologies have been integrated into the trucking industry, thus increasing confidence in self-driving trucks on highways," he pointed out.

He noted that traditional truck manufacturers have successfully deployed these vehicles, which has enhanced long-distance transport operations without the limitations of human endurance and improved road safety, while the data collected by these autonomous systems is used to optimize routes and reduce downtime.

Amiri Diwan thanks mourners for Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah condolences

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10, (KUNA): The Amiri Diwan on Monday thanked all citizens and residents who offered condolences over the demise of Sheikh Sabah Jaber Fahad Al-Malek Al-Sabah.

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KUNA photo
Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs with Saudi Arabia's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Kuwait, Saudi FM's meet to discuss bilateral relations, regional issues

RIYADH, Nov 10, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and Saudi Arabia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud discussed on Monday the historical bilateral ties and ways to boost them.

This came during a bilateral meeting that brought them together at the headquarters of the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs ahead of the third meeting of the Kuwaiti-Saudi Coordination Council.

They reviewed issues of common interest, and discussed the latest regional and international developments.

Ambassador von Reibnitz emphasizes rule of law, unity and strategic cooperation

German envoy praises Kuwait's role in global partnerships

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: German Ambassador to Kuwait Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz affirmed that Kuwait is "a reliable partner in defending a fair regulatory framework and respecting the rule of law," while welcoming the upcoming visit of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah to Germany in February 2026 to participate in the Munich Security Conference.

In a speech he delivered at a reception organized by the German Embassy on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of German Unity, the Ambassador stated that Nov 9 is a significant day in German history. "On that day in 1918, amidst the ruins of World War I, the Republic was proclaimed, paving the way for a democratic Germany. Exactly 20 years later, on Nov 9, 1938, enemies of that first republic deliberately destroyed thousands of shops and places of worship in acts of anti-Semitic violence. In the aftermath, more than 100,000 German Jews lost their citizenship and were forced to leave the



Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal and Ambassador Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz during a cake-cutting ceremony.

country," he revealed.

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Mashal and several heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations attended the event.

Reibnitz added "the dream of peace

seems to have ended, as the world around us is producing unbelievable atrocities. Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and other places dominate our news and networks. The suffering is so dire that global issues such as climate change, energy and water scarcity, or the unequal distribution of resources may be overlooked. If peace is our shared goal, then

we must face the challenges together. With our friends and neighbors in the European Union (EU), we remain convinced that only internal unity and partnership can make a difference. This was demonstrated by the recent successful ministerial meeting between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and last week's high-level business forum with the participation of a large number of German companies. Let us build partnerships for peace, stability and prosperity."

He confirmed that the foreign ministers agreed on and signed a framework for strategic dialogue. "During his recent visit to Kuwait, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful discussed all aspects of political, economic, and people-to-people relations with Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya.

His Highness the Prime Minister also visited Germany twice this year. We are honored to welcome him again in February 2026 at the Munich Security Conference. I will not mention all the other meetings in Germany and Kuwait that enriched our relations and friendship."



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq
Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Mashal and senior officials attend reception marking German Unity.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Significant benefits of green economy

“THERE are many positive measures that can strengthen the national economy by diversifying sources of income,” columnist **Sheikh Eng. Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The Gulf-European Business Forum was recently held in Kuwait, resulting in recommendations worthy of follow-up, particularly those related to the green economy. Having worked in the oil sector for many years, I am fully aware of the significant benefits of the green economy, especially in areas such as green hydrogen and solar energy, given their potential to support the sustainable development Kuwait seeks.

“The oil sector, along with other sectors involved in the green economy and renewable energy, possesses considerable potential to create job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth. Moreover, it contributes to saving time and effort and reducing environmental pollution by focusing on lowering carbon emissions, minimizing pollution, preventing biodiversity loss, and curbing the excessive depletion of natural resources.

“The recommendations related to the green economy deserve careful attention and implementation. However, the other areas are equally important, as they contribute to vital cooperation that strengthens the Gulf-European partnership and helps build bridges of cooperation between Europe and the Gulf Cooperation Council, linking them with the countries of the region. Strengthening strategic partnerships also creates opportunities to revitalize Kuwait’s national economy. The mutual benefits are significant, especially as the political leadership works to open all doors for foreign investment, whether through partnerships with China or cooperation with Europe and Turkey, which serves as a natural land route connecting the Gulf states, Iraq, Syria, and Jordan.

“Undoubtedly, strengthening strategic partnerships depends primarily on identifying the right partners, building trust through clear communication and transparency, establishing an effective governance structure, and regularly monitoring and improving performance. These partnerships aim to integrate resources, share

risks, access new markets, and achieve mutual benefits that cannot be realized unilaterally.

“What I have mentioned above reflects the political leadership’s objective to broaden investment horizons, diversify the economy, and foster an environment that creates job opportunities for young people, ultimately paving the way for sustainable development.”

Also:

“The concept of e-government in Kuwait began in the early 1990s, with serious efforts to implement it ramping up during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the idea was initially new, the government’s insistence on using the Sahel application for completing transactions led people to comply and gradually adopt it,” Doctor of Law and Kuwaiti Lawyer **Dr. Nayef Al-Adwani** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Despite its many advantages in facilitating procedures and completing transactions quickly, and its integration with the electronic civil ID application to ensure confidentiality and privacy, the Sahel application is somewhat complex. Citizens still rely on paper-based documents and complicated procedures to complete residency transactions. They must upload numerous documents through the Sahel app, and often visit the Ministry of Social Affairs or the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) in person to update their data. Furthermore, authentication procedures for the electronic civil ID application are challenging, particularly for the elderly.

“Smart applications are a blessing for facilitating people’s transactions, but their processes must be simplified to eliminate the need for in-person visits or paper submissions. Electronic connectivity between ministries is essential, as the government already possesses the necessary official documents and information. The application process should not be complicated, as ‘Sahel’ means ‘easy’ in English.”

□ □ □

“The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters recently honored the recipient of its annual music festival. This year’s honoree was the iconic singer and musician “Shadi of the Gulf,” who has enriched Kuwait’s artistic repertoire with masterpieces of patriotic and romantic songs, along with traditional folk music such as maritime art, the Sawt, the Samri, and other evolved heritage arts. His distinguished performances have spanned from the 1960s to

the present, despite his health challenges (may God grant him continued health).” Kuwaiti writer **Tariq Idris** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Abdulaziz Al-Mufarraj, also known as Abu Ali, exemplified a devoted citizen who contributed to both education and the arts, serving as an outstanding ambassador for Kuwait in artistic and educational circles. It was a great honor for me to work with this national figure during my time at the Ministry of Education, both before and after the liberation, as well as at the Ministry of Information’s program production festivals (the first, second, and third) under the leadership of the esteemed media figure (may God have mercy on him) Mohammad Al-Sanousi in 1981.

“Shadi Al-Khaleej is an exceptional personality. During our time working with him in the education sector, we learned a great deal from him about firmness, discipline, and respect for time and appointments. We saw him not only as an artist whose songs we admired, but also as an educator and leader whose decisiveness and professional performance we appreciated. Indeed, Abu Ali possesses a remarkable ability to connect with others. He never forgets you, even after a long period of separation. May God grant him health, as he has a vivid memory of everyone he worked with. We are a generation that knew him during our volunteer work in the school system in the 1960s, within the scout troops. The anthem “The Flag of Kuwait,” played every morning and evening through the camp’s loudspeakers to salute the flag during its raising and lowering, was deeply imprinted in our memories.

“I also remember the anthem “O Defenders of the Den,” which filled our hearts with enthusiasm as we chanted it throughout the camp. Those patriotic and emotional anthems of the 1960s carried a noble educational message. I preserved them during my work at the radio station after the liberation, first on cassette tapes, and later saved them on a flash drive. They are a treasure and a cultural and artistic heritage that should be preserved in schools today, starting from kindergarten, as these national anthems serve as an educational tool that instills a spirit of belonging and loyalty to Kuwait in the hearts of new generations. We pray to God to grant Abu Ali, the voice and singer of Kuwait, continued health, well-being, and safety. May God grant him success.”

— **Compiled by Simi K. Kutty**



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives the acting Director General of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Salem Al-Hai, accompanied by the Director of the Implementation and Maintenance Department Ayman Al-Habashi, as part of the ongoing coordination between Farwaniya Governorate and PAAAFR.

Governor discusses plan to beautify ‘Farwaniya region’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received on Sunday the acting Director General of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Salem Al-Hai, accompanied by the Director of the Implementation and Maintenance Department Ayman Al-Habashi, as part of the ongoing coordination between Farwaniya Governorate and PAAAFR.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the meeting was attended by members of the Farwaniya Governorate Council, including Lieutenant General (ret.) Ali Al-Shanfa, Sarah Al-Mutairi, and Saad Al-Hadba.

The discussions focused on agricultural and landscaping projects in Farwaniya Governorate and ways to develop them to enhance the aesthetic and environmental quality of various areas. Several chal-

lenges and solutions were also discussed, particularly concerning the completion of public parks and the expansion of green spaces.

During the meeting, the governor affirmed his full support for PAAAFR’s efforts in implementing projects within the governorate. He emphasized the importance of continuous coordination to ensure that work meets the needs of citizens and residents, and enhances the overall urban environment.

Meanwhile, Al-Hai expressed his appreciation for the governor’s interest and ongoing follow-up on agricultural projects, affirming the continuation of joint cooperation to achieve the best results.

At the end of the meeting, the attendees thanked the governor for his warm welcome and continued attention to agricultural and environmental matters.

Court pushes up damages

Citizen wins KD10,500 comp in hit by another negligent driver

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Court of Appeals obligated an insurance company to pay KD10,500 compensation to a citizen for damages to his vehicle that collided with a tree due to the negligence of another driver.

The court overturned the previous compensation ruling of KD7,500.

Attorney Halima Bahman, lawyer for the plaintiff, initially obtained a final ruling convicting the driver of a vehicle who swerved to the right without looking, and then collided with her client’s



Bahman

vehicle, which was on the middle lane. This made the vehicle of her client to swerve and crash into a tree, resulting in material damages to the vehicle and an injury to the shoulder of her client.

Bahman filed a lawsuit against the insurance company, holding it responsible for the compensation due to her client for the physical injuries and material and moral damages he suffered.

Previously, the Civil Court of First Instance ordered the defendant company to pay KD100 for the injury, KD7,500 for material damages and KD300 for moral damages, dismissing all other claims.

At the Court of Appeals, Bahman maintained her claims, presenting evidence to prove her client’s entitlement to compensation for the damages. The court accepted her case and ruled in favor of the plaintiff, awarding him a total compensation of KD10,500.

Mother retains custody of kids, as dad is alcoholic, drug addict

15 years jail overturned as man acquitted in drugs case

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Family Court of Appeals overturned a verdict issued by a lower court which dismissed a lawsuit seeking to revoke a father’s custody of his children, reinstating custody of the two children to their mother.

The plaintiff, through her defense counsel Lawyer Inaam Haidar, proved the defendant’s unsuitability to care for the children, citing a video showing him using drugs and consuming alcohol with a friend inside the house in the children’s presence.

During her arguments, Lawyer Haidar explained that the father’s behavior contradicts the principles of custody, which prioritize proper care and upbringing. The best interests of the children require removing them from an



Inaam Haidar

environment that is unsuitable both educationally and morally.

The court ruled to officially grant the mother custody of the two children, requiring the father to pay monthly child support for food and clothing, a monthly maid’s salary of KD 120, recruitment expenses of KD 1,500, KD 10,000 for a car purchase, KD 150 per month for a driver’s salary, and KD 5,000 for rent and furnishing expenses. The court also ordered the father to cover the actual legal fees for both levels of litigation.

□ □ □

Acquitted in drugs case: The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of the Criminal Court to overturn the in absentia 15 years imprisonment sentence imposed on a citizen and acquitted him of drug trafficking.

The court was convinced that the elements of the crime were not present, that the arrest and search procedures were invalid, and that there was no intent to traffic drugs from the outset.

Attorney Ali Matar Al-Wawan, lawyer for the defendant, submitted a legal memorandum arguing that the arrest and search procedures were invalid due to the absence of a flagrant offense. He explained that the arrest procedures were based on superficial investigations and

mere statements relayed to an anonymous, confidential source, and were not authorized by the Public Prosecution at the time of the incident, rendering them legally invalid.

Al-Wawan clarified that his client was not found in possession of any narcotics intended for sale or distribution, and that the quantities mentioned in the case file were insufficient to establish intent to traffic.

He added that the forensic report failed to establish a direct link between the defendant and the seized items, thus, negating the material and moral elements of the crime.

In its reasoning, the court affirmed that the charges against the defendant lacked conclusive evidence, and that investigations alone are insufficient to establish a conviction unless corroborated by physical evidence or eyewitness testimony.

It added that the evidence in the case file regarding the seizure of narcotics in the possession of another defendant is insufficient to link the first defendant to the crime, pointing out that the seizure was based on reports and information from unconfirmed sources. It then explained that the fundamental principle in criminal trials is that they should be based on certainty and conviction, not on conjecture and probability.

E-system launched to complain about car repairs & spare parts

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Faisal Al-Ansari, Director of the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, confirmed the activation of an electronic system for monitoring complaints related to car repairs and spare parts, particularly those concerning maintenance, reports Al-Anba daily.

This system is a joint initiative between the ministry and the Technical Inspection Unit at the General Traffic Department in the Ministry of Interior.

Al-Ansari told the daily that the new system for handling vehicle-related complaints will allow individuals who have grievances concerning repairs or spare parts purchases for their vehicles to submit them electronically to the ministry. The assigned inspector will then review the complaint and forward it through the automated system to the Technical Inspection Department for verification and follow up.

He said the ministry held a meeting last Thursday, chaired by acting Undersecretary

of the ministry Marwa Al-Jaidan, with representatives from the Technical Inspection Department in attendance, to discuss the new electronic mechanism for receiving and tracking complaints between the two entities, with the aim of improving response times and service quality.

In another development, Al-Ansari revealed that joint campaigns are being carried out between the Commercial Control Department and the Ahmadi and Farwaniya Criminal Investigation Departments to crack down on violating establishments. He stated that the department recently closed several establishments, including food outlets, barbershops and massage parlors, for violating commercial and health regulations and for possessing counterfeit or expired products.

He emphasized that inspectors continue to conduct field campaigns to detect violations and safeguard consumers from any breaches of laws and regulatory instructions.

4 years in jail for insulting State

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Court of Cassation upheld the ruling of the Court of Appeals, which sentenced a citizen to four years in prison for publicly insulting the State on the X platform, following his ar-

rest by the State Security officers, reports Al-Rai daily.

The defendant admitted the charges against him, stating, “I was not in my right mind when I posted the statement on X.”

Asian jumps to death; worker hangs herself

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10, (Agencies): Hawalli Governorate witnessed two separate suicide incidents recently, where the forensic investigators recovered the bodies and two suicide cases were registered, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source disclosed that the Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry received a call about an Asian who took his own life by jumping from the sixth floor of a building in Salmiya. The body was referred to the Forensic Medicine Department.

In another incident, a domestic worker ended her life in Rumaihiya by hanging herself. Her body was handed over to the relevant authorities for further investigation. The source confirmed that investigations are ongoing to determine the circumstances, which prompted the two individuals to commit suicide.

□ □ □

Campaign launched: Hawalli Governorate on Monday launched an awareness campaign at Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre under patronage and attendance of Acting Hawalli Governor and Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Sheikh Sabah Badr Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

In his opening speech, he said the campaign, branded “Hawalli is Safe”, represents a pioneering step to enhance community security and raise awareness on crime prevention and highlighting the importance of compliance with modern laws in an era of evolving threats including cybercrime.

He added the initiative seeks to install a proactive approach prioritizing awareness over punishment, noting panel discussions addressed traffic safety and consequences, key legal basics, and challenges of electronic offences and cyber security across households.

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Municipal Council 9th regular session in progress.

Municipal Council OK’s revised plan for cultural center project

New building ratios endorsed

By Inaas Awad
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: In its ninth regular session of the fourth term held on Sunday, the Municipal Council approved a request from the Projects

Sector of Kuwait Municipality to amend the building and commercial ratios for the Educational, Cultural, and Recreational Center project on Abdullah Al-Ahmad Street.

The amendments specify that



Photos by Rezk Tawfik
Municipal Council members during the 9th regular session.

Block A will consist of a 40-storey building with three underground parking levels. Floors from the ground to the 13th will be allocated as leasable spaces for cultural, recreational, educational, and commercial activities. Floors 14 through 40 will be designated for hotel operations, administrative offices, or a combination of both. Block B will include an 11-storey building with three underground parking levels and ten above-ground floors containing leasable spaces for cultural, recreational, educational, and commercial purposes. The building will include a rooftop terrace with green spaces and a children’s play area open to the public. Block C will comprise a six-storey public parking facility, with three underground and five above-ground levels, serving the surrounding area. Its rooftop terrace will be designated as a free skate park. The modifications also include reducing the built-up areas in Blocks A and B, with the remaining leasable space to be used for project purposes after deducting areas reserved for the hotel, offices, or both.

Lowest bids disqualified over technical issues

CAPT approves power plant tenders

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), by a majority vote, approved in its meeting last Wednesday the request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to award the tender for supplying, implementing, operating and maintaining the power lines for Khairan Thermal Power Plant and developing the infrastructure for the fuel receiving systems at South Zour Power Plant to the third lowest bidder who met the terms and conditions at a total cost of KD57.2 million. The Agency mandated the ministry to prepare an estimated budget in accordance with Article 60 of Public Tenders Law No. 49/2016, after excluding the lowest bid due to non-compliance with the terms and technical specifications. It also recommended extending the initial bid bond for all companies participating in the tender based on Article 40 of the same law. This project is included in the plan of the ministry to develop fuel line reception systems at South Zour Power Plant in order to increase the efficiency of the fuel system used in electricity generation. It also includes the establishment of feeder lines for Khairan Thermal Power Plant. Following approval from CAPT, the tender will be referred to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for review and audit before final approval is granted, a contract is signed with the winning contractor, and work commences in accordance with applicable regulations and procedures. In a related development, the ministry obtained approval from CAPT to award the contract for supplying high and extra-high voltage overhead power lines in various parts of the country to the second-lowest bidder who met the requirements, for a total value of KD8.069 million. The lowest bid was excluded due to non-compliance with technical specifications. Through this project, the ministry intends to modernize the electricity transmission network, expand power delivery to new consumers, and ensure uninterrupted service, especially during peak summer consumption periods.

Secretary-General praises Saudi Arabia’s role

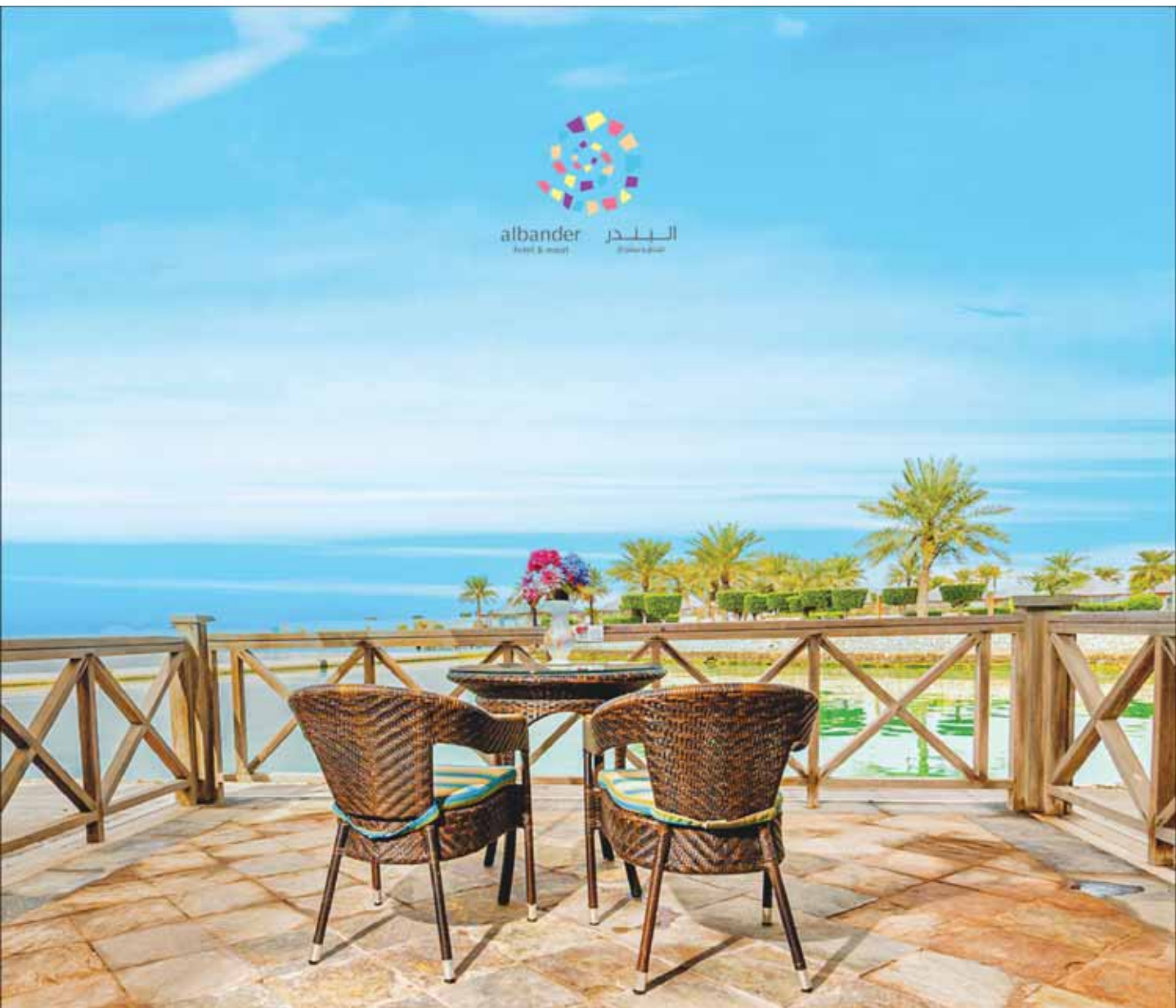
GCC pushes tourism development

RIYADH, Nov 10, (KUNA): Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jasem Al-Budaiwi said on Sunday that GCC member states attach much attention to tourism and related sectors. Al-Budaiwi made the statement following participation in the official opening of the 26th UN Tourism General Assembly in Riyadh, pointing out the pivotal role of tourism in economic growth and diversification of income sources. The GCC chief underlined that the GCC is committed to developing advanced infrastructure and upgrading the quality of services in the tourism sector in a way that keeps abreast of rapid transformations in this vital sector, and contributes to promoting the Gulf as a key world destination. He commended Saudi Arabia’s



KUNA photo
Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) during the official opening of the 26th UN Tourism General Assembly in Riyadh.

hosting of this event as reflecting the kingdom’s significant initiatives aiming at promoting joint international action and establishing a prosperous and sustainable tourism system.



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8,546 students in multi-language exam

KU holds inclusive admission tests

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Director of Kuwait University Dr. Dina Al-Mailam inspected the academic aptitude tests at the colleges in Sabah Al-Salem University City, which are being conducted in both paper-based and electronic formats, reports Al-Seyassah daily. Dr. Al-Mailam visited the halls designated for students with special needs at the College of Arts. She highlighted the university’s commitment to providing an inclusive testing environment that accommodates the needs of all students. A total of 26 students with various disabilities were



Dr. Al-Mailam

registered, including those with hearing and visual impairments, as well as learning and mobility challenges. Dr. Al-Mailam stated that the university is continuously developing its assessment and evaluation mechanisms in line with the latest academic standards, thereby enhancing the quality of its educational outcomes and strengthening its position as a leading academic institution locally and regionally. The academic aptitude tests are conducted in four main areas - Arabic, English, French, and Mathematics. They aim to measure students’ readiness for various university majors while ensuring fairness and transparency in the admissions process. This is the first test under the initial admission opportunity, with a total of 8,546 students registered. The tests are held in two sessions - from 9:00am to 11:00am and from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm.

Regulators advance integration initiatives

CMA chairs 11th GCC Committee meeting on financial integration

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) participated in the 11th meeting of the Ministerial Committee of Heads of Boards of Directors of Financial Market Regulators in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, chaired by Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and Executive Director of CMA Emad Ahmed Tifouni, on Thursday, November 6, 2025. According to a press release issued by CMA, the meeting was attended by the GCC Secretariat, represented by Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Development Affairs Khalid Ali Al-Sunaidi and Head of the Economic Affairs Sector Dr. Waleed Hassan Al-Hosani. The meeting was also attended by the heads of boards of directors of financial market regulators in the GCC countries, including: Vice Chairman of the Capital Market Authority (Saudi Arabia) Yusuf bin Hamad Al-Bulhaid, Chairman of the Securities and Commodities Authority (United Arab Emirates) Mohammed Ali Al-Hammadi, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain, Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Qatar Financial Markets Authority Sheikh Ahmed bin Khalid Al-Thani, Chairman of the Financial Services Authority and Minister of Economy (Oman) Said Mohammed Al-Sagari, Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of CMA (Kuwait) Rayan Mohammed Al-Zaid. Tifouni welcomed the participants, and expressed his appreciation for the GCC Secretariat’s efforts in supporting the integration and cooperation of Gulf financial markets. He emphasized the importance of these meetings in strengthening joint action and coordinating efforts to develop the legislative and regulatory frameworks for GCC financial markets. In addition, Al-Sunaidi highlighted the growing role of the financial sector in economic development and the qualitative transformation of Gulf financial markets,



Emad Ahmed Tifouni with Rayan Mohammed Al-Zaid during the meeting.

which has positioned them as a major pillar in ensuring the stability and resilience of the financial system. He also commended the projected increase in the total market capitalization of Gulf markets to approximately US\$4 trillion in 2024. During the meeting, the committee reviewed several agenda items, most notably the adoption of the minutes from previous meetings of the Committee of Heads of Financial Market Authorities (or their equivalents) in the GCC countries. These minutes included initiatives such as enhancing effective oversight of securities activities and increasing electronic connectivity among Gulf market authorities. The committee also studied the report of the Gulf Stock Exchanges Committee on the progress of projects related to various initiatives, including promoting the listing and trading of bonds. The Saudi Capital Market Authority presented a summary of the “Malm” program, highlighting the main findings from awareness campaigns and providing updates on the Smart Gulf Investor Award. The committee was briefed on the latest developments concerning the Inter-GCC Registration Regulations. It also reviewed the Statistical Center’s report on developments and updates in the GCC financial markets for the first half of 2025. The date for the committee’s next meeting, hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, which will hold the presidency for the coming year, was set.

Governor Al-Habashi unveils plan to achieve healthy Governorate status

Jahra on the rise: A new model of development in the making

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi confirmed that work in Jahra Governorate is proceeding according to a comprehensive plan aimed at improving services and public facilities.

Al-Habashi pointed out that cooperation between various government agencies accelerated the pace of completion and yielded the desired results.

In an interview with the newspaper, he disclosed that the governorate is implementing a number of new projects that impact the citizens' lives, particularly the development projects and support for youth and community initiatives, which contribute to the development of the governorate and the quality of life.

Following are excerpts of the interview:

Question: What are the most important development projects that Jahra Governorate is currently implementing?

Answer: We are implementing major development projects, such as the improvement of main and secondary roads, expansion of exits and entrances, and establishment of new service facilities, in addition to infrastructure projects that improve the quality of life for citizens and keep pace with the rapid urban growth in the governorate. These projects include landscaping in public squares and open spaces, maintenance of public parks, and increasing activities and events in these facilities, in order to create a suitable atmosphere for families and park visitors, as well as depict a civilized image that solidifies the identity of the governorate and highlight its distinctive character.

Q: Tell us about the new traffic entrance project on Jahra-Salil Road, and how it will contribute to reducing congestion and improving traffic flow?

A: This is one of the most vital projects, as it aims to ease traffic congestion and improve traffic flow in Mut-laa City, Jahra City and the surrounding areas. It is being implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works, Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), State Ministry for Municipality Affairs and the Ministry of Finance. It is a qualitative leap in facilitating entry to and exit from the governorate.

Q: What are the completion rates for internal road projects and new service facilities in the governorate?

A: Completion rates are advanced in a number of projects. There is ongoing coordination with the implementing agencies to ensure adherence to the timelines. Some projects have entered their final stages, while others are being completed according to a clear work plan.

Q: How do you assess the level of cooperation between the governorate and government agencies, such as the Ministries of Public Works and Municipality in implementing major projects?

A: Cooperation is continuous and fruitful, especially with the Ministries of Public Works and Municipality. We consider the governorate a coordinating body that works hard to overcome obstacles and unify efforts among all parties.

Q: Is there a timeline for completing the stalled or delayed infrastructure projects?

A: Yes, there is a timeline agreed on with the implementing agencies. The governorate is monitoring progress regularly to address any obstacles to implementation.

Q: Are there any initiatives to develop the outlying areas of the governorate that need improved basic services?

A: Certainly, developing the outlying areas, far from the city center, is among our priorities, especially the improvement of road networks and provision of basic services to ensure equitable distribution of development projects.

Q: We have witnessed your growing interest in the environment and ornamental planting. What are your most important achievements in this area?

A: We have implemented greening and tree-planting campaigns in several areas, increasing green spaces around roads and roundabouts, while focusing on beautifying the public spaces and maintaining nature reserves.

Q: Which entities do you collaborate with in implementing greening projects and improving public spaces?

A: We collaborate directly with Kuwait Municipality and the Public Authority for Agriculture, in addition to volunteer teams and youth initiatives.

Q: What are the most difficult challenges you face in the implementation of beautification projects? How do you overcome them?

A: These challenges include the limited space in some areas and the high temperatures that affect the sustainability of agriculture. We overcome this by using modern irrigation techniques and plants suitable for the Kuwaiti environment.

Q: How do you view the role of residents and schools in preserving the aesthetic and environmental appearance of the governorate?

A: We consider the residents and schools key partners in raising environmental awareness and preserving the overall appearance. We organize awareness campaigns for students to strengthen this role.

Q: What is your assessment of the volunteer clean-up campaigns? Is there an intention to expand them to include all areas of Jahra?

A: They are very positive initiatives. We have noticed their impact on strengthening the spirit of social responsibility. There is a plan to expand the scope of these campaigns to include all areas of the governorate.

Q: What are the most prominent committees in the Jahra Governorate Council? What are the tasks of each committee?

A: We have several main committees, such as the Public Services Committee, Security Committee, Health, Education and Community Development Committee, and Complaints and Suggestions Committee.

Q: What is the role of the Public Services Committee in monitoring service projects in the governorate?

A: It monitors the implementation of road, infrastructure and service projects. It presents observations to the relevant authorities and ensure their implementation.

Q: Is there a specialized committee to monitor environmental or cultural projects?

A: Yes, the Environmental Initiatives Committee and the Cultural Committee, which coordinates with the relevant authorities to support cultural activities.

Q: Are reports issued? Is there a periodic report on the work of the committees?

A: Yes, quarterly reports are issued and submitted to the Council and the Governor to monitor performance and evaluate achievements.

Q: Is there an intention to expand the work of the committees or create new committees to cover additional areas?

A: Yes, there are proposals to create new committees to cover additional areas, such as digital initiatives and smart services.

Q: You mentioned the project to transform Jahra into a 'Healthy Governorate'. What steps have been taken to achieve this goal?

A: A high-level committee for the initiative was formed. We have started identifying the basic requirements from the World Health Organization, and implementing awareness and health campaigns in schools and community centers.

Q: Which government agencies are participating in the committee for this project?

A: The Ministries of Health, Interior, Social Affairs and Education, Environment Public Authority (EPA), Municipality, and specialized community organizations.

Q: What are the most important criteria for the 'Healthy Governorate' distinction?

A: The criteria include improving the health environment, raising awareness, developing health facilities, and activating community participation.

Q: How will this project contribute to improving the quality of life and healthcare services for citizens?

A: It will contribute to raising the quality of life, preventing diseases, and promoting health awareness in the community, serving as a model for other governorates.

Q: The Red Palace is a historical symbol of Jahra. What are your plans for the upcoming cultural season?

A: The Red Palace is a national and historical icon. We are preparing a distinctive cultural program that includes heritage events, artistic performances, and activities for all segments of society.

Q: What types of events and programs are being prepared in cooperation with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters?

A: In cooperation with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, we are preparing workshops, art exhibitions, poetry evenings and children's activities.

Q: How do you ensure the participation of schools and community organizations in cultural events in the governorate?

A: The plan is to involve school students, community organizations and volunteer groups to make the events more inclusive.

Q: What is your vision for the role of the Red Palace in strengthening national identity and raising historical awareness among the young generation?

A: The Red Palace is not only a historical landmark, but also a platform for fostering national awareness and connecting generations with Kuwait's rich history. The palace hosted the Cultural Season in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, which contributed to highlighting Kuwaiti cultural heritage and introducing young people to their national history. It also promoted community engagement through artistic and heritage events that attracted various age groups.



Hamad Al-Habashi, Jahra Governor

Q: How does the governorate encourage community participation among citizens and residents in volunteer activities?

A: We urge citizens and expatriates to participate in volunteer activities through the ongoing youth and community initiatives.

Q: What social initiatives has the governorate launched recently to serve the community?

A: These initiatives include caring for people with special needs, honoring high achievers, health awareness campaigns, and environmental initiatives.

Q: Is there cooperation with charitable societies or civil society organizations in implementing social initiatives?

A: There are existing partnerships with charitable societies and civil society organizations to implement support and assistance programs for needy families.

Q: What are the communication mechanisms for receiving citizens' comments and complaints about services?

A: There is an electronic channel through the Sahel app, an official email address, and designated days for receiving residents at the headquarters of the governorate.

Q: What are the approaches to address traffic congestion in the governorate?

A: These approaches include reorganizing some intersections, creating new exits, developing ring roads, and coordinating with the General Traffic Department to find temporary organizational solutions until the major projects are completed.

Q: What is your message to the residents of the governorate?

A: Everyone must do their part to support development efforts, preserve public facilities, and work hand in hand with the governorate to make it a model of development and community awareness.

Continued from Page 1

The state of

The nation also boasts oil reserves of 100 billion barrels, projected to last a century, in addition to around \$50 billion in private foreign investments and assets held in banks and social security.

This suggests that the challenge lies not in the availability of funds, but in the decision-making process, which must align with the ambitions consistently articulated by the political leadership.

Nevertheless, the consistent mis-handling of government procedures and the perception that decisions are deliberately undermining the economic well-being of citizens will inevitably perpetuate the decline in consumer spending.

'Kuwait visa in

Moreover, he expressed his happiness over the decision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to approve the new drug law, which is scheduled to be published in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youm' this week after His Highness signs it. He said this law will be a real deterrent to drug traffickers and even drug users.

He added that the drug issue is not unique to Kuwait, as it is a shared challenge to the security and stability of all Gulf countries. He indicated that the GCC countries enjoy security, thanks to Allah, but some are keen on destroying the young generation through drugs.

He believes that close coordination between the Interior Ministers of the GCC countries and the exchange of security information at the highest level are crucial in dealing with the drugs issue. He pointed out that "the sources of drugs are diverse and arrive from distant countries, but thanks to Gulf cooperation, shipments no longer reach our countries as they did before, because security agencies have been able to thwart many major smuggling operations."

He affirmed that His Highness the Amir fully supports the security services. "Thanks to His Highness' guidance and unwavering support, we now have a comprehensive and advanced radar system covering our land and sea borders, enabling us to prevent the entry of massive quantities of narcotics," he added.

He also talked about the Alternative Penalties Law, indicating that it will be adopted and implemented in the near future. He said "we will study similar experiences in the GCC countries and use them as basis in drafting our own legislation on alternative penalties."

'NBK Hospital

Head of the pediatric hematology, oncology and stem cell transplant department at NBK Hospital Dr. Sondas

Al-Shereedah said more than 100 new pediatric cancer cases are diagnosed annually, bringing total follow-up cases to 160-180 each year.

She said the department faces medical and humanitarian challenges in supporting patients and their families.

Dr. Al-Shereedah added that the hospital is regionally advanced in stem-cell transplants, having conducted around 80 procedures so far with ten cases under treatment, achieving a 97-percent success rate, one of the highest in the region.

She noted that the hospital is registered as an accredited international center with a global reference number for pediatric hematology and oncology treatment.

See Also Page 10

Entrepreneurs

sustainability and protect the environment, and strengthening partnership with the private sector to support technically and financially feasible initiatives and projects.

Sheikh Hamoud pointed out that the lengthy bureaucratic process is the most significant and universally agreed obstacle to expanding urban initiatives. He said the committee addressed this issue by launching an electronic platform to receive initiatives from all stakeholders, which positively impacted time and effort efficiency and accelerated the pace of implementation.

He revealed that the Cabinet approved 34 initiatives, four have been completed, 19 are under implementation, and 40 are awaiting approval and review. He added the committee found out that six initiatives are outside its scope of work.

He said the committee identified seven key areas, including the development of public parks, pedestrian bridges, borders and roundabouts, painting bridges and murals, establishing monuments, and landscaping public spaces and main roads.

He clarified that the initiator's role, regardless of his position, ends upon acceptance of his application on the electronic platform. He stated that three stages follow: first are the committee meetings to review the initiative and affirm its compliance with technical and regulatory standards. Committee members stipulate the preservation of architectural identity and the guarantee of safety and security standards before obtaining approvals from relevant government agencies. The second stage involves preparing and submitting a report to the Public Services Committee of the Cabinet for approval. If approved, the third and final stage happens, presenting the initiative to the Cabinet for final approval and issuance of a decision.

He presented some notable examples of green urban development initiatives, the most important of which are the greening of the Second Ring Road through the generous donation of the residents of Shuwaikh and neighboring areas, initiative of Abdulaziz Al-Ghannam to develop the central

island between Shamiya and Abdullah Al-Salem suburbs, initiatives of the oil sector characterized by healthy competition between Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), Equate Petrochemicals, Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). He disclosed that KNPC ignited the spark of competition by announcing the initiative to paint seven bridges, followed by the initiative of Equate to paint eight bridges, and 10 initiatives of KGOC to paint bridges and plant trees on main streets, and then the initiative of KNPC to plant trees and beautify the road leading to the airport.

Kuwait Airways

Airways' main building next to the international airport.

The deadline for submitting final bids is November 18. Incomplete bids will not be considered.

Kuwait Airways reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without providing reasons.

Passing illegally

The lawyer acted as an intermediary, coordinating with other parties to add undeserved grades for a number of students. The State Security sector's Inquiry and Investigation Department documented all evidence and data regarding the lawyer's involvement.

The Public Prosecutor of Mount Lebanon, Judge Sami Sader, referred the case to the Beirut Bar Association to obtain permission to prosecute the lawyer, as the suspect enjoys professional immunity that prevents his arrest or prosecution without the Bar Association's approval.

Kuwait charity

Al-Nouri said the aid package includes infant formula, nutritional supplements, and ready-to-eat meals targeting vulnerable groups, mainly infants and nursing mothers.

For his part, the charity's media and resources director Abdulatif Al-Dawwas said the assistance offered on behalf of the Kuwaiti people, reflects Kuwait's enduring spirit of solidarity and compassion.

He praised cooperation with WFP, emphasizing that partnerships with trusted UN institutions ensure aid transparency and highlight Kuwait's distinguished humanitarian role globally.

Kuwait, German

In a press statement, KNG said that the meeting took place during the reception of Al-Barjas, who conveyed the greetings of National Guard Chief Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and KNG Deputy Chief Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Historic recognition of sovereignty hailed

Morocco marks 'Unity Day' after UN Resolution on Western Sahara

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Global acknowledgement of the claim of Morocco over the Western Sahara was solidified through the issuance of the United Nations Security Council resolution in this regard, following the decision of American President Donald Trump to recognize its sovereignty over the territory, says Moroccan Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Omar Hilale.

In his interview with Newsmax on Saturday, Hilale pointed out "this is a celebration of the unity of Morocco. It is a royal decision following the adoption of the historic Security Council resolution recognizing Morocco's sovereignty over the Sahara. It is our Unity Day."

Morocco declared Oct 31 as a new national holiday, Unity Day, commemorating the UN Security Council's resolution that the ambassador described as "the culmination of 50 years of diplomatic effort, patience, hard work, and economic investment both domestically and internationally."

He said "the recognition confirms the act of allegiance of the population of the Sahara to the Alaouite monarchy," describing the nationwide celebrations that erupted after King



Ambassador Omar Hilale, Moroccan Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Mohammed VI's speech announcing the decision.

"The population immediately took to the streets after His Majesty the King's speech to express their joy, satisfaction and happiness. There were millions of people — a true national celebration — thanks to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, his vision for the return of the Sahara, and his patience through the years of conflict," he disclosed.

He then credited Trump for breaking years of diplomatic stalemate. He pointed out "I think history will

remember that President Trump was the first head of a major nation to recognize Morocco's sovereignty over Sahara. He was the first world leader to believe in the possibility of hope, unity and reconciliation. Thanks to President Trump, the status quo is over. He seeks peace and reconciliation."

He said the initiative of Trump at the UN "opened the way for other countries to follow suit, including France, the United Kingdom and Germany, which now support the autonomy plan of Morocco as the only feasible solution to the dispute."

He added "His Majesty the King made a point of mentioning President Trump by name as a friend — a friend of His Majesty and of the Moroccan people — because it was thanks to him that this resolution was adopted."

"We hope that President Trump can visit the Sahara. We also hope that by next year, the dispute over the Sahara will be resolved — thanks to the wisdom and vision of President Trump, and the diplomatic foresight of His Majesty the King, who has remained steadfast in defending our territorial integrity and sovereignty over our Sahara," he concluded.



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Low visibility due to fog in Kuwait.

Dense radiation fog expected to recur

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Weather and environmental expert Issa Ramadan confirmed that the fog that appeared on Sunday in several areas of Kuwait was a type of dense radiation fog, reports Al-Seyassah daily. On his X account, Ramadan explained that the fog had a greater im-

pact on coastal areas, which are characterized by high humidity and calm southeasterly and easterly winds. This type of fog is expected to recur intermittently in the coming days, especially during the night and early morning hours, due to favorable weather conditions, primarily high

relative humidity and calm winds. He clarified that radiation fog typically forms when the ground loses heat rapidly, cooling the air in contact with its surface. Fog is essentially a cloud that touches the ground and forms when moist air cools to its saturation point.



This photo taken on Nov 9, 2025 shows the US Capitol in Washington, DC, the United States. (Xinhua)

Senate advances bipartisan spending bill toward ending US govt shutdown

WASHINGTON, Nov 10, (Xinhua): The US Senate on Sunday night advanced a bipartisan spending package in a bid to end the longest government shutdown, which has entered its 40th day and caused a series of escalating disruptions.

The upper chamber voted 60-40 in a key procedural vote to move forward a spending package, which would fund most federal agencies at current levels through Jan. 30, and fund the Agriculture Department, the Veterans Affairs Department and military construction projects, and the operations of Congress, for the full fiscal year.

This package will provide full-year funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, whose funding was put in jeopardy amid the prolonged government shutdown.

Meanwhile, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies, which help lower-income Americans afford private health insurance and are set to expire at the end of the year, are not guaranteed under the agreement, a key point of concern for Democrats.

As part of Democrats' agreement to end the shutdown, Senate Majority Leader John Thune promised Senate Democrats a vote "no later than second week in December" to extend ACA subsidies.

However, the funding agreement has revealed significant divisions within the Democratic Party.

"For me, it's no deal without health care," Senator Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat from Connecticut, was quoted by CNN as saying. "So far as I'm concerned, health care isn't included, and so I'll be a no."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York also voted against advancing the package.

The subsidies have become a focal point in ongoing discussions over government funding.

Before the key procedural vote, President Donald Trump said Saturday that funds currently being used for ACA subsidies should instead be sent directly to consumers.

In a Truth Social post, he wrote that "the Hundreds of Billions of Dollars currently being sent to money sucking

Insurance Companies in order to save the bad Healthcare provided by ObamaCare, BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE SO THAT THEY CAN PURCHASE THEIR OWN, MUCH BETTER, HEALTHCARE, and have money left over."

The move was likely to further complicate the ongoing government shutdown stalemate, as Democrats have been holding out for a straightforward extension of the ACA subsidies and have made clear they are not interested in trading them for other changes, according to an Axios article.

After the key procedural vote to end the filibuster, the spending package will possibly be approved in the Senate's final vote. The revised proposal still needs to be approved by the House of Representatives and sent to Trump for his signature.

As the two parties made progress, nearly 3,000 flights were canceled and over 10,000 were delayed nationwide on Sunday, underscoring the shutdown's increasing impact on Americans' daily lives.

United Nations Security Council removes sanctions on Syrian leader, officials

Trump hosting Syria's President Al-Sharaa for first-of-its-kind meeting at White House

WASHINGTON, Nov 10, (AP): US President Donald Trump is hosting Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa at the White House on Monday, welcoming the once-pariah state into a US-led global coalition to fight the Islamic State group.

It's the first visit to the White House by a Syrian head of state since the Middle Eastern country gained independence from France in 1946 and comes after the US lifted sanctions imposed on Syria during the decades the country was ruled by the Assad family. Al-Sharaa led the rebel forces that toppled former Syrian President Bashar Assad last December and was named the country's interim leader in January.

Trump and al-Sharaa - who once had ties to al-Qaida and had a \$10 million US bounty on his head - first met in May in Saudi Arabia. At the time, the US president described al-Sharaa as a "young, attractive guy. Tough guy. Strong past, very strong past. Fighter." It was the first official encounter between the US and Syria since 2000, when former president Bill

Clinton met with Hafez Assad, the father of Bashar Assad.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Monday's visit is "part of the president's efforts in diplomacy to meet with anyone around the world in the pursuit of peace."

Trump has recently said al-Sharaa is "doing a very good job so far" and that a "lot of progress has been made with Syria" since the US eased sanctions.

One official with knowledge of the administration's plans said Syria's entry into the global coalition fighting the Islamic State group will allow it to work more closely with US forces, although the new Syrian military and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces in the country's northeast had already been fighting the group.

Before al-Sharaa's arrival in the US, the United Nations Security Council voted to lift sanctions on the Syrian president and other government officials in a move that Mike Waltz, the US ambassador to the UN, said was a strong sign that Syria is in a new era since the fall of Assad.



In this photo released by the Saudi Royal Palace, US President Donald Trump, (right), shakes hands with Syria's interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, May 14, (AP)

Al-Sharaa comes into the meeting with his own priorities. He wants a permanent repeal of sanctions that punished Syria for widespread allegations

would require Congress to act.

One option is a proposal from Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that would end the sanctions without any conditions. The other was drafted by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a hawkish Trump ally who wants to set conditions for a sanctions repeal that would be reviewed every six months.

But advocates argue that any repeal with conditions would prevent companies from investing in Syria because they would fear potentially being sanctioned. Mouaz Moustafa, executive director of the Syrian Emergency Task Force, likened it to a "hanging shadow that paralyzes any initiatives for our country."

Al-Sharaa met with Trump in Saudi Arabia in May, where Trump announced that he would lift decades of sanctions.

Syria's Ministry of Information said in a statement Sunday that al-Sharaa will "emphasize the importance of lifting economic sanctions, particularly the Caesar Act, to allow for Syria's

economic recovery and investment growth" and will also "reaffirm (Syria's) commitment to continuing the fight against terrorism and promoting regional security."

Days ahead of al-Sharaa's visit, Trump told reporters that he had moved to lift sanctions from Syria "to give them a fighting shot, and I think (al-Sharaa's) doing a very good job so far."

"It's a tough neighborhood and he's a tough guy, but I got along with him very well, and a lot of progress has been made with Syria," he said.

Rep. Brian Mast, the Republican chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, has expressed reservations about a full repeal. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican who is close to Trump, has also pushed for conditions on the repeal, including security and representation for religious and ethnic minorities, "maintaining peaceful relations with other states in the region, including the State of Israel," and removing foreign fighters from government and security institutions.

Ukraine seeks Patriot systems from US to counter Russia power grid attacks

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 10, (AP): Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday he wants to order 25 Patriot air defense systems from the United States, as Ukraine desperately tries to fend off relentless Russian aerial attacks that have brought rolling blackouts across Ukraine on the brink of winter.

Zelenskyy acknowledged that the Patriot systems are expensive and that such a large batch could take years to manufacture. But he said European countries could give their Patriots to Ukraine and await replacements, stressing that "we would not like to wait."

Combined missile and drone strikes on the power grid have coincided with Ukraine's frantic efforts to hold back a Russian battlefield push aimed at capturing the eastern stronghold of Pokrovsk. Meanwhile, international peace efforts appear to have dissipated, nearly four years after Russia invaded its neighbor.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine recently received more Patriot systems from Germany. It is not known how many Patriot systems are in Ukraine. But on the whole air defenses remain stretched thin across wide expanses of Ukrainian territory, and the threat to the provision of heating and running water in the bitter winter is acute.

NATO is coordinating regular



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, (right), holds a meeting with servicemen near the frontline city of Pokrovsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine on Nov 4. (AP)

deliveries of large weapons packages to Ukraine. European allies and Canada are buying much of the equipment from the United States. The Trump administration is not giving any arms to Ukraine, unlike the previous Biden administration.

Russia's attacks on energy infrastructure have grown more effective. It launches hundreds of drones, some equipped with cameras to improve targeting, that overwhelm Ukraine's air defenses, especially in

regions where protection is weaker. Also, this year it is striking region by region, hitting local switchyards and substations, instead of taking aim at the centralized national grid.

Ukraine's Energy Ministry said Monday that Russian attacks caused more damage to its power infrastructure, resulting in scheduled blackouts in most of the country's regions. It urged Ukrainians to rationalize their use of electricity, especially during peak consumption hours in the mornings and evenings.

US president pardons Giuliani and others who backed efforts to overturn '20 election

WASHINGTON, Nov 10, (AP): US President Donald Trump has pardoned his former personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, his former chief of staff Mark Meadows and others accused of backing the Republican's efforts to overturn the 2020 election, a Justice Department official says.

Ed Martin, the government's pardon attorney, posted on social media a signed proclamation of the "full, complete, and unconditional" pardon, which also names Sidney Powell, an attorney who promoted baseless conspiracy theories about a stolen election, and John Eastman, another lawyer who pushed a plan to keep Trump in power. The proclamation, posted online late Sunday, explicitly says the pardon does not apply to Trump.

Presidential pardons apply only to federal crimes, and none of the Trump allies named were charged in federal cases about the 2020 election. But the move underscores Trump's continued efforts to promote the idea that the 2020 election was stolen from him even though courts around the country and U.S. officials found no evidence of fraud that could have affected the outcome. It follows the sweeping pardons of the hundreds of Trump supporters charged in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, including those convicted of attacking law enforcement.

The proclamation described efforts to prosecute those accused of aiding Trump's efforts to cling to power as "a grave national injustice perpetrated on the American people" and said the pardons were designed to continue "the process of national reconciliation."

The White House didn't immediately respond to an email seeking com-



Former NYC mayor Rudy Giuliani participates in a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the 9-11 terror attacks in New York on Sept 11. (AP)

ment Monday.

Also pardoned were Republicans who acted as fake electors for Trump in 2020 and were charged in state cases accusing them of submitting false certificates that confirmed they were legitimate electors despite Democrat Joe Biden's victory in those states. Another key figure on the list is Jeffrey Clark, a former Justice Department official who championed Trump's efforts to challenge his election loss.

Trump himself was indicted on felony charges accusing him of working to overturn his 2020 election defeat, but the case brought by Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith was abandoned in November after Trump's vic-

tory over Democrat Kamala Harris because of the department's policy against prosecuting sitting presidents. Giuliani, Powell, Eastman and Clark were alleged co-conspirators in the federal case brought against Trump but were never charged with federal crimes.

Giuliani, Meadows and others named in the proclamation had been charged by prosecutors in Georgia, Arizona, Michigan, Nevada and Wisconsin over the 2020 election, but the cases have hit a dead end or are just limping along. A judge in September dismissed the Michigan case against 15 Republicans accused of attempting to falsely certify Trump as the winner of the election in that battleground state.

Former French president Sarkozy released from jail pending appeal in conspiracy case

PARIS, Nov 10, (AP): France's former president Nicolas Sarkozy departed a Paris prison Monday after a Paris appeals court granted him release under judicial supervision, less than three weeks after he began serving a five-year sentence for criminal conspiracy in a scheme to finance his 2007 election campaign with funds from Libya.

Sarkozy's black car with tinted windows was seen leaving the prison in the direction of his home in western Paris.

The former president, 70, is banned from leaving the French territory and from being in touch with key people including co-defendants and witnesses in the case, the court said.

An appeals trial is expected to take place later, possibly in the spring.

Sarkozy became the first former French head of state in modern times to be sent behind bars after his conviction on Sept. 25. He denies wrongdoing. He was jailed on Oct. 21 pending appeal but immediately filed for early release.

During Monday's hearing, Sarkozy, speaking from the prison via video conference, argued he has always met all justice requirements.

"I had never imagined I would experience prison at 70. This ordeal was imposed on me, and I lived through it. It's hard, very hard," he said.

Sarkozy also paid tribute to prison



Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy's wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy and son Jean Sarkozy, (left), leave a Paris court before it decides whether to release Sarkozy from prison, less than three weeks after he began serving a five-year sentence for criminal conspiracy in a scheme to finance his 2007 election campaign with funds from Libya, on Nov 10, in Paris. (AP)

staff who he said helped him through "this nightmare." Sarkozy's wife, supermodel-turned-singer Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, and two of his sons, attended the hearing at the Paris courthouse.

Monday's proceedings didn't involve the motives for the sentencing.

Still, Sarkozy told the court he never

asked Libya's longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi for any financing. "I will never admit something I didn't do," he said.

French law provides that release should be the general rule pending appeal, while detention should be reserved for those considered dangerous

Drone sightings near airports

UK sends military experts to Belgium

LONDON, Nov 10, (AP): Britain is sending anti-drone equipment and personnel to Belgium after a spate of sightings near airports and military bases, the head of the UK military said Sunday.

In the past week both Belgium's main international airport at Brussels and Liege, one of Europe's biggest cargo airports, were forced to close temporarily because of drone incursions. That came after a series of unidentified drone flights near a military base where US nuclear weapons are stored.

Air Chief Marshal Richard Knighton, the head of Britain's armed forces, said the UK had agreed to "deploy our people, our equipment to Belgium to help them," after a request from Belgian authorities.

"We don't know - and the Belgians don't yet know - the source of those drones, but we will help them by providing our kit and capability, which has already started to deploy to help Belgium," Knighton told the BBC.

Defense Secretary John Healey



A no drone sign just outside the perimeter of Brussels International Airport in Zaventem, Belgium, after reported overnight drone activity over the airport on Nov 5. (AP)

said the UK was sending a team of Royal Air Force specialists to NATO

ally Belgium "to counter rogue drone activity."

"As hybrid threats grow, our strength lies in our alliances and our collective resolve to defend, deter and protect our critical infrastructure and airspace," he said.

In recent months, drone incidents across Europe have forced airports to suspend flights at a time. Russia has been blamed in some cases, but Belgium has not said who has been operating the drones. Belgian Defense Minister Theo Francken said that he believed that some incidents were part of "a spying operation" that could not have been done by amateurs.

Belgium is home to the headquarters of NATO and the European Union, as well as Europe's biggest financial clearinghouse holding tens of billions of euros in frozen Russian assets. Many EU countries want to use those assets as collateral to provide loans to Ukraine, but Belgium has so far resisted.

South Korean FM urges Cambodian PM to fight online scams

S.Korea ousted leader Yoon indicted for flying drones over North

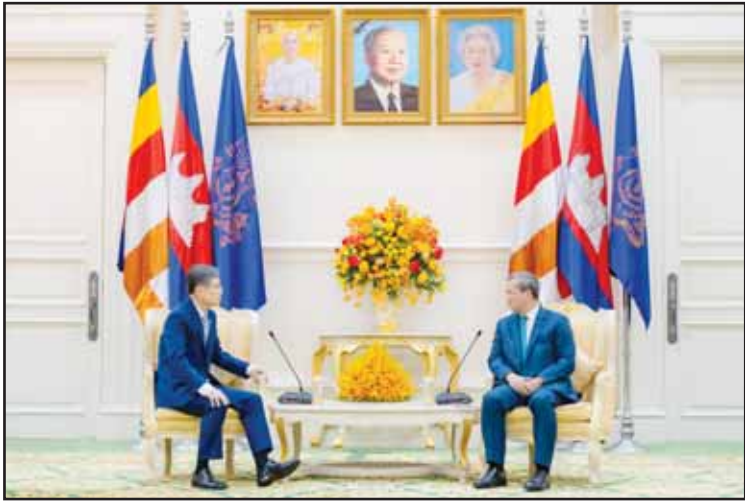
SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 10, (AP): South Korea’s ousted conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol faces more criminal charges as prosecutors alleged Monday that he ordered drone flights over North Korea in a deliberate bid to stoke tensions and justify his plans to declare martial law.

Yoon set off the most serious political crisis in South Korea’s recent history when he imposed martial law on Dec. 3, 2024, and sent troops to surround the National Assembly. He was later impeached and removed from office, and is in jail standing trial on charges including masterminding a rebellion.

His successor and liberal rival, President Lee Jae Myung, approved legislation that launched independent investigations into Yoon’s martial law stunt and other criminal allegations involving him, his wife and associates.

On Monday, Yoon and two of his top defense officials were charged with benefiting the enemy and committing abuse of power over their alleged drone flights, which came about two months before the declaration of martial law, according to a special investigation team.

North Korea accused Seoul of flying drones over its capital, Pyongyang, to drop propaganda leaflets three times in October 2024. Yoon’s defense minister, Kim Yong Hyun, initially made a vague denial, but South Korea’s military later



In this photo released by Agence Kampuchea Press (AKP), Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, (right), talks with South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, left, during a meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Monday on Nov 10. (AP)

switched to saying it couldn’t confirm whether or not the North’s claim was true. Any public confirmation of South Korean reconnaissance activities on North Korea is highly unusual.

Tensions rose sharply at the time, with North Korea threatening to respond with force. But neither side took any major action and tensions gradually subsided.

When Yoon announced martial law, he briefly cited “threats from North Korean communist forces,” but focused on his fights with the liberal-controlled parliament that obstructed his agenda, impeached top officials and slashed his government’s budget bill. Yoon called the National Assembly “a den of criminals” and “anti-state forces.”

On Monday, Park Ji-young, a senior investigator working for independent counsel Cho Eun-suk, told a briefing that her team still indicted Yoon, Kim and Yeo In-hyung, ex-commander of the military’s counterintelligence agency, over the alleged drone flying.

Also:
PHNOM PENH: South Korea’s foreign minister met Monday with Cambodian Prime Minister **Hun Manet** to pressure him to suppress burgeoning large-scale online scam operations that have been blamed for the brutal death of a Korean student.

The victim, 22-year-old Park Min-ho, was reportedly lured to **Cambodia** and forced to work in a scam center before his body was found tortured and beaten in August. His death triggered outrage in South Korea, prompting the government to send a delegation to **Phnom Penh** for urgent talks.

Foreign Minister **Cho Hyun** would raise the issue of cooperation to eradicate scam-related crimes in Cambodia and launching a joint police task force, **Seoul’s** Foreign Ministry said.

Prime Minister Hun Manet said on social media that the talks in the capital Phnom Penh were “fruitful” and covered a wide range of issues, including trade and investment, defense and tourism.



Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, (second right), hands a national hero certificate to Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, second left, daughter of the late president Suharto, and son Bambang Trihatmojo, left, during a ceremony awarding national hero title to ten figures including the former strongman, at the State Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Nov 10. (AP)

Indonesia declares Suharto nat’l hero

Indonesia declared the former dictator Suharto a national hero on Monday, provoking outrage from rights group who said the move was an attempt to whitewash decades of human rights abuses and corruption that took place during his 32 years in power.

Suharto was a US ally during the Cold War who presided over decades of authoritarian rule, during which up to a million political opponents were killed, until he was toppled by protests in 1998.

He was one of 10 people recognized by President Prabowo Subianto in a televised ceremony held at the presidential palace in Jakarta to mark National Hero Day.

Minister of Culture Fadli Zon said that Suharto played a key role during the struggle for independence against its Dutch colonial rulers, and later served as commander of a military operation that helped take control of what is now West Papua from the Dutch. (AP)

Thailand threatens to suspend truce deal with Cambodia after land mine injures 2

BANGKOK, Nov 10, (AP): Thailand threatened on Monday to suspend a US-brokered ceasefire agreement with Cambodia, with the country’s prime minister saying all actions under the deal will be halted, just hours after a land mine explosion in the volatile border area injured two Thai soldiers.

Thailand and Cambodia signed a truce agreement at a summit in Malaysia last month, after territorial disputes between the two Southeast Asian neighbors led to a five-day deadly combat in late July that killed dozens.

Tensions have simmered and there have been similar land mine explosions - both before and after the clashes, including one that injured three Thai soldiers patrolling the border zone in August.

Prime Minister Anutin Chamvirakul said Monday’s incident shows that “the hostility towards our national security has not decreased as we thought it would,” adding that all actions to be carried out under the truce agreement will be halted until Thailand’s demands are met.

He did not elaborate on Thailand’s demands and there was no immediate response from the Cambodian government.

Under the terms of the agreement, Thailand is to release 18 Cambodian soldiers held prisoner and both sides are to begin removing heavy weapons



In this photo released by Royal Thai Army, two Thai soldiers injured by a landmine during a patrol near the Thai-Cambodia border are treated as they are to be transferred to a hospital in Sisaket province, Thailand on Nov 10. (AP)

and land mines from the border area.

The Royal Thai Army said a sergeant had lost his right foot after stepping on a land mine while on patrol Monday along the border in Sisaket province, while another soldier suffered a tightness in his chest from the impact of the blast. It said both soldiers

were receiving treatment at a hospital.

Thai Defense Minister Natthaphon Narkphanit said the army is still investigating whether the mine was old or was newly laid. He added that Thailand will postpone the release of the captured Cambodian soldiers, initially scheduled for later this week.

Typhoon Fung-wong blows away from Philippines, leaving eight people dead

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 10, (AP): Typhoon Fung-wong blew out of the northwestern Philippines on Monday after setting off floods and landslides, knocking out power to entire provinces, killing at least eight people and displacing more than 1.4 million others.

The typhoon was forecast to head northwest toward Taiwan.

Fung-wong lashed the northern Philippines while the country was still dealing with the devastation wrought by Typhoon Kalmaegi, which left at least 224 people dead in central provinces on Tuesday before pummeling Vietnam, where at least five were killed.

Fung-wong slammed ashore in northeastern Aurora province on Sunday night as a super typhoon with sustained winds of up to 185 kph (115 mph) and gusts of up to 230 kph (143 mph).

The 1,800-kilometer (1,100-mile)-wide storm weakened as it raked through mountainous northern provinces and agricultural plains overnight before blowing away from the province of La Union into the South China Sea, according to state forecasters.



Residents stand beside a damaged house and toppled bridge due to Typhoon Fung-wong along a coastal village on Nov 10, in Navotas, Philippines. (AP)

One person drowned in flash floods in the eastern province of Catanduanes, and another died in Catbalogan city in eastern Samar province when her house collapsed on her, officials said.

In the northern province of Nue-

va Vizcaya, three children died in two separate landslides and four others were injured, police told The Associated Press. An elderly person was killed in a mudslide in Barlig, a town in northern Mountain Province, according to officials.

Lat/Am

Mexico to send more troops to Michoacan: Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum and her security Cabinet said Sunday that the government is sending more troops to the western state of Michoacan and will invest more than \$3 billion to try to quell the state’s persistent violence.

The announcement came a week after a 17-year-old gunman shot and killed a popular mayor during Day of the Dead festivities, spurring protests in towns across the state and demands that the federal government take action.

Sheinbaum recognized the pain and indignation expressed after the assassination of Uruapan Mayor Carlos Alberto Manzo.

“His cowardly murder hurts, not only his family and his community, but all of Michoacan and the country,” the president said at the National Palace Sunday.

Nearly 1,000 additional troops were scheduled to arrive in Michoacan Monday, bringing the total of federal forces in the state to more than 10,000, Defense Secretary Ricardo Trevilla Trejo said. Nearly half of those will be charged with a containment strategy aimed at keeping criminals from crossing state lines, a tall order in a state with multiple



Sheinbaum

criminal organizations operating fluidly within and from neighboring states like Jalisco. (AP)

4 inmates dead in Ecuador prison riot: Four inmates died and more than 30 others were injured Sunday when a riot broke out at a prison in Ecuador, corrections officials in the South American country said.

The riot stemmed from the “reorganization of inmates” to a new maximum-security prison that will soon begin operating in a different province, according to a statement from Ecuador’s prison oversight agency. The violent incident happened less than two months after 14 inmates died at the same facility in what authorities described as a dispute between gangs.

The prison is located in Machala, a coastal city in southwest Ecuador. Officials said authorities regained control of the facility following the riot, which also injured one police officer.

The conditions of the injured were not immediately clear Sunday.

Ecuador’s prisons have become among the deadliest in Latin America as overcrowding, corruption and weak state control have allowed gangs connected to drug traffickers in Colombia and Mexico to proliferate. Many are heavily armed with weapons smuggled in from the outside and continue to organize criminal activity from behind bars.

More than 500 people have died in prison riots since 2021. Last year, a series of coordinated riots across multiple prisons led to the hostage-taking of 150 prison guards. (AP)

Guinea supreme court releases provisional list of presidential candidates for election

CONAKRY, Guinea, Nov 10, (AP): Guinea’s supreme court has released a provisional list of presidential candidates for the December election in the West African nation. The court approved a provisional list of nine candidates, including junta leader Gen. Mamadi Doumbouya, who is running as an independent. Two opposition candidates, former prime minister Lansana Kouyate and former government minister Ousmane Kaba, were excluded on technical grounds.

The election is widely seen as an attempt by the junta leader to transition to a democratic government after a constitutional referendum that allowed the leader to run for president. Earlier this month, Doumbouya submitted his bid to run for president.

Despite Doumbouya’s promise to relinquish power when he overthrew Alpha Conde, he is expected to win the election slated for Dec. 28 and extend his stay in power for seven more years.

Guinea is one of a number of nations, including Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, that are currently ruled by military leaders who took power during a wave of coups that have rocked West Africa since 2020.

Also:
BAMAKO, Mali: Days after American diplomats and nationals were told to



People queue at a gas station amid a fuel shortage in Bamako, Mali on Oct 7. (AP)

leave Mali, a senior US official praised the military junta and hinted at cooperation between the two governments after years of a strained diplomatic relationship.

“The U.S. commends the armed forces of Mali in their fight against Islamic extremist militants (JNIM).

Today I had an excellent conversation with Mali’s Foreign Minister to discuss our shared security interests in the region. Look forward to greater cooperation.” **Christopher Landau**, the deputy secretary at the US State Department, said in a post on X late Tuesday.



The South Korean coast guard conducts search and rescue operations at the scene of a Chinese fishing boat capsized accident around Eocheong island near Gunsan, about 180 km southwest of South Korea’s capital Seoul, Nov 10. (Xinhua)

Chinese fishing boat capsizes near S.Korea, 2 rescued

South Korean rescue workers were searching Monday for nine missing crew members after a Chinese fishing boat capsized and sank off the country’s southwestern coast.

South Korea’s Coast Guard said two crew members were rescued by a nearby commercial vessel after their boat capsized about 150 kilometers (93 miles) southwest of

the port city of Gunsan.

It said four patrol vessels, two helicopters and a plane were deployed to the area to help with the search. So far, rescue crews have spotted a layer of fuel believed to have leaked from the boat, but have found no other debris or objects connected to it.

Kim Yeong-cheol, an official from

the Coast Guard office in Gunsan, said the boat may have been fishing for croaker and hairtail.

The Chinese consulate general in the southwestern city of Guangju, near Gunsan, confirmed there were 11 people on the boat and that two have been rescued, according to state broadcaster CCTV. (AP)

EU, Lat-Am and Caribbean nations hold summit overshadowed by US army op

BOGOTA, Colombia, Nov 10, (AP): Representatives of European, Latin American and Caribbean nations on Sunday began a two-day summit in Colombia to try to strengthen ties despite questions on the gathering’s relevance and divisions in the Western Hemisphere over the US military operation targeting alleged drug-carrying vessels.

Colombian officials have indicated they will seek the signing of a declaration on renewable energy, food security, financing and technological cooperation at the end of the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the European Union. The deadly US operation, however, will likely become a key point of discussion as Colombian President Gustavo Petro is among its strongest critics.

The US strikes against alleged drug-carrying vessels in the Carib-



bean Sea and Eastern Pacific have and has identified at least one of the Colombia’s President Gustavo Petro looks on prior to a plenary session at the COP30 UN Climate Summit, in Belem, Brazil on Nov 6. (AP)

killed more than 60 people since September. Petro has called the deaths “extrajudicial executions”

killed as a Colombian citizen. One of two known survivors of the attacks is also Colombian.

Boursa Kuwait closes Monday slightly lower

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Monday's session on a mixed note, as its general index edged down 5.54 points, or 0.06 percent, to close at 8,879.18 points. Trading activity saw 343.8 million shares change hands through 20,919 transactions, generating a total value of KD 82.11 million

(about USD 250.4 million). The main market outperformed, gaining 29.01 points, or 0.35 percent, to reach 8,415.20 points. It recorded 215.3 million shares traded through 13,265 transactions, worth KD 30.7 million (approximately USD 93.6 million).

Business

In line with its commitment to transparency and ESG standards

KIB publishes its fourth annual Sustainability Report and highlights its ESG achievements

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Building on its sustainability program and dedicated Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced publishing its fourth annual Sustainability Report for 2024, showcasing its contributions to and achievements in supporting Kuwait's transition to a more sustainable economy. The report, curated in compliance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Standards as well as the guidelines set forth by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Boursa Kuwait for ESG reporting on transparency, expands on KIB's sustainability efforts in line with Kuwait's National Vision, United Nations' Sustainability Development Goals (UN SDGs), and KIB's role as a participant in the UN Global Compact since 2022.

"The release of this annual report reflects our unwavering commitment to integrating sustainability into the core of our business, not as a slogan, but as imbedded practice in our business model," commented Mr. Raed Jawad Bukhamseen, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of KIB. He added: "This manifested on numerous fronts, such as KIB's continued support for female entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises. Other areas where KIB's efforts to sustainable growth were evident, included expanding our human capital programs and advancing women's empowerment as a key pillar of our social development strategy through targeted initiatives that foster an inclusive and thriving community. Moving forward, we will continue to invest in innovative digital solutions and adopt global governance standards, in line with the needs and aspirations of the changing market and supporting Kuwait Vision 2035."

On his part, Nawaf Najia, Executive Manager of ESG and Sustainability – Strategy Department at KIB, said: "From the outset, Sustainability Reporting has played a key role in documenting KIB's ESG journey, providing a factual presentation of its main highlights as the Bank continues to advance its ESG roadmap,



Raed Bukhamseen



Nawaf Najia

strategy, and supporting policies. Today, KIB's ESG structure is steered by a dedicated ESG Unit and governed by a stringent ESG Policy."

Recognitions and Awards

KIB's efforts in 2024 were recognized with a number of regional and international awards, most notably: ■ "Excellence in FinTech Innovation & Digital Leadership in Kuwait for the Year 2024" – World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB) ■ "Most Innovative Digital Banking Transformation 2024" – World Finance ■ "Best Retail Banking Product 2024" – World Finance ■ "Best Bank in Financial Literacy Program – MENA 2024" – Capital Finance International (CFI.co) ■ "Best Sharia-Compliant Bank – MENA 2024" – Capital Finance International (CFI.co) ■ "Best Real Estate Solutions Provider MENA 2024" – Capital Finance International (CFI.co)

The fourth annual Sustainability Report further records KIB's achievements in 2024, reflecting the Bank's leading local and regional position and confirming international institutions' recognition of its initiatives in the areas of sustainability, innovation, and governance.

Sustainable Portfolio Growth and Inclusive Finance

At the heart of KIB's sustainability efforts is its commitment to promoting inclusive finance by advancing ESG-

integrated financing solutions, which drove the Bank's total financing portfolio to grow 14.5%, amounting to KD 2.85 billion in 2024. Within sustainable financing, the Wholesale Banking Department rose 27.27% to KD 51.48 million. Meanwhile, the International Banking Department increased 22.5% to KD 62.46 million, bringing their combined share of the total financing portfolio to 4% in 2024, compared to 3.67% in 2023.

Ethical Governance Framework

To guarantee its compliance with the global ESG standards, especially in terms of ethical governance and leadership, KIB upholds the independence of its oversight committees, which, together, have guaranteed KIB's success in meeting all standards, with no reported fines, cases of non-compliance, or data breaches and privacy complaints in 2024.

This was further supported by advancing preexisting initiatives and programs, such as fortifying its cybersecurity and information security capabilities, earning it a certificate renewal for the ISO 27001:2022 certification and maintaining its ISO 22301:2019 on Business Continuity Systems. Furthermore, KIB successfully met the requirements of other critical security frameworks, including PCI DSS, SWIFT CSP, and CBK CSF. The Bank continues to comply fully with CBK's Corporate Governance Guidelines, which fosters inter-



national alignment with standards set by Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).

Fostering Inclusive Communities and A Skilled Workforce

KIB is continuously investing in human capital and national talent, with a 24.19% increase in spending on training and e-learning in 2024, which amounted to an average of 66 hours of training per employee. The Bank also grew its Kuwaitization rate to 75.5% of its total workforce, continued to support women in leadership – whereby women accounted for 23.22% of the total managerial roles in the Bank, and onboarded 79 fresh graduates.

Community and local business support also strengthened, with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending rising by 69.74%, the number of local suppliers increasing by 20.16%, and sponsorship expenditure growing by 28.81%. In parallel, KIB's Mubader Center supported domestic entrepreneurship and SMEs, while volunteering initiatives, including the "Iftar Saem"

program, helped distribute meals to those in need.

Environmental Responsibility

Throughout 2024, KIB continued advancing its environmental stewardship through comprehensive carbon footprint reduction efforts. The Bank continued to refine its GHG emissions monitoring methods to identify reduction opportunities which further improve the accuracy and comparability of year-over-year results. In addition, KIB reported total GHG emissions of 6,165.7 tCO2e at an intensity of 7.93 tCO2e/employee.

Towards the Future

The report affirmed the Bank's ongoing commitment to expanding sustainable financing, supporting SMEs, and promoting green investments. In addition, KIB is set to continue reducing its environmental footprint, empowering national talent, and expanding financial inclusion. These goals are in line with the Bank's 2024-2028 corporate strategy, which aims to strengthen its leading position within the Islamic

banking sector and deliver long-term sustainable value through innovation, efficiency, and customer centrality.

Key 2024 Achievements

- Growth of the financing portfolio by 14.5% to KWD 2.85 billion.
- Financing SMEs amounting to KD 50.98 million.
- Reporting carbon emissions intensity at 7.93 tons COe/employee.
- Increasing the Kuwaitization rate to 75.5%, with an average of 66 hours of training per employee.
- Increasing spending on local suppliers to 20.16%.
- Launching digital initiatives to enhance customer experience, such as instant card issuance and the Aqari digital platform service.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

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

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

Return on equity reaches 4.2%

Al-Tijaria reports KD 12.6 mln profit for nine months of 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Mr. Abdulfatah M.R. Marafie - Chairman of The Commercial Real Estate Company "Al-Tijaria" announced that the company's financial results for the period ending September 30, 2025, resulted in achieving net profits of KD 12,626,167 (Kuwaiti Dinar Twelve million six hundred twenty-six thousand one hundred sixty-seven).

According to the financial results up to the 3rd quarter of the year 2025, Marafie stated that the quarter witnessed stability in the net operating revenues, along with decrease of the profits from evaluation of certain investments. Moreover, The company maintained good performance ratios for the nine months ended September 2025, as the return on equity was 4.2%, return on total assets 2.5%, and return on capital 6.7%.

Mr. Marafie stated that Al-Tijaria remains committed to sustainable growth by enhancing performance, diversifying local and international income sources, and aligning its strategy with market dynamics to strengthen its financial position and protect shareholders' rights. In line with this vision, Al-Tijaria has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd. (CSCEC) to jointly explore and develop strategically selected projects tendered by Kuwaiti government authorities, including the Red Castle Village, the Educational, Cultural and Entertainment Center on Abdullah Al-Ahmad Street, the redevelopment of Souq Al-Mubarakia, and other future development opportunities. Furthermore, Al-Tijaria has entered into a strategic partnership with GFH Capital, a Saudi-based subsidiary of GFH Financial Group, under which it will serve as the technical advisor to one of GFHC's logistics funds in Saudi Arabia and across the GCC.

Mr. Marafie added that Al-Tijaria, along with its subsidiaries, have invested a total of USD 12.5 million (equivalent to KWD 3.8 million) in the GCC Warehouse and Logistics Fund, which aims to acquire, develop, and operate logistics properties across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the GCC. This strategic investment aligns with Al-Tijaria's commitment to diversifying its regional portfolio and capitalizing on the growing demand for logistics infrastructure driven by the region's expanding trade and industrial sectors.

Also, a subsidiary of Al Tijaria has signed a partnership agreement with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) to develop a 22-year project over a total plot size of 12,575 square meter in Qairawan area (Q1) of Kuwait. The project will comprise of a commercial complex, a health club and public parking to serve the project under the system of design, development, financing, operation, management and maintenance.



Abdulfatah M.R. Marafie - Chairman

Mr. Marafie also highlighted that Al-Tijaria continues to strengthen its leading role in corporate social responsibility (CSR) and is committed to effectively implementing the principles of corporate governance. In this regard, the company organizes various initiatives aimed at serving the community and promoting the values of giving and cooperation under the slogan "We Care."

As part of its ongoing efforts, the company organized the third edition of "Arabic Is My Language" at Symphony Mall under the theme "Let's Read Together." The event aimed to foster a love for reading and raise awareness of the importance of the Arabic language through engaging, educational, and interactive activities designed for children and families, reflecting the company's commitment to supporting cultural and educational programs that strengthen national identity.

The company also organized a Blood Donation Campaign across several of its properties, including Al Tijaria Tower, Symphony Mall, and Boulevard Mall, in order to promote the spirit of social responsibility, encourage humanitarian values and solidarity among members of society, and support national efforts in providing the needs of the Central Blood Bank.

In addition, the company held a Beach Cleanup Campaign in celebration of World Cleanup Day at Kuwait Towers Beach, which witnessed the participation of more than 270 volunteers out of a total of over 1,700 volunteers across various areas of Kuwait. The campaign resulted in the collection of approximately 2.8 tons of waste and debris, contributing significantly to the improvement of the marine environment.

This initiative reflects the spirit of giving and environmental awareness and emphasizes the importance of collective efforts to preserve the environment and protect natural resources for future generations. At the conclusion of his statement, Mr. Abdulfatah Marafie extends his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the shareholders, of the board of directors, and all employees of the company for their dedicated efforts and continuous support.

'Technology can drive measurable environmental impact'

Zain, EPA partner to expand environmental awareness & boost sustainability initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Zain Kuwait signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Environment Public Authority (EPA), aiming to align institutional efforts in environmental awareness, community engagement, the exchange of data and technical expertise, and supporting national sustainability initiatives.

The MoU was signed at the EPA's headquarters, joined by Nawaf Al-Gharabally, CEO of Zain Kuwait, and Nouf Behbehani, Acting Director General of the Environment Public Authority, along with senior executives and teams from both entities.

This step seeks to strengthen cooperation between Zain and the EPA across several key pillars. These include boosting environmental awareness and community participation through digital content and on-the-ground programs, exchanging information, data, and technical expertise to support evidence-based decision-making, and developing and supporting national initiatives for the transition to sustainability and addressing pollution.

Commenting on the signing, Nawaf Al-Gharabally said: "This partnership embodies Zain's belief that technology is a bridge that connects innovation to sustainable impact. Through our work with the EPA, we will translate awareness into measurable operational practices that reduce environmental impact, enhance resource efficiency, and place people and the environment at the heart of corporate priorities."

He added: "Our cooperation will focus on the exchange of data and technical expertise and on building team capabilities, with clear performance indicators and joint follow-up reports to ensure that every initiative delivers a tangible and scalable impact. We aspire to a model of institutional cooperation that embeds evidence-based decision-making and strengthens transparency in measuring results."

Al-Gharabally concluded: "At the community level, we will reinforce awareness programs in schools and universities, expand e-waste collection and recycling initiatives, and leverage our technological capabilities and digital platforms to promote positive behaviors that build a circular economy and a society that is more conscious of sustainability issues."

Nouf Behbehani commented: "Today we are extending this cooperation with Zain, one of the nation's leading companies in telecom and digital technologies and a key partner in the journey toward sustainable development. Zain has served as a distinguished model among national companies that have made social responsibility and environmental sustainability a core pillar of its work, and over the years has adopted high-value projects and youth and volunteer initiatives that have strengthened environmental awareness in the Kuwaiti society."

She continued: "The signing of this MoU crowns a shared path and vision toward a sustainable environment and an economy that is more aware of its responsibilities toward people and nature. At the EPA, we believe that protecting the environment is a collective responsibility that can only be achieved through synergy between the public and private sectors and through partnerships that bring together technical expertise and institutional will in service of the nation. We look forward to this cooperation becoming a launch-



Nawaf Al-Gharabally and Nouf Behbehani after signing the MoU.



Al-Gharabally and Behbehani with officials from Zain and the EPA.

Nawaf Al-Gharabally:

- "This step embodies Zain's belief that technology is a bridge connecting innovation to sustainable impact"

Nouf Behbehani:

- "Zain has been an exemplary national organization that has made sustainability a core pillar of its operations"

pad for pioneering future projects that contribute to a more sustainable future for Kuwait's coming generations."

This cooperation builds on Zain's approach of embedding sustainability across its operations and programs. The company has joined the Kuwait Green Building Council as a Platinum member to enhance energy, water, and waste management efficiency at its facilities. It has also participated in community initiatives to reduce e-waste in schools and to embed a culture of circular econ-

omy, alongside youth partnerships focused on social innovation with measurable impact.

Zain affirms that this step strengthens cross-sector national partnerships and supports the nation's efforts in environmental protection and community engagement. The company is committed to turning principles into actionable programs that balance environmental, economic, and social impact. Zain will also leverage capacity-building platforms and professional networks to develop sustainability standards.

Providing the best advanced digital banking solutions

KFH: Diverse money transfer services through KFHOnline in collaboration with Western Union

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continues to lead the way in delivering advanced digital banking solutions, offering customers a wide range of local and international money transfer services through KFHOnline mobile application, in cooperation with Western Union's global network.

This partnership enables KFH customers to make fast and secure money transfers, whether in cash, directly to bank accounts, or to digital wallets in various countries. Users can easily select beneficiaries and access Western Union's extensive worldwide network.

These services reflect KFH's commitment to genuine digital transformation in the banking sector, allowing customers to carry out financial transactions seamlessly through clear and efficient electronic steps, while maintaining the highest security standards. The result is greater

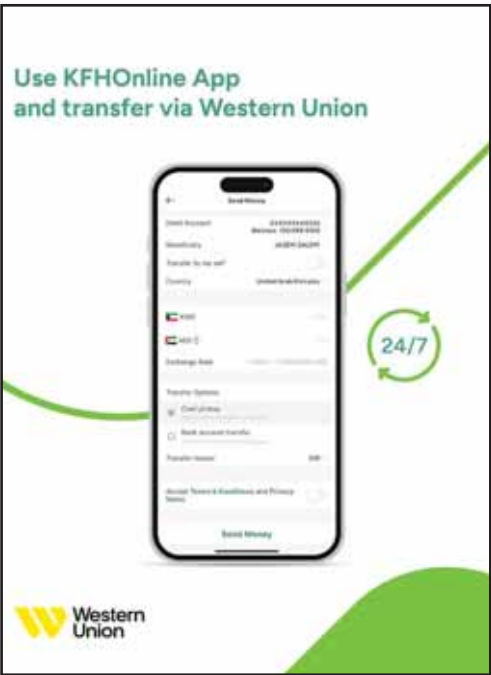
efficiency and an enhanced digital experience that meets customers' expectations. Western Union operates one of the world's largest and most trusted money transfer networks, with retail locations in more than 200 countries and territories. Customers can also make payments to billions of bank accounts and millions of digital wallets and cards globally.

Through these services, KFH further enhances the customer experience by providing fast, safe, and convenient transfers that meet diverse financial needs. The partnership also strengthens KFH's digital capabilities and reaffirms its commitment to offering comprehensive financial solutions, a commitment clearly reflected in the growing customer demand for this service.

KFH's strong performance in e-banking is evident in the wide range of services available through the KFHOnline app. These services include the instant issuance of virtual

cards, opening additional accounts without a branch visit, card activation and deactivation, creating deposits, adding beneficiaries, and conducting account balance and transaction inquiries. Furthermore, the app facilitates chequebook requests, gold trading (buying and selling), financing requests, managing children's accounts, WAMD instant payment service, and sending and receiving money through KFH Pay, alongside other advanced digital banking services.

KFH also provides innovative services such as Live FX Pricing for real-time currency exchange rates, instant transfers to KFH-Turkey through the RippleNet network, and digital wallet compatibility with Garmin, Fitbit, and Samsung smart devices. Additionally, customers can instantly issue bank cards via self-service kiosks available in KFH branches.



Jazeera Airways unveils 20th anniversary travel offer.

Limited-time Buy 1 Get 1 free

Jazeera Airways celebrates 20th 'versary with special offer

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Jazeera Airways is marking its 20th anniversary with a special limited-time travel offer, giving customers even more reasons to fly. Travelers booking flights from 10 to 13 November can enjoy a Buy 1 Get 1 Free promotion applicable across all one-way and return flights on the Jazeera Airways network.

Customers can take advantage of the offer by using the promo code J9BO-GO20 when booking for travel between 1 March 2026 and 15 June 2026 with select terms and conditions.

Commenting on the announcement, Paul Carroll, Chief Commercial Officer at Jazeera Airways, said: "Celebrating 20 years is a proud milestone

for Jazeera Airways, and we want to thank our customers for being part of our journey. This special offer is our way of giving back — encouraging travelers to explore more destinations with friends and family and create new memories in the year ahead."

Since launching operations in 2005 as Kuwait's first privately owned airline, Jazeera Airways has grown to serve a diverse network of 63 destinations across the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Africa, and Europe, flying more than 5 million passengers every year. As part of its anniversary year, the airline will continue to introduce exciting promotions and experiences for passengers.



New Terminal One at John F. Kennedy International Airport

Project to create over 500 jobs

Menzies awarded license at JFK's New Terminal One

LONDON, Nov 10: Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, has been awarded one of two sets of ground handling licenses for passenger handling and ramp handling at the New Terminal One at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) in New York. The five-year agreement represents a significant milestone for Menzies as the redevelopment of JFK transforms the airport into a world class international gateway.

From 2026, Menzies will deliver a wide range of above-and below-the-wing services including ramp handling and baggage, cabin cleaning, passenger services, ticketing, porter and passenger assistance.

The terminal, the only all-international terminal of its kind in the United States, is expected to accommodate significant traffic volumes, with Menzies projected to manage up to 20,000 aircraft turns annually. It is being built on sites now occupied by JFK's Terminal 1 and former Terminals 2 and 3. Scheduled to open in phases from 2026, it will be the largest terminal at JFK, with 23 gates and more than 300,000 square feet of retail, dining and lounge space over a total footprint of 2.6 million square feet enclosed by floor-to-ceiling windows. Upon completion in 2030, it will have a capacity of serving 23 million passengers annually.

To support local economic development, Menzies expects to create more than 500 jobs through its agreement with the New Terminal One.

The \$9.5 billion New Terminal One redevelopment is the largest single-terminal project in U.S. history and will set a new benchmark for passenger service when it opens in 2026. Eighteen carriers have already announced their commitment to operate at the terminal, with additional airlines expected in the coming months.

The New Terminal One is also setting ambitious goals, embracing cutting-edge sustainability and en-

vironmental practices, including a large-scale solar-powered microgrid, all-electric ground support equipment, and a strong focus on waste reduction. In line with this vision, Menzies will work closely with the terminal to support its decarbonization journey while advancing Menzies' own commitment to achieve net zero across its global operations by 2045.

To meet demand, Menzies Aviation will launch a local recruitment drive and will ensure that all new employees receive industry-leading training to uphold the highest standards of safety and security for its airline customers.

John Redmond, EVP Americas, Menzies Aviation, said: "We are proud to have been selected by New Terminal One to deliver comprehensive ground handling services at this landmark development. JFK's new Terminal One will transform the travel experience for millions of passengers, and we are delighted to play a part in bringing that vision to life."

The New Terminal One is a key component of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's \$19 billion transformation of JFK Airport into a world-class gateway, which will include two new terminals, the modernization and expansion of two existing terminals, a new ground transportation center, and an entirely new, simplified roadway network. The two new terminals will field pooled all-electric ground support equipment (eGSE), a first among airports in North America and which represents a significant step toward achieving the Port Authority's industry-leading commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. The use of eGSE aligns with the Port Authority's 2022 zero-emission airside vehicle rule, requiring the transition to zero-emission ground service equipment at the region's three major airports with all commercially available GSE fleet required to be zero-emission by 2030.

UIC concludes specialized program on listing rules and CMA regulations

Program blends theoretical study with practical case applications

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Union of Investment Companies (UIC), through its training arm, the Investment Studies Center (ISC), successfully concluded its specialized training program titled "Listing Rules in Accordance with Law No. (7) of 2010 Regarding the Establishment of the Capital Markets Authority and Its Executive Regulations: A Practical and Theoretical Study" on 10 November 2025.

The program reflects UIC's growing role in developing Kuwait's financial and investment landscape and strengthening the readiness of professionals to meet the evolving requirements of regulatory authorities, particularly the Capital Markets Authority (CMA). The program served as an important educational milestone, bringing together a distinguished group of professionals from investment firms, banks, and financial service companies in an integrated training experience that blended theoretical knowledge with practical application, enriching participants' understanding of the regulatory developments shaping the financial sector.

The program went beyond explaining the regulatory framework and further addressed the practical challenges institutions face in complying with laws and regulations governing listing. Trainers relied on real case studies drawn from Kuwait's capital market environment, enabling participants to gain a deeper understanding of regulatory decision-making and how to avoid errors that could result in disciplinary actions, trading suspensions, or regulatory violations. This approach contributes to enhancing institutional performance and the overall effectiveness of compliance functions.

The program also highlighted the pivotal role of professional staff in improving the quality of reports submitted to regulators, the importance



Group photo during the workshop.

of adhering to legal deadlines for issuing interim and annual financial statements, applying International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and developing internal verification mechanisms to ensure data accuracy before disclosure. These discussions came at a time of rapid changes in listing rules and governance requirements, which increasingly demand coordinated institutional efforts to align with legal obligations and their practical applications.

Amid the financial sector's shift toward smart tools and digital technologies, the program emphasized the importance of investing in modern systems that enhance reporting, accelerate risk detection, and provide reliable information infrastructures that support boards of directors and executive management in making sound, data-driven decisions. The program further demonstrated how these tools can support proactive compliance and strengthen companies' ability to respond to regulatory changes without compromising operational quality.

The program concluded with several comprehensive recommendations, most notably the adoption of an integrated institutional compliance strategy that starts with onboarding new employees and extends to building an internal culture that engages all departments in shared compliance responsibilities. Experts also recommended establishing clear communication channels among risk, compliance, internal audit, and executive management teams, and treating periodic internal control reports as essential components of the decision-making process. Participants stressed the importance of continuously updating internal policies and procedures to keep pace with new regulations, especially those related to disclosures, general assemblies, corporate actions, listing rules, sustainability reports, and financial statements.

Additional recommendations highlighted the value of expanding continuous training beyond basic programs, given its direct impact on compliance levels within invest-

ment institutions. The discussions also underscored the importance of involving legal departments early in policy development to ensure alignment with regulatory requirements, as well as raising staff awareness on transparency, disclosure, and professional responsibility toward investors and shareholders.

UIC and ISC reaffirm their commitment to supporting the development of Kuwait's investment ecosystem by offering specialized training programs that strengthen the financial sector's readiness, enhance the culture of compliance and governance, and build human capital capable of elevating institutional performance across capital market entities. This program comes as part of a broader series of initiatives through which the Union continues to enhance Kuwait's market competitiveness and prepare its institutions for the demands of the coming stage, in line with the country's economic vision and its aspirations for a more efficient, transparent, and investment-friendly business environment.

New outlets in Mishref, Al Shaheed Park

AAW opens two new Joe & The Juice stores in Kuwait



Mishref outlet



Al Shaheed Park outlet

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Light Food, a subsidiary of Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Company (AAW), announced today the opening of two new stores of Joe & The Juice in Mishref and Al Shaheed Park. These openings mark the continued expansion of the brand's growing presence across Kuwait.

The Joe & The Juice store in Mishref stands out for its strategic location as the brand's first store in a vibrant residential and commercial area. Situated next to Yarmouk Sports Club, the store operates 24/7, making it an ideal destination for those who look for quick, healthy, and delicious food and beverages.

The new store aims to welcome a wide range of customers, offering much more than just cof-

fee and juices. It features a warm and inviting atmosphere that blends modern design with exceptional service, making it an ideal destination for young guests to relax after work or a workout, as well as a comfortable space for families and shoppers to unwind and enjoy a vibrant neighborhood experience in Mishref.

The Joe & The Juice in Al Shaheed park-Phase 2 features a sleek and modern design. The store includes comfortable outdoor seating, giving families, athletes, and tourists the chance to relax and enjoy their favorite coffee, juices, and healthy meals surrounded by the park's calm, natural atmosphere.

This store also reflects Joe & The Juice's ongoing commitment to sustainability, adopting environmentally friendly practices such as recycla-

ble packaging and energy-efficient equipment. These efforts are part of the brand's dedication to reducing environmental impact while enhancing the customer experience in a responsible and sustainable way.

The Mishref and Al Shaheed Park locations join a network of Joe & The Juice stores across Kuwait, including Argania Complex in Shuwaikh, Argan Square in Salmiya, The Walk Mall in Ardiya, Al Andalus Complex in Hawally, The Warehouse in South Sabahiya, Sahara Golf Resort next to Hunting and Equestrian Club, GUST campus in West Mishref, Al Khiran Mall, Arraya Centre in Kuwait City, Kuwait International Airport Terminal 1- Arrivals, Murouj near Hunting and Equestrian Club, Vibes Complex in Abu Al Hasaniya, Bnaider Resort, which operates 24 hours a day from Thursday to Saturday, and 360 Mall.



NBK lays foundation stone for expansion of children’s hospital.

With an expansion project covering over 22,000 m² of advanced medical infrastructure

NBK lays the foundation stone for the new children’s hospital for Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, and Stem Cell Transplant

Al-Awadhi:

- We extend our gratitude to NBK for its noble initiative in strengthening the healthcare sector’s infrastructure
- The longstanding partnership between the Ministry of Health and NBK in advancing pediatric care has been upheld since the establishment of its Specialized Children’s Hospital in 2000



NBK lays foundation stone for expansion of children’s hospital.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: In a milestone that reaffirms its deep-rooted commitment to the community and its pioneering leadership in healthcare sector engagement, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) held a ceremonial event to lay the foundation stone for the expansion of its Children’s Hospital for Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, & Stem Cell Transplant, through the development of the new building. The ceremony was held in the presence of Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, Minister of Health, Mr. Hamad Al-Bahar, NBK Group Chairman, and Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer of NBK, alongside senior executives from the Bank, the Ministry and the hospital. This milestone reflects the strength of the strategic collaboration between the public and private sectors.

This project follows the Council of Ministers’ approval to accept NBK’s donation to fully fund the expansion project which spans over 22,000 square meters of advanced medical infrastructure at a total cost of nearly KD 19 million. Through this initiative, NBK reinforces its role as a leading national financial institution that places community development at the heart of its priorities, recognizing investment in health, education, and the environment as an integral part of its social responsibility.

Furthermore, this expansion marks a pivotal milestone in the journey of the NBK Specialized Children’s Hospital, which began in 2000 with the establishment of Building (A) and continued in 2017 with the addition of Building (B), introducing bone marrow transplantation and stem cell therapy, a

development that significantly enhanced the quality and efficiency of patient care, representing a national milestone that enabled Kuwait to localize this advanced form of treatment and spare children and their families the hardship of traveling abroad for care. With the completion of Building (C), the hospital will evolve into a fully integrated medical facility comprising:

- 66 patient rooms dedicated to hematology, hematologic malignancies, and medical oncology.
- Specialized wings for hematology and oncology.
- Pediatric intensive care unit.
- Stem cell therapy unit.
- Comprehensive laboratory, pharmacy, and radiology department.
- Operating rooms and interventional procedure suites.
- Emergency services.
- Administrative, IT, engineering, and support facilities.

The next phase will witness the actual construction of the new building, reflecting NBK’s vision to expand pediatric care services. This will be followed by equipping the new building with the latest medical technologies, furnishings, and medical devices in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, leading up to the inauguration phase, which will include intensive staff training and system testing to ensure the delivery of exceptional care from day one.

It is worth noting that the design and supervision were carried out in collaboration between NBK’s Engineering Department and Gulf Consult, the project consultant, while TAG Advisory Group serving as

medical consultant and Imar as the main contractor.

The project was also recognized with the International Architectural Excellence Award from the Museum of Architecture and Design and the European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies.

A Generous Initiative

On this occasion, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, Minister of Health, expressed his deep appreciation to NBK for its steadfast commitment to social responsibility and its generous initiative in enhancing the infrastructure of the healthcare sector.

“We, at the Ministry of Health, are pleased to take part in the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the new expansion of the NBK Children’s Hospital for Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, & Stem Cell Transplant, a project that embodies the true spirit of partnership between the public and private sectors in supporting the advancement

Al-Sager:

- NBK’s investments in its specialized children’s hospital have reached nearly KD 30 million since its establishment
- A project that affirms the financial sector’s ability to play a developmental role beyond merely funding initiatives
- The new hospital enhances capacity and upgrades specialized services to ensure world-class levels of care
- NBK’s social responsibility strategy places healthcare support at the core of its priorities
- Our relationship with the community is deeply rooted over decades, and we are proud to be a key partner in Kuwait’s development journey
- We are inaugurating a new chapter in the Bank’s humanitarian mission to help children overcome the challenges of treatment
- We are continually advancing the hospital’s units to position it as a premier institution for pediatric care in Kuwait and the region

of Kuwait’s healthcare system,” Dr. Al-Awadhi remarked.

“This initiative by NBK stands as a testament to the vital role of community partnership in supporting national efforts to enhance medical services and ensure the well-being of our children, who represent the future of our country.” He said, noting that the Ministry of Health’s collaboration with NBK in supporting pediatric care has been ongoing since the establishment of the NBK Specialized Children’s Hospital in 2000, followed by its expansion in 2017, and now reaching a new milestone with Building (C), which marks a significant leap forward in the hospital’s service development.

A Message of Hope and an Investment in the Future

Commenting on this milestone, Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer of NBK, said: “We take pride at NBK in being a key partner in Kuwait’s development journey, and we firmly believe that social responsibility is not a choice, but a national and moral obligation.”

He further explained that the expansion project of the NBK Children’s Hospital, through the establishment of the new building, extends the Bank’s long-standing commitment to supporting healthcare and reflects NBK’s belief that investing in children’s health is an investment in the nation’s future. Moreover, he affirmed that the project demonstrates the financial sector’s ability to play a developmental role that goes far beyond project

financing.

“Our total investments in the NBK Specialized Children’s Hospital have reached nearly KD 30 million since its establishment, starting with Building (A), inaugurated in 2000, and now with Building (C), whose foundation stone we are celebrating today. The new building spans more than 22,000 square meters, with an estimated cost of around KD 19 million,” Al-Sager added.

He noted that the role of the NBK Children’s Hospital extends beyond providing specialized healthcare for children, as it also plays a pivotal role in supporting Kuwait’s overall healthcare infrastructure. As the only facility in the country offering specialized services in pediatric hematology and hematologic oncology, ensuring its sustainability remains of utmost importance.

“The new hospital is not merely a medical facility, it is a message of hope to every child in pain and every family searching for a ray of light. We, at NBK are committed to making a lasting impact by prioritizing the most vulnerable groups and providing a holistic healing environment that aligns with the highest global standard.” Al-Sager highlighted.

He also noted that the new project will help expand capacity and enhance specialized services to support the existing hospital, ensuring that every young patient receives the highest standards of healthcare. He further confirmed that the Bank continuously works to upgrade all hospital units, with the goal of establishing it as a leading medical institution in Kuwait and the region for pediatric care.

Moreover, Al-Sager emphasized that as a leading national institution in the field of social responsibility, NBK remains steadfast in its dedication to serving the community, a bond that has been deeply rooted for decades. He further explained that the launch of Building C Project marks a new chapter in the Bank’s humanitarian mission, aimed at helping children overcome the challenges of treatment and regain their health, enabling them to lead lives filled with hope and optimism.

Al-Sager concluded by saying: “This project stands as a living ex-

ample of how partnerships between the public and private sectors can create sustainable healthcare solutions that benefit the entire community. At NBK, we will continue to uphold our social mission, remaining at the forefront of institutions that embed social responsibility as a deeply rooted corporate practice—one that begins with people and invests in hope”.

A Center of Excellence in Holistic Care

The NBK Specialized Children’s Hospital holds a vital place within the healthcare system, offering free services to children under the age of sixteen who are battling cancer.

The hospital’s philosophy is rooted in a holistic care approach that extends beyond medical treatment to encompass the psychological and social well-being of both the child and their family. Its management places the welfare of patients and their families at the core of its healthcare programs and services.

In its commitment to supporting the emotional and social well-being of children throughout their treatment journey, NBK continues to back the Children’s Hospital through a series of recreational and humanitarian programs and initiatives designed to uplift the spirits of patients and their families.

NBK’s contributions to advancing the healthcare sector, particularly through the NBK Children’s Hospital, are an integral part of its broader social responsibility strategy. The Bank’s role is not limited to healthcare support but extends to other vital areas that promote sustainable development in Kuwait. Through a diverse range of initiatives spanning health, education, social development, the environment, sports, and public awareness, NBK continues to implement a comprehensive strategy aimed at serving the Kuwaiti community and enhancing the quality of life across the country.

Furthermore, NBK continues to reinforce its position as a key contributor to humanitarian and developmental projects through effective partnerships with government entities and civil society organizations. In doing so, the Bank affirms that its role extends beyond banking to include active participation in building a healthy and cohesive community.



NBK Specialized Children’s Hospital.

‘Die My Love’ flops despite star-studded cast**‘Predator: Badlands’ tops box office with \$80M worldwide**

NEW YORK, Nov 10, (AP): “Predator: Badlands” led all films in North American theaters with a debut of \$40 million, according to studio estimates Sunday, a better-than-expected result that slightly lifted the box office from its autumn doldrums.

On the heels of the worst box office weekend of 2025, “Predator: Badlands” faced little competition from new titles. Not accounting for inflation, the \$40 million opening marked a new high for the dreadlocked alien franchise, besting the \$38.3 million launch of 2004’s “Alien vs. Predator.”

“Predator: Badlands,” written and directed by Dan Trachtenberg, collected another \$40 million overseas for the Walt Disney Co.’s 20th Century Studios. A key factor for “Predator: Badlands” is that, with a budget of \$105 million, it’s also the most expensive “Predator” film.

“Badlands,” the eighth movie in the franchise that began with 1987’s “Predator,” offers a novel twist for the sci-fi series. On a remote planet, a young, outcast predator (Dimitrius Schuster-Koloamatangi) encounters an android researcher (Elle Fanning), and the two set off on a journey. Reviews (85% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) have been good. Moviegoers gave it an “A-” CinemaScore.

Good news had lately been hard to find in movie theaters. On Wednesday, AMC Theaters, the largest theater chain, posted a \$298.2 million quarterly loss, partly due to a less-than-stellar summer season. But the fall has been worse. Last month was the lowest-grossing October in nearly three

decades. Few awards hopefuls have made much of a mark.

This weekend, a new wave hit theaters. But despite plenty of star power, most fell flat.

“Die My Love,” starring Jennifer Lawrence and Robert Pattinson, launched with \$2.8 million from 1,983 theaters. The film, directed by Lynne Ramsay, stars Lawrence as a new mother and Pattinson as her husband. Mubi plunked down a reported \$24 million for “Die My Love” after its debut at the Cannes Film Festival. Audience slammed it with a “D+” CinemaScore.

“Christy,” starring Sydney Sweeney as the professional boxer Christy Martin, debuted with \$1.3 million in 2,011 theaters. The film, the first one distributed by production company Black Bear Pictures, has earned Sweeney awards buzz since its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Sony Pictures Classics’ “Nuremberg,” a post-World War II drama about the Nuremberg trials starring Rami Malek and Russell Crowe, managed to do a bit better. It opened with \$4.1 million in 1,802 theaters.

It was slightly edged by the best performer of the newcomers: “Sarah’s Oil.” The Amazon MGM release opened with \$4.5 million from 2,410 locations. It stars Naya Desir-Johnson as a young Black girl in the early 1900s who learns that her Oklahoma land allotment is rich with oil. “Sarah’s Oil” scored a rare “A+” CinemaScore from ticket buyers.

Arguably the most promising of the prospective awards

movies to open in theaters over the weekend was Neon’s “Sentimental Value.” The film, a prize-winner at Cannes, directed by Norwegian-Danish filmmaker Joachim Trier, has been tabbed as a major Oscar contender this year. The family drama’s cast includes Renate Reinsve, Stellan Skarsgård, Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas, and, in her second movie of the weekend, Elle Fanning. It opened in four theaters with \$200,000, giving it a \$50,000 per-screen average. That’s the third best of the year.

The debut of “Predator: Badlands” sealed the Walt Disney Co.’s fourth straight year of \$4 billion in worldwide ticket sales. It also broke a short streak of disappointments for the studio, including “Tron: Ares” and “Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere.” With potentially two of the biggest box-office hits of the year still to come in “Zootopia 2” and “Avatar: Fire and Ash,” Disney is poised to surpass \$5 billion.

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore: 1. “Predator: Badlands,” \$40 million; 2. “Regretting You,” \$7.1 million; 3. “Black Phone 2,” \$5.3 million; 4. “Sarah’s Oil,” \$4.5 million; 5. “Nuremberg,” \$4.1 million; 6. “Chainsaw Man,” \$3.6 million; 7. “Bugonia,” \$3.5 million; 8. “Die My Love,” \$2.8 million; 9. “Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere,” \$2.2 million and 10. “Tron: Ares,” \$1.8 million.



Elle Fanning arrives at the premiere of ‘Predator: Badlands’ on Monday, Nov. 3, at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

Leadership crisis**BBC chiefs quit over Trump ‘speech’ edit**

LONDON, Nov 10, (AP): The BBC was facing a leadership crisis and mounting political pressure on Monday after its top executive and its head of news both quit over the editing of a speech by US President Donald Trump.

The resignation of BBC Director-General Tim Davie and news chief Deborah Turness over accusations of bias was welcomed by Trump, who said the way his speech had been edited was an attempt to “step on the scales of a Presidential Election.”

BBC chairman Samir Shah was expected to issue and apology for the actions of the publicly funded national broadcaster on Monday.

The BBC has faced a storm of criticism for misleading editing of a speech Trump made on Jan. 6, 2021, before a crowd of his supporters stormed the Capitol in Washington.

Its “Panorama” documentary program spliced together two sections of the speech, delivered almost an hour apart, into what appeared to be one quote in which Trump urged supporters to march with him and “fight like hell.” Among the parts cut out was a section where Trump said he wanted supporters to demonstrate peacefully.

In a letter to staff, Davie said “there have been some mistakes made and as director-general I have to take ultimate responsibility.”

Turness said the controversy about the Trump documentary was “causing damage to the BBC.”

“In public life leaders need to be fully accountable, and that is why I am stepping down,” she said in a note to staff. “While mistakes have been made, I want to be absolutely clear recent allegations that BBC News is institutionally biased are wrong.”

Trump posted a link to a Daily Telegraph story about the speech-editing on his Truth Social network, thanking the newspaper “for exposing these Corrupt ‘Journalists.’ These are very dishonest people who tried to step on the scales of a Presidential Election.” He called that “a terrible thing for Democracy!”

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt reacted on X, posting a screen grab of an article headlined “Trump goes to war with ‘fake news’ BBC” beside another about Davie’s resignation, with the words “shot” and “chaser.”

Pressure

Pressure on the broadcaster’s top executives has been growing since the right-leaning Daily Telegraph published parts of a dossier compiled by Michael Prescott, who had been hired to advise the BBC on standards and guidelines.

As well as the Trump edit, it criticized the BBC’s coverage of transgender issues and raised concerns of anti-Israel bias in the BBC’s Arabic service.

The “Panorama” episode showed an edited clip from the January 2021 speech in which Trump claimed the 2020 presidential election had been rigged. Trump is shown saying: “We’re going to walk down to the Capitol and I’ll be there with you. And we fight. We fight like hell!”

According to video and a transcript from Trump’s comments that day, he said: “We’re going to walk down to the Capitol, and we’re going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women, and we’re probably not going to be cheering so much for some of them.

“Because you’ll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength and you have to be strong. We have come to demand that Congress do the right thing and only count the electors who have been lawfully slated, lawfully slated.

“I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard.”

Trump used the “fight like hell” phrase toward the end of his speech, but without referencing the Capitol.

“We fight like hell. And if you don’t fight like hell, you’re not going to have a country anymore,” Trump said.

The 103-year-old BBC faces greater scrutiny than other broadcasters - and criticism from its commercial rivals - because of its status as a national institution funded through an annual license fee of 174.50 pounds (\$230) paid by all households with a television.

The broadcaster is bound by the terms of its charter to be impartial, and critics are quick to point out when they think it has failed. It’s frequently a political football, with conservatives seeing a leftist slant in its news output and some liberals accusing it of having a conservative bias.

It has also been criticized from all angles over its coverage of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. In February, the BBC removed a documentary about Gaza from its streaming service after it emerged that the child narrator was the son of an official in the Hamas-led government.

Governments of both left and right have long been accused of meddling with the broadcaster, which is overseen by a board that includes both BBC nominees and government appointees.

Film

This image, released by Black Bear, shows Sydney Sweeney in a scene from ‘Christy.’ (AP)

Harrowing boxing biopic highlights triumph and trauma**A fierce Sweeney pulls no punches in ‘Christy’**

LOS ANGELES, Nov 10, (AP): At one point deep into “Christy,” the boxer Christy Martin, played with ferocious commitment by Sydney Sweeney, describes how she feels being in the ring. It’s not what you’d expect.

It’s where she finds quiet, she says.

Such a line at the beginning of this two-hour plus film would have been laughable, given that the ring is obviously hectic, loud, bloody - and terrifying, to most of the world. But when Martin says it, we get it. The ring is where Christy can be in control. Outside - and especially at home, in the bedroom - is where life gets truly scary.

“Christy,” directed by David Michôd, begins as a solid sports biopic, the based-on-true-events story of Martin, a hot-tempered teen from coal-mining country who fell into boxing and became a trailblazer for women in the sport. That’s the triumph part.

But then comes the tragedy: the horrific abuse that she suffered at the hands of her trainer and husband, Jim Martin. And that’s of course where the boxing montages stop. In its final act, “Christy” goes darker than anything we’re prepared for.

The mashup of genres may feel a bit tonally rough, but it ultimately works, not least because of its unifying factor: Sweeney, who imbues her no-holds-barred portrayal of Martin with both sweetness and rage, with brio and real vulnerability. The actor’s background in MMA fighting was clearly essential for the role, for which she bulked up considerably (a la De Niro in “Raging Bull”) and trained extensively. (She also donned a brown mullet wig and wore brown con-

tact lenses, further distancing herself visually from Sydney Sweeney the movie star.)

We begin in 1989 in small-town West Virginia, where Martin lives with her parents, a loving but weak father (Ethan Embry) and an obtuse and intolerant mother (Merritt Wever). This is not the environment in which a teenager can hope to thrive or even survive. Fearing her inclinations, they threaten to send her to a priest.

Which is why, when Christy gets the chance to make \$500 in a boxing match thanks to a local promoter, she grabs it. At the gym, she meets a trainer, Jim (Ben Foster, a bumbling and eventually chilling villain in an ugly combover). He has no interest at first, and sends a man to spar with her and “break a rib if you have to.” She cleans the guy’s clock.

Soon Christy’s living away from home in a cheap apartment, training full time. “I think I’ve found my thing,” she says. Unfortunately, being trained by Jim also means having to submit to him in other ways. She goes home, but he lures her back with promises of better fights in Florida, life near the beach, and a meeting with super-promoter Don King.

Well, Christy doesn’t get the beach but she does get ... a husband. Jim, increasingly jealous and paranoid, makes a highly unpleasant marriage proposal. Christy obviously feels she has no choice.

Ultimately, she gets her meeting with King. The promoter likes her pluck, and offers her a contract. “Coal miner’s daughter,” he says approvingly (Chad L. Coleman, bringing humor to the role). He also likes that she wears pink.

At her first big fight for King, the pressure is enormous (director Michôd is especially good at depicting the incredibly tense atmosphere around the ring, lending the proceedings an authenticity that some boxing movies don’t attain.) But when a nervous Christy gets into the ring in her pink robe, her skills and her bravado carry the day. Blood may be running down her nose and splattering across her white tank top, but she’s grinning joyously.

Soon the couple is in a much nicer house, being interviewed by the media. “I’m just a regular housewife who knocks people out for a living,” she tells a journalist. She cooks, she cleans and she fights.

And then the movie shifts - to a gut-wrenching drama of domestic abuse.

If you know the story of Christy Martin, you’ll know she barely escaped her marriage alive. In any case, the film in its last moments is so harrowing, you wouldn’t believe it actually happened - if it didn’t.

And she did survive, incredibly.

“The Lady is a Champ,” blared the cover of Sports Illustrated when it put Martin on its cover in 1996, the first female boxer to occupy that hallowed space. Emerging from “Christy,” we understand that what made her a champ had more to do with her ultimate resilience outside the ring than with her jabs and hooks inside it.

“Christy,” a Black Bear release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association “for language, violence/bloody images, some drug use and sexual material.” Running time: 135 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Variety

NASHVILLE: In a life filled with milestones, Irving Locker celebrated a new, unexpected one last week: He became a published songwriter.

One day before his 101st birthday, “If Freedom Was Free” was released by Big Machine Label Group and CreatiVets, the Nashville-based nonprofit that helps veterans work through their traumas by building something new through the arts.

CreatiVets teamed Locker, a World War II veteran who landed at Utah Beach on D-Day, with Texas singer-songwriter Bart Crow and duo Johnny and Heidi Bulford, who also sing on the track. The chorus - “If freedom was free, there wouldn’t be a mountain of metal and men under Normandy” - includes the message Locker has used in lectures from classrooms to the White House. Freedom, he says, is not free. People should be thankful for it and for those who make it possible.

“I have to talk about things like that,” he says. “I got nothing to gain. But people have to know and appreciate the fact that they’re living because of men who died. It comes from the heart, not the lips.”

Locker, who now lives in The Villages, Florida, said the chance to write a song was an “unbelievable” thrill, one that he never dreamed possible. It means even more to him because music is such an important part of his life.

He said he and his wife of 77 years, Bernice, still go out

dancing often - still doing the jitterbug and the cha-cha as they have for decades. (AP)



DAYTON, Ohio: Salman Rushdie was among the honorees Sunday at the Dayton Literary Peace Prize event in Ohio, receiving a lifetime achievement award after publishing his first work of fiction since being stabbed on a New York lecture stage three years ago.

The prizes honor both literary merit and the writers’ promotion of peace through their work, with separate awards annually for fiction, nonfiction and lifetime achievement.

The Ohio city was the site of negotiations that led to the Dayton Peace Accords in 1995, ending a war in the Balkans marked by ethnic cleansing that killed more than 300,000 people, as well as the displacement of 1 million residents.

The 78-year-old Rushdie was blinded in one eye from the 2022 attack before a stunned audience, and his assailant - who wasn’t born when “The Satanic Verses” was published - was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

In accepting his award, Rushdie said it can be difficult to write about peace while living in a time of “inexcusable vio-

lence,” including the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan.

“A book cannot stop a bullet. A poem cannot intercept a bomb,” he said.

But through literature, he said, writers can express solidarity with those who are suffering and others on the front lines of conflict zones, such as journalists.

“We can enlarge their voices by adding our voices to their voices,” Rushdie said. “It can show us the reality of the other. It can show us what life looks like, not from our point of view, but from another point of view.” (AP)



NEW YORK: The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree was hoisted aloft at its new home in Manhattan on Saturday, marking the start of New York City’s holiday season.

This year’s tree is a 75-foot-tall (23-meter-tall) Norway spruce from the upstate town of East Greenbush, a suburb of Albany. After being cut down this week, it made the roughly 150-mile (240-kilometer) journey south on a flatbed truck, drawing curious onlookers along the way.

The crowds were much bigger at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, where workers used cranes to hoist the 11-ton tree into position overlooking the iconic skating rink. People gathered with coffee cups and phones as crews secured the spruce and began the careful process of stabilizing it.

The tree will soon be decorated with more than 50,000 multicolored, energy-efficient LED lights and crowned with a Swarovski star weighing 900 pounds (408 kilograms). (AP)

Painting expected to fetch up to \$60 million

Mexican art historians weigh in on upcoming Kahlo’s auction

MEXICO CITY, Nov 10, (AP): Frida Kahlo’s “El sueño (La cama)” - in English, “The Dream (The Bed)” - is causing a stir among art historians as its estimated \$40 million to \$60 million price tag would make it the most expensive work by any female or Latin American artist when it goes to auction later this month.

Sotheby’s auction house will put the painting up for sale on Nov. 20 in New York after exhibiting it in London, Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong and Paris.

“This is a moment of a lot of speculation,” said Mexican art historian Helena Chávez Mac Gregor, a researcher at UNAM’s Institute of Aesthetic Research and author of “El listón y la bomba. El arte de Frida Kahlo.” (The ribbon and the bomb. The art of Frida Kahlo).

In Mexico, Kahlo’s work is protected by a declaration of artistic monument, meaning pieces within the country cannot be sold or destroyed. However, works from private collections abroad - like the painting in question, whose owner remains unrevealed - are legally eligible for international sale.



A painting by Frida Kahlo titled El Sueño (La Cama), or The Dream (The Bed), is displayed at Sotheby’s auction rooms in London on Sept. 19, 2025. The painting, estimated at \$40–60 million, is part of a collection of surrealist masterpieces unveiled ahead of its upcoming sale in New York. (AP)

“The system of declaring Mexican modern artistic heritage is very anomalous,” said Mexican curator Cuauhtémoc Medina, an art historian and

specialist in contemporary art. “El sueño (La cama)” was created in 1940 following Kahlo’s trip to Paris, where she came into contact with the

surrealists.

Contrary to contemporary belief, the skull on the bed’s canopy is not a Day of the Dead skeleton, but a Judas - a hand-made cardboard figure. Traditionally lit with gunpowder during Easter, this effigy symbolizes purification and the triumph of good over evil, representing Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus.

In the painting, the skeleton is detailed with firecrackers, flowers on its ribs and a smiling grimace - a detail inspired by a cardboard skeleton Kahlo actually kept in the canopy of her own bed.

Kahlo “spent a lot of time in bed waiting for death,” said Chávez Mac Gregor. “She had a very complex life because of all the illnesses and physical challenges with which she lived.”

Although Kahlo’s painting is being auctioned alongside works by surrealists like Salvador Dalí, René Magritte, Max Ernst and Dorothea Tanning, she did not consider herself a member of the movement, despite having met its founder, André Breton, in Mexico and had an exhibition organized by him in Paris in 1939.

“Breton was fascinated by Frida’s work, because he saw that surrealist spirit there,” said Chávez Mac Gregor.

Kahlo, a committed communist, considered surrealism - a movement proposing a revolution of consciousness - to be bourgeois. As Chávez Mac Gregor noted, “Frida always had a critical distance from that.”

Despite this, specialists have found elements of surrealism in Kahlo’s work related to the dreamlike, to an inner world and to a revolutionary and sexual freedom - a concept visible in a bed suspended in the sky with Kahlo sleeping among a vine.

“El sueño (La cama)” was last exhibited in the 1990s, and after the auction, it could disappear from public view once again, a fate shared by many paintings acquired for large sums at auction.

There are exceptions, including “Diego y yo” (“Diego and I”), which set Kahlo’s record sale price when it sold for \$34.9 million in 2021.

The painting, depicting the artist and her husband muralist Diego Rivera, was acquired by Argentine business

owner Eduardo Costantini and then lent to the Museum of Latin American Art of Buenos Aires (Malba) where it remains on exhibit.

Medina, the art historian, regretted that the “crazy-priced” purchases have reduced art to a mere economic value.

He lamented that when funds purchase art as mere investments - like buying shares in a public company - the works are often relegated to tax-free zones to avoid costs. Their fate, he said, “may be worse; they may end up in a refrigerator at Frankfurt airport for decades to come.”

The current sale record for a work by a female artist is held by Georgia O’Keeffe’s “Jimson Weed/White Flower No. 1,” which fetched \$44.4 million at Sotheby’s in 2014.

However, the auction market still reflects a profound disparity as no female artist has yet exceeded the maximum sale price of a male artist. The current benchmark is “Salvator Mundi,” attributed to Leonardo da Vinci, which was auctioned by Christie’s for \$450.3 million in 2017.



Photos from the reimagined version of Turandot staged at the Shaanxi Opera House in Xi’an, capital of northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, Nov. 9. (Xinhua)

East meets West

Diving deep into cultural symphony of Turandot

XI’AN, Nov 10, (Xinhua): As the ethereal strains of the Chinese folk song Jasmine Flower intertwined with the soaring tenor of Nes-sun Dorma, the opera Turandot reached a breathtaking climax, leaving some 1,500 audience members in rapturous applause.

On Sunday, a reimagined version of Puccini’s renowned opera was staged at the Shaanxi Opera House in Xi’an, capital of northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, marking the finale of the 25-day 11th Silk Road International Arts Festival.

Regarded as one of the world’s greatest operas, Turandot tells the story of a beautiful Chinese princess who decrees that any prince wishing to marry her must solve three riddles, with failure punishable by death.

In this production, Italian tenor Marco Berti took on the role of Calaf, a Tartar prince who ultimately melts the princess’s icy heart with love.

“Turandot was born from Westerners’ curiosity about China. Puccini never visited China in his lifetime, yet the Chinese folk song Jasmine Flower became his point of reference for understanding the country and was used as a central motif for the heroine Turandot,” Berti said.

According to him, Turandot is a point of connection between the West and East. “The opera blends delicate Chinese melodies with references to Chinese ritual in ancient times, creating an atmosphere that allows Western

audiences to feel the essence of Chinese history and culture. For Chinese audiences, it introduces Western operatic conventions and symphonic traditions,” he said.

“For years, Turandot has been an iconic example of cultural exchanges between China and Italy, and that’s why we decided to rearrange it this time,” said Wang Wentao, project manager of the opera at the Shaanxi Opera House.

According to Wang, the theater opened in 2017 with its first self-produced performance of Turandot, and unlike some Westernized versions that emphasize exoticism, this production aimed at highlighting Eastern culture.

The production team designed costumes and sets to showcase Chinese cultural elements, incorporating traditional Qinqiang Opera, a folk genre dating back to the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 B.C.), alongside ornamental patterns characteristic of the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

Italian director Lorenzo Nencini, the revival director for this performance, emphasized that he views Turandot more as a fairy tale than a realistic drama. While staying true to the original score, he incorporated projections and vibrant costumes to create a fantastical world seen through a child’s eyes. For instance, at the start of the second act, the three ministers – Ping, Pang and Pong – are depicted playing on a seesaw and a wooden horse.

Stage

Kristin Chenoweth shines in uneven musical

‘Queen of Versailles’ gets lost in Hall of Mirrors

NEW YORK, Nov 10, (AP): For much of the new Broadway show, “The Queen of Versailles,” the set is covered in tarps and slipcovers. That’s fitting for a musical that ultimately seems still under construction.

It’s based on a 2012 documentary film about the quixotic attempt to build the largest private home in America and despite reuniting star Kristin Chenoweth with her “Wicked” songwriter Stephen Schwartz, there’s an unfinished feel, like some spackling and sanding is desperately needed.

“The Queen of Versailles,” which opened Sunday night at the St. James Theatre, doesn’t really know why socialite Jacqueline “Jackie” Siegel is so dogged in completing an American replica of Versailles in Orlando, Florida, despite recession and personal tragedy.

Lindsey Ferrentino’s story waffles between ridicule and championing Siegel’s pie-in-the-sky vision, failing at biting satire and ultimately losing a chance to say something about wealth inequality as America flirts with economic disaster again. “I don’t know if they’re laughing with us or at us,” says a niece, summing up the whole audience experience.

It’s a musical very much in the shadow of the second administration of Donald Trump, with references to the White House, East Wing and McDonald’s. It’s actually set in a cavernous grand ballroom under construction, which only in the final minutes revealed to be an ornate marble and gold trim affair. When Siegel is asked why she’s doing all this, her very Trumpian answer is: “Because I can.”

Prologue

After a prologue in 1661 France with Louis XIV and courtiers tittering, Act 1 is Jackie Siegel’s rags-to-riches rise, how she vowed to get out of her blue-collar town to achieve “Caviar Dreams,” a clunky nod to the glitzy TV show “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous.”

The would-be engineer-turned-beauty pageant contestant ends up as a single mom leaving an abusive relationship and then becomes wife to the much older David Siegel, who earned billions selling timeshares, played with reptilian charm by F. Murray Abraham. “Only in America can you become a wife, a billionaire and a Jew all in one day,” she says.

After a visit to Versailles, the couple decide to build their own version. Why? Not clear. To have everyone she loves under one 90,000 square foot roof? Or maybe as a bid at American royalty - “how they’ll remember my family and me.” It’s not a void she is filling from neglect since her loving parents love their small home, singing the charming “Little Houses.” Then comes the global recession of 2008.

“David opened up a door to this other world. Did you know our whole country is actually run by a bunch of billionaires most of us had never even heard of? It’s real crazy,” Jackie says, as close to political commentary as we ever get.

Act 2, which fills in after the end



Kristin Chenoweth portrays Jackie Siegel, (center), during a performance of the musical ‘The Queen of Versailles’ at the St. James Theatre in New York. (AP)

of the documentary, uses the first half’s runway to crash. It’s a riches to rags to riches again story but why there’s a song about a dead lizard is a head-scratcher. After a daughter, who longs to be normal, overdoses, Jackie vows: “I’ve got to change/I’m going to change” - and then simply doesn’t.

Members of the 18th century French aristocracy - who have been filtering in and out of the present all night, a little too much like “Hamilton” - soon face the guillotine in a tonal whiplash. The bodies - both reptile and human pile up in the second act - until Siegel ends up

alone, holding a champagne flute and posing for social media on her ballroom’s glittering master staircase.

Tony Award-winner Michael Arden - appropriate for a musical about excess - throws everything on the stage: Golf carts, Elvis impersonators, George W. Bush in a projection, a small fluffy dog, as well as bills and confetti thrown into the audience, the action even taking over the theater boxes and aisles.

Schwartz’s songs veer from a twangy “The Ballad of the Time-share King” to the brassy “Show ‘Em You’re the Queen” and the naughty “Keep On Thrustin,” but perhaps the

best song is not given to Chenoweth - it’s “Pretty Wins,” sung by a daughter, a strong Nina White. Few tunes are very memorable.

Chenoweth, who was born to be in a spangly dress and center stage on Broadway, is perfect for the role, an always-welcome jolt of in-on-it theatricality, but is let down by dialogue that’s not as funny as it could be and with a character too unfocused.

Despite an out-of-town tryout in Boston, “The Queen of Versailles” still needs the stage filled with construction workers hammering in yellow vests. It’s not quite completed.

Ancient art meets modern technologies

Digital tech empowers cultural heritage preservation

HANGZHOU, Nov 10, (Xinhua): One moment you are walking alone through a wintry landscape, your footsteps etching the snow, and the next, the frost softens into a gentle stream lined with daffodils that stir to your touch as fireflies rise in a shimmering dance.

This was no dream, but an interactive art installation inspired by motifs from 40 ancient Chinese paintings, offering visitors an immersive encounter with the beauty of traditional art through digital innovation.

The installation was showcased at the Light of Internet Expo, a sideline exhibition of the three-day 2025 World Internet Conference (WIC) Wuzhen Summit, which concluded on Sunday in the ancient water town of Wuzhen in east China’s Zhejiang Province.

The installation is a digital project of the “A Comprehensive Collection of Ancient Chinese Paintings” program by Zhejiang University and the Zhejiang provincial cultural heritage administration. The program has so far compiled and published more than 12,000 Chinese paintings from over 260 cultural institutions worldwide.

“It’s such a refreshing experience to see elements

from famous ancient paintings unfolding before me and to interact with them,” said a visitor surnamed Ji, who launched a virtual sky lantern on the interactive wall with a simple touch.

According to Sun Xiaojun, deputy head of the program’s editorial board, the installation integrates holographic projection, spatial audio processing, and real-time multi-sensory interaction technologies to bring classical art to life in an interactive format.

Ensure

Sun said that the program aims to ensure that ancient Chinese paintings are not merely archived as relics, but are empowered by digital technologies to spark public interest and reach wider audiences. Since 2022, the program has showcased its digital outcomes both at home and abroad.

The role of digital technologies in revolutionizing cultural heritage preservation and inheritance featured prominently at this year’s WIC Wuzhen Summit. Discussions highlighted how AI, virtual reality (VR), and other digital tools are breathing new life into ancient treasures.

At the expo, a VR project transported visitors back to Hangzhou during the Song Dynasty (960-1279), allowing them to explore the architectural beauty of the city’s wooden structures. Another mixed reality (MR) experience took participants over 200 years into the past to witness the compilation of Siku Quanshu (The Complete Library of the Four Treasuries), one of the most comprehensive book collections in Chinese history.

To further promote such innovations, the WIC on Friday launched a specialized committee on cultural heritage digitization, aimed at enhancing capacity-building and promoting global exchanges and cooperation in the field.

Ren Xianliang, secretary-general of the WIC, said that the committee’s establishment “comes at a pivotal moment amid the global wave of digitization,” adding that technologies such as AI have provided powerful tools to advance the protection, inheritance and utilization of cultural heritage.

On Sunday, delegates of the summit also attended a sub-forum on cultural heritage digitization, where they shared best practices for better preservation and explored future areas of cooperation.

Variety

LAGOS, Nigeria: Protesters in Nigeria disrupted the soft launch of a new, state-backed museum in the country’s south ahead of its scheduled opening this week, saying it was a violation of Benin City’s cultural heritage, which falls under the authority of its traditional ruler.

Videos circulating online show more than a dozen young people on Sunday evening rushing the grounds of the multi-million dollar Museum of West African Arts in Benin City, the seat of a famous pre-colonial empire.

They chanted in support of Oba of Benin, the city’s traditional ruler. Guests, including foreigners, were whisked away from the event. No one was reported hurt.

The museum, which is to officially open on Tuesday, was meant to house some of the ancient Benin Bronzes - artifacts that were looted from Nigeria in the late 19th century by British soldiers and scattered across the world.

Some have been returned to Nige-

ria over the past years as museums world over move to address ownership concerns. After disputes with the Oba, plans to display the returned bronzes at the museum were shelved. (AP)

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MELBOURNE: Australia’s Monash University researchers, in collaboration with the Australian Federal Police (AFP), are developing a new artificial intelligence (AI) tool to fight malicious deepfake images.

The new disruption tool, among its broad applications, can slow down and stop criminals producing AI-generated child abuse material, deepfake images and videos, etc., according to a Monash University statement released Monday.

Known as “data poisoning,” it involves the subtle alteration of data to make it significantly more difficult to produce, manipulate, and misuse images or videos using AI programs, according to the AI for Law Enforcement and Community Safety (AiLECS) Lab, a collaboration between the AFP and Monash University. (Xinhua)

‘Avoid public gatherings, get vaccinated’

Seasonal flu cases rise in Kuwait, no epidemic risk: expert

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Dr. Abdullah Al-Mutairi, a consultant in pulmonary and critical care medicine, affirmed that the rise in influenza and respiratory virus cases during this period is a recurring annual phenomenon, coinciding with the onset of the ‘Al-Sufri’ season, which marks the transition to winter and the beginning of viral activity associated with lower temperatures, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Mutairi told the daily that there is no reason for concern, explaining that the spread of viral illnesses during this season typically coincides with the start of the school year and the return of children to schools and kindergartens, which facilitates the rapid transmission of infection among them, and subsequently to family members and the wider community. He said this pattern is repeated each year.

He pointed out that the cold season signals the onset of viral activity, in-

cluding seasonal influenza, coughs and the common cold. He stressed the importance of promoting preventive awareness and healthy practices to curb the spread of infections in homes and the community. He urged individuals experiencing fever or cold symptoms to avoid attending public gatherings, diwanias (traditional Kuwaiti gatherings), weddings, social events or prayers in mosques.

He also stressed the need to take advantage of the seasonal influenza vaccine that the Ministry of Health provides from the beginning of September each year. He affirmed that the vaccine offers protection against four of the most common influenza strains worldwide, adding that health authorities update its composition annually based on the viruses prevalent in the previous season to ensure maximum effectiveness.

He revealed that the virus currently spreading in Kuwait is influenza A, a

strain previously known as swine flu. He clarified that this virus reappears every year, with its activity peaking during this period, though the infection rate was higher last year.

He stated that influenza A is among the strains most likely to cause severe symptoms such as high fever and joint pain. He added that certain antiviral drugs, such as Tamiflu, are prescribed only to immunocompromised patients or those at risk of complications like oxygen deficiency or the need for intensive care, as these medications help shorten the duration and intensity of the illness.

Asked about the rising number of patients visiting clinics and hospitals due to the current flu wave, and whether this entails a new epidemic, he stressed that the situation does not constitute an epidemic. He indicated that there is no cause for alarm, unlike the circumstances during the coronavirus pandemic.

Drive to vaccinate 45,000 unprotected children

Gaza launches vaccination campaign for under-3 kids after two years of war

GAZA, Nov. 10, (Xinhua): Health authorities in the Gaza Strip on Sunday launched a vaccination campaign targeting children under three years old, aiming to prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases after two years of disrupted immunization services caused by the war.

In a press statement, Gaza’s health authorities said the campaign is being conducted in 150 health centers across the strip in coordination with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), with support from the United Nations Children’s Fund and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The authorities said the campaign will last 10 days and will be implemented in three phases, each separated by one month, to reach children who missed routine vaccinations since the outbreak of the war in October 2023.

Salim al-Qirm, medical director of PRCS al-Saraya Field Hospital in Gaza City, told Xinhua that approximately 45,000 children in Gaza have



A Palestinian child receives vaccination at a field hospital in central Gaza City, on Nov. 9. (Xinhua)

not received essential vaccines over the past two years.

“The interruption of vaccination programs has increased the likelihood of outbreaks of serious infectious diseases,” he said, adding that malnutrition and anemia further weaken children’s immunity.

Al-Qirm noted that hundreds of children have died over the past two years due to weakened immunity and poor health conditions. “The health situation of children in Gaza is extremely dire due to shortages of vaccines, food,

and infant formula, in addition to the deterioration of healthcare.”

He said medical teams have begun administering vaccines for polio, measles, smallpox, and hepatitis, with parents responding positively.

At a vaccination point near the PRCS hospital, Aya Abu Obeid said she brought her two-year-old son to receive his first vaccine dose since 2023.

“I rushed here as soon as I heard about the vaccination campaign because my child had not received any dose for two years due to disruptions in health services,” she told Xinhua.

Abu Obeid said that children in Gaza are vulnerable to various diseases due to polluted water, poor sanitation, and accumulated waste, making vaccination urgent.

In al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza, Sumaya Ayoub brought her younger child after her older son contracted chickenpox during displacement. She said she had searched in vain for vaccines and saw the campaign as a chance to protect her children from preventable diseases.



Leaders attending the COP30 UN Climate Summit pose for a group photo in Belem, Brazil, Friday, Nov. 7. (AP)

‘Nations must unite to fight global warming’

Climate summit urges faster action as disasters mount across the globe

BELEM, Brazil, Nov 10, (AP): UN climate negotiations were expected to begin Monday at a meeting on the edge of the Brazilian Amazon, with leaders pushing for urgency, co-operation and acceleration after more than 30 years fighting to curb global warming by drastically reducing the carbon pollution that causes it.

André Corrêa do Lago, president of this year’s conference, known as COP30, emphasized that negotiators engage in “mutirão,” a Brazilian word derived from an Indigenous word that refers to a group uniting to work on a shared task.

“Either we decide to change by choice, together, or we will be imposed change by tragedy,” do Lago wrote in his letter to negotiators Sunday. “We can change. But we must do it together.”

Complicating the calls for togetherness is the United States. The Trump administration did not send high-level negotiators to the talks and is withdrawing for the second time from the 10-year-old Paris Agreement, which is being celebrated as a partial achievement here in Belem.

The United States has put more heat-trapping carbon dioxide into the air from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas than any other country. China is the No. 1 carbon polluter now, but because carbon dioxide stays in the air for at least a century, more of it was made in the US

“I think the environment we are in, the geopolitical landscape, is particularly challenging,” said Palau Ambassador Ilana Seid, who chairs the Alliance of Small Island States. Small island nations suffer some of the worst effects of climate change because rising seas swallow land. “The United States withdrawing from the Paris Agreement has really shifted the gravity” of the whole negotiating system.

President Donald Trump’s actions damage the fight

against climate change, former US Special Envoy for Climate Todd Stern said.

“It’s a good thing that they are not sending anyone. It wasn’t going to be constructive if they did,” he said.

The Nature Conservancy chief scientist Katharine Hayhoe compared the negotiations to a potluck dinner.

“Everybody brings the contributions that they are making,” which in this instance are new and strengthened plans to cut carbon pollution, Hayhoe said. “And it’s obvious who took the time to bake the fresh pie with fruit that they picked and who fished out that year old chicken frozen chicken nuggets from the back of their freezer.”

“The United States as a country will not be showing up with a dish,” Hayhoe said. However, she and several others including former lead American negotiators are pointing to US cities, states and businesses that they said will take up the slack.

In a letter to negotiators released late Sunday, Simon Stiell, the UN climate chief, said the 10-year-old Paris Agreement is working to a degree, “but we must accelerate in the Amazon. Devastating climate damages are happening already, from Hurricane Melissa hitting the Caribbean, Super Typhoons smashing Vietnam and the Philippines, to a tornado ripping through Southern Brazil.”

Not only must nations do more faster but they “must connect climate action to people’s real lives,” Stiell wrote.

The world has changed dramatically in the decade since leaders celebrated a historic climate agreement in Paris a decade ago, but not quite in ways they expected or wanted.

Earth’s warming climate has gotten nastier faster than society has been able to wean itself from burning the coal, oil and natural gas that emits carbon pollution that triggers global warming, several scientists and officials said.

Helpful tool or emotional illusion?

AI therapist will see you now: Can chatbots improve mental health?

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

By Pooja Shree Chettiar
Texas A&M University

Recently, I found myself pouring my heart out, not to a human, but to a chatbot named Wysa on my phone. It nodded - virtually - asked me how I was feeling and gently suggested trying breathing exercises.

As a neuroscientist, I couldn’t help but wonder: Was I actually feeling better, or was I just being expertly redirected by a well-trained algorithm? Could a string of code really help calm a storm of emotions?

Artificial intelligence-powered mental health tools are becoming increasingly popular - and increasingly persuasive. But beneath their soothing prompts lie important questions: How effective are these tools? What do we really know about how they work? And what are we giving up in exchange for convenience?

Of course it’s an exciting moment for digital mental health. But understanding the trade-offs and limitations of AI-based care is crucial.

AI-based therapy is a relatively new player in the digital therapy field. But the US mental health app market has been booming for the past few years, from apps with free tools that text you back to premium versions with an added feature that gives prompts for breathing exercises.

Headspace and Calm are two of the most well-known meditation and mindfulness apps, offering guided meditations, bedtime stories and calming soundscapes to help users relax and sleep better. Talkspace and BetterHelp go a step further, offering actual licensed therapists via chat, video or voice. The apps Happify and Moodfit aim to boost mood and challenge negative thinking with game-based exercises.

Somewhere in the middle are chatbot therapists like Wysa and Woebot, using AI to mimic real therapeutic conversations, often rooted in cognitive behavioral therapy. These apps typically offer free basic versions, with paid plans ranging from US\$10 to \$100 per month for more comprehensive features or access to licensed professionals.

While not designed specifically for therapy, conversational tools like ChatGPT have sparked curiosity about AI’s emotional intelligence.

Some users have turned to ChatGPT for mental health advice, with mixed outcomes, including a widely reported case in Belgium where a man died by suicide after months of conversations with a chatbot. Elsewhere, a father is seeking answers after his son was fatally shot by police, alleging that distressing conversations with an AI chatbot may have influenced his son’s mental state. These cases raise ethical questions about the role of AI in sensitive situations.

Whether your brain is spiraling, sulking or just needs a nap, there’s a chatbot for that. But can AI really help your

brain process complex emotions? Or are people just outsourcing stress to silicon-based support systems that sound empathetic?

And how exactly does AI therapy work inside our brains? Most AI mental health apps promise some flavor of cognitive behavioral therapy, which is basically structured self-talk for your inner chaos. Think of it as Marie Kondo-ing, the Japanese tidying expert known for helping people keep only what “sparks joy.” You identify unhelpful thought patterns like “I’m a failure,” examine them, and decide whether they serve you or just create anxiety.

But can a chatbot help you rewire your thoughts? Surprisingly, there’s science suggesting it’s possible. Studies have shown that digital forms of talk therapy can reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, especially for mild to moderate cases. In fact, Woebot has published peer-reviewed research showing reduced depressive symptoms in young adults after just two weeks of chatting.

These apps are designed to simulate therapeutic interaction, offering empathy, asking guided questions and walking you through evidence-based tools. The goal is to help with decision-making and self-control, and to help calm the nervous system.

The neuroscience behind cognitive behavioral therapy is solid: It’s about activating the brain’s executive control centers, helping us shift our attention, challenge automatic thoughts and regulate our emotions.

The question is whether a chatbot can reliably replicate that, and whether our brains actually believe it.

“I had a rough week,” a friend told me recently. I asked her to try out a mental health chatbot for a few days. She told me the bot replied with an encouraging emoji and a prompt generated by its algorithm to try a calming strategy tailored to her mood. Then, to her surprise, it helped her sleep better by week’s end.

As a neuroscientist, I couldn’t help but ask: Which neurons in her brain were kicking in to help her feel calm?

This isn’t a one-off story. A growing number of user surveys and clinical trials suggest that cognitive behavioral therapy-based chatbot interactions can lead to short-term improvements in mood, focus and even sleep. In randomized studies, users of mental health apps have reported reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety - outcomes that closely align with how in-person cognitive behavioral therapy influences the brain.

Several studies show that therapy chatbots can actually help people feel better. In one clinical trial, a chatbot called “Therabot” helped reduce depression and anxiety symptoms by nearly half - similar to what people experience with human therapists. Other research, including a review of over 80 studies, found that AI chatbots are especially helpful for improving mood, reducing stress and even helping people sleep better. In one study, a chatbot outperformed a self-help book in boosting mental health after just two weeks. (AP)

New clue to treating depression

A cup of coffee a day may keep irregular heartbeat away: study

CANBERRA, Nov 10, (Xinhua): A daily cup of coffee may protect against atrial fibrillation (AF), an irregular heartbeat that can cause heart failure, stroke, and premature death, a study has found.

Researchers have discovered a surprising heart health ally in coffee, according to a statement released Monday by Australia’s University of Adelaide, which co-led the study with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) in the United States.

In the first randomized clinical trial looking at the link between coffee and AF, scientists found that AF patients who consumed at least one cup of coffee or espresso shot a day had a 39-percent reduction in the risk of a recurrent AF episode than those who avoided caffeine altogether, the statement said, adding the six-month trial followed 200 AF patients from Australia, the United States and Canada.

“This is surprising as it goes against the common assumption by doctors and patients that coffee worsens heart rhythm disorders such as AF,” said the study’s first author, Christopher X. Wong, a professor of the University of Adelaide and Royal Adelaide Hospital.

“Based on these results, coffee-drinking patients with AF can safely continue to enjoy their coffee. Furthermore, it may be worth investigating whether AF patients who don’t drink coffee should actually consider starting,” said Wong.

AF prevents the heart from pumping blood properly, raising risks of blood clots and stroke.

“Coffee increases physical activity which is known to reduce AF. Caffeine is also a diuretic which could potentially reduce blood pressure and in turn lessen AF risk,” said the study’s senior author Gregory Marcus, a professor from the Division of Cardiology at UCSF.

Several other ingredients in coffee also have anti-inflammatory properties that could have positive effects, Mar-

cus said, adding the study should change the medical advice given to patients.

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Depression: Chinese scientists have uncovered a common mechanism behind two rapid-acting depression therapies, providing crucial insights for the development of new treatments with fewer side effects. Their findings have been published in Nature.

Depression is one of the world’s leading mental health disorders, affecting hundreds of millions globally. Among those affected, a percentage of patients show poor response to conventional medications.

The new research has revealed that the adenosine signaling pathway serves as the shared mechanism for both ketamine and electroconvulsive therapy -- the most effective interventions available for treatment-resistant depression -- offering a solid theoretical basis for novel antidepressant development.

While ketamine and ECT can produce rapid antidepressant effects within hours, their mechanisms have remained unclear until now, and side effects like hallucinations and cognitive impairment have limited their widespread use.

To address this challenge, a team led by Luo Minmin at the Chinese Institute for Brain Research in Beijing collaborated with teams from several Chinese laboratories, including the Wang Xiaohui team from the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry and the Li Yulong team from Peking University.

Using advanced genetically encoded fluorescent sensors, they discovered that both treatments trigger a sharp, sustained surge in adenosine levels in brain regions responsible for mood regulation.

China leverages AI in healthcare

HANGZHOU, Nov. 10, (Xinhua): Getting medical advice in China has never been easier than it is now. Via a simple tap on a smartphone and a brief conversation, an artificial intelligence (AI) assistant can instantly deliver a preliminary diagnosis based on clinical expertise of China’s top medical professionals.

This AI support stems from an app named AQ, which was displayed at the World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit in east China’s Zhejiang Province. Han Xinyi, CEO of Ant Group, shared the group’s original intention in developing this app when speaking at a sub-forum focusing on digital health in Wuzhen on Saturday.

“We know minor issues can be handled at local clinics, but the urge to consult a specialist at a big hospital remains,” he said -- adding that this app is designed to make quality medical services accessible for the broadest possible population.

Han’s words underscore the harsh reality of unevenly distributed medical resources in China. In response to this long-standing challenge, the government has launched a raft of initiatives to boost the capacity of primary-level health institutions. This effort is now poised to be supercharged by the country’s rapid advances in AI and new policies to integrate this technology into healthcare.

First human trial offers hope

Gene editing therapy cuts bad cholesterol: research

MELBOURNE, Nov. 10, (Xinhua): Researchers in Australia have led a first-in-human trial for a breakthrough gene-editing therapy that halves bad cholesterol and triglycerides in people with difficult-to-treat lipid disorders.

The trial tested CTX310, a one-time CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing therapy that uses fat-based particles to carry CRISPR editing tools into the liver, switching off the ANGPTL3 gene. Turning off this gene lowers LDL (“bad”) cholesterol and triglycerides, two blood fats linked to heart disease, according to a statement released Monday by Australia’s Monash University.

The Victorian Heart Hospital, operated by Monash Health in partnership with Monash University, treated three of 15 patients aged 18-75 years with difficult-to-treat lipid disorders in phase 1 of the global trial conducted across Australia, New Zealand, and Britain, the statement said.

At the highest dose, a single-course treatment with CTX310 resulted in a mean reduction of LDL cholesterol by 50 percent and triglycerides by 55 percent, remaining low for at least 60 days after two weeks of treatment, it said, adding LDL cholesterol and triglycerides were reduced by nearly 60 percent among all participants with various doses, with only mild, short-term side effects reported.

Importantly, CTX310 is the first therapy to achieve large reductions

in both LDL cholesterol and triglycerides at the same time, marking a potential breakthrough for people with mixed lipid disorders who have elevations in both, according to the trial published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

“The possibility of a single-course treatment with lasting effects could be a major step in how we prevent heart disease,” said Stephen Nicholls, director of the Victorian Heart Hospital, and study lead investigator.

“It makes treatment easier, reduces ongoing costs, relieves pressure on the health system, all while improving a person’s quality of life,” Nicholls said, emphasizing plans to focus on larger and more diverse patient populations in future trials of CTX310.

Meanwhile, South Africa’s leading biopharmaceutical company Biovac and the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) launched a new product development laboratory on Thursday to capacitate vaccine manufacturing in the country and across the continent.

The launch took place at the Biovac Institute in Pinelands, Cape Town, with partners and representatives from the European Union and members of the scientific community in attendance.

Biovac Chief Executive Officer Morena Makhoana said the cost of the project was more than 100 million rand (about 5.8 million US dollars).

OKC storms back as Rockets outlast Bucks on the road



Detroit Pistons' Cade Cunningham, center, goes up for a shot against Philadelphia 76ers' Kelly Oubre Jr., left, and Trendon Watford during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Philadelphia. (AP)



Golden State Warriors guard Will Richard, left, and Indiana Pacers forward Cody Martin, right, go to the ground for the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco. (AP)

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov 10, (AP): Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, including a nine-point outburst in the fourth quarter, to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Memphis Grizzlies 114-100.

Memphis was still within single digits with just more than four minutes left when Gilgeous-Alexander converted consecutive 3-pointers and completed a three-point play to stretch the lead to double-figures, helping seal the win for the defending NBA champions. Oklahoma City improved to 6-1 on the road and 10-1 overall, with its only loss coming Wednesday at Portland.

Chet Holmgren and Ajay Mitchell each scored 21 points for the Thunder. Isaiah Hartenstein finished with 18 points and 13 rebounds.

Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with 17 points. Cedric Coward had 13 points and 10 rebounds, Jaylen Wells and Sant Aldama scored 12 apiece. Ja Morant was limited to 11 points on 3-for-18 shooting from the field.

Oklahoma City overcame poor shooting and a 19-point deficit in the first half by outscoring Memphis 34-18 in the third and erase the Grizzlies' advantage. The Thunder went on to outscore Memphis 63-38 in the second half.

Rockets 122, Bucks 115

In Milwaukee, Kevin Durant scored 31 points and made a tiebreaking basket with 1:42 remaining to put the Houston Rockets ahead for good in a victory over the Milwaukee Bucks .

Houston bounced back from a 121-110 loss at San Antonio two nights earlier as it ended a three-game trip. The Rockets, who have won six of their last seven, are now at home for their next three games.

Durant shot 11 of 15 from the floor and had a season-high seven assists. Alperen Sengun had 23 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists. Jabari Smith and Reed Sheppard added 16 points each.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 37 points and eight rebounds for Milwaukee, but went 1 of 4 from the foul line in the game's final 89 seconds. The Bucks ended up

Knicks keep rolling offensively, rout Nets

shooting 14 of 24 from the line.

Knicks 134, Nets 98

In New York, Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points and 12 rebounds, and the New York Knicks routed the Brooklyn Nets to win their fourth straight and improve to 6-0 at home.

Jalen Brunson and OG Anunoby each added 19 points for the Knicks, who matched the longest winning streak in series history at 11 games. Mikal Bridges had 16, Josh Hart and Jordan Clarkson 11 apiece and Mitchell Robinson finished with eight points and eight rebounds in 16 minutes.

Michael Porter Jr. scored 25 for the Nets, who have dropped two straight since their lone victory and fell to 1-9.

After scoring a season-high 137 points in their last game, the Knicks kept rolling offensively, shooting 54% from the field and racking up an 18-4 advantage in fast-break points.

The Knicks raced to an 8-0 lead, then closed the first quarter with an 11-0 burst to lead 40-22. They were 7 for 11 from 3-point range in the period and the Nets were 1 for 10.

Celtics 111, Magic 107

In Orlando, Jaylen Brown scored 27 points, and Derrick White and Jordan Walsh hit 3-pointers in the final minute to send the Boston Celtics to a win over the Orlando Magic .

White, who finished with 21 points, hit a 3-pointer with 45 seconds left to give the Celtics a four-point lead. Walsh made a 3 with 13 seconds remaining to extend Boston's lead to 110-105.

Paolo Banchero, slowed by foul trouble in the second half, scored 14 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter for Orlando. Franz Wagner and Jalen Suggs scored 20 points apiece.

Warriors 114 ,Pacers 83

In San Francisco, Jimmy Butler had 21 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, Quinten Post contributed 14 points and seven rebounds, and the Golden State Warriors beat the short-handed Indiana Pacers.

Stephen Curry missed his third straight game with a bad cold and had been

listed as questionable with an illness. He was set to go through a workout Sunday and again Monday, then travel with the team in hopes he would return Tuesday at Oklahoma City.

Al Horford added 12 points and four rebounds off the bench and Golden State used a 13-0 spurt spanning the third and fourth quarters and 21-7 run to pull away down the stretch.The Warriors improved to 5-0 at home.

Pistons 111, 76ers 108

In Philadelphia, Cade Cunningham made two clutch baskets down the stretch and finished with 26 points, Jalen Duren had 21 points and 16 rebounds and the Eastern Conference-leading Detroit Pistons extended their winning streak to six games with victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Tyrese Maxey scored 33 points for Philadelphia, which played without Joel Embiid. Andre Drummond, starting for Embiid, had 17 points and 12 rebounds for the 76ers.

The teams play again on Friday in Detroit.

Embiid did not play in the second game of a back-to-back after scoring 29 points in Philadelphia's 130-120 win over Toronto on Saturday night. Embiid has played in six of 10 games as he continues to recover from offseason left knee surgery. He is averaging 19.7 points and 5.5 rebounds in 23.3 minutes.

Timberwolves 144, Kings 117

In Sacramento, Anthony Edwards had 26 points, four rebounds, five assists, two steals and led the Minnesota Timberwolves to win over the Sacramento Kings.

Edwards shot 7 for 16 from the field, 5 for 11 from 3-point range and made 7 of 8 shots from the line. He was coming off a 37-point effort in a 137-97 victory over the Utah Jazz on Friday. In his last two games, Edwards has hit 12 of 23 shots from 3-point distance.

Jaden McDaniels scored 21 points and Julius Randle and Rudy Gobert added 19 points apiece for the Timberwolves (6-4). Naz Reid scored 13 points off the bench. Gobert added 12 rebounds and five blocked shots.

Zach LaVine scored 26 points, and DeMar DeRozan added 22 for the Kings (3-7), who lost for the third time in four games. Domantas Sabonis had 20 points and 13 rebounds after missing the last two games due to rib soreness.

Rai denies Fleetwood another title by winning Abu Dhabi Champ'ship

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Nov 10, (AP): Aaron Rai of England overcame a shocking short miss with a pair of late birdies for a 5-under 67 and defeated Tommy Fleetwood on the first playoff hole with a 10-foot birdie putt to win the Abu Dhabi Championship.

Rai returned from a two-month break to win for the first time this year and pick up his third European tour title - his first on the tour since defeating Fleetwood in the 2020 Scottish Open. He won the Wyndham Championship in August 2004 for his first PGA Tour title.

Rory McIlroy started the back nine at Yas Links with five straight birdies and closed with a 62, matching his low score on the European tour. He wound up one shot behind, but expanded his lead in the Race to Dubai that concludes next week.

Fleetwood was aiming for a third title worldwide in what already has been a memorable season that included a 4-1 record in a winning Europe Ryder Cup team. He holed a 15-foot birdie putt on the 16th and made a 15-foot par putt to stay tied with Rai on the 17th.

Both narrowly missed birdie chances in regulation on the par-5 18th. Fleetwood shot 66 to join Rai on 25-under 263.

They finished one shot ahead of McIlroy and Nicolai Hjuggaard of Denmark, who just missed a 15-foot eagle putt on the final hole to join the play-



Aaron Rai of England poses with the trophy after winning the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

off. He closed with a 66.

"It's hard to put into words how this feels," Rai said. "It's amazing to be here."

It was a tight battle on a day for low scoring, and the 30-year-old Rai fell out of the lead when his 3-foot par putt on the 14th spun hard out of the cup. Then, he had to scramble for par on the 15th, making a 6-foot putt.

But he hit 5-iron to 8 feet on the 16th for birdie to stay within one shot of Fleetwood, who holed a 15-foot birdie. Rai made from 18 feet on the par-3 17th to

reach 25 under, and Fleetwood had to make his 15-foot putt for par to stay tied.

The playoff became a pitch-and-putt contest as neither had the length to reach the 616-yard in two shots. Fleetwood's birdie chance missed to the right, and Rai converted.

Rai came into the week at No. 55 in the Race to Dubai and the victory moved him to No. 9 to qualify for the season-ending DP World Tour Championship next week in Dubai for the top 50. Matthew Jordan tied for 15th to earn the 50th spot.

Metz's mini-revival continues

Injury-hit PSG snatches another stoppage-time winner to stay top

PARIS, Nov 10, (AP): Injury-hit Paris Saint-Germain scored the winner deep into stoppage time for the second straight game, beating Lyon 3-2 to stay two points clear at the top of Ligue 1.

Lyon's defenders failed to track João Neves on a corner from the left, and the midfielder headed in from close range five minutes into added time, one week after Gonçalo Ramos headed home in the final seconds of stoppage time against Nice.

PSG is two points ahead of second-placed Marseille and third-placed Lens, who are separated by goal difference.

After losing to Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Tuesday, PSG coach Luis Enrique was without Ousmane Dembélé (calf tear), right back Achraf Hakimi (sprained ankle), and left back Nuno Mendes (sprained knee). Rising star Désiré Doué (thigh tear) was also missing.

Midfielder Warren Zaïre-Emery, deployed at right back, put PSG ahead in the 26th minute with an angled drive which flew over the left shoulder of goalkeeper Dominik Greif.

Host Lyon equalized four minutes later when Zaïre-Emery failed to track Afonso Moreira's run behind him fol-

lowing a long ball, and the Portuguese striker slotted into the left corner.

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, who is usually a winger, started up front for PSG and put the visitors 2-1 ahead in the 33rd after United States midfielder Tanner Tessmann lost the ball on the edge of the penalty area.

But Lyon equalized again shortly after halftime through former Arsenal defender Ainsley Maitland-Niles. He latched onto a long ball and hit a first-time lob from 25 meters, which sailed over the head of goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier.

World Cup-winning Argentina defender Nicolas Tagliafico was sent off for Lyon in stoppage time for a second yellow card. Moments later, PSG had a corner and punished Lyon.

Olivier Giroud's mistake gifted Emmanuel Emegha his second goal as Strasbourg won 2-0 at home to Lille.

Giroud is France's all-time leading scorer with 57 goals and has won the World Cup, the Champions League with Chelsea, and Serie A with AC Milan in a highly successful career.

But despite his vast experience, he made a poor mistake as he passed

the ball back from midfield without looking up and failed to spot Emegha nearby.

The Dutch forward ran through the middle, shook off two defenders, and finished confidently in the 62nd minute. He had opened the scoring in the 33rd when he turned in Diego Moreira's cross with his knee.

Elsewhere, Metz's mini-revival continued with a 2-1 home win against Nice to make it three straight victories after failing to win the first nine.

Winger Mohamed-Ali Cho gave Nice the lead in the 35th with a left-footed finish. Captain Gauthier Hein equalized with a penalty early in the second half to continue his recent scoring form, and striker Habib Diallo netted a late winner.

Also , struggling Lorient drew 1-1 with Toulouse, and Angers won 2-0 at home to rock-bottom Auxerre.

Lorient striker Pablo Pagis - whose father Mickaël was also a forward - scored with a penalty close to halftime. Veteran Djibril Sidibé equalized from the spot.

Angers took a second-half lead with an own-goal from Norwegian defender Fredrik Oppegard, and substitute striker Peter Prosper made the win safe late on.

Flamengo beats Santos to close gap at top

San Diego routs Timbers, advances to conference semis

SAN DIEGO, Nov 10, (Agencies): Anders Dreyer and Amahl Pellegrino scored two goals each to help San Diego FC beat the Portland Timbers 4-0 and win their best-of-3 first-round series in the MLS Cup playoffs.

No. 1 seed San Diego plays fourth-seeded Minnesota in the single-game Western Conference semifinals.

Pablo Sisniega made his second career playoff start at goalkeeper for the injured CJ dos Santos and had two saves for San Diego. Dos Santos suffered a broken cheekbone early in the team's penalty-kick shootout loss to Portland last week in Game 2 to force a decisive third game.

Dreyer, on the counter-attack, skipped a volley from the center of the area - off an arcing ball-in played by Onni Valakari - into the net to give No. 1 seed San Diego the lead for good in the fifth minute.

Pellegrino slammed home the rebound of his own shot to make it 2-0 in the 17th. Again on the counter-attack, Pellegrino's first-touch was parried by diving goalkeeper James Pantemis but Pellegrino was there for the putback from point-blank range.

Corey Baird lofted a cross from the right side of the area to the back post where Pellegrino was there for the rising volley into the top-net in the 53rd minute and Dreyer's second goal capped the scoring in the 79th.

Juan Mosquera was shown a straight red card in the 80th and the Timbers played a man down the rest of the way.

Pantemis finished with five saves for No. 8 seed Portland.

Flamengo closed the gap on leaders Palmeiras with a 3-2 home win over Santos in Brazil's Serie A.

Leo Pereira put the hosts ahead with a low finish following a corner and Jorge Carrascal equalized by firing into the bottom right corner after Giorgan de Arrascaeta's through ball.

Bruno Henrique made it 3-0 when he intercepted an errant defensive pass and rounded goalkeeper Gabriel Brazao before slotting the ball into an empty net.

Gabriel Bontempo and Lautaro Diaz gave Santos a glimmer of hope with late goals from close range but Flamengo survived to clinch its 20th win of the campaign.

The Rio de Janeiro side remains second, level on points with Palmeiras, while Santos is 17th in the 20-team standings.

Elsewhere in Brazil's top flight on Sunday, Botafogo drew 0-0 at Vitoria, Cruzeiro was held to a goalless home draw by Fluminense, Ceara won 1-0 at Corinthians, Gremio drew 2-2 at Fortaleza and

Mirassol clinched a 2-1 home win over Palmeiras.

Exequiel Zeballos scored one goal and set up another as Boca Juniors eased to a 2-0 home victory over rivals River Plate in Argentina's Primera Division.

The hosts went ahead on the stroke of halftime at La Bombonera when Zeballos lifted a shot over Franco Armani after his initial effort had been parried away by the former Argentina international goalkeeper.

Zeballos then turned provider with a probing run and cross from the left flank that allowed Miguel Merenttil to tap home from the edge of the six-yard box.

River controlled most of the possession but could manage only three shots on target throughout the match.

Boca is now two points clear at the top of Group A while River Plate is sixth in Group B, having lost four of its past five league games. Marcelo Gallardo's team has won two and lost nine of its past 11 games across all competitions.

Elsewhere in Argentina's top flight on Sunday, Atletico Tucuman won 2-1 at home to Godoy Cruz, Tigre clinched a 1-0 home win over Estudiantes, Al-dosivi won 1-0 at Banfield and Sarmiento prevailed 2-1 at home to Instituto.



San Diego FC midfielder Anibal Godoy, right, heads the ball as Portland Timbers defender Dario Zuparić defends during the first half of Game 3 in the first round of MLS soccer's Western Conference playoffs in San Diego. (AP)

China secures Gold & Silver in 10m air rifle mixed team

CAIRO, Nov. 9, (Xinhua): China won gold and silver in the 10m air rifle mixed team at the 2025 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship Rifle/Pistol on Sunday, with Wang Zifei and Sheng Lihao defeating compatriots Peng Xinlu and Wang Honghao.

Wang and Sheng prevailed 17-3 in the all-Chinese final, securing China's fourth straight world title in the event.

Sheng retained the title he won two years ago in Baku, while Wang claimed her first senior world crown a day after taking silver in the women's individual event.

"It felt pretty good," Olympic champion Sheng told Xinhua after the match. "The venue feels familiar; the main difference is my mindset. I'm more mature and steady now. Whether there's pressure or not, it's almost the same for me because I'm mentally more determined."

Reflecting on his growth since the 2022 Cairo World Championships, Sheng said, "I wasn't very confident before and my technique wasn't great either, but this time I can clearly understand my goals and what I need to do."

The 20-year-old praised both his former partner, Huang Yuting, and current teammate Wang Zifei. He said both are composed and "are very determined in executing their techniques."

Sheng rated his overall performance as "50 points out of 100," adding that he is focused on improving technique rather than medal counts.

In the bronze-medal match, Turkey's Damla Kose and Mert Nalbant beat Italy's Carlotta Salafia and Danilo Sollazzo 16-10 to earn their first world championship medals.

Later, France's Clement Bessagnet won the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol with 31 hits, ahead of India's Anish Bhanwala on 28 and Ukraine's Maksym Horodnyets on 25.

The men's and women's 10m air pistol finals are scheduled for Monday.



Yao Qianxun of China poses for a photo with gold medal after winning the 10m air pistol women's final of shooting at the 2025 ISSF World Championship Rifle/Pistol in Cairo, Egypt. (Xinhua)

Enhancing physical fitness and morale through sports

Sheikh Fahad honors Ministries champions in Sports Tournament



Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef with the honorees in a group photo.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, highlighted the Ministry of Interior's commitment to promoting and developing sports activities, which boost the physical fitness and morale of its personnel. The statement came during a ceremony recognizing the top winners of the 2024-2025 Ministries, Authorities, and Government Institutions Sports Tournament.

Sheikh Fahad emphasized that the event reflects the ministry's dedication to supporting sports and celebrating achievements, noting the pride in securing leading positions across government competitions.

The ceremony was held under the patronage and presence of Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, alongside the Chairman of the Police Sports Federation, Brigadier General Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Honors were presented to teams achieving first-place finishes in both individual and team events, while coaches and administrators were also recognized for their efforts in achieving these results.

The Ministry of Interior, through the Police Sports Federation, reaffirmed its commitment to institutional sports, focusing on developing the physical skills and teamwork of its personnel, recognizing the role of sports in enhancing readiness, discipline, and unity, all of which contribute positively to field operations.

Kuwait Club marches on

Kuwait aims to shine on the international stage

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The eighth round of the Zain Premier League brought a wave of positive news for reigning champion Kuwait Club, who extended its lead at the top of the standings to five points ahead of its nearest rival Al-Qadsia.

The White Knights overcame a tough test, defeating Kazma 2-1 at the end of the round, while Al-Arabi stumbled for the first time this season, suffering a 2-1 defeat to bottom-ranked Al-Nasr.

With the win, Kuwait Club moved up to 19 points, while Al-Arabi remained on 14, losing its grip on second place to its long-time rival Al-Qadsia. The Yellow side claimed back-to-back victories following a poor run of form, moving up to second on goal difference.

Both Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi still have two postponed fixtures to play — against Al-Tadamon and Al-Fahaheel, respectively — scheduled for December 28, just five days after they face off in the Amir Cup Final (rescheduled from last season).

For Kazma, the loss — its first of the campaign — dropped it to fourth place with 11 points, just behind Al-Salmiya, who also



Kazma star glides past Kuwait Club players with ease and control.

slipped to fifth after a 2-1 loss to Al-Fahaheel.

Al-Shabab sits in sixth place with 10 points after a 1-1 draw with Al-Tadamon, who remains ninth on 5 points. Despite its victory over Al-Salmiya, Al-Fahaheel stayed in seventh place but gained valuable momentum, recording two wins and a draw in its last three matches after enduring three straight losses earlier in the season — pulling further away from the relegation zone.

Al-Jahra, in eighth with 7 points, fell to its second consecutive defeat, though it put up a strong showing against Al-Qadsia.

The biggest winner of the round, however, was Al-Nasr, who finally celebrated its first victory of the season after seven straight defeats, moving off the bottom of the table with 3 points.

With the league now on break until mid-December, clubs will have a welcome chance to regroup, rebuild, and prepare for the decisive second half of the season.

RIYADH, Nov 10: The Kuwait national handball team has begun training at the Handball Federation Center in Al-Da'iya ahead of the Islamic Solidarity Games taking place in Saudi Arabia.

The Blues will open their tournament campaign on Friday against Bahrain, face Iraq on Sunday, and wrap up the preliminary round against Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

Team director Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi said last week's training camp in Tunisia has already produced positive results, both physically and tactically, despite minor injuries to players such as Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, Saleh Al-Mousawi, Abdullah Al-Khamis, and Abdulaziz Salmeen.

Al-Zaabi stressed that the team is always committed to raising Kuwait's flag and name internationally, regardless of tournament challenges.

He noted that the camp effectively enhanced players' fitness and readiness, preparing the squad for tough matches ahead. The Islamic Solidarity Games, he added, will provide valuable experience for the team, especially with the Asian Championship set to take place in Kuwait this January.

Al-Zaabi also commended the players' dedication and the efforts of the technical and administrative staff, highlighting their teamwork and commitment to representing Kuwait with pride on the global stage.



Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi, Director of the Kuwait National Handball Team.

Japan sweeps singles titles in Frankfurt

FRANKFURT, Nov 10, (Xinhua): Japan enjoyed a triumphant Sunday at the WTT Champions Frankfurt 2025, with Sora Matsushima and Hina Hayata claiming the men's and women's singles titles respectively.

18-year-old rising star Sora Matsushima claimed his first WTT Champions men's singles crown with a 4-1 victory over home favorite Qiu Dang of Germany.

Matsushima raced to a 2-0 lead before Qiu pulled one back. Although the German held a strong advantage in the third game, the Japanese teenager kept his composure to seal the win in a tight finish.

"I didn't expect to win this whole event, so I'm honestly just really happy. It was a really tight match, it could have gone either way. Dang is a really strong opponent, so I just kept to my game plan, and that led me to the victory today," Matsushima said after the match.

In the women's final, Hina Hayata outlasted top seed Miwa Harimoto 4-3 in a thriller.

Two weeks on from falling to Harimoto in the Final at WTT Star Contender London 2025, Hayata finally got her revenge, bagging her eighth WTT Series title and improving on her previous best at this event, since a semifinal finish at WTT Champions Frankfurt 2023.

Al-Ahly extends Super Cup supremacy over Zamalek

ABU DHABI, Nov 10: Al-Ahly lifted the Egyptian Super Cup after defeating its long-time rival Zamalek 2-0 at Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, UAE, securing the trophy for the fifth consecutive year.

Achraf Bencharki and Marwan Atiya scored in the 44th and 72nd minutes, giving the Cairo club its 16th Super Cup title and reinforcing status as the most decorated team in the tournament's history.

The victory also extends Al-Ahly's dominance over Zamalek in Super Cup finals, marking its eighth win against Zamalek in a final, while Zamalek has only prevailed twice via penalty shootouts in 2003 and 2020.

Overall, in 32 finals across domestic and continental competitions, Al-Ahly have now achieved 19 victories, compared to 13 for Zamalek, further cementing their historic rivalry.



Al-Ahly captain raises the Super Cup after triumph over Zamalek.

Lyon and Wolfsburg face off again in Champions League

BERLIN, Nov 10, (AP): Old friends Lyon and Wolfsburg meet again before Bayern Munich and defending champion Arsenal renew their burgeoning rivalry in the Women's Champions League this week.

The third match-day also sees Manchester United host Paris Saint-Germain, while tournament favorite Barcelona entertains Belgian debutant Oud-Heverlee Leuven.

Barcelona is among five of the 18 teams taking part in the expanded

competition to start with two straight wins.

Eight-time winner Lyon and German powerhouse Wolfsburg are another two teams with perfect records before they meet for the 11th time on Tuesday.

Lyon veteran Wendie Renard, who played in all 10 of their previous meetings, could become the first player to clock 100 wins in UEFA club competitions if Lyon extends its six-game winning streak against

Wolfsburg.

Germany international Jule Brandt switched between the sides in the off-season and enjoyed her best game to date for Lyon in the 3-0 win over St. Pölten. Lyon had started with a 2-1 win over Arsenal.

Arsenal bounced back from that defeat with a win over Benfica but will face a Bayern team determined to make a statement on Wednesday after its opening 7-1 loss to Barcelona and subsequent 2-1 win over Juventus.

Bayern has 19 goals from its last four Bundesliga games, where, like the men's team, it appears to have no rivals.

Bayern and Arsenal met in the group stage last season with both teams registering home wins.

Barcelona and Real Madrid lead the league phase table after their opening games. Barcelona thrashed Bayern and then romped to a 4-0 win at Roma, while Madrid defeated Roma and PSG.

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NEWS



McLaren driver Lando Norris of Britain celebrates on the podium after winning the Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix at the Interlagos race track, in Sao Paulo. (AP)

Sports

Norris takes control of title race with win

Verstappen impresses again

SAO PAULO, Nov 10, (AP): McLaren driver Lando Norris significantly extended his lead in the F1 championship after winning the Brazilian Grand Prix, with his main rival and teammate Oscar Piastri receiving a 10-second penalty and again failing to make the podium.

Norris, who also won Saturday’s sprint race and started from pole position, earned his first win at Interlagos with Mercedes’ Kimi Antonelli and Red Bull’s Max Verstappen second and third, respectively.

Norris, who also won the Mexican Grand Prix on Oct. 26, now has 390 points in the standings, with Piastri’s fifth place leaving him 24 points behind on 366 with three more races to go. Norris had led the Australian by one point at the start of the weekend and increased that lead to nine points after the sprint race.

At a press conference after the race, Norris said that he doesn’t feel he is now in a commanding position to win the title, calling it “just another weekend trying to win, get the most points I could.”

Piastri has struggled lately; he is now winless in six races and has not reached the podium since Monza in Italy two months ago when he finished third.

Four-time world champion Verstappen has 341 points in third place overall and has played down his title chances.

It was a frustrating weekend for Ferrari drivers. Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton both failed to finished the race in Sao Paulo.

“It is a nightmare,” Hamilton told Sky Sports. “It is a flip between the dream of driving for this amazing team and then the nightmare of the results.”

Norris won his seventh race of the season, the same number as Piastri. Asked after the race how he managed to bounce back in the championship, Norris replied: “Just ignore everyone who talked crap about you.”

He added, “Still a long way to go (in the drivers’ championship), this could change so quickly.”

Piastri’s chances were hurt shortly after lap 8, when he made contact with Antonelli as they fought for second position. Piastri pushed the Mercedes driver into Leclerc, who was forced to retire as a result. Piastri, who started the race in fourth spot, later received his time penalty for causing the collision.

“In my opinion, I had a very clear opportunity in the inside,” said Piastri, who argued he couldn’t have gone anywhere else when the contact took place. “I can’t just disappear.”

The next Grand Prix is in Las Vegas in two weeks’ time. Norris said he is not confident he and McLaren will compete for a win there.

“It was our worst race last year. I can’t say I am looking forward to it,” Norris said. The 25-year-old Englishman dedicated his win to Indianapolis 500 winner and Brazilian icon Gil de Ferran, who died in 2023.



McLaren driver Lando Norris of Britain leads the field after the start of the Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix at the Interlagos race track, in Sao Paulo. (AP)

“This one was for Gil, one of my mentors ... This one was for him. I’m sure he’d be very proud of it all,” Norris said. “I was thinking of that while driving. A perfect weekend.”

Verstappen, who also has a long shot at the drivers’ title, finished on the podium from the pit lane. He was supposed to start from 16th position after a frustrating qualifying session, but his team made sweeping changes to his car, including a new engine. The team’s move eventually paid off.

“To be in the podium from the pit lane, I didn’t expect that at all. Even less after

a puncture at the start,” said Verstappen, who won last year’s race starting from 17th.

“I don’t know where this guy came from,” the Italian jokingly said after the race.

Brazilian fans at Interlagos were frustrated from lap one, when Sauber’s Gabriel Bortoleto crashed out in what looked to be a promising outing after he overtook three rivals in quick succession. The 21-year-old F1 rookie was the first Brazilian to race in front of home fans since Felipe Massa in 2017.

Al-Shuraifi earns first call-up as Shabib, Faleh return to the fold



Mohammed Al-Shuraifi

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

CAIRO, Nov 10: Kuwait will kick off its training camp in Cairo this evening, running until November 20. The camp includes two friendly matches — against Tanzania on November 14 and Gambia on November 18 — as part of preparations for the Arab Cup playoff against Mauritania on November 25 in Doha, Qatar.

Head coach Hélio Sousa has named a 23-player squad, featuring: Saud Al-Hoshan, Khaled Al-Rashidi, Suleiman Abdulghafour, Hassan Hamdan, Fahad Al-Hajri, Rashid Al-Dosari, Moaz Al-Dhafiri, Nasser Khudr, Mohammed Al-Shuraifi, Khaled Sabab, Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Nasser Faleh, Athbi Shehab, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Fawaz Aayedh, Sultan Al-Anzi, Reda Hani, Moaz Al-Asimah, Mohammed Daham, Eid Al-Rashidi, Youssef Majid, Youssef Nasser, and Shabib Al-Khaldi.

Sousa made significant adjustments to the roster, omitting 11 players from last month’s squad that faced Uzbekistan and Morocco’s B team — including Saud Al-Qanaei, Abdulrahman Ajaj, Mishari Ghanem, Mohammed Khaled, Khaled Ibrahim, Khaled Al-Murshid, Mahdi Dashti, Bader Tariq, Talal Al-Qaisi, Salman Al-Awadhi, and Ahmed Al-Zanki.

The new list introduces fresh talent and returning stars. Among the new

faces is Qadsia’s rising midfielder Mohammed Al-Shuraifi, rewarded for his standout performances in the Zain Premier League, while Kazma’s Nasser Faleh makes a long-awaited comeback to the national side.

Several key players also return from injury, including Mohammed Daham, Eid Al-Rashidi, and Shabib Al-Khaldi — the latter back in action after serving a suspension that ended in August. The squad also welcomes the return of Suleiman Abdulghafour, Moaz Al-Dhafiri, and Youssef Majid.

Meanwhile, Mauritania’s Spanish coach Artiz López Garai has unveiled his squad for a preparatory camp that includes friendlies against Tunisia and Libya, ahead of the crucial playoff against Kuwait.

His lineup features: Goalkeepers: Babacar Niasse, Babacar Diop, and Abdulrahman Sarr.

Defenders: Khadim Diaw, Al-Damine Al-Salek, Noah Mohammed Al-Obeid, Lamine Ba, Mohammed Ramadan Zouid, Mohammed Sarr, Abdullah Al-Eid, and Ibrahim Keita.

Midfielders: Mactar Magassa, Bakary Kamara, Al-Hassan Al-Eid, Kassouma Fofana, Abdulrahman Soumare, Mohammed Saeed, Amr Haidara, and Yaacoub Sidi.

Forwards: Al-Mamy Tetah, Mamadou Sy, Ahmed Salem Mubarak, Ahmed Sidi Moussa, Amr Sidi Bona, Idrissa Thiam, and Ahmed Al-Mukhtar.

KD 5,000 within Kuwait and KD 10,000 abroad

Minister issues decree regulating medical care for national players

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi issued a ministerial decree regarding the regulations governing the medical treatment of national team players, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to Decree No. 31/2025, these regulations apply to cases requiring medical examinations or treatment both inside and outside Kuwait.

The Public Authority for Sport will contribute to covering the costs of treating injuries sustained by players representing national teams.

A medical committee will be formed to review treatment requests and issue a decision within thirty days from the date the request is

submitted, provided all required documents are included.

Appeals against the committee’s decisions may be submitted within thirty days. The international player must attach to the request an official letter from the relevant federation, signed by the authorized representative in accordance with the federation’s bylaws.

The injury must have occurred within the past six months and must have taken place during training or while participating with the national team or sports club. Also, the required treatment must not be available at the medical centers of sports organizations or at the Public Authority for Sport’s health center.

According to the regulations, the Public Au-

thority for Sport shall contribute to the player’s treatment costs up to a maximum of KD 5,000 within Kuwait and KD 10,000 abroad.

This amount must be refunded to the Public Authority for Sport if the player does not undergo treatment. The treated player is required to submit a medical report certified by the treating facility, along with treatment invoices and any remaining balance, within a maximum of 15 days from the date of completing treatment. The regulations also stipulate that punitive measures will be taken against violators, including the recovery of any funds disbursed unlawfully and the disqualification of the offending player from benefiting from these provisions in the future.

Celta’s five-game winning streak across all tournaments halted

Lewandowski’s hat trick moves Barcelona closer to Real

MADRID, Nov 10, (AP): Robert Lewandowski scored a hat trick to help Barcelona gain ground on Real Madrid in the Spanish league.

After Madrid was held by Rayo Vallecano to a 0-0 draw - its second consecutive setback following a Champions League loss at Liverpool - Lewandowski and Lamine Yamal led Barcelona to a 4-2 victory at Celta Vigo to move the Catalan club within three points of the lead.

Villarreal, which won 2-0 at Espanyol for its third league victory in a row, stayed in third place, five points behind Madrid. Atletico Madrid, which beat Levante 3-1 at home on Saturday, was fourth, six points off the lead.

Barcelona’s offensive struggles continued - it has conceded 16 goals in its last eight matches and hasn’t had a clean sheet since September - but the attack came through again to secure the team’s victory on the road.

“We made some mistakes, but we did much better in the second half, with more control of the ball and the game, and we defended much better,” Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said.

The result halted Celta’s five-game winning streak across all tournaments.

It was a frantic first-half in Vigo, with Celta twice rallying after goals by Lewandowski. Yamal put the visitors ahead in first-half stoppage time, and Lewandowski sealed the victory in the 73rd.

Lewandowski, who has missed playing time this season because of

injury, hadn’t scored for Barcelona since September in a league win against Real Sociedad.

“In the end we are very happy because we won a very difficult game,” Lewandowski said. “Here it’s always difficult to play.”

Sergio Carreira and Borja Iglesias scored for Celta.

Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong was sent off in second-half stoppage time after being shown a second yellow card.

Madrid’s attack struggled and was scoreless again after having found the net in every match this season until the 1-0 defeat at Liverpool on Tuesday.

“We know where we are,” Madrid coach Xabi Alonso said. “You have to know how to balance the good times and the bad times. It’s a long season. The demands are huge, but we can cope with them and we’re preparing for them.”

Madrid had won 13 of its 15 games in all competitions this season, with the setbacks coming against Liverpool and at Atletico Madrid in a 5-2 loss in the Spanish league in September.

Alonso said it was “one game at a time” for his team.

“After the Anfield game, which is now behind us, today was one of those games that is a bit diffi-

cult to bring us back to the level we want to be in,” Alonso said. “In the second half anything could have happened. I don’t put it down to emotional peaks. We want to be very stable in our preparation and in our mentality, because we know that the league is about taking it one game at a time.”

Alonso said his main concern is to make sure the team keeps improving and “engaging in positive self-reflection.”

“This is Madrid and we all know where we are,” he said. “It’s still November, there’s a long way to go. We have to be demanding of ourselves and also prudent.”

Rayo, sitting 12th, had lost 4-0 at Villarreal in its previous league game, but it was coming off consecutive victories in the Europa League and the Copa del Rey.

Seventh-placed Athletic Bilbao snapped a three-game losing streak across all competitions. It beat Oviedo 1-0 with a 25th-minute goal by Nico Williams, who got past three defenders with a nice run through the left flank before firing into the net from a tough angle.

It was the six straight match without a win for last-placed Oviedo in all competitions.

Vedat Muriqi scored a first-half goal as Mallorca defeated eighth-placed Getafe 1-0 at home. Valencia’s winless streak in the league reached seven games after a 1-1 home draw with fifth-placed Real Betis. Valencia, in 17th place, equalized with a goal from Luis Rioja in the 82nd.



Barcelona’s Robert Lewandowski scores his side’s 2nd goal during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Celta Vigo and Barcelona in Vigo, Spain. (AP)