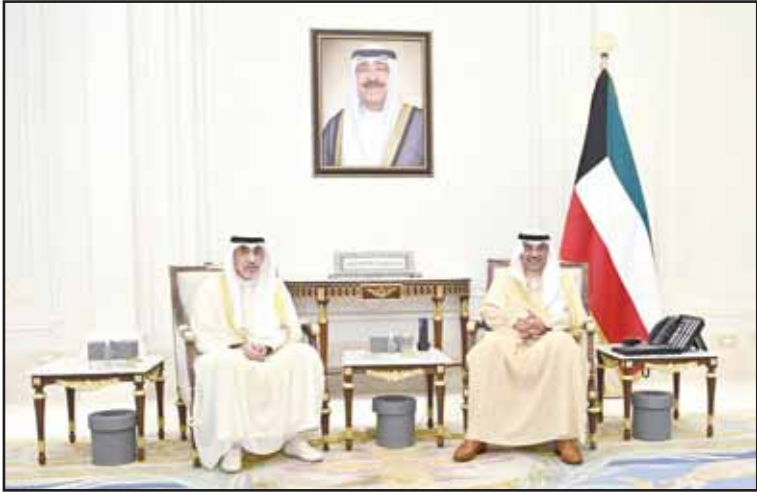




Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

GCC security based on shared destiny and common resolves

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah affirmed the GCC countries' security and stability form an integrated system based on shared destiny and common goals.

This came in a speech by session

chairman Sheikh Fahad Al-Yusuf at the opening of the 42nd GCC Interior Ministers' meeting at Bayan Palace on Wednesday, attended by GCC interior ministers and delegation heads.

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo
The Emperor of Japan bestows upon His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.

Sheikh Nasser joins prestigious award winners

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, conferred by Emperor Naruhito of Japan upon His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, represents Japan's highest national decoration.

The decoration ceremony took place yesterday, Tuesday, at the Matsu-no-Ma State Hall of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

The Order of the Rising Sun was established by Emperor Meiji in 1875 as the first national order to be awarded by the Japanese government.

The order was formally instituted on April 10 of that year under a decree of the Japanese Council of State.

The insignia of the order depicts rays of sunlight radiating from the rising sun, symbolizing Japan.

It is conferred upon individuals who have achieved distinguished accomplishments in international relations, the promotion of Japanese culture, or advancement in their respective fields.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait to turn tourism hub

'Visit Kuwait' platform haven for foreign tourists

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: "The signing of the cooperation agreement between Kuwait Airways and the national platform, Visit Kuwait, is a qualitative step, which is in line with the vision of the country to build a modern tourism industry," says Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

In his speech during the signing ceremony, Al-Mutairi pointed out that this step is a confirmation of the commitment of national institutions to support the transition towards a diversified economy based on innovation, knowledge, and leveraging human and cultural experi-



KUNA photo
Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and Kuwait Airways Chairman Abdulmohsen Al-Fuqaan signing the deal.

ences.

He explained that this collaboration with the national carrier embodies a practical model of joint institutional work and reflects the national

awareness on the importance of integrating the media and tourism sectors to present a progressive image of Kuwait, befitting its regional and international status.

He said this cooperation also translates the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, to focus on building a sustainable economy, consolidating the global presence of the country, and investing in its national capabilities.

He said "we are witnessing today a strategic step within a comprehensive national framework for building a modern tourism communication system, as well as unifying promotional efforts under a single national umbrella that reflects Kuwait's cultural identity and highlights its unique assets and deeply rooted historical and cultural standing."

He asserted that tourism is now an influential economic and developmental sector, which contributes to the diversification of national income sources, supports investment and innovation, provides new opportunities

Continued on Page 5



Photo by Samer Shaqair
Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi speaking at the opening of the conference.

Infrastructure basic pillar: Dr Al-Awadhi

Major revamp eyed in healthcare services

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed that developing Kuwait's healthcare infrastructure is a fundamental pillar for advancing health and achieving sustainable development.

He said this in his speech at the 7th Kuwait Primary Healthcare Conference, held on Wednesday under the theme "Care for All: A Unified Approach to Primary Healthcare." The three-day conference is being attended by specialists and experts from both within Kuwait and

abroad.

Dr. Al-Awadhi explained that Kuwait currently has 118 primary healthcare centers. The ministry is keen on expanding modern centers, particularly in new residential areas in Jahra, Ahmadi, and Farwaniya, to meet population growth and ensure the continued delivery of high-quality healthcare services.

Three health centers are currently undergoing comprehensive renovation and construction. Work is underway to open three new centers soon - Jaber Al-Ahmad Health

Continued on Page 5

'Fog' could cause diversions

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait Airways Corporation announced on Tuesday that some flights arriving at Kuwait International Airport may be temporarily diverted due to expected weather conditions and fog in certain areas of Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The airline explained via its official X account that any diversions would be temporary and only in place until weather conditions improve and stabilize. Both arriving and departing flights at Kuwait International Airport would be rescheduled as necessary.

Passengers would receive updates using the contact information provided on their tickets.

Kuwait Airways requested their understanding regarding these circumstances, which are beyond the airline's control.

It urged passengers to ensure their contact details are up to date by calling the Customer Service Center at +965 2434 5555 (extension 171 for calls from outside Kuwait), via WhatsApp at +965 2220 0171, or through its website at www.kuwaitairways.com.



Warba Bank achieves record 159% growth in net profit in 9M 2025, highest growth in Kuwait's banking sector

KIB's Mubader Center signs MoU to boost SME imports from China

GCC nods 'one-stop' travel for nationals

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has given the thumbs up to the first phase of a "one-stop" travel system that allows Gulf Arab nationals to complete all travel procedures at one point, the bloc's chief said on Wednesday.

The new system would first run a trial period for air travel between the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, where if proven successful, would then apply to the rest of GCC member states, Jassem Al-Budaiwi told KUNA after talks involving interior ministers from the six-member bloc.

The gathering yielded a comprehensive "GCC security strategy" to fight money laundering, in addition to a unified electronic system that links travel violations between the Riyadh-based bloc's members, ahead of the first ever GCC security conference slated for Abu Dhabi in 2027, he added.

Kuwait sets private schools' working hours to 7 per day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Manpower announced on Wednesday the adoption of a new mechanism to regulate the working hours of employees in private schools, setting the duration at seven actual working hours per day.

The decision aims to improve the working environment in the private education sector and ensure the stability of the educational process.

In a press statement, the Authority explained that the new mechanism-proposed by the Private Schools Union of Kuwait (PSUK) and approved by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yusuf Al-Sabah-was introduced following a comprehensive

study by the relevant departments.

The study examined the nature of work in educational institutions, which differs from other sectors due to the specific requirements of the school system that necessitate the continuous presence of both teaching and administrative staff throughout the school day to maintain the continuity and organization of the educational process.

The Authority stated that the decision is based on Article (65) of the Labor Law, which defines daily working hours, emphasizing that the number of working hours should not be less than the legal minimum.

Continued on Page 5



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

A deceitful merchant's trick to buy donkeys bankrupted a village

The merchant offered to buy each donkey for ten dollars, and many villagers sold theirs.

He then raised the price to thirty dollars, leading the remaining villagers to sell their donkeys.

They borrowed from the bank, which exhausted all its reserves.

The village's money ended up in the merchant's pocket, while the people could not even afford a meal for their children.

The king decided to take the princess and queen on a hunting trip so they could witness his skill.

Suddenly, the weather turned windy and rainy, throwing the procession into chaos.

The woodcutter told the king, "I know the weather by my donkey's ears."

The king was furious with his minister and appointed the donkey in his place.

3

Kuwait slams Islamabad bombing

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait condemned and denounced the bombing that took place in the capital of Pakistan, Islamabad, which resulted in several deaths and numerous injuries.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuwait extended its heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy to the government and people of Pakistan, as well as to the families of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery to the injured.

The statement reaffirmed Kuwait's solidarity with Pakistan during this painful circumstance and reiterated the country's firm and unwavering position in rejecting terrorism in all its forms.



KUNA photo
Deputy Commander of the National Guard Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas meets the military attaché at the Embassy of France Colonel Jerome Boujou.

Bilateral topics discussed

Deputy Commander of the National Guard Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas met with military attaché at the Embassy of France Colonel Jerome Boujou.

In a press statement on Wednesday, the National Guard revealed that the two officials discussed several topics of mutual concern.

During the meeting, Al-Barjas also conveyed the greetings of National Guard leadership, represented by Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mubarak Hamoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his deputy Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, to Boujou. (KUNA)

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:47	Asr	14:34
Sunrise ..	06:09	Maghrib ..	16:55
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:14

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Mild to rather hot, humid especially over coastal areas and clouds will increase gradually with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h with a

Weather			
chance for fog forming at night.			
By Night: Rather cold, humid and partly cloudy with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-28 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	27	19	
Kuwait Airport	30	14	
Abdaly	32	12	
Jahra	32	16	
Failaka Island	29	14	
Salmiyah	26	22	

Tripathi aims to boost trade, energy and cultural ties

Kuwait welcomes India's first female Ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (Agencies): Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received on Wednesday the copy of credentials of the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, Paramita Tripathi.

During a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry's headquarters, Minister Al-Yahya wished the diplomat success in enhancing bilateral ties during his tenure.

The new Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Paramita Tripathi affirmed her commitment to strengthening ties between India and Kuwait in the fields of trade, energy, technology and culture, and in engagement with the Indian community, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Upon her arrival in Kuwait on Monday to officially assume her duties, Tripathi expressed her pride in serving as India's first female ambassador to Kuwait and

the second woman to represent India in the Gulf region.

She praised the vibrant Indian community in Kuwait for its role in serving as a lasting bridge of friendship between the two countries.

Tripathi thanked India's Kuwaiti partners in government, business, and culture for their support in enhancing bilateral relations.

It is worth mentioning that the new Indian ambassador arrived in Kuwait on Monday morning, and the Indian Embassy had announced her arrival on its X account.

She was received by the Deputy Head of Mission and the Kuwaiti protocol team.

Tripathi brings extensive diplomatic experience, having held numerous positions in India and abroad.



KUNA photo
The Minister of Foreign Affairs receives a copy of the credentials of the new Indian Ambassador to the country.

Kuwait Amir condoles Turkish Pres over plane crash victims

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, sent on Wednesday a cable of condolences to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Türkiye over the victims of the Turkish military cargo plane crash, wishing peace for the deceased and solace for their families.

His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, also sent a cable of condolences to President Erdogan, expressing similar sentiments of sympathy and support for the victims' families.

His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, conveyed his condolences to President Erdogan over the tragic crash.

Kuwait joins UN trade meeting on economic governance framework

GENEVA, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait on Wednesday, represented by its bureau of financial controllers (FCB), participated in a gathering of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) experts, which focused on sustainable development and economic governance plans.

Kuwait is "firmly committed" to support global efforts aimed at promoting

transparency and financial accountability, FCB President Nada Al-Sahli told KUNA, underlining the aim of bolstering the public sector's financial oversight in support of sustainable development objectives. On FCB's initiatives, she spoke of a "comprehensive approach" to financial control, combining principles of good governance and sustainability to build efficient and solid financial systems.

Kuwait's Sahel platform eyes smart journeys



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq
Officials and participants gather to celebrate contributions to the 'Business Excellence' initiative, honoring key partners for their commitment to innovation and public service.

Integrated services aim to meet citizens' needs proactively

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Minister of State for Communications Omar Al-Omar affirmed that the ministry continues to fully support efforts to develop government services and accelerate integration through the National Data Exchange Platform.

Al-Omar made the statement at the launching of the Second Sahel Forum, organized Wednesday by the Executive Committee overseeing the government ap-

plications Sahel Individuals and Sahel Business, during which he also confirmed the development of Sahel to become the smartest and most comprehensive platform serving citizens and expatriates.

He disclosed that the next phase will witness a shift from 'digital services' to 'smart journeys' that reach citizens even before they arrive, signaling the move towards a smart government that is more accessible and proactive.

He stated that the Sahel application is a vital national platform, which redefined the relationship between citizens and the government. He said the number of active users has exceeded three million, and more than 120 million digital transactions have been completed through the platform so far, a reflection of the commitment of the government to pro-

vide an integrated and easily accessible service experience.

He revealed that the 'Newborn Journey' was the starting point for launching a series of digital journeys, which bring together more than seven entities into a single experience, replacing the previously fragmented services. He emphasized that the support of the political leadership and the Cabinet was crucial to the progress of the project, through the clear directives to accelerate digitization, integrate data and unify government efforts.

Meanwhile, Fajr Al-Yassin, a member of the Executive Committee, presented a visual overview on the most significant achievements of Sahel. She stated that the application includes 483 services provided by 41 government entities.

She also announced upcoming projects, such as the new centralized reporting system, home title deed issuance journey and the marriage journey, confirming that these projects

are regarded as a radical shift in the methodology of government service delivery. Tariq Al-Darbas, Advisor to the Minister of State for Communications and a member of the Executive Committee, conducted a workshop entitled, "The Future of Government Services," during which he discussed the current state of government service delivery.

He pointed out "it is not just about technology, as it also relates to procedural infrastructure, requiring re-engineering of procedures, data provision, integration between entities, and adoption of artificial intelligence to enhance the user experience."

He stressed the importance of transitioning from separate services to integrated digital journeys centered on the citizen's life and needs, explaining that the goal is to offer smart services, which proactively address the needs even before they are requested.

Landmark move calls for equity

Kuwait hails UN approval of 'rare disease' draft resolution

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (KUNA): The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted on Tuesday a draft resolution, proposed by Kuwait, Qatar, Brazil and Spain, on addressing the specific challenges facing persons living with a rare disease and their families.

Speaking to the committee, the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations, Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai hailed the UN adoption of the draft resolution. This move reflects a firm conviction that the rarity of a disease should not determine a person's destiny or opportunities in life, he stressed.

Al-Bannai unveiled that the new resolution declares clearer commit-

ments to inclusion and equity and support to families and individuals living with rare diseases around the world.

More than 300 million people worldwide suffer from rare diseases, and many of them suffer for long years before being accurately diagnosed or receiving appropriate health services, he regretted.

The Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait stated that the adopted resolution calls for strengthening national health systems, expanding universal health coverage, improving access to early diagnosis, inclusive education, and decent work, as well as supporting research and innovation in the field of rare diseases.

KUNA publishes 22nd edition of 'KUNA Junior' for young readers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Wednesday published the 22nd edition of its quarterly children's magazine, "KUNA Junior," featuring content that builds children's media, language, and artistic skills while sparking curiosity, creativity, and a passion for reading.

The edition continues KUNA's ef-

forts to develop media literacy among new generations and help them think and express themselves in educational ways.

It delivers a mix of educational, social, cultural, and media stories, starring the children Dalal and Hamad as they explore new adventures in journalism and creativity quests.



KUNA photo
Part of the launch of the fourth season of the 'Youth Ambassadors' program.

MoFA backs 'Young Ambassadors' program

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister for International Organizations Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs fully supports the Young Ambassadors Program, in line with its commitment to help young people understand the nature of diplomatic work and discuss international issues.

Al-Jarallah made the statement on the sidelines of the launching ceremony for the fourth edition of the program, which was held recently at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in the country, in cooperation with the Canadian and British embassies.

He disclosed that the theme this year is "Sustainable Cities," which is the 11th UN Sustainable Development Goals. He said the program embod-

ies the commitment of Kuwait to prepare a new generation of leaders capable of representing the country in the future. He added that the program aims to raise awareness on urban development issues and sustainable communities, indicating the ministry provides information and logistical support to participants for them to fulfill their role as young ambassadors. He stated that the program is for Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti youths aged 14 to 17, reflecting the diversity that characterizes the Kuwaiti society.

On the other hand, UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait Dr. Ghada Al-Taher expressed her gratitude to the ministry for its unwavering support for the program. She commended the close coordination with the British and Canadian embassies, as well as the guidance and engagement of the members of international missions and organizations.

In her speech at the ceremony, Al-Taher said the applications and videos submitted by the young ambassadors this year "have given us hope that young people are capable of forging a better path towards a more sustainable future. Change begins in our immediate surroundings - family, school and local community."

She confirmed that the UN believes in young people as agents of change, and encouraged participants to approach the UN headquarters with their ideas and initiatives.

She revealed that the percentage of the world's population living in cities has reached 55 percent and it is expected to reach 68 percent by 2050, stressing that urbanization presents challenges requiring coordinated investments in health, transportation, housing, infrastructure, education and digital technology.

GCC, ASEAN discuss strategic co-op in Jakarta

KUALA LAMPUR, Nov 12, (KUNA): The Council of Ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), met in Jakarta on Wednesday. The meeting, chaired by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Indonesia Khaled Jassem Al-Yassin, took place at the headquarters of the Association's General Secretariat, within the framework of strengthening joint Gulf-Asian cooperation.

Addressing the meeting, Ambassador Al-Yassin stressed the importance of the partnership between the GCC and ASEAN in supporting stability and growth in the two regions. He pointed to the vitality and effectiveness of the Gulf Council through its achievements and strategic projects over the past few years, including the Gulf electrical interconnection network, the Gulf railway, the Gulf customs union, and the unified Gulf visa.

He explained that these projects reflect the shared future vision of the member states in achieving economic and social integration.

Ambassador Al-Yassin added that this meeting, the second of its kind between the two sides, discussed the progress made in implementing the ASEAN-GCC Cooperation Framework for the years 2024-2028.

He emphasized the keenness of both sides to continue joint work to activate the provisions of the agreement and enhance cooperation in the political, economic and social fields.

For their part, the participants stressed the importance of developing the existing strategic partnership between the Gulf Cooperation Council and ASEAN and exploring ways to increase cooperation in a manner that serves the interests of the two regional groups and contributes to supporting regional and international security, peace and prosperity.



KUNA photo
Ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and permanent representatives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) perform a collective salute following their meeting at the ASEAN Secretariat headquarters in Jakarta.

Al-Mishari calls for quality, speed in housing projects

South Saad Al-Abdullah infrastructure outpaces schedule

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Mishari stressed the need to maintain the advanced pace of completion for housing projects, while abiding by the contractual specifications and quality in implementation.

During an inspection tour at South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project, accompanied by acting Director General of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Rashid Al-Enezi, Al-Mishari underscored the importance of standardizing procedures and technical requirements



Housing Affairs photo
Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Mishari inspects the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project to review the latest developments in contracts and implementation work.

for similar items in all contracts and consulting firms to avoid delays or duplication of work. He also con-

firmation teams.
In a press statement, the PAHW revealed that during the visit, Al-Mishari held a meeting with officials from the implementation sector, where he was briefed on the progress of the construction contracts. He also viewed a presentation illustrating the completion rates and the status of work at various stages.
According to PAHW, the engineers revealed there are four ongoing infrastructure contracts in the aforementioned housing project, the most important of which is the main roads contract, valued at about KD345 million. This contract covers the construction of all main roads, including an eight-kilometer extension of the 6.5 Ring Road. It stated that the actual completion rate reached 49.16 percent, exceeding the contractual rate by about 21.76 percent, indicating the completion of most of the deep service works such as sewage networks, drains and water drainage.

Kuwaitization plan advances

MoSA to launch interviews for cooperative supervisory roles

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi said the interview of 320 citizens applying for supervisory positions in cooperative societies will start on Nov 23 and will last for two weeks.



Al-Ajmi

In a press statement, Al-Ajmi disclosed that the interview follows the completion of the first stage of the electronic tests conducted at a private university, in accordance with the plan of the ministry to Kuwaitize supervisory positions and intensify the presence of qualified national personnel in leadership roles in the cooperative sector.
He stated that 795 citizens are eligible for the tests, and 627 of whom took the online exam at the university, while 320 citizens passed the first stage. He confirmed that the interview will be conducted under the supervision of the Committee for

Filling Supervisory Positions in Cooperative Societies, which consists of representatives from the ministry, Union of Cooperative Societies and Public Authority for Manpower (PAM).
He pointed out that the evaluation of the interview is based on a certain mechanism to ensure the selection of the most qualified candidates, and the application of the highest standards of integrity and transparency. He added this is in line with the commitment of the ministry to provide equal opportunities for all citizens wishing to work in cooperative societies.
He said the Kuwaitization plan for supervisory positions aims to develop the cooperative work environment and enhance its operational and administrative efficiency, thereby, ensuring the provision of the best services to shareholders and consumers, as well as to activate the developmental and economic roles of the cooperative sector.
He added the ministry continues to implement comprehensive development plans to localize jobs and raise the level of participation of qualified nationals, indicating that the interview phase is vital to ensuring job fairness and Kuwaitizing supervisory positions in cooperative societies.

KIPIC-KGOC land allocation approved

‘Technical Committee leads in efficiency’

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Chairperson of the Technical Committee in the Municipal Council Munira Al-Amir said the committee is vital for the work of the Council, given its technical and organizational responsibilities.
In a press statement after the committee meeting on Tuesday, Al-Amir revealed that the committee has the highest transaction completion rate among all committees in the Council, thanks to the strong cooperation among its members and their commit-



Al-Amir

ment to immediate completion of tasks, while adhering to accuracy and applicable legal procedures.
She said the committee discussed seven diverse transactions during its meeting, including the request of Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) to allocate a portion of its land to Kuwait Gulf Oil

Company (KGOC) to facilitate oil exploration and extraction operations.
She pointed out that the committee considers facilitating transactions for government agencies and expediting the implementation of their development plans and projects a national priority and an institutional responsibility.
She added that the committee also discussed several proposals submitted by members of the Council, in addition to the proposal of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) about public facilities.

GOVSHIELD expansion enhances digital readiness

Government upgrades cyber defense

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: As part of efforts to strengthen cybersecurity in official entities, the government is taking advanced measures to enhance the readiness of ministries and public institutions to face digital threats by expanding the Government Cyber Shield (GOVSHIELD) project, which is one of the most important strategic projects for protecting the state's technological infrastructure, reports Al-Rai daily.
According to informed sources, the project provides a centralized protection framework for 65 government entities, with 24/7 monitoring of cybersecurity operations through a central response center. The center manages security operations by overseeing IT data, and detecting and repelling cyberattacks before they occur, thereby protecting systems and reducing risks.
The project plays a key role in enabling each entity to counter potential cyberattacks and elevate its digital readi-

ness to meet the highest international standards. The five-year project is overseen by a specialized team at the Central Agency for Information Technology, in collaboration with leading global companies, including Google, which is developing and operating the central response system.
The project provides 24/7 security monitoring and operations, covering the monitoring of alerts that threaten government entities, incident investigation, and the implementation of preventative measures to continuously protect systems. It also ensures rapid response to cyber incidents and offers a wide range of services, including penetration testing, cybersecurity assessments, internal and external vulnerability analysis, and secure architecture design. In addition, it provides consulting services to help government entities address risks and enhance their defensive capabilities.



PAAET honors Dr Al-Awadhi for outstanding legal contributions

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam honored the former Director of the Legal Affairs Department, Dr. Fawaz Al-Awadhi, in recognition of his dedicated efforts and outstanding contributions to the development of legal work at PAAET during his tenure, reports Al-Seyassah daily.
The ceremony was attended by several deputy directors general, department heads, and academic and administrative leaders, who praised Dr. Al-Awadhi's legal and administrative contributions, which strengthened the work system and reinforced the principles of transparency and institutional discipline.
Dr. Al-Fajjam highlighted that the honor is an expression of loyalty and appreciation for those who have served PAAET with sincerity and competence.



PAAET photo
Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam honors the former Director of the Legal Affairs Department, Dr. Fawaz Al-Awadhi.

Third season of Al-Abdali Farmers' Market opens amid strong turnout

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: At the Livestock Company's hall in Al-Rai, and amid a large turnout of citizens and residents, the third season of the Al-Abdali Farmers' Market was launched on Monday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.
Faisal Al-Zaabi, supervisor of the Al-Abdali Farmers' Market, stated that the market was filled with Kuwaiti agricultural and food products, including vegetables, fruits, and honey.
He confirmed that the market witnessed a strong turnout of citizens and residents following its opening, thanks to the high quality and affordable prices of the products.
Al-Zaabi said the market offers a unique shopping experience, providing visitors with a wide variety of fruits and vegetables at reasonable prices.
He urged everyone to support Kuwaiti produce, which has consistently demonstrated exceptional quality.



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq
Group photo during the opening of third season of the Al-Abdali Farmers' Market.

News in Brief

Wage transfer grace period extended: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) announced that the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, has issued directives to grant a three-month grace period for fishing, agriculture, and livestock owners to adjust their processes for the transfer of employees' wages through official banking channels. The grace period will end at the close of January 2026, reports Al-Seyassah daily.
In a press release issued on Wednesday, PAM explained that this measure reflects the leadership's commitment to supporting labor market stability and enforcing the provisions of the Labor Law and its regulations. It is also based on Article 57 of Law No. 6/2010 concerning private sector work, which requires employers to transfer employees' wages through approved financial institutions.

Co-ops urged to improve food storage: President of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies Mariam Al-Awad sent a letter to cooperative societies, urging them to strictly adhere to proper storage methods for food and consumer goods in their facilities in order to preserve product quality and ensure the safety of consumers, reports Al-Anba daily.
In her letter, Al-Awad pointed out that some cooperative societies have improper storage practices for certain food and consumer items, particularly cartons of bottled water.

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Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
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KUNA photo
Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance Undersecretary Aseel Al-Munifi during the signing of MoU with Saudi Arabia.

Pacts boost PPP, research projects

Kuwait and Riyadh strengthen bilateral co-op with two MoUs

RIYADH, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance Aseel Al-Munifi said Tuesday that the two memoranda of understanding signed with Saudi Arabia are the outcome of historic and long-standing relations, paving the way for broader cooperation.

Al-Munifi, who heads Kuwait’s co-ordination committee for investment, environment, and infrastructure under the Kuwaiti-Saudi Coordination Council, told KUNA that the MoUs, signed during the council’s third meeting, were the result of months of joint work and consultations, marking a qualitative addition to bilateral collaboration.

She explained that the first MoU focuses on public-private partnership

cooperation (PPP), aiming to enhance exchange of legislative, technical, and regulatory expertise to develop capacities and improve the implementation of PPP systems in both countries.

The memorandum also emphasizes continued coordination through business exchanges, joint workshops, and participation in relevant conferences to strengthen mutual cooperation and achieve shared goals.

Al-Munifi added that the second MoU, in science, technology, and innovation, reflects both nations’ commitment to promoting practical cooperation through joint events, researcher exchanges, and potential collaborative scientific projects within available technical capacities.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia’s new MoU a ‘qualitative addition’ in media ties

RIYADH, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Al-Muhisen said Tuesday that the memorandum of un-



KUNA photo
Dr. Nasser Al-Muhisen, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, during the Kuwaiti-Saudi Coordination Council meeting.

derstanding signed with Saudi Arabia represents a qualitative addition to media cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Muhisen, who also heads Kuwait’s coordination committee for culture, media, tourism, and social development, told KUNA that the MoU, signed during the Kuwaiti-Saudi Coordination Council meeting, supports the exchange of programs and technical expertise to develop media content and expand professional cooperation in radio and television fields.

He noted that the agreement seeks to deepen Gulf media integration through joint production, expert exchanges, training, and workshops, as well as technological innovation in broadcasting and production.

KPC moves forward with major oil sector mergers

Integration aims to streamline operations by 2035

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) is currently recruiting new batches of Kuwaiti citizens holding bachelor’s degrees in petroleum engineering and related fields in several of its subsidiaries, particularly the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC).

According to informed sources, the final stages of the merger between the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) and KNPC are approaching. The initial phase of merging the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) with the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) is awaiting final approvals, including the transfer of KGOC’s assets to KOC, with decisions on the initial merger phases expected in the first months of 2026.

The sources also reported joint visits between the leadership of the two companies, including a KGOC delegation, represented by the Khafji Joint Assets Group, visiting a KOC team led by Executive Vice President of Exploration and Drilling

Khalid Al-Mulla, Drilling Group Manager Dr. Haitham Al-Mayyan, and New Exploration Group Manager Talal Al-Adwani. They were received by Director of the Khafji Assets Group at KGOC Abdulaziz Al-Saleh, Head of Joint Operations Naif Al-Salmi, Head of Projects Musaed Al-Mazeed, and Head of Human Resources Waleed Al-Khadah.

The sources explained that KPC aims to maximize the returns of its oil companies through the merger, as many have experienced profit declines over the past two years due to falling oil prices. Completing the merger is expected to save approximately \$2 billion annually.

KPC also plans to invest over KD 22 billion in exploration and production expansion by 2030, with the goal of increasing production capacity to 4 million barrels of oil per day by 2035.

The sources stressed that the merger will consolidate buildings and reduce annual expenses by at least 20 percent through the integration of certain service departments, including savings on staffing for security, maintenance, and cleaning services.

They added that the merger is expected to eliminate bureaucratic delays, and speed up decision-making processes.

KCCI stresses long-term investment and cooperation

Kuwait eyes bigger role in Egypt’s economy

CAIRO, Nov 12, (KUNA): Assistant Director-General of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Feras Al-Awda on Tuesday underlined the importance of strengthening Kuwaiti-Egyptian cooperation in investment and trade, particularly within the private sector.

He made this statement to KUNA following the conclusion of the Egyptian-Gulf Trade and Investment Forum, held under the patronage of Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. Mostafa Madbouly and GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi. Al-Awda affirmed Kuwait’s keenness to participate in such events aimed at exchanging expertise and enhancing economic cooperation.

He highlighted the Kuwaiti private sector’s interest in expanding investment and trade with Egypt, noting that cooperation between the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce is longstanding and strong, reinforced through meetings, forums, and joint cooperation protocols.

Al-Awda said the Kuwaiti private sector was among the first Gulf investors in Egypt, adding that Kuwaiti investors have great confidence in Egypt’s promising opportunities, as reflected in the size of Kuwaiti delegations attending various joint economic events.



Al-Awda



KUNA photos
Conclusion of the Egyptian-Gulf Trade and Investment Forum.

He stressed that Kuwaiti private sector participation goes beyond representation to actively seek genuine investment opportunities and exchange expertise through forums and bilateral meetings.

The forum was jointly organized by Egypt’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the GCC Secretariat-General, in cooperation with Egypt’s Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce, the Federation

of Gulf Chambers, and the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones.

Kuwait’s delegation to the forum was headed by Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel and included Assistant Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs Ambassador Sami Al-Hamad, Kuwait’s Ambassador to Egypt Ghanim Al-Ghanim, and representatives from the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait to

for Kuwaiti youths, and strengthens cultural and human connections with the whole world. He confirmed that this agreement realizes the aforementioned vision by unifying efforts between the Visit Kuwait platform, as the national gateway for tourism promotion, and Kuwait Airways, the national carrier, thus, providing a comprehensive visitor experience that combines comfort, authenticity and modernity.

He expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to Kuwait Airways for its initiative and cooperation, and the Visit Kuwait team for their tireless work and dedicated national effort. He hopes this agreement will be the starting point for more partnerships and ambitious projects to achieve the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035 and improve the position of the country on the global tourism

In a statement to reporters after the signing ceremony, Al-Mutairi revealed that since the launching of the Visit Kuwait platform, they have witnessed many initiatives, which greatly contribute to strengthening and developing the tourism sector.

He said this agreement will help in the development of the tourism sector by gathering proposals to provide all the services that visitors to Kuwait need. He pointed out that the Visit Kuwait platform features an interactive map of all locations, as well as a variety of events and a digital guide called, Rashid, which provides everyone with the information they need. It includes media outlets that offer comprehensive coverage of the events and locations featured. He emphasized the significant role of the media in providing insights that contribute to the development of this system and platform, ensuring that everyone is a partner in maximizing its benefits and continuously improving it.

On the other hand, Kuwait Airways Chairman Abdulmohsen Al-Fuqaan said the agreement is a significant and serious step to support the efforts of Kuwait to enhance its position on the regional and global tourism and cultural map.

Al-Fuqaan explained that this collaboration embodies the role of Kuwait Airways as the national carrier and primary gateway of Kuwait to the entire world, carrying its flag over the skies for more than seven decades. He pointed out this entails unwavering commitment to support the national vision in all forums and fields in and outside the country.

He said “the Visit Kuwait platform is a pioneering national initiative that facilitates visitors’ discovery of the wealth of opportunities and unique experiences our beloved country offers in the fields of tourism, entertainment, culture and events. We are proud that the airline is an integral part of this platform, not only as a transportation

partner, but also as a partner in the vision and development of connecting Kuwait to the world.”

He stated that Kuwait Airways believes its duty extends beyond commercial operations to a major national mission -- serving Kuwait and enhancing its civilized image before the world. He indicated that the airline will work through this collaboration to unify efforts in promoting, developing and advancing national tourism.

He hopes that this cooperation will serve as a model for integration among State institutions, reflecting the spirit of national partnership based on shared ambition and responsibility, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

He extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to Al-Mutairi for continuously supporting national development initiatives that depict the bright image of Kuwait. He implored Allah Almighty to grant success to everyone and whatever is best for Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince.

Kuwait sets

It clarified that the new system would consist of seven consecutive working hours per day without a break, in accordance with Article (65), Paragraph (b) of Labor Law No. (6) of 2010, which allows such an arrangement for technical or organizational reasons.

The Authority affirmed that implementing the new mechanism marks a step forward in enhancing efficiency within private schools, providing a flexible and well-regulated work environment that protects employees’ rights while supporting the quality of education in the private sector.

Sheikh Nasser

It also recognizes contributions to social and professional prosperity or environmental preservation.

The modern version of the order has been awarded to non-Japanese recipients since 1981, although several foreigners received it before World War II.

Women became eligible for the order in 2003, having previously been awarded the Order of the Precious Crown.

The Order of the Rising Sun is administered by the Decorations Bureau under the Cabinet Office and is conferred in the name of the Emperor, and may also be awarded posthumously.

The order comprises eight classes, the highest being the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.

This prestigious class has been presented to numerous international figures who played significant roles in strengthening international relations,

including former US Vice President Dick Cheney, former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Other notable recipients include former Australian Prime Ministers Tony Abbott, Bob Hawke, Julia Gillard, John Howard, and Malcolm Fraser, former British Prime Minister Sir John Major, former Singaporean leaders Lee Kuan Yew and Lee Hsien Loong, former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, and former US officials Condoleezza Rice, Donald Rumsfeld, and Nancy Pelosi.

PM lauds

The State of Kuwait adopted legislations to strengthen the values of human rights, justice and equitable opportunities, which ensured decent living, proper education, healthcare and housing services for all Kuwaiti citizens.

Kuwait is determined to continue playing trailblazing humanitarian role across the world through Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

Founded in 1961, the Fund provided more than USD nine billion to development projects in 107 countries around the globe, thus materializing Kuwait’s humanitarian message, Representative of His Highness pointed out in his speech. (More)

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah appreciated the efforts made by Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mishaan and President of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Sabah as well as heads and staffers of the other government bodies for contributing to the development of the new Kuwait airport project T2.

The cabinet held a presentation by from Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Sabah on the major projects being implemented by the DGCA and the aviation safety plan.

The Directorate’s efforts led to Kuwait International Airport exceeding the comprehensive security audit benchmark of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in April, Al-Maousharji quoted DGCA President as telling the cabinet members.

Kuwait airport’s facilities are being developed, in accordance with the world-class standards, along passages leading to terminals at the airport.

On the T2 project, there is coordination among the authority, concerned government bodies and regulatory agents to facilitate implementing the project as planned, Sheikh Humoud noted, reviewing development schemes to modernize the airport’s infrastructure.

In addition, the ministers saw another visual presentation by Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi on the

launch of “Salem”, safe, application of digital health services as a platform for both citizens and expats.

The move aims to facilitate e-health services access and medical records, in support to artificial intelligence, taking into consideration integration among different health systems and relevant government bodies, he noted.

The Cabinet further reviewed some topics listed on the agenda, approving and referring them to the competent ministerial committees for study.

GCC security

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef said the meeting is held amid rapid regional and global changes, stressing that bolstering security cooperation and integration among GCC countries is an essential and strategic necessity.

He stressed that joint Gulf security efforts have long served as a shield against regional threats, including terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking, which endanger the present and future of Gulf societies.

He underlined the need to sustain joint Gulf efforts to combat drugs through field coordination, expertise exchange, and unified awareness campaigns, while also tackling organized crime, cybercrime, and money laundering through constant readiness and coordination.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef said current security challenges require unified visions and procedures through enhanced field mechanisms, information exchange, and the use of modern technologies and AI to boost security capabilities.

He noted that security now encompasses not only border protection and crime prevention but also protecting individuals’ awareness, stability, and social well-being.

Kuwait Interior Minister affirmed that nurturing a conscious and responsible Gulf citizen is key to sustainable security by fostering belonging, loyalty, and shared responsibility between citizens and security forces.

He stressed Kuwait’s firm commitment to supporting all efforts that enhance the Gulf security system, emphasizing that integration remains the path to achieving the comprehensive security aimed by GCC peoples and leaders.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef praised the efforts of GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi and the Assistant Secretary-General for Security Affairs for their dedication in following up on and implementing the meeting’s decisions and recommendations.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said the GCC has gained strong regional and international standing, attracting visitors, investors and job-seekers, which reflects its security, stability, and commitment to further strengthening them.

Al-Budaiwi made the remarks at the

42nd GCC Interior Ministers’ meeting Wednesday at Bayan Palace, chaired by Kuwait’s First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, with GCC interior ministers and delegation heads attending.

He reviewed key recommendations from the undersecretaries’ meeting, including the Gulf Security Strategy for Combating Money Laundering 2026-2030 and plans for a workshop on the Gulf Strategy for Combating Cybercrime and AI, in cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

He added that discussions also covered the Gulf Strategy for Combating Extremism 2026 workshop, the Gulf Security Conference 2027 initiative, and preparations for the first phase of the UAE-Bahrain one stop travel system project.

The project is set to be completed and launched this year, with plans to extend the experience to all GCC interior ministries, he added.

He praised the GCC interior ministers’ directives and the ministries’ tireless efforts, which have led to joint Gulf security achievements in line with GCC leaders’ directives and the aspirations of the GCC peoples.

Al-Budaiwi also highlighted joint Gulf security achievements, including the Gulf Strategy for Combating Drugs 2025-2028 and the successful development and linking of traffic violation systems across GCC countries.

He expressed deep gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for Kuwait’s dedicated efforts in chairing the GCC session, wishing continued progress for Kuwait and all GCC countries.

He also thanked First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior for their significant contributions and support in ensuring the success of the meeting.

Major revamp

Center (Block 4), West Abdullah Al-Mubarak Health Center (Block 6), and Kabd Health Center, along with several other centers under construction and being equipped.

Ensuring a rapid and effective response to emergencies is a top priority for the ministry. Primary healthcare centers have been equipped with modern emergency departments operating according to the latest international medical standards and protocols.

Among the most prominent are Sabah Al-Ahmad C Center and Al-Mutlaa N10 Center, which have been equipped with CT scanners to provide wider and faster coverage for residential areas.

The number of doctors working in primary healthcare centers has reached 1,887, representing various specialties,

in addition to more than 7,000 nurses, technicians, pharmacists, and laboratory specialists, forming an integrated system for delivering health services.

Dr. Al-Awadhi stated that primary healthcare centers have recorded more than 16 million visits this year, reflecting the confidence of citizens and residents in the healthcare system.

He emphasized that this achievement is the result of the dedicated efforts of medical, technical, and administrative staff in providing the highest quality healthcare services.

Meanwhile, Director of the Primary Healthcare Department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Dina Al-Dhabib stated that primary health care represents the first line of defense for the health of individuals and the community.

She affirmed that the ministry is committed to establishing comprehensive and sustainable healthcare in accordance with the highest international standards.

Dr. Al-Dhabib revealed that in recent years, the number of chronic disease clinics has increased to 133, while mental health clinics have risen to 74, providing more than 30,000 services since 2022.

She highlighted the increase in the number of diabetic clinics, now totaling 215, and the expansion of eye examination services through 68 clinics equipped with artificial intelligence technologies.

Dr. Al-Dhabib also noted the presence of 95 diabetic foot clinics, 100 well-child and adolescent clinics, 64 clinics for the elderly, 78 osteoporosis clinics, 25 obesity treatment clinics, 67 nutrition clinics, and 36 smoking cessation clinics.

She explained that the total number of primary care physicians has reached 1,887, emphasizing that more than 60 percent hold specialist certifications.

Dr. Al-Dhabib noted that the ministry aims to graduate approximately 900 family physicians by 2030, increasing the proportion of family physicians working in primary care to over 75 percent.

She expressed pride that Kuwait has become the first country in the Middle East where the Kuwait Board of Family Medicine program has obtained academic and training accreditation from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), with 60 health centers accredited as approved training centers.

Dr. Al-Dhabib affirmed the adoption of 77 comprehensive operational policies covering various aspects of primary healthcare services, with an additional 30 policies currently under review to ensure service quality, patient safety, and standardized procedures in all centers.

She stated that the ministry has launched a multidisciplinary home visit service for the elderly and individuals with severe disabilities, revealing that since May 2022, the teams have conducted approximately 7,550 home visits and provided over 10,000 medical services.

JFK’s grandson announces bid for US House seat in New York

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): John F. Kennedy’s grandson Jack Schlossberg is running for the US House next year, announcing Tuesday that he’s seeking a key New York seat set to be vacated by longtime Democratic Rep. Jerry Nadler.



Schlossberg energy and drive of this district and translate that into political power in Washington,” Schlossberg said in a campaign video posted on social media late Tuesday. In an email to supporters, Schlossberg, a Democrat, said that his campaign will officially launch on Wednesday. Schlossberg has drummed up a large following on social media with frequent posts weighing in on national issues, including taking

aim at his cousin, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Last month, he posted on Instagram an image of a Halloween costume for “MAHA Man,” in reference to Kennedy’s Make America Healthy Again message and described it as including such things as measles.

Also:

TRENTON, NJ: Bonnie Watson Coleman, who was the first Black woman elected to represent New Jersey in the U.S. House, said Monday she won’t seek reelection next year. Watson Coleman, 80, said in a statement that she decided not to seek another term after “tremendous thought and reflection” and discussion with her family. A message seeking more detail about her decision was sent to her office. “I am confident it is the right choice for me and my family who have graciously sacrificed by my side when I placed serving our community above all else and I can truly say, I am at peace with my decision,” she said.

Record-low temperatures shock Southeast US while snowfall blankets parts of the Northeast

WASHINGTON, Nov 12, (AP): The first major cold spell of the season plunged parts of the southeastern US into record-low temperatures Tuesday, delivering a shock for 18 million people under a freeze warning across Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Meanwhile, several inches of snow blanketed areas along the eastern Great Lakes as the blast of cold air moved through. The direct shot of Arctic air affecting the eastern two-thirds of the country migrated east - and far southeast - from the Northern Plains, which was hit with gusty chills and snow over the weekend. For much of the Southeast on Tuesday, that meant an abrupt transition into wintry temperatures after reaching well into the 70s and 80s (21 to 27 Celsius) in recent days. Some daily records were “absolutely shattered,” said meteorologist Scott Kleebauer, including a low of 28 degrees Fahrenheit (-2 Celsius) at the airport in Jacksonville, Florida, on Tuesday morning. That broke the previous record low of 35 degrees set in 1977. The southeastern US will face a few more colder-than-normal days before warming up later in the week. Iguanas begin to “freeze” and fall



A man bundles up as he skis in the snow-covered Lake Michigan during a cold day in Chicago on Nov 11. (AP)

from trees when temperatures dip to 40 degrees (4 Celsius) or below, according to Kleebauer, a forecaster with the National Weather Service’s Weather Prediction Center. Those temperatures were widespread upstate in Florida on Tuesday.

“Iguanas, because of their reptilian nature, they go into this kind of survival mode, and their system basically shuts down,” he said. “They’re not used to those types of temperatures. They only see those only a handful of times a year, if that.”

Posts of the stunned reptiles trickled in on social media as Floridians also faced unfamiliar weather. “A lot of times you kind of sneak into fall and then you eventually get winter,” Kleebauer said. “This was more - it was warm there for a long time and then all of a sudden it’s a shock to the system with how cold the shot was.” Visitors to Orlando’s theme parks might have thought they were back in the northern destinations they had left behind for a warm vacation, forcing them to bundle up as low temperatures neared freezing. As far south as Fort Lauderdale and Miami, early-morning temperatures dipped into the upper 40s. Even in the sunshine, the temperature wasn’t expected to reach 70 degrees (21 Celsius) on Tuesday. Agriculture officials in Florida said they hadn’t heard of any problems due to the cold front, but they were holding their breaths until Wednesday morning following one more cold night. Across West Virginia, a pre-dawn coating of snow and ice contributed to dozens of accidents Tuesday before the sun came out and road conditions improved.

‘We need new leadership’

Schumer faces criticism over US government shutdown deal, but job appears safe

WASHINGTON, Nov 12, (AP): US Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer led his caucus, and the country, into a record-breaking government shutdown and voted against reopening when a small group of his members defected. But there are still calls for him to step aside from Democrats who think he should have fought harder. It’s a now-familiar position for the Democratic leader, who was pilloried by the liberal base in March when he voted with Republicans to keep the government open. This time, he’s getting blowback for the actions of the moderate senators in his caucus who allowed the shutdown to end without the extension of health care subsidies that Democrats had demanded for more than six weeks. “The American people asked us over and over to fight for health care and to lower our costs overall,” said Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who declined to say if she still had confidence in Schumer. “Obviously that broke apart at the end. Our job is to deliver for the American people. We need to do that more effectively.”

No senator has explicitly called for his resignation as leader, and his job appears safe despite the criticism from outside. But it’s been a tough year for Schumer as the unexpected, overwhelming anger from base voters at his March vote has turned more of a spotlight on his leadership, and as he and his party have struggled to counter US President Donald Trump. And he could face new challenges ahead as riled up voters demand results even though Democrats have little power. “It’s an impossible job,” said Vermont Sen. Peter Welch, who like Schumer voted against reopening the government. “In my view, he did it well.” Welch said he doesn’t blame Schumer for the small group of moderates who broke the stalemate and voted with Republicans to reopen, sending the bill to the House. He says he believes Democrats succeeded in elevating the issue of the health care subsidies that expire at the end of the year as Republicans refused to negotiate on the issue. “We have to remember that the



US Sen Minority Leader Chuck Schumer speaks with reporters at the Capitol Subway on day 36th of the government shutdown on Nov 5 in Washington. (AP)

leader is one of many,” Welch said. “He’s first among equals, but there’s independent agency for senators.” Schumer has not yet publicly re-

made a sky-high payment on health insurance,” he said on the Senate floor just before the final Senate vote on Monday. Democrats inside and outside the Senate were furious on Sunday when the moderate senators broke ranks. Senate Majority leader John Thune, R-S.D., promised a mid-December vote on extension of the subsidies, but there is no guaranteed outcome. Democratic Rep. Mike Levin, D-Calif., posted on X that “Chuck Schumer has not met this moment and Senate Democrats would be wise to move on from his leadership.” Mallory McMorrow, a Michigan state senator and US Senate candidate, told the AP she would not support Schumer remaining in his role if elected next year. “We need new leadership,” McMorrow said, adding that it’s “a new moment.” Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, one of the most vocal Democrats pushing his colleagues to keep the shutdown going, said that Schumer had tried but “didn’t succeed.” After the final vote on Monday,

several Senate Democrats declined to comment on Schumer’s role in the shutdown’s end or whether he should remain as leader. “I’m not going to get into that right now,” said Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland. New Mexico Sen. Martin Heinrich and New Jersey Sen Lisa Blunt Rochester also declined to comment. “He handled a very tough situation very well,” said Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat and among the small group who switched their votes to reopen the government. “I think he’s solid in the caucus.” Schumer has also repaired his relationship with House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, who in March had declined to express confidence in his New York colleague. After refusing to convene the US House during the government shutdown, Speaker Mike Johnson is recalling lawmakers back into session - and facing an avalanche of pent-up legislative demands from those who have largely been sidelined from governing.



Debris is seen at a crash site of a Turkish military cargo plane in Georgia’s Signaghi municipality, close to the Azerbaijani border on Nov 12. (AP)

Turkish military plane crash in Georgia kills all 20 on board, says defense minister

ANKARA, Turkey, Nov 12, (AP): All 20 personnel on board a Turkish military cargo plane that crashed in Georgia were killed, Turkey’s defense minister announced on Wednesday. The C-130 plane was flying from Ganja, Azerbaijan to Turkey when it crashed in Georgia’s Signaghi municipality, close to the Azerbaijani border, on Tuesday. The cause of the crash is being investigated. A Turkish accident investigation team reached the crash site and was inspecting the wreckage of the plane, in coordination with the Georgian authorities, the National Defense Ministry said. Georgian Interior Minister Gela Geladze said authorities have so far recovered the remains of 18 of the victims and efforts were continuing to locate the other two. Speaking at the crash site, Geladze

said details concerning the accident would be released “in stages” in coordination with the Turkish authorities, due to military sensitivities. The wreckage was spread across a plain that includes farmland and is surrounded by hills, Turkish private broadcaster NTV reported from the site. Debris from the aircraft was scattered across multiple locations, the report said. “Our heroic comrades-in-arms were martyred on November 11, 2025, when our C-130 military cargo plane, which had taken off from Azerbaijan en route to our country, crashed near the Georgia-Azerbaijan border,” Defense Minister Yasar Guler said in a message posted on X, together with photographs of the military personnel that were killed. On Tuesday, Turkey’s state-run Anadolu Agency quoted the Georgian

aviation authority as saying that contact with the plane was lost a few minutes after it entered Georgia’s airspace. The plane had not issued a distress signal, it said. C-130 military cargo planes are widely used by Turkey’s armed forces for transporting personnel and handling logistical operations. Turkey and Azerbaijan maintain close military cooperation. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other Turkish officials attended Azerbaijan’s Victory Day celebrations in Baku on Saturday, marking Azerbaijan’s 2020 military success over Armenia over control of the Karabakh region, known internationally as Nagorno-Karabakh, a conflict that had lasted nearly four decades. It was not immediately clear if the military personnel on the plane had attended the ceremonies.

UK Cabinet minister denies plotting to oust embattled leader Starmer

LONDON, Nov 12, (AP): A senior member of the British government on Wednesday denied he’s plotting to oust Prime Minister Keir Starmer, in a sign of deep anxiety in the Labour Party over its dire poll ratings less than 18 months after a landslide election victory. Health Secretary Wes Streeting said talk of a leadership challenge by Labour officials and lawmakers is “self-defeating and self-destructive.” He spoke after aides to the prime minister preemptively told British media outlets that Starmer would fight any leadership challenge. “It’s totally self-defeating briefing, not least because it’s not true,” he told Sky News. He said “whoever’s been briefing this has been watching too much ‘Celebrity Traitors,’” referring to the hit reality TV show that pits faithful members of a group against conniving enemies within. The 42-year-old health secretary is one of the government’s most effective communicators and is widely tipped as a future party leader. A challenge this early in a government’s five-year term would be highly unusual. But Labour lawmakers are gloomy about opinion polls that consistently put Labour well behind the hard-right Reform UK party led by Nigel Farage - though ahead



Britain’s Prime Minister Keir Starmer attends the Remembrance Sunday Service at the Cenotaph in London on Nov 9. (AP)

of the main opposition Conservative Party, which faces crises of its own. They are nervous about the annual budget statement on Nov. 26, which is expected to include income tax hikes, breaking an election promise. Since being elected in July 2024, Starmer’s government has struggled to deliver on its pledges to get the economy growing, repair tattered pub-

lic services and ease the cost of living. Inflation remains stubbornly high, unemployment has risen and the economic outlook subdued. Latest figures released Tuesday showed that the jobless rate has gone up to 5% in the three months to September from 4.8% in the previous three months -- the highest since 2016 once the COVID-19 pandemic years were factored out.

Forces expand front-line attacks

Russia makes gains in southern Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 12, (AP): The Russian army overran three settlements in the southern Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine, Kyiv’s top military commander said Wednesday, as Moscow’s forces expand their efforts to capture more Ukrainian territory. Dense fog enabled Russian troops to infiltrate Ukrainian positions in Zaporizhzhia, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi wrote on the messaging app Telegram, adding that Ukrainian units are locked in “grueling battles” to repel the Russian thrust. He noted, however, that the fiercest battles are still in the besieged Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, in the eastern Donetsk region, where close to half of all front-line clashes took place over the previous 24 hours. The cities of Kupiansk and Lyman in Ukraine’s northeastern Kharkiv region have also recently witnessed an uptick in combat. Russia launched its full-scale invasion of its neighbor almost four years ago and now occupies roughly one fifth of Ukrainian land. New U.S. sanctions that take aim at Russia’s oil sector, which is the mainstay of the Russian economy, are due to come into force on Nov. 21. Their purpose is to compel Russian President Vladimir



A Ukrainian soldier with the Kraken 1654 unit lands a Vampire drone during a demonstration for The Associated Press on Nov 5, in Kharkiv Oblast, Ukraine. (AP)

Putin to accept a ceasefire. Kyiv officials, meanwhile, risk being distracted by a growing corruption scandal engulfing senior members of the government. Ukraine’s Justice Minister Herman Halushchenko was suspended from his post Wednesday after being placed under investigation, Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko announced.

The U.S. sanctions on Russia’s biggest oil companies, Rosneft and Lukoil, raise the stakes for Putin. The Russian leader has so far avoided serious top-level peace negotiations, with Ukrainian and Western officials accusing him of stalling for time while his army tries to grab more Ukrainian territory. International peace efforts have come to nothing.

Connolly sworn in as Ireland’s 10th leader

LONDON, Nov 12, (Xinhua): Catherine Connolly was sworn in as Ireland’s 10th president at Dublin Castle on Tuesday. During the ceremony around noon, Connolly repeated the Declaration of Office after the country’s Chief Justice Donal O’Donnell, then signed the Declaration and accepted the seal of office, officially assuming the presidency. Calling for “sustainable existence” on the planet, she quoted Ireland’s history of famine and diaspora, highlighting the country’s understanding and role on key international issues, including wars and conflicts.



Connolly

Lauding the Good Friday Agreement as a “model for the peaceful resolution of conflict,” Connolly said, “I look forward to paying my first official visit to the North. And meeting with people from all communities and celebrating the rich heritage and traditions of all who live there.” The ceremony ended with the national anthem of the Republic of Ireland. Backed by several left-wing parties, including Sinn Fein, Connolly last month won Ireland’s presidential election by a landslide with 63.36 percent of first preference votes. The 68-year-old independent politician has served as a member of parliament for the Galway West constituency since 2016, and previously worked as a psychologist and barrister. She became the deputy speaker of the parliament’s lower house in 2020, the first woman to hold the post.

‘Two countries have respected and supported each other’

China and Spain sign agreements to strengthen cooperation on Spanish king’s visit

BEIJING, Nov 12, (Agencies): Spanish King Felipe VI and Chinese President Xi Jinping signed agreements on language exchanges and other areas Wednesday as both sides vowed to strengthen their cooperation.

The monarch’s visit comes as Spain, the eurozone’s fourth-largest economy, continues its courtship of China and Chinese investment while the relationship with the United States is strained under President Donald Trump. In April, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, head of the country’s government, made his third visit to China in as many years.

Spain is one of the more friendly countries to China relative to others in the European Union in recent years.

Felipe and Queen Letizia were met by Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan in front of Beijing’s Great Hall of the People, and were greeted with a performance by the military band and a 21-gun salute. This is the first state visit for the Spanish king to China, and he was also accompanied by Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares.

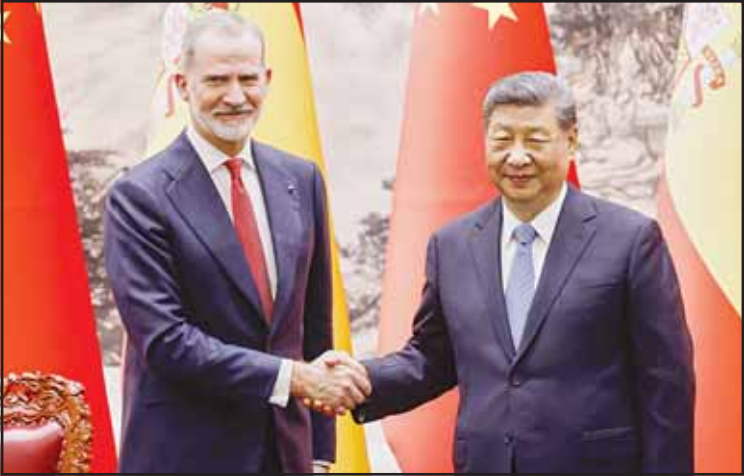
“China stands ready to work hand in hand with Spain to build a comprehensive strategic partnership that is more strategically steady, more dynamic in development, and more influential internationally,” said Xi in his opening remarks, particularly while the international situation is “complex and volatile.” He said that China would also import more Spanish products, without specifying, according to a readout of the meeting from the official Xinhua news.

Felipe and Xi signed agreements promoting cooperation in language exchanges, economic issues, and exporting aquatic products to China.

Felipe is also scheduled to meet with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Zhao Leji, chairman of China’s top legislative body.

The monarch’s first stop in China was the city of Chengdu, where alongside Spain’s foreign minister and economy minister, he attended a Spain-China business forum with several Spanish business leaders.

Spain has taken a less adversarial stance toward China, and has sought to reposition trade relations with the country, whose exports to Spain are far greater than those of the Iberian nation of 49.4 million people to China, which has a population of more than 1.4 billion.



Spain’s King Felipe VI and Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, shake hands after a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on Nov 12. (AP)

After meeting with Xi in April, Sánchez said Spain was in favor of “more balanced relations between the European Union and China.” The EU negotiates trade terms on behalf of all 27 member countries.

The last time a Spanish monarch visited China on an official state trip was in 2007. Xi last visited Spain in 2018.

Spain generated more than half of its electricity last year from renewable sources, and needs Chinese critical raw materials, solar panels and green technologies in its transition away from fossil fuels, similar to other EU countries. Xi said both

sides could further explore cooperation in renewable energy and artificial intelligence.

Last year, Chinese electric battery company CATL announced a joint venture with automaker Stellantis to build a battery factory in northern Spain. That followed deals between Spain and Chinese companies Envision and Hygreen Energy to build green hydrogen infrastructure in the country.

Welcoming King Felipe VI to China, Xi noted that both China and Spain boast profound historical and cultural heritages. Over the past more than 50 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries have consistently approached and advanced their bilateral ties from a strategic and long-term perspective, Xi said.

The two countries have respected and supported each other, and helped each other succeed, setting a model of friendly coexistence and common development among countries with different historical and cultural backgrounds and social systems, Xi said.

He added that both China and Spain have played a vital role in promoting global openness and cooperation, as well as upholding international fairness and justice.

Hailing the outstanding contributions made by the Spanish royal family to the development of China-Spain relations, Xi said that on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Spain comprehensive strategic partnership, King Felipe VI’s state visit to China holds great significance in driving the continuous advancement of friendly cooperation between the two countries.

Noting that China cherishes its traditional friendship with Spain and values Spain’s unique role in international and regional affairs, Xi said both sides should further consolidate mutual support, maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges, strengthen strategic guidance, and ensure that bilateral relations always stay on the right track.

Calling on both sides to further advance pragmatic cooperation, he said China is willing to import more high-quality Spanish products, and tap the potential of cooperation in emerging fields such as new energy, digital economy and artificial intelligence.

Indonesia and Australia close to signing new bilateral defense treaty

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov 12, (AP): Indonesian and Australian leaders said Wednesday they were close to signing a new bilateral defense treaty.

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the pact during the Indonesian leader’s first state visit to Australia.

Albanese said he hoped to sign the completed treaty during a visit to Indonesia in January.

“This treaty will commit Australia and Indonesia to consult at a leader and ministerial level on a regular basis on matters of security, to identify and undertake mutually beneficial security activities, and if either or both countries’ security is threatened, to consult and consider what measures may be taken either individually or jointly, to deal with those threats,” Albanese added.

Prabowo said: “We, I think, concluded an important agreement, an important treaty between Australia and Indonesia.”

Also:
MELBOURNE, Australia: Australia’s highest court on Wednesday rejected **Russia’s** challenge to a law that evicted the state on security grounds from a site where



Indonesia’s President Prabowo Subianto, (third right), and Australia’s Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, (second left), speak to service personnel on board HMAS Canberra at the Kuttubul fleet base in Sydney, Australia on Nov 12. (AP)

Moscow wanted to build its new embassy.

Seven High Court judges unanimously ruled that while the Australian government was entitled to cancel the lease in the national capital **Canberra**, it also owed Russia compensation.

Australia must pay half Russia’s legal costs for bringing the case to court.

Attorney-General **Michelle Rowland** said she welcomed the court’s finding that the government

had acted lawfully in terminating the lease.

“Australia will always stand up for our values and we will stand up for our national security,” Rowland said in a statement.

“The government will closely consider the next steps in light of the court’s decision,” she added, referring to paying compensation.

The Russian Embassy did not immediately respond to The Associated Press’s requests for comment on Wednesday.

Taiwan evacuates more than 8,300, shuts schools before storm brushes island

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Nov 12, (Agencies): Taiwan evacuated more than 8,300 people from coastal and mountainous areas and closed schools before a tropical storm brushes the southern part of the island later Wednesday.

Fung-wong had super typhoon strength when it battered the Philippines on Sunday, causing flooding, landslides, power outages and at least 27 deaths. Still holding tropical storm strength Wednesday morning, it was expected to continue losing wind speed and size as it approached Taiwan.

Heavy rains and flooding injured at least 51 people as of Wednesday morning, according to the National Fire Agency.

Authorities evacuated 8,326 people, the majority from the eastern Hualien County, where a typhoon in September left 18 dead.

An overflowing creek flooded a village in Hualien on Tuesday. Images carried by local media showed a car being swept away by floodwater.

Schools and offices were closed in central and southern parts of Taiwan including the coastal cities of Kaohsiung, Taichung and Tainan as well as Pingtung, Chiayi and Miaoli counties. The capital, Taipei, in the island’s north, operated as usual.

As of Wednesday morning, Fung-wong was about 140 kilometers (87 miles) southwest of Taiwan in the



Houses are seen submerged in Ilagan, Isabela province, northern Philippines on Nov 11 after the onslaught of Typhoon Fung-wong. (AP)

South China Sea, moving northeast at 16 kph (10 mph). It was expected to make landfall during the afternoon or evening and graze the southern part of the island before exiting from its southeastern side. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 65 kph (40 mph) and higher gusts.

Authorities warned residents around the island to avoid going to the beach, where waves were expected to rise to about 3 to 5 meters (10 to 16.4 feet). Signboards, fences and flowerpots

were to be secured in anticipation of strong winds.

In the Philippines, more than 623,300 people remained in evacuation centers Wednesday, according to the Office of Civil Defense.

Several of the deaths in the Philippines occurred in landslides in the Cordillera, a six-province mountainous region popular among backpackers and vacationers for its pine tree-dotted towns, cool breezes, strawberry fields and mountainside rice terraces.

Indian police detain suspects in Kashmir after New Delhi car blast

SRINAGAR, India, Nov 12, (AP): Indian security agencies have detained several suspects in the disputed Kashmir region as part of their investigation into this week’s deadly car explosion in New Delhi, officials said Wednesday.

The blast occurred Monday near the historic Red Fort monument of New Delhi, killing eight people and injuring several other people. Authorities on Tuesday announced that they are investigating it as possible terrorism - a step that gives investigating authorities broader powers to arrest or detain people.

Red Fort, a major tourist attraction, is a 17th-century monument and the place where Indian prime ministers deliver Independence Day speeches on Aug. 15 each year.

If confirmed as a deliberate attack, it would be the deadliest blast in India’s capital since 2011.

At least five people were detained



Tyagi

for questioning in a series of raids overnight in the Kashmir’s southern Pulwama district, police officials said Wednesday.

Monday’s blast came hours after police in Indian-controlled Kashmir said they had dismantled a suspected militant cell operating from the disputed region to the outskirts of New Delhi. At least seven people, including two doctors, were arrested, and police seized weapons and a large quantity of bomb-making material in Faridabad, a city in Haryana state, which is near New Delhi.

Delhi police spokesman **Sanjay Tyagi** said investigators were probing “all possible angles, including a terror attack, an accidental blast or any kind of failure in the car.”

Shagufta Jan, the doctor’s sister-in-law in Kashmir’s Pulwama district, said the family had not heard from him since last Friday, when she told him police were looking for him.

“He called us on Friday, and I told him to come home. He said he would come after three days,” she said.

“That was the last time we spoke with him,” Jan said, adding that police came to their home Monday night and took in the doctor’s mother and two brothers for questioning.

BOGOTA, Colombia, Nov 12, (Agencies): Colombian President Gustavo Petro ordered his nation’s security forces Tuesday to stop sharing intelligence with the United States, until the Trump administration stops its strikes on suspected drug traffickers in the Caribbean, as relations deteriorate between the nations that were once close partners in the fight against drug trafficking.

In a message on X, Petro wrote that Colombia’s military must immediately end “communications and other agreements with US security agencies” until the US ceases its attacks on speedboats suspected of carrying drugs, that critics have likened to extrajudicial executions.

Petro wrote that “the fight against drugs must be subordinated to the human rights of the Caribbean people.” It wasn’t immediately clear what kind of information Colombia will stop sharing with the United States. The White House had no immediate response to Petro’s latest statements.

At least 75 people have been killed by the US military in strikes in international waters since August, according to figures supplied by the Trump administration. The strikes began in the southern Caribbean, near Venezuela’s shores, but have shifted recently to the



Colombia President Gustavo Petro attends a roundtable with leaders of tropical forest countries and nations committed to investing in the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) during the COP30 U.N. Climate Summit in Belem, Brazil on Nov 6. (AP)

eastern Pacific, where the US has targeted boats off Mexico.

Petro has called for US President Donald Trump to be investigated for war crimes over the strikes, which have affected citizens of Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago.

The leftist leader has long been a critic of U.S. drug policy, and has accused the Trump administration of going after peasants growing coca, the base ingredient of cocaine, instead of targeting major drug traffickers and money launderers. On Sunday, Petro

said that met with the family of a Colombian fisherman who was allegedly killed in one of the strikes.

Also:
WASHINGTON: The world’s largest aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, arrived in the Caribbean Sea, the US Navy announced on Tuesday, fueling speculation that Washington is targeting Venezuelan President **Nicolas Maduro** as part of what the **Trump** administration calls an anti-narco-terrorism campaign.

With the deployment of the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group, US forces in the Caribbean now exceed 15,000 personnel -- the largest military buildup in the region in decades.

“These forces will enhance and augment existing capabilities to disrupt narcotics trafficking and degrade and dismantle Transnational Criminal Organizations,” said Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell in the US Navy’s statement. The first-in-class carrier, carrying more than 4,000 sailors and dozens of tactical aircraft, can simultaneously catapult launch and recover fixed-wing aircraft day and night in support of tasked operations, according to the statement.

‘Hundreds rescued from terrorist attack’

Pakistan investigates suicide bombing

ISLAMABAD, Nov 12, (Agencies): Pakistan opened a probe Wednesday into the suicide bombing outside an Islamabad district court that left 12 dead the day before, underscoring the challenges facing the government as it struggles with militant attacks, border tensions and a fragile ceasefire with Afghanistan.

The attack at the court, located on the edge of the city and next to a residential area, also raised alarms that despite multiple operations by the security forces to crush the militants, they are still capable of mounting high-profile bombings - even in the Pakistani capital. Pakistan has struggled with a surge in militant attacks in recent years but until Tuesday’s bombing, Islamabad has largely been considered a safer place.

Also:
ISLAMABAD: Hundreds of students were rescued after Pakistani security forces foiled a terrorist attack on a cadet college in **South Waziristan** district of **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**



A police person stands guard as mourners attend the funeral prayer of lawyer Zubair Aslam Ghuman, who was killed in Tuesday’s suicide bombing outside the gates of a district court, in Islamabad, Pakistan on Nov 12. (AP)

province in the country’s northwest, security sources told Xinhua on Wednesday.

The security personnel thwarted the terrorist attack on the college through a timely and effective response, said the security sources, adding that at the time of the attack, around 650 in-

dividuals, including 525 cadets, were present at the college.

The sources confirmed that all five terrorists, including a suicide bomber, were neutralized during the operation, adding that the college building is being cleared to rule out the possibility of planted improvised explosive devices.

Subcontinent

Bangladesh tightens security: Authorities in Bangladesh have tightened security in the country to prevent possible protests on Thursday amid reports of a planned “Dhaka lockdown” announced by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s Bangladesh Awami League (AL) party.

Bangladesh’s Home Affairs Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said on Tuesday that “police and security forces are now patrolling the country more often,” adding that they have also increased protection for important government buildings.

He further said there is no apprehension over the program of the AL party, whose activities are now banned in the country. The reports of the AL’s program came as Bangladesh’s International Crimes Tribunal is expected to set the verdict date on Thursday for Sheikh Hasina and several of her top aides. (Xinhua)

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Former Sri Lankan minister arrested: Prasanna Ranatunga, who formerly served as Sri Lanka’s minister of tourism and civil aviation, was arrested Wednesday by officials of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption. The commission said in a statement that Ranatunga was taken into custody over alleged corruption during his tenure in 2021.

According to the commission, the case involves the procurement of a new insurance scheme for four institutions under the ministry. Instead of purchasing the insurance policies directly from the state-owned Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation (SLIC), Ranatunga allegedly used a private brokering company, causing a loss of over 4.7 million rupees (about 24,000 US dollars at 2021 exchange rates) to the SLIC. (Xinhua)

Africa

‘Nigeria to work with US and UK’: Nigeria’s anti-narcotics enforcement agency said on Tuesday it is working with its US and British counterparts to “unravel the cartel behind the importation of 1,000 kilograms of cocaine” discovered at a port in Lagos.

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) said the cocaine was found in an empty container last weekend. It is said to be worth over 338 billion naira (\$235 million), representing one of the largest drug seizures in the country’s history.

“In a swift response to the Agency’s request, officers of the US-DEA and UK-NCA, have already joined the ongoing investigation of the largest single seizure of cocaine at the Tincan Port Lagos,” Femi Babafemi, spokesperson for the agency, said in a statement. (AP)

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Gabon ex-first lady, son get 20 years in jail: Gabon’s former first lady and her son were sentenced in absentia by a special criminal court to 20 years in prison following a two-day trial in Libreville.

Sylvia Bongo and Nouredin Bongo Valentin were convicted of concealment and embezzlement of public funds, money laundering, criminal association and forgery.

The court sentenced the duo late Tuesday, according to a judgement, and also issued an arrest warrant for them.

They were ordered to pay millions of dollars in damages for “crimes against the Gabonese state.”

Valentin said the verdict had long been “predetermined” under the office of President Oligui Nguema and called the trial a “simple formality.” (AP)

Business

Kuwait crude oil falls to \$65.73 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil lost 37 cents during Tuesday's trading to reach USD 65.73 compared with USD 66.10 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday. Brent crude futures rose USD 1.10 to USD 65.16 pb and West Texas Intermediate edged 91 cents higher to USD 61.04 pb.

As part of the GCC GOV HR and Youth Awards 2025

NBK sets new standards for excellence in human capital development with two prestigious awards

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: In a new achievement that confirms the excellence of its human capital strategy, National Bank of Kuwait received two prestigious awards as part of the GCC Government Human Resources and Youth Awards for the year 2025 held in Abu Dhabi.

NBK has won two awards:

Most Distinctive Learning and Development of the Year in Private Sector.

Excellence in Digital Learning Innovation.

These awards reflect NBK's unwavering commitment to human capital development and the profound impact of its innovative initiatives in the areas of learning and development, and digital innovation in training. Moreover, these awards further enhance the bank's position as a leading financial institution that not only provides banking services but also sets new standards of excellence in the workplace across the region.

Celebrating excellence, innovation, and impact in the areas of governance, human capital development, and youth empowerment, the GCC Human Resources and Youth Awards 2025 acknowledged individuals, institutions, and initiatives that have set new standards and made valuable contributions to public service and human capital development, driving progress in these vital sectors.

The nominations are evaluated by a specialized committee of prominent experts and HR leaders in the region, relying on four main criteria. First, the committee explores the program or initiative achievement in terms of real and tangible results made. The second criterion is the approach, which examines the effectiveness and quality of planning, followed by execution that evaluates the quality of implementation; and finally, the extent of creativity and innovation that looks closely into the originality of the strategy and ability to provide unconventional solutions.

These criteria ensure that the awards are given to the institutions that go beyond providing innovative ideas but also implement them and



NBK receiving the award.

- The awards underscore the success of NBK's HR management in formulating and implementing comprehensive and innovative educational plans.
- NBK strongly believes that investing in human capital is the cornerstone of achieving continued success.
- This acknowledgement reflects the deep impact of the bank's innovative initiatives in the field of learning and development.

achieve sustainable and tangible outcomes.

The GCC Government Human Resources and Youth Awards are a prestigious platform that brings together the brightest minds and change-makers across various sectors.

Additionally, it acknowledges leaders who can turn visions into reality, as well as business leaders, creative innovators, and thought leaders who make positive changes and build a brighter and more innovative future for all.

The 13th annual GOC HR and Youth Summit featured inspiring sessions and a lively exchange of ideas and insights among leaders in human resources, technology, innovation, and youth empowerment, in addition to training seminars that contribute to strengthening career paths and advancing the sector by opening new horizons.

zons.

Excellence in E-Learning Innovation

NBK won the award for Excellence in E-Learning Innovation Award of the Year in Private Sector for its innovative initiative "NBK Learning Hub," the bank's e-learning platform and a turning point in digital training for employees. This platform provides a modern and effective learning experience through a digital library that contains hundreds of specialized training courses. In line with the bank's digital transformation strategy, the NBK Learning Hub aims to foster a culture of continuous learning and develop personal and professional skills.

This award reflects the success of the bank's strategy in adopting the latest digital technologies in training,

providing flexible, personalized, and effective learning experiences and using advanced e-learning platforms that provide customized training content that meets the individual needs of employees across various departments and branches.

Most Distinctive Learning and Development Strategy in the Private Sector

As for Most Distinctive Learning and Development Strategy, NBK received this award for NBK Academy and NBK Tech Academy programs.

The NBK Academy, for one, embodies the bank's profound vision of investing in human capital. It was specifically designed for young national university graduates to enable them to acquire specialized banking skills such as basic banking principles, risk management, financial accounting, marketing, and negotiation, in addition to training in creativity, innovation, and productivity to ensure a sustainable flow of national competencies able to drive growth in innovation in the banking industry.

As for the NBK Tech Academy, it is the first academy of its kind in Kuwait specializing in digital technology and data systems. It was launched by the bank to qualify young national talents to work in the digital banking sector, and it aims to upskill these talents and qualify them to work in the banking sector in areas like Fintech, Cybersecurity, AI, Data Analysis, as well as leadership and soft skills.

Once again, this recognition underscores the success of the NBK's HR management in formulating and implementing comprehensive and innovative educational plans that focus on developing competencies and talents through programs specifically designed to enhance their skills and enhance their expertise.

Winning these prestigious awards brings a new standard for excellence in Kuwait and the region and confirms NBK's leading role in driving success in the private sector and contributing to achieving sustainable human capital development that serves the country's strategic goals and supports Kuwait Vision 2035.

9 month net profit hits KD 8.3 mln

ACICO revenues rise to KD 16.7 mln in Q3 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: ACICO Group announced its earnings for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, reporting operating revenues of KD 16.7 million, compared to KD 15.3 million for the same period in 2024, and reflecting the Group's continued success in executing its turnaround strategy and enhancing operational efficiency.

The Group recorded a net loss of KD 0.07 million for the period, compared to a net profit of KD 0.39 million for the same period in 2024.

Operating revenues for the nine months period rose by 8% to KD 52.2 million, while the Group achieved a net profit of KD 8.3 million in the nine months period of 2025, compared to a net loss of KD 2.8 million for the corresponding period last year, driven by strong performance across its industrial and construction sectors as well as the successful execution of its ongoing restructuring plan led by the Board of Directors.

As a result, gross profit reached KD 9.6 million, and operating profit stood at KD 3.4 million, supported by stronger margins and improved operational efficiency.

In its efforts to strengthen its financial position and operational efficiency, the Group achieved tangible positive results, including a reduction in total debt from KD 237.6 million to KD 163.7 million, and a decline in finance costs from KD 11.9 million to KD 5.5 million, reaffirming the Group's solid financial position and enhanced ability to achieve long-term sustainable growth.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Emad Abdullah Al-Essa, Chairman of ACICO Group, said: "These results follow a comprehensive and strategic transformation plan through which we successfully restructured our operations, enhanced our operational efficiency and reinforced our position as a trusted national partner in the devel-



Emad Al-Essa, Chairman of ACICO Group

opment of housing and infrastructure projects.

They also reflect our firm commitment to excellence and quality, as well as the market's confidence in our ability to provide integrated solutions that meet the needs of both the public and private sectors."

Al-Essa added: "The third quarter was marked by several positive developments, including the supply of ACICO products to major projects, the signing of key partnerships with local banks to serve homeowners, and collaborations with leading industrial and construction companies.

These steps further strengthened our position as a one-stop destination for all primary construction materials in the region and reaffirmed the quality and credibility of ACICO's products, which are approved by relevant government authorities in Kuwait and other GCC countries."

He continued: "ACICO has undoubtedly regained its momentum to continue playing an active role in driving local economic growth and contributing to national and regional development, as envisioned since its founding.

We are confident that the upcoming period will bring positive outcomes for our customers, partners, shareholders and the company as a whole."

Hmidan highlights travel trends

Wego focuses on personalized, AI-enhanced travel experiences

1. How have the travel habits of Kuwaiti travellers evolved in recent years compared to 5-8 years ago?

There has been a shift in the way Kuwaiti travellers plan, book and experience their journeys.

Around five to eight years ago, trips were planned in advance, with a preference for traditional destinations. Kuwaiti tourists are now more spontaneous, digitally savvy and open to exploring new destinations.

There is also a growing demand for personalised journeys, focussing on wellness retreats, cultural tours and adventure holidays. Furthermore, there has been a rise in short-haul getaways and regional travel experiences that prioritise flexibility and convenience.

2. What are some of the most common priorities for Kuwaiti travellers today when booking a trip — is it price, convenience, or experiences?

Kuwaiti travellers now prioritise value over cost, with convenience, comfort and unique experiences shaping their choices. Most travellers are willing to pay premium prices for high-quality travel experiences.

At Wego, we see a rising demand for experienced travel that offers both leisure and exploration. Kuwaiti travellers prioritise trust and transparency, preferring platforms with clear policies and reliable reviews.

3. Are younger Kuwaitis approaching travel differently than older generations? If so, how?

Young Kuwaitis are transforming the regional tourism landscape by adopting a digital-first approach. They derive inspiration from social media when choosing the ideal travel destination. Unlike older generations that prefer comfort and familiarity, younger travellers seek unique local experiences, offbeat destinations and immersive cultural moments.

They also mix work and leisure by working remotely from unique destinations. Additionally, they use mobile apps for travel bookings, which offer convenience and real-time flexibility.

4. How important is flexibility — such as free cancellations or date changes — for travellers in Kuwait today?

Flexibility is a top priority for Kuwaiti travellers, particularly in the post-pandemic era, where travellers prioritise convenience and ease of use.

At Wego, we have achieved



Mamoun Hmidan, Chief Business Officer

strong engagement rates by featuring listings with flexible booking policies.

5. Do you see Kuwaiti travellers relying more on mobile apps versus desktop platforms for planning and booking trips?

Mobile apps are the main channel for travel planning and booking. Our internal data points to a rise in the platform's mobile traffic and transactions annually.

This is because travellers prefer to use integrated platforms that offer a range of convenient options. However, some travellers use desktops for research and initial planning, especially if the itinerary is complex. Yet, when it comes to last-minute plans and deals, mobile apps are the preferred choice.

6. How can online platforms continue to evolve to stay relevant to Kuwait's rapidly changing travel market?

As competition rises, travel booking platforms should prioritise personalisation and adaptability to stay relevant. Kuwaiti travellers expect platforms to understand their unique preferences, ensuring seamless booking process. This can be achieved through smart recommendations based on travel history, dynamic pricing alerts and localised content.

We, at Wego, consistently enhance user experience through AI-driven insights, localised offers, and partnerships with airlines, hotels and tourism boards. This helps us offer relevant and personalised choices. Furthermore, as the market evolves, our goal is to make travel planning faster, simpler and more inspiring.

Trading value hits KD 90.15 million

Boursa Kuwait general index slumps 0.26%

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Wednesday's session on a negative note as the general market index declined by 23.58 points, or 0.26 percent, closing at 8,894.44 points.

Trading activity saw 394.8 million shares exchanged through 24,697 cash transactions, with a total value of 90.15 million Kuwaiti dinars (about 274.9 million US dollars).

The main market index edged up 8.04 points, or 0.10 percent, settling at 8,470.62 points. It recorded a trading volume of 255 million shares across 16,380 transactions, worth 41.9 million dinars (around 127.7 mil-

lion dollars).

In contrast, the premier market index dropped 32.64 points, or 0.34 percent, to close at 9,439.67 points. It saw 119.8 million shares traded through 8,317 transactions, with a value of 48.15 million dinars (approximately 146.8 million dollars).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index posted a modest gain of 12.44 points, or 0.14 percent, ending the day at 8,622.02 points. Trading on the index included 132.9 million shares across 8,355 cash transactions with a total value of 25.7 million dinars (about 78.3 million dollars).

UAE, Saudi, Morocco, Egypt & Algeria accounted for 79% of overall new commitments

Dhaman: Insurance for exports, investment and financing into Arab countries hits \$126 bln in 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman) revealed that outstanding insurance commitments for investment, financing and exports destined to Arab countries dipped by 3.5% to roughly \$254 billion by the end of 2024, making up 7.6% of the global total, including 84% for insuring the credit of exports destined to the region, 8% for insurance against political risks (\$21 billion) and 8% for other cross-border insurance operations.

In a press release on the occasion of its third quarterly bulletin "Dhaman Al-Istithmar" for 2025, the Corporation said that despite mounting geopolitical tensions and risks in 2024, and their negative impacts on global trade and investment, which, thence, created increasing insurance opportunities, new insurance commitments for investment, financing and exports destined to Arab countries slightly rose by 0.1% to roughly \$126 billion in 2024 to cover 9% of overall Arab merchandise imports.

"Dhaman" added that by monitoring the evolution of the trade, investment and finance insurance sector globally and regionally, in collaboration with Berne Union, several key findings come as follows:

■ Arab countries' share of overall global trade, investment and finance new insurance commitments declined to 3.9% during 2024.

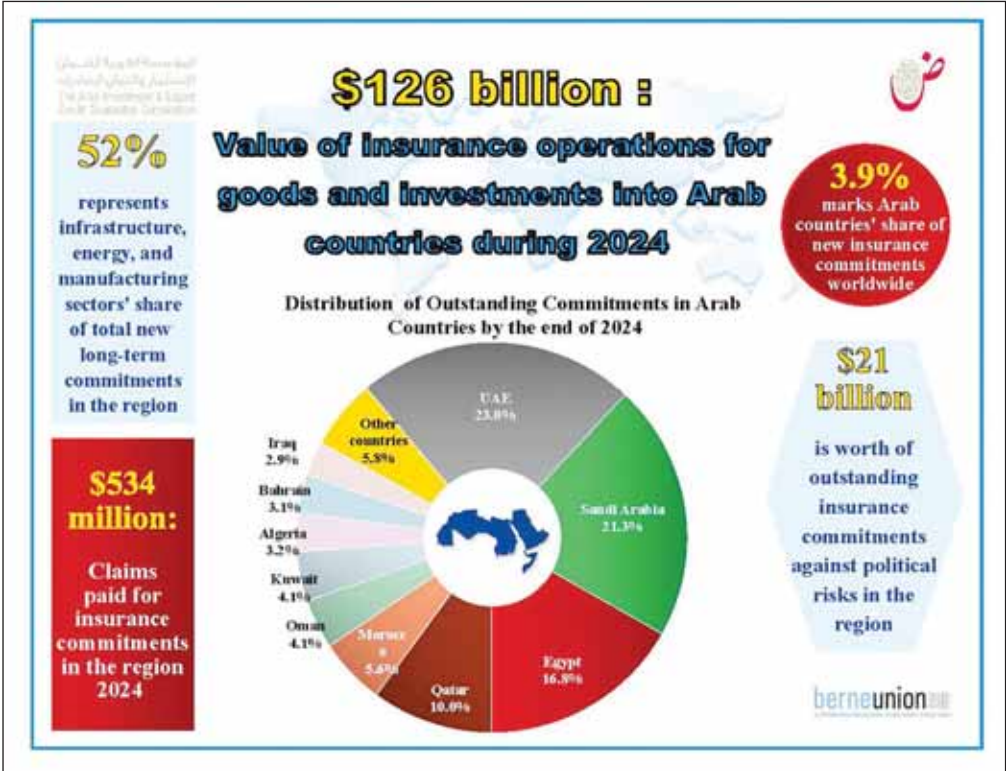
■ Insurance for the credit of exports to Arab countries in various maturities had the lion's share of new commitments with a share of 95%, while insurance against political risks hit 4% and other cross-border commitments reached roughly 1%.

■ New insurance commitments were geographically concentrated in 5 Arab countries, which made up roughly 79% of the total, led by the UAE (30%), followed by Saudi Arabia (24%), Morocco (9.5%), Egypt (9.3%), and Algeria (6%).

■ Public export credit insurance agencies (ECA and multilateral agencies) retained the largest share of total new commitments for 2024, with a share exceeding 58%, while private insurance agencies had about 42% of the total.

■ Infrastructure, energy and manufacturing sectors held more than 52% of total new long-term commitments in the Arab region during 2024, with Saudi Arabia leading the list with more than 58% of new commitments in those sectors.

■ Claims paid for insurance commitments in the Arab region went down by 25% to about \$534 million during 2024, with roughly 97% concentrated in



insuring the credit of exports to Arab countries; also, 87% of them were paid by public agencies.

■ Recoveries from insurance commitments in the region increased by 9% to nearly \$500 million, accounting for 94% of total claims paid in the region during the same year.

■ The Corporation's cumulative operations during the period from 1975 to 2024 hit around \$32 billion, including 84% for trade insurance operations worth \$26.7 billion, and 16% for investment guarantee operations worth \$5.2 billion.

■ Investment, trade and finance entities in 5 Arab countries benefited from more than 45% of the Corporation's cumulative operations, with Kuwait leading with a share of 13%, followed by Saudi Arabia with 10.8%, the UAE with 8.9%, Tunisia in fourth place with 6.6%, and Egypt in fifth place with 6.2%.

It stressed that amid continued challenges

due to mounting geopolitical tensions in several world regions, especially Middle East, the Corporation is seeking to bolster its overall capabilities in addressing the region's existing and looming political and economic risks. It also commits itself to beefing up its alliances with key regional and international industry partners, mainly Berne Union and Aman Union, and all regional and world stakeholders to contribute to supporting member countries' economies.

Based in Kuwait, the Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman) was established in 1974 as a multilateral institution that comprises all Arab countries and four joint Arab financial institutions. It provides specialized insurance services against credit and political risks with a view to facilitating the inflow of foreign direct investments into Arab countries and promoting Arab exports and imports.

An exceptional milestone reinforcing the Bank's position as a leading Islamic financial institution in Kuwait and the region

Warba Bank achieves record 159% growth in net profit in 9M 2025, highest growth in Kuwait's banking sector

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Warba Bank, a leading Islamic bank in Kuwait, announced its financial results for the first nine months (9M) of 2025, continuing the exceptional growth trajectory the Bank has maintained since the beginning of the year. The results reflect the success of the Bank's integrated strategy, which combines studied expansion, investment in technology and a renewed commitment to its social role in line with the Bank's vision to build a brighter future and its commitment to its brand promise, "Let's Own Tomorrow."

The Bank achieved a growth of 159% in its net profit for 9M 2025, recording a net profit of KD 38.5 million, equivalent to 10.16 fils per share, and compared to a net profit of KD 14.9 million for the same period in 2024, equivalent to 5.48 fils per share.

The earnings reaffirm Warba's position and ability to continue growing sustainably with its balanced strategy focused on diversifying income sources and enhancing operational efficiency while maintaining the highest standards of governance and risk management.

Profit was driven by an increase in net investment income, which grew by 500.9% to KD 25.4 million as of 30 September 2025, compared to KD 4.2 million in the same period of 2024. Net fees and commissions also increased by 106.6% to KD 10.6 million, compared to KD 5.2 million in 9M 2024. Net financing income grew by 8.2% to KD 43.5 million as of 30 September 2025, compared to KD 40.2 million in the same period of 2024.

As for key financial indicators, Warba recorded a remarkable growth in total assets by 22.9% to reach KD 6.07 billion as of 30 September 2025. Customer deposits reached KD 3.4 billion, representing an increase of 14.7%. Total shareholders' equity rose to KD 819 million as of 30 September 2025, compared to KD 335 million as of 30 September 2024. The balance of financing receivables increased to KD 4 billion, up by KD 402 million, representing a growth of 11.2% compared to 30 September 2024.

Accelerated Growth and Strong Operational Performance

Chairman of Warba Bank, Mr. Hamad Musaed Al-Sayer, said: "We are proud of Warba's strong results for 9M 2025, which reflect the success of our expansion strategy and the resilience of our operating model. We have continued to achieve sustainable growth across all our main financial indicators, supported by the confidence of our shareholders and customers, and benefiting from the strong capital base provided by the historic capital increase completed in the first half of the year."

Al-Sayer added: "We continued to efficiently execute our strategy in Q3 2025. We strengthened our presence in the local market by expanding our network of branches and further developing our digital banking ecosystem. We also continued to enhance our investment portfolio and diversify our income sources, while maintaining the quality of our assets and our strict adherence to Islamic Sharia principles and the highest standards of governance and risk management."

He continued: "We are optimistic about the future of Warba Bank and look forward to the promising opportunities ahead to build a leading Islamic banking institution that enhances the competitiveness of the Kuwaiti banking sector and contributes to realizing Kuwait's national vision. Our balanced strategy, which combines sustainable growth, continuous innovation and a firm commitment to social responsibility, is what distinguishes us and places us in a leading position within the Islamic banking sector."

Digital Transformation and Innovation: Continued Leadership in Banking Services

In Q3 2025, Warba Bank strengthened its digital presence and expanded its portfolio of innovative banking services, maintaining its



Hamad Al-Sayer, Chairman of Warba Bank

Shaheen Al-Ghanem, Chief Executive Officer of Warba Bank

leadership in digital innovation within the Kuwaiti and regional banking sectors. The Bank launched a series of new digital initiatives aimed at improving customer experience and meeting their evolving needs in a rapidly changing world.

Among these initiatives was the launch of the youth account "Wave Banking" which offers an integrated package of digital banking services tailored to the modern lifestyle of young customers and their diverse needs. The Bank also rolled out new digital services and promotional offers that enhance the speed and efficiency of financial transactions, providing a seamless banking experience for all customers.

As part of its strategic expansion, Warba Bank reaffirmed its local position by focusing on delivering an integrated banking experience that combines traditional and digital services. The Bank has signed partnerships with regional and international financial and technology institutions, with the aim of expanding the scope of its services and enhancing its competitive capabilities.

Investment Achievements and Global Recognition

In investments, Warba Bank saw significant milestones in Q3 2025 as it continued to diversify its investment portfolio to provide new opportunities for its customers. Among these was the structuring and management of several major financing deals for leading regional institutions initiated earlier in the year, reinforcing its position as a key partner in the Islamic finance market. These deals received wide acclaim from global financial institutions, further enhancing the Bank's reputation and standing on the international stage.

Sustainability and Social Responsibility: A Commitment to Serving the Community

In its commitment to sustainability and social responsibility, Warba Bank launched initiatives In Q3 2025 aimed at supporting the community and protecting the environment. The Rowad program returned in its sixth edition and evolved into a comprehensive innovation platform attracting top Kuwaiti students studying abroad. The program equips them with advanced technical knowledge and skills in technology, artificial intelligence and banking innovation, preparing them to lead the region's digital transformation.

Supporting local talent and empower Kuwaiti youth across various fields and career stages, Warba Bank launched the first edition of the "Intilaqa" internship program, designed to provide Kuwaiti students and graduates with a comprehensive practical experience within the

Bank's departments. Through full immersion in a real work environment and participation in team-based tasks, participants gain valuable professional experience and skills.

Environmentally, the Bank continued to reduce its carbon footprint resulting from its operations by increasingly relying on renewable energy sources in its offices and adopting environmentally friendly policies across all its activities.

These initiatives reflect the Bank's steadfast commitment to the principles of sustainability and social responsibility, which form an integral part of its identity and long-term strategy. The Bank believes that true success is not only measured by profit and financial growth but also by the positive impact it creates within the community and the environment.

A Confident Vision for the Future: Continuing the Path of Growth and Excellence

Commenting on the Bank's financial results and operational achievements, Chief Executive Officer of Warba Bank, Mr. Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem, said: "We take great pride in the outstanding performance of Warba Bank in 9M 2025. This is a testament to the success of our strategy in achieving sustainable and inclusive growth built on a solid foundation of innovation, operational excellence and a commitment to sustainability."

He added: "In Q3, we succeeded in diversifying our sources of income and strengthening our investment portfolio, while maintaining the quality of our assets and the robustness of our financial position. We also continued investing in digital transformation and innovation, launching a range of advanced digital products and services that meet our customers' aspirations and enhance their banking experience."

Al-Ghanem continued: "The strong capital base established through the 100% capital increase and the issuance of USD 250 million in Additional Tier 1 sukuk provides us with the financial flexibility required to execute our expansion plans and strengthen our competitive capabilities."

He concluded: "We remain committed to continuously investing in digital transformation and developing our banking service ecosystem to deliver a distinguished customer experience that meets and exceeds expectations."

We also reaffirm our deep commitment to sustainability and social responsibility through impactful initiatives that contribute to sustainable development and a better future for generations to come. We look to the future with optimism and confidence, supported by an ambitious vision, an exceptional team, and a solid base of customers and shareholders. We are determined to continue our journey of success and excellence, consolidating Warba Bank's position as a leading Islamic financial institution contributing to Kuwait's national economy and future vision."

Warba Bank has achieved significant success in a short period, establishing itself as a pioneer in Islamic digital banking services. It is also among the local banks with the largest number of shareholders, bringing it closer to all segments of society. This achievement further reaffirms the Bank's position as a trusted financial partner that combines innovation with social responsibility in delivering best-in-class services and products.

Key Operational Indicators:

- Net profit increased by 158.6% to KD 38.5 million.
- Financing receivables rose by 11.2% to KD 4 billion.
- Customer deposits grew by 14.7% to KD 3.4 billion.
- Total assets increased by 22.9% to KD 6.07 billion.

EPS of 23.07 fils

Kamco Invest reports net profit of KD 7.9 mln for nine months, up from KD 3.5 mln in 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced its financial results for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2025. The Company reported a net profit of KWD 7.9mn (EPS: 23.07 fils) compared to KWD 3.5mn during the same period in 2024 (EPS: 10.14 fils).

Total revenues increased by 35.1% to KD 25.0mn, while fee and commission income stood at KD 11.5mn (9M 2024: KD 12.1mn). The growth in total revenues was mainly driven by the performance of the Company's investment portfolio, supported by one-off proceeds from a legal case ruled in the Company's favor.

Assets under management reached USD 16.4bn as of 30 September 2025, an increase of 3.0% since the beginning of the year, invested in various strategies and asset classes including equities, fixed income, real estate, private equity, amongst others. Managed portfolios continued to outperform their respective benchmarks, while the Company's equity funds maintained their positions amongst the top performing funds in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, based on the fund disclosures published on Boursa Kuwait and Tadawul websites.

As for Alternative Investments, which includes real estate, private equity and structured products, the team continued to expand its range of offerings to provide clients with added value. During Q1-2025, Kamco Invest finalized the acquisition of a 60% majority stake in European Green Logistics Space (EGLS), a company specializing in the development, investment, and management of logistics assets in Europe. This acquisition reflects Kamco Invest's commitment to growing its recurring fee income while unlocking value-adding opportunities for regional clients in the sustainable logistics sector.

Kamco Invest also strengthened its presence in the technology investment space through an innovative approach implemented by its closed-end and nearly fully deployed JEDI Fund. The Fund is a unique institutional-grade platform investing in technology opportunities in the United States, particularly Silicon Valley, which has achieved outstanding performance with a Gross Multiple on Invested Capital (MOIC) of 1.3x. The private equity team also completed two client acquisitions in Foodies, the leading cloud-based technology and payment platform for restaurants in the region, and Unifonic, a leading platform that enhances communication and engagement between businesses and their customers.

The Company successfully exited its investment in Yargici, a leading Turkish fashion and accessories brand held by one of Kamco Invest's private equity funds, through a sale to TIMS Group, a diversified Turkish business group with operations in content production, tourism, construction, and land development. The exit high-



Sheikh Talal Ali Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah, Chairman

Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer

Talal Al-Ali:

- Our performance highlights the resilience of our strategy and the strength of our diversified business model

Sarkhou:

- We continued to strengthen our presence across core business areas and expanded our investment solutions to meet our clients' diverse needs

lights Kamco Invest's commitment to delivering long-term value to its clients while ensuring the continued growth and success of its portfolio companies.

The Investment Banking team continued to advise clients on several transactions across equity capital markets, debt capital markets, and M&A, with deals expected to close during the year. During the period, the team successfully advised on a sell side mandate and acted as Joint Lead Manager on eight bond and sukuk issuances totaling USD 4.3bn for regional banks and institutions across Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Qatar.

First Securities Brokerage Company, Kamco Invest's brokerage arm, continued to strengthen its competitive position and attracted new clients through its online trading platforms.

Kamco Invest - Saudi and Kamco Invest - DIFC continued to strengthen their presence in their respective markets by improving their services and contributing more to the company's core businesses, particularly in asset management. Kamco Invest - Saudi signed a strategic partnership with Flexam Invest to offer leasing opportunities to their clients. Furthermore, Kamco Invest - Saudi officially moved to its new premises in the King Abdullah Financial District (KAFFD).

Kamco Invest was awarded the "Kuwait's Best for Alternative Investments" at the Euromoney Private Banking Awards 2025, highlighting the Company's rapid growth and sustained success in the alternatives space. In addition, Kamco Invest was named "Kuwait's Best Investment Bank - DCM" at the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2025, in recognition of the team's outstanding performance in executing bond and sukuk transactions for local and regional clients.

Total assets increased by 4.8% during the period to reach KWD 136.1 mn, whereas shareholders' equity rose by 10.1% to KWD 68.5 mn. The Company also enjoys a strong financial position and a "BBB" long-term credit rating and "A3" short-term rating with stable outlook by Capital Intelligence in their latest review in May 2025.

Commenting on the results, Sheikh Talal Ali Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah, Chairman, said, "Our performance during the first nine months of 2025 reflects our ability to deliver solid results despite market volatility, underscoring the strength of our strategy and the resilience of our diversified business model. We look forward to concluding the year with continued momentum, capitalizing on our accumulated expertise and capabilities, while maintaining our unwavering commitment to creating long-term value for our shareholders and clients alike."

Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer, commented, "We delivered strong performance throughout the first nine months characterized by solid growth in revenues and net profits, that were supported by exceptional returns from our managed investment portfolios. During this period, we continued to strengthen our presence across our core business lines and expand our investment solutions to cater to the evolving needs of our clients. The strategic developments, particularly the acquisition of a majority stake in EGLS, reflect our commitment to sustainable value creation and enhancing our competitive edge. We continue to execute our plans to develop our services, expand our operations and regional presence, and achieve balanced growth."

Supporting Kuwaiti entrepreneurs' imports

KIB's Mubader Center signs MoU to boost SME imports from China

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: In a move that underscores its continued commitment to supporting entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Kuwait, KIB Mubader Center, the business incubator and accelerator affiliated with Kuwait International Bank (KIB), announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and strategic co-operation with the Kuwait Asian Import & Export Company. The agreement aims to enhance collaboration in empowering entrepreneurs and streamlining import operations from China.

The partnership aims to provide practical and end-to-end solutions that help entrepreneurs overcome the challenges associated with import operations. It does so by offering technical and advisory support at every stage, from selecting the right product and supplier to receiving the goods in Kuwait, ensuring product quality and smooth procedures throughout the process.

Commenting on the new partnership, Mohammad Al-Huwaidi, Head of KIB Mubader Center, said: "At KIB Mubader Center, we are committed to building strategic partnerships with organizations that possess specialized expertise, as such collaborations have a direct impact on empowering entrepreneurs and enhancing the success of their ventures. This memorandum marks a key step toward alleviating the challenges faced by small and medium-sized business owners when dealing with international suppliers, by providing professional guidance and consultancy that ensure safe import processes and greater efficiency in commercial operations."

From his side, Nasser Qambar, General Manager of the Kuwait Asian Import & Export Company, expressed his pride in this partnership, saying: "With over 14 years of experience working with Chinese manufacturers, we are dedicated to leveraging our expertise to

support Kuwaiti entrepreneurs by offering end-to-end import services that help develop their projects and accelerate the growth of their businesses."

The signing of this MoU comes as part of KIB Mubader Center's ongoing efforts to expand its range of services and further develop the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Kuwait. This is achieved by building bridges of collaboration with local and international institutions that contribute to supporting entrepreneurs and empowering them to achieve their business aspirations.

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.



KIB Mubader Center signs MoU with Kuwait Asian Import & Export Company to support Kuwaiti entrepreneurs.

Economists warn longer mortgages slow equity building and may inflate home prices

White House considers 50-year mortgage to ease home affordability crisis

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): The White House says it is considering backing a 50-year mortgage to help alleviate the home affordability crisis in the country. But the announcement drew immediate criticism from policymakers, social media and economists, who said a 50-year mortgage would do little to resolve other core problems in the housing market, such as a lack of supply and high interest rates.

Bill Pulte, director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, said on X over the weekend that a 50-year mortgage would be “a complete game changer” for homebuyers. FHFA is the part of the federal government that oversees Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which buy and insure the vast majority of mortgages in the country.

The 30-year mortgage is a uniquely American financial product and the default way to buy a home since the New Deal. Politicians and policymakers at the time wanted to create a standardized mortgage that borrowers could afford and pay off during their working years, when the average lifespan for an American was 66 years old.

Extending the life of a mortgage to 50 years does decrease a borrower’s monthly payment.

The average selling price of a home in the U.S. was \$415,200 in September, according to National Association of Realtors. Assuming a standard 10% down payment and an average interest rate of 6.17%, the monthly payment on a 30-year mortgage would be \$2,288 while the payment on a 50-year mortgage would be \$2,022. That’s presuming a bank would not require a higher interest rate on a 50-year mortgage, due to the longer duration of the loan.

Because even more of the monthly payment on a 50-year mortgage would go toward interest on the loan, it would take 30 years before a borrower would accumulate \$100,000 in equity, not including home price appreciation and the down payment. That’s compared to 12-13 years to accumulate \$100,000 in equity when paying off a 30-year mortgage, excluding the down payment.

A borrower would pay, roughly, an additional \$389,000 in interest over the life of a 50-year mortgage compared to a 30-year mortgage, according to an AP analysis.

Other analysts came to a similar conclusion.

“Extending a mortgage from 30 years to 50 years could double the (dollar)



New homes dot the landscape in Middlesex Township, Pa., on April 19, 2023. (AP)

lar) amount of interest paid by the homebuyer on a median priced home over the life of the loan and significantly slow equity accumulation,” wrote John Lovallo with UBS Securities.

A 50-year mortgage does nothing to solve one critical issue when it comes to housing affordability - the lack of supply of homes. States like California and cities like New York have recently passed legislation or made regulatory changes to allow builders to build homes faster with less regulatory red tape.

There’s also the raw cost of homebuilding in the country. Products such as steel, lumber, concrete, copper and plastics that go into home construction are now subject to tariffs under President Trump. Further, many construction jobs were being done by undocumented workers, particularly in the Southwest, where deportations are impacting the ability for homebuilders to find enough labor to build homes.

“Many of the big things that would address supply right now are going in the wrong direction,” said Mike Konczal, senior director of policy and

research at the Economic Security Project.”

Pulte said on X that the introduction of a 50-year mortgage was just a “potential weapon,” among other solutions the White House has considered to combat high housing prices.

The average age of a first-time homebuyer has been creeping up for years and is now roughly 40 years of age. A 50-year mortgage would be difficult to underwrite for a bank for a 40-year-old first-time homebuyer, who would be 90 years old by the time that home is paid off. The average life expectancy of an American is now roughly 79 years, meaning there’s 11 years of life expectancy not covered in a 50-year loan.

“It’s typically not a goal of policymakers to pass on mortgage debt to a borrowers’ children,” Konczal said.

Other parts of the financial system have extended loan terms, to mixed results. The seven-year auto loan has become increasingly common as car prices have risen and Americans keep their cars longer. Despite longer loan terms, auto loan delinquencies have been rising, and the average price of a new car is now \$49,740 compared to a price of \$38,948 for a new vehicle five years ago.

Student loans were originally designed to be paid off in 10 years, and now there are multiple payment options that extend repayment out to 20 years.

Economists pointed out that a 50-year mortgage may do the opposite of helping with home affordability by causing home price inflation by introducing more potential buyers into a market struggling with supply.

After significant criticism, President Trump seemed less enthused about the 50-year mortgage. When asked by Laura Ingraham of Fox News about the idea, President Trump said it “might help a little bit” but seemed to brush it off.

Under the Dodd-Frank Act, the mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac cannot insure a mortgage that is longer than 30 years, so any 50-year mortgage would be considered a “non-qualifying mortgage” and would be more difficult to sell to investors. Congress would have to amend U.S. financial laws in multiple places to allow for 50-year mortgages, and there seems to be little appetite for Congress to take this on immediately.

Experts say tariff revenue insufficient

Trump promises \$2,000 tariff dividend to most Americans

WASHINGTON, Nov 12, (AP): President Donald Trump boasts that his tariffs protect American industries, lure factories to the United States, raise money for the federal government and give him diplomatic leverage.

Now, he’s claiming they can finance a windfall for American families, too: He’s promising a generous tariff dividend.

The president proposed the idea on his Truth Social media platform Sunday, five days after his Republican Party lost elections in Virginia, New Jersey and elsewhere largely because of voter discontent with his economic stewardship - specifically, the high cost of living.

The tariffs are bringing in so much money, the president posted, that “a dividend of at least \$2000 a person (not including high income people!) will be paid to everyone.”

Budget experts scoffed at the idea, which conjured memories of the Trump administration’s short-lived plan for DOGE dividend checks financed by billionaire Elon Musk’s federal budget cuts.

“The numbers just don’t check out,” said Erica York, vice president of federal tax policy at the nonpartisan Tax Foundation.

Details are scarce, including what the income limits would be and whether payments would go to children.

Even Trump’s treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, sounded a bit blindsided by the audacious dividend plan. Appearing Sunday on ABC’s “This Week,” Bessent said he hadn’t discussed the dividend with the president and suggested that it might not mean that Americans would get a check from the government. Instead, Bessent said, the rebate might take the form of tax cuts.

The tariffs are certainly raising money - \$195 billion in the budget year that ended Sept. 30, up 153% from \$77 billion in fiscal 2024. But

they still account for less than 4% of federal revenue and have done little to dent the federal budget deficit - a staggering \$1.8 trillion in fiscal 2025.

Budget wonks say Trump’s dividend math doesn’t work.

John Ricco, an analyst with the Budget Lab at Yale University, reckons that Trump’s tariffs will bring in \$200 billion to \$300 billion a year in revenue. But a \$2,000 dividend - if it went to all Americans, including children - would cost \$600 billion. “It’s clear that the revenue coming in would not be adequate,” he said.

Ricco also noted that Trump couldn’t just pay the dividends on his own. They would require legislation from Congress.

Moreover, the centerpiece of Trump’s protectionist trade policies - double-digit taxes on imports from almost every country in the world - may not survive a legal challenge that has reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

In a hearing last week, the justices sounded skeptical about the Trump administration’s assertion of sweeping power to declare national emergencies to justify the tariffs. Trump has bypassed Congress, which has authority under the Constitution to levy taxes, including tariffs.

If the court strikes down the tariffs, the Trump administration may be refunding money to the importers who paid them, not sending dividend checks to American families. (Trump could find other ways to impose tariffs, even if he loses at the Supreme Court; but it could be cumbersome and time-consuming.)

Mainstream economists and budget analysts note that tariffs are paid by U.S. importers who then generally try to pass along the cost to their customers through higher prices.

The dividend plan “misses the mark,” the Tax Foundation’s York said. “If the goal is relief for Americans, just get rid of the tariffs.”

Shutdown leaves a mark on an already-struggling economy, from lost paychecks to canceled flights

1.25 million federal workers unpaid since Oct 1

WASHINGTON, Nov 12, (AP): The longest federal government shutdown in U.S. history appears to be nearing an end, but not without leaving a mark on an already-struggling economy.

About 1.25 million federal workers haven’t been paid since Oct. 1. Thousands of flights have been canceled, a trend that is expected to continue this week even as Congress moves toward reopening the government. Government contract awards have slowed and some food aid recipients have seen their benefits interrupted.

Most of the lost economic activity will be recovered when the government reopens, as federal workers will receive back pay. But some canceled flights won’t be retaken, missed restaurant meals won’t be made up, and some postponed purchases will end up not happening at all.

“Short-lived shutdowns are usually invisible in the data, but this one will leave a lasting mark,” Gregory Daco, chief economist at accounting giant EY said, “both because of its record length and the growing disruptions to welfare programs and travel.”

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that a six-week shutdown will reduce growth in this year’s fourth quarter by about 1.5 percentage points. That would cut growth by half from the third quarter. The reopening should boost first-quarter growth next year by 2.2 percentage points, the CBO projected, but about \$11 billion in economic activity will be permanently lost.

The previous longest government shutdown, in 2018-2019, lasted 35 days but only partially shut the government because many agencies had been fully funded. It only nicked the economy by about 0.02% of GDP, the CBO said then.

The current shutdown is adding to the economy’s existing challenges, which include sluggish hiring, stubbornly elevated inflation, and President Donald Trump’s tariffs, which have caused uncertainty for many businesses. Still, few economists foresee a recession.

About 650,000 federal workers didn’t work during the shutdown, which will likely boost the unemployment rate by about 0.4 percentage points in October, or to 4.7% from 4.3% in August, when the last report was released. Those workers would

all then be counted as employed once the government reopens.

Here are the ways the government closure is weighing on the economy:

All told, federal workers will have missed about \$16 billion in wages by mid-November, the CBO estimates. That has meant less spending at stores, restaurants, and likely reduced holiday travel. Large purchases will probably be postponed, slowing the broader economy.

Trump had threatened during the shutdown to not provide back pay but the deal struck in Congress would replace those lost wages once the government reopens.

The shutdown has added to the Washington, D.C. area’s economic woes, where the unemployment rate was already 6% before the shutdown, after Trump’s cuts to the federal workforce this spring caused job losses. While the Washington, D.C. area - including the nearby suburbs in Virginia and Maryland - has the highest concentration of federal workers, most live and work outside of the nation’s capital.

Federal workers make up about 5.5% of Maryland’s workforce, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center. But they also comprise 2.9% of New Mexico’s workers, 2.6% of Oklahoma’s, and 3.8% of Alaska’s.

Then there are the federal contractors. Bernard Yaros, an economist at Oxford Economics, estimates they could total as many as 5.2 million, and they are not guaranteed back pay once the shutdown ends.

Airlines scrapped more than 2,000 flights by Monday evening after canceling 5,500 since Friday on orders from the Federal Aviation Administration, which is seeking to reduce the burden on overworked air traffic controllers, who have now missed two paychecks.

Even before the flight cancellations, Tourism Economics, an economic consulting firm, estimated that the shutdown would reduce travel spending by \$63 million a day, which means a six-week standoff would cost the travel industry \$2.6 billion.

The canceled flights also mean less business for hotels, restaurants, and taxi drivers. And federal employees have already pulled the plug on upcoming trips, according to Tourism Economics, which may not be able to be rescheduled even when the

government does reopen.

The shutdown has worsened Americans’ outlook on the broader economy. Declining consumer sentiment can over time reduce spending and slow growth, though in recent years Americans have kept shopping even when their outlooks turned grim.

Consumer sentiment dropped to a three-year low and close to the lowest point ever recorded in a survey by the University of Michigan, reported Friday, with pessimism over personal finances and anticipated business conditions weighing on Americans.

The November survey showed the index of consumer sentiment at 50.4, down a startling 6.2% from last month and a plunge of nearly 30% from a year ago.

While the shutdown hasn’t cut off all federal government spending, it has reduced purchases of equipment and has cut off the issuance of new contracts.

Yaros estimates that about \$800 million in new contracts were at risk of not being awarded each day of the shutdown.

“The federal award spigot has all but turned off at the Department of Defense, NASA, and the Department of Homeland Security,” Yaros wrote.

The shutdown delayed the payment of \$8 billion in monthly SNAP food aid to 42 million recipients in November, creating a significant financial disruption for many households that likely reduced spending. Some states have managed to pay full benefits for this month, though the Trump administration is still fighting over the issue in court.

The deal currently under consideration in Congress to reopen the government includes full funding of SNAP benefits.

The government shutdown cut off the flow of economic data on unemployment, inflation, and retail spending that the Federal Reserve depends on to monitor the economy’s health. Even as the government reopens, some of that data will still be delayed. As a result, the Fed may not deliver a third interest rate cut at its December meeting, which was widely expected before the shutdown.

“What do you do if you’re driving in the fog? You slow down,” Fed Chair Jerome Powell said at a news conference late last month.

Diverse and resilient energy production is needed to meet future demand, global report says

PARIS, Nov 12, (AP): Electricity demand will rise much faster than overall energy growth in the coming decades, underscoring the need for diversified energy sources, according to an analysis released Wednesday.

The report by the International Energy Agency said renewable energy, led by solar power, will grow faster than any other major source in the next few years and that coal and oil demand will likely peak globally by the end of this decade. The report noted that many natural gas projects were approved in 2025, due to changes in U.S. policy, indicating worldwide supply will rise even as questions remain about how it will be used. Meanwhile, global nuclear power capacity is set to increase by at least a third by 2035 after being stagnant for years.

The release of the annual World Energy Outlook coincided with U.N. climate negotiations in Brazil this week where global leaders are calling for ways to curb the planet’s warming.

The IEA says building greater resilience in energy systems is especially important as data centers, heating and cooling, electrification and more drive energy demand. Investment in data centers is expected to reach \$580 billion this year, exceeding investment in the oil supply, according to the report.

Growing economies including India and nations in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, will “increasingly shape energy market dynamics in the years,” the IEA said, noting their potential for solar power.

China, meanwhile, has accounted for half the global growth in demand for oil and gas, and more than half for electricity, since 2010.

“In a break from the trend of the past decade, the increase in electricity consumption is no longer limited to emerging and developing economies,” IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said in a release. Birol said that electricity use is also rising in advanced economies.

Nations are grappling with meeting demand while preparing for the risks brought on by the planet’s warming. The IEA says the world is falling short on universal energy access and climate change goals. Around 730 million people still live without electricity, according to the IEA, and despite progress, nearly one-quarter of the global population still relies on inefficient cooking methods that hurt their health or the environment. 2024 was also the hottest year on record.

Nations should diversify their energy sources and cooperate to expand supply chains for critical minerals used to make things like batteries for electric vehicles and components for solar and wind power generation, the IEA said. This also includes making quick improvements to the grid, energy storage and broader infrastructure.



88 battery storage units are located in the new photovoltaic battery storage hybrid power plant on the site of a former gravel pit in Zerbst, Germany, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025. (AP)

“When we look at the history of the energy world in recent decades, there is no other time when energy security tensions have applied to so many fuels and technologies at once,” Birol said. “With energy security front and (center) for many governments, their responses need to consider the synergies and trade-offs that can arise with other policy goals - on affordability, access, competitiveness and climate change.”

In a conference call Wednesday, Birol said: “We will still use oil, we will still use gas. But the growth of electricity demand is spectacular.”

He noted the role transportation plays in accounting for 45% of global oil consumption, for example. “How the electrification of the transportation takes place, especially in countries beyond China and Europe, will determine the shape of the oil demand and growth.”

Wednesday’s edition of the yearly report is the first released since the start of U.S. President Donald Trump’s second term. Trump’s administration has for a second time opted out of the Paris agreement, rolled back dozens of climate regulations, slashed federal support for renew-

able energies such as wind and solar power and is reversing the “endangerment finding” that sits at the core of U.S. climate policy.

Trump has pledged his support instead to the fossil fuel industry, investing in coal and loosening restrictions on pollution.

But energy analysts said the shift to clean power is happening regardless of climate policy around the world.

“The evidence on the ground is overwhelming. EV sales are taking off in many emerging countries, solar is permeating even through the Middle East,” said Dave Jones, chief analyst at global energy think tank Ember. “Renewables and electrification will dominate the future.”

Maria Pastukhova, energy transition program lead at climate change think tank E3G, said the report makes “the choices for the global energy system and the global economy unambiguous.”

“If countries want to grow their economies and protect their citizens from roller-coaster energy prices, they need to focus relentlessly on energy efficiency and the (decarbonization) of energy demand,” Pastukhova said.

Others, however, were critical of how the outlook addressed oil and gas. Ben Backwell, CEO of the Global Wind Energy Council, said the outlook does not fully capture the momentum in renewables, and that it should have emphasized the trajectory for renewable energy is accelerating, driven by the decreasing cost of the technologies, strong policy support and the move toward electrification.

“We’re accelerating,” he added. “You can see it all around the world and we can see it in our numbers for last year, but also in our numbers for the first half of this year. It looks very, very exciting, both for wind and for solar, in fact, and for next year, even more so.”

The outlook foresees the likelihood of surpassing the warming threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) established in the Paris Agreement. Nonetheless, Stephan Singer, global energy senior advisor at CAN International, a global network of environmental organizations, said getting below that point is still possible.

The IEA addressed some of the criticism in the call Wednesday. It said that it sees differences economically, politically and with regard to clean energy efforts across the globe, and that its analysis tries to account for those differences.

“In a nutshell, the IEA is backsliding. As a global think tank, the IEA has largely failed to represent where most countries in the (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and the developing world are, as they’re supporting net zero emissions with 98% CO2 emissions reductions by mid-century,” Singer said.



President Donald Trump speaks to the media as he walks down the stairs of Air Force One upon his arrival at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Sunday, Nov. 9, after returning from his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla. and en route to an NFL football game between the Washington Commanders and the Detroit Lions. (AP)

BBC vs Trump row

Why editing video now gains new significance

LONDON, Nov 12, (AP): In the space of a few months, one of the more straightforward journalistic tasks - editing tape for broadcast - has been behind a \$16 million legal settlement, a network's change in how it offers interviews on a news show and, now, the resignation of two top leaders at the BBC.

The other common denominator: President Donald Trump.

Britain's BBC is reeling this week following the resignations of its director-general, Tim Davie, and news chief Deborah Turness amid accusations of bias in the editing of last year's documentary, "Trump: A Second Chance." The BBC admitted filmmakers spliced together quotes from different sections of the speech Trump made before the Jan. 6, 2021, storming of the US Capitol to make it seem like he was directly urging violence.

Trump sued CBS' parent company over a "60 Minutes" edit of Kamala Harris' interview, resulting in this summer's settlement, and the complaints of his Homeland Security secretary, Kristi Noem, about her "Face the Nation" interview in August caused a policy change.

In a different time, the BBC episode would likely have led to a quick admission of a mistake, a correction, apology and everyone would have moved on, said Mark Lukasiewicz, a former NBC News executive and now dean of Hofstra University's School of Communication.

Caution

"But in an era where every editing decision taken in a newsroom is now under a microscope and can be weaponized for political purposes," he said, "it's got to be something that is causing real caution in newsrooms all over the world now."

Questioning edits is another tool for the president to strike back at journalists who displease him. He has restricted access by The Associated Press after its decision not to follow his lead in renaming the Gulf of Mexico, sued outlets like The New York Times and Wall Street Journal and stripped funding for public broadcasting because he doesn't like its news coverage.

Much like print reporters who search through notebooks for the perfect quote, video editors often labor to identify footage that will advance a story.

Sometimes the perfect image does not exist, or a quote isn't as succinct or sharp as a medium under constant time constraints demands. That can lead to the temptation to rearrange or even manipulate.

NBC News got in trouble more than a decade ago for a story about George Zimmerman - who fatally shot Trayvon Martin, a young man who was in his Florida gated community. It quoted Zimmerman talking to a police dispatcher about Martin, saying "this guy looks like he's up to no good. He looks Black."

In reality, Zimmerman's description of Martin's activities last longer, and his speculation about Martin's race was a direct response to a police dispatcher's question about it. Zimmerman sued NBC News for libel, a case later thrown out by a judge. NBC apologized to its viewers.

Katie Couric apologized in 2016 when an editor for her "Under the Gun" documentary inserted an eight-second pause after footage of Couric questioning guns right activists about background checks. The activists actually responded right away.

In the BBC edit, different parts of Trump's 2021 Capitol speech are edited to appear as a single quote: "We're going to walk down to the Capitol and I'll be there with you. And we fight. We fight like hell."

But the second two sentences of that quote were actually said nearly an hour later than the first sentence, and part of his speech where he said he wanted supporters to demonstrate peacefully was omitted.

Defrauded

In an interview that aired Tuesday on Fox News, Trump said, "I guess I have to" sue the BBC. "Because I think they defrauded the public and they've admitted it."

In teaching video editing to students at Syracuse University, Jamie Hoskins said she repeatedly emphasizes the need not to be misleading. She's a former news producer who worked in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Buffalo, New York.

"I talk about that in every class at every level," she said. "You don't want to mischaracterize what people are saying or change their meaning by piecing things together."

The proliferation of video - ever shorter, ever snappier - on TikTok and Instagram adds to pressure placed on journalists. The ability of AI to manufacture completely false video is yet another complication. Fake, racist video of Black food assistance recipients complaining about missing benefits due to the government shutdown spread online; a Fox News digital story linked to some of the videos earlier this month and had to be corrected.

"We live in a world now where people can get content from everywhere," Hoskins said. "There is a difference between content and journalism."

At the root of Trump's complaint about "60 Minutes" was an exchange between correspondent Bill Whitaker and Kamala Harris, the president's opponent in last year's election. CBS aired two different reports - on "60 Minutes" and "Face the Nation" - depicting Harris giving two different answers to a Whitaker question about the war in the Mideast.

CBS News said both responses were part of Harris' long-winded answer to the same question. But to people who saw both broadcasts, the effect was jarring; other news outlets say they have a strict policy, when they show an interviewer posing a question, that the immediate, direct response is aired.

Autopsy reveals musician's real cause of death

Kiss guitarist Frehley died from injuries suffered in fall

MORRISTOWN, N.J., Nov 12, (AP): Ace Frehley, the original lead guitarist and founding member of the glam rock band Kiss, died from blunt force injuries to the head that he suffered in a fall earlier this year, an autopsy has determined.

Frehley died peacefully on Oct. 16 surrounded by family in Morristown, New Jersey, a few weeks after the fall occurred, according to his agent.

The Morris County Medical Examiner's Office determined Frehley's death was an accident. The report said Frehley, 74, suffered facial fractures near the eyes and left ear and also had bruising on his left abdomen and thigh area and his right hip and upper thigh.

Kiss, whose hits included "Rock and Roll All Nite" and "I Was Made for Lovin' You," was known for its theatrical stage shows, with fire and fake blood spewing from the mouths of band members dressed in body armor, platform boots, wigs and signature black-and-white face paint.

Kiss' original lineup included Frehley, singer-guitarist Paul Stanley, tongue-wagging bassist Gene Simmons and drummer Peter Criss. Frehley's is the first death among the four founding members.

Band members took on the personas of comic book-style characters - Frehley was known as "Space Ace" and "The Spaceman." The New York-born entertainer and Rock &



Ace Frehley participates in the BUILD Speaker Series to discuss his album 'Spaceman' in New York on Oct. 16, 2018. (AP)

Roll Hall of Famer often experimented with pyrotechnics, making his guitars glow, emit smoke and shoot rockets from the headstock.

Film



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Glen Powell in a scene from 'The Running Man.' (AP)

Wright's remake loses dark edge for bland satire

Time has outrun this 'Running Man'

LOS ANGELES, Nov 12, (AP): It's always interesting when time overtakes the dystopias of the past. In Stephen King's 1982 novel "The Running Man," the United States has fallen into a totalitarian state, divided between haves and have-nots, where all movements can be surveilled and realistic video propaganda is easily generated. King's book was set in the year 2025.

Edgar Wright's new big-screen adaptation is fittingly but awkwardly timed. Arriving in the year of King's imagined dystopia, its near-future has little in it that isn't already plausible today, making this "Running Man" - while fleet of foot in action - feel a step, or two, behind.

"The Running Man," of course, has already begat one movie. Paul Michael Glaser's 1987 film starred Arnold Schwarzenegger as Ben Richards, the young father who out of financial desperation auditions for a lethal reality show where survival for 30 days means a \$1 billion payday. (The movie was set in the distant year of 2017.) Times have changed, though. Wright's film stars Glen Powell as Richards, a fairly exponential upgrade in smirking charisma.

This is, for sure, a dystopia with a genial spin. That's not only the case with the dashing and overweening Powell but with Wright, a playful genre practitioner whose approach to apocalypse ("Shaun of the Dead") is, by nature, comic. From the start, the darkest shades of King's book have been snuffed out of this blandly entertaining remake that swaps out the brutalist 1980s nihilism of the Schwarzenegger movie for a satirical portrait of America lacking in bite and prescience.

It's not like the 1987 "Running Man" was so great, either. But at least it locked into a tone and stuck with it. Wright's movie has flashes of flamboyance that help, but it struggles to balance such violent science fiction with funny, over-the-top farce (care of Colman Domingo and Michael Cera). That was basically the task, and success, of the "Hunger Games" films, which owed plenty to "The Running Man." That's one of the hard things about reaching backward for futuristic visions. "The Running Man" and its ilk have been getting ripped off for decades now. (Go back further and Richard

Connell, author of 1924's "The Most Dangerous Game," probably has the biggest gripe.)

In the opening scenes of "The Running Man," Richards has run out of employment options. At every turn, he's been labeled insubordinate or has flirted too much with union representation for his radiation-exposed colleagues. With a baby home sick and a wife (Jayme Lawson) considering taking a shift at a dangerous nightclub, he resolves to try out for the many reality shows put on by the Network, the all-powerful, government-controlled media monolith. Richards strides from the grim and gritty Co-Op City through a checkpoint and into a gleaming, militantly policed metropolis. Though he's sworn off participating in "The Running Man," it's the only show his particular combination of rage and sarcasm qualifies him for. In a word association test, he replies: Freedom? "No." Anarchy? "When?"

Power

The job is offered to him by the Network head, Dan Killian (Josh Brolin). Brolin is especially good as the slick, lying-through-his-teeth Killian, a fine addition to the many mean authority figures Brolin has played over the years, from the studio fixer of "Hail, Caesar!" to the police officer of "Inherent Vice," or even the supervillain of "Avengers: Endgame." He's a pliable actor with many other modes, but Brolin may be the defining rock-jawed face of corrupt power of our time. (That goes, too, for his demagogue priest in the upcoming "Wake Up Dead: A Knives Out Mystery.")

Even better, though, is Domingo as the show's host, Bobby Thompson. Domingo has the grand flair for grinning showman types like these, even if some of Bobby T's thunder has been stolen by previous roles like it. ("The Hunger Games," again, with Stanley Tucci.) Entering the game at the same time are a few other contestants (Katy O'Brian, Martin Herlihy). Once the game is on, they're dropped back into the world with a head start. Anyone who recognizes them can turn them in for a reward to the armed hunters in pursuit. The hunters are led by the face-painted Evan Mc-

Cone (a wasted Lee Pace). Floating drone cameras capture the action for live broadcasts.

This is, at first, a fun game of hide-and-seek, stretching from New York to Boston to Maine, that allows for a few enjoyable cameos. Cera essentially plays an adult Kevin McCallister if he had grown up to be a paranoid anarchist with the same fondness for "Home Alone"-style booby traps. But while "The Running Man" always maintains a forward-moving baseline, Powell's Richards isn't a compelling enough character to make the ride especially rewarding. So far, Powell has been best in looser films like his two with Richard Linklater: "Everybody Wants Some!!" and "Hit Man."

Wright, who penned the script with Michael Bacall, has lately been drawn toward darker tales and bigger scales, with mixed results. But while he's long been a talented juggler of genres, "The Running Man" struggles to mix comic hijinks with weightier themes of inequality and antiauthoritarianism. Those driving concepts come off as hollow in a big-budget, IP-draining reboot that's too timid for King's bleakest plot turns.

But if there's one aspect of Wright's film that feels genuinely connected to today, it's the movie's media metaphor. This isn't so much in the Network, which seems stuck in a dated parody where everyone still watches the same show at night. It's in a more AI-related subtext.

As Richards' survival stretches into weeks, Killian employs ever-greater means of manipulation to sell him to the public as a villain. On the Network, he can make Richards do, or say, whatever he wants. Eventually, Richards wonders aloud: If he can use digital wizardry to do anything, why does he even need a human contestant? Killian's answer is simply that human contestants get better ratings. This, at least, feels like an honest question for today. It's just too bad "The Running Man" isn't the act of resistance it wants to be.

"The Running Man," a Paramount Pictures release is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for strong violence, some gore and language. Running time: 133 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Variety

NEW YORK: Ann Packer's "Some Bright Nowhere," her first novel in a decade, is **Oprah Winfrey**'s latest book club pick.

Published on Tuesday, "Some Bright Nowhere" is the story of a long-married couple and the questions they confront when the wife becomes terminally ill and makes a dying wish that two close friends care for her instead of her husband.

"This beautifully written story is going to get you thinking about some things that really matter," Winfrey said in a statement. "The story leaves you questioning the obligations of marriage and the difference between male and female friendships, and one of the



Winfrey

most significant of questions: How do you want to spend your last days?" (AP)



LONDON: The UK government announced on Tuesday a further GBP 200,000 (about USD 263,500) in emergency funding to help protect Ukraine's cultural heritage during and after the war, from ancient manuscripts to historic buildings.

Culture Minister Ian Murray announced the funding whilst representing the UK at an informal meeting of media and culture ministers in Copenhagen as part of Denmark's Presidency of the Council of the EU.

"Ukraine's cultural heritage is not just important to its people, but to the world," Media and Culture Minister Ian Murray said. "That's why this government is proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine and our international partners to protect the history and irreplaceable cultural artefacts of the Ukrainian people."

He pointed out that this emergency funding will provide immediate support to safeguard Ukraine's cultural

identity, whilst joining the Culture Resilience Alliance ensures we're part of a coordinated, long-term effort to preserve Ukrainian heritage for future generations. (KUNA)



MOSCOW: A Russian court Tuesday extended the jailing of an 18-year-old street singer on charges seen as punishment for performing anti-war songs, an action denounced by human rights activists as part of a rampant crackdown on free speech over the war in Ukraine.

Diana Loginova was ordered held for another 13 days by the court in St. Petersburg on charges of violating public order with her October performance. It was the third consecutive sentence for Loginova, who has remained in custody since her initial arrest on Oct. 15.

Loginova, a music student who goes by the stage name Naoko in the band Stoptime, also was ordered to pay fines for "discrediting the Russian armed forces."

Alexander Orlov, a fellow Stoptime member, has been handed repeated sentences along with Loginova. They denied any wrongdoing. (AP)

Watchdog group says app is unsafe, lacks guardrails

OpenAI urged to pull AI video app Sora over deepfake dangers

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): The tech industry is moving fast and breaking things again - and this time it is humanity's shared reality and control of our likeness before and after death - thanks to artificial intelligence image-generation platforms like OpenAI's Sora 2.

The typical Sora video, made on OpenAI's app and spread onto TikTok, Instagram, X and Facebook, is designed to be amusing enough for you to click and share. It could be Queen Elizabeth II rapping or something more ordinary and believable. One popular Sora genre is fake doorbell camera footage capturing something slightly uncanny -- say, a boa constrictor on the porch or an alligator approaching an unfazed child -- and ends with a mild shock, like a grandma shouting as she beats the animal with a broom.

But a growing chorus of advocacy groups, academics and experts are raising alarms about the dangers of letting people create AI videos on just about anything they can type into a prompt, leading to the proliferation of nonconsensual images and realistic deepfakes in a sea of less harmful "AI slop." OpenAI has cracked down on AI creations of public figures - among them, Michael Jackson, Martin Luther King Jr. and Mister Rogers - doing outlandish things, but only after an outcry from family estates and an actors' union.

The nonprofit Public Citizen is now demanding OpenAI withdraw Sora 2 from the public, writing in a Tuesday letter to the company and CEO Sam Altman that the app's hasty release so that it could launch ahead of competitors shows a "consistent and dangerous pattern of OpenAI rushing to



The OpenAI logo is seen displayed on a cell phone in front of an image on a computer screen generated by ChatGPT's Dall-E text-to-image model, Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, in Boston. (AP)

market with a product that is either inherently unsafe or lacking in needed guardrails." Sora 2, the letter says, shows a "reckless disregard" for product safety, as well as people's rights to their own likeness and the stability of democracy. The group also sent the letter to the US Congress.

OpenAI didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

"Our biggest concern is the potential threat to democra-

cy," said Public Citizen tech policy advocate J.B. Branch in an interview. "I think we're entering a world in which people can't really trust what they see. And we're starting to see strategies in politics where the first image, the first video that gets released, is what people remember."

Branch, author of Tuesday's letter, also sees broader concerns to people's privacy that disproportionately impact vulnerable populations online.

OpenAI blocks nudity but Branch said that "women are seeing themselves being harassed online" in other ways, such as with fetishized niche content that makes it through the apps' restrictions. The news outlet 404 Media on Friday reported on a flood of Sora-made videos of women being strangled.

OpenAI introduced its new Sora app on iPhones more than a month ago. It launched on Android phones last week in the US, Canada and several Asian countries, including Japan and South Korea.

Much of the strongest pushback has come from Hollywood and other entertainment interests, including the Japanese manga industry. OpenAI announced its first big changes just days after the release, saying "overmoderation is super frustrating" for users but that it's important to be conservative "while the world is still adjusting to this new technology."

That was followed by publicly announced agreements with Martin Luther King Jr.'s family on Oct. 16, preventing "disrespectful depictions" of the civil rights leader while the

company worked on better safeguards, and another on Oct. 20 with "Breaking Bad" actor Bryan Cranston, the SAG-AFTRA union and talent agencies.

"That's all well and good if you're famous," Branch said. "It's sort of just a pattern that OpenAI has where they're willing to respond to the outrage of a very small population. They're willing to release something and apologize afterwards. But a lot of these issues are design choices that they can make before releasing."

OpenAI has faced similar complaints about its flagship product, ChatGPT. Seven new lawsuits filed last week in California courts claim the chatbot drove people to suicide and harmful delusions even when they had no prior mental health issues. Filed on behalf of six adults and one teenager by the Social Media Victims Law Center and Tech Justice Law Project, the lawsuits claim that OpenAI knowingly released GPT-4o prematurely last year, despite internal warnings that it was dangerously sycophantic and psychologically manipulative. Four of the victims died by suicide.

Public Citizen was not involved in the lawsuits, but Branch said he sees parallels in Sora's hasty release.

He said they're "putting the pedal to the floor without regard for harms. Much of this seems foreseeable. But they'd rather get a product out there, get people downloading it, get people who are addicted to it rather than doing the right thing and stress-testing these things beforehand and worrying about the plight of everyday users."



This image released by the San Francisco Opera shows tenor Kang Wang rehearsing for the new opera 'The Monkey King,' on Nov. 6, in San Francisco. (AP)

Beloved Chinese legend arrives on stage

‘The Monkey King’ ready to premiere with magical Kung Fu and puppetry

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 12, (AP): A rascally superhero born from a stone egg, the Monkey King is beloved in Chinese mythology, appearing in everything from a 16th century epic to modern comics, animated movies and video games - even in poetry by Mao Zedong.

And now he's the star of an opera.

"The Monkey King," with music by Huang Ruo and libretto by David Henry Hwang, has its world premiere at the San Francisco Opera on Friday with performances through Nov. 30.

It's adapted from "Journey to the West," a 100-chapter novel inspired by the true story of a 7th-century Chinese monk who traveled to India to find Buddhist sutras, or scriptures, and bring them back home. "It's essentially an allegory of how Buddhism came to China," Hwang said.

His libretto, in both English and Mandarin, is based on early chapters of the epic, portraying Monkey King's birth and daring exploits, as well as the arrogance and pride that lead him to be imprisoned for 500 years until he learns humility, compassion and discipline. At the end of the opera he is finally worthy of accompanying the monk on his journey.

For Hwang, part of the Monkey King's appeal is the way he undercuts stereotypes.

"Everyone associates the Chinese persona with respect and deference and conformity," he said. "And Monkey represents this whole other side that doesn't normally get expressed in terms of being individualistic, being rebellious, being egotistical.

"Also given the fact that Monkey is rebelling against a corrupt administration, people can look at that however they want to see it."

Mounting the opera is an ambitious undertaking for the company, which has a long track record of producing new work but faced unique challenges in bringing Monkey's fantastical adventures to life.

"He's flying on clouds, diving underwater, soaring to the heavens," director Diane Paulus said. "I thought, oh, my gosh, how are we going to do this on the stage? How do we realize this and in what style?"

One answer was to collaborate with puppeteer Basil Twist, who designed the sets as well as puppets, making extensive use of his trademark silks. "The whole notion of the ephemeral and letting go of things and the power of transformation to me is beautifully expressed by silk that can become water that then disappears and becomes clouds, and then becomes

a giant column," she said.

Since Monkey King has to perform supernatural feats, engage in acrobatic fighting, shift his shape at will, and also - this is an opera, after all - perform arias accompanied by full orchestra, the creators represent him by three different figures: a singer, a puppet and a dancer.

"I call it the Holy Trinity of Monkey King," said Kang Wang, the Chinese-Australian tenor who sings the title role.

While that spares Wang from having to perform backflips or other complicated dance moves, it doesn't mean he can stand up straight the whole time. Whenever he's not singing full out, he has to crouch in a semi-squat the way a character would who is half-monkey, half-man.

The company engaged Jamie Guan, a Peking Opera specialist, to train Wang in the proper gestures and body language. And he has to convincingly perform complex tricks twirling a magic staff.

"It's not easy," said Wang, who is more used to singing Verdi and Puccini roles. "In rehearsal I've been like taking a shower on stage with my own sweat. My colleagues were telling me they could see me losing weight. ... It's like a CrossFit session every day."

Other characters in the opera include the corrupt Jade Emperor, sung by tenor Konu Kim, and Guanyin, the Goddess of Mercy who guides the Monkey King, sung by soprano Mei Gui Zhang. Carolyn Kuan conducts the orchestra, chorus and soloists.

Huang Ruo, who has composed several other operas as well as concertos and chamber music, was born in China and studied music there before moving to the US. He uses a Western orchestra for "The Monkey King" with the addition of a pipa, a Chinese four-stringed lute.

"I said I'm not going to write a Western opera, or a Chinese opera, but I'm going to call it a magical Kung Fu opera," he said. "Because we have singing, and orchestra, all the good things, story-telling, emotional moments, all this from the operatic art form. But we also have Kung Fu fighting, operatic dance, and puppetry, and mixed media to convey this magical world."

For Matthew Shilvock, the company's general director, the score is "incredibly propulsive ... but also lyrical. "We keep going in and out between two different sound worlds," Shilvock said. "There's all these hijinks with the Monkey in the battle sequences where he is taking on the gods ... and then you have these moments of incredible serenity."

‘Mellon Blue’ diamond sells for \$25.6 million

GENEVA, Nov 12, (AP): A blue diamond weighing nearly 10 carats has sold at auction in Switzerland for 20.5 million Swiss francs (\$25.6 million) including fees.

The pear-shaped 9.51-carat "Mellon Blue" - named for the late American arts patron Rachel "Bunny" Mellon - had been expected to fetch \$20-\$30 million at the Christie's auction on Tuesday.

The house said the stone came in on the estimated range. The final price includes the "buyer's premium" and other fees. "Not the dazzling moment I expected," said Tobias Kormind, managing director of online jeweler 77 Diamonds. He said the gem was "tipped as the season's headline act" but was weighed down by a broader market mood.

"Geopolitical tensions -- from the war in Ukraine to Trump's tariffs - and a weakened Chinese economy that kept many usual buyers away, left the room distinctly cautious," he said in a statement.



A Christie's employee displays the Mellon Blue, a fancy vivid blue pear-shaped diamond of 9.51 carats, during a preview at Christie's in Geneva, Switzerland, Friday, Nov. 7. (AP)

Auctioneer Rahul Kadakia, chairman of the global luxury group at Christie's, hailed a "notable moment" for his team, "evidencing the elite appetite among collectors for extraordinary and storied gems."

It was a far cry from the peak sale for a blue diamond: Christie's says its highest price for a vivid blue diamond was set in Geneva in 2016 when the

14.62-carat Oppenheimer Blue sold for more than \$57 million.

The Mellon Blue was previously sold in 2014, the year that Mellon died, for \$32.6 million, which was one of the highest prices ever paid for a colored diamond at auction, Christie's says.

For decades, the stone was part of Mellon's private collection.

Max Fawcett, Christie's global head of jewelry, said the Mellon Blue was unlike the vast majority of other modern gems that have had facets added and been modified to enhance the color. "When you have great shape and great color, you're looking at the gem of gems," he said Friday, noting the stone's grade of Fancy Vivid Blue and Internally Flawless by the Gemological Institute of America. "That's what this is."

The auction was the first installment of two days of jewelry auctions in Geneva. On Wednesday, rival Sotheby's is putting up the "Glowing Rose" pink diamond that's expected to draw bids of around \$20 million.

‘From disapproval to acceptance’

Women riding Tehran’s streets on bikes signal Iran’s societal change

TEHRAN, Iran, Nov 12, (AP): When Merat Behnam first gathered enough courage to ride her yellow scooter through the gridlocked streets of Iran's capital to the coffee shop she runs, traffic wasn't her main worry.

She instead girded herself for disapproving looks, verbal abuse and even being stopped by the police for being a women riding a motorbike in Tehran, something long frowned upon by hard-liners and conservative clerics in Iran.

But Behnam, 38, found herself broadly accepted on the road - and part of a wider reconsideration by women about societal expectations in Iran.



Merat Behnam drives her motorbike in downtown Tehran, Iran, Saturday, Nov. 1. (AP)

It's not all encompassing, particularly as hard-line politicians call for laws on the hijab or headscarf to be enforced as Iran cracks down on intellectuals in the wake of the 12-day Iran-Israel war in June - but it does represent a change.

"It was a big deal for me," Behnam told The Associated Press after riding up to her cafe on a recent day. "I didn't really know how to go about it. In the beginning I was quite stressed, but gradually the way people treated me and their reactions encouraged me a lot."

Two things in the past prevented women from driving motorbikes or scooters. First of all, police regulations in Iran's Farsi language specifically refer to only "mardan" or "men" being able to obtain motorcycle licenses. It's a very gender-specific wording in Farsi, which broadly is a gender-neutral language grammatically.

"This issue is not a violation but a crime, and my colleagues will deal with these individuals, since none of these women currently have a driver's license and we cannot

act against the law," Gen. Abulfazl Mousavipoor, Tehran's traffic police chief, said in a report carried by the semiofficial ISNA news agency in September.

Then there's the cultural aspect. While women can now hold jobs, political office and a car license, since its 1979 Islamic Revolution the country has imposed a strictly conservative, Shiite Islam understanding of conduct by women. That includes Iran's mandatory hijab law, which sparked mass demonstrations in 2022 after the death of Mahsa Amini, who had allegedly been detained over not wearing a headscarf to the liking of authorities.

In the beliefs of some conservative clerics and hard-liners, a woman riding a scooter or a motorbike is "tabarruj," or an excessive flaunting of her beauty prohibited by Islam.

"Keeping proper covering for women while riding a motorcycle is very important," hard-line law-

Childhood friend
Cleto Escobedo, Kimmel’s bandleader, dies at age 59

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): Late-night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is mourning the death of one of his oldest friends - his show's bandleader, Cleto Escobedo III.

Kimmel announced Escobedo's death Tuesday on Instagram, saying "that we are heartbroken is an understatement." Escobedo was 59.



This image released by Disney shows Cleto Escobedo on the set of 'Jimmy Kimmel Live!' in March 2025. (AP)

Escobedo and Kimmel met as children in Las Vegas, where they grew up across the street from each other.

"We just met one day on the street, and there were a few kids on the street, and him and I just became really close friends, and we kind of had the same sense of humor. We just became pals, and we've been pals ever since," Escobedo said in a 2022 interview for Texas Tech University's Southwest Collection oral history archive, disclosing that he and Kimmel were huge fans of David Letterman as kids.

Escobedo would grow up to become a professional musician, specializing in the saxophone, and touring with Earth, Wind and Fire's Phillip Bailey and Paula Abdul. He recorded with Marc Anthony, Tom Scott and Take Six. When Kimmel got his own ABC late-night talk show in 2003, he lobbied for Escobedo to lead the house band on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

"Of course I wanted great musicians, but I wanted somebody I had chemistry with," Kimmel told WABC in 2015. "And there's nobody in my life I have better chemistry with than him."

In 2016, on Escobedo's 50th birthday, Kimmel dedicated a segment to his friend, recalling pranks with a BB gun or mooning people from the back of his mom's car.

"Cleto had a bicycle with a

sidecar attached to it. We called it the side hack. I would get in the sidecar and then Cleto would drive me directly into garbage cans and bushes," Kimmel recalled.

News of Escobedo's death comes after Thursday's episode of "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" was abruptly canceled. David Duchovny, Joe Keery and Madison Beer were set as the show's guests. The date and cause of Escobedo's death weren't immediately known.

Escobedo's father is also a member of the Kimmel house band and plays tenor and alto saxophones. In January 2022, the father-son duo celebrated nearly two decades of performing on-screen together.

"Jimmy asked me, 'Who are we going to get in the band?' I said, 'Well, my normal guys,' and he knew my guys because he had been coming to see us and stuff before he was famous, just to come support me and whatever. I'd invite him to gigs, and if he didn't have anything to do he'd come check it out, so he knew my guys," Escobedo recounted in the 2022 interview. "Then he just said, 'Hey, man, what about your dad? Wouldn't that be kind of cool?' I was like, 'That would be way cool.'"

Variety

MELBOURNE, Australia: Hundreds of bagpipers claimed a new world record on Wednesday by belting out AC/DC's rock and roll classic "It's a Long Way to the Top."

Billed as "The Great Melbourne Bagpipe Bash," the eclectic performance took place in Melbourne's Federation Square, on Swanston Street, which was the scene of the Australian hard rock band's 1976 film clip in which they played the hit on the back of a flatbed truck traveling slowly through downtown traffic with music blaring from speakers.

Federation Square is also a short stroll from the Melbourne Cricket Ground where AC/DC is scheduled to play their first Australian gig in a decade on Wednesday. Guitarist Angus Young, 70, is the only band member who played on the truck and is performing on the latest Australian tour.

Thousands of spectators crammed the square for the world record attempt. Many of the 374 pipers had to squeeze through the crowd to the stage area. The oldest piper was 98-years-old, organisers said. (AP)

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TOPEKA, Kan.: A rural Kansas county has agreed to pay a little more than \$3 million and apologize over a law enforcement raid on a small-town weekly newspaper in August 2023 that sparked an outcry over press freedom.

Marion County sheriff's officers were involved in the raid on the Marion County Record and helped draft search warrants used by Marion city police to enter the newspaper's offices, the publisher's home and the home of a local city council member.

"They intentionally wanted to harass us for reporting the news, and you're not supposed to do that in a democracy," the editor and publisher, Eric Meyer, said Tuesday. He added he hoped the payment was large enough to discourage similar actions against other news organizations in the future. (AP)

African nations pledge to boost local manufacturing of medical products

South Africa launches trials for first locally developed cholera vaccine

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 12, (Agencies): Researchers and scientists in South Africa have launched clinical trials on the first domestically developed vaccine.

The oral cholera vaccine, developed by the Cape Town-based pharmaceutical firm Biovac, is currently undergoing trials to determine its safety in adults and will be followed by trials to compare it to existing cholera vaccines that are already in the market.

Depending on the results, the vaccine could be approved and ready for use in Africa by 2028, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said.

The development of the vaccine has been praised as a significant milestone for vaccine access in the country and across the rest of the continent.

Motsoaledi said that while South Africa experienced relatively low levels of cholera, many countries in Africa often hit hard by outbreaks would greatly benefit. He said the COVID-19 pandemic exposed how



South African Medical Research Council head Prof Glenda Grey administers a cholera vaccine to Shadrack Makutu, a participant in the clinical trials for the vaccine developed by Biovac at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto, South Africa, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025. (AP)

vulnerable African countries were to pandemics as they relied on imported vaccines.

South Africa often experiences cholera outbreaks due to cross-border movements. Other causes includes a

lack of clean water in communities such as Hammanskraal, in the capital Pretoria, where provision of clean water remains a major problem.

A cholera outbreak in 2023 led to the death of 47 people and over 1,400 reported cases, but neighboring countries like Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe have experienced far higher cases and deaths.

“When we can research, develop and manufacture vaccines locally, we reduce our vulnerability to supply chain disruptions, geopolitical pressures, international market competition and vaccine nationalism, which was apparent at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Motsoaledi.

The trials are being held in the provinces of Gauteng, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, where cholera cases have previously been reported.

“This development addresses a critical, life-saving need, given the ongoing global shortages of the vaccine

amid recurring cholera outbreaks,” said Biovac CEO Morena Makhoana.

Lerato Maleka, 44, who is one of the first participants in the clinical trial, said she enrolled because of the water issues in South Africa.

“I haven’t had cholera, but we know that sometimes they don’t maintain water and people died in Hammanskraal from cholera by drinking water, so I wanted to be safe from that,” said Maleka.

She said even though there had never been an outbreak where she lives in Diepkloof, Soweto, they often had to boil tap water as it was not clean.

Shadrack Makutu, 37, a resident from Limpopo province, is another participant who has previously experienced an outbreak in his village of Bushbuckridge.

“I do know people who share water with animals, so I know a few people who have been affected by this cholera,” said Makutu.

The World Health Organization

estimates that as many as 4 million people around the world are affected by cholera every year, with between 21,000 and 143,000 people dying from it annually.

Also:

MOMBASA, Kenya: African nations agreed to strengthen collaboration in medical product research, development, and regulation to boost local manufacturing and reduce dependence on imports.

The seventh biennial Scientific Conference on Medical Products Regulation in Africa (SCoMRA VII) was held in Kenya’s coastal city of Mombasa, with delegates reflecting on the growing urgency to address vulnerabilities exposed by emergencies like the Ebola outbreak and COVID-19.

John Munyu, chairperson of Kenya’s Pharmacy and Poisons Board, said unlocking Africa’s potential in health product manufacturing and trade is a continental priority.



The northern lights fill the sky behind the Saint Joseph the Woodworker Shrine Tuesday, Nov. 11, near Valley Falls, Kan. (AP)

‘Solar storms could hit Earth and trigger auroras’

Space weather forecasters issued an alert on Tuesday for incoming severe solar storms that could produce colorful northern lights and temporarily disrupt communications.

In the past few days, the sun has burped out several bursts of energy called coronal mass ejections that could reach Earth Tuesday night and early Wednesday. The potential severe geomagnetic storms could disrupt radio and GPS communications, according to forecasters with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

How bright the auroras are and how far south they are visible will depend on when the solar bursts get

here and how they interact with Earth’s atmosphere. The vibrant displays could be visible across much of the northern US, and as far south as Alabama and Northern California.

The sun is at the maximum phase of its 11-year activity cycle, making the light displays more common and widespread. Colorful northern lights have decorated night skies in unexpected places and space weather experts say there are more auroras still to come.

Aurora displays known as the northern and southern lights are commonly visible near the poles, where charged particles from the sun interact with Earth’s atmosphere. (AP)

Advance medical science

Zuckerberg and Chan channel funds into AI to fight disease

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., Nov 12, (AP): For the past decade, Dr. Priscilla Chan and her husband Mark Zuckerberg have focused part of their philanthropy on a lofty goal - “to cure, prevent or manage all disease” - if not in their lifetime, then in their children’s. But during that time, they also funded underprivileged schools, immigration reform and efforts around diversity, equity and inclusion.

Now, the billionaire couple is shifting the bulk of their philanthropic resources to Biohub, the pair’s science organization, and focusing on using artificial intelligence to accelerate scientific discovery. The idea is to develop virtual, AI-based cell models to understand how they work in the human body, study inflammation and use AI to “harness the immune system” for disease detection, prevention and treatment.



Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, (right), speaks next to his wife, Priscilla Chan, co-founder and co-CEO of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI), during an event at the Biohub Imaging Institute in Redwood City, Calif., Wednesday, Nov. 5. (AP)

that the place that we can make the biggest impact was on tool development,” Zuckerberg said. “And specifically working on long-term projects, 10 to 15 years, where the output of them was taking on a biological challenge that would produce a tool that scientists everywhere could use to accelerate the pace of science.”

The organization earlier this year scrubbed its website’s mentions of DEI, including a statement saying “People of color and marginalized communities have experienced a long history of exploitation in the name of scientific research, and indeed science has itself been deployed as a tool of oppression.”

“Going forward, Biohub will be our primary philanthropic effort and where we’ll dedicate the vast majority of our resources,” Zuckerberg and Chan said in a blog post Thursday. “We will continue our other philanthropic efforts as well, but the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative will serve as infrastructure and support for our initiatives.”

Zuckerberg and Chan’s increased commitment to science research comes as the Trump administration has cut billions in scientific research and public health funding.

Chan, who had worked as a pediatrician and treated children with rare diseases, says what she wanted “more than anything was a way to see what was happening inside their cells - how genetic mutations were expressed in different cell types and what, exactly, was breaking down.”

“Until now, that kind of understanding has been out of reach. AI is changing that. For the first time, we have the potential to model and predict the biology of disease in ways that can reveal what’s gone wrong and how we can develop new treatments to address it,” she said.

Agency vet

Pazdur named FDA drug chief

WASHINGTON, Nov 12, (AP): The Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday named a longtime regulator of cancer medicines to lead the agency’s drug center, replacing the former drug director who was recently ousted after an ethics complaint.

Dr. Richard Pazdur, a 26-year veteran of the agency, will become director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, the FDA’s largest unit. A cancer specialist, Pazdur has previously served in numerous FDA roles, most recently leading the agency’s Oncology Center of Excellence.

Pazdur’s appointment comes just over a week after Dr. George Tidmarsh abruptly departed the agency after federal ethics lawyers began reviewing “serious concerns about his personal conduct,” according to a government statement. Tidmarsh, a former pharmaceutical executive and scientist, had been recruited to the agency by FDA Commissioner Marty Makary.

A lawsuit filed early this month alleged that Tidmarsh used his position at the FDA to pursue a “longstanding personal vendetta” against the chairman of a Canadian drug-maker’s board of directors. The two men had previously worked as business associates at several pharmaceutical companies, according to the lawsuit.

Tidmarsh has denied any wrongdoing in media interviews. He did not respond to requests for comment sent by The Associated Press to him and his lawyer.

Pazdur is one of the last remaining members of the FDA’s senior leadership to survive months of retirements, firings, resignations, and other actions by the Trump administration that forced longtime employees out of the agency.

He’ll be tasked with bringing stability to a unit that has been riven by low morale, return-to-office orders and turf battles with other parts of the agency, including the vaccine and biologics center led by Dr. Vinay Prasad.



Pazdur

Over 57 million living with dementia globally

How to keep dementia from robbing your loved ones of their sense of self

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

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By R. Amanda Cooper
University of Connecticut

Every three seconds, someone in the world develops dementia. There are over 6 million people living with dementia in the US and 57 million globally.

These figures will only increase in the coming years, as rates of dementia are predicted to double by 2060. If you don’t know someone affected by dementia, you probably will at some point.



An elderly couple walks down a hallway in Easton, Pa., on Nov. 6, 2015. (AP)

Dementia is incredibly difficult both for the person experiencing it and for their loved ones, not only because of the symptoms of the disease but also because of the social stigma associated with cognitive decline. Experiencing stigma makes it difficult for people with dementia to ask for help, increases anxiety and depression, and ultimately leads to social isolation.

Dementia-related stigma is perpetuated through media messages that portray people with dementia as mindless and incapable, as well as through daily interactions in which others dismiss and dehumanize the person living with dementia.

These forms of invalidation - usually unintentional - accelerate and intensify the loss of self-worth and identity that dementia patients are already experiencing.

Fortunately, educating and spreading awareness can help reduce behaviors that propagate stigma and dehumanizing treatment of people with dementia.

As a social scientist and researcher in interpersonal communication and family caregiving, I explore the social and relational side of dementia. Through my work with these patients and families, I’ve learned that reducing stigma and supporting self-worth for people who have dementia is often done through daily conversations.

Dementia is an umbrella term that refers to a family of cognitive conditions involving memory loss, difficulty thinking or processing information, changes in ability to communicate and challenges with managing daily tasks.

The most common form of dementia is Alzheimer’s disease, but there are several other forms of dementia that can severely affect a person’s quality of life and that of their loved ones.

Most forms of dementia are progressive, meaning that the symptoms of the disease get steadily worse over time. A person with dementia can live with the disease for several years, and their symptoms will shift as the disease progresses.

People in the early stages of dementia, including mild cognitive impairment, continue to engage socially and participate in many of the activities they have always done. In the middle stage of the disease, people often need more help from others to complete

daily tasks and may have more difficulty holding conversations. In the late stage, people with dementia are dependent on others and often lose the ability to communicate verbally.

Despite the cognitive declines that come with dementia, people living with dementia can maintain many of their former abilities as the disease progresses. Even in the late stages, research shows that people with dementia can understand tone of voice and nonverbal communication such as body language, facial expressions and gentle touch.

This makes it clear that people with dementia can continue having meaningful social connections and a sense of self-worth even as their disease progresses.

In the 1990s, psychologist Tom Kitwood, who studied dementia patients in long-term care settings, introduced the notion of “personhood.” Personhood is a recognition of a person’s unique experiences and individual worth. He had observed that residents with dementia were sometimes treated as objects rather than people and were dismissed as being “no longer there” mentally. In response, Kitwood advocated for a new model of person-centered care.

In contrast to the medical model of care that was standard at the time, person-centered care aims to provide people with dementia comfort, attachment, inclusion, occupation and identity.

Comfort includes both physical and psychological comfort, ensuring that the person with dementia feels safe and is as pain-free as possible. Attachment and inclusion have to do with supporting a person with dementia’s closest relationships and making sure they feel included in social activities.

Occupation is about giving the person meaningful activities that are suited to their abilities, while identity is about preserving their unique sense of self. According to Kitwood, each of these elements of personhood can be upheld or threatened through a person’s interactions with others.

I find Kitwood’s work particularly important because it suggests that communication is at the heart of personhood.

So how can family members and friends communicate with their loved one with dementia to help preserve their sense of self?

Researchers have identified several evidence-based communication strategies that support person-centered care both in long-term care settings and within the family.

These include:

- Arranging the environment to support conversation. Have conversations in a quiet place with as few distractions as possible, sit at eye level and close to the person, make eye contact and use gestures to reinforce what you say.
- Acknowledging the person with dementia as a unique individual. Helping your loved one remember who they were before dementia is critical to supporting their sense of self-worth. In long-term care, this is done by greeting them, calling them by name and integrating their past experiences into conversations. In families, it is done by inviting the person to reminisce about their past or reminiscing together and by talking about their accomplishments and admirable qualities.
- Affirming and validating the person’s emotions. Even if you don’t understand what the person is thinking or feeling, avoid correcting them and instead acknowledge their underlying emotion.
- Seeking the person’s input about their care. This includes asking about their preferences for food or activities, usually using simple “yes” or “no” questions, and asking their permission before helping them with physical care such as bathing, moving or changing clothes.
- Using simple prompts to help the person successfully engage in conversation. This can be done through repeating or rephrasing questions, paraphrasing the person’s responses, pausing to give the person time to think, and providing simple prompts to help the person remember.
- Creating and maintaining connection. In families, this is done by giving a hug or kiss or saying “I love you”; doing activities together such as playing simple games, making art or playing music; and joking around and laughing together. (AP)

New heart pump to transform care

Australian study unveils blood test to ‘personalize’ ovarian cancer therapy

MELBOURNE, Nov. 12, (Xinhua): Australian scientists have created a blood test to guide more effective ovarian cancer treatment, by identifying women more likely to respond to an ovarian cancer treatment known as PARP inhibitor therapy.

The breakthrough stems from the four-year SOLACE2 clinical trial involving 15 Australian hospitals, according to a statement released Wednesday by Australia’s Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), which co-led the trial with leading Australian medical research centers.

The team’s results, published in Nature Communications, reveal that the RMIT-patented biomarkers, easily identified through a simple blood test, may be a better guide to who will potentially benefit from PARP inhibitor therapy than the current gold standard HRD (homologous recombination deficiency) test.

“In SOLACE2, we demonstrated that a new immune test could better indicate which women will respond to PARP inhibitors,” said RMIT’s Distinguished Professor Magdalena Plebanski, the study’s co-senior author.

“We expect this promising new test will enable more effective screening and identification of eligible patients for

PARP inhibitors,” said Plebanski.

The new blood test detects a “biomarker signature” in blood by measuring immune biomarkers that indicate cancer-fighting immune cells moving toward hidden cancer cells, along with markers of inflammation that promote cancer growth and resistance, researchers said.

Although not yet ready for clinical use, the findings reveal this new test has the potential to transform outcomes for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer, which affects more than 300,000 women annually, helping clinicians to better personalize treatments, they said.

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Heart failure: Australian engineers are developing a breakthrough heart pump to transform care for patients with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF), a condition that accounts for roughly half of the 64 million heart failure cases globally.

New research suggests that a reimaged heart pump could offer hope for patients suffering from HFpEF, a form of heart failure that currently has no effective treatment options beyond medication or palliative care, according to a news release of Australia’s Monash University on Tuesday.

Green Dragons lift football trophy

IDAK–KDD Championship 2025: Celebrating sportsmanship and teamwork



Winners pose for a group photo.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The IDAK-KDD Football and Freekick Championship 2025 lit up the evening with thrilling action, team spirit, and camaraderie as members of the Indian Dentists Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK) gathered for yet another most anticipated sporting event of the year. The tournament, held at ArganBedaya, Sabah Salem, was a resounding success, owing to the seamless coordination and enthusiasm of the IDAK Sports Committee comprising Dr. Eldho George (Chair), Dr. Renjit George (Co-chair), Dr. Anjana Nair, Dr. Varsha Manmohan, Dr. Abraham Thomas, and Dr. Sharon Thomas.

A Grand Kick-Off

The event was inaugurated by IDAK President Dr. George P. Alex, in the distinguished presence of Mr. Anand Kumar Harith, Manager-Business Systems representing KDD, the main event sponsor, and Al Mulla Exchange, the official remittance partner. Their presence and support reflect the strong partnership and shared commitment to community well-being and sporting excellence. Three dynamic teams — Red Rap-



Left to right: Participants in action.



appreciation to the team captains — Dr. Ashwin, Dr. Remya, Dr. Rupesh, Dr. Ranjitha, Dr. Joe, and Dr. Jyothy — whose leadership and motivation brought out the best in their teams.

The sports committee also extended special thanks to the IDAK Council for their continuous encouragement and unwavering support in promoting sports, unity, and wellness among IDAK members; as well as all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, Dr. Shaheer, Dr. Jijan, Dr. Thomas Thomas, Dr. Sudhin, Dr. Aju, Dr. Asheel, and Dr. Roshila, for their valuable contributions in ensuring the smooth running of the event. The IDAK-KDD Football and Freekick Championship 2025 wasn't just about competition; it was about connection.

The event perfectly embodied IDAK's spirit of togetherness, friendly rivalry, and celebration of health and happiness through sports. With laughter echoing across the field, cheering crowds, and moments of pure joy, the day concluded on a high note — reinforcing once again that in IDAK, it is team spirit that always wins

tors, Green Dragons, and Blue Phoenixes — took to the field, displaying not only athletic talent but also sportsmanship and unity.

Every match was filled with energy, passion, and friendly rivalry. The games were professionally officiated by Mr. Sunil, Mr. Rakesh, and Mr. Shine, ensuring fair play and a

smooth flow of competition throughout the event.

The Football Championship saw the Green Dragons emerge as the undisputed champions, displaying power-packed coordination and team spirit, while the Red Raptors claimed the runners-up position with commendable grit and deter-

mination. Mr. Jubin was rightfully named the Best Player for his exceptional skill and game-changing performance.

In the Freekick Championship, the competition was fierce and evenly matched, culminating in a spectacular tie between the Blue Phoenixes and Green Dragons, both showcasing

precision, focus, and flair.

The Red Raptors once again stood tall as runners-up. Mrs. Shasmija Asheel earned the Best Player title for her remarkable accuracy and composure under pressure. On behalf of the Sports Committee, Dr. Eldho congratulated all participants for their energy and enthusiasm, with special

Agha ‘stands tall’ as Pakistan holds nerve to deny Sri Lanka in nail-biter

Hasaranga's heroics fall short

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Nov 12, (AP): Pakistan survived Wanindu Hasaranga's countercharge with the bat to edge out Sri Lanka by six runs in the opener of their three-match one-day international series.

Hasaranga nearly pulled off the win with 59 off 52 balls before perishing in the penultimate over as Pakistan hung on to restrict the visitors to 293-9.

Salman Ali Agha's unbeaten 105 off 87 balls had earlier propelled Pakistan to 299-5 after Hasaranga's three-wicket burst had left the home team struggling at 95-4 in the 24th over.

The victory extended Pakistan's ODI momentum under new captain Shaheen Shah Afridi after a 2-1 series win over South Africa last week.

Pakistan fast bowlers found it tough

to control the wet ball because of heavy dew at the Pindi Cricket Stadium as Sri Lanka openers - debutant Kamil Mishara (38) and Pathum Nissanka (29) - provided a rollicking start of 85 off 70 balls.

But fast bowler Haris Rauf (4-61) picked up three quick wickets when he had Mishara caught at mid-on, and the next ball Kusal Mendis played the pacer back onto his stumps.

Sri Lanka slipped to 90-3 in Rauf's next over when he found the outside edge of Nissanka before Sadeera Samarawickrama (39) and captain Charith Asalanka (32) put the chase back on track with a 57-run stand as Afridi kept the pacers going with the wet ball.

Rauf then returned and broke the threatening stand in the 27th over when Babar Azam plucked a superb one-handed catch in the first slip to dismiss Samarawickrama, and left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz had Asalanka stumped in the 32nd over

with Sri Lanka still needing 107 for victory.

Hasaranga, who walked in the 34th over, dug in with the tailenders and completed his half-century off 45 balls before he holed out to long-on while going for a big hit against Naseem Shah in the 49th over.

With 21 needed off the final over, Maheesh Theekhsana (21) further reduced the target to nine off the final two balls when he smashed Hussain Talat for two successive boundaries, before the fast bowler hung in for the final two deliveries to deny Sri Lanka victory.

The new ball pair of Asitha Fernando and Dushmantha Chameera bowled superbly in the powerplay that saw Pakistan crawling to 28-1 with Fernando pinning Saim Ayub lbw through a successful review.

Babar Azam (29) struggled before getting off the mark on his 13th ball, and Fakhar Zaman made a scratchy 32 off 55 balls before Hasaranga struck thrice in his successive overs.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz returns the ball to United States' Taylor Fritz during their tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals, in Turin, Italy. (AP)

TGR extends winning streak to nine consecutive races

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing claims brilliant one-two victory at 8 Hours of Bahrain

MANAMA, Nov 12: TOYOTA GAZOO Racing (TGR) concluded the 2025 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) season on a high note with a spectacular one-two finish at 8 Hours of Bahrain. Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi, and Nyck de Vries delivered a peerless performance in the No. 7 Toyota GR010 Hypercar, converting pole position into victory and securing the team's ninth consecutive win at the Bahrain International Circuit. Teammates Sébastien Buemi, Brendon Hart-

ley, and Ryo Hirakawa in the No. 8 Toyota GR010 Hypercar completed the perfect result in second place, finishing just 19.378 seconds behind the No.7 crew.

Commending the team's performance, Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, commented: 'Congratulations to Kamui, Mike, and Nyck for the victory in Bahrain. Thank you for continuing to fight without giving up!'

With spectators packed around the circuit and dedicated fans cheering on the team with TGR flags at the start and finish lines, the race began with Conway and Hartley holding first and second positions after a clean start from the front row. During the opening stints, the two Toyota GR010 Hypercars adopted different strategies, alternating between tire and fuel changes to optimize performance throughout the early stages. By the halfway point, both vehicles remained firmly in contention, with the No. 7 Toyota GR010 Hypercar maintaining a steady lead and the No. 8 Toyota GR010 Hypercar demonstrating

consistent pace.

Following a brief setback earlier in the race, the No. 8 Toyota GR010 Hypercar crew showed impressive determination and teamwork to regain ground. Hirakawa and Hartley delivered strong stints that brought the vehicle back among the front runners. Out in front, Kobayashi extended the No. 7 Toyota GR010 Hypercar's advantage through a series of quick and disciplined

laps before handing over to de Vries for the final 80 minutes.

A late safety car gave all vehicles an opportunity to make their final pit stops and set up a tense finish. At the restart, de Vries controlled the pace confidently, while Buemi held firm to secure second place, completing a well-earned one-two finish for the team.

The victory marks a strong end to a challenging season and

builds momentum heading into 2026. TGR will return next year with an updated Toyota GR010 Hypercar and an unchanged driver line-up. Conway, Kobayashi, and de Vries will race together for the third consecutive season, while Buemi, Hartley, and Hirakawa compete alongside each other for a fifth year.

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, in-

cluding Formula One, World Rally Championship (WRC), the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nürburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established TGR, to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota's belief that 'the roads

build the people, and the people build the cars,' TGR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to 'making ever-better cars'. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, TGR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.



Drivers in action.



Drivers celebrate on the podium.

Change Name

I, Masuma (current name in passport) holder of Indian Passport No. X5367876 having permanent Address- House Number 113 Hamaal Mohalla, Sheepur, PIN 476337 Madhya Pradesh India. Residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth in future my name will be read as under: Given name: Masuma Surname Bohra

Harbhajan, Waqar, and Ali Zafar light up DP World ILT20–Kuwait cricket gala night

DP World ILT20–Kuwait Cricket partnership marks new era for Gulf cricket development



Simon Doull, Waqar Younis, and Harbhajan Singh during the fireside chat at the celebration of the DP World ILT20 and Kuwait Cricket Board partnership.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The DP World ILT20 and the Kuwait Cricket Board celebrated their landmark partnership with a special event in Kuwait City on Monday. The star-studded event featured legendary cricketers and DP World ILT20 commentators Harbhajan Singh and Waqar Younis, who shared their insights on the sport’s growth in the region in a fireside chat hosted by broadcaster and former New Zealand cricketer Simon Doull. Also in attendance were the management of DP World ILT20, Kuwait Cricket Board and Emirates Cricket Board.

Notably, the following players from Kuwait earned contracts at the DP World ILT20 Season 4 Player Auction in October: Mohamed Aslam (Sharjah Warriors), Mohamed Shafeeq (MI Emirates), Bilal Tahir (Desert Vipers), Meet Bhavsar (Gulf Giants), Adnan Idrees (Abu Dhabi Knight Riders), and Anudeep Chenthamara (Dubai Capitals).

Acknowledging the significance of the occasion and Kuwait’s strengthening ties with the league, President Kuwait Cricket Haider Farman said: “It was an absolute pleasure to welcome the esteemed board members and guests of the DP World ILT20 to Kuwait Cricket. This collaboration marks a monumental step forward for cricket’s growth in our region, highlighted by six Kuwait-based players being auctioned in Season 4. The celebration was even more special with legends like Harbhajan Singh, Waqar Younis, and Simon Doull joining us, and a power-packed performance by Ali Zafar to make it a truly unforgettable evening.”

Board Advisor DP World ILT20 Sajid Ashraf added: “Last night was nothing short of historic for Kuwait Cricket and the Gulf region. To celebrate this partnership with DP World ILT20 alongside legends like Harbhajan Singh, Waqar Younis, and Simon Doull was truly special. The enthusiastic participation of Kuwait’s leading corporate giants in this event reflects the growing confidence in our cricketing vision and the league’s immense potential.

The inclusion of six Kuwait-based players in Season 4 sets a new benchmark for Gulf cricket — and this is just the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the sport in our region.”

Speaking about the partnership and the opportunities it presents for emerging players in the Gulf, Harbhajan Singh remarked: “It’s wonderful to be here in Kuwait with the DP World ILT20 team. I’ve been involved with the league since day one, and they’ve worked really hard to make this happen. Today we’re launching something truly special, Kuwait Cricket is reaching new heights, and full credit



Chairman DP World ILT20 Khalid Al Zarooni, Chairman of Saudi Arabia Cricket Federation HRH Prince Saud Bin Mishal Al-Saud and President Kuwait Cricket Haider Farman join hands as they pose with the DP World ILT20 trophy. Also seen in the photo are the DP World ILT20, Kuwait Cricket Board and Emirates Cricket Board management representatives.

goes to the DP World ILT20 team. This partnership gives players from Kuwait a chance to live their dream and to play alongside legends.

The DP World ILT20 is a massive platform, and I’d tell these players to grab the opportunity and show the world what they’re made of. I’m also looking forward to seeing a stadium come up here in Kuwait, which will be another big step forward for the sport in the region.”

Echoing these sentiments, Waqar Younis added: “I look forward to the DP World ILT20 every year, it’s such an exciting tournament to be part of, with some of the best players in the world coming together to compete. The league keeps getting better each season, and the progress has been remarkable. With the opportunities created by DP World and the ILT20, more young players are getting the platform to showcase their talent. It’s always a pleasure returning to Dubai for the tournament, and equally wonderful to be here in Kuwait celebrating this partnership.”

Reflecting on the progress made since the partnership was signed earlier this year,

CEO DP World ILT20 David White said: “Monday was one historic night where we wholeheartedly celebrated the incredible power that cricket holds of bringing people and countries together. The DP World International League T20 and Kuwait Cricket partnership is a major milestone for the growth of cricket in the Gulf region, and we enjoyed a memorable night in the beautiful Kuwait City to celebrate the occasion.

The DP World ILT20–Kuwait Cricket partnership has already reaped rich rewards since we signed the agreement in May this year. The first edition of the DP World ILT20 Development Tournament Kuwait was a massive success, followed by the induction of six Kuwait players into the DP World ILT20 Season 4 squads. This alliance is for the long run and will surely benefit Kuwait cricket in the years ahead.”

Capping off the festivities, renowned artist Ali Zafar delivered a live performance that added a vibrant touch to the evening. The event concluded with the Kuwait Cricket Player Awards, recognising standout talent and performances for Kuwait.

Ceremony held during live broadcast on KTV Sports, joined by Sheikh Al-Yousef

Talks with Al-Shatti collapse

Dawri Zain’s top players recognizedMisha poised for Al-Arabi comeback

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Zain Kuwait recognized the most outstanding players in the local Premier League (Dawri Zain) by presenting the Player of the Round awards to the winners from the opening rounds of the new 2025/2026 season, in partnership with the Kuwait Football Association.

The ceremony took place live on Kuwait TV’s Sports Channel during the popular Bil Center program, joined by KFA Chairman Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, Zain Kuwait’s Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti, members of the Technical Committee, and Zain’s team.

Zain presented the KD 500 Player of the Round prize to Fahadheel’s Salman Al-Bous for Round 1, Al-Shabab’s Saud Al-Qenaei for Round 2, Qadsia’s Eid Al-Rashidi for Round 3, Salmiya’s Muath Al-Osaima for Round 4, Kuwait SC’s Mohammed Al-Furaiah for Round 5, and Kazma’s Othman Al-Shammari for Round 7. The Round 6 winner will be announced upon completion of the postponed fixtures.

Before the season kicked off, the Kuwait Football Association formed a Technical Committee of experienced former locals and internationals to set the criteria for selecting the winners of Zain’s awards. The committee members are Mohammed Al-Failakawi (Chairman), Samir Dashti (Vice Chairman), Adel Yousif, Hussein Hakem, and Nawaf Al-Khalidi.

For the fourth consecutive season, Zain is fulfilling its commitment to support athletes, players, and fans through its incentive awards, offering the largest prize pool in the history of the domestic league with a total exceeding KD 60,000 per season. The initiative encourages rising sporting talent, motivates players to raise their performance, and presents the league in its best light for Kuwaiti fans.

This support reflects Zain’s belief in the vital role of Kuwait’s private sector in developing local sports and taking them to new levels. The company’s partnership with the league has contributed to its strong performance in previous seasons, uplifting standards, adding excitement and energy, and delivering a renewed experience for fans and football lovers.

Zain’s awards this season include KD 10,000 for Player of the Season, KD 5,000 for Top Scorer (professionals), KD 5,000 for Top Scorer



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef and Waleed Al-Khashti with the recognized players.



Al-Khashti with the players, Technical Committee members, and Zain’s team.

(locals), KD 5,000 for Best Goal-keeper, KD 3,000 for Best Coach, KD 2,000 for Rising Star of the Season, and KD 500 per round for Player of the Round.

Recently, the company unveiled the refreshed Dawri Zain brand identity, reimagined to reflect the Kuwaiti spirit and local cultural heritage. The logo’s design was inspired by the visual identity of the Khaleeji Zain 26 tournament that

Kuwait successfully hosted at the end of last year.

The design incorporates symbolic elements from Kuwait’s environment and culture, including desert dunes, the Kuwaiti boom (sailing ship), the camel, the Arabic letter “Alif” to represent the Arabic language, and the traditional “iqal” headband, all creatively combined into the shape of the league’s emblem. The blue color palette was

chosen to reflect the ‘Kuwait Blue’, enhancing the local and national identity of the league.

Zain affirmed that this brand refresh is part of its extended strategic partnership with the Kuwait Football Association for the 2022–2026 seasons. The agreement includes official sponsorship of the Zain Premier League (Dawri Zain), First Division League, HH the Amir’s Cup, and HH the Crown Prince’s Cup.

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Croatian coach Ante Misha is emerging as the top candidate to take over Al-Arabi, following the dismissal of fellow Croatian Marco Alves last Monday after the team’s loss to Al-Nasr in the eighth round of the Zain Premier League.



Ante Misha, Al-Arabi's former head coach.

The defeat, Al-Nasr’s first in eight matches, saw Al-Arabi drop to third place with 14 points, level on goal difference with second-placed Al-Qadsia and five points behind league leaders Kuwait. Under Alves, the club also exited the Asian Challenge League at the group stage.

Following Alves’ departure, Al-Arabi’s management entered talks with local coach Nasser Al-Shatti, but negotiations stalled. Reports suggest the talks broke down over Al-Shatti’s demands for a three-year contract, full control over player selection—both local and foreign—and autonomy in team management.

Al-Shatti had previously led Al-Arabi last season but left after his contract was not renewed. He then briefly joined Al-Salmiya but resigned after the first round when FIFA barred the club from registering foreign players due to unpaid dues to former professionals.

Misha, 58, previously led Al-Arabi to the league title in the 2020–2021 season, ending a 19-year title drought, and also guided them to the Crown Prince Cup in 2021–2022. He later coached Saudi Arabia’s Al-Faisaly before joining Al-Salmiya in January 2024 for six months, replacing Mohammed Al-Musha’an. A two-year contract with Al-Salmiya followed but was mutually terminated at the end of the season.

Kuwait Club prepares to resume training

Al-Shabab and Al-Salmiya hold overseas camps

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyssah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: With the international break underway and the Arab Cup 2025 ongoing, local football clubs are using the pause to plan ahead and prepare for the resumption of the Zain Premier League. Several teams are organizing overseas training camps to maintain fitness and improve tactics during the break.

Most clubs gave players rest after the eighth round concluded last Sunday, with training set

to resume next week. Al-Shabab will travel to Dubai, UAE, for a training camp from December 1–15, featuring three friendly matches against Al Ain, Al Wahda, and Al-Akhdoud of Saudi Arabia. The team will also face Kuwait SC in a friendly on November 25. Other clubs are expected to follow a similar approach during the long break.

Kuwait SC, the defending league champions and current leaders, will resume training on Sunday, after granting players rest following their 2-1 win over Kazma last week. Al-Qadsia’s Algerian professional Victor Lekhal left to join his national team, while the

club is considering a Gulf-based training camp at the end of November. Kazma is unlikely to hold an overseas camp due to several players being away with the national team, Olympic squad, or Jordanian national team, in addition to two injured players.

Al-Salmiya will travel to Bahrain on November 25 for a training camp running until December 8, which will include three friendly matches.

In injury news, Al-Salmiya midfielder Ahmed Aidan will be sidelined for at least five months after suffering an ACL tear during the club’s match against Al-Fahadheel in the eighth round.

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Pakistan's Salman Ali Agha celebrates after scoring century during the first one day international cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. (AP)
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Sports

Kuwaitis light up Islamic Solidarity Games



Left to right: Kuwaiti karatekas Asrar Al-Jassem, Mohammad Al-Moussawi and Abdullah Shaaban celebrate with their medals.

Asrar Al-Jassem makes history

RIYADH, Nov 12: Kuwait's national karate team delivered an impressive performance at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from November 7 to 21, featuring teams from across the Islamic world. The team secured three medals, highlighting their skill and dedication:

Mohammad Al-Moussawi claimed the silver medal in the Kata final after a closely contested match against Turkey's Enes Ozdemir, finishing 41-43.
Earlier, Abdullah Shaaban also secured a silver medal in the 60-kg Kumite competition, adding to Kuwait's medal tally.

In the women's category, Asrar Al-Jassem earned a bronze medal in the Kumite contest, marking another proud moment for the Kuwaiti karate team, marking Kuwait's first-ever female karate medal in the history of the Games. Dalal Al-Saeed finished fourth in Kata, narrowly missing the podium, while Omar Al-Junay'i advanced to the final in Kumite under 75 kg.
Kuwait's national esports team also reached the Rocket League finals, securing a medal through champions Youssef Al-Mutairi, Abdullah Al-Shammari, and Mohammed Al-Mutairi, reflecting the country's growing presence in competitive gaming.
The handball team has arrived in Riyadh with a 16-player squad, including: Abdullah Al-Khamis, Saud Dhuwaih, Haidar Dashti, Saif Al-Adwani, Youssef Najm, Fawaz Al-Meshari, Ali Nasser, Hamoud Al-Adwani, Abdulaziz Salmeeen, Abdulrahman Al-Shammari, Saleh Al-Mousawi, Ali Safar,

Hasan Safar, Mohammed Al-Sanea, Hussein Al-Mutawa, and Mohammed Buayab. The delegation is supported by Icelandic coach Aron Kristangus, his assistant Hein Ernst, and administrative staff Khaled Mohammed Ghuloom and Abdulaziz Al-Zuabi. The team will open its campaign against Bahrain on Friday, November 14, followed by Iraq on Sunday, November 16, and concluding against Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, November 18.
The coaching staff aims to demonstrate Kuwait's progress in handball while preparing for future competitions, particularly the Asian Championship, which serves as a qualifier for the 2027 World Cup.
In preparation for the Games, the team trained in Tunisia, participating in an international friendly tournament with Tunisia, Guinea, and Iran, focusing on tactical strategies and refining both defensive and offensive systems ahead of the competition.

Kuwait wraps up training ahead of friendly



Players hold their final training session.

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyssah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, Nov 12: Kuwait concluded its training sessions this evening at PetroSport Stadium in Cairo, Egypt, as it prepares for on Thursday against Tanzania at Cairo International Stadium. The match is part of the team's build-up for the upcoming Arab Cup.
The team's training camp in Cairo runs until November 20 and will include a second friendly against Gambia on November 18. Afterward, the squad will travel to Doha, Qatar, to face Mauritania on November 25 in the Arab Cup qualifiers.
The squad is now complete with the arrival of Sultan Al-Anzi, who joined the team delegation recently. Under Portuguese coach Helio Sousa, the team trained twice daily—morning and evening—focusing on increasing training load,

boosting fitness, refining tactical play, and strengthening player cohesion.
Meanwhile, Tanzania's national team has also arrived in Cairo and started their training sessions ahead of the match.
Tanzania is currently led by interim coach Miguel Gamondi of Argentina, following the dismissal of Hamid Suleiman from Zanzibar just a month before the African Cup of Nations finals in Morocco, scheduled from December 21 to January 18.
Suleiman had guided Tanzania to qualify for the African Cup of Nations for the fourth time in history and reached the quarterfinals of this year's African Nations Championship. However, the team failed to secure a spot in the 2026 World Cup, finishing third in the qualifiers behind Morocco and Niger. Currently ranked 107th by FIFA, Tanzania's squad includes six players who play professionally outside the country.

Nuggets extend winning streak to five

Holmgren flawless, SGA explodes as Oklahoma City 'blows out' Warriors

OKLAHOMA CITY, Nov 12, (AP): Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 28 points and 11 assists in three quarters, Chet Holmgren had a perfect shooting performance and the league-leading Oklahoma City Thunder rolled past the rival Golden State Warriors 126-102 on Tuesday night.
Holmgren had 23 points and 11 rebounds. He made all nine of his field goals, both of his 3-pointers and all three of his free throw attempts.
Isaiah Joe scored 18 points and Ajay Mitchell added 17 for the defending champion Thunder, who improved to 11-1.
Jonathan Kuminga led the Warriors with 13 points. Stephen Curry, who missed the previous three games due to illness, had 11 points on 4-for-13 shooting. He struggled on defense too - he committed his fifth foul with just under 10 minutes left in the third quarter.
Nuggets 122, Kings 108
In Sacramento, Nikola Jokic scored 35 points and had 15 rebounds, Jamal Murray added 23 points and the Denver Nuggets won their fifth game in a row with win over the Sacramento Kings.
The Kings were led by Domantas Sabonis, who finished with 19 points, eight rebounds and four assists. Drew Eubanks added 19 points and seven rebounds for Sacramento, which has lost three straight.
76ers 102, Celtics 100
In Philadelphia, Tyrese Maxey scored 21 points and Kelly Oubre Jr. scored the go-ahead basket on a follow with 8.7 seconds left to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a win over the Boston Celtics.



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) shoots against Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City. (AP)
Justin Edwards had a team-high 22 points for the 76ers, who played without Joel Embiid (right knee soreness). Edwards made 8 of 9 shots, including 5 of 6 on 3-pointers.
Jaylen Brown scored 24 points to pace the Celtics.
Boston led by eight points with just over six minutes to play before Edwards hit three consecutive 3-pointers in a span of 1:18 to put Philadelphia in front 93-92. Brown tied it at 100 by making the second of two free throws with 33.5 seconds left. Embiid has missed five of the team's 11 contests this season.
Jazz 152, Pacers 128
In Salt Lake City, Lauri Markkanen scored 35 points, rookie Ace Bailey added 20 points and the Utah Jazz scored the most points in an NBA game this season with a 152-128 rout of reeling Indiana Pacers.
Bailey, the No. 5 pick in this summer's draft, started the season slowly as he recovered from illness but had his full repertoire of dunks, midrange

jumpers and 3-pointers on display in his second start.
Svi Mykhailiuk had 20 points for the Jazz.
The injury-ravaged Pacers, last season's Eastern Conference champions, fell to 1-10 and matched the 1988-89 team for the worst start in franchise history. Pascal Siakam, who had 27 points, and Aaron Nesmith, who scored 17, returned after missing Indiana's last game.
Indiana's T.J. McConnell played his first game of the season and scored 12 points but was limited to 11 minutes as he recovers from a hamstring injury.
Indiana has the worst offensive rating in the league and came into the game as the only team shooting under 40% from the field for the season. The Pacers actually shot a season-best 46.5% but allowed the Jazz to shoot 55.4%. The Pacers scored the first 10 points of the game but allowed the Jazz to score 38 points in the first quarter and take the lead that they wouldn't relinquish.
Raptors 119, Nets 109
In New York, Brandon Ingram scored 25 points to help the Toronto Raptors beat the Brooklyn Nets.
Immanuel Quickley had 24 points for Toronto, including 10 in the fourth quarter. Scottie Barnes finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Jakob Poeltl had 12 points and 10 boards.
The Raptors won for the fifth time in six games. They shot 49.5% (45 for 91) from the field and outrebounded the Nets 50-36.
Nic Claxton and Michael Porter Jr. each had 21 points for Brooklyn, losers of 10 of its first 11 games to start the season. The Nets are winless in six games at home.

Musetti holds off Alex de Minaur

Alcaraz survives Fritz challenge to stay on track for year-end No. 1

TURIN, Italy, Nov 12, (AP): Carlos Alcaraz is one win away from securing the year-ending No. 1 ranking. Alcaraz rallied past Taylor Fritz 6-7 (2), 7-5, 6-3 at the ATP Finals and now needs to either win his final group match against Lorenzo Musetti or his next match in the semifinals to finish a year No. 1 for the second time in his career.
"I'm trying not to think about it, to be honest," Alcaraz said. "But it's really difficult not to think about the No. 1 spot." Alcaraz, who improved to 2-0 at the season-ending event for the top eight players, sealed a spot in the semifinals later on when Musetti held off Alex de Minaur 7-5, 3-6, 7-5.
If Alcaraz doesn't win another match and Jannik Sinner goes undefeated to defend his title, Sinner will finish No. 1. Alcaraz produced 47 winners to Fritz's 38 and managed to come back from a set down despite 14 aces from his American opponent. "It was

a really, really difficult match," Alcaraz said. "Really demanding physically. It was really tight. I saved really difficult and important moments during the match, which I'm really proud of and



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz returns the ball to United States' Taylor Fritz during their tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals, in Turin, Italy. (AP)

pleased about it to show outstanding tennis when it matters."
Fritz had chances to break Alcaraz's serve early in the second set. "I just wasn't clinical enough in finish-

ing some points on some really big points," Fritz said.
"The first two sets, I think I did an incredible job serving and returning. I gave myself all the chances I could possibly ask for the first two sets," Fritz added. "My opportunity to win that match was in the second set, and I didn't take it. I had the chance."
Alcaraz now tops the Jimmy Connors group ahead of Fritz and Musetti, who are 1-1, while De Minaur trails at 0-2. Musetti was a late replacement for Novak Djokovic, who withdrew with a shoulder injury.
The top two finishers in each group advance to the semifinals. Sinner leads his group after beating Felix Auger-Aliassime in his opener. Fritz was bothered by knee tendinitis in the third set. "It gets a little bit tough to bend my knee on my serve once we get that late into the match," Fritz said. "My knee is completely cooked."

Kuwaiti referee selected for U18 Women's World Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait Winter Games Club President Fhaid Al-Ajmi announced on Wednesday that Kuwaiti referee Shoug Al-Hindal has been selected to officiate at the U18 Women's World Championship 2026 Division III in Thailand next January.
Al-Ajmi noted that the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) chose Al-Hindal for the second consecutive time, following her successful performance in the previous edition of the championship.
He emphasized that her selection reflects the excellence of national talent and highlights Kuwait's growing influence in international ice hockey.
"Referee Al-Hindal is fully capable of delivering an outstanding performance, and we are confident she will bring further honor to Kuwaiti ice hockey at this major event," Al-



Kuwaiti referee Shoug Al-Hindal

Ajmi said.
Al-Hindal expressed her pride in being the first Kuwaiti referee to participate in such a high-level tournament for two consecutive editions.
She added that her previous success motivates her to strive for even greater achievement in the upcoming championship, and she is ready to represent Kuwaiti ice hockey with dedication and professionalism.