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STATE OF KUWAIT CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION’S 63rd ANNIVERSARY

Teachers hold key to shining future



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and senior state officials attend the ceremony.



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah waves as he arrives to attend the ceremony.

600,000 students enrolled in government schools

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah patronized and attended on Tuesday a ceremony honoring a group of outstanding teachers and schools marking World Teachers’ Day for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years.

The event, held at Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Theater in Abdullah Al-Salem University, was attended by the Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the

Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and senior state officials.

Upon arrival, His Highness the Amir was received by Minister of Education Dr. Jalal Al-Tabtabai and the organizing committee.

The ceremony began with the national anthem followed by a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran.

Delivering his speech, Minister Al-Tabtabai said that the honorees were proud of being recognized by the Kuwaiti leadership, which is keen on boosting education in the country.

He praised His Highness the Amir’s directives for the educational sector based on cultivating talents and utilizing them in the development of the country.

He revealed that some 600,000 students were enrolled in government schools

with capable teaching and administrative stuff, the main driving elements for plans of development in Kuwait.

Honoring teachers is necessary for they are the guide in building the future, he asserted, adding that the latest of technological tools were used to enhance the educational experience in Kuwait.

The minister went on to say that, his ministry was carrying on its educational reform plan for 2025-27, which translates the state’s national vision.

The plan covered all aspects of educational development, Al-Tabtabai said, noting that transparency and discipline were driving factors in institutional excellence.

Continued on Page 5



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Once again ... GDP only grows with incentives, not obstacles

ONCE the decision is made, the path becomes evident. This is the reality about the opening of visas, which greatly benefited the nation. We witnessed the advantages for Kuwait during the most recent Gulf Cup tournament.

Kuwait needed this long ago — even before the Gulf began opening up to the world — when it was a thriving hub for culture, arts, tourism and family entertainment.

Unfortunately, this progress was curtailed by the attitude of certain parliamentary members. They sought to tightly control public life, pressuring authorities to close the country, acting as if it were an exclusive paradise meant only for those they approved. The economic fallout from this was considerable.

In contrast, many nations benefit from millions of immigrants who work freely and boost their economies. Consider Germany, for instance, which has approximately eight million Turkish and two million Syrian immigrants, all of whom contribute freely to the GDP. There have been no calls to restrict their movement or employment. This open approach is mirrored in countries like Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and France.

Syrian refugees who went to countries like Egypt—which received nearly two million Syrians during the Syrian crisis—did

not strain the State or the local population. Instead, many of them launched successful businesses. These ventures created thousands of jobs and significantly contributed to the GDP of Egypt. There were no calls for their expulsion or deportation.

Conversely, the government granted citizenship to those who either purchased property valued at \$300,000 or deposited \$500,000. It was not argued that Egypt’s 110 million population were inadequate for providing public services.

Even some Gulf countries have investment-friendly programs. In Saudi Arabia, an investor can obtain a premium residency by investing 700,000 riyals, whereas in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), an investment of around \$500,000 in real estate grants a 10-year golden residency.

Continued on Page 5

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PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during his visit to the Terminal 2. His Highness the Prime Minister was briefed by Minister of Public Works Dr. Nora Al-Mashaan about the mega project.

PM visits T2 Terminal, calls for cooperation to tackle obstacles

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Tuesday examined the project site of the new Kuwait International Airport Terminal (T-2).

His Highness the Prime Minister toured the venture site sections on margins of the weekly Cabinet session, held at T-2 terminal.

Accompanied by ministers during the tour, His Highness the Prime Minister was briefed by

Minister of Public Works Dr. Nora Al-Mashaan about the mega project.

He has remarked that it is one of Kuwait’s mega development projects and has stressed on the necessity that all government departments coordinate with the Ministry of Public Works to handle any emerging hindrances to press ahead with the execution according to schedules.

Continued on Page 5



PM Diwan photo
HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet meeting.

Kuwait committed to battle graft: Nazaha

ABU DHABI, Nov 11, (KUNA): Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim, Chairman of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), affirmed on Tuesday, that Kuwait’s participation in the Interpol Global Conference on Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery held in the United Arab Emirates underscores Kuwait’s firm commitment to international collective action to combat corruption and promote integrity and transparency systems.

Speaking to KUNA at the opening of the conference, Al-Ibrahim said that Nazaha’s participation in this global event reflects Kuwait’s keenness to contribute to shaping international directions in the fight against corruption.

Continued on Page 5

MoU to benefit Kuwait, S.Arabia: Dr. Al-Sabah



KUNA photo
Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Oil, Dr. Sheikh Nimr Fahad Al-Sabah and the Saudi representative signing the MoU as Kuwaiti and Saudi Foreign Ministers look on.

RIYADH, Nov 11, (KUNA): The Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Oil, Dr. Sheikh Nimr Fahad Al-Sabah, affirmed on Tuesday that the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with Saudi Arabia represents an important step that will bring mutual benefits to the economies and planning sectors of both countries.

Sheikh Nimr, who also serves as Chairman of the Coordination Committee for Energy, Economy, Trade and Industry under the Kuwait-Saudi Coordination Council, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the MoU, signed on Monday, aims

Continued on Page 5

KFAS to launch month-long program on science, hi-tech

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) announced Tuesday it will launch “Science Month 2025,” a month-long program celebrating science, technology and innovation through interactive activities designed to spark youth curiosity and inspire scientific creativity.

In a press statement, KFAS said the official kickoff will take place on Thursday, Nov 13, 2025, at The Scientific Center from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., marking the start of a packed calendar that blends learning, fun and discovery.

The foundation noted that “Science

Month” will see broad participation from schools, universities, research centers and the public through activities held at multiple venues, targeting all age groups from children and students to families.

This year’s edition carries the theme “Oceans: From Imagination to Discovery,” inviting audiences to explore the secrets of seas and oceans while linking Kuwait’s rich maritime heritage with modern science and future innovations to promote sustainability of life on Earth.

Continued on Page 5

Over 1,000 items confiscated in crackdown on counterfeit goods

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Director of the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al-Ansari announced that Jabriya Center, which is affiliated with the department, seized more than 1,000 items bearing counterfeit trademarks of international brands in a store in Hawally Governorate.

In a press statement, Al-Ansari confirmed that the inspection teams immediately took the necessary legal measures, issued a violation report, referred it to the Commercial Prosecution, and submitted the seizure report to the relevant committee for completing the prescribed legal procedures.

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

WISE people say there is no difference in color between salt and sugar, both are white. The difference is only known after tasting them.

People are similar in this way. Each has their own personality, character, and nature. Those who appear harmless but act like salt will face the consequences, and it will not benefit them to cause you harm. The most dangerous wrongdoing is stealing people’s money. It is like fire in the hearts of thieves.

... Yet tomorrow is just another day.

Zahed Matar



Burgan Bank concludes Platinum Sponsorship of FIP World Cup Pairs 2025 in festive atmosphere reflecting the spirit of Kuwait

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:47	Asr	14:34
Sunrise ..	06:08	Maghrib ..	16:55
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:15

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Rather hot and humid especially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h with a chance for fog forming at night.

By Night: Rather cold to cold and humid especially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	31	18
Kuwait Airport	30	11
Abdaly	33	14
Bubyan	26	09
Jahra	33	15
Failaka Island	30	14



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



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

Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

Kuwait's Amir congratulates Poland, Angola on Nat'l Days

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of Poland, Karol Nawrocki, on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the President and the Polish people continued progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Amir also sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of the Republic of Angola, João Manuel Lourenço, on his country's National Day, wishing the President and the people of Angola continued progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of Poland,

Karol Nawrocki, on his country's National Day, wishing the President and the Polish people continued progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince also sent a congratulatory cable to the President of the Republic of Angola, João Manuel Lourenço, on his country's National Day, wishing the President and the people of Angola progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of Poland, Karol Nawrocki, on his country's National Day.

Prime Minister also sent a congratulatory cable to the President of the Republic of Angola, João Manuel Lourenço, on his country's National Day.

Recognition reflects deep Kuwaiti-Japanese ties

Sheikh Nasser honored with Japan's highest award, expresses profound gratitude

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad expressed his deep pride and appreciation for the gracious initiative of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito of Japan in awarding him the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.

In a press release, His Highness stated that this noble gesture reflects the strength and depth of the distinguished relations between the State of Kuwait and Japan, and highlights a long history of constructive cooperation and joint efforts between the two friendly nations.

He affirmed that Japan has always been among the first countries that were keen to strengthen its diplomatic relations with Kuwait.

Sheikh Nasser explained that this medal is not merely a personal honor, but rather a tribute to Kuwait and its pioneering diplomatic approach, established by its forefathers, based on mutual respect and the promotion of shared interests. This approach has helped preserve Kuwait's prestigious standing in regional and international forums.

His Highness dedicated this medal to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad and to the people of Kuwait, emphasizing that this honor bestowed upon him is, in fact, a badge of pride for Kuwait and all its citizens.

Sheikh Nasser went on to explain that Kuwaiti-Japanese relations, which extend for more than six decades, have witnessed remarkable growth and development in various political, economic, and cultural fields, particularly in recent years. This progress reflects the shared commitment of both countries' leadership to strengthen bilateral



His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center) poses with dignitaries during the official ceremony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, where he was awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun by His Majesty Emperor Naruhito of Japan, recognizing his outstanding contributions to strengthening Kuwaiti-Japanese relations.

cooperation and expand it to new horizons.

The directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah have always underscored the importance of reinforcing bonds of understanding and rapprochement, which contributes to the development and progress of both friendly nations.

His Majesty Emperor Naruhito of Japan, earlier, conferred upon Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the "Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun", during an official ceremony at the Matsu-no-Ma (State Room) of the Imperial Palace in

Tokyo.

The Grand Cordon represents the highest Japanese decoration awarded to non-Japanese nationals for more than a century and a half, granted by decision of the Government of Japan in recognition of outstanding contributions to various fields — foremost among them the promotion of international relations.

During the decoration ceremony, Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad held a cordial conversation with Emperor Naruhito, during which he conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,

reaffirming Kuwait's pride in the deep-rooted friendship between the two nations and His Highness's keenness to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas.

For his part, Emperor Naruhito entrusted Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad with a message to His Highness the Amir, the Kuwaiti government and people, conveying his warm greetings and best wishes for His Highness's continued good health and well-being. The Emperor also reaffirmed Japan's commitment to advancing Kuwaiti-Japanese relations and expanding them toward broader horizons in the interests of both friendly nations.

Kuwait's tender reforms to attract foreign investment

Move removes local agent requirement

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: In line with Kuwait's economic reform measures and the decision of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to allow foreign companies to participate directly in public tenders without requiring a local agent or partner, economic sources told the daily that removing the local agent requirement will eliminate the third party, enabling direct dealings between the government and foreign companies.

Economic expert and lawyer Salem Al-Hamoud explained that eliminating the local agent requirement in tenders aims to attract foreign investors, as it allows major foreign companies to establish branches in Kuwait. The decision represents a step toward liberalizing the national economy and is part of a series of economic and developmental reforms designed to create a more attractive investment environment.

Some of the most significant benefits of eliminating the local agent requirement include eliminating monopolies, creating an attractive environment for

foreign investment, and providing citizens with lower prices and guaranteed quality.

Al-Hamoud confirmed that Kuwait received approximately \$4.3 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) between 2020 and the end of 2024, according to the Al-Shall Economic Report. In comparison, the UAE received about \$139.6 billion, Saudi Arabia \$95.2 billion, Oman \$29.6 billion, and Bahrain \$14.5 billion during the same period.

He went on to explain that liberalizing the local economy by removing the requirement for local agents in tenders will inevitably attract tens of billions of dollars annually, contributing to investment diversification and encouraging more foreign companies to enter the market. This measure will also help combat corruption.

Eliminating the local agent requirement aligns with the Kuwaiti economy's adaptation to global changes without contraction. This step will create more job opportunities, as the government requires all companies to employ a certain percentage of Kuwaiti citizens. Removing the local agent requirement will eliminate the commissions foreign companies previously paid to local agents, some of which ranged from five percent to ten percent of the contract value. This will lower the bid prices for tenders, thus protecting public funds by reducing project costs.

Al-Hamoud indicated that the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiaries implement projects worth billions of dinars annually, which increases pressure on project costs due to higher tender values.

Meanwhile, economic expert and management consultant Dr. Ali Al-Hababi affirmed that this step will re-

vitalize investments, promote economic openness, and enhance competition, ultimately leading to lower prices.

Furthermore, Dr. Manal Al-Kandari, an economic affairs specialist and former secretary of the Kuwait Transparency Society, stated that allowing foreign companies to participate in public tenders without requiring a local agent is a significant measure to combat corruption and represents a pivotal shift in the business and investment environment.

She said it strengthens transparency and trust in state institutions, adding that foreign investors always seek a secure environment that ensures the protection of their funds and investments from illegal or unfair administrative practices.

Dr. Al-Kandari explained that this approach not only reduces bribery and corruption but also helps lower the costs of public projects and tenders. The measure is sound, comprehensive, and in line with reform efforts aimed at boosting investor confidence, attracting foreign capital, and improving efficiency and competitiveness in the local market.

In addition, economist Ahmad Al-Khashnam supported the participation of foreign companies in tenders, provided that citizens become shareholders in these companies through subscription or purchase of shares, rather than through government entities.

He noted that this approach would increase the benefits citizens gain from the incentives granted to foreign investors.

Al-Khashnam also predicted that foreign investors would not object to citizens becoming shareholders in their companies.

KISR awareness campaign takes aim at plastic waste

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has launched a campaign aiming to curb plastic use in a bid to raise awareness about more sustainable alternatives, its director general Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan said on Tuesday.

The initiative, christened, "My day without plastic," is in line with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's "vision" to further reinforce the principle of environmental sustainability, the official said in a statement, citing the efforts of KISR to boost awareness about the perils of plastic waste.

The date of the initiative's launch coincides with the 63d anniversary

of when Kuwait's constitution was issued, said the campaign's chief and head of KISR's environment and climate change program Masouma Al-Qasimi, highlighting the "sustainability" of Kuwait's natural resources as a core concern.

Commenting on the initiative, Dr. Fatma Al-Mousawi, the chief executive of youth platform, "Kafu," said that engaging youngsters in such campaigns was imperative to raise awareness about such a pressing matter.

This year's campaign is the second instalment of KISR's plastic free program, having been launched in 2019 with the aim of curbing plastic use and turning to more sustainable substitutes.



KUNA photo
Honoring the entities participating in the campaign aimed at reducing plastic pollution and encouraging the use of biodegradable alternatives.

KUNA strengthens media ties with ASEAN

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): Acting Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Mohammad Al-Mannai received on Monday Heads of Mission of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries in Kuwait, discussing ways to enhance media training and cooperation.

During his meeting of the ambassadors and diplomats, Al-Mannai affirmed that Kuwait recognizes the important role played by ASEAN, one of the most politically, economically and culturally influential regional organizations.

He praised the growing economic capabilities of ASEAN, noting that the State of Kuwait's joining of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia two years ago reflects its keen interest in deepening comprehensive strategic partnership with ASEAN.

He pointed out that KUNA was eager to support partnership with ASEAN, recognizing its importance for future generations and affirmed that the agency is fully opened to building bridges of knowledge and connectivity through joint cooperation in various fields.

He added that KUNA maintains strong and fruitful ties with news agencies within the ASEAN region, including the Indonesian News Agency (ANTARA), the Malaysian National News Agency (BERNAMA), and the Vietnam News Agency (VNA), noting recent years have witnessed remarkable cooperation in exchanging news items, visits, and training courses.

He expressed hope for more cooper-



KUNA photo
Acting Director General of Kuwait News Agency Mohammad Al-Mannai receives Heads of Mission of ASEAN countries.

ation with other news agencies within the ASEAN region to serve the interest of all involved parties.

Meanwhile, the ASEAN ambassadors and diplomats lauded KUNA for its distinguished media role and handling of regional and international news in addition to its role in boosting media cooperation through partnerships with several organizations including ASEAN.

They affirmed their keenness to continue exploring media opportunities with KUNA, highlighting prospects in the fields of economy, culture, and tourism, as well as enhancing cooperation between KUNA and ASEAN region's news agencies.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established in 1967 as a regional intergovernmental organization promoting economic, political, and socio-cultural cooperation among its member states in Southeast Asia.

It includes 11 members: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and the most recently inducted Timor-Leste.

Present at the meeting on behalf of ASEAN were Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Lena Maryana, Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Boun Inthabandith, Ambassador of the Kingdom of

Cambodia, Sman Manan, Ambassador of Malaysia, Alauddin Mohd Nor, and Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, Jose A. Cabrera III.

Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chan Aye, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Thang Nguyen Duc, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam, Adi Khalid bin Cuchu, and CDA a.i. of the Royal Thai Embassy, Uraivan Courtaud, were also present.

Deputy Director General for Editorial Sector, Essam Al-Ghanim, Acting Chief-In-Editor Mohammad Al-Bahar, and Director of Marketing and Public Relations Lamia Al-Farsi were also in attendance.

Kuwait participates on values and women's empowerment

AMMAN, Nov 11, (KUNA): The International Family Conference, "The Family between Values and Contemporary Trends," kicked off Tuesday in the Jordanian capital, Amman, with wide regional and international participation, highlighting policies and partnerships to protect families and expand women's role in society.

Kuwait's Supreme Council for Family Affairs Secretary General Mona Al-Mutairi told KUNA the Kuwaiti delegation aims to benefit from Jordan's experience in building partnerships among government bodies, civil society, and public-benefit and humanitarian organizations, and to apply successful models in Kuwait.

This aligns with the Council's work to provide social, legal, and awareness support, coordinate with public and private entities to preserve family cohesion, and expand women's opportunities for active participation in society, she explained.

Al-Mutairi is speaking in a session on protection from domestic violence and its impact on social integration, presenting Kuwait's experience and the Council's role in offering psychological and social services backed

by legal support to foster safe, stable families.

The delegation seeks global best practices to strengthen partnerships and enhance the scope and safety of family services, she added.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of Kuwait's Women's Cultural and Social Society (WCSS) Haifa Al-Mousa said in a statement to KUNA that the Society is presenting a paper on the role of civil society and community initiatives in empowering families, highlighting practical social and economic support.

She emphasized exchanging expertise with regional and international institutions on women's empowerment and family support, noting such conferences help expand cooperation and adopt joint initiatives that strengthen family bonds and promote gender equality.

Kuwait's community driven efforts have produced tangible gains in family stability and capacity building, she said.

The three-day conference brings together specialists from Arab and foreign countries to deliver focused sessions and develop recommendations on family and society.



Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem receives the Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait Dr. Zafar Iqbal.



Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem in discussions with the Ambassador of the Republic of Georgia to the State of Kuwait Noshrevan Lomtadidze.

Kuwait, Pakistan to enhance trade, industry & health ties

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Minister of Electricity, Water, Renewable Energy and Finance, and acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem met with Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Kuwait Dr. Zafar Iqbal recently.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Finance revealed that the two sides affirmed the distinguished and historic bilateral relations between the two friendly countries in various fields of mutual interest, particularly the economic, investment, health and industrial sectors.

Al-Mukhaizeem also met with Ambassador of the Republic of Georgia to the State

of Kuwait Noshrevan Lomtadidze. They exchanged views on ways to develop the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries in the economic, investment and tourism sectors, review the promising investment opportunities, and expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

During the meeting, negotiations were finalized regarding the memorandum of understanding to establish a joint committee for economic cooperation between the two countries, which will be signed in the near future.

Assistant Undersecretary for Support Services Meshaal Al-Qahs attended both meetings.

Dip in marriage count as men opt for Kuwaiti over foreigner

Significant fall in tying knot with Gulf women: report

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Official statistics on marriage showed a decline in the number of Kuwaiti marriages during the first nine months of 2025 by 527 cases, 6.1 percent compared to the same period in 2024, reports Al-Rai daily.

The decline includes marriage contracts between Kuwaiti citizens and women of other nationalities, with the total number reaching 8,538 compared to 9,065 last year.

The data revealed that marriages to Kuwaiti women still account for the largest share of registered marriage contracts, with 7,663 cases in 2025 compared to 7,966 in 2024, a decrease of 303 cases.

Marriages to women from other Gulf countries witnessed a significant decline of 124 cases compared to the previous year, dropping from 413 cases in 2024 to 289 in 2025, a decrease of 30 percent.

Marriages to Yemeni women nearly halved, falling from 17 to only 8 cases. Marriages to Jordanian women also decreased from 54 to 37, to

European women from 28 to 22, and to American women from 14 to 10. Marriages to stateless individuals also declined, from 175 cases in 2024 to 143 in 2025, a decrease of 32 cases.

In contrast, data showed relative stability in marriages to Iraqi women, with the number reaching 77 cases compared to 76 the previous year, while marriages to Egyptian women increased to 45 cases, compared to 39 in 2024, a rise of 15.3 percent.

Marriages to Syrian women remained almost stable at 68, compared to 70 last year, while marriages to Lebanese women increased by 37.5 percent, reaching 33 compared to 24 in 2024.

Marriages of Kuwaiti men to Asian women decreased from 106 to 86, a drop of 19 percent, while marriages to African women increased slightly from nine to 10. The statistics also recorded one marriage to a Sudanese woman, which was excluded from last year's data.

Marriages to women of other Arab nationalities decreased from 33 in 2024 to 23 cases in 2025, and marriages to women of other nationalities declined from 31 to 17 cases.

News in Brief

Anwar Al-Fikr gets 3 years in jail

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The Court of Appeals, headed by Judge Salah Al-Houti, overturned the ruling of the Criminal Court, which acquitted Anwar Al-Fikr of challenging the rights and powers of His Highness the Amir during an election rally, the higher court instead sentenced him to three years in prison, reports Al-Anba daily.

It is worth mentioning that Al-Fikr is already serving a prison term for a separate but similar case, in which he got a final three-year prison sentence.

Customs staff lauded: Deputy Director General for Research, Investigation, and Borders Customs Affairs at the General Administration of Customs (GAC) Saleh Al-Omar conducted an inspection visit to the Al-Salmi border crossing customs department, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, GAC explained that the inspection was carried out under the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef and as part of GAC's commitment to on-site monitoring of operations and ensuring the readiness of customs facilities.

The tour included a visit to the inspection centers at Al-Salmi Customs, where Al-Omar received a detailed presentation on the work mechanisms and procedures

in place to ensure the quick inspection of passengers and goods while fully adhering to customs regulations.

During the visit, Al-Omar stressed the importance of intensifying efforts and enhancing cooperation among various customs departments to inspect passengers and goods and protect Kuwait from smuggling attempts.

He praised the efforts of customs inspectors and their vital role in maintaining Kuwait's security.

Al-Omar also expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Interior's General Directorate of Helicopter Aviation for its support in enhancing cooperation between the two entities.

Registration open: The General Staff of the Kuwait Army, represented by the Directorate of Administration and Manpower, announced the opening of registration for volunteers to join the professional military service, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This opportunity is open to Kuwaiti citizens, children of Kuwaiti women, non-Kuwaiti citizens listed in the 1965 census, and children of non-Kuwaiti military personnel. In a press release, the General Staff stated that registration began on Monday and will continue until November 13 through the Ministry of Defense website, specifically the Volunteer Recruitment Branch - <https://vc.kuwaitarmy.gov.kw>

Four-pronged policies to boost economy

"THE five years from 2026 to 2030 represent a vital period for the national development process in terms of addressing urgent development challenges. This phase will drive a pivotal shift toward a secure economic future that is capable of absorbing financial and economic shocks and withstanding the fluctuations and crises of the global economy," former Director General of the Arab Planning Institute Dr. **Bader Othman Malallah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The truth is that these issues, however difficult, can be overcome with competent economic management, balanced fiscal policies, and effective economic and social development planning. There are four paths that must be pursued for the sake of the national interest and our national economy - financial sustainability, genuine economic diversification, human capital development, and digital transformation.



Dr. Bader Malallah

"This four-pronged approach will strengthen our national economy. Focusing on these four elements will reveal many of their details and nuances, and addressing them together will pave the way for achieving our national goals. Despite the complexity and challenges of the path to fiscal sustainability, it is a path that must be pursued, as it supports progress in other areas.

"This path requires reforming public finances, gradually correcting imbalances, reducing current spending, gradually increasing capital spending, controlling the deficit by rationalizing expenditures and subsidies, and regulating the first section of the budget, which covers salaries. Continued imbalances in this area deplete reserves and force the government to resort to borrowing. Progress on this path also requires simultaneous advancement in closely related areas, such as economic diversification and expanding revenue sources. This is particularly important for strengthening public finances and promoting economic growth beyond oil revenues.

"It is essential to diversify revenues through measures such as fees, moderate and progressive taxes, improved collection, restructuring and targeting subsidies to those in need, reforming the public sector salary structure, controlling the growth of public employment, and professionally managing public debt. Together, these measures can contribute to fiscal sustainability, achieve a strong credit rating, and stabilize the currency.

"Economic diversification is the foundation for diversifying income sources and a

fundamental component of economic reform. Without genuine vertical and horizontal diversification programs and projects, oil will remain the sole driver of our economy, along with all the risks this entails for economic growth and stability. Diversifying income sources is essential for mitigating oil shocks, improving the trade balance, creating jobs, and enhancing the contribution of productive sectors to GDP.

"Excluding the oil sector, which has already seen significant diversification, income diversification should focus on non-oil sectors, including agriculture, industry, renewable energy, logistics and ports, finance, tourism, and light and complementary industries. The opportunities for diversification are numerous, and success can be achieved if the business environment is genuinely developed and ample space is provided for the private sector. Another issue is progress in human capital development, which involves enhancing skills, knowledge, competence, and productivity. These elements define the human role in production and development, and advancement in them directly drives economic growth.

"Achieving this requires an education system, both basic and higher, that can keep pace with modern demands and meet the needs of a contemporary labor market. More than 65 percent of the population is under 35, and most are employed in the public sector in administrative roles that generate limited added value. Transitioning to a modern economy requires knowledge, competence, merit, and high-quality human performance. Currently, public and higher education fall short of this standard. With serious investment in human capital, it could become the country's "new oil."

"The fourth element is digital transformation, which is no longer optional but a necessity driven by the modern economy and contemporary management. It is a fundamental component of the "New Kuwait 2035" vision. Digital transformation focuses on smart government and the knowledge economy. It goes beyond electronic government transactions, encompassing a transformation in management, production, services, culture, and societal behavior.

"It helps reduce bureaucracy, curb administrative corruption, and enhance the efficiency of services, making them faster, more cost-effective, and more transparent. Digital transformation also lays the foundation for a knowledge- and innovation-based economy, improves quality of life, and strengthens trust in state institutions.

"Accelerating progress on these paths is an urgent necessity for economic development and the consolidation of national achievements. Advancing along these paths is a national imperative driven by the de-

mands of the present and the needs of the future. Delaying progress means losing opportunities, the consequences of which can no longer be tolerated in a world of rapid change, intense competition, and escalating trade tensions.

"The global pace is moving swiftly, and we must keep up to avoid falling behind. Accelerating financial and economic reforms, modernizing infrastructure, developing human capital, reforming education, and advancing digital transformation are collectively essential for sustainability and represent a crucial path toward achieving the "New Kuwait 2035" vision.

"Therefore, the next five years will be a critical test to accomplish the objectives of this vision. Failure to do so risks leaving our national vision as mere words on paper, an outcome that no one desires."

Also:

"Russia's candidacy for membership in the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has surprised observers and is being seen as a test of the world's conscience. The Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention will take place from November 24 to 28, during which elections for the Executive Council for the 2026–2028 term will be held," Kuwaiti writer **Hussein Al-Rawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"What makes this candidacy so striking is Russia's decision to run for a seat on the Council whose membership is supposed to reflect a genuine commitment to the principles and objectives of the Convention. Yet, Russia's actions in recent years make this candidacy resemble the proverb, "He kills the victim and cries over him." Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, international reports have documented the use of prohibited chemical and riot control agents in armed conflicts. Between 2023 and 2025, Ukraine reported repeated attacks involving munitions containing chemical agents and recorded injuries and respiratory symptoms among both soldiers and civilians.

"OPCW conducted three technical visits in November 2024, February 2025, and June 2025. During these visits, it confirmed the presence of riot control agents in samples collected from combat zones in the Dnipropetrovsk region of eastern Ukraine, representing a clear violation of Article I of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Ukrainian and international reports covered multiple regions and cities, including Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Kyiv, Sumy, Odessa, Chernihiv, and Pocha."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

194 traffic tickets in 24 hours

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Traffic campaigns conducted by the General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry recently resulted in the issuance of 194 traffic violation citations in just 24 hours.

This is part of the ongoing efforts of the department to strictly enforce traffic regulations.

A security source informed the newspaper that these campaigns focus on certain viola-

tions like illegal parking, obstructing traffic flow and other infractions that impede the smooth flow of traffic around hospitals.

The source indicated that the relevant traffic authorities will continue their inspection tours to ensure compliance with traffic regulations.

The source urged motorists to use the designated parking areas and avoid parking in unauthorized locations to prevent violations, which can lead to vehicle impoundment for up to two months.

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Kuwait unifies tourism drive with new ‘Visit Kuwait’ body



KUNA photo
Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi during his chairmanship of the Supreme Committee for the events and activities of ‘Visit Kuwait’.

Al-Mutairi calls for cohesive national effort

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi stated that the Supreme Committee for “Visit Kuwait” events and activities serves as a national umbrella to unify efforts and enhance coordination among relevant entities in organizing tourism, cul-

tural, and entertainment events, reports Al-Seyassah daily.
This was announced in a press statement issued by the Ministry of Information on Monday, following Minister Al-Mutairi chairing the first meeting of the Supreme Committee for “Visit Kuwait” events and activities at the Ministry’s headquarters. The meeting was attended by committee members, including representatives from state institutions, civil society, and the private sector involved in tourism.

In the statement, Al-Mutairi emphasized that this step reflects the ministry’s vision to support national tourism and showcase Kuwait’s cultural and humanitarian identity within the framework of the New Kuwait 2035 vision.
The meeting discussed the action plan for the upcoming phase, implementation mechanisms, and joint co-operation among member entities. The goal is to ensure coordinated efforts, unified promotional messaging, and a positive impact of events on the national economy, while boosting tourism and strengthening public-private partnerships to develop the “Visit Kuwait” platform.

Al-Wasmi reviews mosque readiness in Jahra

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Muhammad Al-Wasmi visited the mosques administration in Jahra Governorate on Monday and reviewed the readiness of the mosques and the progress of service and

technical work, reports Al-Seyassah daily.
The minister monitored routine maintenance, assessed the level of care provided to the facilities, and reviewed plans to enhance services offered to worshippers.

Historic building achieves LEED Gold certification

Kuwait’s Al-Othman Mosque wins Gulf Energy Excellence Award ’25

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The Late Abdullah Abdullatif Al-Othman Mosque won the ‘2025 Gulf Excellence Award for Energy Efficiency and Conservation of Electricity and Water’ presented by the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and the Conservation and Customer Services Committee at the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
Eng. Adnan Al-Othman, a member of the Board of Trustees of the late Abdullah Al-Othman’s estate, revealed at a press conference held Monday in Al-Othman Mosque in Hawally that this achievement is part of the projects of the estate, which is considered a re-engineering of charitable work. He pointed out that the estate adopted a comprehensive vision, combining financial sustainability with social and environmental responsibility, transforming this vision into a reality through developmental, cultural and humanitarian projects extending from Kuwait to the Arab and Islamic worlds.

He said the mosque has undergone an exceptional renovation process according to the highest international standards. He emphasized that the restoration of the mosque is one of the important initiatives of the Al-Othman Heritage Project, embodying a comprehensive philosophy that combines heritage preservation with environmental responsibility and community sustainability. He added the mosque underwent an exceptional restoration, applying the highest international standards for the restoration of historical buildings, while employing innovative environmental sustainability techniques without compromising its authentic architectural character.

He added that the mosque also received the LEED Gold Certifica-



Eng. Adnan Al-Othman (center) speaks during a press conference at the Late Abdullah Abdullatif Al-Othman Mosque in Hawally, announcing the mosque's win of the 2025 Gulf Excellence Award for Energy Efficiency and Conservation.



Photos by Mohammad Morsi
The Late Abdullah Abdullatif Al-Othman Mosque, received the ‘2025 Gulf Excellence Award for Energy Efficiency and Conservation of Electricity and Water’.

tion from the US Green Building Council, making it the first mosque in Kuwait and the first heritage mosque in the world to obtain this certification. He disclosed that the project included redesigning the water systems to maximize efficiency and adding an advanced system for purifying and treating water used for ablution, allowing its reuse for washing and irrigation. He pointed out that the project relies on solar energy and highly efficient lighting and air conditioning systems to reduce electricity consumption. “In a technologically advanced move, the

‘Smart Mosque’ system was implemented, automatically controlling the air conditioning before and after each prayer. The system senses the number of worshippers to adjust performance according to actual needs. This is in addition to the light sensor system that intelligently illuminates the service facilities, contributing to energy conservation,” he elaborated. He affirmed that the ongoing maintenance and cleaning works will be covered by the estate of the late Abdullah Al-Othman to ensure the mosque remains in optimal condition.

Council delays probe on resolutions

Municipality hands over 6 school plots

By Inaas Awad
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: In line with the Municipal Council’s decision issued recently to postpone discussions on the reasons for Kuwait Municipality’s delay in implementing previous resolutions to allocate alternative plots for private schools in residential areas, Deputy Director General of the Survey Sector at Kuwait Municipality Mubarak Al-Ajmi says the municipality has handed over six plots to the Ministry of Education for the construction of schools.
These six plots are part of the 14 plots



Al-Jadaan

approved by the Municipal Council for relocating private schools outside residential areas.
Al-Ajmi indicated that the handed-over sites include three schools in Farwaniya Governorate, two in Jahra Governorate, and one in Mahboula. Municipal Council member Nasser Al-Jadaan stated that some decisions on this matter were made around ten years ago, with the oldest dating back more than 25 years.
He said the sites allocated to the Ministry of Education have existed for 40 years and were originally designated for public schools before being reassigned as alternative sites for private schools located in residential areas.
Al-Jadaan questioned Kuwait Municipality’s slow pace in handing over the sites, despite the Municipal Council’s resolutions being issued years ago.
He called for a clear and specific timetable to complete the handover of all sites.

Farwaniya Governor hosts Polish, Mongolian envoys to boost ties

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with Ambassador of Poland to Kuwait Michał Cholewa at his office in Farwaniya Governorate on Monday.
During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance cooperation and cultural exchange between the two sides, as well as topics of mutual interest, which contribute to strengthening relations between them.
Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah affirmed that the governorate is keen on building bridges of cooperation with the diplomatic missions.
At the end of the meeting, Cholewa expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser for the warm welcome and hospitality, praising the positive role played by Farwaniya Governorate in supporting communication and cooperation with various embassies and diplomatic missions.
Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah also received, Ambassador of Mongolia to Kuwait Sergelen Purev at his office in Farwaniya Governorate on Monday.
The two parties had friendly talks, during which they deliberated on topics of mutual interest that contribute to strengthening bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.
At the end of the meeting, Purev thanked the Governor for the warm welcome and hospitality, affirming



Governor of Farwaniya with the Ambassador of Poland to Kuwait.



Farwaniya Governorate photos Governor of Farwaniya with the Ambassador of Mongolia to Kuwait.

his appreciation for the positive role played by the Farwaniya Governorate in building bridges of cooperation with the diplomatic missions in Kuwait.

MoCI launches ‘Smart License’ project

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance the business environment, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has issued a circular to relevant government entities mandating the activation of the “Smart License” project, in line with the Cabinet’s directives for comprehensive digital transformation and the integration of government systems, reports Al-Seyassah daily.
In the circular, the ministry stressed that it aims to adopt the barcode integrated into the Smart License as the primary

tool for electronically verifying commercial license data by regulatory authorities, thereby improving efficiency and expediting both regulatory and service procedures.
It emphasized that this project is part of its strategy to strengthen electronic integration among government entities and transition from paper-based processes to a fully digital system, thus contributing to greater transparency, streamlined services, and a more dynamic business environment.



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Kuwait showcases youth-led tech vision at Lisbon Summit

Bold partnerships shine

MADRID, Nov 11, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to Portugal Hamad Al-Hazeem affirmed on Tuesday his country’s participation in the second edition of the Tech Arab Meet, held on the sidelines of the Web Summit in Lisbon, showcasing it youth potential and national initiatives.

In remarks to KUNA late Monday, Al-Hazeem said the country’s participation in the high-level events underscored its active contribution to global dialogue on the future of technology and strengthened its presence in the international digital arena

He praised the Council of Arab Ambassadors for their role in endorsing and a unified Arab presence, highlighting Kuwait’s advanced institutional and human capacities.

He noted that the former Minister of State for Communication Affairs and Minister of Youth, Dawood Marafie, was among the event’s keynote speakers, describing it as a hub to deepen cooperation between European and Arab private sectors, as well as discuss joint projects in technol-

ogy and Artificial Intelligence (AI). In his address, Marafie described Kuwait as a regional hub for developing AI, supported by the country’s strategic location, modern legislation, and skilled youth contributing to the “New Kuwait 2035” vision.

Marafie noted that Kuwait has aligned real investments with this talent base through national programs developed in partnership with global tech leaders like Google Cloud and Microsoft.

These initiatives, he added, reflect Kuwait’s commitment to building sustainable digital capabilities that can design sovereign data infrastructures, financial technologies, and government services integrated with AI.

Marafie also highlighted the GCC’s large-scale investments in AI funds, cloud zones, high-performance computing centers, and regulatory bodies that oversee AI, underscoring a collective regional strategy to integrate AI into economic transformation.

He concluded that Kuwait’s stable economy, strategic location, and forward-looking policies make it a safe, open, and promising platform for global technology partners seeking to build the future of innovation together. Tech Arab Meet is an annual event held on the sidelines of the prestigious international Web Summit aim to showcase the Arab world’s bold shift from tech adoption to global influence.



KUNA photo
Hamad Al-Hazeem, Kuwait Ambassador to Portugal



International Women’s Group hosts a vibrant gathering promoting creativity, friendship, and cultural exchange.

IWG hosts ‘Art & Aroma’ – a masterpiece of senses

The International Women’s Group (IWG) proudly hosted “Art & Aroma,” a vibrant celebration of art, beauty, and creativity, on Sunday, November 9, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kuwait City.

Organized under the leadership of IWG President and spouse of the Georgian Ambassador, Mrs. MarikaKochlamazashvili, along with the IWG Board, the event gathered distinguished guests, women ambassadors, and members of Kuwait’s diverse international community for a morning devoted to artistic expression and sensory harmony.

In her opening remarks, the IWG President conveyed her heartfelt gratitude and delight in welcoming guests to the third gathering of the season, highlighting the organization’s ongoing mission to promote cultural exchange, friendship, and understanding among women of diverse

backgrounds.

“It has always been my dream to host a special event dedicated to the celebration of art, reflecting the spirit of beauty and harmony. Today, I am overjoyed to see this dream come true, as we celebrate art and aroma together,” said the President.

The theme of the event, “Art & Aroma,” explored the harmonious interplay between art and aroma—each capable of awakening the senses, inspiring creativity, and nurturing a sense of inner balance.

Guests enjoyed an inspiring program featuring captivating Art Under Water displays by DjanaChapuis; an introduction to an exceptional tea collection and the refined world of sparkling tea by the London-based Tea Group; an elegant bouquet arrangement demonstration by Armani

Fiori Kuwait; live piano performances by Harriet Bushman; a Japanese origami masterclass promoting creativity and mindfulness by Anna Mukai, daughter of H.E. the Japanese Ambassador; and a mesmerizing exhibition from the Contemporary Art Platform, alongside two paintings by Lina Hijazi.

In addition to the impressive presentations, guests took part in painting a collective IWG logo masterpiece, symbolizing unity, creativity, and the vibrant international spirit of the organization.

In closing, the President expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the IWG Board members, whose dedication and hard work were instrumental in bringing the event to life.

Continued from Page 1

Once again ...

The global economic landscape and corresponding national legislation have undergone significant changes over the last two decades. This evolution facilitated the rise of the ‘virtual state’, a modern concept where the means of production are transferred overseas, yet remain centrally controlled by a governing authority from abroad.

Consequently, the unhindered movement of people emerged as the principal catalyst for development.

This contrasts sharply with the past perception held by some Kuwaiti officials, who viewed the relationship inversely, a perspective that hindered the country’s progress in numerous sectors.

The country possesses significant, often underestimated, regional advantages that could dramatically boost its economic and investment standing. These opportunities stem from its strategic geographical position, unique social and cultural structure, commitment to a free market economy, and efficient regional and international transportation and communication links. These factors require a serious vision focused on developing the national economy in line with modern advancements, rather than clinging to outdated practices.

In short, we need incentives, not obstacles. We thank First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef for his bold step in opening up to the world. However, the rest of the ministers and the entire Cabinet should follow suit by offering more facilities to citizens and expatriates. This collective effort is essential to boost the GDP and reverse the trend of declining consumer spending.

Teachers hold

The ministry has also focused on bolstering cooperation with regional and international organizations, including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), exchanging expertise and the knowledge to help develop Kuwait’s digital educational transformation.

He affirmed that the Ministry of Education would continue to boost its efforts to achieve the goals of the New Kuwait Vision 2035.

He addressed educators and thanked for their relentless efforts in raising generations of Kuwaiti students, who are now in leading positions in the state.

Teacher Khalil Saud Al-Harbi delivered a speech on behalf of the honored teachers, thanking the Kuwaiti leadership for their unequivocal support of teachers on the celebration of the World Teachers’ Day, vowing to continue giving back to the country through important posts.

A short film titled “Teacher Leaders” was screened, highlighting the evolution of education in Kuwait, the role of educators in shaping values and fostering national development, followed by a musical performance.

His Highness the Amir awarded the attending teachers and representatives of the excellent schools before departing the venue.

Constitution

The State of Kuwait marked on Tuesday the 63rd anniversary of its Constitution, which specifies the ruling system and organizes relations among legislative, executive and judicial authorities.

Kuwaiti people are proud of their Constitution, which has contributed to democracy in the Gulf nation, highlighted the civil rights of citizens and their freedom of speech, as well as guaranteed justice and equality.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the State of Kuwait’s 11th Amir, ratified the Constitution on November 11, 1962, a defining moment in the political history of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti people remember with pride the historic democratic stages that Kuwait has undergone, beginning with the constitutional document in 1938 until the birth of the Constitution in 1962, the “most important document” of Kuwait.

The late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem expressed his desire to build a solid parliamentary system based on democratic

principles and to witness the contributions of the public to the Constitution.

He signed a law on August 26, 1961, regarding the bylaw of the transitional period and the holding of elections for the Constituent Assembly with a mandate to draft the Constitution.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem inaugurated the Constituent Assembly in January 1962 and told the members that they had a daunting task of laying the foundations of the ruling system of the nation.

Members of the Assembly elected Abdullatif Mohammad Al-Ghanem as Speaker and Dr. Ahmad Al-Khateeb as Deputy Speaker.

The sixth session saw the election of the Constitution Committee, consisting of Speaker Al-Ghanem, the late Father Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, who was Interior Minister and also served as committee chairman, MP Humoud Al-Zaid Al-Khaled, who was also Minister of Justice, Yaqoub Yusuf Al-Humaidhi and Saud Abdulaziz Al-Abdulrazzaq.

The committee tabled the final draft of the Constitution, which was unanimously approved on November 3, 1962.

The Assembly then referred the draft Constitution to Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem who ratified it on November 11, 1962.

The Constitution consists of 183 Articles divided into five Chapters: the first about the State and System of Government, the second about Fundamental Constituents of Kuwaiti Society, the third about Public Rights and Duties, the fourth about Authorities, and the fifth about General and Transitional Provisions.

The first parliamentary elections were held in January 1963, marking the beginning of real political practice under the Constitution.

The democratic march in Kuwait has witnessed some marred setbacks. The Parliament was suspended twice, in 1976 and 1986. However, the Constitution remained the shield against domestic and external challenges, foremost among them the Iraqi invasion and occupation in 1990-91.

During the seven-month Iraqi occupation, Kuwaitis were united behind their legitimate leadership.

In April 1991, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah formed a new government with a mandate to oversee reconstruction, and in October 1992, parliamentary life resumed.

The leaders of the State of Kuwait have always reaffirmed respect for the Constitution.

The late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah consistently reaffirmed his commitment to the Constitution, saying at a parliamentary session on October 26, 2010 that the Constitution was the cornerstone of democracy.

The late Amir Sheikh Nawaf A-Ahmad Al-Sabah reiterated this pledge and said the Constitution protected the country from crises.

The late Amir, at a special parliamentary session to take the constitutional oath as head of state on September 30, 2020, said “We reaffirm our commitment with our democracy and proud that Kuwait is a state of law and institutions.”

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed his determination to preserve the Constitution from malpractices in a drive to safeguard democracy.

In his speech to a special parliamentary session on October 8, 2020, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal said that he would safeguard the people’s participation in the democratic process, standing against plans of division and attempts against the Constitution and the supreme national interests.

Kuwait committed

He added that the conference is one of the most prominent gatherings bringing together law enforcement agencies, oversight bodies, and financial intelligence units from around the world.

Regarding the importance of international cooperation, he stated that Nazaha attaches special importance to building

sustainable cooperation networks with international and regional organizations.

He explained that such cooperation aims to exchange expertise and best practices, develop the capacities of national personnel, and enhance the exchange of information to support joint efforts in curbing corruption and tracing illicit proceeds.

As for the benefits Kuwait will gain from this participation, Al-Ibrahim pointed out that the conference provides an important opportunity to learn about the latest global mechanisms for asset recovery and anti-money laundering, which will help support national legislation and advance procedures for international judicial cooperation.

He noted that Nazaha aims to build trust and cooperation while showcasing Kuwait’s reforms to protect public funds, stressing that combating corruption is a shared responsibility requiring global coordination to promote transparency and sustainable development.

The Interpol Global Conference on Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery, held in Abu Dhabi over three days, aims to strengthen international cooperation and exchange expertise among law enforcement agencies, oversight bodies, and financial intelligence units.

The conference also seeks to shed light on major global challenges and best practices in combating corruption, thereby supporting joint efforts to build more transparent and integrity-driven systems at both the national and international levels.

Kuwait’s Permanent National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling urged Monday stepping up national training programs and qualifying national staff working in anti-trafficking, thus boosting national capabilities.

This came in a press release issued by the Ministry of Justice following the committee’s 23rd meeting, chaired by the ministry’s Acting Undersecretary and the committee’s head Awatef Al-Sanad.

During the meeting, the committee members looked into the efforts of fighting trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, and the committee’s vision of raising public awareness about the serious crime of trafficking in persons.

KFAS to

The 2025 program spans a wide range of topics reflecting advances in Kuwait’s research and development: from marine and coastal ecosystems to space exploration and observation of the solar system, moons and asteroids, and on to innovation and technology fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics, data science and underwater exploration.

KFAS added that the season will feature diverse educational and community initiatives, including STEM programs for teachers, beach-cleanup campaigns, bird and planet watching, and spotlights on Kuwait’s maritime heritage through scientific documentation and engaging, hands-on experiences that make science accessible to all.

The goal, KFAS affirmed, is to turn scientific passion into knowledge and knowledge into tangible developmental impact.

With this year’s focus on ocean sciences, the event offers real opportunities for learning and discovery and bolsters Kuwait’s standing within the global movement that celebrates science as a bridge of communication and a driver of progress.

MoU to

to promote cooperation in medium- and long-term planning, noting that both countries possess significant expertise and qualified cadres whose collaboration will lead to major progress benefiting both nations.

The MoU also covers cooperation in economic studies, modeling, economic policies, governance of economic plans, economic knowledge and media, leadership development, and the fields of green, circular, and digital economies, he added.

Furthermore, Dr. Al-Sabah stated that the memorandum

includes joint efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He explained that the cooperation will be implemented through exchange of expertise, information, studies, and expert visits, in addition to organizing workshops and seminars.

Sheikh Nimer affirmed that Kuwait has invited Saudi counterparts serving on the Coordination Committee for Energy, Economy, Trade and Industry to attend the committee’s upcoming meeting, scheduled to be held in Kuwait on December 2.

Meanwhile, Acting Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior Major General Ali Al-Adwani affirmed Kuwait and Saudi Arabia’s keenness to enhance security integration and unify efforts to address regional and international challenges.

In a statement following his participation in the third meeting of the Kuwaiti-Saudi Coordination Council held in Riyadh, Al-Adwani highlighted the deep-rooted ties binding the two countries.

The statement noted that the Ministry’s participation focused on reviewing the work of the Joint Military and Security Coordination Committee under the Council, including updates on initiatives in security, defense, crime prevention, cybersecurity, and strategic planning.

Al-Adwani, who chairs the committee, stressed that such cooperation reflects the two countries’ commitment to strengthening joint security coordination and promoting stability in both nations, supporting the course of bilateral cooperation.

The third Kuwaiti-Saudi Coordination Council meeting, held earlier today in Riyadh, was co-chaired by Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan.

The council reviewed key areas of cooperation, particularly in economy, investment, security, and development, and discussed ways to further advance them, reflecting the shared desire to deepen and expand bilateral relations across all fields.

Over 1,000

He stressed that the department does not tolerate such violations, indicating the inspection teams deal with violations in a firm and serious manner to rid the markets of counterfeit and adulterated goods that harm consumers and the national economy.

He said the department continues to intensify its daily field campaigns in various governorates as part of a comprehensive plan to combat commercial fraud and protect intellectual property rights, asserting that the ministry will not hesitate in taking the strictest legal measures against violators.

He added the ministry remains committed to its rigorous oversight approach, urging consumers to report any violation or counterfeit goods through the hotline for receiving complaints, as community cooperation is a fundamental element in protecting the local market and ensuring a fair and safe business environment.

PM visits

His Highness the Prime Minister expressed deep gratitude to Minister Al-Mashaan, President of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, managers of the project, competent authorities namely the ministries of interior, financial affairs, the Audit Bureau, Fatwa and Legislation department and the Central Agency for Public Tenders for their role in speeding up the venture execution.

For her part, Minister Al-Mashaan said the venture envisages establishing, furnishing and maintaining the new passenger terminal, building, furnishing and maintaining service buildings, roads leading to the new terminal and parking lots, in addition to identical works for the parking lots, runways and the service facilities.

Sheikh Humoud also gave his take about the authority’s efforts and coordination with the project stakeholders.

It appears our long national nightmare is finally coming to an end: Johnson

US Senate approves bill to end government shutdown, sending it to House

WASHINGTON, Nov 11, (AP): The Senate passed legislation Monday to reopen the government, bringing the longest shutdown in history closer to an end as a small group of Democrats ratified a deal with Republicans despite searing criticism from within their party.

The 41-day shutdown could last a few more days as members of the House, which has been on recess since mid-September, return to Washington to vote on the legislation. President Donald Trump has signaled support for the bill, saying Monday that “we’re going to be opening up our country very quickly.”

The final Senate vote, 60-40, broke a grueling stalemate that lasted more than six weeks as Democrats demanded that Republicans negotiate with them to extend health care tax credits that expire Jan. 1. The Republicans never did, and five moderate Democrats eventually switched their votes as federal food aid was delayed, airport delays worsened and hundreds of thousands of federal workers continued to go unpaid.

House Speaker Mike Johnson urged lawmakers to start returning to Washington “right now” given shutdown-related travel delays, but an official notice issued after the Senate vote said the earliest the House will vote is Wednesday afternoon.

“It appears our long national nightmare is finally coming to an end,” said Johnson, who has kept the House out of session since mid-September, when the House passed a bill to continue government funding.

After weeks of negotiations, A group of three former governors - New Hampshire Sen Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan and Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine - agreed to vote to advance three bipartisan annual spending bills and extend the rest of government funding until late January. Republicans promised to hold a vote to extend the health care subsidies by mid-December, but there was no guarantee of success.

Shaheen said Monday that “this was the option on the table” after Republicans had refused to budge.



US Senate Majority Leader John Thune speaks to reporters after final Senate passage of the stopgap funding bill to reopen the government through Jan 30, at the Capitol in Washington, Monday evening on Nov 10. (AP)

“We had reached a point where I think a number of us believed that the shutdown had been very effective

in raising the concern about health care,” she said, and the promise for a future vote “gives us an opportunity

to continue to address that going forward.”

The legislation includes a reversal of the mass firings of federal workers by the Trump administration since the shutdown began on Oct. 1. It also protects federal workers against further layoffs through January and guarantees they are paid once the shutdown is over.

In addition to Shaheen, King and Hassan, Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, home to tens of thousands of federal workers, also voted Sunday in favor of moving forward on the agreement. Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat, Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman and Nevada Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen also voted yes. All other Democrats, including Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York, voted against it.

The moderates had expected a larger number of Democrats to vote with them as 10 to 12 Democratic senators had been part of the negotiations. But in the end, only five switched their votes - the exact number that Repub-

licans needed. King, Cortez Masto and Fetterman had already been voting to open the government since Oct. 1.

Schumer, who received blowback from his party in March when he voted to keep the government open, said he could not “in good faith” support it after meeting with his caucus for more than two hours on Sunday.

“We will not give up the fight,” Schumer said, adding that Democrats have now “sounded the alarm” on health care.

Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who caucuses with the Democrats, said giving up the fight was a “horrific mistake.” Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., agreed, saying that voters who overwhelmingly supported Democrats in last week’s elections were urging them to “hold firm.”

House Democrats swiftly criticized the Senate.

Texas Rep. Greg Casar, the chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said a deal that doesn’t reduce health care costs is a “betrayal” of millions of Americans who are counting on Democrats to fight.

NY Mayor-elect Mamdani taps budget, policy vet to be his No. 2 at City Hall

NEW YORK, Nov 11, (AP): New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani appointed a veteran budget official to be his first deputy mayor on Monday, tapping a seasoned hand of city and state government to lead operations of City Hall as he embarks on an ambitious agenda.

The appointment of Dean Fuleihan as top deputy gives institutional heft to Mamdani’s budding administration, offering insight into how the 34-year-old democratic socialist will pursue a policy slate that skeptics have skewered as financially unrealistic.

Fuleihan, 74, will bring more than four decades of government experience to the job, including past posts as former Mayor Bill de Blasio’s budget director and deputy mayor, as well as an extensive tenure in budget and policy roles in the state Legislature in Albany.

Mamdani also appointed Elle Bisgaard-Church, a top campaign adviser and his chief of staff in the state Assembly, to be his City Hall chief of staff.

At a news conference, Mamdani, who will be city’s youngest mayor in generations when he takes office next year, pledged to “create a new City Hall.” But said he will need both experienced leaders and fresh



New York Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, (left), announced the appointment of Dean Fuleihan, (center), as first deputy mayor and Elle Bisgaard-Church as chief of staff, in New York on Nov 10. (AP)

faces to do so.

“It is important when we are undertaking the work of transforming politics in our city, that we do so both with a relentless imagination as to what politics could be, and a fluency of what politics has been,” he said. “And what I so appreciate about both of those standing next to me is that they have displayed those two skills in spades.”

Mamdani has promised a trans-

formative agenda, proposing free child care, free buses and city-run grocery stores, all while he will be tasked with heading an expansive bureaucracy that includes the country’s largest police department and school system.

As first deputy mayor, Fuleihan is expected to handle a broad set of responsibilities that includes overseeing the city’s budget office and administrative departments.

Judge adopts Utah congressional map creating Democratic-leaning district for '26

SALT LAKE CITY, Nov 11, (AP): A Utah judge on Monday rejected a new congressional map drawn by Republican lawmakers, adopting an alternate proposal creating a Democratic-leaning district ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

Republicans hold all four of Utah’s US House seats and had advanced a map poised to protect them.

Judge Dianna Gibson ruled just before a midnight deadline that the Legislature’s new map “unduly favors Republicans and disfavors Democrats.”

She had ordered lawmakers to draw a map that complies with standards established by voters to ensure districts don’t deliberately favor a party, a practice known as gerrymandering. If they failed, Gibson warned she may consider other maps submitted by plaintiffs in the lawsuit that led her to throw out Utah’s existing map.

Gibson ultimately selected a map drawn by plaintiffs, the League of Women Voters of Utah and Mormon Women for Ethical Government. It keeps Salt Lake County almost entirely within one district, instead of dividing the heavily Democratic population center among all four districts, as was the case previously.

The judge’s ruling throws a curveball for Republicans in a state where they expected a clean sweep as they’re working to add winnable seats else-



US Rep Cory Maloy holds a packet of potential redistricting maps as SB1012 Congressional Boundaries Designation is discussed in the House chamber during a special session at the Capitol on Oct 6, in Salt Lake City. (AP)

where, Nationally, Democrats need to net three U.S. House seats next year to wrest control of the chamber from the GOP, which is trying to buck a historic pattern of the president’s party losing seats in the midterms.

The newly approved map gives Democrats a much stronger chance to flip a seat in a state that has not had a Democrat in Congress since early 2021.

“This is a win for every Utahn,” said state House and Senate Democrats in a joint statement. “We took an oath to serve the people of Utah, and fair representation is the truest measure of that promise.”

In August, Gibson struck down the Utah congressional map adopted after the 2020 census because the Legislature had circumvented anti-gerrymandering standards passed by voters.

America

2 dead after plane crashes in Florida: A small turboprop plane on a hurricane relief mission to Jamaica crashed Monday morning into a pond in a gated residential neighborhood of the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Coral Springs, killing two people shortly after takeoff and narrowly missing homes, authorities and a local resident said.

The Coral Springs Police Department confirmed the deaths in a statement Monday afternoon. But police did not provide further details about the occupants of the plane and did not immediately return messages seeking more details.

Coral Springs-Parkland Fire Department Deputy Chief Mike Moser said emergency crews responded within minutes of a call reporting the crash. Initially, no victims were located during rescue efforts and they shifted to a recovery operation. Moser said no homes were damaged, but crews spotted some debris near the retention pond. Local aerial televised footage showed a broken fence in the backyard of one home bordering the pond where the plane went down. (AP)

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20 taken to hospitals after Calif crash: A bus carrying teens and young adults returning from a church camp in the Southern California mountains lost control and tipped onto its side Sunday night while on the way down a winding mountain road, sending 20 people to the hospital, authorities said.

The bus began to shake and swerve then rocked side to side before toppling over, said Cynthia Ramirez, a 21-year-old community college student who had been on board. She recalled the accident Monday while picking up her stray luggage from the Orange County church that organized the weekend retreat at a camp in the San Bernardino Mountains. A youth leader from the trip pulled



Emergency personnel from Coral Springs and Coconut Creek are on scene where a plane crashed in the Windsor Bay community in Coral Springs on Monday, Nov. 10, 2025. (AP)

her out of a hatch on the roof, she said.

“It’s just a freak accident,” Ramirez said. (AP)

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Alabama gov appoints Parker to court: Alabama Gov Kay Ivey on Monday appointed her longtime legal adviser Will Parker to fill a vacancy on the Alabama Supreme Court.

Parker fills the court seat vacated by Bill Lewis who was tapped by President Donald Trump for a federal judgeship. The U.S. Senate last month confirmed Lewis as a U.S. district judge.

Parker was sworn into office on Monday.

Parker has served as Ivey’s general counsel to the governor since 2019. He joined the governor’s office in 2017. “Will Parker is the exact kind of person you want serving on the Alabama Supreme Court. He is not only highly capable and dedicated to the rule of law, but he is a truly good man with the utmost integrity,” Ivey said in a statement. (AP)

Lithuanian president appoints new defense and culture ministers

VILNIUS, Nov 11, (Xinhua): Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda on Monday appointed Social Democrats Robertas Kaunas as defense minister and Vaida Aleknaviciene as culture minister, the Baltic News Service (BNS) reported.

The appointments were formalized through a decree signed on Monday.

Nauseda made his decision on Kaunas after meeting with him twice last week, while his meeting with Aleknaviciene took place on Monday.

Earlier on Monday, Nauseda’s advisor Jolanta Karpaviciene confirmed that the president would appoint Aleknaviciene as culture minister. The Culture Ministry has been without a permanent head since October 3.

Meanwhile, the European Investment Bank (EIB) has granted Lithuania a 300 million-euro (345 million US dollars) loan to finance defense-related projects, the Baltic News Service (BNS) reported on Friday.

Lithuanian Finance Minister Kristupas Vaitiekunas said the funds will be used to purchase dual-use equipment and improve infrastructure for the country’s navy, air force and army, as well as for emergency services.



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, (right), shakes hands with Lithuania's Foreign Minister Kestutis Budrys at the State Department on Nov 10, in Washington. (AP)

“The loan agreement will cover several key areas, including the development of naval, air force and land force infrastructure, logistics, emergency medical services, and the purchase of other equipment,” Vaitiekunas said at the signing ceremony in Vilnius on

Friday.

Lithuania is the first European Union member state to reach such an agreement with the EIB since the bank’s board expanded its financing criteria in March to include military-related projects.

Netherlands extends border controls for six months to curb irregular migration

THE HAGUE, Nov 11, (Xinhua): The Dutch government will extend border controls for another six months until June 8, 2026, Minister for Asylum and Migration David van Weel announced in a statement on Monday.

Van Weel said the decision was necessary to counter the “ongoing impact of irregular migration and cross-border crime.” He emphasized that protecting public order is a priority and that all necessary measures are being taken to shield the migration system from further strain.

The controls, first implemented in December 2024, are conducted by the Dutch military police, known as the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, at the borders with Belgium and Germany, as well as on international trains and selected flights deemed high-risk, according to the statement.

Van Weel said the Dutch government was working to minimize the impact on the economy, traffic, and border communities.

Since their inception, 470 foreigners have been denied entry at the land borders, and 230 people have been arrested for offenses including document fraud and human smuggling, according to the statement. Controls were ex-



Rob Jetten, leader of the Democrats 66, D66, celebrates, one day after the general election, at the House of Representatives in The Hague on Oct 30. (AP)

panded to airports in late July, leading to 20 return orders being issued after 500 flights were checked.

The Netherlands shares land borders with Germany to the east and Belgium to the south.

Europe

Man held for calling attacks on politicians: A man accused of calling for attacks on German politicians and officials, seeking cryptocurrency donations to be used as a reward for their killing and publishing instructions on how to build explosives has been arrested, prosecutors said Tuesday.

The suspect, a German-Polish dual citizen identified only as Martin S. in line with German privacy rules, was arrested in Dortmund on Monday evening, federal prosecutors said in a statement. He is suspected of terrorism financing, giving instructions on carrying out a serious act of violence and dangerous dissemination of personal data.

Prosecutors allege that the man had been calling for attacks on politicians, officials and other figures in German public life on the darknet since at least June. He is accused of anonymously running a platform on which he published lists of names, self-styled death sentences and instructions for building explosives.

Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt, asked about the case at a previously scheduled news conference, said the investigation into a suspect trying to generate money to finance attacks against public figures via “a right-wing extremist platform” had been ongoing since June. He declined to give further details. (AP)

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Romania finds possible drone fragments: Possible drone fragments were found inside Romania’s southeastern border region following Russian strikes on



Dobrindt

Ukrainian Danube River ports overnight, the Romanian Ministry of Defense said Tuesday.

Romanian radars detected groups of drones near the NATO country’s airspace just after midnight Tuesday, prompting the ministry to issue an alert to residents of the southeastern region.

Weather conditions did not allow for fighter jets to be deployed, the defense ministry said, but military teams were able to recover possible drone fragments some 5 kilometers (3 miles) inside Romania’s border with Ukraine.

Breaches of Romania’s airspace by drones have become increasingly frequent in recent months as Russia targets Ukrainian Danube River ports just across the border. Officials have stated that samples collected from sites where drone fragments were found have been similar to those used by the Russian army.

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

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Two freight trains derail in Russia: Two separate freight train derailments disrupted rail operations in northwestern Russia on Monday, though no injuries or environmental damage were reported, Russian transport authorities said on Telegram.

In the Murmansk region, five freight cars carrying fuel oil derailed at Apatity station of the Oktyabrskaya Railway at around 11:12 a.m. Moscow time (0812 GMT), the railway’s press service said.

The incident took place during shunting operations. No injuries were reported, and officials said there was no threat to nearby residents. Emergency response teams, including two recovery trains, were dispatched to the site. The derailment did not affect overall rail traffic, and no fuel leakage was detected, according to the Northwestern Transport Prosecutor’s Office. (Xinhua)

Asia

Thailand demands apology from Cambodia: Thailand said it has indefinitely paused implementation of a U.S.-brokered ceasefire until Cambodia apologizes for a land mine explosion Monday that injured four Thai soldiers at their border.

Thai Prime Minister **Anutin Charnvirakul** visited the injured troops at the border Tuesday as the Thai army accused Cambodia of laying new mines in violation of the truce agreement Thailand and Cambodia signed last month.



Charnvirakul

Territorial disputes between the Southeast Asian neighbors led to five days of combat in late July that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians. Others have been injured by land mine explosions before and after July's combat and tensions have simmered despite the truce.

The Thai army said one soldier lost his right foot after stepping on a land mine while on patrol along the border in Sisaket province Monday, while the other three sustained minor injuries. Cambodia denied responsibility.

Thai Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nikorndej Balankura said Tuesday the incident showed "Cambodia's utter lack of sincerity." He called for Cambodia to apologize, conduct a thorough investigation and implement measures to prevent another explosion. Thailand also said it would indefinitely postpone the return of 18 Cambodian soldiers held since the July conflict. (AP)

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Taiwan evacuates thousands ahead of storm: Tai-

wan evacuated more than 3,000 people from vulnerable areas and closed schools and offices on Tuesday ahead of the arrival of tropical storm Fung-wong, which killed at least 25 people and displaced more than 1.4 million in the Philippines after making landfall there Sunday.

Fung-wong was classified as a typhoon but is losing intensity while approaching Taiwan and is expected to make landfall Wednesday afternoon or evening near the southwestern port city of Kaohsiung.

On Tuesday morning, the storm had maximum sustained winds of up to 108 kph (67 mph) and gusts of 137 kph (85 mph) and is expected to sweep across the island and exit from its northeastern side Wednesday evening or early Thursday, Taiwan's weather agency said. More than 3,300 people from four counties and cities have been evacuated near the eastern township of Guangfu, where flooding from a typhoon in September caused a barrier lake to overflow, killing 18 people. Schools and offices were closed on Tuesday in Hualien and Yilan counties, while weather authorities issued a land warning covering south and southwestern areas including Kaohsiung, Pingtung County, Tainan and Taitung. (AP)

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Australia car-truck collision kills 3: An adult and two children died after their car was crushed in a collision with a truck in southeastern Australia on Tuesday morning.

A police statement said that emergency services were called to the collision in the small town of Stoneleigh, about 150 km west of Melbourne in the state of Victoria, shortly after 9:30 a.m. local time on Tuesday, and found that the car had rolled and been crushed.

Three occupants of the car, an adult and two children, died at the scene.

A second adult who was also in the car was trapped and was expected to be airlifted to hospital with life-threatening injuries. The driver of the truck sustained minor injuries. (Xinhua)

Near-total semiautomatics ban to remain

NZ to remove police from gun licensing

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Nov 11, (AP): New Zealand's government will end the involvement of police officers in regulating gun ownership, an official said Tuesday as she announced sweeping firearms law reforms.

The move is intended to ease tensions between the gun regulator and firearms owners, which have been fraught since the agency's creation following a shooting massacre at two New Zealand mosques.

The Firearms Safety Authority has overseen gun ownership since 2022 after an inquiry underlined the way the white supremacist attacker legally acquired numerous weapons without attracting law enforcement scrutiny.

The changes unveiled in Wellington by Associate Justice Minister Nicole McKee stopped short of what the police union and those bereaved in the Christchurch massacre feared: a reversal of the near-complete ban on semi-automatic firearms passed after the attacker killed 51 Muslims at prayer on March 15, 2019.

McKee, a lobbyist for gun owners before she entered parliament in 2020, told reporters her bid to relax the semiautomatic weapons ban for some sports shooters wasn't approved by the Cabinet. Her government had refused to rule out reversing the ban before.

Instead, her changes focused on removing uniformed officers from the regulatory body and altering its over-



An armed policeman patrols the grounds at the Al Noor mosque March 23, 2019, in Christchurch, New Zealand, following the previous week's mass shooting. (AP)

sight. Once McKee's law passes, the authority will report directly to the government, rather than the head of the New Zealand Police.

"There will be no blue shirts in the Firearms Safety Authority," McKee said, referring to police uniforms. The 15 officers who worked at the authority would return to police duties, which will still include enforcing gun crime laws.

"We need to rebuild the trust and confidence between the regulator and the licensed firearms community that

has diminished severely over the past six years," said McKee. She said "a lot of the blame" for the Christchurch attack was directed at gun owners, who say police should be focusing on law enforcement, not on regulation compliance or licensing.

The regulator is currently a unit within the police department. The law change would create a more independent legal structure that would only share corporate services with the law enforcement agency.

The body couldn't be entirely separated from the police department due to a reliance on law enforcement databases, McKee said.

The Australian attacker, who moved to New Zealand to carry out the massacre, was granted a license and legally amassed semiautomatic weapons after being radicalized online. Lawmakers changed the rules after the attack to require more information from applicants, such as travel histories, and tighter policies about character referees which might have raised questions when Brenton Tarrant applied for a license.

Tarrant pleaded guilty in 2020 to a terrorism charge, 51 counts of murder and 37 of attempted murder. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

"None of us want to see that again," McKee said. But she said the swift changes in the attack's aftermath were "rushed, confused and unfair."

Subianto to visit Australia for first time as Indonesia's president

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov 11, (Agencies): Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will visit Australia on Wednesday for the first time since taking office last year. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the visit Tuesday, but provided few details. Prabowo most recently visited Australia as minister of defense and president-elect in August last year. He was inaugurated that October.

Albanese met Prabowo in Jakarta in May this year for the Australia-Indonesia annual leaders' meeting during the prime minister's first overseas trip following his reelection that month.

"I am delighted to host President Prabowo in Australia and to return the warm and generous hospitality he provided when I visited Jakarta earlier this

Meanwhile, Indonesia has established 18 new immigration offices across several provinces to improve public access, an official from the Ministry of Immigration and Correctional Services said on Tuesday.

"The establishment of these new offices is our effort to improve services

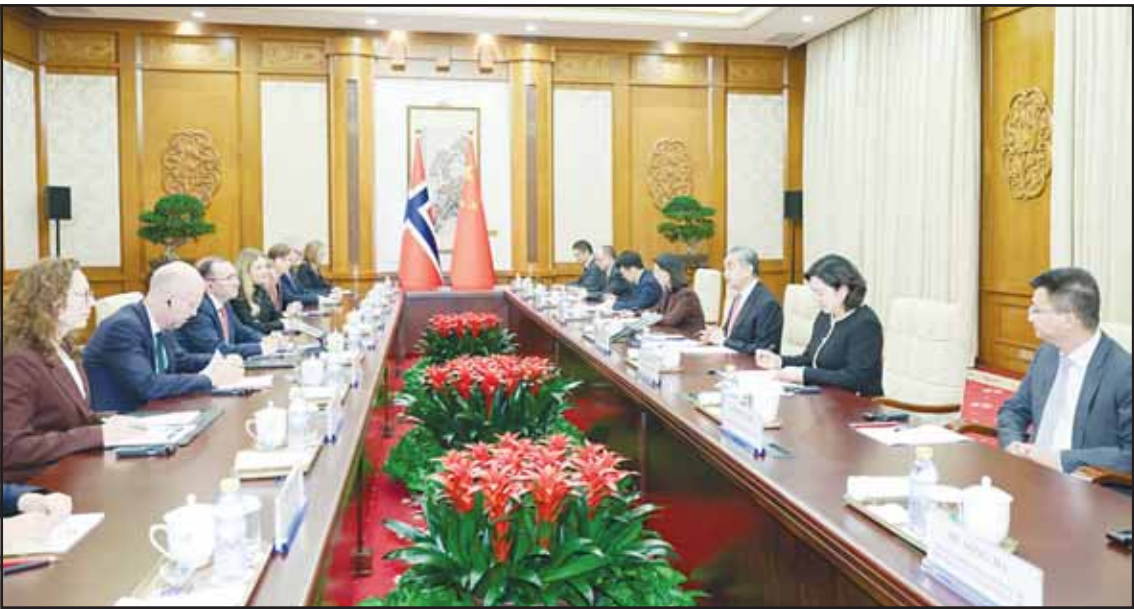


Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto attends the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea on Oct 31. (AP)

to the public. We ensure that areas which have been assessed as having significant immigration service needs can be properly accommodated," said Yuldi Yusman, acting director general

of immigration at the ministry, as cited by local media.

The new offices are spread across multiple provinces to ensure more equitable access to immigration services.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, holds talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide in Beijing, capital of China on Nov 11. (Xinhua)

Chinese FM holds talks with Norwegian counterpart

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide in Beijing on Tuesday. China regards Norway as an important and stable European partner, noted Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee. China hopes that Norway will continue its positive, stable, pragmatic and rational policy toward China, he said.

Wang called on both sides to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, to respect each other's core interests and accommodate each other's major concerns, and to continue pursuing openness and win-win cooperation.

China is willing to work with Norway to uphold mul-

tilateralism together, oppose decoupling and severing supply chains, and promote a more just and equitable international system, he added.

Norway firmly adheres to the one-China policy, said Eide. He noted that as a leader in Europe's green transition, Norway fully opens its market to Chinese electric vehicles and adopts a zero-tariff policy. Norwegian companies are optimistic about the Chinese market and look forward to expanding investment and cooperation with China. He added that China's Global Governance Initiative is highly compatible with Norway's vision, and Norway is willing to work with China to uphold the spirit of the UN Charter and support a rules-based multilateral trading system. (Xinhua)

Suicide bomber targets Islamabad court, killing 12 people and wounding 27: minister

ISLAMABAD, Nov 11, (AP): A suicide bomber struck outside the gates of a district court in Islamabad on Tuesday, detonating his explosives next to a police car and killing 12 people, Pakistan's interior minister said, the latest in an uptick of violence across the country.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the midday blast, which also wounded at least 27 people, but authorities have struggled over the past months with a resurgent Pakistani Taliban.

Witnesses described scenes of mayhem in the immediate aftermath. The explosion, which was heard for miles away, came at a busy time of day when the area outside the court is typically crowded with hundreds of visitors attending court hearings.

The attacker tried to "enter the court premises but, failing to do so, targeted a police vehicle," Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi told journalists. Earlier reports by Pakistani state-run media and two security officials said a car bomb had caused the explosion.

Naqvi alleged that the attack was "carried out by Indian-backed elements and Afghan Taliban proxies" linked to the Pakistani Taliban. Still,



Pakistan's police officers and lawyers gather at the site following a suicide bombing outside the gates of a district court, in Islamabad, Pakistan on Nov 11. (AP)

he said authorities are "looking into all aspects" of the explosion.

The casualties were mostly passers-

by or those who had arrived for court appointments, media reports said. Islamabad police did not immediately issue statements about the attack but

said they were still investigating.

More than a dozen badly wounded people were screaming for help as ambulances rushed to the scene. "People started running in all directions," said Mohammad Afzal, who said he was at the court when he heard the blast.

Deadly car explosion in Delhi being investigated under anti-terrorism law

NEW DELHI, Nov 11, (AP): Indian police were investigating a deadly car explosion in New Delhi under an anti-terrorism law, officials said Tuesday, as forensic experts worked to determine the cause of the blast.

The explosion occurred near the historic Red Fort late Monday, killing at least eight people and injuring several others.

Senior police officials told The Associated Press that a case was registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, India's main anti-terrorism law, which allows broader powers to investigating agencies to detain suspects. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a scheduled visit to Bhutan on Tuesday, said investigators would "get to the bottom of this conspiracy."

"The conspirators won't be spared and all those responsible will be brought to justice," Modi said.

Police said the explosion was believed to have originated from a Hyundai i20 car that had stopped at a traffic signal. Nearby vehicles were badly damaged, and photos showed shattered windows, twisted



Investigators examine the site of Monday's car explosion near the historic Red Fort, in New Delhi, India on Nov 11. (AP)

metal and flames engulfing several cars.

Police were attempting to trace the car's owner. There was no immediate information about the occupants, who were believed to have been killed.

No arrests had been made Tuesday but investigators were "probing all possible angles, including a terror attack, an accidental blast or any kind of failure in car," Delhi police spokesman Sanjay Tyagi told the

AP.

"Teams are working on leads available so far. Final shape of the investigation will be decided after the forensic team gives a final report on use of any explosives," he said.

Senior police officials said they also were probing possible links to the recovery of arms and material used to make explosives in a separate incident in neighboring Haryana state on Monday.

Sudan relief operations 'on brink of collapse,' UN migration agency warns

CAIRO, Nov 11, (AP): The UN migration agency warned on Tuesday that humanitarian efforts in Sudan's war-torn North Darfur region might come to a complete halt unless immediate funding and safe delivery of relief supplies are ensured.

"Despite the rising need, humanitarian operations are now on the brink of collapse," the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said in a statement. It added: "Warehouses are nearly empty, aid convoys face significant insecurity, and access restrictions continue to prevent the delivery of sufficient aid." The IOM said more funding is needed to mitigate the humanitarian impact of the war between the Sudanese army and its rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. The agency warned of "an even greater catastrophe" if its appeal went unheeded.

"Our teams are responding, but insecurity and depleted supplies mean we are only reaching a fraction of those in need," IOM Director General Amy Pope said in a statement.



This photo released by The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), shows displaced children from el-Fasher playing at a camp where they sought refuge from fighting between government forces and the RSF, in Tawila, Darfur region, Sudan on, Nov 3. (AP)

The RSF's recent capture of North Darfur's capital, el-Fasher, left hundreds dead and forced tens of thousands of people to flee reports of atrocities by the paramilitary force, according to aid groups and UN officials.

The IOM said nearly 90,000 people have left el-Fasher and surrounding villages, undertaking a perilous journey through unsafe routes where they have no access to food, water or medical assistance.

Lat/Am

Mexico arrests suspect in Colosio assassination: Federal prosecutors in Mexico arrested another alleged accomplice in the 1994 assassination of presidential candidate **Luis Donaldo Colosio**, a crime that shocked the country and remains unsolved, even though the confessed killer has been imprisoned for more than 30 years.



Colosio

A federal official who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, confirmed Monday to The Associated Press that Jorge Antonio Sánchez Ortega was arrested in Tijuana in connection with Colosio's assassination. The official did not specify the charges against Sánchez Ortega, who is being held in a maximum-security prison in central Mexico, awaiting trial.

According to the National Registry of Detentions, the arrest took place on Saturday.

Colosio, the 1994 presidential candidate for the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), was shot twice during a rally in the northern Mexican city of Tijuana. Since 2024, federal prosecutors have been seeking to prosecute an intelligence agent assigned as his bodyguard, identified only as Jorge Antonio "S," as the alleged perpetrator of the second shooting. (AP)

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16 bodies found in clandestine cemetery: Mexican authorities reported on Monday the discovery of a property used as a clandestine grave site in a town near the Caribbean resort of Cancun, where the remains of at least 16 people have been found so far, though they have not yet been identified.

According to Quintana Roo Attorney General Raciél López Salazar, the site was located in the town of Leona Vicario, 26 miles (42 km) west of Cancun, and five points of "forensic interest" still need to be examined, which could raise the number of victims.

The skeletal remains were found in 10 different locations, covered with cement and quicklime.

Mexico has more than 133,000 registered missing persons, the vast majority of them disappearing in the last two decades. The discovery of these types of burials is common in other parts of the country, such as Jalisco, Michoacan, Tamaulipas and Veracruz, but not in Quintana Roo, a state known for its tourism. (AP)

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Death toll rises to 31 in Ecuador jail riot: The Ecuadorian national prison administration agency SNAI confirmed Sunday that another 27 prisoners have died of asphyxiation in a prison riot in a southern coastal province, bringing the total death toll to 31.

The riot broke out in the early hours of the same day at a prison in Machala, the capital of the southern coastal province of El Oro, leaving four prisoners dead and many others, including a police officer, injured, according to initial official reports. (Xinhua)

Kuwaiti oil price rises to \$66.10 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 38 cents to USD 66.10 per barrel on Monday, compared to USD 65.72 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

In global markets, the prices of the Brent crude and the West Texas Intermediate went up each by 43 cents and 38 cents, respectively, to reach USD 64.06 per barrel and USD 60.13 ber barrel.

Other Voices

Power of self-understanding: Why personal growth matters

By Hala Al Humaidhi

Everything spins fast; we scramble to match work, friends and emotions, therefore knowing ourselves feels like the only real shortcut. Morning arrives, we was up ready to do, therefore to meet expectations, stay strong, and succeed. We're chasing everything else, therefore the one thing we ignore (ourselves). For years I have been a life coach, I did personality-traits consulting and I was advising public relations, therefore I end up wearing many hats.



Al Humaidhi

Through my work with people, groups and schools I see a growing problem across every age and background: they're not weak, they just haven't been taught how to recognize themselves, deal with emotions, or speak up about their needs, right?

Burnout shows up a lot in my workshops. It's therefore one of the frequent problems I try deal with. Burnout isn't just stress or tiredness – it's a draining emptiness that flatlines your thoughts and feelings, therefore your school work drops, friendships wobble, and you simply don't feel OK. You'll often spot it in high achievers; also in perfectionists and in people who care deep about the duties they owe. A lot say pushing harder works, but actually pausing, thinking it over and drawing a line keeps success alive. Another thing I focus on is to understand personality differences, especially by using the MBTI framework. After they spot their own way of talking, what fires them up, and the strengths they just have—suddenly they end up leading with plain, clear direction instead of tangled confusion.

No more comparing themselves

to others, therefore the habit's gone. Teams, they seem to sync up more; ideas just flow. Leaders, they understand their people; therefore they can make better choices. And relationships—personal and professional alike—just get healthier. Self-knowledge, not a luxury, but a basic need you can't afford to skip. That's a necessity, therefore. In many neighborhoods, showing emotions is called a flaw, asking for help gets twisted, and so plenty of people just stay quiet about their pain. I think this mindset've to change, therefore.

Therefore, building emotional smarts and talking skills just as crucial as scoring good grades or gaining job experience. Confidence, resilience, and real relationships: therefore they all sprout from this base. I use training programs, group coaching, public speaking and social media to spark the chats that count—talks about identity, self-worth, mental health and the guts to live by your values. Moreover, these discussions not just theory; real people affected daily: employees, students, mothers, fathers, young pros and leaders.

When a person finally discovers what makes them tick, do you notice how dramatically they change? Their posture changes; that's why it look uneasy. Their tone? It gets softer. Their goals, they're getting clearer now. Joy comes back, purpose steps in; therefore balance quietly settles.

My message is simple: put effort into yourself. You should figure out who you are, a little self-search, maybe. Your feelings, I try see them; therefore I know what's inside you. Choose the bonds that actually lift you up, the ones you can rely on.

Hence, give yourself okay to grow. Once a person feels centered, confident and self-aware, their entire world just flip. That change? It's contagious, therefore it spreads quickly among us.

Instagram: tipsbyhalahill

Renewable energy: Legal insights and future vision

By Lawyer Abdulrahman Al-Houti

In line with Kuwait Vision 2035, the State of Kuwait seeks to diversify its energy sources and reduce dependence on oil as the primary source of revenue and energy. Within this strategic framework, renewable energy projects have become a central pillar of the country's pursuit of sustainable development.

Recognizing the importance of private sector participation in achieving this objective, the government has established a comprehensive legal framework regulating the involvement of both local and foreign investors in clean energy projects, ensuring the protection of public interest and the creation of mutual benefits for all parties.

Law No. 116 of 2014 on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) provides the private sector with the opportunity to undertake the development, financing, operation, and maintenance of public projects, including renewable energy initiatives, through long-term partnership agreements.

This legislation serves as the primary legal foundation for renewable energy projects in Kuwait, containing clear provisions that balance asset ownership with the investor's rights as a partner in development, while also establishing mechanisms for the allocation of risks and returns.

Complementing this legal framework, Law No. 39 of 2010 concerning the establishment of Kuwaiti joint-stock companies for the construction and operation of power and desalination plants permits private sector entities to produce electricity and water from conventional or renewable sources, provided they obtain prior licenses from the competent ministries. Such licensing is a precondition for commencing any production or distribution activities, ensuring environmental and technical safety.

Given the environmental nature of these projects, the Environmental Protection Law requires investors to prepare

an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prior to project implementation. The Public Authority for Environment must approve the study to ensure compliance with sustainability standards and reduction of carbon emissions. Additionally, implementing companies are obligated to apply environmental monitoring plans during operations, and to manage waste and chemical materials used in maintenance, in accordance with public safety requirements.

Renewable energy projects are also linked to municipal regulations concerning land allocation and licensing of buildings and facilities. Land is typically granted on a usufruct basis for a defined period, after which ownership reverts to the State upon expiration of the concession.

From a contractual perspective, renewable energy projects are generally implemented under the PPP model, which includes a set of sub-agreements, such as the Design and Build Agreement, the Operation and Maintenance Agreement, and the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The PPA serves as the cornerstone of these projects, establishing the price of energy sold to the State, the duration of the commitment, and the mechanisms for price adjustment or contract termination in case of breach. These contracts are typically long-term (often exceeding 20 years), providing financial stability for investors and enhancing their ability to secure funding from banks and financial institutions.

Moreover, Law No. 116 of 2014 allows investors to request government guarantees regarding the State's obligations related to energy purchase, or compensation in cases of emergency events, contractual amendments, or early project termination.

A practical example of this legal framework is the Shagaya Renewable Energy Complex, where several local and international consortiums have been qualified to operate in its third phase, in accordance with Law No. 39 of 2010 on the establishment of joint-stock companies for power and water plants and its amendments, and Law No. 116 of 2014 on PPPs. In the coming period, the project will enter a new phase, marking a significant step toward achieving Kuwait's national development goals in renewable energy.

Business

Kuwait real estate transactions stable, value down in early Nov

Private housing demand rises, investment sector slows

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The local real estate market witnessed stability in the number of transactions during the first week of November, recording 129 deals, the same number as the last week of October, but the total value declined slightly (4.4 percent) from KD78.3 million to KD75 million.

Data from the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Departments at the Ministry of

Justice for the period from Nov 2-6 showed the continuation of momentum in the private sector, recording 104 transactions worth KD43.3 million, compared to 94 transactions worth KD40.5 million in the last week of October. This is a 10.6 percent increase in trading activity and a 6.9 percent increase in liquidity, indicating constant demand for private housing, considering the stable prices and increased transaction activity in certain areas.

On the other hand, investment properties witnessed a decline in both the number of transactions (26.6 percent) and their value (2.8 percent), recording 22 transactions worth KD20.5 million at the beginning of November, compared to 30 transactions worth

KD21.1 million at the end of October. This decline is a manifestation of the cautious approach of investors awaiting developments in the real estate and mortgage sectors.

Commercial real estate recorded only two transactions worth KD9.9 million in the first week of November, compared to four transactions worth KD14 million in the last week of October, a decrease of 50 percent in number and 29.3 percent in value. Despite this, the average value per transaction remained high, confirming that the commercial sector relies more on quality transactions than quantity.

The first week of November witnessed one industrial transaction worth KD1.3 million, close to the level of the last week of October, which recorded one transaction in the warehouse sector worth KD2.7 million.

Educating customers on safe banking practices

ABK promotes Diraya campaign on Kuwait TV

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: As part of its ongoing initiatives to support the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's banking awareness campaign, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) promoted the 'Let's Be Aware' Campaign on Kuwait TV program to raise awareness among viewers and listeners about ways to safeguard themselves from financial fraud.

On this occasion, Ali Bu Hamad, Head of Complaints and Customer Protection at ABK, discussed the campaign's key objectives, the latest methods of combating financial and banking fraud, and ways to ensure comprehensive customer protection.

The interview shed light on the campaign's main goals, which include enhancing customer awareness of various banking services and products, raising



vigilance against fraudulent activities, and promoting financial inclusion within the local market.

During the discussion, Bu Hamad highlighted the importance of never sharing personal or confidential banking details with any third party and of keeping PINs and passwords secure. He also stressed the need to carefully verify all information when entering One-Time Password (OTP) codes during online purchases to prevent mis-



use.

He further advised viewers to contact the bank immediately to block their cards if they suspect any suspicious activity on their accounts. Bu Hamad also noted that ABK provides multiple channels for customers to safeguard their accounts and swiftly block their cards in the event of a fraud attempt whether through the Customer Service Center, Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system, mobile application, or ABK branches.

This participation underscores ABK's ongoing commitment to the

objectives of the "Let's Be Aware" campaign, which include educating customers about their rights and responsibilities, different types of cards and accounts, loan products, services for people with special needs, digital banking services, saving and investment methods, and fraud prevention measures.

In parallel, ABK continues to disseminate informative content through its branch screens, social media platforms, official website, and local newspapers, as well as through its participation in numerous events and conferences. These efforts have contributed to ABK's strong standing among the top supporters of the "Let's Be Aware" campaign, which continues to achieve great success.

Revenue climbs 6.7% to \$1.3 bln, EBITDA up 19%

Agility Global reports Q3 2025 earnings of \$52 mln

ABU DHABI, Nov 11: Agility Global PLC, a multi-business owner, operator and long-term investor, today reported Q3 2025 earnings of \$52 million, or 0.55 cent per share. EBIT grew 21.1% to \$126.7 million, EBITDA increased 19% to \$214.7 million, and revenue rose 6.7% to \$1.3 billion.

For the nine-month period, earnings were \$97 million, or 0.98 cent per share. EBIT grew 8% to \$316 million, EBITDA increased 11% to \$568.6 million, and revenue rose 10.2% to \$3.7 billion.

As of September 30, 2025, Agility's investment segment had a carrying value of approximately \$5 billion, and the company's total asset value was \$12.2 billion.

Tarek Sultan, Agility Global Chairman, said: "Agility Global delivered another quarter of solid growth, building on our strategy of scaling high-performing operating businesses while maintaining financial discipline. The completion of Menzies' U.S. acquisition during the quarter is a major milestone that strengthens our position as a global leader in aviation services.

"Our businesses continue to demonstrate momentum across geographies and service lines. Menzies achieved strong double-digit growth, with only one month of G2 consolidated. Tristar performance was healthy, and Agility Logistics Parks continues to expand its presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This progress reflects our ability to execute effectively, create value, and deliver sustainable growth for our shareholders."

Interim Dividends

Agility Global's board has approved the distribution of \$65 million as interim cash dividends for Q3 2025. Shareholders registered on the company's registrar as of the settlement date 20 November 2025 are entitled to the dividends.

Controlled Segment Performance

Aviation Services – Menzies Aviation

In Q3 2025, Menzies Aviation completed the acquisition of G2 Secure Staff in the United States, significantly expanding its U.S. operations and reinforcing its position as the world's largest aviation services company.

The G2 transaction had an enterprise value consideration of \$305m plus a deferred contingent consideration of \$10m payable in 2026 and is subject to achieving certain agreed upon metrics. This acquisition will strengthen Menzies position as the world's largest



Tarek Sultan, Agility Global Chairman



aviation services provider, operating at 350 airports in 65 countries.

Menzies reported \$800.2 million in revenue for the quarter; a 13.6% increase compared with Q3 2024. Part of this growth came from the newly acquired U.S. business, and part driven by higher volumes and improved yields across Ground Handling and Cargo services. The company serviced nearly 1.4 million flights during the quarter.

Q3 EBITDA grew 11.3% year-over-year, with all divisions and service lines delivering improvement.

While Menzies recently announced that its operations in Kuwait will conclude upon the expiry of the current contract in January 2026, the company remains confident in achieving its medium-term growth targets. Those targets are supported by organic growth, strong global demand, and the integration of the U.S. acquisition, which will continue to drive scale and margin enhancement across the network.

For the nine months, Menzies reported 12% revenue growth and 9.7% EBITDA growth.

Fuel Logistics – Tristar

Tristar, a fully integrated fuel logistics company, delivered a resilient performance in Q3 2025 compared to Q3 2024. EBITDA grew 2% to reach \$60.3 million. Operationally The Maritime segment performed better this quarter despite ongoing market challenges. The Retail Fuel business in Sri Lanka, launched in Q3 2024, contributed to results in both comparative periods and continues to grow.

Overall, Tristar continues to deliver stable revenues and healthy operating margins, supported by disciplined cost control, and a strategic focus on efficiency and

Q3 Key Financial Highlights

- Group revenue up 6.7% to \$1.3 billion; EBIT up 21.1% to \$126.7 million.
- Menzies Aviation completed acquisition of U.S.-based G2 Secure Staff for \$315 million; reinforces global leadership position.
- Tristar delivered stable performance in this Quarter.
- Agility Logistics Parks (ALP) continues to grow driven by strong demand in Saudi.
- Investment segment remains stable, with DSV as the main investment.
- Strong balance sheet with total assets of \$12.2 billion and robust operating cash flow.

growth across its diversified portfolio.

For the nine months, Tristar reported strong performance with 16% revenue growth and a marginal decline in EBITDA.

Industrial Real Estate – Agility Logistics Parks (ALP)

Agility Logistics Parks recorded Q3 2025 revenue of \$14.3 million, an 8.2% increase compared with the same period a year earlier. EBITDA was \$11 million, a 14.2% increase year-over-year.

Growth was broad-based across all geographies, with Saudi Arabia contributing the majority of the total increase. Strong demand for modern warehousing in Saudi Arabia continues to drive occupancy rates above 90%. ALP's ongoing development program of 226,000 square meters of new warehousing capacity is progressing on schedule — with half of the planned space already delivered, and the remainder expected by year-end.

The GCC warehousing sector continues to benefit from structural growth trends, including e-commerce expansion, 3PL network growth, and government-led industrial diversification initiatives. In Africa, ALP is actively evaluating new opportunities in high-growth logistics corridors, particularly in East Africa, where demand for modern logistics infrastructure remains significantly underserved.

For the nine months, ALP reported 9.6% revenue growth and 8.3% EBITDA growth.

Investment Segment

As of September 30, 2025, Agility Global's investment segment had a carrying value of \$5 billion. The segment's key assets include stakes in DSV and Reem Mall.

■ The investment segment remains anchored by its strategic stake in DSV, the world's largest freight forwarder. DSV delivered stable financial performance

in Q3 2025 against challenging market conditions and accelerated the synergy realization against its targets.

■ Agility Global is the lead investor in Reem Mall on Abu Dhabi's Reem Island, a signature shopping, dining, and entertainment family destination that spans 183.4K sqm of Gross Leasable Area (GLA). Anchored by hypermarkets and notable entertainment and home furnishing concepts, the mall will be home to around 400 international and local brands.

As of September 2025, roughly 70% of GLA was open and trading, with an additional 14% under fit-out, for an effective GLA leased of roughly 84%. The mall recorded the highest footfall in Q3 2025 with an increase of 23% over the same period in 2024.

Balance Sheet and Financial Position

As of September 30, 2025, Agility Global's total assets stood at approximately \$12.2 billion, with shareholder equity of \$5 billion. Net debt (excluding lease liabilities) was approximately \$3.6 billion, largely tied to the DSV-funded collar facility.

Operating cash flow for the first nine months of 2025 was \$320.1 million, while net CAPEX and investments reached \$317 million, reflecting ongoing business expansion and platform investment.

Outlook

Agility Global enters the final quarter of 2025 with strong momentum. The Group expects continued earnings growth, supported by the full consolidation of the G2 Secure Staff acquisition, Tristar's efficiency programs, and new warehouse deliveries within ALP.

With a strong balance sheet, diversified portfolio, and global scale, Agility Global is well-positioned to deliver sustained value creation and profitable growth.

As part of its commitment to supporting national programs and the SDGs

KIB sponsors the national initiative ‘Soqia Al-Ghad’ in a strategic partnership with Capital Governorate

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) reinstated its commitment to supporting national initiatives aimed at promoting a culture of sustainability and preserving natural resources through its strategic sponsorship of the national initiative “Soqia Al-Ghad” (“Watering for Tomorrow”). The initiative is organized by the Capital Governorate and the Ministry of Education, under the patronage and presence of His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Governor of the Capital, in cooperation with the Kuwait Watering Society, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and the Environment Public Authority.

The opening ceremony of the “Soqia Al-Ghad” initiative, a competition for high school students in the Capital, was held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at the St. Regis Kuwait Hotel. The event was attended by representatives of the organizing entities, along with a number of officials and stakeholders in the environmental and educational sectors. At the event, the Governor commended the prominent role played by the banking sector, represented by KIB, for its constructive contributions in supporting the goals of the initiative.

This initiative aims to raise awareness among high school students about the importance of conserving water and using it responsibly, and encouraging creativity and innovation among students, enabling them to contribute effectively to supporting the state’s efforts and achieving Kuwait Vision 2035. It features a month-long national student competition that includes the submission of scientific projects, technological ideas, innovative awareness campaigns, and practical school-based solutions. All entries will be evaluated by a judging panel comprising representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Kuwait Watering Society. The winners of the first and second places will be honored with certificates of appreciation and incentive awards.

Commenting on this participation, Othman Tawfeq, General Manager of Retail Banking at KIB, stated: “KIB’s support for this initiative comes as part of its social responsibility and sustainability strategy, which focuses on empowering youth, supporting education, and



KIB partners with Capital Governorate for sustainability drive.



promoting environmental awareness. The ‘Soqia Al-Ghad’ initiative reflects our belief that positive change begins with young people, who have the creativity and potential to develop sustainable solutions for the future. Through this partnership, we aim to instill the values of preserving natural resources and to reinforce the idea that every responsible action in our daily lives can contribute to protecting our environment and safeguarding the blessing of water. At KIB, we believe that investing in awareness and knowledge is just as important as financial investment, as it is what builds a more sustainable and progressive society.”

Tawfeq emphasized that the strategic partnership with the Capital Governorate comes as part of the Bank’s commitment to strengthening cooperation with official and community entities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to support national

programs aimed at empowering youth and instilling environmental responsibility in them.

It is worth noting that KIB’s sponsorship of such events embodies its firm commitment to participating in initiatives that reflect its genuine concern for community issues and its dedication to fulfilling its national role. The Bank consistently strives to create a positive and lasting impact on Kuwaiti society, in line with its main slogan, ‘Bank for Life.’

About KIB

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

the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: “Bank for Life”.

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

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



Kuwait Insurance Company's Sami Sharif and Ali M. Behbehani.

Profit rises 1.2% to KD 8.3 mln

KIC reports KD 8.3mn net profit for Q3 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Kuwait Insurance Company announced its financial results for the period ended September 30, 2025, recording a gross profit of KD 9.99 million (USD 32.4 million) compared to KD 9.6 million (USD 31.4 million) for the same period last year.

The net profit for the current period reached KD 8.3 million (USD 27.1 million), with earnings per share of 45.28 fils (USD 0.15), compared to KD 8.2 million (USD 26.8 million) and earnings per share of 44.65 fils (USD 0.146) for the same period last year—an increase of KD 100,000 (USD 327,000) or 1.2%.

Meanwhile, total gross written premiums for the period amounted to KD 44.8 million (USD 146.6 million).

Operating profit totaled KD 3.4 million (USD 11.1 million), and total investment income reached KD 7.7 million (USD 25.2 million), compared to KD 7.1 million (USD 23.2 million) last year, marking an 8.4% increase.

The CEO of Kuwait Insurance Company, Mr. Sami Sharif, stated that these results reflect the strength of the company’s business model and its ability to adapt to economic changes, noting that 2025 witnessed significant progress in institutional development, governance, and compliance.

He added: “Our priority this year has been to strengthen governance and adhere to the directives and decisions of the Insurance Regulatory Unit, in addition to developing internal control, compliance, and anti-money laundering systems. The company has continued to uphold the principles of transparency and institutional discipline for which it has been known since its founding, reflecting its firm commitment to the highest professional and regulatory standards.”

Sharif further highlighted several key achievements during the past nine months, including:

1. Enhancing product transparency to the highest levels.
2. Upgrading technical and administrative systems in line with the digital transformation of the insurance sector.
3. Implementing an extensive training plan to develop staff capabilities and improve professional efficiency.
4. Developing risk models according to international best practices in risk management and financial planning.

Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence:

Mr. Sharif emphasized that Kuwait Insurance Company is closely monitoring global advancements in artificial intelligence applications in insurance, recognizing their growing

impact on automated underwriting, data analytics, customer service, and early risk detection.

He affirmed that AI transformation is one of the company’s top priorities in the coming years and credited these achievements to the teamwork of employees, the support of the Board of Directors, and the constructive role of the Insurance Regulatory Unit in elevating market performance and professional standards.

Prestigious Awards and Ratings:

It is worth noting that Kuwait Insurance Company received the “Most Trusted Comprehensive Insurance Company 2025” award from The Global Economics, a renowned organization specializing in global economic and business ratings.

The company also won the “Most Trusted Insurance Company 2024” award from the same institution.

Financially, the company continues to maintain its strong credit ratings from AM Best (A-) and Moody’s (A3), with a stable outlook, expressing pride in maintaining these long-standing ratings that reflect its solid position among local and regional insurance companies.

65 Years of Trust and Leadership:

This year marks the 65th anniversary of Kuwait Insurance Company’s founding as the first insurance company in Kuwait and the GCC. To commemorate this milestone, the company launched an integrated marketing campaign featuring outdoor and social media advertisements across Kuwait, reinforcing its leadership position in the market.

Investing in National Talent and Social Responsibility:

In line with its commitment to developing national capabilities, the company launched a Kuwaiti Actuarial Expert Development Program aimed at preparing a new generation of professionals in actuarial science, one of the world’s rarest specializations.

Additionally, the company renewed its partnership with the “Omniya” recycling initiative to support plastic waste recycling and promote environmental sustainability awareness as part of its corporate social responsibility efforts.

Mr. Sharif concluded: “We extend our appreciation to the Insurance Regulatory Unit for its ongoing diligence and follow-up, which has directly contributed to improving the efficiency of insurance companies and enhancing policyholder protection. We reaffirm our commitment to working hand in hand with regulators to achieve further development in customer service and community engagement.”

Boursa Kuwait closes higher

All indices gain

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Tuesday’s session on a positive note, with all major indices recording gains. The general market index advanced 38.84 points, or 0.44 percent, closing at 8,918.02 points. Trading activity totaled 369.12 million shares across 23,610 transactions, with a total value of KD 89.9 million (approximately USD 269.4 million).

The main market index climbed 47.38 points, or 0.56 percent, to

8,462.58 points as investors exchanged 243.9 million shares through 14,936 deals worth KD 38.4 million (about USD 117.12 million).

The premier market index also strengthened, rising 38.63 points, or 0.41 percent, to end at 9,472.31 points. A total of 125.12 million shares changed hands in 8,674 transactions valued at KD 51.3 million (around USD 153.9 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index added 50 points, or 0.58 percent, to settle at 8,609.58 points. It recorded 133.3 million shares traded through 8,258 transactions amounting to KD 23.9 million (approximately USD 72.8 million).

Setting new goal of 150 million visitors

Saudi Tourism Minister: Tourism a core pillar of Vision 2030

RIYADH, Nov 11, (Xinhua): Saudi Minister of Tourism Ahmed Al Khateeb has affirmed that tourism is a key pillar of Saudi Vision 2030, and the kingdom is working to strengthen international cooperation in this vital sector. He pointed out that China represents a major market and a strategic partner in developing Saudi tourism.

Speaking in a recent interview with Xinhua on the sidelines of the 26th session of the UN Tourism General Assembly, which is held in Riyadh from Nov. 7 to 11, Al Khateeb said that hosting this global event is part of the kingdom’s efforts to position itself as an international hub for tourism, culture, and economy. The gathering brings together more than 100 ministers and 1,000 global tourism leaders.

Al Khateeb noted that since the launch of Vision 2030 in 2016, Saudi Arabia has invested heavily in developing its tourism, culture, and sports sectors after years of reliance on oil and gas. He cited the establishment of destinations such as the Red Sea Project, NEOM, AlUla, Diriyah, and Qiddiya, as well as the launch of Riyadh Air and the development of King Salman International Airport.

The kingdom has already exceeded its National Tourism Strategy targets. In 2024, Saudi Arabia welcomed 116 million visitors, including 30 million international tourists, surpassing its 2030 goal ahead of schedule. Consequently, the new target has been raised to 150 million visitors by 2030, including 50 million international visitors.

The minister also mentioned the launch of the TOURISE summit, a new annual event that brings together the public and private sectors to discuss the future of global tourism, offering a platform for policymakers, investors, and operators to explore innovation and modern technologies in the industry.

Al Khateeb emphasized that tourism is a two-way path, and Saudi Arabia is preparing all facilities and services to meet the needs of Chinese tourists.

“China is a very important market for us. We have been working closely with the Chinese government through business councils and committees,” he said. He added that Saudi Arabia has opened representative offices in China and encouraged Chinese airlines to operate direct flights to Riyadh. Currently, there are regular flights to many Chinese cities, in-

cluding Beijing and Shanghai. The ministry is also cooperating with major Chinese online travel platforms to strengthen tourism cooperation between the two countries.

According to Al Khateeb, the number of Chinese tourists visiting Saudi Arabia for tourism and leisure is expected to reach half a million in 2025, up from around 100,000 three years ago. The goal is to reach 5 million Chinese tourists by 2030, which will require more flights, stronger promotional efforts, and close cooperation with Chinese partners.

He further mentioned that Saudi Arabia is training tour guides in the Chinese language, installing Chinese-language signs at tourist destinations, and ensuring the availability of authentic Chinese restaurants to cater to visiting tourists.

The minister highlighted that Chinese companies play an active role in Saudi Arabia’s tourism and hotel development projects, particularly in construction and infrastructure. He noted that China is a key partner in implementing major projects in NEOM, the Red Sea, Qiddiya, and Diriyah, to help build the “New Saudi Arabia.”

Baker to lead BPG’s expansion and digital-first strategy in KSA

BPG Group appoints Tim Baker as President of BPG Arabia

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: BPG Group, one of the region’s leading integrated marketing communications agencies and a member of the global WPP network, has announced the appointment of Tim Baker as President, BPG Arabia, to lead the agency’s operations and strengthen its digital-first and integrated by intent offering across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Tim Baker brings over two decades of unparalleled communications leadership, having architected and scaled some of the most successful digital and integrated agencies across the UK and GCC. His proven expertise in driving growth and innovation positions him perfectly to lead BPG Arabia’s ambitious expansion.

In his new role, Tim will lead BPG’s expansion in Saudi Arabia, enhance integration across strategy, creative, content, PR, social and technology, and work closely with clients to deliver data-driven, digital-first, insight-led communications to support the Kingdom’s ambitions.

Commenting on his appointment, Baker said, “Returning to the region to lead BPG in Saudi Arabia, one of the world’s most dynamic and ambitious markets, is incredibly exciting. The Kingdom is rapidly transforming, with creativity and technology converging to offer immense potential for brands and agencies willing to innovate.

He added, “Ironically, it was digital that brought me to BPG; after posting my career ambitions on LinkedIn, I met Avi Bhojani online the very next day, and within six days, I accepted this new challenge. This remarkable speed and agility in making the offer, directly following our digital connection, truly impressed me. It showcased an agile, forward-thinking management team ready to make quick decisions, precisely what agencies need to succeed in today’s dynamic climate. BPG embodies a unique blend, an established reputation and scale, bolstered by WPP, yet with the agility and ambition of a digital-first startup.



Tim Baker of BPG Arabia.

Meeting the senior management team so quickly confirmed the innovative spirit of the team I’m joining. I am eager to work with BPG Group to further establish our footprint here and deliver our renewed digital-first, integrated solutions for clients across Saudi Arabia.”

Welcoming him to the leadership team, Avi Bhojani, Group CEO, BPG Group, said, “Tim is precisely the entrepreneurial leader BPG needs. As a digital native business builder, his arrival marks a pivotal moment for our Group. His distinguished track record, honed through years of scaling agencies including his time with a WPP sibling agency in MENA, makes him the perfect leader to not only elevate our young BPG Arabia practice but also to strategically partner and collaborate with our leadership in UAE and Kuwait. Together, we will contemporize and digitize our

45-year legacy, embedding AI at our core, cementing BPG Group at the forefront of marcom innovation across the region.”

Tim began his career in the UK during the dot-com boom, working with Nestlé UK and Initiative Media London, where he led European strategy for Unilever. In 2005, Tim relocated to Dubai and was responsible for growing Initiative Media across the GCC, before co-founding hug digital in 2010. hug became one of the region’s earliest digital agencies as it grew to 200 staff in Dubai, Riyadh, Cairo, and India, before being sold to WPP in 2018 and integrated into the AKQA network.

With Tim at the helm, BPG Arabia is poised to accelerate its growth trajectory, combining creativity, data, and technology to enable clients to engage effectively with Saudi audiences in an era marked by innovation and transformation.

BPG Arabia is a dynamic, integrated marketing communications agency with operations in Riyadh and Jeddah. We serve a growing portfolio of clients across these key Saudi cities, driven by a young, motivated, and digital-first team comprising talented Saudi Nationals and Arab expats on the ground. Our local expertise is powerfully amplified by the full-service capabilities of our teams in Dubai and Kuwait, alongside dedicated cloud-based resources in Egypt and Asia, ensuring comprehensive and innovative solutions for our clients.

About BPG Group:

For over four decades, BPG Group (formerly Bates PanGulf) has helped brands transform, succeed, and win in a changing world. A WPP company, our digital-first approach and innovative solutions deliver success for exceptional clients. We bring together global talent, local expertise and future-focused capabilities to craft smart solutions for evolving marketing agendas. Inspired by culture, powered by insights, human by design and integrated by intent – we are BPG.

In line with its commitment to top international safety standards in all branches and facilities

NBK successfully conducts a fake evacuation drill at Rumaithiya Branch

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: As part of its unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and security of its employees, National Bank of Kuwait successfully conducted a fake evacuation drill at Rumai-thiya Branch with the aim of assessing and elevating the security and safety teams’ level of readiness, in addition to ensuring the efficiency of dealing with emergency situations.

Commenting on the success of the drill, Mr. Khalid Al-Matrouk, Chief Security Officer and Head of Anti-Financial Crime-Kuwait at National Bank of Kuwait said: “We place the safety and security of our employees and customers as a top priority and a key consideration when designing all business strategies, which is why we always adhere to the highest international standards related to safety and security measures”.

Al-Matrouk also added: “The



Khalid Al-Matrouk

Al-Matrouk: The safety of our employees and customers is a top priority and a cornerstone of our strategies. ■ This experience aims to test the readiness of the security and safety teams and the efficiency of the bank’s systems and facilities.

aim of this fake evacuation drill is to test the readiness and efficiency of the bank’s systems and facilities, in addition to testing the



NBK’s fake evacuation drill at Rumaithiya Branch.



knowledge of employees on how to deal with emergencies and raising their awareness on such vital situations”.

Moreover, Al-Matrouk commended the discipline and awareness the employees showed during the fake evacuation drill, noting that they suc-

cessfully followed the instructions and guidelines and used the emergency exits with efficiency under the supervision of the security team.

Al-Matrouk also extended thanks to the government entities, General Department of Civil Defense of the Min-

istry of Interior and Medical Emergency Department of the Ministry of Health, that contributed to the success of this operation, further stressing that this cooperation is highly significant in enhancing the safety and security measures and systems.

This experience comes as part of the NBK’s ongoing commitment to raising employee awareness about safety and security measures, stemming from its firm dedication to implementing the highest internationally recognized safety standards across all its branches and facilities.

UK unemployment rises to 5%, highest since 2021

Wage growth slows slightly to 4.6%

LONDON, Nov 11, (KUNA): The rate of UK unemployment has risen to five percent in the three months to September, indicating that the jobs market has weakened, according to new official figures.

It is the highest rate since the period covering December 2020 to February 2021, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

The increase in the unemployment rate was higher than expected, coming in above the 4.9 percent projected by many analysts ahead of the Budget on 26 November.

Average wage growth stood at 4.6 percent in the third quarter, down slightly from 4.7 percent in the three months to August.

ONS data showed that nearly 1.7 million people are claiming unemployment benefits, a slight decrease compared with the figure from a year ago.

The statistics also revealed a gap between public and private sector pay growth, with public sector wages rising by 6.6 percent compared to 4.2 percent in the private sector.

Liz McKeown, Director of Economic Statistics at the ONS, said that these figures point to a weakening labour market, and that the unemployment rate is up in the latest quarter to a post-pandemic high. The number of job vacancies, however, remains broadly unchanged.

Responding to the latest figures, Work and Pensions Secretary Pat McFadden said: “Over 329,000 more people have moved into work this year already, but today’s figures are exactly why we’re stepping up our plan to get Britain working.”

7.7% revenue growth

SoftBank sells Nvidia stake, raises \$5.8 bln

TOKYO, Nov 11, (AP): Japanese technology giant SoftBank said Tuesday it has sold its stake in Nvidia, raising \$5.8 billion to pour into other investments. It also reported its profit nearly tripled in the first half of this fiscal year from a year earlier.

Tokyo-based SoftBank Group Corp. said it sold the stake in Silicon Vally-based Nvidia in October, a move that reflects its shift in focus to OpenAI, owner of the artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT.

SoftBank reported its profit in April-September soared to about 2.5 trillion yen (about \$13 billion). Its sales for the six month period rose 7.7% year-on-year to 3.7 trillion yen (\$24 billion), it said.

The company’s fortunes tend to fluctuate because it invests in a range of ventures, including through its tech-focused Vision Funds. Those recently have paid off.

In February, SoftBank’s chairman Masayoshi Son joined President Donald Trump, Sam Altman of OpenAI and Larry Ellison of Oracle in announcing a major investment of up to \$500 billion in a project to develop artificial intelligence called Stargate.

SoftBank has invested tens of billions of dollars in OpenAI. The two companies also plan to provide AI services in Japan.

Selling SoftBank’s stake in Nvidia reflects Son’s shift in strategy and also nets his company a healthy profit thanks to the recent runup in Nvidia’s market value.

Nvidia recently become the first \$5 trillion company, just three months after it broke through the \$4 trillion barrier. It plans a \$100 billion investment in OpenAI as part of a partnership that will add at least 10 gigawatts of Nvidia AI data centers to ramp up OpenAI’s computing power.

The chip maker and other winners in the frenzy around artificial-intelligence technology have been driving much of this year’s rally in share prices. Critics say stock prices of the tech giants have soared too high and too fast in the mania around AI, drawing comparisons to the 2000 dot-com bubble that ultimately burst.

SoftBank and Nvidia still have strong relations since various ventures that SoftBank invests in use Nvidia technology.

SoftBank also has investments in Arm Holdings and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., computer chip makers that like Nvidia are benefiting greatly from the growth of AI.

SoftBank stocks have nearly doubled in value in the past year. They gained nearly 2% Tuesday.

Nvidia’s shares fell 1.3% in pre-market trading early Tuesday. They jumped 5.8% on Monday.

US-Canada relations strain over defense spending and trade

Top diplomats from G7 countries meet in Canada as trade tensions rise with Trump

TORONTO, Nov 11, (AP): Top diplomats from the Group of Seven industrialized democracies are converging on southern Ontario as tensions rise between the U.S. and traditional allies like Canada over defense spending, trade and uncertainty over President Donald Trump’s ceasefire plan in Gaza and efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine war.

Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand said in an interview with The Associated Press that “the relationship has to continue across a range of issues” despite trade pressures as she prepared to host U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and their counterparts from Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Anand also invited the foreign ministers of Australia, Brazil, India, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, South Korea, South Africa and Ukraine.

She said “15 foreign ministers are coming from around the world to the Great White North and funnily enough on the week of our first large snowfall.”

“The work that Canada is doing is continuing to lead multilaterally in an era of a greater movement to protectionism and unilateralism,” Anand said. “And in an era of economic and geopolitical volatility.”

Canada’s G7 hosting duties this year have been marked by strained relations with its North American neighbor, predominantly over Trump’s imposition of tariffs on Canadian imports. But the entire bloc of allies is confronting major turbulence over the Republican president’s demands on trade and various proposals to halt worldwide conflicts.

One main point of contention has been defense spending. All G7 members except for Japan are members of NATO, and Trump has demanded that the alliance partners spend 5% of their annual gross domestic product on defense. While a number of countries have agreed, others have not. Among the G7 NATO members, Canada and Italy are furthest from that goal.

There have also been G7 disagreements over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, with Britain, Canada and France announcing they would recognize a Palestinian state even without a resolution to the conflict. With the Russia-Ukraine war, most G7 members have taken a tougher line on Russia than Trump has.

The two-day meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Lake Ontario near the U.S. border comes after Trump ended trade talks with Canada because the Ontario provincial government ran an anti-tariff advertisement in the U.S. that upset him. That followed a spring of

acrimony, since abated, over Trump’s insistence that Canada should become the 51st U.S. state.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney apologized for the ad and said last week that he’s ready to resume trade talks when the Americans are ready.

“The work that we are doing in the G7 is about finding areas where we can cooperate multilaterally,” Anand said. “This conversation will continue regardless of other efforts that we are making on the trade side.”

Anand said she will have a meeting with Rubio but noted that a different minister leads the U.S. trade file. The U.S. president has placed greater priority on addressing his grievances with other nations’ trade policies than on collaboration with G7 allies.

“Every complex relationship has numerous touch points,” Anand said. “On the trade file, there is continued work to be done - just as there is work to be done on the numerous touch points outside the trade file, and that’s where Secretary Rubio and I come in because the relationship has to continue across a range of issues.”

Anand said Rubio asked her during a breakfast meeting in Washington last month to play a role in bringing countries to the table to ensure that Trump’s Gaza ceasefire plan has longevity.

U.S. officials said Rubio, who also may have meetings with other G7 counterparts and at least one of the invited non-G7 foreign ministers, would be focused on initiatives to halt fighting in Ukraine and Gaza, maritime security, Haiti, Sudan, supply chain resiliency and critical minerals.

Canada’s priorities include ending the war in Ukraine, Arctic security and security in Haiti. There will be a working lunch on energy and critical minerals that are needed for anything from smartphones to fighter jets. Canada has 34 critical minerals and metals that the Pentagon is eager for and investing in for national security.

Anand will probably try to use the meeting to improve the working relationship with Rubio, said Daniel Béland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal.

“Yet, a key factor shaping that relationship is beyond her control: President Trump’s mercurial behavior,” Béland said.

“The expectations are quite low, but avoiding drama and fostering basic common ground on issues like Ukraine and Russia would be helpful,” Béland said.

Expanding on its active participation in community development and CSR program

talabat collaborates with Bu Jarrah for its annual ‘Hero Month’ campaign



talabat employees volunteer to distribute winter clothing to individuals in need.



Delivery riders take part in the campaign.



Bu Jarrah joins talabat volunteers in this year’s Hero Month campaign.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Reaffirming its proactive role as an engaged corporate citizen and committed contributor to community development, talabat, the leading on-demand online ordering platform in the MENA region, renewed its participation in the annual Hero Month initiative. This year, talabat collaborated with renowned Kuwaiti social activist Yousef Alomran (Bu Jarrah) for “Delivering Good”, a humanitarian drive across Kuwait that distributed 1,000+ full packs of heavy winter clothing to individuals and families in need across Kuwait.

This initiative comes as an extension of the company’s dynamic corporate social responsibility (CSR) program, which aims to elevate community members’ quality of life through insight-driven initiatives and campaigns that respond to their varied needs and evolving aspirations.

In addition to Bu Jarrah’s participation, the humanitarian drive saw

the participation of a large group of volunteers from talabat’s riders and employees. The company-wide turnaround of volunteers was a testament to the engrained values of solidarity, compassion, and giving back that underscores talabat’s people-centric culture.

“The success we strive to achieve at talabat is one that reflects on everyone in our community, beginning with our employees and partners to our customers and members of the wider community. And just as our success-driven business operations span the entire year, so do our efforts to guarantee that our community is in constant development across all fronts,” commented Bader Al-Ghanim, Vice President and Managing Director of talabat Kuwait. “Every year, our riders, employees and partners come together to take part in Hero Month. This year, we were delighted to have Bu Jarrah join us in making a heartfelt gesture to ensure individuals

in need stay warm during winter.”

For his part, Bu Jarrah commented on his participation in the initiative, saying: “Community development is truly successful when different sectors come together. It’s been an honor to collaborate with talabat, a company whose positive impact is as tangible and felt across Kuwait, in delivering winter essentials to the families in need. This year’s humanitarian drive was a genuine reminder of the power we hold as individuals in influencing big change through small acts of kindness.”

Despite the campaign running for a month worldwide, talabat Kuwait is committed to extending its Hero Month efforts to span October and November, reaching more beneficiaries with the help of a growing number of talabat volunteers. This initiative is one of several under the umbrella of talabat’s wider CSR program.



Outgoing chief executive of BBC News, Deborah Turness, speaks to the media outside BBC Broadcasting House in London, Monday Nov. 10. (AP)

‘Error of judgment’

Trump threatens to sue BBC over edited speech

LONDON, Nov 11, (AP): US President **Donald Trump** has threatened legal action against the BBC over the way a speech he made was edited in a documentary aired by Britain’s national broadcaster.

BBC chairman Samir Shah on Monday apologized for the “error of judgment,” which triggered the resignations of the BBC’s top executive and its head of news.

Director-General Tim Davie and news chief Deborah Turness quit Sunday over accusations of bias and misleading editing of a speech Trump delivered on Jan. 6, 2021, before a crowd of his supporters stormed the Capitol in Washington.



Trump

The hourlong documentary - titled “Trump: A Second Chance?” - was broadcast as part of the BBC’s “Panorama” series days before the 2024 US presidential election. It spliced together three quotes from two sections of the 2021 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.

Shah said the broadcaster accepted “that the way the speech was edited did give the impression of a direct call for violent action.”

A letter from Trump attorney Alejandro Brito demands the BBC “retract the false, defamatory, disparaging, and inflammatory statements,” apologize and “appropriately compensate President Trump for the harm caused,” or face legal action for \$1 billion in damages.

The BBC said it would review the letter “and respond directly in due course.”

Trump had earlier welcomed the resignations of the two BBC executives. He 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!”

In a resignation 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 was damaging the BBC, and she quit “because the buck stops with me.” She defended the organization’s journalists against allegations of bias.

“Our journalists are hardworking people who strive for impartiality, and I will stand by their journalism,” she said Monday. “There is no institutional bias. Mistakes are made, but there’s no institutional bias.”

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: “I’ll be there with you, we’re going to walk down, we’re going to walk down. Anyone you want, but I think right here, 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 the 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.

In a letter to Parliament’s Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Shah said the purpose of editing Trump’s words had been “to convey the message of the speech” so that viewers could understand how it had been received by Trump’s supporters and what was happening on the ground.

He said the program had not attracted “significant audience feedback” when it first aired but had drawn more than 500 complaints since Prescott’s dossier was made public.

Shah acknowledged in a BBC interview that “it would have been better to have acted earlier. But we didn’t.”

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 who watch live TV or any BBC content.

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.

Judges praise the sparseness of the writing

David Szalay wins Booker Prize for fiction with novel ‘Flesh’

LONDON, Nov 11, (AP): Canadian-Hungarian-British writer David Szalay won the Booker Prize for fiction on Monday for “Flesh,” the story of one man’s life from working-class origins in Hungary to mega-wealth in Britain, in which what isn’t on the page is just as important as what is.

Szalay, 51, beat five other finalists, including favorites Andrew Miller of Britain and Indian author Kiran Desai, to take the coveted literary award, which brings a 50,000-pound (\$66,000) payday and a big boost to the winner’s sales and profile.

He was chosen from 153 submitted novels by a judging panel that included Irish writer Roddy Doyle and “Sex and the City” star Sarah Jessica Parker.

Doyle said “Flesh” - a book “about living, and the strangeness of living” - emerged as the judges’ unanimous choice after a five-hour meeting.

Szalay’s book recounts in spare, unadorned style the life of taciturn István, from a teenage relationship with an older woman through time as a struggling immigrant in Britain to unlikely denizen of London high society.

Szalay said he wrote “Flesh” under pressure, after abandoning a novel he’d been working on for four years.

He said the story grew from “simple, fundamental ingredients.” He knew he “wanted a book that was partly Hungarian and partly English” and was about “life as a physical experience.”

Accepting his trophy at London’s Old Billingsgate - a former fish market turned glitzy events venue - Szalay thanked the judges for rewarding his “risky” novel.

He recalled asking his editor “whether she could imagine a novel called ‘Flesh’ winning the Booker



Hungarian-British author David Szalay poses for photographers with the trophy after winning the Booker Prize 2025 for his book ‘Flesh’ during a ceremony at Old Billingsgate in London, Monday, Nov. 10. (AP)

Prize.”

“You have your answer,” he said.

Doyle, who chaired the judges, said István belongs to a group overlooked in fiction: a working-class man. He said that since reading it, he looks more closely when he walks past bouncers standing in the doorways of Dublin pubs.

“I’m kind of giving him a second look, because I feel I might know him a bit better,” said Doyle, whose funny, poignant stories of working-class Dublin life won him the 1993 Booker Prize for “Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha.”

“It presents us with a certain type of man that invites us to look behind the face.”

Szalay, who was born in Montreal to a Hungarian father and Canadian mother, raised in the UK and now

lives in Vienna, was previously a Booker finalist in 2016 for “All That Man Is,” a series of stories about nine wildly different men.

“Flesh” was praised by many critics but frustrated others with its refusal to fill in the gaps in István’s story - great swathes of life, including incarceration and wartime service in Iraq, occur off the page - and its stubbornly unexpressive central character, whose most common remark is “Okay.”

“He is quite an opaque character,” Szalay acknowledged at a news conference. “He doesn’t explain himself to the reader. He isn’t very articulate. So I really didn’t know quite how people would respond to him as a character.”

Doyle said the judges “loved the sparseness of the writing.”

“We loved how so much was revealed without us being overly aware that it was being revealed. ... Watching this man grow, age, and learning so much about him - despite him, in a way,” he said. “If the gaps were filled, it would be less of a book.”

Founded in 1969 and open to English-language novels from around the world, the Booker Prize has established a reputation for transforming writers’ careers. Winners have included Salman Rushdie, Ian McEwan, Arundhati Roy, Margaret Atwood and Samantha Harvey, who took the 2024 prize for space station story “Orbital.”

Szalay said he hadn’t thought about what he will do with his prize money, beyond “going on a nice little holiday with a bit of it and put the rest in the bank.”

Last year’s winner Harvey, who handed Szalay the Booker Prize trophy, had some advice.

“Buckle up, and get a good accountant,” she said.

Film



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

Stars face peril together in new ‘Predator’

‘Badlands’ pushes franchise with unique duo

SAN DIEGO, Nov 11, (AP): “Predator: Badlands” belongs to a long-established cinema subgenre: two opposed people reluctantly stuck together with a common purpose.

The film, the seventh in the franchise (not counting the “Alien vs. Predator” offshoots), has the buddy comedy energy that comes with that dynamic. It also belongs to the narrower subgenre of people quite literally stuck together, like 1958’s “The Defiant Ones,” in which Sidney Poitier and Tony Curtis were fugitives united by chains.

And, in a scenario that provided special challenges for stars Elle Fanning and Dimitrius Schuster-Koloamatangi, “Predator: Badlands” belongs to a still narrower subset it may share only with “The Empire Strikes Back”: movies with a broken android worn like a backpack by a tall and powerful creature as they face peril in a strange corner of space.

“The real physical inspiration for it was C-3PO strapped to Chewbacca’s back,” director Dan Trachtenberg told The Associated Press in an interview where he was joined by the film’s two stars. “But I think the fun of this is that it’s not Chewbacca. It’s not a friendly, well-intentioned creature, it’s a Predator.”

The apt working title of the movie, which released Friday by 20th Century Studios, was “Backpack.”

For much of the New Zealand shoot, Fanning and Dimitrius Schuster-Koloamatangi were every bit as close as they appear to be in the film, where the top half of her artificially intelligent character, Thia, was back-to-back with Schuster-Koloamatangi’s young Predator, Dek, who is out to prove himself on a hunt against a seemingly unkillable megamonster.

“His Predator braids would, like, whip me in the face all the time in our action sequences,” Fanning said with a laugh.

Trachtenberg and the crew used an array of practical ways to make the backpack setup work.

“Any way you can think of making the rig, we tried,” Schuster-Koloamatangi said.

“Through the mud, through the water, through rivers,” Fanning added.

She said at times her co-star pulled her in a wheelbarrow, and at other times they’d do it on foot.

“I would really pretend to be a backpack swinging around,” she said. “We’d have to coordinate our steps, I’d be walking backward and it would be like, ‘OK, left, right, left, right.’”

Back-to-back

In the scenes when they weren’t back-to-back, Trachtenberg wanted them to be genuinely face-to-face.

“We developed this system where he wore a suit, but his face was open,” the director said. “And that way Dimitrius could really be driving the performance, and he and Elle could work off each other in moments, though fleeting, when they were actually facing each other.”

He said the “whole reason for making the movie was to really emotionally connect with this crazy thing. So it really demanded that we had a different approach,” and that the process “allows us to be far more expressive and do things the other entries in the franchise couldn’t do with its creature.”

Trachtenberg, a 44-year-old Philadelphia native, has taken over the franchise that began in 1987 with the Ar-

nold Schwarzenegger original. He has taken it to entirely new times and places, with entirely new approaches.

His first time at the helm was on 2022’s “Prey,” which was set in 1719 on the Great Plains in the Comanche Nation.

His animated “Predator: Killer of Killers” from earlier this year includes vignettes set in 9th century Scandinavia, 17th century Japan and World War II.

“Predator: Badlands,” which he co-wrote with his “Prey” writing partner Patrick Aison, is set in the distant future on a new planet.

Trachtenberg said at a Comic-Con showcase of the film that one inspiration was the realization that “The Predator never wins.” He wanted to see what that would look like, without making a slasher film.

Fanning, who also plays other identical androids, and Schuster-Koloamatangi were two of only three credited cast members.

She has been acting since she was a preschooler, and is already a veteran pro at 27, but she’s relatively new to franchise filmmaking - 2014’s “Maleficent” being the exception - and entirely new to space-based sci-fi.

“I guess I’ve always been on Earth, or a fantasy realm,” she said with a laugh. “I think the approach to story and character and the script, it’s very much the same.”

She had more credits by age 5 than her 24-year-old co-star has had yet in his brief career.

Standing over 7 feet tall, Schuster-Koloamatangi was a local hire in New Zealand and a special find for the filmmakers. While there was nothing comfortable about most of the shoot, he appreciated being on familiar terrain.

“Home turf, baby,” he said with a laugh.

Fans get chance to own Wicked Witch memorabilia

Iconic black hat from ‘The Wizard of Oz’ is going up for auction

LOS ANGELES, Nov 11, (AP): Just in time for the theatrical release of “Wicked: For Good,” fans will get a chance to own memorabilia from the 1939 original film, “The Wizard of Oz,” and one item is especially witchy.

Heritage Auctions is putting an iconic black hat that Margaret Hamilton wore as the Wicked Witch of the West up for sale. The wool hat is quite large, measuring nearly 14-inches high with a 19.5-inch diameter brim. It also has a 22-inch elastic chin strap worn by Hamilton during flying scenes to keep it secure.

Designed by costume designer Adrian Adolph Greenburg, who went by Gilbert Adrian professionally, the hat was put to use after filming began because the one originally chosen didn’t appear scary



This image released by Heritage Auctions shows the hat worn by Margaret Hamilton in ‘The Wizard of Oz.’ (AP)

enough.

“When Dorothy Gale becomes Dorothy of Oz, it’s when she puts on the ruby slippers,” said Joe Maddalena, EVP of Heri-

tag Auctions. “When the Wicked Witch becomes the Wicked Witch, she puts on the hat. So it’s this transformational moment of the birth of the witch. I think the importance of the hat is just incredible. It’s on par with the slippers.”

Heritage will hold the auction Dec. 9 and 10, both online and at its Dallas headquarters.

Also hitting the auction block are a “The Wizard of Oz” book signed by Garland, who also wrote a lengthy inscription. It has autographs by other main cast members, including Toto’s actual paw prints. The book was gifted to the daughter of Garland’s on-set tutor at the time.

Two different versions of Dorothy’s ruby slippers will be auctioned. One, a right-foot shoe worn by Garland during rehearsals, is

adorned with crimson-burgundy glass bugle beads. A replica of the ruby slippers made by Western Costume Company for the film’s 50th anniversary, will also be for sale. The latter were made using Garland’s original shoe form and have red sequins and rhinestone bows. These shoes, said Maddalena, “are as close as you’re ever going to get to owning a pair of ruby slippers that weren’t screen-used.”

A handwritten letter written by “Oz” author Frank Baum on personal stationary and an organza blouse worn on screen by Garland will also sell. The blouse has a tag with “Judy Garland” handwritten on the label.

Last year, Heritage sold a different pair of ruby slippers from the film for \$28 million.

Damascus Museum temporarily closed after theft

Thieves steal Roman-era statues from Syrian museum

DAMASCUS, Syria, Nov 11, (AP): Thieves broke into the national museum in the Syrian capital and stole several ancient statues dating back to the Roman era, officials said Tuesday.

The National Museum of Damascus was temporarily closed after the heist was discovered early Monday. The museum reopened in January as the country is reeling from the 14-year civil war and the fall of the 54-year Assad family rule last year.

The museum in central Damascus, the country’s largest, houses invaluable antiquities dating back to Syria’s long history. After the war started, security was boosted with metal gates and surveillance cameras.

An official from Syria’s Directorate-General for Antiquities and Museums told The Associated Press that six marble statues were stolen, adding that an investigation is ongoing.

Another official told AP that the theft occurred Sunday night and was discovered early Monday, when one of the doors at the classical department was found broken and several statues dating back to the Roman era were missing. The official refused to give an exact number.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations because the government has not yet made a statement.

On Tuesday morning, an AP journalist tried to enter the museum and was told by security guards that it was closed. They refused to answer questions about the theft.

The section of the museum where the statues were reported stolen is “a beautiful and historically-rich department with artifacts dating back to the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods,” said Maamoun Abdulkarim, the former head of the

government’s antiquities and museums department.

The museum reopened on Jan. 8, a month after rebels ousted President Bashar Assad, ushering in a new era for the country. Fearful of looting, the museum in Damascus closed after the lightning offensive that ended five decades of Assad’s family rule.

After Syria’s conflict began in March 2011, authorities had moved hundreds of priceless artifacts to Damascus from different parts of the country, including the historic central town of Palmyra that was once held by members of the Islamic State group.

In 2015, IS members destroyed mausoleums in Palmyra’s UNESCO World Heritage site that is famous for its 2,000-year-old Roman colonnades, other ruins and priceless artifacts.



In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, a visitor looks at ancient artifacts during the reopening ceremony for Syria’s National Museum, in Damascus, Syria, Oct. 28, 2018. (AP)

Heritage



One of the oldest manual printing presses used in the 19th century at the Al-Zakhriya printing press to print pages after arranging the metal letters in the molds.



Manual printing scissors, or what is known as an old paper-cutting machine, was used in the Al-Zakhriya printing press.

Lebanon’s Zokhraya Press: 1st Arabic printing machine in Mideast since 1733

The Zokhraya Printing Press, located at the Monastery of Saint John in the town of Khenshara, Mount Lebanon, stands as a witness to the printing press of the first Arabic letters in the Middle East in 1733.

It was established by scholar Abdullah Al-Zakhir Al-Hamawi, who built the press using handcrafted printing machines, turning it into an intellectual beacon that contributed to spreading knowledge and Arabic literature.

The founding of the press followed Al-Zakhir’s relocation from Aleppo,



A manual wooden printing press whose primary function was to press the paper onto the inked die to transfer the printed letters.



Metal type trays that were used in the Al-Zakhriya printing press to arrange Arabic and Latin letters before the printing process.

Syria, to Lebanon in 1722, where he settled in Khenshara and began manufacturing printing tools with the help of local craftsmen. He later achieved his dream by printing his first works, assisted by renowned calligrapher Gabriel Labad Al-Hamawi, celebrated for his elegant handwriting style known as the “Labad Script.”

In 1962, Lebanon’s Directorate General of Antiquities listed the Zokhraya Printing Press among the country’s historic heritage buildings, preserving its legacy as a landmark in the history of Arabic printing and cultural renaissance. (KUNA)

Obituary

Known for ‘Anna’ role

Sally Kirkland, stage and screen star, dies at age 84

NEW YORK, Nov 11, (AP): Sally Kirkland, a one-time model who became a regular on stage, film and TV, best known for sharing the screen with Paul Newman and Robert Redford in “The Sting” and her Oscar-nominated title role in the 1987 movie “Anna,” has died. She was 84.

Her representative, Michael Greene, said Kirkland died Tuesday morning at a Palm Springs hospice.

Friends established a GoFundMe account this fall for her medical care. They said she had fractured four bones in her neck, right wrist and left hip. While recovering, she also developed infections, requiring hospitalization and rehab.

Kirkland acted in such films as “The Way We Were” with Barbra Streisand, “Revenge” with Kevin Costner, “Cold Feet” with Keith Carradine and Tom Waits, Ron Howard’s “EDtv,” Oliver Stone’s “JFK,” “Heatwave” with Cicely Tyson, “High Stakes” with Kathy Bates, “Bruce Almighty” with Jim Carrey and the 1991 TV movie “The Haunted,” about a family dealing with paranormal activity. She had a cameo in Mel Brooks’ “Blazing Saddles.”

Her biggest role was in 1987’s “Anna” as a fading Czech movie star remaking her life in the United States and mentoring to a younger actor, Paulina Porizkova. Kirkland won a Golden Globe and earned an Oscar nomination along with Cher in “Moonstruck,” Glenn Close in “Fatal Attraction, Holly Hunter in “Broadcast News” and Meryl Streep in “Ironweed.”

“Kirkland is one of those performers whose talent has been an open secret to her fellow actors but something of a mystery to the general public,” The Los Angeles critic wrote in her review. “There should be no



Sally Kirkland arrives at the Multicultural Motion Picture Association annual Oscar week luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Feb. 22, 2008. (AP)

confusion about her identity after this blazing comet of a performance.”

Kirkland’s small-screen acting credits include stints on “Criminal Minds,” “Roseanne,” “Head Case” and she was a series regular on the TV shows “Valley of the Dolls” and “Charlie’s Angels.”

Born in New York City, Kirkland’s mother was a fashion editor at Vogue and Life magazine who encouraged her daughter to start modeling at age 5. Kirkland graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and studied with Philip Burton, Richard Burton’s mentor, and Lee Strasberg, the master of the Method school of acting. An early breakout was appearing in Andy Warhol’s “13 Most Beautiful Women” in 1964. She appeared naked as a kidnapped rape victim in Terrence McNally’s off-Broadway “Sweet Eros.”

Juilliard String Quartet returns to Tianjin

Bridging Sino-US cultures, traditions through music

TIANJIIN, Nov. 11, (Xinhua): As the last, shimmering notes of the strings dissolved into the evening air, a hush lingered in the concert hall of the Tianjin Juilliard School, followed by warm and sustained applause.

Notably, this moment was less about the close of a performance and more about the continuation of an ever-deepening musical conversation.

On the evening of Nov. 7, 2025, the world-renowned Juilliard String Quartet made a long-awaited return to north China’s Tianjin Municipality after an absence of six years, offering a performance of profound depth and artistry. Their visit went far beyond a single concert, with it unfolding in a series of meaningful encounters -- chamber music coaching sessions, an open masterclass and a seminar that fostered genuine dialogue with a new generation of Chinese musicians.

“It’s truly thrilling to be back in China,” said cellist Astrid Schween. “We deeply treasure every opportunity to perform here. The audiences are always warm and passionate, and seeing so many young people so engaged in the music is profoundly moving.”

Founded in 1946 as the resident ensemble of The Juilliard School in New York, the quartet has long stood as a touchstone of artistic excellence, celebrated for its immaculate precision, emotional depth and unwavering commitment to carrying forward the American chamber music tradition.

Their bond with Tianjin started six years ago -- when the quartet helped inaugurate the first Tianjin Chamber Music Festival, leading masterclasses for students from top conservatories and sharing the stage with the newly



The Juilliard String Quartet performs with graduate students from the Tianjin Juilliard School in north China’s Tianjin, Nov. 7. (Xinhua)

formed Tianjin Juilliard Ensemble.

This collaboration reached new heights in 2025. The four visiting musicians joined four graduate students from the Tianjin Juilliard School in performing Felix Mendelssohn’s “Octet in E-flat Major.” Their joint performance infused the timeless work with fresh vitality.

“Music has the power to transcend language,” said Schween. “Here in Tianjin, I see in the students’ eyes a genuine hunger for music. That passion and sense of inheritance make me believe that music truly knows no boundaries.”

For the students, it was nothing short of transformative. “We weren’t just teacher and student -- we were collaborators,” said Zhu Zeyu, a

graduate student who took part in the performance. “During rehearsals, we exchanged ideas and explored the emotional breath behind every phrase. Their openness and encouragement pushed us to discover our own voice. Every interaction felt like a spark of inspiration.”

This encounter in Tianjin resonates within a larger historical melody. Since the Philadelphia Orchestra’s landmark 1973 China tour, the rhythm of musical exchange between the two nations has endured for over half a century.

This lasting connection was also vividly echoed at the Bond with Kuliang: 2025 China-U.S. Youth Choir Festival, which was held in both the eastern Chinese coastal city of Fuzhou and the national capital Beijing this

July. As one of the largest thematic exchange programs since the initiative to invite 50,000 U.S. youth to China was proposed in 2023, the event brought together nearly 30 choirs from both countries. Meanwhile, last month, the 2025 China-U.S. Youth Marching Band People-to-People Exchange China Tour continued this tradition, using the power of performance to build a bridge of understanding between young people from both nations.

“This is a truly international ensemble,” said second violinist Leonard Fu. “Musicians and students from different countries come together out of a shared love for music. That cross-cultural connection is something deeply moving.”

“Music is a universal language,” Fu added. “Even when we don’t speak the same words, we can still connect through sound and emotion. It reminds us that, at heart, human feelings are shared across all cultures.”

For the leadership of the Tianjin school, the quartet’s visit signifies a continuing and vital partnership. “The Tianjin Juilliard School has worked closely with our colleagues in New York to build bridges of musical and cultural dialogue,” said He Wei, the school’s CEO and artistic director. “Artists from New York visit Tianjin regularly.” He noted, while adding that the school will continue to welcome distinguished international musicians who share their artistry and insight with its students.

“We hope to come back again,” said Schween, voicing a sentiment shared by all. “Music brings us together. That’s the most beautiful meaning of exchange.”

Variety

BAMAKO, Mali: Armed men in Mali killed a TikTok influencer who had posted videos in support of the West African nation’s military, authorities said Monday.

“The young TikTok user Mariame Cissé was abducted by armed men on Friday while she was at the weekly market in Echel ... The following day, at dusk, the same men brought her back to Independence Square in Tonka and executed her in front of a crowd,” Yehia Tandina, the mayor of Timbuktu, told The Associated Press.

The mayor of Tonka in the Timbuktu region, Mamadou Konipo, confirmed the killing but said he didn’t have more information.

Tonka is a village along the Niger River, roughly 150 kilometers (93 miles) from Timbuktu. Members of the al-Qaida affiliate Jama’at Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin, or JNIM, are known to operate there.

No group has taken responsibility for the killing. (AP)

BAMAKO, Mali: In a residential neighborhood in Mali’s capital, a parade of giant marionettes marched through the streets as motorcycles and taxis squeezed through the busy road, stopping at intervals to give way for the puppets.

Rendez-Vous Chez Nous, which translates to “come to us” or “meet at our place” in French, was a three-day festival organized by the Nama marionette and dance group. The ninth annual edition of the event, held in Bamako Nov. 6-8, featured dance performances, concerts and plays.

But the spectacle of colors, raucous

music and merriment belied the fear that Bamako residents have lived with in recent weeks. The city of more than 3 million people is being squeezed by al-Qaida-backed jihadi militants who have imposed a monthslong blockade on fuel imports into the landlocked country, resulting in severe shortages and panic. (AP)

CANBERRA: Researchers in Australia have discovered a smarter way to detect audio deepfakes that is more accurate and adaptable to keep pace with evolving threats, Australia’s national science agency said on Tuesday.

The new technique, Rehearsal with Auxiliary-Informed Sampling (RAIS), is designed for audio deepfake detection, a growing threat in cybercrime risks such as bypassing voice-based biometric authentication systems, impersonation and disinformation, according to a news release of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO). (Xinhua)

TOKYO: Japanese electronics and entertainment company Sony’s profit rose 7% in July-September from a year earlier, it said Tuesday, raising its forecast for the year in part due to the hit film “Demon Slayer’s” strong performance.

Favorable results in Sony Corp.’s streaming services, music business and computer chips division also helped lift its July-September profit to 311 billion yen (\$2 billion), up from 291.8 billion yen the previous year.

Quarterly sales of the Tokyo-based manufacturer of PlayStation video game machines rose 5% to 3.1 trillion yen (\$20 billion). (AP)

Her youthful energy will bring new audience: La Fenice chief

Venice opera house protests appointment of young director

VENICE, Italy, Nov 11, (AP): The storied Venetian opera house La Fenice is embroiled in a dispute with its orchestra and chorus over the appointment of a young and telegenic musical director with ties to Premier Giorgia Meloni but none with the musicians she has been hired to conduct.

La Fenice’s general manager, Nicola Colabianchi, who joined the theater in March, has defended his choice of 35-year-old Beatrice Venezi, saying her youthful energy will bring a new audience to the theater where Giuseppe Verdi premiered “Rigoletto” and “La Traviata” more than 170 years ago.

“She’s young and dynamic, she’s already written several books and she’s conducted many orchestras. She’s a person who attracts a great deal of media attention. So all of this will only bring attention to the theater and the theater’s future,” Colabianchi said in

an interview. “We can’t think the theater can survive with 80-year-old season ticket holders.”

In the six weeks since La Fenice announced Venezi’s appointment, effective next October, striking workers forced the cancellation of an opera premiere and unions have called for Colabianchi’s resignation.

Another protest was planned for Monday, backed by other Italian opera houses in solidarity.

Critics say Venezi doesn’t have the requisite experience for a theater of La Fenice’s profile, where famed conductors Arturo Toscanini, Claudio Abbado and Riccardo Muti have lifted their batons. They also suggest the choice was influenced by Venezi’s ties to Meloni and her far-right Brothers of Italy party.

Venezi has not publicly commented on the La Fenice dispute, and canceled a public appearance to avoid polemics.

She is the daughter of a prominent member of Forza Nuova, another hard-right party, and has identified with the right’s conservative values. However, she told the daily La Stampa in 2023 that she was “offended when they call me a little fascist.”

La Fenice’s unions say they are not contesting Venezi’s youth, gender or political leanings, but the lack of consultations with the musicians whom she must lead. They note that Colabianchi had pledged an open process just days before Venezi’s appointment was announced.

The musical director “gives the theater its musical imprint,” said Paolo Bertoldo, a percussionist in La Fenice’s orchestra and a union leader.

“When you choose a person for this role, you normally choose someone who can construct a role with the artistic crew. If you soccer coach doesn’t work well with the players, the team won’t have results.”



Workers and orchestra members of Venice’s La Fenice opera house, joined by other performing arts professionals, march through the city demanding the resignation of superintendent Nicola Colabianchi and artistic director Beatrice Venezi, in Venice, Italy, Monday, Nov. 10, 2025. (AP)

Over 5,000 measles cases, two deaths reported in 2025

Canada loses measles-free status after mass outbreaks

CANADA, Nov 11, (AP): Canada is no longer measles-free because of ongoing outbreaks, international health experts said Monday, as childhood vaccination rates fall and the highly contagious virus spreads across North and South America.

The loss of the country’s measles elimination status comes more than a year after the highly contagious virus started spreading.

Canada has logged 5,138 measles cases this year and two deaths. Both were babies who were exposed to the measles virus in the womb and born prematurely.

Measles elimination is a symbolic designation, but it represents a hard-won battle against the infectious disease. It is earned when a country shows it stopped continuous spread of the virus within local communities, though occasional cases might still pop up from travel.

Measles typically begins with a high fever and also causes a rash on the face and neck. While most people who get measles recover, it’s one of the leading causes of death among young children, according to the WHO.

Serious complications, including blindness and a swelling of the brain, are more common in young children and adults over age 30.

Canada eliminated measles in 1998, followed by the United States two years later. After hugely successful vaccination campaigns, the Americas became



A dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination awaits the next patient during a vaccine clinic at Southwestern Public Health in St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada, on March 4, 2025. (AP)

the first region in the world to be free of measles in 2016. Health officials estimate the measles vaccine prevented 6.2 millions deaths in the Americas between 2000 and 2023.

But vaccination rates have since slipped across the Americas, falling below the 95% coverage rate needed to stop outbreaks. Large outbreaks in Venezuela and Brazil in 2018 and 2019 cost the region its elimination status. It was reclaimed in 2024, but ends again with Canada’s loss.

Experts from the Pan American Health Organization, an independent health agency, made the determination after analyzing data on Canada’s outbreaks that showed the virus has spread continuously for a year.

The United States could be next. Its elimination status, won in 2000, is at risk even though the large outbreak that killed three and sickened nearly 900 across Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma is over.

Current outbreaks in the US include 34 cases in South Carolina and one hitting towns on the Arizona-Utah border that has sickened more than 150 since mid-August.

That has made for the worst year for measles in the US in more than three decades. Only nine states haven’t confirmed cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC has confirmed 1,681 cases this year and 44 outbreaks.

A large outbreak also continues in Chihuahua, Mexico, where health officials have confirmed 4,430 cases as of last week and 21 deaths, according to state health data.

Mexican and US officials have said the genetic strains of measles spreading in Canada match those in the Texas and Chihuahua outbreaks. All those outbreaks affected certain Mennonite Christian communities who trace their migration over generations from Canada to Mexico to Seminole, Texas.



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

Hope for new therapy

Experts find gut’s role in liver damage from sepsis

MANHASSET, N.Y., Nov 11, (AP): Scientists at Northwell Health’s Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research have uncovered a previously unknown mechanism contributing to severe liver injury during sepsis. The study, published in Nature Communicationsco-led by Ping Wang, MD, professor and chief scientific officer at the Feinstein Institutes, and Monowar Aziz, PhD, associate professor at the Feinstein Institutes, reveals that neutrophils, a type of immune cell, become “trained” in the gut through interaction with a specific white blood cell, called intraepithelial lymphocytes (IELs). They then migrate to the liver via the portal vein, a large vein that carries blood from the gastrointestinal tract, pancreas and spleen to the liver, where they release harmful inflammatory mediators that activate other immune cells and drive liver damage.

“This research fundamentally changes our understanding of how distant organs like the gut can initiate and spread liver damage during sepsis,” said Ping Wang, MD, a senior author of the paper. “By identifying this intricate cellular crosstalk, we are opening new avenues for therapeutic intervention aimed at preventing or easing sepsis-induced organ failure.”

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition where the body’s response to infection damages its own tissues, and sepsis-induced liver injury is a common and often fatal complication, yet its cellular origins have remained elusive. This new research identifies a critical “gut-liver crosstalk” pathway. In preclinical animal models of sepsis, investigators observed an increased number of a previously unrecognized subpopulation of neutrophils within the gut lining. Crucially, these neutrophils interacted with gut IELs through a protein called CD112. This interaction “primes” the neutrophils,

leading to the excessive production of neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs), web-like structures of DNA and proteins designed to trap pathogens, which can also cause significant tissue damage.

These hyper-NETotic neutrophils then travel from the gut directly to the liver via the portal vein. Once in the liver, the NETs activate resident liver macrophages, known as Kupffer cells, by stimulating a receptor called protease-activated receptor-1 (PAR-1). This activation triggers Kupffer cells to release a cascade of potent pro-inflammatory mediators, ultimately causing death of liver cells and driving hepatic failure. Blocking the CD112 interaction or PAR-1 activation lessened the severity of liver injury.

“Sepsis, with its devastating assault on vital organs – particularly the liver – has long remained an enigma,” said Kevin J. Tracey, MD, president and CEO of the Feinstein Institutes and Karches Family Distinguished Chair in Medical Research. “Dr. Wang and his colleagues have unveiled a critical cellular mechanism within the liver that drives this pathological progression, arming us with essential knowledge and pointing toward powerful new strategies to protect organs and re-engineer healing.”

The researchers suggest that targeting the CD112-mediated interaction between IELs and neutrophils, or the PAR-1 activation of Kupffer cells by NETs, could lead to novel therapeutic strategies to combat sepsis-induced liver injury.

Dr. Wang was recently recognized as the second-most-cited sepsis scientist globally. The analysis, published in Medicine, reviewed 26,896 articles on sepsis, citing a total of 354,516 other publications and covered publications from 1980 to 2020. It identified Dr. Wang with 154 published articles on the topic, solidifying his position as a leading expert in the field.

‘Warning scared away women who could benefit’

US FDA removes long-standing warning from hormone-based menopause drugs

WASHINGTON, Nov 11, (AP): Hormone-based drugs used to treat hot flashes and other menopause symptoms will no longer carry a bold warning label about stroke, heart attack, dementia and other serious risks, the Food and Drug Administration announced Monday.

US health officials said they will remove the boxed warning from more than 20 pills, patches and creams containing hormones like estrogen and progesterin, which are approved to ease disruptive symptoms like night sweats.

The change has been supported by some doctors - including FDA Commissioner Marty Makary, who has called the current label outdated and unnecessary. But some doctors worried that the process which led to the decision was flawed.

Health officials explained the move by pointing to studies suggesting hormone therapy has few risks when started before age 60 and within 10 years of menopause symptoms.

“We’re challenging outdated thinking and recommitting to evidence-based medicine that empowers rather than restricts,” Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said in introducing the update.

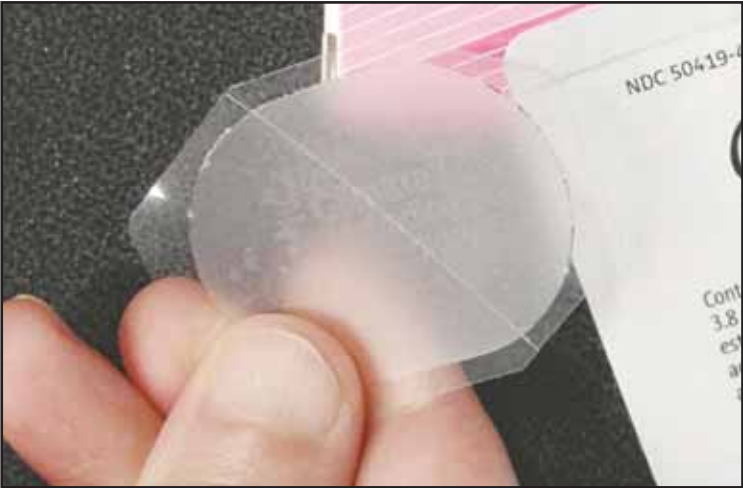
The 22-year-old FDA warning advised doctors that hormone therapy increases the risk of blood clots, heart problems and other health issues, citing data from an influential study published more than 20 years ago.

Many doctors - and pharmaceutical companies - have called for removing or revising the label, which they say discourages prescriptions and scares off women who could benefit.

Dr. Steven Fleischman, president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, said the warnings have created a lot of hesitancy among patients.

“I can spend 30 minutes counseling someone about hormone-replacement therapy- tell them everything - but when they fill the prescription and see that warning they just get scared,” Fleischman said.

Other experts have opposed making changes to the label without a careful, transparent process. They say the FDA



A low-dose estrogen skin patch is seen on Oct 2, 2012. (AP)

should have convened its independent advisers to publicly consider any revisions.

Medical guidelines generally recommend the drugs for a limited duration in younger women going through menopause who don’t have complicating risks, such as breast cancer. FDA’s updated prescribing information mostly matches that approach.

But Makary and some other doctors have suggested that hormone therapy’s benefits can go far beyond managing uncomfortable mid-life symptoms. Before becoming FDA commissioner, Makary dedicated a chapter of his most recent book to extolling the overall benefits of hormone therapy and criticizing doctors unwilling to prescribe it.

On Monday he reiterated that viewpoint, citing figures suggesting hormone therapy reduces heart disease, Alzheimer’s and other age-related conditions.

“With few exceptions, there may be no other medication in the modern era that can improve the health outcomes of women at a population level more than hormone replacement therapy,” Makary told reporters.

The veracity of those benefits remains the subject of ongoing research and debate- including among the ex-

perts whose work led to the original warning.

Dr. JoAnn Manson of Harvard Medical School said the evidence for overall health benefits is not “as conclusive or definitive” as what Makary described. Still, removing the warning is a good step because it could lead to physicians and patients making more personalized decisions, she said.

“The black box is really one size fits all. It scares everyone away,” Manson said. “Without the black box warning there may be more focus on the actual findings, how they differ by age and underlying health factors.”

In the 1990s, more than 1 in 4 U.S. women took estrogen alone or in combination with progesterin on the assumption that - in addition to treating menopause - it would reduce rates of heart disease, dementia and other issues.

But a landmark study of more than 26,000 women challenged that idea, linking two different types of hormone pills to higher rates of stroke, blood clots, breast cancer and other serious risks. After the initial findings were published in 2002, prescriptions plummeted among women of all age groups, including younger menopausal women.

Pathogens

Dengue cases rise in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 11, (Xinhua): Over 1,200 new dengue fever cases were reported on Tuesday across Pakistan’s southern Sindh province, which also recorded another death from the mosquito-borne viral disease, raising the total fatalities to 27 since October, local health authorities said.

According to the provincial health department, the latest death occurred when a 30-year-old man died of dengue fever at the Sindh Infectious Diseases Hospital and Research Center in the provincial capital city of Karachi.

The department’s data showed that out of 7,548 people tested for dengue in the past 24 hours, 1,212 were found positive.

With the recent surge, the province’s dengue tally for November has reached 7,173, taking the cumulative cases this year to 12,750. Currently, 257 patients are receiving treatment at public hospitals and 176 at private facilities, the report said.

Respiratory illnesses: China’s health authorities have warned that the country has entered its respiratory illness season, but have said no unknown pathogens or newly emerged infectious diseases have been detected.

“All pathogens identified so far are known and common,” said Wang Dayan, a researcher with the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, adding that influenza viruses, rhinoviruses and respiratory syncytial viruses are the main causes of acute respiratory infections this season.

According to Wang, flu activity nationwide remains moderate but continues to rise. The flu outbreak is expected to peak between mid-December and early January.

‘Equipment makes exercises safer to perform’

Calisthenics make a comeback: Is body weight enough to get a good workout?

NEW YORK, Nov 11, (AP): You won’t find dumbbells or weight machines in the gym Sean Keogh runs. At Calisthenics Club Houston, it’s all about training with body weight.

“That’s all we do,” Keogh said - but that’s enough to keep new members coming through the doors, excited to learn moves like handstands and pullups.

Keogh and his members have plenty of company. These days, content creators, independent gyms and megachains alike are promoting calisthenics, an age-old form of fitness that uses little or no equipment and instead relies on body weight for resistance.

In July, President Donald Trump even reestablished the Presidential Fitness Test, intending that youth across the country will again practice old-school exercises like situps, pushups and pullups.

It’s just the surprise that these no-frills moves are making a comeback in our over-scheduled society, said Anatolia Vick-Kregel, director of the Lifetime Physical Activity Program at Rice University. “We don’t always have time to go to the gym,” she said. “This is what you can do at home or in your office.”

Another reason might be economic, said Michael Stack, an exercise physiologist and president of the Physical Activity Alliance, a coalition of groups that promote physical activity. With no equipment required, calisthenics-based programs are affordable for exercisers and profitable for gyms that offer them. Plus, people may have gotten used to exercising with few accoutrements during the pandemic.

“This trend has been building,” Stack said. “The pandemic definitely accelerated it.”



People exercise at a park near the Temple of Heaven in Beijing on April 2, 2024. (AP)

There’s plenty of research to suggest that calisthenics can improve everything from muscle strength to aerobic conditioning, Vick-Kregel said.

“Body weight is phenomenal,” she said.

But there are limits to its effects, said John Raglin, a professor of kinesiology at the Indiana University School of Public Health, Bloomington. “It can be effective,” Raglin said. “But I think the idea that it can or should replace the use of even simple equipment is wrong-headed.”

Sometimes, Raglin said, using equipment can actually make exercises simpler or safer to perform. Many people, for example, do pushups with improper form.

“If you’re not strong enough or you have joint issues or arthritis, then ly-

ing on a bench and using small hand weights can actually be safer and more practical,” he said.

Beyond safety, people looking to significantly increase their strength or muscle size will likely see more dramatic results if they use weights, Raglin said. Doing so “utilizes more of your muscle and generates more force than you could otherwise,” he explained.

Lifting weights also damages muscle tissue in a way that can be productive, as muscles grow larger through the body’s repair process. Over time, though, it may take larger amounts of weight to keep seeing gains. Progress plateaus as the body gets used to exercises it’s done before.

It’s not impossible to grow muscle through calisthenics, Vick-Kregel said; it’s just harder to continuously level up exercises for sustained progress without increasing external weight.

“After you’ve done a couple workouts of squatting with your body weight, your body’s going to need external load to get stronger or to build muscle tissue,” Stack agreed.

In other words, if you’re after bulging biceps, you may need more than calisthenics to get there. But if you’re just looking to get moving and improve your health, your body is probably enough.

Particularly for the roughly 75% of Americans who aren’t meeting federal physical activity guidelines - which call for at least 75 minutes of vigorous or 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity a week, plus two strength-training sessions - calisthenics are a great option, Stack said.

“Body weight is the simplest apparatus you can use,” Stack said. “I would encourage anyone who’s not exercising to start exercising with just their body.”

China launches low Earth orbit satellite group

Shenzhou-20 return mission on track

BEIJING, Nov. 11, (Agencies): Work on the return mission of China’s Shenzhou-20 astronaut crew is proceeding in an orderly manner as planned, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced on Tuesday.

After the return mission was postponed, emergency response plans and measures were immediately activated, and a comprehensive simulation analysis, testing, and safety assessment of the Shenzhou-20 manned spacecraft were conducted to study the return implementation plan for the Shenzhou-20 crew, the CMSA said.

All systems are rigorously conducting joint tests as required, while key product status reviews and quality confirmations are carried out. Concurrently, the landing site is performing comprehensive exercises for the crew’s return.

Meanwhile, China has successfully launched a new group of low Earth orbit satellites from the Hainan commercial spacecraft launch site in the southern island province of Hainan on Monday.

The satellite group, the 13th of its kind that will

constitute an internet constellation, was launched at 10:41 a.m. (Beijing Time) aboard a Long March-12 carrier rocket. The satellites entered the preset orbit successfully.

In a related development, China has launched a group of new test satellites into space from waters off the coast of Haiyang, east China’s Shandong Province, on Sunday.

The Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center launched the Long March-11 carrier rocket at 5:01 a.m. (Beijing Time). Three Shiyao-32 test satellites entered the preset orbit successfully.

These satellites are primarily used for conducting various experiments in space-based technologies.

The launch marked the 606th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series. The stranded crew of a Chinese space mission is “in good condition, working and living normally,” China’s Manned Space Engineering office said on Tuesday.

The three astronauts on the Shenzhou-20 mission are facing a delayed return to Earth after their scheduled Nov. 5 return was aborted after their spacecraft was believed to have been struck by a small piece of space debris.

The return has been pushed back to an unspecified date, but the mission team is carrying out tests and drills, according to a statement issued by the space agency.

“The Shenzhou-20 crew is in good condition, working and living normally,” the statement said.

The three astronauts - Chen Dong, Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie - traveled to the Tiangong space station in April and were finishing their six-month rotation.

The replacement Shenzhou-21 mission successfully docked with the space station on Nov. 1, carrying for the first time a group of mice for experiments.

China has made steady progress with its space program since 2003. It has built its own space station and has a goal of landing a person on the moon by 2030.



Chinese astronaut for the Shenzhou 20 mission, Chen Dong, (center), speaks next to his comrades Chen Zhongrui, (right), and Wang Jie as they attend a send-off ceremony for their manned space mission at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwestern China, Thursday, April 24, 2025. (AP)

Kuwait's first and only globally accredited marathon

Gulf Bank 642 Marathon to launch on November 29 with \$50,000 in prizes

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The Gulf Bank has officially announced the launch of the 11th edition of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, scheduled to take place on November 29, with total prizes amounting to \$50,000 USD. The announcement was made during a press conference held yesterday, attended by representatives from Suffix, the event's organizing company, and several sponsoring entities.

Najla AlEisa, Chief Marketing Officer at Gulf Bank, affirmed that the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon has evolved beyond a sporting event to become a national initiative that supports Kuwait's tourism strategy—particularly the “Visit Kuwait” platform—by promoting sports tourism and attracting hundreds of international runners to experience Kuwait's vibrant culture and hospitality.

“Today, as we prepare to launch the 11th edition of the marathon, we reflect on a journey that began with a modest vision and grew into a source of national pride,” AlEisa said. “What started as a dream among Kuwaiti youth to create a world-class marathon has become a reality, thanks to Gulf Bank's belief in that vision and its support for Suffix's founding.”

The Only Globally Accredited Marathon in Kuwait

AlEisa emphasized that the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is the only marathon in Kuwait to be globally accredited, a distinction that underscores its international standards and the collaborative efforts behind its success. She noted that this year's event is expected to attract over 10,000 participants from Kuwait and abroad, including professionals and amateurs of all ages.

The marathon route showcases Kuwait's heritage, passing through key landmarks such as the Gulf Bank headquarters, Kuwait Towers, Souq Al Mubarakiya, and the Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Centre. AlEisa highlighted the event's broader mission to promote public health, especially in light of rising rates of obesity and diabetes, stating:

“Every participant sends a clear



Najla AlEisa and Ahmed AlMajed pose for a group photo with the event sponsors.



Left: Najla AlEisa addresses the audience.



Center: Ahmed AlMajed addresses the audience.



Right: Salem Alsanea of Jahez Company accepts a commemorative shield during the sponsor recognition ceremony.

message: Your health is your wealth.”

She also noted Gulf Bank's commitment to encouraging a healthy lifestyle, supporting Kuwaiti athletic talent, and empowering small and medium enterprises by involving them in the marathon's activities.

AlEisa extended her gratitude to Kuwait's Ministries of Interior and Health for their continued support in organizing and securing the event, and praised the cooperation of all stakeholders in making the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon a highly anticipated annual event.

Race Categories and Economic Impact

Ahmed AlMajed, Chief Operat-

ing Officer at Suffix, announced that the marathon will begin at 7:00 AM on November 29, starting from Souq Sharq and passing through Kuwait's most iconic sites.

The event offers four race categories:

- 5 km walk/run (ages 11+)
- 10 km run (ages 16+)
- Half marathon – 21 km (ages 18+)
- Full marathon – 42 km

“We are proud to continue our partnership with Gulf Bank in organizing this distinguished social and sporting event, which continues to achieve success year after year, with growing local and regional participation. Since its inception, the marathon has attracted around 75,000 runners from within Kuwait and abroad (representing more than 85 nationalities), contributing over two million Kuwaiti dinars to the national economy, in addition to creating about 2,000 seasonal job opportunities annually.

He pointed out that the marathon has also helped promote the culture of volunteerism in Kuwait, with around 9,000 volunteers participating without compensation over the past years to help organize the participants. The total value of prizes for this year's winners amounts to USD 50,000.

At the conclusion of the press conference, Gulf Bank and Safex honored the sponsors who supported the marathon, who in turn expressed their gratitude to Gulf Bank for its continued support of this outstanding sporting event.”

Four Days of Activities and Open Registration

From November 26 to 29, Souq Sharq will host four days of public entertainment and activities, including the distribution of official race gear and interactive experiences for attendees.

Registration is now open

Gulf Bank has renewed its invitation to athletes, beginners, and all members of society—both within Kuwait and internationally—to participate in this landmark event.

Registration is now open at: www.gulfbank642marathon.com

Sinner gets title defense at ATP Finals off to solid start

Fritz beats late entry Musetti

TURIN, Italy, Nov 11, (AP): Jannik Sinner got his title defense at the ATP Finals off to a solid start before his home fans with a 7-5, 6-1 win over Felix Auger-Aliassime.

To also claim the year-end No. 1 ranking. Sinner needs to win the season-ending event for the top eight players and hope Carlos Alcaraz doesn't reach the final.

No. 8-ranked Auger-Aliassime appeared slowed by a left calf issue that arose near the end of the first set. He was twice treated by a trainer during the second set.

“It was very tough until 6-5 and then he had a physical issue,” said Sinner, referring to when he broke the Canadian's serve to close out the first set.

Sinner won the title in Turin last year without dropping a set and hasn't lost at the event since the 2023 final to Novak Djokovic.

There was a sign held aloft in the crowd that labeled Sinner “Italian pride” and Sinner was serenaded with a soccer-like chant of “Ole, ole, ole. Sin-ner, Sin-ner” during his on-court post-match interview.

“It's a special tournament and place for me,” he said.



United States' Taylor Fritz returns the ball to Italy's Lorenzo Musetti during their singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals, in Turin, Italy. (AP)

Sinner has won all four of his meetings with Auger-Aliassime this year, including a U.S. Open semifinal and the recent Paris Masters final.

Sinner and Alexander Zverev lead the Bjorn Borg group with one win each after Zverev beat Ben Shelton on Sunday.

The top two finishers in each group advance to the semifinals.

Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 6-4.

Unlike Musetti, who was making his debut, Fritz has pedigree in the tournament after reaching the final last year and the semifinals on debut in 2022. He'd also spent the past week preparing on the indoor court.

“A very important one to win I would say if I want to make it out of the group,” Fritz said. “He plays quite different with the slices and everything. So it took me some time to get used to it.

“I was able to avoid getting broken early in the match when he had some chances. Then I feel like I kind of got into the match more. ... I thought I played really well.”

Musetti was a late replacement for Djokovic, who withdrew with an injured shoulder after beating the Italian in the Athens final on Saturday. Musetti arrived in Turin only on Sunday but couldn't ride his hometown crowd's support.

“I couldn't be at 100% in shape, especially physically,” Musetti said. “Mentally, I'm really glad that I'm here. I'm super proud of myself, of my team, of what we achieved. Today, I tried to fight with what I had.”

Fritz and Alcaraz lead the Jimmy Connors group with one win each, while De Minaur and Musetti trail with one loss each.

Atletico coming under US ownership after deal with Apollo Sports Capital

MADRID, Nov 11, (AP): Atletico Madrid is about to come under American ownership.

Apollo Sports Capital, an asset management company, will become the Spanish club's majority shareholder early next year, Atletico announced on Monday. No financial details were disclosed.

Chief executive Miguel Ángel Gil and president Enrique Cerezo will stay in their positions to ensure “continuity of vision and leadership,” the two parties said in a joint statement.

Gil's position at Atletico has elevated its influence in soccer, as he is a member of the executive committees at both the influential European Football Clubs group and UEFA.

The statement also said the deal for Atletico “is not part of a multi-club control ownership strategy.”

“The investment by ASC will reinforce the club's position among football's elite and support its ambition to deliver long-term success for millions of fans worldwide,” Atletico and Apollo said.

“As long-term investors, ASC and the existing shareholders will partner with Atlético de Madrid's manage-

ment to enhance the club's financial strength, sporting competitiveness and community impact.”

Apollo Sports Capital has also invested in the Madrid Open and Miami Open tennis tournaments.

The company said it “intends to invest additional capital to support the club's long-term plans, including further investment in Atlético de Madrid's teams and in major infrastructure projects” such as Ciudad del Deporte, a sports and entertainment district adjacent to its Metropolitan Stadium home.

Atletico, coached by Diego Simeone since 2011 and currently fourth in La Liga, is an 11-time Spanish champion, most recently in 2021. The team reached the Champions League final in 2014 and 2016, losing to Real Madrid both times.

Rob Givone, portfolio manager at ASC, described Atletico - founded in 1903 - as “one of Europe's great sporting institutions.”

Previous investors in Atletico have included Chinese conglomerate Wanda, which sold its stake to Israeli billionaire Idan Ofer's Quantum Pacific Group.

Focus on driving and talk less: Elkann

MILAN, Nov 11, (AP): Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc need to “focus on driving and talk less,” Ferrari executive chairman John Elkann warned Monday after both of the team's drivers failed to finish the Brazilian Grand Prix.

The results dropped Ferrari down to fourth in the constructors' standings and left both Hamilton and Leclerc winless this season.

Hamilton, who has been critical of his team all season, called the weekend “a nightmare.”

Leclerc said he was “not happy” and called his car “very slow” after struggling in sprint qualifying.

Hamilton had to retire midrace due to damage to his car, while Leclerc also went out with damage after getting caught up in a collision between Oscar Piastri and Kimi Antonelli.

Elkann addressed Ferrari's troubles on the sidelines of a sponsorship announcement between Stellantis and the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics.

“Brazil was a big disappointment but if we look at the season we can say that our mechanics are actually winning the championship with the performances that they've made in terms of pole positions and pit stops,” Elkann said. “There's no doubt that the car has improved.

“If we look at everything else, it's not up to standards,” Elkann added. “It's important that our drivers focus on driving and talk less.”

Ferrari will go winless this season if neither Hamilton nor Leclerc see the checkered flag at the last three races in Las



Ferrari driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain steers his car during the Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix at the Interlagos race track, in Sao Paulo. (AP)

Vegas, Qatar and Abu Dhabi.

“We have some big races remaining and it's not impossible to finish second,” Elkann said, referring to the constructor's standings, where it's a tight race between Mercedes (398 points), Red Bull (366) and Ferrari (362).

McLaren is far ahead in first with 756 points.

Under the theme ‘Our Social Responsibility Has Gone National’

Burgan Bank concludes Platinum Sponsorship of FIP World Cup Pairs 2025 in festive atmosphere reflecting the spirit of Kuwait



Winners celebrate with their trophies as officials applaud.



The Burgan Bank Corporate Communications team with Khalid Al Mulla, Bibi Abdulmohsin, and Abdulsalam Mohammed.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: As the curtains closed on the inaugural FIP World Cup Pairs 2025, Burgan Bank celebrated the resounding success of its Platinum Sponsorship, which went far beyond the boundaries of traditional corporate partnerships to become a nationwide celebration, marked by a strong public and media presence, and a festive atmosphere, and a clear demonstration underscoring Kuwait’s prominent role in hosting world-class sporting events.

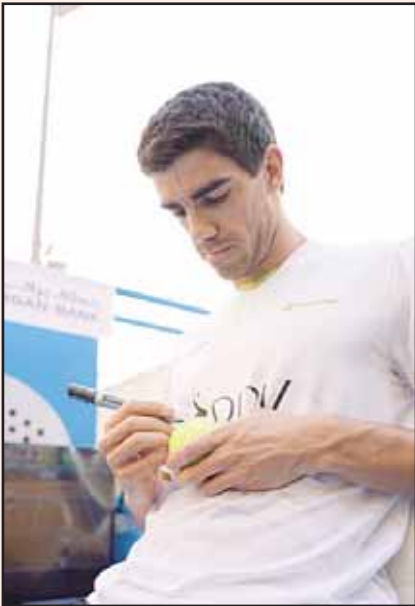
Over nine exhilarating days, the tournament brought together the world’s best padel athletes, passionate fans, and an atmosphere that embodied sportsmanship and national pride. Hosting such a historic event for the first time, Kuwait cemented its position in the global sports scene and strengthened its capacity to organize future tournaments at both regional and international levels. The competitions attracted thousands of visitors daily, including both Kuwaiti public and resident communities, who filled the stands and played a key role in the event’s success. The fields

of The Arena and Rafa Nadal Academy transformed into vibrant hubs for sporting activities and community gatherings.

A Sponsorship that Became a National Moment

From the very beginning, Burgan Bank sought to transform its sponsorship into a sporting and national celebration, under the theme “Our Social Responsibility Has Gone National”. The Bank’s dedicated Fan Zone became one of the tournament’s most visited destinations, offering visitors a range of interactive activities, games, and giveaways that brought families, friends, and fans together beyond the courts.

The Bank’s booth at the interactive Fan Zone also featured the participation of Mohammad Abdal and Mohammed Al-Turki, both bank employees and members of the Kuwait national padel team, in various competitions and interactive segments with visitors and attendees. They also provided live match commentary from the booth’s analysis studio, enriching the audience’s experience and enhancing their engagement



Spanish padel superstar Juan Lebrón signing a ball at the Burgan Bank booth.

throughout the tournament.

Burgan Bank played a prominent role in the success of this historic, world-class event as Platinum Sponsor and Strategic Partner, marking a pivotal starting point for hosting more championships in the future and placing Kuwait firmly on the global sporting map. The tournament was professionally organized and witnessed an exceptional public turnout, reflecting global confidence in Kuwaiti youth — who demonstrated outstanding competence in managing an event of this scale and caliber.

At the heart of this activation was Burgan Bank’s belief in the importance of physical and mental health and strengthening social ties as one of the core pillars of its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy. This commitment was reflected in the enthusiastic participation of fans from all ages and backgrounds. Visitors were also able to learn more about financial literacy through the Bank’s promotion of the Diraya campaign, with awareness materials and brochures available at the booth, reinforcing



Burgan employees and national padel team players, Mohammad Abdal and Mohammed Al-Turki.

ing Burgan Bank’s long-standing commitment to responsible banking and education.

A Viral Anthem for the Fans

One of the sponsorship’s most memorable highlights was Burgan Bank’s customized song dedicated to the players, fans and visitors titled “Jumhoorna Al Thahab” (Our Golden Fans), performed by Khalid Al Mulla, Bibi Abdulmohsin, and Abdulsalam Mohammed. Since its launch, the song garnered over 7 million views across social media platforms, where the public shared it through clips from the matches, photos of fans, and scenes capturing the championship’s atmosphere. The song was played in the stadiums before every match to boost excitement in the stands.

The song carries a heartfelt message, expressing gratitude to the crowd who fill the stands with their enthusiasm and support their teams with true sportsmanship. Its simple and spontaneous lyrics capture the image of the devoted Kuwaiti supporter, who attends not only to watch the match but to be part of a national event that

proudly elevates Kuwait’s name on the international stage.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony featured a folkloric performance reflecting Kuwaiti heritage and culture through this global event, in addition to a dazzling laser show and entertaining competitions that added a unique festive touch to the event. It was attended by leading figures and dignitaries from Kuwait’s sports and media sectors, as well as an exceptional crowd that filled the stands to enjoy the competitive atmosphere and final festivities as a true testament to the spirit of engagement that has defined the FIP World Cup Pairs 2025 since its launch.

Alongside the banking products and services tailored to its clients’ lifestyles, Burgan Bank actively sponsors and supports numerous community activities and events. The Bank’s commitment reflects its core principle, Driven by You, and reinforces its ongoing mission to empower Kuwait’s people and support the nations development journey across all fields, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.



Panoramic view of the arena.



The Burgan Bank booth at the Fan Zone.



Kuwait's karate national team member Mohammed Al-Moussawi advanced to the men's individual Kata final at the Islamic Solidarity Games. Al-Moussawi secured his place in the final after delivering a strong performance during the preliminary rounds in Riyadh, as part of the sixth edition of the Games. In Kata events, athletes do not face a direct opponent but perform a sequence of precise and disciplined movements before a panel of judges, who assess their performance based on accuracy, balance, power, rhythm, and concentra-

Sports

Three planes arranged for fans ahead of Mauritania match; League to expand to 12 teams next season

KFA confirms Amir Cup in May, Crown Prince Cup in January



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yusuf, Chairman of the Kuwait Football Association

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yusuf, Chairman of the Kuwait Football Association, revealed that the Amir Cup for the current season will be held in May, following the Eid Al-Adha holiday, while the Crown Prince Cup is scheduled for January.

Speaking on the program "Balancer", Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yusuf highlighted the KFA's partnership with the Public Authority for Sports to host major sporting events and stressed that collaboration with the private sector plays a key role in

developing sports in Kuwait. He encouraged private companies and government institutions to form partnerships with sports authorities to further advance the nation's sporting landscape.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yusuf described the upcoming French Super Cup on January 8 as a major international event expected to draw significant fan interest, particularly at Jaber Al-Ahmad Stadium. He also credited Zain for its substantial role in supporting and advancing football in Kuwait.

Looking ahead, the KFA plans to expand the Premier League to 12 clubs next season. Al-Yusuf also emphasized that selection of the national team squad is fully entrusted to the coaching staff, without interference from the board.

For the Arab Cup playoff match against Mauritania on November 25, the KFA has arranged two planes to transport fans to Doha, with Zain providing a third. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yusuf also expressed hopes for dedicated club training facilities to reduce pressure on existing stadiums, praising

the Public Authority for Sports for its support in facilitating the association's initiatives.

Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti at Zain, highlighted the success of the four-year partnership with the KFA through the Zain League, noting a "significant boost" in the league's quality. He described the Gulf Zain 26 tournament as one of the best sporting events hosted in Kuwait, attracting large crowds, and confirmed that new collaborations and initiatives are planned with the FA in the near future.

Sheikh Al-Mubarak congratulates Al-Shaer on FEI Dressage Committee presidency

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Sheikh Sabah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Dressage Committee at the Kuwait Equestrian Federation, extended his congratulations to Palestinian rider Diana Al-Shaer on her election as Chair of the FEI Dressage Committee and as a member of the International Equestrian Federation's Board of Directors.

Sheikh Al-Mubarak praised Al-Shaer's distinguished career, noting that she currently leads the FEI Arab Group VII for dressage and is regularly consulted on all matters related to the discipline. "Diana Al-Shaer has played a vital role in the development of dressage across Arab countries," he said. "Under her guidance, Kuwait has implemented one of the best systems in the sport. We are committed to continuous improvement, and having a strong ally within the International Federation will further support our goals."

He added that interest in dressage has been growing rapidly in recent months, particularly among beginners at the training level, which is essential



Sheikh Sabah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah poses with the champions.

for discovering and nurturing new talents. "Among them is the promising young rider Haider Ali Baqer, who is currently the youngest participant in local equestrian competitions," Sheikh Al-Mubarak said.

The Kuwait Equestrian Federation's Dressage Committee recently organized the first official championship of the current season, which saw strong participation at the Sahara Equestrian Club.

Kuwait handball team heads to Riyadh for Islamic Solidarity Games

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Kuwait's national men's handball team departs today for Saudi Arabia to compete in the sixth edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games, held in Riyadh from November 7 to 21 with participation from national teams across Islamic countries.

The team will kick off the main round against Bahrain on Friday, November 14, followed by a clash with Iraq on Sunday, November 16, and will wrap up group-stage action against Saudi Arabia on November 18 in Group A. Group B features Qatar, Iran, the UAE, and the Maldives.

The delegation is led by Kuwait Handball Federation Treasurer Khaled Taleb and includes team manager Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi. The coaching staff is headed by Icelandic coach Aron Kristjansson, with assistant coach Haini Giverson, technical analyst Ayman Al-Sheikh, goalkeeper coach Marwan Maqayez,



Players preparing for the Games.

and physiotherapists Mehdi Bakouch and Rai, alongside 16 players.

Kuwait prepared for the Games through intensive training in Kuwait, followed by an overseas camp in Tunisia, where the team participated in the Hashemi Rizkallah International Friendly Tournament, facing Guinea, Iran, and host Tunisia. The team returned to Kuwait earlier this week for two days of local training before flying to Saudi Arabia.

In other handball events, the 7th Arab Women's Club Championship saw Qurain finish fifth and Salwa Al-Sabah seventh, with Tunisian club Africain claiming the title. Monastir (Tunisia) finished second, Hammamet third, Sahel fourth, Syrian club Qasioun sixth, and Nabaq eighth. Qurain player Noura Mahmoud Al-Sharif emerged as the tournament's top scorer.

In the league, Burgan drew 36-36 with Qurain in their fourth-round match, while Salmiya defeated Al-Nasr 35-26. Burgan temporarily leads the standings with six points, Salmiya is second with five, Qurain sits sixth with three, and Al-Nasr remains at the bottom with zero points.

Hawks send Clippers to 5th straight loss



Detroit Pistons guard Cade Cunningham, left, and Washington Wizards forward Cam Whitmore dive for the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Detroit. (AP)

Wembanyama scores 38 points as the Spurs rally past

INGLEWOOD, Nov 11, (AP): **Vit Krejci scored a career-high 28 points off the bench, Kristaps Porzingis added 20 and the Atlanta Hawks opened a four-game road trip with a 105-102 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.**

Jalen Johnson had 16 points and 10 rebounds as the Hawks overcame a 17-point deficit to win consecutive games for the second time this season. Krejci made a career-best eight 3-pointers in 10 attempts.

Spurs 121, Bulls 117

In Chicago, Victor Wembanyama scored 18 of his 38 points in the fourth quarter, and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Chicago Bulls for their third consecutive win.

Wembanyama also grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked five shots. The 7-foot-4 center made six 3-pointers and went 11 for 19 from the field in San Antonio's first win at Chicago since March 17, 2021.

Bucks 116, Mavericks 114

In Dallas, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 15 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter and Ryan Rollins put Milwaukee ahead for good with a driving layup with 17.9 seconds left as the Bucks rallied from a 13-point deficit early in the period to beat the Dallas Mavericks.

Kyle Kuzma added a season-high 26 points off the bench for the Bucks, closing with a dunk with 14 seconds left after stealing a Dallas inbound pass when intended recipient Cooper Flagg slipped just beyond the 3-point line.

Heat 140, Cavaliers 138

In Miami, Andrew Wiggins made an alley-oop dunk at the buzzer in overtime, and the Miami Heat beat the Cleveland Cavaliers in a wild back-and-forth game.

Norman Powell scored 33 points, Jaime Jaquez Jr. had 22 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists off the bench for the Heat. Wiggins scored 23 for Miami, which got a 14-point, 20-rebound game from Kel'el Ware.

Lakers 121, Hornets 111

In Charlotte, Luka Doncic had 38 points, Rui Hachimura scored 13 of his 21 points in a pivotal third quarter and the Los Angeles Lakers pulled away in the second half to beat the Charlotte Hornets.

Austin Reaves added 24 points for the Lakers, who have won six of their past seven games.

Suns 121, Pelicans 98

In Phoenix, Grayson Allen made a franchise-record 10 3-pointers and scored a career-high 42 points, leading the Phoenix Suns victory over the New Orleans Pelicans.

Allen was 12 for 17 from the field and 10 for 15 from

3-point range to break the record he shared after making nine 3-pointers three previous times. He was 5 for 5 in the third quarter, when he scored 17 points.

Pistons 137, Wizards 135, OT

In Detroit, Cade Cunningham scored 46 points on a whopping 45 shots, Daniss Jenkins made the tying 3-pointer to force overtime and the Detroit Pistons rallied to beat the Washington Wizards.

Cunningham finished with 12 rebounds, 11 assists and five steals, helping will the Eastern Conference-leading Pistons to their seventh straight victory on a night he shot just 14 for 45, by far the most field goal attempts in the NBA this season.

Magic 115, Trail Blazers 112

In Orlando, Desmond Bane hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Orlando Magic win over the Portland Trail Blazers. Bane's basket from 27 feet capped a wild finish in which the Trail Blazers overcame a nine-point deficit only to see their comeback nullified as the buzzer sounded.

Timberwolves 120, Jazz 113

In Salt Lake City, Anthony Edwards had 35 points and six assists as the Timberwolves beat the Jazz for Minnesota's second win over Utah in four days.

Minnesota, which beat Utah 137-97 on Friday and topped Sacramento 144-117 on Sunday, has won three straight games and five of its last six.

Hayat joins inaugural Women in Sports Conference in Riyadh



Hayat at the Women's Conference.

RIYADH, Nov 11: Saudi Arabia, hosted the inaugural Women in Sports Conference, organized by the Saudi Ministry of Sports in partnership with "Cotinos," an initiative dedicated to expanding sports participation and breaking barriers through innovation.

The conference was inaugurated by Saudi Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Adwaa Al-Arefi, alongside the ongoing Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh. The three-day event brought together over 150 participants and 20 speakers from sports, media, business, and politics across the region.

Kuwaiti Olympic Committee member and Chair of the Women in Sports Committee, Fatima Hayat, joined the conference, along with Kuwaiti international handball referee Maali Al-Anzi, alongside numerous prominent Arab and Islamic sports figures.

The conference seeks to strengthen the influence of women in sports by unifying voices, breaking barriers, and creating pathways to leadership and inclusion. The initiative also aims to spotlight bold talent, drive institutional change, and foster a more inclusive and impactful sporting environment.

Al-Anzi rejoins Kuwait squad for Arab Cup preparations in Cairo

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

CAIRO, Nov 11: Sultan Al-Anzi has joined the Kuwait's training camp in Cairo, where he is scheduled to begin training today at Petro Sport Stadium. The camp runs until November 20 and includes two friendly matches against Tanzania and Gambia, set for Friday and next Tuesday. Following the camp, the team will head to Doha to face Mauritania on November 25 in the Arab Cup playoff.

The Blues began training yesterday under the guidance of Portuguese coach Helio Sousa, who is focused on preparing the players both physically and tactically ahead of the decisive clash with Mauritania.

Sousa intends to raise the intensity of training sessions to evaluate player development, ensure full understanding of the team's tactical approach, and finalize the ideal lineup for the upcoming match.



Sultan Al-Anzi controls the ball.

The squad is holding both morning and evening sessions to boost overall fitness, enhance muscle strength and endurance, and refine tactical execution. The coaching staff is also emphasizing team chemistry and coordination across all lines to achieve optimal performance in the coming fixtures.