



Kuwait Television marks decades of broadcasting, trustworthy media message

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): In the beating heart of the country's media sector lie state-of-the-art infrastructures and "far out" staff that around the clock at Kuwait Television (KTV) studios.

Over the decades, since 1961, the KTV has played a major role in introducing its audiences to news, arts, music, drama, and more. With recently introduced technologies, KTV and Radio aim to continue this important legacy.

KTV began broadcasting in black and white for several hours daily in a building in the Sharq area with a small number of dedicated staff. Gears shifted in the early 1970s, and by 1974, broadcasts were in color using the PAL system. On February 17, 1979, the Information Ministry media complex was opened in the heart of Kuwait City, including KTV, Radio, and



Al-Mutairi

the ministry's departments.

Kuwait Television and Radio studios are among the oldest in the Middle East, with a history spanning six decades, Turki Al-Mutairi -- assistant under-secretary for Television and Radio at the Ministry -- told KUNA.

He pointed out that Kuwait Television played a crucial role during the Iraqi invasion in 1990, spreading Kuwait's rightful message until liberation in 1991.

Post-liberation, KTV's numerous channels continued the legacy, covering a variety of genres in both Arabic and English through channels like KTV 1, KTV 2, KTV 3, and Al-Qurain channel.

He went on to say that the Digital 51 Platform was to launch a display of Kuwaiti culture and spread media content to whoever was interested.

He said that the latest broadcasting advancements are being used to enhance audience connection, noting that the members of the studios' engineering department took it upon themselves to maintain studios up to standard.

He went on to say live studios broadcast 24/7 and received media items

through servers from montage centers and air them on KTV screens.

Al-Mutairi revealed that production studios varied in size and purpose. Studio 800, for instance -- named for its 800 square meters space -- hosted various programs and was upgraded from Standard Definition (SD) to High Definition (HD) broadcasting in 2016.

The same occurred to Studio 500, which made the transfer from SD to HD in 2024, in addition to the Salmiya studio, which made a similar jump in 2018.

Studio 200 in Shuwaikh broadcast in HD for broadcasting and now aired in 4K resolution, one of the latest broadcasting systems, he affirmed.

There are various studios that made the jump from SD to 4K resolution, Al-Mutairi mentioned, saying that all were part of efforts to provide quality television to the masses, noting that more studios owned by KTV were following suit.

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo

Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi among the public in The Avenues Mall.

Day focuses on diabetes ailments, care

'Blood diseases most difficult challenges faced by humans'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Organizing the awareness day titled "better health with diabetes" on the World Diabetes Day falls on November 14 comes with the framework of the Health Ministry's plan to directly reach society's individuals and boost protection, said Minister of Health on Saturday.

In a press release during the activity held by the ministry at the Avenues Mall, Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said the event witnessed wide participation of several departments, which were keen on disseminating health awareness to the elderly and children through diabetes tests and blood pressure.

The awareness day showed an attractive image of the integrated medical team containing doctors, nurses, technicians and administrative staff with individuals in the society, he added.

Reaching audience in interactive sites is a main part of the ministry's message to boost protection and curb aggravation of diseases mainly diabetes, he stated.

Surgery department took part in the event to raise awareness on the protection of diabetic foot and explain available treatment in a manner that contributes to increasing awareness and backing means of protection and inclusive healthcare, he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs at the Ministry of Health Dr. Al-Mundhir Al-Hasawi inaugurated the Third Kuwait Conference on Hematology on behalf of Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, the sponsor of the event.

In his speech, Al-Hasawi stated that the conference, organized by Kuwait Hematology Association, is a leading annual event, which brings together hematologists, researchers and specialists from Kuwait and abroad to discuss the latest scientific developments and advancements in modern medicine for the treatment and prevention of benign and malignant blood diseases, particularly those affecting children.

He affirmed that the conference, throughout its previous sessions, has established itself as a distinguished scientific platform that unites specialists and colleagues to exchange knowledge, expertise, experiences and best practices, contributing to the development of clinical practices and improving the quality of healthcare.

He stated that blood diseases are among the most difficult health challenges that humans are facing, as they affect the quality of life for many people, ranging from anemia and bleeding disorders to inherited blood diseases and cancerous blood disorders.

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Kuwait foils bid to smuggle 100 kg hashish, pot hidden in private car

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior, in coordination with the General Administration of Customs and Kuwait Fire Force, foiled an attempt to smuggle 100 kilograms of illegal drugs into the country.

In a press statement on Saturday, the ministry said that the joint operation uncovered more than 100 kilograms of hashish and marijuana carefully concealed in multiple parts of a private vehicle.

The ministry explained that the drug control officers received information about a citizen planning to smuggle drugs into the country by hiding them in his private vehicle while traveling by ferry from a neighboring country.

A field team verified the information and coordinated with Customs, resulting in the vehicle's seizure at Shuwaikh Port and the suspect's arrest.

The ministry added that fire department teams were called in to safely inspect the

vehicle's hidden compartments due to the risks involved.

The drugs were seized and relevant legal measures are underway, with the suspect and evidence referred to relevant authorities.

□ □ □

Beware hackers: The National Cyber Security Center on Friday urged vigilance vis a vis mounting online hacking bids and accounts' theft. Most of these illegal acts happened within WhatsApp domain, where offenders accessed accounts without interaction from the user, the statement said.

The center, in the statement posted on its X website, urged users to update their telephone applications and systems and activate the two-factor authentication (FA2) on all applications.

Users ought to report to the competent authorities regarding any suspicious contacts or messages, abstain from sharing any icons or passwords no matter what the circumstances may be.



KUNA photo

The meeting in progress.

Gulf scribes tackle host of issues

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): The Gulf Press Federation Board held its sixth meeting in the State of Kuwait on Saturday tackling a host of journalistic topics in the GCC states and cooperation among press associations and institutions in the regional countries.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait conducts raids to ensure fair prices, good quality clothes

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Inspection teams of the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry carried out a large-scale campaign targeting winter clothing stores in the Capital Governorate.

In a press statement, Director of the department Faisal Al-Ansari explained that the campaign resulted in the detection of 21 violations, including the failure to display prices on goods, indicate the country of origin, and adhere to the ministry's approved exchange and return policies. All violations have been referred to the Commercial Prosecution to complete the necessary legal procedures.

He affirmed the ministry's commitment to ongoing inspection campaigns in various regions to protect consumers and ensure price transparency.

Al-Ansari emphasized that this winter season requires stricter oversight to guarantee the availability of goods that meet required standards and are offered at fair prices.

He urged business owners to fully comply with regulations, stressing that the department will not hesitate to take legal action against any establishment found in violation.

Newswatch

PACA fines eight travel agents and companies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Civil Aviation's (PACA) Complaints and Arbitration Committee has fined eight travel agents and aviation companies as they violated laws, regulations and general statements made by the authority.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement, head of the committee and air transport management Abdullah Al-Rajhi said these measures were taken, within the framework of ongoing efforts exerted to boost discipline and compliance with laws and regulations.

He affirmed the committee's keenness on protecting passengers' rights and ensuring service safety offered by civil aviation.

Cloudy weather and rain likely; fog to cut visibility

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Thick clouds and fog were embracing peaks of Kuwait skyscrapers and towers creating an exquisite eye-catching panorama across the skies. Some of the high-rise buildings were no longer visible due to the huge clouds, thus a unique view entertained watchers.

The meteorological center said on Friday that humidity would increase across Kuwait's coastal regions during the night until Saturday morning. The center acting director, Dherar Al-Ali, told KUNA that the country is currently affected with fluctuating southeastern winds coupled with moisture rise particularly in the seaside regions.

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'No car sales on roads'

8 held in illegal Farwaniya clinic

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Security Forces uncovered and dismantled an illegal medical clinic run inside a residence in Farwaniya, where unlicensed individuals were practicing medicine and selling medications without authorization, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

They arrested four Indian nationals, including one found practicing medicine illegally, while the other three were reportedly visiting the unlicensed clinic for treatment.

Investigations also revealed a separate network involved in diverting medications from government hospital pharmacies for profit. Three Bangladeshi nationals were arrested for transporting and delivering the stolen medications to the first suspect outside legal channels. The probe also revealed the involvement of a Bangladeshi resident employed at a government health center, who allegedly stole medications from the hospital and sold them to the suspects.

In total, eight individuals, comprising Indian and Bangladeshi nationals, were implicated in the case. Legal proceedings have been initiated against all accused in coordination with the Ministry of Health's Drug Control Department, which secured the confiscated medications.

Meanwhile, the General Traffic Department has issued an important warning to citizens and residents, urging them to refrain from displaying used vehicles for sale on roads or sidewalks in order to avoid legal penalties and traffic violations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The department affirmed that displaying a vehicle in unauthorized locations is a violation of the law and will result in a parking ticket, in addition to the vehicle being impounded for up to 60 days, in accordance with Article 207 of the executive regulations of the traffic law.

It called on everyone to rely on licensed dealerships, shops, or approved online platforms for selling vehicles, to maintain public safety and ensure compliance with traffic regulations.



KUNA photo

Clouds embrace the skyscrapers as low pressure to usher in rain.

Kuwait: Political solution is best path to end Sudan crisis

GENEVA, Nov 15, (KUNA): The optimum path to address Sudan's crisis goes through comprehensive national dialogue and peaceful political solution, away from any measures or mechanisms that lack consensus or the approval of the concerned state, Kuwait Permanent Representative to the UN and International Organizations in Geneva said on Friday.

Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen made the statement during a speech he delivered before the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in an extraordinary session on the situation in Sudan's Al-Fashir City.

Kuwait stressed the necessity of respecting Sudan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence, Al-Hayen affirmed.



Al-Hayen

He expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation and denunciation of serious violations committed by Sudan's Rapid Support Forces against innocent civilians in the city.

He underlined the importance of protecting civilians and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries without obstacles or delays, in line with relevant international rules and the 2023 Jeddah declaration.

Al-Hayen renewed Kuwait's call for international and regional efforts aiming to ceasefire and resuming political process to reach an inclusive and sustainable peaceful settlement.

The ambassador emphasized Kuwait's call for empowering UN mechanisms working in Sudan to achieve duties in a constructive way that contributes to backing humanitarian efforts and boosting required response.

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8 KFH issues \$850 million AT1 Mudaraba Sukuk

8 NBK launches 'FinTech Services' to boost Kuwait's digital economy and promote financial inclusion

9 Burgan Bank EGA approves increasing its authorized capital to KD 600 million

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:49	Asr	14:33
Sunrise ..	06:11	Maghrib ..	16:53
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:13

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Rather hot, humid over coastal areas and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times and a chance for fog forming at night.

Weather

By Night: Rather cold, humid especially over coastal areas and partly cloudy with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h with a chance for scattered rain and a chance for fog forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
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Kuwait City	28	24
Kuwait Airport	29	21
Abdaly	29	20
Babyan	26	22
Jahra	30	20
Failaka Island	26	20
Salmiyah	26	25
Ahmadi	27	19
Nuwaisib	29	17
Wafra	29	19

Landmark year highlights 250 years of UK-Kuwait trade and growing bilateral cooperation

British Embassy Kuwait hosts King’s Birthday Party celebration



Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya with UK Ambassador Qudsi Rashid at the ceremony.



A glimpse of the British Embassy’s celebration for King Charles III’s birthday.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The British Embassy Kuwait hosted the 2nd Annual King’s Birthday Party, celebrating the official birthday of the UK’s Head of State, His Majesty King Charles III. His Excellency Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the State of Kuwait attended as the Guest of Honour for the event.

This celebration forms part of a landmark year in UK-Kuwait relations: the 250th Anniversary of Official Trading Relations, underpinned by strong cooperation in trade, investment, defence, and culture. Our diplomatic relations also reached new heights this year, and with a series of high-level visits and meetings: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah meeting His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at Windsor in September and discussions with the Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP, the UK Prime Minister in October. The former Foreign Secretary visited Kuwait for the UK-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue with counterpart, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Also in October, Sir Chris Bryant, MP, Minister for Trade, attended the GCC Trade Ministers’ Summit in Kuwait, underscoring the UK’s growing trade and investment partnerships with the GCC, and with Kuwait as a strategic partner.

The UK also hosted the 22nd UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group, co-chaired by The Rt Hon Hamish Falconer MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, and His Excellency Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. The meeting reaffirmed strong bilateral ties and agreed on actions to enhance cooperation in trade, investment, defence, and regional security. Two Memoranda of Understanding were signed—one on healthcare col-

laboration and another on hydrographic surveying—strengthening health systems, training, and maritime security.

A wide range of dignitaries from the Government of the State of Kuwait, prominent leaders, and eminent personalities from various fields attended the King’s Birthday Party. The event showcased the best of British cuisine and featured musical performances celebrating popular British music.

This year’s celebration was made possible through the generous support of Huectech, Al-Tijari (CBK), Jazeera, Zayani, Airbus, HSBC, Rolls-Royce, IHG (Crown Plaza), Alghanim Industries (Costa), Pret A Manger, Santa Nata, and MMI Diplomatic.

His Excellency Qudsi Rasheed OBE, British Ambassador (Designate) to the State of Kuwait, said:

“It is a privilege to host this celebration of His Majesty King Charles III’s Birthday here in Kuwait. This occasion not only honours His Majesty’s unwavering dedication to public service and his leadership on global sustainability, but also reflects the deep and historic ties between the United Kingdom and the State of Kuwait.

Our friendship is enriched by the close relationship between our royal and ruling families—His Majesty King Charles III and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah—whose shared commitment to dialogue and cooperation strengthens our nations. From King Charles’s vision for a greener future to the Amir’s leadership in regional stability, these values unite us. Together, we continue to build on a legacy of mutual respect, cultural exchange, and collaboration across trade, education, and security—principles that guide our enduring partnership.”

Kuwait voices GCC concerns on online hate and disinformation

GCC urges global cooperation to protect digital space

NEW YORK, Nov 15, (KUNA): The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) group of states at the United Nations called for enhancing cooperation among governments, the technology sector, and civil society to ensure the digital space upholding human dignity and respecting religions and cultures.

Second-Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Fahad Al-Ajmi of Kuwait made this statement on behalf of the group during a meeting by the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly (Special Political and Decolonization) on information issues.

He noted that the global information security and human rights are at a crossroads, emphasizing UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ proposed framework for safeguarding content integrity against disinformation and hate speech.



Fahad Al-Ajmi, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations

Al-Ajmi underscored the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2686

(2023), which condemns violence and hate speech while promoting social cohesion.

Al-Ajmi expressed concern over rising Islamophobia, religious intolerance, and racism in the media.

He noted the critical role of UN Information Centres in raising awareness and supporting local communities.

He also addressed the alarming increase in violence against journalists since Oct 7, 2023, particularly in conflict zones, stressing the necessity of protecting the right to information for civilian safety and accountability.

He urged accurate reporting and commended the UN Department of Global Communications for its efforts to counter misinformation.

Additionally, he called for improved Arabic content and resources on UN digital platforms to better serve Arabic speakers.

In conclusion, Al-Ajmi stated that combating disinformation and hate speech is essential to preserving peace and human dignity, and that a collective international commitment to uphold truth is necessary.



Top & above: Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah during his visit to Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Abdullah Al-Shaheen, accompanied by Mohammad Juwaian.

Al-Jarallah thanks Kuwait envoy to Paris for treatment follow-up

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: During his stay in Paris, France for treatment, Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyasah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah visited Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Abdullah Al-Shaheen.

Al-Jarallah expressed his gratitude to Al-Shaheen for following up his treatment, a gesture that exemplified the commitment of the Ambassador to address the needs of Kuwaiti citizens in France, whether for medical treatment or

any other matter.

Al-Shaheen congratulated Al-Jarallah on the success of his surgeries, wishing him full and speedy recovery.

He emphasized that his concern for the well-being of Kuwaiti citizens in France and his commitment to meet their needs are part of his national and humanitarian duties, which are not less important than his diplomatic duties.

Journalist Mohammad Juwaian accompanied Al-Jarallah when he visited the Ambassador.



KUNA photo

Kuwait’s Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs meets with the Director of the International Organizations Department at the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Kuwait advances women in peace

BEIRUT, Nov 15, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs and Chairperson of the National Committee for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (1325), Ambassador Sheikhha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duajj Al-Sabah, met on Thursday officials of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry discussing means of enhancing mutual cooperation concerning women and human rights affairs.

The meetings took place on the sidelines of Ambassador Sheikhha Jawaher’s participation in the 12th session of the Women on the Front Lines conference, organized by the May Chidiac Foundation in the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

Sheikha Jawaher held discussions with Ambassador Abdelsattar Issa, Secretary General of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, affirming necessity of increasing effective participation in international events related to human rights, women issues, peace and security.

Vietnam’s PM to pay official visit to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: At the invitation of H.H. Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, H.E. Mr. Pham Minh Chinh – Prime Minister of Viet Nam, his spouse, and a high-ranking Vietnamese delegation will make his official visit to the State of Kuwait from 16 to 18 November, 2025. This is the first visit by a Vietnamese Leader to Kuwait after 16 years, taking place at the right time when the two countries are ready to elevate bilateral relations to a new height and preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations in January 2026.

- During the visit, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh will meet with H.H. the Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and H.H. the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah; hold official talks with Kuwaiti Prime Minister, H.H. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Viet Nam’s Prime Minister will also receive some key Kuwaiti’s Ministers and chairmen, chief executives of top economic corporations; and particularly deliver a keynote speech on Viet Nam’s foreign policy and strategic vision of Viet Nam – Kuwait relations at the Saud N. Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute.

- Viet Nam–Kuwait bilateral relations are enjoying substantive mutual cooperation, especially in investment and trade. Kuwait is the Middle East country having the largest total investment capital in Vietnam so far; the top venture is Nghi Son Refinery Petrochemical (NSRP) complex with Kuwait’s capital contribution of up to 3.5 billion USD. In terms of trade, the total bilateral turnover



Vietnam’s PM Pham Minh Chinh to make historic first visit to Kuwait in 16 years.

reached 7.3 billion USD in 2024, which is also the highest level of trade between Vietnam and a country in the Middle East. Vietnam’s export products to the Kuwait market are becoming increasingly diverse and higher in value, including agricultural and aquatic products, fresh fruits, wooden products, machinery and equipment, electronic products, etc.

In addition, the two countries also maintain other areas of cooperation. The Kuwait Fund for Arabic Economic Development has contributed \$182 million to 15 infrastructure projects across Vietnam over the years. At local-level, the two countries have signed several memoranda of understanding (Ho Chi Minh City and Ahmadi province, Thanh Hoa province and Farwaniya province) thereby promoting the friendship, cultural and tourism exchanges, and people-to-people contacts.

- Viet Nam is now recognized as a

country of innovation and development. The Southeast Asian nation ranks 32nd globally by GDP and is among the top 20 countries for both trade volume and foreign direct investment (FDI). With total trade exceeding \$800 billion and foreign capital surpassing \$500 billion, Viet Nam has become a vital player in the regional and global economy, participating in 17 free trade agreements and over 500 other trade deals. Its GDP growth could reach higher 8% in 2025 and target more than 10% in 2026.

In foreign affairs, Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with 194 countries, including 38 Comprehensive and/or Strategic Partners - among all the world powers. At the multilateral level, Vietnam is an active member of more than 70 major political, economic, and socio-cultural organizations and increasingly involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions abroad.

Kuwait’s envoy to India Al-Shamali underlines contributions to UNHCR

NEW DELHI, Nov 15, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Mishaal Al-Shamali stressed Kuwait’s contributions to UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as signaling its firm belief and understanding of its global heavy burdens and responsibilities to alleviate refugees’ agony.

The Kuwaiti ambassador made the remarks while meeting UNHCR Chief of Mission for India and Maldives Areti Sianni in New Delhi on Friday, during which they highlighted firm partnership and fruitful cooperation between Kuwait and UNHCR over years, the Kuwaiti Embassy in New Delhi said in a press release sent to KUNA.

During the meeting, the ambassador underlined that Kuwait’s support for the UNHCR’s activities marks a core pillar for the UN agency to keep doing its mission regularly.

For her part, Sianni commended Kuwait’s humanitarian contributions to humanitarian organizations to help them carry out their tasks so properly, voicing UNHCR’s thanks



KUNA photo

Kuwait’s Ambassador to India, Mishaal Al-Shamali, meets with the head of the UNHCR mission in India and the Maldives, Iriti Siani.

and appreciation to Kuwait’s bountiful and continued aid.

She also expounded on the activities of the UNHCR’s Mission in India, including aid to refugees and asylum seekers of different nationalities in India.

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Quality review

155 US academic degrees revoked

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Director General of the National Bureau for Academic Accreditation and Education Quality Assurance Dr. Jassim Al-Ali has issued an administrative decision to revoke the accreditation of 155 academic programs and degrees from the list of accredited higher education institutions in the United States, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decision shows that the cancellation affects a range of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in various disciplines at several American universities, including the University of California, Berkeley, Stanford University, Merritt University, Wayne State University, Cal Poly Humboldt University, George Washington University, San Francisco State University, Arizona State University, and the University of California, Davis.

The list of revoked programs includes specializations in various fields, such as life sciences, nursing, physical education, sociology, psychology, radiology technology, park and recreation management, toxicology, law, zoology, linguistics, public affairs and public policy, agriculture, fine arts, and biotechnology.

The cancellation of these programs is part of a periodic review of higher education institutions and their academic programs, in line with quality standards and accreditation requirements, to ensure students enroll in recognized programs with an approved academic level.

In a statement accompanying the decision, the bureau affirmed that current students already enrolled in accredited programs before the issuance of this decision will not be affected.

It urged students planning to study abroad to consult the updated lists of accredited universities and programs before enrolling in any educational institution.



Dr. Al-Ali

Kuwait advances audit reform for Vision 2035

UNCTAD hears call for modern oversight

GENEVA, Nov 15, (KUNA): The head of Bureau of Financial Controllers (BFC) Nada Al-Sahli affirmed on Thursday Kuwait's firm vision that financial control in today's world goes beyond verifying compliance with standards or tracking expenditures, but also includes managing public resources.

Delivering a speech during a meeting of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) experts, Al-Sahli added the aim of this is to really benefit citizens and maintain environment and contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

She noted that the BFC's launch of a national initiative on boosting financial control in public sector to achieve sustainable development goals embodies an inclusive vision



KUNA photo

Nada Al-Sahli, the head of Bureau of Financial Controllers (BFC)

and backs integration between wise management and sustainable development.

The initiative is based on three pillars like integrating the indicators of institutional, social and environmental governance as part of public audit processes to ensure social and environmental performance, she noted.

It also aims to empower cadres and enhance professional rehabilitation through training financial controllers on assessing projects

and programs in line with SDGs, she said.

Al-Sahli stressed that these efforts contribute to boosting national regulatory system and raising efficiency to respond to sustainable development challenges to achieve Kuwait Vision 2035.

Kuwait has been keen on bolstering cooperation with international organizations mainly UNCTAD and sharing international expertise, she concluded.

Public Works advances Yarmouk upgrades

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan confirmed that ministry teams are continuing fieldwork in Yarmouk as part of ongoing efforts to develop and improve infrastructure networks in residential areas, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Eng. Mohammed Helou Al-Enezi from the Sanitary Engineering Sector's Implementation Department explained that the team is currently working in Yarmouk Block 3 in laying a Type 2 asphalt layer. The contract covers the

renewal of sewage and stormwater drainage networks, as well as civil works for the roads, including curbs, paving stones, and all asphalt layers. The project also involves the renewal of streetlights, work on the telephone network, and improvements to the irrigation system.

He affirmed that the work is progressing according to schedule, under the direct supervision of senior ministry officials, and in line with Minister Al-Mashaan's directives.



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Other Voices

The reason behind America's shift: Its tremendous wealth

By Ahmad alsarraf

History has never seen a nation founded on moral principles and ideals as high as those of the United States of America. Despite their flaws, the Founding Fathers embodied the ideal political class to lay the foundation for a new nation and a unique constitution. This gave rise to a modern democracy built on lofty principles, which over time turned America into a beacon of freedom for the world, and a shining example through its constitution, its people, and its willingness to sacrifice to confront global evils.



alsarraf

However, as the United States grew wealthier, it gradually drifted from its humanitarian ideals. That immense and formidable wealth became both a blessing and a curse. The interests of large corporations, the wealthy, and powerful lobbyists increasingly shaped political decisions. No one could realistically achieve any significant position without their massive financial support and influence.

A senatorial campaign in a large state typically costs around \$20 million, while a presidential campaign requires far more. President Trump's re-election campaign, for example, cost over \$1.6 billion, funded largely through donations from those with significant influence over how campaign funds are spent.

This dependence on donor contributions, which extends to elected positions at city and state levels, has intensified the harshness and corruption of election campaigns.

Consequently, it is no surprise that every American president now engages in foreign wars, which were often influenced by the need to appease major campaign contributors, such as arms manufacturers, whose weapons are as readily available to Americans as a pack of cigarettes from a local store.

The Zionists recognized the immense power of money at the start of World

War II and shifted their influence to the United States, establishing a highly powerful lobby to sway American political decision-makers through generous campaign contributions. These lobbies employ various methods to politically or physically neutralize anyone opposing Israel's interests.

Over time, America shifted from being a beacon of freedom and democracy into a source of global fear. Being an enemy of America is dangerous, but being a friend can be equally so. Ethics in politics have eroded, with few exceptions, as successive administrations have increasingly been forced to appease those with power. The government has become unable to meet all its domestic and foreign obligations or to reconcile its priorities with the alarming rise in national debt.

The attempt by American administrations to reconcile their image as a beacon of knowledge and high ideals - a model to be emulated - with their need to maintain superpower status as a military and imperial force, often ruthless and inhumane, has been widely discussed in many meetings and books.

Consequently, the rise of a strong and principled individual to the American presidency has become increasingly difficult.

No one can attain the nation's most powerful and influential position without being indebted to, or beholden to, those who contributed in some way to their ascent.

These individuals are often less concerned with America's role as a beacon of science and freedom than with preserving it as a power that serves their own interests and agendas. As a result, the image of America as we once knew it has eroded, evident in its repeated failures in Vietnam, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere.

America's involvement in wars has rarely been about defending freedom, human dignity, or combating communism; rather, it has been driven by the need to keep its war machine operating without pause. Its unwavering support for Israel, despite the many crimes, has been the final nail in the coffin of the credibility of American democracy, exposing its darker side.

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National grid hits 13,610 MW peak

Ministry reports robust electricity demand and workforce statistics

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: A report from the Statistics Department at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy revealed that the national grid imported 665,655 megawatts through the Gulf Interconnection Network in October.

The report indicated that the highest electrical load reached 13,610 megawatts, while the lowest was 7,995 megawatts on Oct 31. It added that electricity was connected to 655 customers during the same month -- a total of 87,643,067 kilowatts.

The private residential sector recorded

the largest number of customers with 605, followed by the commercial sector with 14, government sector with 11, industrial sector with nine, and the investment and agricultural sectors with eight each.

The report added that the total workforce at the ministry reached 36,260 -- 35,484 Kuwaitis and 776 non-Kuwaitis, with Kuwaiti employees constituting 97.9 percent of the entire workforce.

Moreover, the ministry has 20 tenders under review by the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT).

These tenders aim to maintain, upgrade and develop the transmission and distribution networks and other facilities in the ministry.

Farwaniya Governor hosts Uzbek envoy to strengthen bilateral ties

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Kuwait, Ayub Khan Yunusov, at his office on Thursday.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the two officials discussed ways to enhance cooperation and explored topics of mutual interest aimed at strengthening bilateral relations.

The governor praised the long-standing ties between the two friendly nations and expressed his delight at the ambassador's visit.

For his part, Ambassador Ayub Khan Yunusov thanked the governor for the warm reception and reaffirmed Uzbekistan's commitment



Farwaniya Governorate photo of Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receiving the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Kuwait, Ayub Khan Yunusov.

to developing cooperative relations with Kuwait in various sectors.

Royal College of Surgeons names Kuwaiti Al-Tarrah as ambassador

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, United Kingdom announced the appointment of Dr. Khaled Al-Tarrah,

a specialist in plastic and burn surgery at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital and Director of the Plastic Surgery Program at Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS), as an international ambassador for surgery.

Al-Tarrah represents the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. He was also granted membership in the Surgical Instructors Association of the College.

The College revealed that the selec-



Dr. Al-Tarrah

tion of Al-Tarrah is the culmination of his distinguished career in surgery and academia.

In his new role, he will serve as a bridge for cooperation and scientific exchange between the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the healthcare sector in Kuwait and the region.

Al-Tarrah said "I consider this appointment an honor and a responsibility. It is an opportunity to represent Kuwaiti and Arab doctors at one of the most prestigious international medical forums. I will dedicate myself fully to strengthening cooperation between the Royal College and the healthcare sector in Kuwait and other Gulf countries, in order to develop surgical education and training and enhance the skills of national medical professionals."

He added that this achievement is not personal, as it is rather the recognition of the status of Kuwaiti doctors and their distinguished contributions. He hopes that it will motivate future generations to continue striving for scientific and professional excellence.



Abdullah Al-Mubarak Foundation holds its annual ceremony to announce the winners of the competition for the best books published in English from the Middle East.

Prophet of Reason wins top honor

Kuwait’s Al-Mubarak book prize honors Middle East scholarship

LONDON, Nov 15, (KUNA): The annual 27th Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Book Competition was held at the School of Middle Eastern and African Studies (SOAS) University of London, honoring best English-language books on the Middle East.

During the ceremony on Thursday, Ambassador Frances Guy, Chair of the judging panel, announced that the winning title was Prophet of Reason by Peter Hill, while the two runners up were Toiling for oil by Touraj Atabaki and Companionship and Virtue in Classical Sufism by Jason Welle.

In a statement to KUNA, Kuwait’s Ambassador to the UK Bader Al-Munaikh praised the foundation’s efforts, affirming that the award reflects Kuwait’s commitment to culture, literature, and the promotion of peace.

Al-Munaikh said the prize strengthens Kuwaiti-British cultural relations, especially through its partnership with SOAS.

Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Sabah said the award builds bridges between ideas, individuals, and history, stressing the foundation’s dedication to supporting Middle Eastern studies.

Sheikh Mubarak thanked Ambassador Al-Munaikh and the embassy staff for their support, expressing hope for future collaboration with leading universities.

The prize, sponsored by Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Foundation, attracts around 50 entries annually and has been a prominent feature of the academic calendar for over two decades.

This year’s awards were presented by Sheikh Mubarak Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

‘Kuwait Unites Us’ solidifies Kuwait as Arab cultural hub

Al-Mutairi inaugurates event at Al-Shaheed Park

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi inaugurated Thursday the “Kuwait Unites Us” event at Al-Shaheed Park as part of “Kuwait Capital of Arab Culture” activities.

The event, which last until November 22nd, is organized by the Ministry of Information in cooperation with the national carrier Kuwait Airways with the participation of several Arab embassies in Kuwait.

In statements to reporters at the event’s launch, Minister Al-Mutairi emphasized that “Kuwait Unites Us” reflects Kuwait’s commitment to strengthening Arab cultural and media ties and solidifying Kuwait’s position as a leading cultural and media hub.

It highlights the rich diversity of Arab culture and serves as a platform to showcase the unity of Arab cultural identity and its civilizational influences, he elaborated.

Minister Al-Mutairi stressed that the event embodies the role of culture and media in fostering rapprochement between Arab peoples.

It shows Kuwait’s commitment to strengthening its cultural and media relations with Arab countries and building bridges of dialogue between Arab cultures, he said.

For his part, Kuwait Airways Chairman Abdulmohsen Al-Fagaan said that Kuwait Airways’ participation in organizing the event stems from its commitment to supporting the state’s comprehensive development plans, in line with the “Kuwait 2035” vision, which aims to enhance Kuwait’s standing at both the regional and international levels.

Al-Fagaan said that it also reflects Kuwait Airways’ national role and responsibility in supporting



Minister of Information and Culture during the opening of the ‘Kuwait Unites Us’ event.



KUNA photos

Minister of Information and Culture visits the pavilions of ‘Kuwait Unites Us’.

major events that showcase Kuwait’s culture and heritage. He noted that his company dedicated all its expertise and logistical capabilities to ensure the success of this event, in addition to providing the necessary facilities for participating delegations, thus guaranteeing an event befitting Kuwait’s status as the Capital of Arab Culture and Media for 2025.

The event features a wide participation from the embassies of Gulf and Arab countries. Each embassy presents a special pavilion showcasing its historical and heritage artifacts.

During the event, Al Shaheed Park theater hosts daily folkloric performances from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM, showcasing the richness of Arab cultural heritage and the artistic diversity that characterizes Arab societies.

CBB, CBK Governors visit BENEFIT’s pavilion at Singapore FinTech Festival

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: As part of the ongoing cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Kuwait in advancing banking services and digital payments, H.E. Khalid Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain, accompanied by H.E. Basel A. Al-Haroon, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, visited the pavilion of BENEFIT, the Kingdom’s leading innovator in financial technology and electronic transaction services, during the Singapore FinTech Festival 2025 (SFF).

The event held from 12 to 14 November at the Singapore Expo Convention and Exhibition Centre, stands as one of the world’s premier platforms for FinTech advancement and banking innovation.

During the visit, the governors were briefed on the latest technological innovations and advanced solutions offered by BENEFIT in digital payments, as well as the range of services provided through its BENEFITPay app, which plays a key role in enhancing the digital infrastructure of the financial sector. The company’s team also presented the pivotal role BENEFIT continues to play in advancing the digital transformation of Bahrain’s banking sector through the development of secure



The governors of the Central Bank of Bahrain and the Central Bank of Kuwait visit the BENEFIT pavilion.

the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain and His Excellency the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait to our pavilion at the Singapore FinTech Festival underscores the distinguished position that BENEFIT holds in the regional financial landscape. It reflects the strong confidence that financial leaders across the region place in our company’s role as a key driver of innovation and

digital transformation in the financial sector. Our participation in this global event, which is the largest of its kind in Asia, represents a strategic opportunity to showcase Bahrain’s progress in Fintech and provides a unique platform for exchanging expertise and exploring emerging global trends in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and cross-border financial services.”

Mr. AlJanahi added:“Through our participation in this international event, we seek to explore new partnership opportunities that support our regional expansion and strengthen our presence in emerging markets with high potential. At the same time, we aim to highlight BENEFIT’s vital role in supporting Bahrain’s digital transformation journey and reinforcing its position as a leading FinTech hub in the region and beyond. We also take pride in presenting our pioneering expertise and innovative solutions, which embody the integration of innovation and sustainability in shaping the future of financial services. This commitment contributes to enhancing the sector’s efficiency, boosting its competitiveness, and supporting Bahrain’s aspirations toward a more advanced and sustainable digital economy.”

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait, China

He said sincere discussions between the two sides are enough to resolve the emerging difficulties.

He added that China considers itself a part of a single international community. “All of us are on the same boat, on the same Kuwaiti ship, and all countries are interconnected,” he asserted.

On the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project, he confirmed that it is in the “pre-construction phase” and that it is a strategic development project for Kuwait. He said “the Chinese side has provided its best companies to study the project in cooperation with the Kuwaiti side,” expressing his hope that construction will begin soon.

He went on to say that next year will be a doubly significant milestone, as it marks the launch of China’s 15th Five-Year Plan for economic and social development, coinciding with the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Kuwait. He believes this coincidence presents both countries with “a historic opportunity to expand cooperation in various fields and jointly build a more prosperous future.”

He stressed that cooperation between the two sides is steadily strengthening, particularly in major projects such as Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, renewable energy and residential cities.

He confirmed that Chinese brands are expanding in the Kuwaiti market, offering high-quality products at competitive prices.” Cultural exchanges are also gaining momentum with the opening of the Chinese Cultural Center in the country, which enhances understanding between the two peoples,” he added.

He said the reforms and open policy adopted by the recent plenary session of the Communist Party of China “will create new opportunities for the development of Sino-Kuwaiti relations,” calling for “seizing the development opportunities arising from the 15th Five-Year Plan to enhance mutual cooperation and propel partnership to broader horizons, thus, contributing to building a community with a shared future for the good of mankind.”

He stated that Vice President Han Zheng’s visit is significant in the history of China-Kuwait relations and a success by all measures. “The Kuwaiti side extended a high-level welcome, generosity and hospitality, for which the Chinese side expressed gratitude and appreciation. The two parties reached important consensus on strengthening bilateral relations and achieving mutual benefits,” he concluded.

On the other hand, Diplomatic Attaché at the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait

Zhong Yujia talked about the features of ‘Smart China’ and the technological development the country is witnessing, emphasizing that Chinese technology “is no longer confined to laboratories, as it has become part of people’s daily lives, making education more personalized, healthcare more accessible and cities safer.”

She pointed out that technological cooperation between China and Kuwait is witnessing pioneering applications at the regional level, specifically in the field of remote robotic surgery. She said Kuwaiti doctors at Sabah Al-Ahmad Kidney Center, Jahra Hospital and Amiri Hospital performed delicate operations using Chinese robotic devices, such as the Tournai Medbot, thereby, improving the status of Kuwait in the field of digital medicine.

She also highlighted the two countries’ cooperation in smart agriculture, indicating that Kuwaiti farms rely on Chinese equipment and technologies for irrigation, cooling, pesticides and fertilizers, which helped increase local production and improve its quality. She added that Chinese technology contributes to digital transformation, artificial intelligence and smart cities, aligning with Kuwait Vision 2035.

Another diplomatic attaché, Ji Yu Shan, revealed that Kuwait is the first Arab country to sign a cooperation document within the Belt and Road Initiative in 2014. “Since then, bilateral cooperation yielded positive results, making China the largest trading partner of Kuwait, with Chinese companies expanding their involvement in major projects in the energy, telecommunications, housing and infrastructure sectors.

She added that the leadership of President Xi Jinping and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah served as a new impetus for economic relations. “A series of important agreements were reached during their recent meetings, accelerating the implementation of joint projects,” she added.

She affirmed that Kuwaiti companies are intensifying their presence in the Chinese market as well, citing the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIIC) agreement with Wanhua Chemical Company worth \$638 million, investment of Kuwait Investment Authority in CATL, and participation of Kuwait in major Chinese trade fairs.

She said the upcoming five-year plan period “will open a new chapter in China-Kuwait cooperation based on mutual benefit and common development, bringing benefits for the citizens of both countries.”

Kuwait: Political

Kuwait is looking forward to the UNHRC’s approval of a consensus resolution, which delivers clear and robust messages from the international community that shows the unified stance toward Sudanese people’s sufferings, he noted.

Upon a request from UK and Germany, the UNHRC is holding the session on Al-Fashir situation, amid the growing war in Sudan, to take a decisive stance toward dangerous field developments.

‘Blood diseases

He pointed out that while these diseases are often invisible, they alter the course of life, test the resilience of patients and their families, and place a heavy responsibility on healthcare professionals and doctors to ease the burdens of patients.

He said the ministry provides the latest medical procedures and treatments, such as advanced therapies and accurate diagnostic tests, and focuses on awareness and education, access to early detection programs, and the development of blood transfusion services.

On the other hand, Dr. Huda Al-Sahaf, Head of the Conference and Internal Medicine and Clinical Hematology Consultant, revealed that the conference aims to review advancements in diagnosis and treatment, scientific approaches based on clinical cases, and enhance collaboration between different specializations.

Dr. Hadeel Saleh, Head of the Association, confirmed that Kuwait is witnessing advancement in hematological treatments, keeping pace with global developments, through the provision of modern medications and monitoring the latest scientific research, indicating that the conference is considered a qualitative leap in this field.

Cloudy weather

The foggy weather will lower horizontal visibility to more than 1,000 meters in some regions.

As of early Saturday, low atmospheric pressure comes gradually from the west, turning the skies cloudy and leading to rainfalls.

Chances for rainfall persist until Monday afternoon, when clouds recede gradually.

Kuwait’s Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) announced on Friday flights will resume at Kuwait International Airport as of 7:45 am local time thanks to better weather conditions and rising horizontal visibility.

The PACA’s Spokesman Abdullah Al-Rajhi told KUNA that horizontal visibility had fallen below 100 meters due to dense fog early morning.

He added that some incoming flights were diverted to neighboring countries’ airports only to ensure the safety of travelers.

Gulf scribes

President of the GPF and Head of Bahrain Press Association Essa Alshayji said in a statement to KUNA after the meeting that the board members addressed several files related to administrative and financial issues and planned activities. The talks during the meeting dealt with multiple programs due to be launched in the realm of training to stay abreast of major changes happening on the journalistic and media arenas, Alshayji said.

“In view of the huge media inflow into the Gulf arena, it has become necessary that we have visions and analyses as to revamping the journalistic performance and expand cooperation in the training and professional spheres among the Gulf press associations with influential international institutions,” he said.

Alshayji lauded the GPF plan to host and organize the Fourth GCC Meeting of Women Journalists in the Arabian Gulf states, under the theme, “the Gulf narrative of the woman in journalism and the media,” due to kick off on Sunday under sponsorship of the State of Kuwait Minister of Information, Minister Culture of Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Almutairi.

He highly valued the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information’s concern for boosting the joint Gulf media activities, providing an incubating environment for expertise exchange and revamping the profession. He also indicated that more than 30 women journalists from the GCC countries would partake in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Adnan Al-Rashed, President of the Kuwaiti Journalists Association, said Kuwait’s organization of the gathering mirrors its deep advocacy of the Gulf press role and keenness on supporting the Gulf media women.

The meeting, he added, would be a platform for swapping expertise among the Gulf female journalists, an opportunity to shed light on their achievements and their contributions to updating the media content in the council’s member states, (more)

For his part, Mohammad Al-Araimi, President of the Omani Journalists Association, said in a statement to KUNA the discussions during the meeting tackled various issues concerning the Gulf journalists. “A lot of topics in the agenda were endorsed,” he said, naming approval to boost coordination at the lo-

cal and external levels among the media stakeholders.

The conferees touched on training Gulf journalists and media personnel, he said, affirming that the profession faces permanent challenges.

Fadila Al-Maani, President of the UAE Press Association, indicated that the talks addressed plans for increasing financial resources of the federation, the holding of seminars, workshops and other activities, in addition to participation in the conference of the International Federation of Journalists, due in Paris in 2026.

Adwan Alahmari, President of the Saudi Press Association, said the federation had held six meetings in two years, adding that the next session would be organized in Saudi Arabia.

The federation looks forward to supporting the young journalists who constitute foundation of the career, he continued.

Abdulrahman AlQahtani, President of Qatar Press Center, said the meeting was quite fruitful, affirming that the debates dealt with organizing seminars and training courses for sake of developing the profession in the GCC countries.

Kuwait Television

He said that all available infrastructures and staff were under the disposal of KTV and radio, noting that various urgent news, political analysis, and live studio were broadcasting news in HD and 4K using Augmented Reality (AR) technologies to enhance visual content. 64

Regarding radio, Dr. Youssef Al-Surai’a, Director General of the Radio Department in the Ministry of Information, said that the radio broadcast system in Kuwait was separated into 13 live broadcasting studios on FM and AM frequencies, six recording and mixing studios, a digital audio library, in addition to monitoring and outsourced reception departments.

The official added that audio engineering studios were tasked with developing broadcasting, recording, mixing, and maintaining the digital library to keep up with the latest international advancements in the field.

He noted that there were plans to use digital radio systems such as Audio over IP (AoIP), digital transmission of audio signals over an IP network, including a local area network (LAN) or the internet.

Dedicated staff carry out broadcasting around the clock, he affirmed, revealing that no matter the situation, whether an emergency or

regular broadcasting, KTV and radio continue their media missions using the best of technology and trained staff.

For his part, Director of the Information Ministry’s News Department Lafi Al-Subaie told KUNA that Kuwait State Television is deemed an icon of pioneering Kuwaiti media and a national platform that chronicles the country’s history and spreads its cultural and humanitarian message.

He said Kuwait State Television is a witness to the state’s development and progress and a fundamental pillar in building awareness and knowledge in society.

Al-Subaie added that the Radio and TV Sector’s News Channel is ready to start broadcasting thanks to infrastructure, and technical and human groundworks, noting that the channel’s studios have been developed in line with the highest global standards in order to fulfill swift and accurate news coverage requirements.

He noted that the channel embraces three main studios, including the major studio of daily shows and news bulletins, the political analysis studio and the urgent news and live broadcast studio.

Al-Subaie underlined that all the three studios have been equipped with digital lighting and decoration technologies, smart camera systems and high-definition (HD) and full high definition (FHD) broadcasting, along with (virtual studio) platforms to display data in an advanced visual manner.

He noted that these studios are used to produce news bulletins and talk shows round the clock, and cover national and international events, affirming that the channel’s staff get periodical training courses, in collaboration with local and international media agencies.

The media official boasted that Kuwait has a highly qualified young generation armed with high technical and journalistic skills that need to be constantly supported and developed.

He stressed that the news department has worked out an integrated emergency plan to ensure uninterrupted broadcasting in case of emergency, elaborating that this plan includes backup teams working in shifts, standby studios ready to be put into immediate service, and a direct link with the ministry’s main control center and other broadcasting centers through optic fiber.

America

Atmospheric river douses S. California: An unusually strong storm system called an atmospheric river was dousing Southern California on Friday and was expected to continue dumping heavy rain over the region for days as forecasters warned of rockslides and debris flows especially in the Los Angeles areas that were ravaged by wildfires earlier this year. While not usually associated with California, a tornado briefly touched down in a Los Angeles suburb during a storm in 2023, ripping roofs off a line of commercial buildings and injuring one person. A smaller one also hit a mobile home park in the Santa Barbara County city of Carpinteria, damaging about 25 residences.

The long plume of tropical moisture that formed over the Pacific Ocean began drenching the San Francisco Bay Area on Wednesday and was expected to unleash widespread rain over Southern California through Sunday with the heaviest amounts on Friday and Saturday nights. More than a foot of snow was predicted for parts of the Sierra Nevada. (AP)

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S. Carolina man executed by firing squad: A South Carolina firing squad has executed a man Friday, the third person to die by that method in the state this year.

Three prison employees, all with live ammunition, volunteered to carry out the execution of Stephen Bryant, 44, who was pronounced dead at 6:05 pm. Bryant killed three people in five days in a rural area of the state in 2004.

Bryant chose to die by firing squad instead of lethal injection or the electric chair. He made no final statement and briefly glanced toward the 10 witnesses before the hood was placed on his head.

The shots rang out about 55 seconds later. Bryant made no noise. The red bullseye target that marks the location of his heart flew forward off his chest. He had a few shallow



A pedestrian with an umbrella walks on a bridge over the rain-soaked 110 Freeway in Los Angeles on Nov 14. (AP)

breaths and then a final spasm a little over a minute later. A doctor checked him with a stethoscope for a minute before he pronounced Bryant dead. (AP)

□ □ □

‘11-year-old girl starved to death’: An 11-year-old Connecticut girl was not given food in the two weeks leading up to her death last year and had often been restrained with zip ties, police say.

Her remains were found inside a plastic bin last month. A few months after her death, another child impersonated her during a video call with the state child welfare agency, court records reveal. Stunning details of Jacqueline “Mimi” Torres-Garcia’s death have emerged in recent weeks with the release of arrest and search warrants, alleging severe abuse and an attempted cover-up. The chief medical examiner’s office last week issued an official determination that she died of “fatal child abuse with starvation.” (AP)

Judge indefinitely bars Trump from fining UC over alleged discrimination

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): The Trump administration cannot fine the University of California or summarily cut the school system’s federal funding over claims it allows antisemitism or other forms of discrimination, a federal judge ruled late Friday in a sharply worded decision.

US District Judge Rita Lin in San Francisco issued a preliminary injunction barring the administration from cancelling funding to UC based on alleged discrimination without giving notice to affected faculty and conducting a hearing, among other requirements.

The administration over the summer demanded the University of California, Los Angeles pay \$1.2 billion to restore frozen research funding and ensure eligibility for future funding after accusing the school of allowing antisemitism on campus. UCLA was the first public university to be targeted by the administration over allegations of civil rights violations.

It has also frozen or paused federal funding over similar claims against private colleges, including Colum-



Students walk past Royce Hall on the University of California, Los Angeles campus on Aug 15, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP)

bia University. In her ruling, Lin said labor unions and other groups representing UC faculty, students and employees had provided “overwhelming evidence” that the Trump administration was “engaged in a concerted campaign to purge ‘woke,’ ‘left,’ and ‘socialist’ viewpoints from our country’s leading universities.”

She added, “It is undisputed that this precise playbook is now being executed at the University of California.”

At UC, which is facing a series of civil rights probes, she found the administration had engaged in “coercive and retaliatory conduct in violation of the First Amendment and Tenth Amendment.”

‘I’m the chief law enforcement officer of the country, I’m allowed to do it’

At Trump’s urging, Bondi says US to investigate Epstein’s ties to Clinton and political foes

NEW YORK, Nov 15, (AP): Acceding to President Donald Trump’s demands, US Attorney General Pam Bondi said Friday that she has ordered a top federal prosecutor to investigate offender Jeffrey Epstein’s ties to Trump political foes, including former president Bill Clinton.

Bondi posted on X that she was assigning Manhattan US Attorney Jay Clayton to lead the probe, capping an eventful week in which congressional Republicans released nearly 23,000 pages of documents from Epstein’s estate and House Democrats seized on emails mentioning Trump.

Trump, who was friends with Epstein for years, didn’t explain what supposed crimes he wanted the Justice Department to investigate. None of the men he mentioned in a social media post demanding the probe has been accused of misconduct by any of Epstein’s victims.

Hours before Bondi’s announcement, Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that he would ask her, the Justice Department and the FBI to investigate Epstein’s “involvement and relationship” with Clinton and others, including former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and LinkedIn founder and Democratic donor Reid Hoffman.

Trump, calling the matter “the Epstein Hoax, involving Democrats, not Republicans,” said the investigation should also include financial giant JPMorgan Chase, which provided banking services to Epstein, and “many other people and institutions.”

“This is another Russia, Russia, Russia Scam, with all arrows pointing to the Democrats,” the Republican president wrote, referring to special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation of alleged Russian interference in Trump’s 2016 election victory over Bill Clinton’s wife, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Asked later Friday whether he should be ordering up such investigations, Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One: “I’m the chief law enforcement officer of the country, I’m allowed to do it.”

In a July memo regarding the Epstein investigation, the FBI said, “We did not uncover evidence that could predicate an investigation against uncharged third parties.”

The president’s demand for an investigation - and Bondi’s quick acquiescence - is the latest example of the erosion of the Justice Department’s traditional independence from the White House since Trump took office.

It is also an extraordinary attempt at deflection. For decades, Trump himself



US President Donald Trump speaks to reporters on Air Force One on his way to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla on Nov 14 as White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor listen. (AP)

has been scrutinized for his closeness to Epstein - though like the people he now wants investigated, he has not been accused of misconduct by Epstein’s victims.

A JPMorgan Chase spokesperson, Patricia Wexler, said the company regretted associating with Epstein “but did not help him commit his heinous acts.”

“The government had information about his crimes and failed to share it with us or other banks,” she said. The company agreed previously to pay millions of dollars to Epstein’s victims, who had sued arguing that the bank ignored red flags about criminal activity.

Clinton has acknowledged traveling on Epstein’s private jet but has said through

a spokesperson that he had no knowledge of the late financier’s crimes. He also has never been accused of misconduct by Epstein’s known victims.

Clinton’s deputy chief of staff Angel Ureña posted on X Friday: “These emails prove Bill Clinton did nothing and knew nothing. The rest is noise meant to distract from election losses, backfiring shutdowns, and who knows what else.”

Epstein pleaded guilty in Florida in 2008 to soliciting prostitution from an underage girl, but was spared a long jail term when the US attorney in Florida agreed not to prosecute him over allegations that he had paid many other children for sexual acts. After serving about a year in jail and a work release program, Epstein resumed his business and social life until federal prosecutors in New York revived the case in 2019. Epstein killed himself while awaiting trial on trafficking charges.

Summers and Hoffman had nothing to do with either case, but both were friendly with Epstein and exchanged emails with him. Those messages were among the documents released this week, along with other correspondence Epstein had with friends and business associates in the years before his death.

Nothing in the messages suggested any wrongdoing on the men’s part, other than associating with someone who had been accused of crimes against children.

Summers, who served in Clinton’s cabinet and is a former Harvard University president, previously said in a statement that he has “great regrets in my life” and that “my association with Jeffrey Epstein was a major error of judgement.”

On social media Friday night, Hoffman called for Trump to release all the Epstein files, saying they will show that “the calls for baseless investigations of me are nothing more than political persecution and slander.” He added, “I was never a client of Epstein’s and never had any engagement with him other than fundraising for MIT.” Hoffman bankrolled writer E. Jean Carroll’s abuse and defamation lawsuit against Trump.

After Epstein’s trafficking arrest in 2019, Hoffman said he’d only had a few interactions with Epstein, all related to his fundraising for MIT’s Media Lab. He nevertheless apologized, saying that “by agreeing to participate in any fundraising activity where Epstein was present, I helped to repair his reputation and perpetuate injustice.” Bondi, in her post, praised Clayton as “one of the most capable and trusted prosecutors in the country” and said the Justice Department “will pursue this with urgency and integrity to deliver answers to the American people.” Trump called Clayton “a great man, a great attorney,” though he said Bondi chose him for the job.



Firefighters spray water at the scene of the accident after a bus crashed into a bus stop in Östermalm in Stockholm, Sweden on Nov 14. (AP)

Bus crashes into bus stop in Stockholm, killing 3 people

A double-decker bus crashed into a bus stop in Stockholm on Friday, killing three people and injuring three others, police said.

Authorities were alerted to the crash at 3:23 pm on Friday. The vehicle rammed into the bus shelter on Valhallavägen, a street in the Swedish capital’s Östermalm district. The area is in the northern part of the city, near the Royal Institute of Technology. Police were treating the crash as “involuntary manslaughter” but were still investigating. It wasn’t immediately clear what the cause was.

Swedish news agency TT said police confirmed that the driver had been detained and would be questioned

to determine what happened. The front of the bus appeared to be have been seriously damaged.

Emergency services said the vehicle - a regular city bus - was not in service and no passengers were on board at the time, TT reported.

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson wrote on X he had “received the tragic news that several people have been killed and injured at a bus stop ... People who were perhaps on their way home to family, friends, or a quiet evening at home.” He said that “we do not yet know the cause of this, but right now my thoughts are primarily with those who have been affected and their families.” (AP)

WH designates 4 left-wing European networks as terrorist organizations

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): US President Donald Trump’s administration designated four European left-wing groups as terrorist organizations, following through on his vow to crack down on leftists after the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

The networks targeted by Trump’s Republican administration all appear to be based in Europe, with no operations in the United States. They are an Italian anarchist front that sent explosive packages to the then-president of the European Commission in 2003, two Greek networks believed to have planted bombs outside riot police and labor department buildings in Athens, and an anti-fascist group whose members were prosecuted by German authorities for a hammer attack against neo-Nazis in Dresden.

Europe has a long history of left-wing political violence, while in the United States political violence has been more likely to come from the right in recent decades, according to multiple studies, including by the Justice Department. However, there’s been an uptick in American political attacks across ideologies in recent years, culminating in the September fatal shooting of Kirk by a gunman who prosecutors contend was driven by hostility toward Kirk’s stance against transgenderism and other positions.



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio speaks to traveling journalists at the John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, on Nov 12, after the G7 foreign ministers meeting. (AP)

The Trump administration’s online announcement contends that “Anarchist militants have waged terror campaigns in the United States and Europe, conspiring to undermine the foundations of Western Civilization through their brutal attacks.”

The designation by the administration allows it to target any financial support the networks may have in the US. Most anarchist and antifa, or anti-fascist, groups are technically not organizations but rather loose affiliations of individuals

who join up for specific actions.

Some support violence only against property and not people. One of the Greek networks that authorities believe detonated bombs at a government building and train company headquarters called ahead of time to ensure people could evacuate, one reason no one was injured. While some European leftist groups share an ideology, police seizures during arrests generally have not revealed that they are sharing resources.

Poland’s new President Nawrocki nods to far right in his first 100 days

WARSAW, Poland, Nov 15, (AP): In his first 100 days in office, Poland’s new President Karol Nawrocki has positioned himself as the defender of the Polish nation and someone whose office might be sympathetic to the country’s growing far right.

With his athletic physique and impeccable suit, Nawrocki projected an old-school image of a protector as he kissed the hands of retired older women during an event this month at a library in Sochaczew, one of the small towns he has made a point of visiting.

That appeal to Poland’s more conservative voters helped the 42-year-old Nawrocki win the presidency in June. His fans say he stands for traditionalist values.

He has pledged to resist NATO membership for neighboring Ukraine and has not visited that country since taking office.

Now, experts say, he appears to be positioning himself to have more say in the daily running of Poland - putting him on a collision course with the cen-



Polish President Karol Nawrocki meets senior citizens and signs a draft law to their benefit during a visit to the public library in Sochaczew, near Warsaw, Poland on Nov 3. (AP)

trist prime minister. With a background as a historian,

Nawrocki was hardly known to the public when the leader of Poland’s largest opposition party, the conservative Law and Justice, chose him to be its presidential candidate. He was heading the Institute for National Remembrance, a state research body, at the time.

Up until the first round election results became clear, most pundits expected liberal Warsaw mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, running for the centrist governing alliance led by Donald Tusk, to win by a comfortable margin.

But Nawrocki’s underdog profile, despite media revelations that included alleged past links to criminal figures and his participation in a street brawl among football fans, helped to make him relatable to voters. He denied the criminal links but not the brawl, saying he had taken part in many “noble, masculine” combats in his life.

“Many people shrugged at his past in the end,” said Helena Chmielewska-Szajfer, a sociologist from Warsaw’s Kozminski University.

Russian drone and missile attack on Kyiv kills 6 people and injures at least 35

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 15, (AP): Russia unleashed a major missile and drone barrage on Kyiv early Friday, killing six people, leaving gaping holes in apartment buildings and starting fires as the sound of explosions boomed across the city and lit up the night sky. A pregnant woman was among at least 35 people wounded, Ukrainian authorities said.

Russia used at least 430 drones and 18 missiles in the nighttime attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Russia has waged a devastating aerial campaign against Ukraine since its all-out invasion of its neighbor nearly four years ago. U.S.-led diplomatic efforts this year to stop the fighting have so far come to nothing.

Friday’s aerial assault, which also targeted Odesa in the south and Kharkiv in the northeast, was mostly aimed at Kyiv, where drones and missiles smashed into high-rise apartment blocks, according to Zelenskyy.

It was “a specially calculated attack to cause as much harm as possible to



Rescuers work on the scene of a building damaged after a Russian attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Nov 14. (AP)

people and civilians,” he said in a post on Telegram.

Moscow denies targeting civilian areas, with the Russian Defense Ministry saying Friday it carried out an overnight strike on Ukraine’s “military-industrial and energy facilities.” Ukrainian officials scoff at those

claims, showing repeated damage to homes and public buildings.

The attack was the biggest on Kyiv in almost three weeks. Most recent Russian aerial attacks have aimed at electricity infrastructure around the country ahead of the bitter winter months.

Trump says he ‘stopped a war’ by preserving ceasefire between Cambodia, Thailand

China’s President Xi, Thai King Vajiralongkorn pledge closer ties during landmark visit

BEIJING, Nov 15, (AP): China’s leader Xi Jinping and Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn pledged closer ties on Friday during the first-ever visit to China by a reigning Thai monarch.

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, greeted Vajiralongkorn and his wife, Queen Suthida, at Beijing’s vast Great Hall of the People. The visit was intended to mark the 50th anniversary of the countries establishing diplomatic ties.

Xi described China and Thailand as “truly good relatives, good friends and good partners,” according to the state-run Xinhua news agency.

Beijing was looking forward to boosting agricultural imports from Thailand and advancing cooperation in fields such as railway development, artificial intelligence and aerospace, Xi said.

Vajiralongkorn described his country’s relationship with China as “brotherly cooperation” and expressed his desire to deepen exchanges in various areas.

The Thai royals were scheduled to visit a Buddhist temple and an aerospace development hub in Beijing, as well as attend a state banquet.

Besides a trip to Bhutan in April, the visit to China was Vajiralongkorn’s only second official trip abroad since his ascension to the throne, in 2016, signaling a warming of ties with China.

Thailand remains an official military ally of the United States, but China is the kingdom’s biggest trading partner and increasingly a source of military equipment.

Chinese investment in Thailand also has accelerated in recent years, particularly as many Chinese companies have moved production to Southeast Asia to avoid US tariffs. In a show of cooperation with Beijing, Thai authorities earlier this year deported 40 Uyghur asylum-seekers back to China, despite U.S. criticism.

In August, a Bangkok exhibition featuring works by Tibetan, Uyghur and Hong Kong artists was censored, reportedly following complaints by Chinese diplomats.

China also has pressured Thailand and its Southeast Asian neighbors to crack down on cross-border cyber scams.



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua of the Kingdom of Thailand at the square outside the east gate of the Great Hall of the People prior to their meeting in Beijing, capital of China on Nov 14. (Xinhua)

eased hostilities between **Cambodia** and **Thailand**, saying that he’d been able to preserve a previous, **U.S.**-brokered ceasefire that had appeared to be breaking down.

“I stopped a war just today,” Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to his **Mar-a-Lago** estate in **Florida** for the weekend. He said his actions

were made possible by his willingness to impose steep tariffs on countries around the world, which he has argued gives the US great leverage on trade and diplomatic leverage.

The president said he’d spoken to the prime ministers of both countries by phone and now, “They’re doing great. They were not doing great.”

He said the conversations left him believing, “I think they’re going to be fine.”

Territorial disputes over exactly where the border lies between the Southeast Asian neighbors led to five days of armed conflict in late July that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians.

Trump threatened to withhold trade privileges from the two countries unless they stopped fighting, helping to broker a temporary halt to the conflict. The pact was then reaffirmed in greater detail last month, when Trump attended an Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit meeting in **Malaysia**.

The ceasefire seemed on the verge of falling apart this week, however, when Cambodian Prime Minister **Hun Manet** said a villager was killed after shooting broke out along his country’s border with Thailand.

Manet said one civilian was killed and three others wounded when Thai troops opened fire on civilians residing in the area of Prey Chan in Cambodia’s north-western province of **Banteay Meanchey**. The same village was the site of a violent but not lethal confrontation in September between Thai security personnel and Cambodian villagers.

The Thai military said that the latest incident began when Cambodian soldiers allegedly fired into a district in Thailand’s eastern province of Sa Kaeo. No Thai casualties were reported.

Thailand and Cambodia have a history of enmity going back centuries, when they were warring empires. Their competing territorial claims stem largely from a 1907 map drawn when Cambodia was under French colonial rule, which Thailand has argued is inaccurate.

The ceasefire does not spell out a path to resolve the underlying basis of the dispute, the longstanding differences over where the border should run.

Enrile, architect of Philippine martial law era who helped oust Marcos, dies

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 15, (AP): Juan Ponce Enrile, the Philippine defense chief in a martial-law era notorious for human rights atrocities, democratic setbacks and plunder who later broke off from dictator Ferdinand Marcos then helped topple him in the “people power” uprising in 1986, died Thursday. He was 101.

Katrina Ponce Enrile said her father died at home surrounded by family as he had wished, but did not immediately provide other details. She has said her father had been confined in a medical intensive care unit for pneumonia treatment.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the incumbent Philippine leader and son and namesake of the authoritarian ruler Enrile helped overthrow, praised Enrile and said his death “marks the close of a chapter in our nation’s history.”

“We say goodbye to one of the most enduring and respected public servants our country has ever known,” Marcos said in a statement. “For over 50 years, Juan Ponce Enrile dedicated his life to serving the Filipino people, helping guide the country through some of its most challenging and defining moments.”

SELDA, a group of former political detainees during the martial law



Philippine Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile delivers his opening remarks at the start of the impeachment trial for Philippine Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona in Manila, Philippines on Jan 16, 2012. (AP)

period, said Enrile was the defense chief when military and police forces “arrested, tortured, and caused the enforced disappearance of thousands of activists, students, journalists and ordinary citizens...and yet, until the end of his life, he neither acknowledged nor apologized for the atrocities committed under his watch.”

One of the country’s most prominent lawyers, Enrile was also one of the longest-serving officials in Philippine history with a career in government that spanned for more than a half century. He had served in various posts under the elder Marcos starting when the latter won the presidency in 1965. In 2022, the current president appointed Enrile as chief presidential legal counsel, at age 98.

Among the departments Enrile led were justice and finance, including a stint as Bureau of Customs commissioner. He served three terms in the Senate, where he became president from 2008 to 2013. He was a former member of the House of Representatives to represent the northern province of Cagayan, where he was born on Feb. 14, 1924.

In 2014, Enrile surrendered after he was indicted and ordered arrested by the anti-graft Sandiganbayan court for allegedly receiving huge kickbacks from a scam that diverted millions of dollars from anti-poverty and development funds allotted to lawmakers. He denied the accusation and enlisted top-notch lawyers to defend him.

After a year of detention, the Supreme Court granted Enrile’s petition for bail in 2015 for humanitarian reasons.



In this undated photo released by the Indonesian National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) on Nov 14, rescuers search for victims after a landslide on Nov 13 hit a village in Cilacap, Indonesia. (AP)

Landslides in Indonesia’s Java island leave 3 dead

Indonesian rescuers were searching Friday for people who went missing in landslides triggered by torrential rains on Indonesia’s Java island. Authorities reported three confirmed deaths with 20 others missing. Several days of heavy rainfall in the region caused the landslides that hit dozens of houses in three villages in Indonesia’s Central Java province on Thursday evening.

Indonesian authorities said they plan to evacuate residents from 28 houses in the landslide-prone area, according to a statement released by the National Disaster Management Agency on Friday.

Also:
DENPASAR, Indonesia: Five Chinese nationals were

killed and eight others injured early Friday in a single-vehicle traffic accident in **Buleleng Regency** in northern **Bali, Indonesia**, the Chinese Consulate General in **Denpasar** said, adding that it has activated an emergency response mechanism.

According to local police, the accident involved a minibus that crashed into a tree and tumbled down a slope at around 4:30 a.m. local time on the Denpasar-Singaraja road near **Gitgit** village.

Officers from the Indonesian Red Cross, police and local residents rescued the injured passengers and transported them to nearby hospitals. (Agencies)

Modi’s BJP secures landslide victory

9 killed in Kashmir police station explosion

SRINAGAR, India, Nov 15, (AP): A cache of confiscated explosives detonated inside a police station in Indian-controlled Kashmir, killing at least nine people and injuring 32 others, police said on Saturday.

The blast occurred in the Nowgam area of Srinagar, the region’s main city, late Friday when a team of forensic experts and police were examining the explosive material, said Nalin Prabhat, the region’s police director-general. He ruled out any foul play, saying it was an accident. The dead included six police and forensic officials, two civil administrators and one civilian, authorities said. Some of the injured were in critical condition.

The huge blast ripped through the police station, setting it and multiple vehicles on fire. According to the news agency Press Trust of India, small successive explosions prevented immediate rescue operations.

The police station blast came days after Monday’s deadly car explosion in New Delhi, which killed at least eight people near the city’s historic Red Fort. Indian officials called it a “heinous terror incident” carried out by “anti-national forces.” The car blast happened hours after police in Kashmir said they had dismantled a suspected militant cell operating from



Indian police personnel stand guard at a temporary checkpoint near the site of an explosion inside a police station in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir, on Nov 15. (AP)

the disputed region, arresting at least seven people, including two doctors from Indian cities, and seizing a large quantity of bomb-making material in the city of Faridabad, near New Delhi.

Also:
NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**’s ruling coalition won a key state election in a vote seen

as a crucial test of the leader’s popularity in one of the country’s poorest yet most politically influential states.

Results Friday from the Election Commission of **India**, the country’s election watchdog, show the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance, or NDA, secured a landslide victory in the 243-member legislature in the eastern state of **Bihar**.

Fears over migration and crime push Chile’s presidential race to the right

SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov 15, (AP): Fans sported MAGA-style caps. AC/DC blasted from the speakers. Red, white and blue flags flapped in the wind. Crowds whooped and cheered as the man of the hour lamented the surge of migrants across the border.

“This country isn’t falling apart,” he bellowed. “It is being shot to pieces, by bullets.”

You’d be forgiven for assuming this was a rally for US President Donald Trump.

But this eruption of visceral rage at immigrants took place in Santiago, Chile, at the final campaign event for Johannes Kaiser, a radical libertarian gaining traction before Sunday’s presidential election in Chile, where rising fears of uncontrolled migration have pushed everyone in this race - even the governing coalition’s Communist candidate, Jeannette Jara - to the right.

Kaiser is “the only one with a firm hand, the only one who can pull us out of the United Nations, close the borders to all the Venezuelan criminals,” said Claudia Belmonte, 50, peering out from beneath the brim of a red cap emblazoned with Kaiser’s promise to “Make Chile Great Again.”

Such demands for a “mano dura,”



From left: Presidential candidates Franco Parisi of the Party of the People, Jeannette Jara of the Unidad por Chile coalition, Marco Enriquez-Ominami of the Progressive Party, Johannes Kaiser of the National Libertarian Party, Jose Antonio Kast of the Republican Party, Eduardo Artes of the Proletarian Action Party, Evelyn Matthei of the Chile Vamos coalition and Independent Harold Mayne-Nicholls gesture prior to a debate ahead of the November general elections, in Santiago, Chile on Nov 10. (AP)

a “firm hand,” against disorder have reshaped Chilean politics as transnational gangs like Tren de Aragua surged across borders from crisis-stricken Venezuela and elsewhere in recent years, importing kidnappings, car jackings and other violent crimes previously unseen in one of

Latin America’s safest nations.

“People in Chile never had problems with foreigners.

But you hear about a gang burying someone alive in your neighborhood and it changes you,” said Carlos Jadué, 49, a lemon vendor in central Santiago.

US 20th strike on boat kills four in Caribbean

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): The US military’s 20th strike on a boat accused of transporting drugs has killed four people in the Caribbean Sea, the US military said Friday, coming as the Trump administration escalates its campaign in South American waters.

The latest strike happened Monday, according to a social media post on Friday by US Southern Command, which oversees military operations in the Caribbean and Latin America. The latest strike brings the death toll from the attacks that began in September to 80, with the Mexican Navy suspending its search for a survivor of a strike in late October after four days.

Southern Command’s post on X shows a boat speeding over water before it’s engulfed in flames. The command said intelligence confirmed the vessel “was involved in illicit narcotics smuggling, transiting along a known narco-trafficking route, and carrying narcotics.”

Southern Command’s post marked a shift away from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth’s practice of typically announcing the attacks on social media, although he quickly reposted Southern Command’s statement.

Congo, Rwanda-backed M23 sign framework for peace deal

GOMA, Congo, Nov 15, (AP): Congo and Rwanda-backed rebel group M23 on Saturday signed a framework agreement for a peace deal to end decades-long fighting in eastern Congo, but tensions between the two sides remain.

The agreement, which was signed in Doha after mediation by Qatar, is not yet a final peace deal, but rather a framework outlining the protocols and timeline for future discussions, the head of the M23 delegation, **Benjamin Mbonimpa**, said in a video posted on X.

Mbonimpa said the framework agreement includes eight protocols that address the ‘root causes’ of the conflict and that will be discussed in the coming weeks. He did not give further details.

“There will be neither any change in the situation on the ground nor any activity whatsoever until the protocols are debated, negotiated and discussed one by one and a final peace agreement is reached,” the head of M23’s delegation said.

A key objective of the framework agreement is the joint management of the rebel-held areas by the Congolese government and M23, a spokesperson for the rebels, Lawrence Kanyuka, told The Associated Press.

Backed by neighboring Rwanda, M23 is the most prominent of more than 100 armed groups fighting for control in Congo’s mineral-rich east. With 7 million people displaced in Congo, the UN has called the conflict “one of the most protracted, complex, serious humanitarian crises on Earth.”

In a major escalation of the decade-long conflict, earlier this year the rebels seized Goma and Bukavu, two key cities in eastern Congo.

Qatar has hosted multiple rounds of talks since April between the Congolese government and the rebels, mainly to set preconditions for a peace deal and agree on confidence-building steps, but both sides still accuse each other of dragging out the conflict.



Mbonimpa

Pakistan arrests 4 militants in connection to suicide bombing at Islamabad court

ISLAMABAD, Nov 15, (AP): Pakistan on Friday announced the arrest of four militants over their alleged involvement in a deadly suicide bombing outside a district court in the capital, a breakthrough in an investigation launched after the attack killed 12 people and wounded 28 others.

The men are suspected members of the outlawed Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan, or TTP, which is a separate group but closely allied to the Afghanistan Taliban. One of the suspects, Sajid Ullah, is believed to have handled the bomb used in the suicide attack on the court in Islamabad on Tuesday, the government said in a post on social media platform X.

The men were detained in a joint operation by the nation’s Intelligence Bureau and Counter-Terrorism Department, the government said.

The arrests came a day after Pakistan’s Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Afghan nationals carried out suicide bombings in Islamabad and north-west Pakistan earlier this week.

Ullah told investigators that Saeed-



Pakistan’s army soldiers and police officers stand guard while investigators examine a damaged car at the site of a suicide bombing outside the gates of a district court, in Islamabad, Pakistan on Nov 11. (AP)

ur-Rehman, a TTP commander, ordered the attack in Islamabad through the Telegram messaging app. The commander, also known as Daadullah, sent Ullah photographs of the suicide bomber, an Afghanistan citizen, with orders to receive him after he crossed the border into Pakistan from Afghanistan, where he was a resident of

Nangarhar province, the government said.

Ullah arranged accommodation for the attacker near Islamabad and later retrieved an explosive suicide vest from a graveyard in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Daadullah’s instructions before transporting the vest to the capital, the government said.

Kuwaiti oil price rises to \$65.53 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti oil price went up by USD 1.20 to USD 65.53 per barrel (pb) on Friday, compared to USD 64.33 pb the previous day, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corpora-

tion (KPC) on Saturday.

In global markets, the prices of the Brent crude rose by USD 1.38 to USD 64.39 pb, while West Texas Intermediate went up by USD 1.40 to reach USD 60.09 pb.

Business

Sukuk offers 6.25% annual yield, listed on London Stock Exchange

KFH issues \$850 million AT1 Mudaraba Sukuk

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) successfully issued a USD 850 million Additional Tier 1 Mudaraba Sukuk, the largest of its kind in Kuwait. The issuance saw exceptional demand, with subscription orders of over USD 1.7 billion (more than twice the issue size), and an annual yield of 6.25%.

KFH Chief Treasury Officer - Kuwait, Ahmad Eissa Al-Sumait said that: "This issuance supports KFH's strategy to strengthen its capital base and diversify funding, thereby enhancing its capacity to finance Kuwait's key developmental projects, particularly in infrastructure, energy and other vital sectors, and facilitating client expansion regionally and globally."

Al-Sumait:

- The largest issuance of its kind in Kuwait, over two times subscribed



Ahmad Al-Sumait

He explained that the perpetual Sukuk, with maturity after 5.5 years, will be listed on the London Stock Exchange.

He added that the successful, swift

completion of this transaction reflects strong regional and international investor confidence in KFH. It also underscores the Bank's solid financial position, robust credit profile, efficient

AlRukhayes:

- The issuance strengthens capital adequacy ratios, and strong demand reflects global investor confidence



Khalid AlRukhayes

operations, and market distinction as the largest bank in Kuwait's private sector by market cap and profitability.

Deputy General Manager of Global Markets Trading and Investments at

KFH, Khalid Saud AlRukhayes, said that demand, primarily from banks, financial institutions, and investment funds, came from investors across the Middle East, Europe, and Asia, which

reaffirms KFH's standing as a leading financial institution in the region.

He said that the issuance strengthens KFH's capital adequacy ratios, with strong demand from global investors underscoring confidence in the Bank's credit profile.

AlRukhayes emphasized the importance of Sukuk as an effective Islamic financing instrument crucial for enhancing global capital markets and supporting corporate growth and expansion into new sectors.

It serves to note that KFH Capital Investment Company acted as the global coordinator and joint bookrunner for the issuance, alongside major international financial institutions, solidifying its position as a key player in structuring Sukuk at the regional and global levels.

Other Voices

'Steady output, rising costs'

5 key figures driving Kuwait's fiscal policy

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

HERE are five important figures shaping Kuwait's current fiscal policy, which directly affect our daily lives through spending and expenses. Over the past 10 years, the country has faced ongoing annual budget deficits, which are increasing year by year due to population growth, rising daily expenditures, and continuing subsidies that meet everyday needs.



Al-Harami

Kuwait's budget for the current fiscal year, which began in April, is set at KD 25 billion, with projected revenues of KD 18 billion, resulting in a deficit of KD 7 billion by the end of March 2026. The budget assumes a crude oil price of \$68 per barrel, FOB Mina Al-Ahmadi. Currently, Kuwait's crude oil price is \$67 per barrel, which means the budget is short by \$1 per barrel today, with uncertainty about the price by the end of March next year.

Kuwait's crude oil production currently stands at 2.55 million barrels per day and is expected to remain at this level for the rest of the fiscal year. OPEC+ has decided not to make any adjustments or hold meetings during the first quarter of next year, leaving Kuwait's production quota unchanged at 2.55 million barrels per day.

This means that while crude oil production remains steady, other factors such as expenditures and oil prices may fluctuate. With projected deficits approaching KD 6 billion, the government may need to borrow from international banks. At the same time, Kuwait's overseas investments, valued at around \$1

trillion, provide a long-term financial safeguard.

The challenge we face is that our annual expenses continue to rise, and while our overseas investments provide long-term support, this alone is not a complete solution.

Finding new sources of income is essential, though difficult, if not nearly impossible, without investing internally. One promising avenue is the petrochemical industry. By utilizing our own resources to develop higher-value manufacturing, we can create jobs and generate new revenue for the country. We should move from being a provider of petrochemical raw materials to a full-scale manufacturing industry, creating new opportunities and sustainable growth.

Unfortunately, we are facing annual deficits, and oil prices are unlikely to improve significantly in the coming years, with forecasts remaining in the \$65-\$75 per barrel range.

This level is insufficient to close the budget gap or cover deficits for Kuwait or neighboring Gulf states, which typically require oil prices above \$90-\$100 per barrel. Other oil-producing countries, such as Iraq, Iran, North African nations, and Nigeria, face similar challenges.

It will take a long time for oil prices to recover, forcing oil-dependent countries to tighten budgets, reduce expenses, and urgently seek new sources of income. Relying solely on oil is no longer sustainable; financial stability must be coupled with diversification and cost management. Unless oil prices rise above \$90 per barrel, which appears unlikely, it is clear that immediate action is required. Oil alone can no longer meet our financial demands and can no longer be considered the country's savior.

□ □ □

Email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

Dialogue focuses on transparency, expertise exchange

OPEC-GECF hold high-level meeting in Vienna

VIENNA, Nov 15, (KUNA): The sixth high-level meeting of the OPEC-GECF Dialogue was held on November 14, 2025, at the OPEC headquarters in Vienna, Austria. The meeting was co-chaired by OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais and GECF Secretary General Mohammed Hamel. It marked a significant step in deepening cooperation between the world's leading oil and gas exporting organizations amid rising global energy demand and investment challenges.

Al-Ghais highlighted projections showing global natural gas consumption is expected to grow by 1.6% in

2025, with oil demand rising by 1.3 million barrels per day. He emphasized that hydrocarbons are expected to remain a dominant part of the global energy mix—accounting for over 50%—until 2050, despite the growth of renewable energy sources.

Hamel praised the strong partnership and ongoing institutional dialogue between OPEC and GECF as vital to ensuring energy market stability and fostering a favorable investment climate. The dialogue serves as a permanent platform to enhance transparency, exchange expertise, and support market stability in the face of challenges such as price volatility,

the energy transition to cleaner sources, and the need for substantial investments to secure future supplies.

Both organizations stressed that the energy transition must be fair and balanced, acknowledging that oil and gas will continue to play an essential role in the global economy alongside renewable and low-emission technologies for decades to come.

This meeting reaffirms the commitment of OPEC and GECF to collaborate on addressing the evolving dynamics of the global energy landscape while promoting long-term investment and sustainable energy security.



OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais

New services tailored for licensed E-Wallet providers

NBK launches 'FinTech Services' to boost Kuwait's digital economy and promote financial inclusion

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Building on its leadership in driving digital transformation across Kuwait's banking sector and the wider region, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the launch of its FinTech Services, an initiative aimed at accelerating Kuwait's digital transformation and strengthening its position as a regional leader in financial innovation.

The new services include Virtual IBAN (VIBANs) accompanied by secure Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), Bin Sponsorship as well as QR Code Cash Withdrawal. These services were specifically designed to meet the needs of fintech companies and digital businesses.

Introducing these services specifically designed for licensed E-Wallet providers, ensuring secure integration and delivery of fully compliant local digital payment solutions in line with the regulations of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). These services enable fintech companies to seamlessly connect with NBK's trusted infrastructure, allowing them to offer safe, efficient, and compliant financial services to a broader customer base promoting financial inclusion.

NBK's advanced infrastructure and the launch of these services provides an ideal environment for licensed fintech companies, enabling them to scale efficiently, accelerate innovation, and deliver cutting-edge financial solutions that serve both individuals and businesses. The Bank also contributes to unlocking new opportunities for national talent and local technologies, fostering sustainable development across the financial sector.



Mohamed Al-Othman

On this occasion, Mr. Mohamed Al-Othman, Chief Executive Officer, Consumer & Digital Banking at NBK Group, stated: "At NBK, we take great pride in being at the forefront of digital banking innovation in Kuwait. Our FinTech Services reflect our vision to redefine the financial landscape through innovation, collaboration, and technological leadership. By providing access to NBK's trusted digital infrastructure, we aim to accelerate Kuwait's digital transformation and reinforce its position as a leading regional hub for fintech innovation."

Al-Othman stressed that by unlocking access to NBK's cutting-edge infrastructure, the Bank is not only advancing financial inclusion but also igniting a new era of digital innovation—empowering entre-

Al-Othman:

- "Fintech Services" embody our vision to redefine the financial landscape through innovation
- The services are specifically tailored to meet the needs of fintech companies and digital businesses
- NBK seeks to strengthen Kuwait's position as a regional hub for fintech innovation

preneurs and fintech pioneers to deliver secure, intelligent solutions that shape the future of finance."

Al-Othman added that, as a pioneer in digital banking in Kuwait, NBK continues to invest in cutting-edge technologies, cybersecurity, and data-driven financial solutions. Over the years, the Bank has introduced a series of market-leading digital services, reaffirming its role in empowering Kuwait's financial sector and positioning itself as a trusted partner within the regional fintech ecosystem.

Furthermore, Al-Othman highlighted that NBK continues to lead next-generation banking technologies, setting new benchmarks in innovation, digital infrastructure, and customer experience across Kuwait and the wider region.

Results reflect solid operating performance from Kuwait-based businesses

Makhazen reports KD 147 mln EBITDA from continuing operations in Q3 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Makhazen (the new name for Agility Public Warehousing Company KSCP), a Kuwait-based infrastructure, logistics, and industrial services company, today announced its financial results for the third quarter of 2025.

This quarter marks the first full reporting period under the company's new brand name, and following the deconsolidation of Agility Global PLC.

Highlights:

■ Stable Operating Performance of Kuwait Businesses: Makhazen's core Kuwait-based businesses continued to perform solidly, delivering steady revenue and EBITDA.

■ Investments in Kuwait: Makhazen continues to advance its Kuwait-centric investment strategy, targeting more than KD 100 million in investments through 2030. During 2025, the company has invested a total of KD 22 million to support and grow its operations in Kuwait, across strategic logistics and warehousing infrastructure, metal and waste recycling, customs digitization and operations, and more.

Important Accounting Notes:

■ Deconsolidation of Agility Global: Following the distribution of in-kind dividends in July 2025, Makhazen's ownership stake in Agility Global decreased to 25%, resulting in its reclassification as an associate.

The quarter's results are presented on a deconsolidated basis and include one-off accounting impacts associated with this transition.

■ Korek Telecom Reclassification: The company reclassified its investment in Korek Telecom from "Investment in Associate" to "Claims Receivable" to reflect the updated assessment of the asset's recoverability. The net impact of this reclassification did not result in any gain or loss.

Financial Performance

Reported Figures from continuing opera-



Faisal Sultan, Chairman of Makhazen



tions:

For the quarter ending 30 September 2025, Makhazen reported net profit of KD 137.7 million. EBITDA stood at KD 146.7 million and revenue at KD 38.7 million.

These numbers include a one-off accounting adjustment of KD 138.3 million as a result of the deconsolidation of Agility Global and reporting it as an associate. This one-off non-cash gain partially offset the one off loss booked in Q2, 2025 arising from the change in accounting treatment of Agility Global. This also resulted in assets decreasing from KD 4.2 billion to KD 1.1 billion and equity from KD 1 billion to KD 607.8 million.

For the nine-month period, Makhazen re-

Financial Summary (Continuing Operations)						
(All figures in Million Kuwaiti Dinar)						
	Q3 2025	Q3 2024	Variance (%)	9M 2025	9M 2024	Variance (%)
Revenue	38.7	37.3	3%	112.6	110	2%
EBITDA	146.7	14.9	886%	179.0	45.5	294%
Net Profit	137.7	4.1	3,236%	155.7	16.9	823%
Adjusted						
EBITDA adjusted	21.7	14.9	46%	53.9	45.5	19%
Net Profit adjusted	12.7	4.1	207%	30.7	16.9	82%

corded revenue of KD 112.6 million, EBITDA of KD 179 million and net profit from continuing operations of KD 155.7 million over the nine-month period.

Adjusted Figures for Continuing Operations

Excluding the one-off gain recorded in Q3, underlying profitability remained strong.

For the third quarter ending 30 September 2025, Makhazen reported adjusted net profit of KD 12.7 million an increase of 207% compared to same period last year and adjusted EBITDA of KD 21.7 million an increase of 46%.

For the nine-month period, Makhazen achieved adjusted net profit of KD 30.7 million and EBITDA of KD 53.9 million representing an increase of 82% and 19% respectively.

Operational and Strategic Update: Advancing Kuwait-Focused Growth

Following its rebranding in November, Makhazen reaffirmed its mission to enable Kuwait's economic transformation by developing strate-

gic logistics, industrial, and commercial infrastructure.

South Village (S2) Development – Construction activities remain on schedule, with core structural works advancing and tenant engagement in progress. The project is positioned to become a key logistics and commercial hub serving Sabah Al-Ahmed City, one of Kuwait's most important new urban developments.

MRC Metal Reclamation Facility – Project preparation is progressing well following the award from KNPC and KIPIC. The facility is designed to recover valuable metals from spent catalysts, supporting Kuwait's industrial sustainability objectives.

GCS Expansion – Operational performance remains strong, with ongoing network optimization and service diversification.

Investments: Agility Global Business Update

As of September 30, 2025, Makhazen held a 25% stake in Agility Global. In the third quarter

of 2025, Agility Global delivered strong profitability growth with stable margins, supported primarily by solid performance at Menzies and Agility Logistics Parks. Tristar remained steady despite ongoing market challenges in its maritime segment.

Agility Global reported Q3 2025 net earnings of \$52 million. EBIT increased 21.1% to \$126.7 million, EBITDA rose 19% to \$214.7 million, and revenue grew 6.7% to \$1.3 billion. The company's balance sheet remained robust, with total assets of \$12.2 billion and shareholders' equity of \$5 billion.

Faisal Sultan, Chairman of Makhazen, said:

"This quarter marks a new chapter for Makhazen as we complete our transition to becoming a focused, Kuwait-based infrastructure, logistics and industrial services company. Our core operations in Kuwait are performing resiliently, supported by disciplined execution and a growing pipeline of projects that support national economic priorities. We are confident that Makhazen's Kuwait-centred strategy provides a strong foundation for sustainable long-term growth and value creation for our shareholders."

About Makhazen

Makhazen, the new name for Agility Public Warehousing Company KSCP, builds the infrastructure that powers Kuwait's economic and trade ambitions. Makhazen develops and operates strategic infrastructure and solutions that accelerate growth, drive trade, and secure Kuwait's place on the global stage. Our businesses span industrial real estate, customs digitization, and waste management and recycling and are focused on supporting Kuwait's national economic priorities. Makhazen owns a 25% stake in Agility Global, a multi-business owner and operator and investor. Makhazen is publicly listed in Kuwait and Dubai.

The assembly was held Saturday with an attendance quorum of 83.567%

Burgan Bank EGA approves increasing its authorized capital to KD 600 mln



From left: Mr. Abdullah Alosta, Deputy General Manager - Board Secretariat & Corporate Governance, Mr. Faisal M. Sarkhou, Vice Chairman at Burgan Bank, Mr. Tony Daher, Group CEO at Burgan Bank, and Mr. Khalid Fahed Al Zouman, Chief Financial Officer at Burgan Bank.



Burgan Bank's shareholders and Executive Management during the EGM.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Burgan Bank (“the Bank”) held its 38th Extraordinary General Assembly on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the bank’s headquarters, with a 83.567% quorum.

The Extraordinary General Assembly approved the Board of Directors’ proposal to increase Burgan Bank’s authorized capital from KD 400 million (divided into 4 billion shares of 100 fils each), to KD 600 million, (divided into 6 billion shares of 100 fils each), representing an overall increase of KD 200 million (2 billion shares of 100 fils each). This resolution was adopted following the receipt of necessary approvals from the relevant regulatory authorities.

This strategic step reinforces Burgan Bank’s financial capacity and provides the flexibility required to support future growth plans, maintain robust capital adequacy ratios, and ensure continued compliance with regulatory

requirements.

The Extraordinary General Assembly also approved the external auditor’s report on this matter, as well as approved amending Article (6) of the Articles of Association and Article (5) of the Bank’s Bylaws to set the Company’s authorized capital at KD 600 million, divided into 6 billion shares with a par value of 100 fils per share.

On this occasion, Mr. Faisal M. Sarkhou, Vice Chairman at Burgan Bank, said: “The Extraordinary General Assembly’s approval of the increase in authorized capital marks a significant milestone in strengthening the Bank’s financial foundation and readiness for future growth. This amendment provides the Board of Directors with the necessary flexibility to manage the issued capital in a way that ensures maintaining capital adequacy levels in accordance with required regulatory standards. It also enhances the Bank’s readiness to keep pace with market

opportunities and achieve its expansion goals.”

Mr. Sarkhou added: “This decision reflects Burgan Bank’s continued commitment to strengthening its financial position and enhancing its operational flexibility. It also reflects the great confidence that shareholders have put forth in the Bank’s strategies and future plans. We are committed to investing in fortifying operational performance and developing innovative banking solutions that contribute to creating sustainable value for all stakeholders and support Burgan Bank’s position as a pillar of trust and growth in the local and regional markets.”

Furthermore, the Extraordinary General Assembly approved adding a share premium to the nominal value of any shares issued within the limits of the authorized capital, due to future increase in the Bank’s issued capital – apart from an increase for the purpose of distributing shares as a free bonus to shareholders. The Board of

Directors was also authorized to determine the value of the share premium to be collected with each increase in issued capital within the limits of the authorized capital, provided the calculation of the share premium takes into account the controls stipulated in the executive regulations of the corporate law, and after obtaining the approvals of relevant authorities.

Lastly, the Extraordinary General Assembly approved that any future increase in the Bank’s issued capital—within the limits of the authorized capital after its amendment—shall be carried out in accordance with the methods of capital subscription stipulated in the Companies Law, its Executive Regulations, and the related decisions. The Board of Directors was also authorized to determine the method, timing, and conditions of each future increase in the Bank’s issued capital within the limits of the authorized capital.

Committing to community health

ABK sponsors World Diabetes Day event at The Avenues Mall

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: As part of its corporate social responsibility, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) sponsored Amiri Hospital’s World Diabetes Day at The Avenues Mall. The initiative forms part of the Bank’s ongoing efforts to promote health awareness and contribute to the well-being of all segments of society.

This sponsorship underscores ABK’s commitment to strengthening its position as a leading financial institution in Kuwait by engaging with the community across various initiatives and fostering collaboration with entities from both the public and private sectors to generate meaningful social impact.

The event featured the participation of a team of doctors and specialists from Amiri Hospital who provided valuable insights on diabetes awareness, its effects on individuals and families, and the importance of early detection and preventive care. Visitors also received tailored health and nutritional guidance and underwent on-site medical tests, with the event drawing attendance from participants of all ages.

Commenting on the occasion, Sager Albenali, Chief Communications Officer at ABK, said, “Diabetes represents a significant health challenge both globally and regionally, with a growing number of individuals affected in Kuwait. Our sponsorship of Amiri Hospital’s awareness initiative reflects our firm commitment to raising awareness and empowering the community with the knowledge and support needed to prevent the disease which is an essential first step toward long-term health and well-being.”

Albenali emphasized that the event highlighted the importance of adopting a healthy and balanced lifestyle to prevent diabetes and maintain overall



Sager Albenali, Chief Communications Officer

health, noting that medical professionals were on hand to answer participants’ inquiries and provide guidance throughout the day.

He further noted that ABK has maintained a long-standing partnership with Amiri Hospital, supporting several of its conferences and awareness initiatives over the years. These collaborations aim to raise awareness among all age groups about the latest medical developments and healthy practices that help prevent disease and promote well-being. Such efforts contribute to improving Kuwait’s ranking on global health development indicators.

In conclusion, Albenali expressed pride in ABK’s various sponsorships and initiatives, carried out in partnership with key stakeholders across health, education, sports, and public awareness sectors. He affirmed the Bank’s ongoing commitment to participating in more events across Kuwait, further enhancing its impact and success within the community.

Markaz subsidiary Marmore launches new office in Abu Dhabi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” announced the launch of the new office of its subsidiary, Marmore MENA Intelligence, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The expansion reflects Markaz’s ongoing efforts to strengthen its regional presence and provide consulting and research services to clients across the GCC.

Building on Marmore’s decade-long track record in economic and industry research, the new Abu Dhabi office will enable closer engagement with clients, partners, and stakeholders, while supporting the growing demand for strategic consulting and business intelligence in the region. The UAE’s position as a dynamic financial and business hub makes it an ideal base for Marmore to deepen its role as a trusted advisor to regional institutions, family offices, and investors.

Commenting on the expansion, Mr. Abdullatif W. Al-Nusif, Managing Director, Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz, and Chairman of Marmore, said: “The establishment of Marmore’s new branch in Abu Dhabi is a significant milestone in our journey to strengthen regional connectivity and deliver exceptional value to our clients. At Markaz, we have always believed that informed decisions are the foundation of sustainable success. By expanding Marmore’s presence in one of the region’s most dynamic financial hubs, we are ensuring that investors and institutions have direct access to high-quality research and tailored insights that address their unique needs. This initiative



Mr. Abdullatif W. Al-Nusif, Managing Director, Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz, and Chairman of Marmore

reflects our unwavering commitment to transparency, innovation, and partnership, enabling our clients to navigate complexity with confidence and seize opportunities that drive long-term growth.”

M.R. Raghu, Economic Advisor to “Markaz” and CEO of Marmore MENA Intelligence, said: “We are proud to expand Marmore’s footprint in the UAE, a hub that reflects the region’s strategic position and economic growth. As geopolitical tensions and shifting trade dynamics reshape the global business landscape, the need for strategic consultancy has never been greater. At Marmore MENA Consulting and Research Studies, we specialize in delivering actionable business intelligence through well-researched data insights, empowering our clients to navigate volatility, assess risks, and uncover new growth opportunities. This expansion reinforces our commitment



M.R. Raghu, Economic Advisor to 'Markaz' and CEO of Marmore MENA Intelligence

to being a trusted partner for institutions, investors, and family offices across the GCC, helping them make informed decisions and achieve sustainable success.”

Mr. Raghu will lead the firm’s operations in Abu Dhabi. With over 38 years of experience in macroeconomic research, asset management, investment strategy, and energy markets, Mr. Raghu brings extensive expertise and insights to Marmore’s expanding operations. He is also the author of “Blueprint for Billions – Mastering India’s Equity Market.”

Mr. Sankara Narayanan, Vice President, Consulting & Advisory Services, will oversee business development and client management activities in the UAE. With more than 12 years of consulting experience across GCC, he has led numerous projects for banks, asset management firms, conglomerates, venture capital companies, and family offices.



Mr. Sankara Narayanan, Vice President, Consulting & Advisory Services

The UAE has rapidly emerged as a global hub for family offices and wealth management, supported by forward-looking regulations and tax efficiency. Marmore aims to play a pivotal role in supporting this growth through comprehensive consulting and research services that empower clients to achieve effective outcomes.

Looking ahead, Marmore intends to leverage its Abu Dhabi base to further expand its GCC presence and reinforce its mission to provide high quality research and consulting services tailored to the evolving needs of the MENA region.

Established in 2010, Marmore is a subsidiary of Markaz providing in-depth research and analyses on GCC economies, markets and companies. The services of Marmore Mena Intelligence can be divided into three divisions, namely Consulting, Tailored/Customized Research, and Published Research.

New season kicked off, joined by Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al Mutairi

Zain’s World opens its doors in K-Land for the third consecutive year

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Zain Kuwait announced the launch of the new season of K-Land for the third consecutive year as part of its ongoing strategic partnership with the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC). The project continues to be one of the top family and entertainment destinations in Kuwait during the winter and spring seasons on the seafloor of the Arabian Gulf.

Zain took part in the opening ceremony, held under the patronage and in the presence of H.E. the Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Bedah Al Mutairi, Chairman of the Touristic Enterprises Company Sheikh Mohammed Salman Al-Sabah, TEC CEO Anwar Al-Hulailah, Zain Kuwait’s Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti, and co-founder of K-Land Fahad Al-Baghli, along with officials from partners and large crowds of families and excited young people.

Zain’s continued support for this project aligns with its strategy to encourage national, youth-led ventures that add qualitative value to the national economy, enhance Kuwait’s



Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi with Sheikh Mohammed Salman Al-Sabah, Anwar Al-Hulailah, Waleed Al-Khashti, and Fahad Al-Baghli.

position on the tourism and entertainment map, and at the same time keep pace with government directions to develop the tourism sector through innovative platforms such as Visit Kuwait and public-private partnerships.

The new season features the

Zain’s World indoor play area, covering nearly 2,000 square meters with all-inclusive tickets for all games. It also offers an outdoor area open to cafés, restaurants, and retail outlets with free entry, hosting a number of youth-led local brands, in addition to outdoor

seating areas overlooking the sea. This provides a fully integrated entertainment experience for individuals and families in a distinctive winter atmosphere.

The company is preparing to organize numerous events and activities inside the Zain’s World area in



Al-Mutairi and Al-Khashti during the opening of Zain's World.

conjunction with several upcoming seasons such as winter and spring, the national celebrations, and Gergaan during the Holy Month of Ramadan, among others, so that it can continuously share joy with all segments of the community.

Zain continues to participate in

major social and entertainment events, adding its unique touch and delivering wonderful experiences for families and the wider community. This reflects the values of its brand, supports national identity, and at the same time opens more opportunities for entrepreneurs and SMEs in the entertainment, tourism, and services sectors.

The K-Land success story is an extension of the vision of a creative Kuwaiti team of national talents that drew inspiration from some of the best global experiences and presented them in a local style that reflects the richness of Kuwaiti culture and its beautiful traditions. The games and designs draw their identity from Kuwait’s most prominent landmarks, allowing families to enjoy an entertainment experience that carries the spirit of the place and the authentic Kuwaiti identity.

Zain invites everyone to visit K-Land and enjoy an experience that brings together games, activities, events, and various shows, in addition to the wide range of restaurants, cafés, and Kuwaiti youth projects participating in this new season.

Experts call Trump’s moves ‘gimmicky’ with limited effect on inflation

Trump faces challenges fulfilling inflation and high cost of living promises

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): President Donald Trump’s problems with fixing the high cost of living might be giving voters a feeling of déjà vu.

Just like the president who came before him, Trump is trying to sell the country on his plans to create factory jobs. The Republican wants to lower prescription drug costs, as did Democratic President Joe Biden. Both tried to shame companies for price increases.

Trump is even leaning on a message that echoes Biden’s claims in 2021 that elevated inflation is simply a “transitory” problem that will soon vanish.

“We’re going to be hitting 1.5% pretty soon,” Trump told reporters Monday. “It’s all coming down.”

Even as Trump keeps saying an economic boom is around the corner, there are signs that he has already exhausted voters’ patience as his campaign promises to fix inflation instantly have gone unfulfilled.

Voters in this month’s elections swung hard to Democrats over concerns about affordability. That has left Trump, who dismisses his weak polling on the economy as fake, floating half-formed ideas to ease financial pressures.

He is promising a \$2,000 rebate on his tariffs and said he may stretch the 30-year mortgage to 50 years to reduce the size of monthly payments. On Friday, Trump scrapped his tariffs on beef, coffee, tea, fruit juice, cocoa, spices, bananas, oranges, tomatoes and certain fertilizers, saying they “may, in some cases” have contributed to higher prices.

But those are largely “gimmicky” moves unlikely to move the needle much on inflation, said Bharat Ramamurti, a former deputy director of Biden’s National Economic Council.

“They’re in this very tough position where they’ve developed a reputation for not caring enough about costs, where the tools they have available to them are unlikely to be able to help people in the short term,” Ramamurti said.

Ramamurti said the Biden administration learned the hard way that voters are not appeased by a president saying his policies would ultimately cause their incomes to rise.

“That argument does not resonate,” he said. “Take it from me.”

Biden inherited an economy trying to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic, which had shut down schools and offices, causing mass layoffs and historic levels of government borrowing. In March 2021, he signed into law a \$1.9 trillion relief package. Critics said that was excessive and could cause prices to rise.

As the economy reopened, there were shortages of computer chips, kitchen appliances, autos and even furniture. Cargo ships were stuck waiting to dock at ports, creating supply chain issues. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in early 2022 pushed up energy and food costs, and consumer prices reached a four-decade high that June. The Federal Reserve raised its benchmark interest rates to cool inflation.



President Donald Trump holds a chart as he discusses the economy in the Oval Office of the White House, Aug. 7, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

Biden tried to convince Americans that the economy was strong. “Bidenomics is working,” Biden said in a 2023 speech. “Today, the U.S. has had the highest economic growth rate, leading the world economies since the pandemic.”

His arguments did little to sway voters as only 36% of U.S. adults in August 2023 approved of his handling of the economy, according to a poll at the time by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Republicans made the case that Biden’s policies made inflation worse. Democrats are using that same framing against Trump today.

Here is their argument: Trump’s tariffs are getting passed along to consumers in the form of higher prices; his cancellation of clean energy projects means there will be fewer new sources of electricity as utility bills climb; his mass deportations made it costlier for the immigrant-heavy construction sector to build houses.

Biden administration officials note that Trump came into office with strong growth, a solid job market and inflation declining close to historic levels, only for him to reverse those trends.

“It’s striking how many Americans are aware of his trade policy and rightly blame the turnaround in prices on that erratic policy,” said Gene Sperling, a senior Biden adviser who also led the National Economic Council in the Obama and Clinton administrations.

“He is in a tough trap of his own doing - and it’s not likely to get easier,” Sperling said.

Consumer prices had been increasing at an annual rate of 2.3% in April when Trump launched his tariffs, and that rate accelerated to 3% in September.

The inflationary surge has been less than what voters endured under Biden, but the political fallout so far appears to be similar: 67% of U.S. adults disapprove of Trump’s performance, according to November polling data from AP-NORC.

NORC.

“In both instances, the president caused a non-trivial share of the inflation,” said Michael Strain, director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a center-right think tank. “I think President Biden didn’t take this concern seriously enough in his first few months in office and President Trump isn’t taking this concern seriously enough right now.”

Strain noted that the two presidents have even responded to the dilemma in “weirdly, eerily similar ways” by playing down inflation as a problem, pointing to other economic indicators and looking to address concerns by issuing government checks.

Trump officials have made the case that their mix of income tax cuts, foreign investment frameworks tied to tariffs and changes in enforcing regulations will lead to more factories and jobs. All of that, they say, could increase the supply of goods and services and reduce the forces driving inflation.

“The policies that we’re pursuing right now are increasing supply,” Kevin Hassett, director of Trump’s National Economic Council, told the Economic Club of Washington on Wednesday.

The Fed has cut its benchmark interest rates, which could increase the supply of money in the economy for investment. But the central bank has done so because of a weakening job market despite inflation being above its 2% target, and there are concerns that rate cuts of the size Trump wants could fuel more inflation.

It takes time for consumer sentiment to improve after the inflation rate drops, according to research done by Ryan Cummings, an economist who worked on Biden’s Council of Economic Advisers.

His read of the University of Michigan’s index of consumer sentiment is that the effects of the postpandemic rise in inflation are no longer a driving factor. These days, voters are frustrated because Trump had primed them to believe he could lower grocery prices and other expenses, but has failed to deliver.

“When it comes to structural affordability issues - housing, child care, education, and health care - Trump has pushed in the wrong direction in each one,” said Cummings, who is now chief of staff at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research.

He said Trump’s best chance of beating inflation now might be “if he gets a very lucky break on commodity prices” through a bumper harvest worldwide and oil production continuing to run ahead of demand.

For now, Trump has decided to continue to rely on attacking Biden for anything that has gone wrong in the economy, as he did on Monday in an interview with Fox News’ “The Ingraham Angle.”

“The problem was that Biden did this,” Trump said.

Trump scraps tariffs on beef, coffee, tropical fruits & more

Move aims to ease consumer price pressures

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): President Donald Trump announced Friday that he was scrapping U.S. tariffs on beef, coffee, tropical fruits and a broad swath of other commodities - a dramatic move that comes amid mounting pressure on his administration to better combat high consumer prices.

Trump has built his second term around imposing steep levies on goods imported into the U.S. in hopes of encouraging domestic production and lifting the U.S. economy. His abrupt retreat from his signature tariff policy on so many staples key to the American diet is significant, and it comes after voters in off-year elections this month cited economic concerns as their top issue, resulting in big wins for Democrats in Virginia, New Jersey and other key races around the country.

“We just did a little bit of a rollback on some foods like coffee,” Trump said aboard Air Force One as he flew to Florida hours after the tariff announcement was made.

Pressed on his tariffs helping to increase consumer prices, Trump acknowledged, “I say they may, in some cases” have that effect.

“But to a large extent they’ve been borne by other countries,” the president added.

Meanwhile, inflation - despite Trump’s pronouncements that it has vanished since he took office in January - remains elevated, further increasing pressure on U.S. consumers.

The Trump administration has insisted that its tariffs had helped fill government coffers and weren’t a major factor in higher prices at grocery stores around the country. But Democrats were quick to

paint Friday’s move as an acknowledgement that Trump’s policies were hurting American pocket-books.

“President Trump is finally admitting what we always knew: his tariffs are raising prices for the American people,” Virginia Democratic Rep. Don Beyer said in a statement. “After getting drubbed in recent elections because of voters’ fury that Trump has broken his promises to fix inflation, the White House is trying to cast this tariff retreat as a ‘pivot to affordability.’”

Trump slapped tariffs on most countries around the globe in April. He and his administration still say that tariffs don’t increase consumer prices, despite economic evidence to the contrary.

Record-high beef prices have been a particular concern, and Trump had said he intended to take action to try and lower them. Trump’s tariffs on Brazil, a major beef exporter, had been a factor.

Trump signed an executive order that also removes tariffs on tea, fruit juice, cocoa, spices, bananas, oranges, tomatoes and certain fertilizers. Some of the products covered aren’t produced in the United States, meaning that tariffs meant to spur domestic production had little effect. But reducing the tariffs will still likely mean lower prices for U.S. consumers.

The Food Industry Association, which represents retailers, producers and a variety of related industry firms and services, applauded Trump’s move to provide “swift tariff relief,” noting that import U.S. taxes “are an important factor” in a “complex mix” of supply chain issues.

“President Trump’s proclamation to reduce tariffs on a substantial volume of food imports is a critical step ensuring continued adequate supply at prices consumers can afford,” the association said in a statement.

In explaining the tariff reductions, the White House said Friday that some of the original levies

Trump relished imposing on nearly every country on earth months ago were actually no longer necessary given the trade agreements he’d since hammered out with key U.S. trading partners.

Indeed, Friday’s announcement follows the Trump administration having reached framework agreements with Ecuador, Guatemala, El Salvador and Argentina meant to increase the ability of U.S. firms to sell industrial and agricultural products in these countries, while also potentially easing tariffs on agricultural products produced there.

During an interview that aired earlier in the week with Laura Ingraham of Fox News Channel, Trump hinted that lower tariffs might be coming.

“Coffee, we’re going to lower some tariffs,” the president said then. “We’re going to have some coffee come in.”

Despite pulling back on so many tariffs, Trump used his comments aboard Air Force One on Friday night to repeat his past assertions that his administration would use revenue the federal government has collected from import levies to fund \$2,000 checks for many Americans.

The president suggested such checks could be issued in 2026, but was vague on timing, saying only, “Sometime during the year.” Trump, however, also said federal tariff revenue might be used to pay down national debt - raising questions about how much federal funding would be needed to do both.

Trump rejected suggestions that attempting direct payments to Americans could exacerbate inflation concerns - even as he suggested that similar checks offered during the coronavirus pandemic, and by previous administrations to stimulate the economy, had that very effect.

“This is money earned as opposed to money that was made up,” Trump said. “Everybody but the rich will get this. That’s not made up. That’s real money. That comes from other countries.”

Swiss pledges \$200 bln investment US agrees to cut tariffs on Swiss goods to 15%

GENEVA, Nov 15, (AP): Switzerland announced plans on Friday to invest \$200 billion in the United States through 2028 as it finalized a hard-wrought deal to slash U.S. tariffs on Swiss goods.

Economy Minister Guy Parmelin said the Trump administration has agreed to cut U.S. tariffs on most Swiss goods to 15% - the same level imposed on the neighboring European Union - from 39%, the highest rate on any Western country.

Speaking to reporters in Bern, the capital, Parmelin hailed the deal as a result of “new momentum generated by the commitment of the American president” and said it would take “several weeks” to take effect.

The White House confirmed the deal Friday, adding that companies from Switzerland and tiny Liechtenstein would invest \$67 billion of the \$200 billion in the United States next year.

“These investments will create thousands of well-paying American jobs across all 50 states in a number of sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, machinery, medical devices, aerospace, construction, advanced manufacturing, gold manufacturing, and energy infrastructure,” said a White House fact sheet.

The U.S. consistently runs a deficit - more than \$38 billion last year - in the trade of goods with Switzerland. The White House said “this deal with Switzerland will put us on a path to eliminate that deficit by 2028.”

Earlier, U.S. Trade Representative Jameson Greer said on CNBC that Switzerland would move manufacturing of some pharmaceuticals, gold smelting and railway equipment to the United States.

The reduction in U.S. tariffs comes

months after the Trump administration raised tariffs on Swiss goods from an initial 31% announced in April - part of the “Liberation Day” tariffs on scores of countries - to 39% on July 31.

That sparked a quick and sustained push from Switzerland’s government and business leaders to bring them down - efforts that had been fruitless until Friday’s announcement.

Switzerland is already a top foreign investor in the U.S. The \$200 billion in Swiss investment will involve the private sector - what Parmelin called “Team Switzerland” cooperating with government. It wasn’t immediately clear whether that was all new investment: Pharma giant Roche announced a \$50 billion investment as the tariff tensions emerged.

Some Swiss goods, notably in the pharmaceuticals, chemicals, gold and semiconductor industries, had already been exempted from the 39% rate, which had threatened to put Swiss goods at a massive disadvantage to competitors from the EU and beyond.

The U.S. will also suspend extra tariffs on other goods deemed “important” such as in aviation, but those on other sectors such as industrial machinery, watches, coffee and cheese will continue, Parmelin said. Switzerland will continue to try to lower the tariffs on those, he said.

The deal comes after a month-long diplomatic courtship by top Swiss officials, who deployed high-level teams to Washington, including missions led by President Karin Keller-Sutter and Parmelin.

Last week, a half-dozen top executives from leading Swiss companies including Rolex, gold refining company MKS Pamp, and luxury group Richemont met with Trump at the Oval Office to press the Swiss case.

Experts say China’s commitments may be diplomatic gestures rather than firm orders

USDA data casts doubt on China’s soybean purchase promises touted by Trump

OMAHA, Nov 15, (AP): New data the Agriculture Department released Friday created serious doubts about whether China will really buy millions of bushels of American soybeans like the Trump administration touted last month after a high-stakes meeting between President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

The USDA report released after the government reopened showed only two Chinese purchases of American soybeans since the summit in South Korea that totaled 332,000 metric tons.

That’s well short of the 12 million metric tons that Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said China agreed to purchase by January and nowhere near the 25 million metric tons she said they would buy in each of the next three years.

American farmers were hopeful that their biggest customer would resume buying their crops. But CoBank’s Tanner Ehmke, who is its lead economist for grains and oilseed, said there isn’t much incentive for China to buy from America right now because they have plenty of soybeans on hand that they have bought from Brazil and other South American countries this year, and the remaining tariffs ensure that U.S. soybeans remain more expensive than Brazilian beans.

“We are still not even close to what has been advertised from the U.S. in terms of what the agreement would have been,” Ehmke said.

Beijing has yet to confirm any detailed soybean purchase agreement but only that the two sides have reached “consensus” on expanding trade in farm products. Ehmke said that even if China did promise to buy American soybeans it may have only agreed to buy them if the price was attractive.

Trump said his team spoke with Chinese officials today and they as-

sured the White House they would be purchasing more soybeans, but he didn’t offer any details of how much.

“They’re in the process of doing not only a little bit but they’ll be doing a lot of soybean purchases,” he told reporters.

The Chinese tariff on American beans remains high at about 24%, despite a 10-percentage-point reduction following the summit.

Soybean prices fell sharply by 23 cents to \$11.24 per bushel Friday. Ehmke said “that’s the market being shocked by the lack of Chinese demand that was confirmed in USDA data today.” Prices are still higher than they were before the agreement when they were selling for \$10.60 per bushel, but the price may continue to drop unless there are significant new purchases.

Before the trade agreement, Trump had promised farmers would receive an aid package to help them survive the trade war with China. That was put on hold during the shutdown, and now it’s not clear whether the administration will offer farmers aid like Trump did in his first administration.

American farmers have been through this before after Trump’s first trade war with China. The trade agreement China signed with the United States in 2020 promised massive purchases of U.S. crops. But the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted trade between the two nations just as the agreement went into effect. In 2022, U.S. farm exports to China hit a record, but then fell.

Soybean prices are actually still a little higher than they were a year ago even without China’s normal purchases of roughly one-quarter of the U.S. crop. That’s because this year’s soybean crop is a little smaller while domestic demand remained strong with the continued growth in

biodiesel production.

But farmers are dealing with the soaring cost of fertilizer, seed, equipment and labor this year, and that is hurting their profits. The Kentucky farmer who is president of the American Soybean Association, Caleb Ragland, has said he worries that thousands of farmers could go out of business this year without significant Chinese purchases or government aid.

Ragland said he’s still optimistic that China will follow through on the purchases, but it’s hard to be confident in that right now with so few sales reported.

“We don’t want to assume they won’t. But it’s going to be a wonderful day when we actually deliver those soybeans, and when there’s my money in hand and so forth and the transaction’s complete,” Ragland said.

China is the world’s largest buyer of soybeans. China bought more than \$12.5 billion worth of the nearly \$24.5 billion worth of U.S. soybeans that were exported last year.

But China quit buying American soybeans this year after Trump imposed his tariffs and continued to shift more of their purchases over to South America. Even before the trade war, Brazilian beans accounted for more than 70% of China’s imports last year, while the U.S. share fell to 21%, World Bank data shows.

Ragland said that every vendor he talks to has told him they are increasing their prices for next year, which will continue to put pressure on farmers.

“We’re still looking at sharp losses and the red ink as we figure budgets for 26 is still very much in play,” he said.

New pair brings intense sparring and chemistry to Netflix's show

Danes and Rhys merge their parallel lives for 'The Beast in Me'

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 15, (AP): When prestige TV was first thought to be eclipsing movies, with quality scripts and meaty acting roles, two shows frequently banded about were "Homeland" with Claire Danes and "The Americans" starring Matthew Rhys and Keri Russell.

Danes acknowledges other parallels with Rhys.

"I mean, you married an American lady, I married a British gentleman," she said, referring to her marriage to Hugh Dancy and Rhys' partner, Russell.

"We've just been mirroring each other's lives," added Rhys, noting that they also had children around the same time.

Danes and Rhys had never worked together, until now. They co-star in the new cat-and-mouse limited series, "The Beast in Me," streaming on Netflix.

Danes plays Aggie, a prickly Pulitzer prize-winning author who has a looming deadline for her second book and a major case of writers' block. She's also grieving the death of her young son and dissolution of her marriage soon after. When Rhys' Nile, a real estate tycoon, moves in next door, his reputation precedes him because he was a suspect in his ex-wife's disappearance. Nile's aggressive dogs and loud security alarm unnerves Aggie. He and his new wife try to charm the neighbors but she's a tough nut to crack and returns their gift.

"You're not how I pictured you... at all," Nile says to Aggie in an early encounter. "On the page you're a lot more self-assured." Somehow he entices Aggie to have lunch and the ice between them begins to thaw.

"I think they're both crazy smart and rarely encounter another person



This image released by Netflix shows Claire Danes, (left), and Matthew Rhys in a scene from 'The Beast in Me.' (AP)

who thinks as quickly as they do. They're kind of hyper-perceptive.

And they kind of enjoy challenging each other," said Danes.

Although she doesn't completely trust Nile, Aggie proposes she write a book about him to get his narrative out there.

"He goes, 'Hang on, I can undo this kind of, you know, a societal scar that I've been living with, and I can possibly clear my name,'" said Rhys. "He foolishly thinks he could use Aggie in that sense."

"The Beast in Me" reunites Danes with some of the team who worked on "Homeland," including show-runner Howard Gordon.

When filming began, only three scripts had been written so no one really knew what was going to happen. "We were all discovering the evolution of the story in real time," said Danes, who adds her history with the production team made her "trust them implicitly." Even Rhys was OK with the unknown because it served his portrayal of Nile.

"In a way it's kind of liberating because then you're only playing the present and what's on the page in that moment," he said. "Sometimes I think when you do know the outcome, I have a tendency sometimes to kind of play into that or to do something ridiculous that flags it. So there's freedom in the fact that you don't know."

What they knew for sure was to lean into their character's unlikely chemistry.

"The pyrotechnics were pretty much contained within these sparring sessions. There is a little murder in there, but that's not where the tension really lies. They are hiding a lot from each other. They're playing each other but they also are forging a genuine intimacy and connection that unnerves both of them."

"I mean there's actually nothing I enjoy more than that," she said.

Blackout ends

Disney reaches new deal with YouTube TV

NEW YORK, Nov. 15, (AP): Disney and YouTube TV reached a new deal to bring channels like ABC and ESPN back to the Google-owned livestreaming platform Friday, ending a blackout for customers that dragged on for over two weeks.

"As part of the new deal, Disney's full suite of networks and stations - including ESPN and ABC - have already begun to be restored to YouTube TV subscribers," The Walt Disney Co. said in a statement.

YouTube TV also confirmed the return of Disney content on its platform, noting that subscribers should see channels back "over the course of the day." It apologized for the disruption and thanked customers for their "patience as we negotiated on their behalf."

Disney content went dark on YouTube TV the night of Oct. 30 after the two sides failed to reach a new licensing deal. In the days that followed, YouTube TV subscribers were left without Disney channels on the platform - notably disrupting coverage of top college football matchups and professional sports games, as well as news and entertainment programming.

Beyond ESPN and ABC, other Disney-owned content removed from YouTube TV during the impasse included channels like NatGeo, FX, Freeform, SEC Network, ACC Network and more.

Disney Entertainment Co-Chairmen Alan Bergman and Dana Walden and ESPN Chairman Jimmy Pitaro said Friday that they were "pleased that our networks have been restored in time for fans to enjoy the many great programming options this weekend, including college football."

Channels

When talks broke down last month, YouTube TV said Disney was proposing costly terms that would lead to higher prices for and fewer choices for its subscribers. It accused Disney of using the blackout as a negotiating tactic - claiming the maneuver also benefited Disney's own streaming products like Hulu + Live TV and Fubo.

Disney, meanwhile, said that YouTube TV had refused to pay fair rates for its channels. The California entertainment giant also accused Google of "using its market dominance to eliminate competition." And executives blasted the platform for pulling content "prior to the midnight expiration" of their deal in late October.

Both sides also publicly sparred over negotiations and content available leading up to Nov. 4 elections across the U.S.

By the time Disney's channels returned to YouTube TV, Google's streamer said it had "reached an agreement with Disney that preserves the value of our service for our subscribers and future flexibility in our offers." Disney executives maintained that the deal reflected the company's "continued commitment to delivering exceptional entertainment and evolving with how audiences choose to watch."

The two-week blackout is among a growing list of licensing disputes seen in the streaming world today, particularly as competition grows over hosting live content. And consumers often pay the price when company negotiations break down.

The showdown between Disney and YouTube was not their first. YouTube TV subscribers lost access to all Disney content after 2021 contract talks broke down, but that disruption lasted less than two days.

And YouTube TV has removed other content from its platform after expired agreements. Spanish-language broadcaster Univision has been unavailable on YouTube TV since Sept. 30, for example. Parent company TelevisaUnivision decied Google's move, saying it would strip "millions of Hispanic viewers of the Spanish-language news, sports, and entertainment they rely on every day," and called on the platform to reverse course.

YouTube TV's base subscription plan costs \$82.99 per month - which, beyond Disney content, currently includes live TV offerings from networks like NBC, CBS, Fox, PBS and more. The platform previously said it would give subscribers a \$20 credit its dispute with Disney lasted "an extended period of time" - which it reportedly allowed customers to start claiming on Nov. 9.

Disney also does out live TV through both traditional broadcasting and its own lineup of streaming platforms. ESPN launched its own streamer earlier this year, starting at \$29.99 a month. And other Disney content can be found on platforms like Hulu, Disney+ and Fubo. Disney currently allows people to bundle ESPN along with Hulu and Disney+ for \$35.99 a month - or \$29.99 a month for the first year.

Television



This image released by Apple TV shows Allison Janney in a scene from 'Palm Royale.' (AP)

Apple TV series mixes comedy, couture and power moves

'Palm Royale' serves style and sass

NEW YORK, Nov. 15, (AP): When Kristen Wiig steps out of a vintage Rolls-Royce in the opening scene of Season 2 of "Palm Royale," she's sporting a tall, yellow, fringed hat, gold platform sandals and sunny bell bottoms, with fabric petals that sway with every determined step. It's the first clue that the costumes on the female-driven comedy are taking center stage.

The Apple TV show made a splash in its first season with the starry cast, high production values and ubiquitous grasshopper cocktail. Wiig's character, Maxine, tries to break into Palm Beach high society in 1969 and bumps heads with co-stars Carol Burnett, Allison Janney, Leslie Bibb and Laura Dern. But also playing a starring role are the vintage designer frocks that reflect each character.

For Season 2, which premiered this week, Emmy-winning costume designer Alix Friedberg says she and her team coordinated "thousands" of looks that reflect the characters' jet-setting style. She says 50-60% of the brightly colored and graphic print costumes are original vintage designer pieces, sourced by shoppers and costume designers.

"The looks are so iconic. Sometimes Kristen will walk in in something, and it brings tears to my eyes," Kaia Gerber - who plays Mitzi - told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

If not original vintage, Friedberg's team builds the costumes, and if a character has to wear an outfit in multiple scenes or in big dance numbers, the team may create duplicates to preserve continuity. Friedberg says she was lucky to find so many vendors with vintage designer pieces in great condition.

"(Bibb's character) Dinah wears a few original Oscar de la Renta pieces that are really so perfect. Bill Blass was a big one, Oleg Cassini," Friedberg says. "There's a dress that (Janney's character) Evelyn wears that's this all emerald green jersey, it's an original Halston and it's so stunning on

her and it really does sort of evoke what's to come in the '70s."

Janney calls Friedberg "brilliant" and marveled at her talent at finding pieces that are like works of art. Some of her favorites were the characters' après-ski looks in the Swiss Alps - but she finds it hard to pick an ultimate favorite.

"All of them just make me feel divine. And the hair is just a masterpiece, and the makeup - it all goes together to just create Evelyn and I barely have to do anything," Janney says.

The costumes also help heighten the comedy. Friedberg says Evelyn's stoic and deadpan character elicits laughs with some of her over-the-top getups.

"She's delivering this dialogue, these lines with, like, seven wigs on top of her," Friedberg says. "The absurdity comes out really in how these women present themselves time and time again. ... It was just so much fun to get to laugh and wink at the audience."

Burnett called costume fittings on the show "great fun" and said they helped her find her character, the scheming Norma. "I work from the outside in. I have to know what I'm going to look like," she says.

Norma's signature turban started as a practical idea to help Burnett save time in hair and makeup. "The first time she put it on, we were both like, 'Oh, that's really so fabulous,' and every time she came out as Norma without the turban, I really missed it," Friedberg says. "Each time we built her a dress, we always had to sort of think about what the turban would be, and then it started to switch, and we started designing the turbans before the dress!"

The costumes also help set the tone for the female empowerment theme that permeates this season. "Evelyn wore a lot more pants - which seems ridiculous to say today - but back then that was a real power move," Friedberg says.

Bibb had ideas to show how Dinah evolves from her trophy wife persona. "I knew this season was about her find-

ing sort of her own wealth without a man ... and what that looked like. I always have been obsessed with Sharon Stone in 'Casino,'" Bibb says - and so they "stole" a bit of that look. "We really have Dinah going into pantsuits and just a different sense of her and she's really becoming her most modern self."

Friedberg conveyed the privilege and simplicity of the rich men in the series through clothing as well. Josh Lucas plays Douglas, who suffers some disappointments this season, reflected in his costumes.

"What if we approach Douglas where he's always been dressed by women in his life? He's always been dressed by someone else. He's never shopped," Lucas says he posed to Friedberg (who happens to be his sister-in-law in real life). "And for the first time, (his wife's) character is not doing that, so he only has three hole-filled Hawaiian shirts."

He's in fact the rare character who repeats outfits, Friedberg notes. "You can kind of see them, as the series goes along, getting a little bit more and more threadbare," she says.

Gerber's character gets a major makeover this season after coming into money. The actor gushed about Friedberg's intentional designs as Mitzi finds her "womanhood and her power."

"It was so fun to be able to be wearing these expensive gowns and jewelry and the hair and the makeup, and how that really sort of parallels Mitzi's inner journey as well," she says.

The costumes may be eye candy, but Friedberg says each look also carries deeper meaning.

"Maxine wears this dress that was an original Oscar de la Renta dress," Friedberg says. "It's very much something that Norma would wear, and it is saying to the audience without saying to the audience that she's arrived, it's her time, it's time for her to rule."

Variety

OAKLAND, Calif.: Oakland's celebrated former football coach **John Beam**, who was featured in the Netflix series "Last Chance U" that showcased his success with players others wouldn't gamble on, died Friday, a day after being shot on the college campus where he worked.

Police arrested the 27-year-old suspect Friday. Authorities said he knew the 66-year-old coach, and it was a targeted attack.

The shooting at Laney College rattled Oakland, with scores holding a vigil outside the hospital before he died. He was remembered as someone who would help anyone.

Mayor Barbara Lee described Beam as a "giant" in the city who mentored thousands of young people, including her own



Beam

nephew, and "gave Oakland's youth their best chance" at success.

"For over 40 years, he has shaped leaders on and off the field, and our community is shaken alongside his family," Lee said.

Authorities credited technology, specifically cameras at the college campus, private residences and on public transit, in tracking the suspect identified as Cedric Irving Jr. (AP)

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WASHINGTON: The White House Historical Association has reclaimed a series of sketches by American painter and illustrator Norman Rockwell with a whopping winning bid of \$5.8 million at auction on Friday.

The four 1940s-era sketches titled "So You Want to See the President!" were displayed in the West Wing for years, but were removed in 2022 after a family dispute over who owned them.

The sketches show a variety of people - journalists, military officers and even a Miss America Pageant winner and her publicist - seated on plush-looking red chairs as they waited to meet President Franklin D. Roosevelt. They were put up for sale by a grandson of the White House official who had

received them as a gift from Rockwell.

The association will share more "about the future of this significant and historic work," its president, Stewart McLaurin, said in a statement.

"We look forward to utilizing this acquisition to teach White House history for generations to come," he said. (AP)

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BAMAKO, Mali: Mali's ruling junta suspended two French television channels on Friday for broadcasting alleged false information on a fuel blockade imposed by the al-Qaida linked military group Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM).

Mali's High Authority for Communication said in a letter to image distributors in Mali dated Nov. 13 and made public on Friday that it suspended TF1 and LCI, claiming the two private TV channels made "unverified claims and falsehoods" in a broadcast on Nov. 9.

"LCI and TF1 television services have been removed from your packages until further notice," reads the document.

The letter said the regulatory body disputes three passages of the two channels' broadcast: "the junta has banned the sale

of fuel," "(the regions of) Kayes and Nioro are completely under blockade," and "the terrorists are now close to bringing down the capital (Bamako)." (AP)

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NEW YORK: Sarah Jessica Parker is going from someone who gives out prizes to getting one.

The Emmy- and Screen Actors Guild Award-winner - and judge for the 2025 Booker Prize - was named Thursday as the recipient of the Carol Burnett Award for her "outstanding contributions to television on or off screen."

"Sarah Jessica Parker's career embodies the very spirit of the Carol Burnett Award," said Helen Hoehne, president of the Golden Globes, in a statement. "Her trailblazing impact on television and her dedication to storytelling across stage and screen have left an indelible mark on popular culture. We are honored to celebrate her extraordinary contributions to entertainment."

The award will be presented during a new annual prime-time special, "Golden Eve," honoring recipients of both the Carol Burnett Award and the Cecil B. DeMille Award, which this year goes to Helen Mirren. That special will air Jan. 8 on CBS and stream on Paramount+. (AP)

Family vault unlocks untold stories of Queen of Tejano

A new Netflix docu offers an intimate portrait of Selena

NEW YORK, Nov 15, (AP): For many, the name Selena Quintanilla-Pérez is the stuff of mythology. The Queen of Tejano broke barriers for women in Latin music genres of all kinds; it's easy to see the through line between her contributions to the current success of regional Mexicana music. But it's been 30 years since the singer known simply as Selena was killed at 23 - and those who love her are working hard to ensure her legacy endures for decades to come.

One such example: "Selena Y Los Dinos: A Family's Legacy," a documentary from director Isabel Castro and executive produced by Selena's siblings, Suzette Quintanilla and AB Quintanilla III. It hits Netflix on Monday.

"I do understand that what Selena means so many years later, to the Latino world," Suzette Quintanilla says. "Who better than to tell our story other than us?"

The Quintanilla family, ready to share with the world never-before-seen archival material, reached out to Castro following the release of her 2022 film "Mija," sensing she might be the correct person to tell Selena's story.

"Suzette, we met, we kind of immediately hit it off," says Castro. "We are both older sisters."

The feeling was mutual. "She was a fan," says Suzette Quintanilla. "She totally understood the struggle between being Mexican American and embracing both cultures."



This image released by Netflix shows Selena in a scene from the documentary 'Selena Y Los Dinos: A Family's Legacy.' (AP)

Then the work began: years of combing through and cataloging "floor-to-ceiling, like, DVDs, VHSes, canisters of raw film, flash drives," says Castro. There were duplicates, too, which required identifying the best quality footage - all the while "trying to turn a myth into a personal story," she said.

"We call it 'the vault,'" Suzette Quintanilla says of their collection. "We have everything that you could possibly think of."

Across the footage, Selena the sister, daughter and person emerged - not just the superstar face of her family's band, Los Dinos. The moments that meant the most to Castro were the most intimate: Suzette holding a camcorder and filming her sister, a handwritten letter Selena gave to her husband Chris Pérez and scenes from inside their first tour bus, the infamous Big Bertha.

Selena's mother, Marcella Quintanilla, had not done an interview about her late daughter since her death - and even before, remained largely behind the scenes. For the documentary, she opened up, sharing photo albums and reflecting publicly for the first time.

"I love my mom in the documentary," Suzette Quintanilla beams.

Selena "became representative of something so vital for me about, like, what it means to be a Latina in this country," says Castro. "Seeing the home video reminded me that she was just

a young girl who died when she was 23."

For those who grew up with the music of Selena as a cultural touchstone, it might seem like her story is well-mined: There is the now-classic 1997 biopic "Selena," which helped launch the career of its lead Jennifer Lopez, a 2020 Netflix series and much more. "Selena Y Los Dinos" nods to that legacy, but appeals to both the loyal fan and the viewer who might only know her name.

"The most challenging part of the editing process was trying to thread the needle between making this film for her built in audience - which is vast and extremely dedicated and extremely knowledgeable - and new audiences around the world and also new generations," says Castro.

For those not well-versed in her music, Selena's public-facing story often focuses on the details surrounding her death. (Selena was killed by her fan club's president, Yolanda Saldívar, in 1995. Saldívar, serving a life sentence in Texas, was denied parole in March.) "Selena Y Los Dinos" doesn't spend much time at all with the end of her extraordinary life.

"We do not focus on the murder," says Castro, who says her film is about a Latina's joy and power. "I'm kind of fed up with this expectation that Latino stories are often centered around victimhood."

Music



Bad Bunny accepts the award for Album of the Year during the 2025 Latin Grammys on Thursday, Nov. 13, at MGM Grand in Las Vegas. (AP)



Gloria Estefan performs during the 2025 Latin Grammys. (AP)

Puerto Rican superstar wins album of the year

Bad Bunny dominates 2025 Latin Grammys



Karol G arrives at the 2025 Latin Grammys. (AP)



Isabel Pérez Dobarro arrives at 2025 Latin Grammys. (AP)



Adamari López poses on the red carpet at the 2025 Latin Grammys. (AP)



Marilyna Bertoldi poses on the red carpet at the Latin Grammys. (AP)

LAS VEGAS, Nov 15, (AP): It should come as a shock to no one: The 2025 Latin Grammy Awards were all about Bad Bunny. The Puerto Rican superstar won album of the year for his landmark release "Debí Tirar Más Fotos." After thanking his family and all those who worked on the album, he ended his speech with "Puerto Rico, I love you, thank you."

Those are powerful words honoring a record that doubles as a love letter for his island.

"I want to dedicate this award to all the children and young people of Latin America, especially those of Puerto Rico. Never stop dreaming, never stop being yourselves, no matter where you come from. Never forget where you come from, but never forget where you are going," he said. "There are many ways to show patriotism and defend our land: we choose music."

The artist born Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio was destined to dominate from the jump. He also won the first award of the night, for música urbana album. Half-way through the show, the singer found himself back on stage accepting the música urbana song trophy for "DTMF." "I never practice my speeches," he said in Spanish. And then he showed up for a third time: to perform "Weltita" with Chuvi.

He wasn't the only one with reason to celebrate: Song of the year went to Karol G, Andrés Jael Correa Ríos and Edgar Barrera for "Si Antes Te Hubiera Conocido." And Alejandro Sanz took home record of the year for "¿Y Ahora Qué?"

Live from Sin City, the 26th annual Latin Grammys were both energetic and eclectic. Take Raphael, the 2025 Person of the Year, who launched into an emotive rendition of "Qué Sabe Nadie" and "Mi Gran Noche," inviting the crowd to sing along.

Legend

That was after Santana kicked things off - specifically, Maluma singing Santana's 1970 hit "Oye Como Va" with the guitar legend himself.

It was just the beginning of a memorable medley, talents of today celebrating Santana - Christian Nodal joining in for "Corazón Espinoza" and Grupo Frontera for their 2025 collaboration with the virtuosic musician, "Me Retiro."

Performances hit hard and fast: Aitana brought her dreamy electro-pop, Sanz delivered a medley of "El Vino De Tu Boca" and "Las Guapas," Rauw Alejandro channeled Puerto Rico in Vegas with "Khé?," the bachata "Silencio," "Falsedad" and "Carita Linda."



Amanda Ibanez winner of the award for best pop song for 'Día del Amigo.' (AP)



Paloma Morphy poses with best new artist award. (AP)



Shirel poses with best rock song award. (AP)



Manuel Lorente Freire, (left), and Luis Miguel Gómez Castaño, winners of the award for record of the year. (AP)



Federico Vindver poses with the awards for best pop song, best production of the year and best alternative song. (AP)

Then: Danny Lux, Kakalo and Ivan Cornejo brought contemporary Mexicana sounds. Pepe Aguilar followed, with his life-affirming mariachi - "El Cihualteco" into "El Fuereño."

Elena Rose slowed things down with "Me Lo Merezco." Karol G and the legendary Mexican singer Marco Antonio Solís duetted the romantic ballad "Coleccionando Heridas."

Two of the biggest groups in regional Mexican music - Grupo Frontera and Fuerza Regida - launched into their joint hit, "Me Jalo," before the latter took over for "Marlboro Rojo." That's a cut from their record-breaking 2025 album "111xpantia." Carin León's lovely raspy vocal tone carried throughout "Ahí Estabas Tú"; then he was joined by Kacey Musgraves for "Lost in Translation." Not long after, León took home the trophy in competitive contemporary Mexican album category for "Palabra De To's (Seca)."

Aspiring

Morat brought the pop-rock with "Faltas Tú" and Ca7riel and Paco Amoroso brought a kind of outsider, artistic spirit. Joaquina delivered a full-bodied "Quise Quererte." Any aspiring artists watching would be wise to take a page out of the Brazilian singer Liniker's book; "Negona Dos Olhos Terríveis" was one of the night's most joyful. The same, of course, should be said about norteño band Los Tigres del Norte.

The coveted best new artist trophy was handed out to Paloma Morphy.

Traditional tropical album went to Gloria Estefan for "Raíces." Not long afterward, she hit the stage for "La Vecina" and "Chiriqui Chirri," joined by Nathy Peluso for the latter.

Then ranchero/mariachi album went to Christian Nodal for "¿Quién + Como Yo?"

Most of the evening's awards were handed out during a pre-telvised Premiere Ceremony. That included: Bad Bunny's "Voy A Llevarte Pa Pr" winning for reggaeton performance. Argentinian duo Ca7riel and Paco Amoroso cleaned house then, too: taking home their first Latin Grammys for short and long form music video, alternative song, as well as alternative music album for "Papota," and pop song for "El día del amigo." That's five wins, making them the most awarded act at the 2025 show.

The three-hour award show aired live from Las Vegas' MGM Grand Garden Arena. It was hosted by the dynamic duo of Maluma and actor, producer and musician Roselyn Sánchez.

Variety

LOS ANGELES: The Screen Actors Guild Awards are now called the Actor Awards.

The show commonly known as the SAG Awards will officially become the Actor Awards presented by SAG-AFTRA in its next incarnation on March 1, when Netflix will stream the ceremony as it has since 2023.

The move was announced Friday to the board of SAG-AFTRA, the union that presents the awards and represents U.S. film and television actors among others.

The SAG Awards began in 1995 to annually recognize performances in movies and prime-time TV. They have become an increasingly prominent part of Hollywood's awards season, in part because all of its nominees and winners tend to be famous faces. It generally comes just before the Academy Awards and is considered a key Oscar bellwether. (AP)

NEW YORK: A Mega Millions player in Georgia won the \$980 million jackpot on Friday, overcoming abysmal odds to win the huge prize.

The numbers selected were 1, 8, 11, 12 and 57 with the gold Mega Ball 7.

The winner overcame Mega Millions' astronomical odds of 1 in 290.5 million by matching all six numbers. The next drawing will be on Tuesday.

A winner can choose an annuity or the cash option - a one-time, lump-sum payment of \$452.2 million before taxes. If there are multiple jackpot winners, the prize is shared. (AP)

NEW YORK: Police were searching for a shoplifter who stole about \$9,700 in baseball and Pokemon cards from a CardVault by Tom Brady store in lower Manhattan.

The New York Police Department asked for the public's help this week in identifying a man with a Yankees cap caught on surveillance footage. He is accused of taking the collectible cards on the morning of Oct. 20.

The man attempted to make a purchase with a credit card, but the transaction was declined. He then entered manual prompts into the contact payment terminal to bypass the rejection without the employee's knowledge. He left the shop on foot with the cards, according to a release from the police.

No one was injured. (AP)

RIYADH: The third edition of the Saudi International Handicrafts Week (Banan) opened Thursday at Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

China, this year's guest of honor, has set up a special pavilion decorated in vibrant red, featuring a wide range of Chinese intangible cultural heritage projects, including traditional lacquerware, fan-making craft, and the batik fabrics technique.

Organized by the Saudi Heritage Commission, this annual event gathers over 400 artisans from more than 40 countries to foster global exchanges and mutual learning in handicrafts. The exhibition will run through Nov. 26. (Xinhua)

SEATTLE: A wildlife photographer out on a whale watching trip in waters off Seattle captured dramatic video and photos of a pod of killer whales hunting a seal that survived only by clambering onto the stern of her boat.

Charvet Drucker was on a rented 20-foot (6-meter) boat near her home on an island in the Salish Sea about 40 miles northwest of Seattle when she spotted a pod of at least eight killer whales, also known as orcas.

The orcas' coordinated movements and tail slaps suggested they were hunting. Drucker used the zoom lens on her camera to spot a harbor seal that was trying to flee from the pod. One of her shots showed the seal flying through the air above the scrum of orcas frothing the water, and she assumed she was witnessing the seal's last moments alive. But as the orcas got closer to the boat, Drucker and her group realized the pod was still chasing the seal. In line with wildlife boating regulations, they had cut the engine to prevent any injury to the whales. (AP)

US raises awareness as red meat allergy cases top 100,000

Experts document a death from a meat allergy tied to certain ticks

NEW YORK, Nov 15, (AP): Researchers have reported what they believe is the first documented death from a meat allergy that can be triggered by tick bites.

A 47-year-old New Jersey man died last year from alpha-gal syndrome, which in 2011 was first linked to bites from the Lone Star tick.

More than 100,000 people in the US have become allergic to red meat since 2010 because of the syndrome, according to one estimate.

Some outside experts said it appears to be the first documented case of someone suffering a deadly alpha-gal reaction shortly after eating meat.

It's possible other deaths have happened but were assumed to be from other causes and not thoroughly investigated like this one was, said Joshua Benoit, a tick biologist at the University of Cincinnati.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention spokesperson said the agency was not involved in this investigation and could not speak definitively about whether it's the first such death. The CDC recently released a free online training module to increase awareness and improve diagnosing, she added.

Dr. Scott Commins, a leading alpha-gal syndrome researcher at the University of North Carolina, called the death an "unmitigated tragedy."

"Totally unnecessary and with increased awareness, this won't happen again," he said in an email.

The case report was published this week in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. The lead author was the University of Virginia's Dr. Thomas Platts-Mills, who led the 2011 paper that first linked Lone Star tick bites to the meat allergy.

People with alpha-gal syndrome can experience symptoms including hives, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, severe stomach pain, difficulty breathing, dizziness and swelling of the lips, throat, tongue or eye lids. Unlike some other food allergies, which occur soon after eating, these reactions typically hit hours later.

The new report tells of a healthy airline pilot who in the summer of 2024 went on a camping trip with his wife and children. They had steak as part of a late supper. That was unusual - the man rarely ate meat.

He woke up at 2 a.m. with severe stomach pain, diarrhea and vomiting. He gradually felt better, went back to sleep, and the next morning he felt well enough to eat breakfast and walk 5 miles.

Two weeks later, back home in New Jersey, he went to a barbecue, where he ate a hamburger. About four hours later, he grew ill. A short time after that, his son found him unconscious on the bathroom floor. The son called



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a female Lone Star tick, which despite its Texas-sounding name, is found mainly in the Southeast. (AP)

paramedics, but the man was declared dead that night at a hospital.

The researchers said blood tests revealed evidence of alpha-gal syndrome. Proof that it came from a Lone Star tick is incomplete. The authors made the link based on a statement from the man's wife, who had said he had 12 or 13 "chigger" bites around his ankles earlier in the summer.

But the conclusion makes sense, as people in the eastern US sometimes mistake the bites from mites with those from larval ticks, Commins said.

The number of cases of Alpha-gal syndrome is growing for a variety of reasons, including the Lone Star tick's expanding range, more people coming into contact with the ticks and more doctors learning about it and ordering tests for it.

It can take weeks or longer for infected people to develop the syndrome, which is named for the alpha-gal carbohydrate found in the tick's saliva. Initial reactions to red meat may be milder but grow progressively more severe, Benoit said.

Some patients have only stomach symptoms, and the American Gastroenterological Association has advised that people with unexplained diarrhea, nausea and abdominal pain should be tested for the syndrome.

Lifelong drugs don't work well

Researchers try bold new approach in a race to better treat autoimmune diseases

NEW YORK, Nov 15, (AP): Scientists are trying a revolutionary new approach to treat rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, lupus and other devastating autoimmune diseases - by reprogramming patients' out-of-whack immune systems.

When your body's immune cells attack you instead of protecting you, today's treatments tamp down the friendly fire but they don't fix what's causing it. Patients face a lifetime of pricey pills, shots or infusions with some serious side effects - and too often the drugs aren't enough to keep their disease in check.

"We're entering a new era," said Dr. Maximilian Konig, a rheumatologist at Johns Hopkins University who's studying some of the possible new treatments. They offer "the chance to control disease in a way we've never seen before."

How? Researchers are altering dysfunctional immune systems, not just suppressing them, in a variety of ways that aim to be more potent and more precise than current therapies.

They're highly experimental and, because of potential side effects, so far largely restricted to patients who've exhausted today's treatments. But people entering early-stage studies are grasping for hope.

"What the heck is wrong with my body?" Mileydy Gonzalez, 35, of New York remembers crying, frustrated that nothing was helping her daily lupus pain.

Lungs

Diagnosed at 24, her disease was worsening, attacking her lungs and kidneys. Gonzalez had trouble breathing, needed help to stand and walk and couldn't pick up her 3-year-old son when last July, her doctor at NYU Langone Health suggested the hospital's study using a treatment adapted from cancer.

Gonzalez had never heard of that CAR-T therapy but decided, "I'm going to trust you." Over several months, she slowly regained energy and strength.

"I can actually run, I can chase my kid," said Gonzalez, who now is pain- and pill-free. "I had forgotten what it was to be me."

CAR-T was developed to wipe out hard-to-treat blood cancers. But the cells that go bad in leukemias and lym-



Ruth Wilson, (left), whose lupus took six years to diagnose, receives her monthly lupus-focused IV treatment at UMass Memorial Medical Center, Jan. 14, 2025, in Worcester, Mass. (AP)

phomas - immune cells called B cells - go awry in a different way in many autoimmune diseases.

Some U.S. studies in mice suggested CAR-T therapy might help those diseases. Then in Germany, Dr. Georg Schett at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg tried it with a severely ill young woman who had failed other lupus treatment. After one infusion, she's been in remission - with no other medicine - since March 2021.

Last month, Schett told a meeting of the American College of Rheumatology how his team gradually treated a few dozen more patients, with additional diseases such as myositis and scleroderma - and few relapses so far. Those early results were "shocking," Hopkins' Konig recalled.

They led to an explosion of clinical trials testing CAR-T therapy in the U.S. and abroad for a growing list of autoimmune diseases.

How it works: Immune soldiers called T cells are filtered out of a patient's blood and sent to a lab, where they're programmed to destroy their B cell relatives. After some chemotherapy to wipe out additional immune cells, millions of copies of those "living drugs" are infused back into the patient.

While autoimmune drugs can target certain B cells, experts say they can't get rid of those hidden deep in the

body. CAR-T therapy targets both the problem B cells and healthy ones that might eventually run amok. Schett theorizes that the deep depletion reboots the immune system so when new B cells eventually form, they're healthy.

CAR-T is grueling, time consuming and costly, in part because it is customized. A CAR-T cancer treatment can cost \$500,000. Now some companies are testing off-the-shelf versions, made in advance using cells from healthy donors.

Another approach uses "peacekeeper" cells at the center of this year's Nobel Prize. Regulatory T cells are a rare subset of T cells that tamp down inflammation and help hold back other cells that mistakenly attack healthy tissue. Some biotech companies are engineering cells from patients with rheumatoid arthritis and other diseases not to attack, like CAR-T does, but to calm autoimmune reactions.

Scientists also are repurposing another cancer treatment, drugs called T cell engagers, that don't require custom engineering. These lab-made antibodies act like a matchmaker. They redirect the body's existing T cells to target antibody-producing B cells, said Erlangen's Dr. Ricardo Grieshaber-Bouyer, who works with Schett and also studies possible alternatives to CAR-T.

Last month, Grieshaber-Bouyer

reported giving a course of one such drug, teclistamab, to 10 patients with a variety of diseases including Sjögren's, myositis and systemic sclerosis. All but one improved significantly and six went into drug-free remission.

Rather than wiping out swaths of the immune system, Hopkins' Konig aims to get more precise, targeting "only that very small population of rogue cells that really causes the damage."

B cells have identifiers, like biological barcodes, showing they can produce faulty antibodies, Konig said. Researchers in his lab are trying to engineer T cell engagers that would only mark "bad" B cells for destruction, leaving healthy ones in place to fight infection.

Vaccines

Nearby in another Hopkins lab, biomedical engineer Jordan Green is crafting a way for the immune system to reprogram itself with the help of instructions delivered by messenger RNA, or mRNA, the genetic code used in COVID-19 vaccines.

In Green's lab, a computer screen shines with brightly colored dots that resemble a galaxy. It's a biological map that shows insulin-producing cells in the pancreas of a mouse. Red marks rogue T cells that destroy insulin production. Yellow indicates those peace-maker regulatory T cells - and they're outnumbered.

Green's team aims to use that mRNA to instruct certain immune "generals" to curb the bad T cells and send in more peacemakers. They package the mRNA in biodegradable nanoparticles that can be injected like a drug. When the right immune cells get the messages, the hope is they'd "divide, divide, divide and make a whole army of healthy cells that then help treat the disease," Green said.

The researchers will know it's working if that galaxy-like map shows less red and more yellow. Studies in people are still a few years away.

A drug for Type 1 diabetes "is forging the path," said Dr. Kevin Deane at the University of Colorado Anschutz.

Type 1 diabetes develops gradually, and blood tests can spot people who are brewing it. A course of the drug teplizumab is approved to delay the first symptoms, modulating rogue T cells and prolonging insulin production.

First human case in 9 months

US resident infected with different type of bird flu

NEW YORK, Nov 15, (AP): A Washington state resident has bird flu, and it's a different type than what was seen in previous infections, state health officials said Friday.

It is the nation's first human case of bird flu since February. The older adult with underlying health conditions remains hospitalized.

State health officials had announced the preliminary bird flu diagnosis on Thursday. On Friday, they said it had been confirmed.

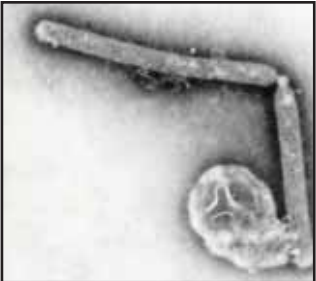
The person was infected with a bird flu called H5N5, state officials said. State and federal health officials said it appears to be the first known human infection with the H5N5 bird flu virus.

That version is not believed to be a greater threat to human health than the H5N1 virus behind a wave of 70 reported human infections in the U.S. in 2024 and 2025. Most of those have been mild illnesses in workers on dairy and poultry farms.

"These viruses behave similarly," said Richard Webby, a prominent flu researcher at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. "My gut instinct is to consider it the same as H5N1 from a human health perspective."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday issued a similar statement that said no information would suggest "the risk to public health has increased as a result of this case."

The agency is awaiting a speci-



This undated electron microscopical image provided by the CDC shows two Influenza A (H5N1) virions, a type of bird flu virus. (AP)

men from Washington to conduct additional testing.

The distinction between H5N5 and H5N1 lies in a protein involved in releasing the virus from an infected cell and promoting spread to surrounding cells.

"Think along the lines of different brands of car tires. They both do the same job, it's just each is better tuned for specific conditions, which we don't fully understand," Webby wrote in an email.

H5N5 may have a different preference for which kind of birds it most readily infects, he added.

The Grays Harbor County resident, who has not been identified, has a backyard flock of domestic poultry that had been exposed to wild birds, health officials said. They believe the domestic poultry or wild birds are the most likely source of exposure, but say they are still investigating.

FDA adds strongest warning to DMD gene therapy after 2 deaths

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): The Food and Drug Administration said Friday it will add a new warning and other limitations to a gene therapy for Duchenne's muscular dystrophy (DMD) that's been linked to two patient deaths.

The infused therapy from Sarepta Therapeutics will carry a boxed warning - the most serious type - alerting doctors and patients to the risk of potentially fatal liver failure with the treatment, the FDA said in a release.

The one-time therapy, Elevidys, has been under FDA scrutiny since the company reported the first of two deaths of teenage boys in March. Following a second death reported in June, the FDA briefly called for halting all shipments of the drug. But the agency quickly reversed course after facing pushback from patient families and libertarian activists close to President Donald Trump.

Elevidys is the first US-approved gene therapy for Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, a fatal muscle-wasting disease that affects boys and young men.



Chen Zhongrui, a Shenzhou-20 astronaut, is out of the Shenzhou-21 spacecraft's return capsule after it touched down on Earth at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Nov. 14. (Xinhua)

China space station delivers fresh samples for research

BEIJING, Nov. 15, (Xinhua): The latest samples from 26 scientific experiments conducted aboard China's space station, totaling approximately 46.67 kilograms, were brought back to Earth on Friday, according to the Technology and Engineering Center for Space Utilization (CSU) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Marking the ninth transfer of materials from the orbiting laboratory, the Shenzhou-21 return capsule brought back samples from experiments in space life sciences, materials science and combustion research.

Upon landing, the mice from the life science experiments underwent immediate field processing. Researchers will analyze their behavior and key physiological and bio-

chemical indicators to understand the animals' stress responses and adaptive mechanisms to spaceflight conditions. These findings will provide critical insights into how space environments affect living organisms, according to the CSU.

Other biological samples -- including zebrafish, hornwort, streptomycetes, planarians and brain organoids -- along with select materials science and combustion experiment samples, were transported to the CSU in Beijing at 00:40 a.m. Saturday. After initial status checks, these specimens were handed over to research teams for further study. The remaining samples will be transported to Beijing along with the Shenzhou-21 return capsule.

'I wish warmth would melt people's coldness'

Indigenous groups demand action and attention at UN climate talks in Brazil

BELEM, Brazil, Nov 15, (AP): Brazil set out to host this year's United Nations climate talks with a promise to spotlight Indigenous peoples whose way of life depends on the Amazon rainforest. Those groups are seizing the chance.

For the second time this week, Indigenous protesters on Friday disrupted entry to the main venue for COP30 to demand progress on climate change and other issues. Though their march was peaceful - it required conference participants to detour through a side door, leading to long lines to get in for the day's events - one protester likened it to "a scream" over rights violated and decisions made without consulting the Indigenous.

"I wish that warmth would melt the coldness of people," Cris Juliao Pankararu, of the Pankararu people in the Caatinga biome of Brazil, said.

Brazilian military personnel kept demonstrators from entering the site. The protesters, most in traditional Indigenous garb, formed a human chain around the entrance to keep people from getting in. Other groups of activists formed a secondary chain around them.

Paolo Destilio, with the environmental group Debt for Climate, joined the human chain encircling the protesters, saying he wanted to give Indigenous communities a chance to have their voices heard.

"This is worth any delays to the conference," he said, adding: "If this is really to be Indigenous peoples' COP, like officials keep saying, these types of demonstrations should be welcomed at COP30."

The two-week conference began Monday with countries offering updated national plans to fight climate change. Scientists say it appears likely the world will blow past a goal set in the 2015 Paris Agreement to hold Earth's warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

Members of the Mundurucu Indigenous group led the demonstration that blocked the main entrance, demanding a meeting with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

"President Lula, we are here in front of COP because we want you to listen to us. We refuse to be sacrificed for agribusiness," protesters said in a written statement in Portuguese released by the Mundurucu Ipereg Ayu Movement. "Our forest is not for sale. We are the ones who protect the



Activists participate in a climate protest during the COP30 UN Climate Summit, Saturday, Nov. 15, in Belem, Brazil. (AP)

climate, and the Amazon cannot continue to be destroyed to enrich large corporations."

Mundurucu leaders had a series of demands for Brazil. They included revoking plans for commercial development of rivers, canceling a grain railway project that has raised fears of deforestation and clearer demarcations of Indigenous territories. They also want a rejection of deforestation carbon credits.

Conference president André Corrêa do Lago, a veteran Brazilian diplomat, met with the group as they blocked the entrance. He cradled a protester's baby in his arms as he talked, smiling and nodding. After a prolonged discussion, do Lago and the protesters moved away from the entrance together. The entrance opened at 9:37 a.m.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change told conference participants "there is no danger" from what they called a peaceful demonstration.

Conference CEO Ana Toni said at a news conference that Belem is the most inclusive COP for Indigenous people with more than 900 Indigenous people registered, far exceeding the old record of 30.

New device

IAEA boosts Brazil cancer diagnosis

VIENNA, Nov 15, (KUNA): The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) announced the delivering of an advanced digital mammography machine to the "Jojo de Barros Barreto" University Hospital in the Brazilian city of Belém, as part of the Agency's "Rays of Hope" initiative aimed at strengthening countries' capacities in cancer diagnosis and treatment.

A statement issued today by the Agency's Media department said that the handover took place during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30), reaffirming the Agency's commitment to supporting healthcare systems and enhancing their resilience in the face of growing challenges.

The statement noted that the new device, equipped with advanced digital imaging technologies, will help expand the hospital's capacity to conduct examinations for more than 2,000 women annually in Belém and various parts of the Amazon region.

"Joao de Barros Barreto" University Hospital is a public institution that provides free medical services, in addition to its role in education, research, and medical training.

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in Brazil.

Lakers improve to 2-0 in NBA Cup play

Curry scores season-high 49 as Warriors edge Spurs in thriller

SAN ANTONIO, Nov. 15, (AP): Stephen Curry had 49 points, outdueling Victor Wembanyama in another intense battle and the Golden State Warriors rallied to beat the San Antonio Spurs 109-108 on Friday night for their first win in the NBA Cup.

Wembanyama had 26 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and three blocks in 38 minutes but San Antonio fell to 1-1 in the NBA Cup.

Curry had 31 points, including a pair of free throws with 6 seconds that proved the difference. He was 16 for 26 from the field and 9 for 17 on 3-pointers in his highest-scoring game of the season.

The Warriors swept the two-game set in San Antonio, rallying in the fourth quarter to win both games.

Golden State coach Steve Kerr said playing back-to-back games in San Antonio gave the game had a playoff feel and it played out like one.

Lakers 118, Pelicans 104

In New Orleans, Austin Reaves scored 31, Luka Doncic had 24 points and 12 assists, and the Los Angeles Lakers cruised to a victory over the New Orleans Pelicans in an NBA Cup game .

Deandre Ayton made 10 of 11 shots and finished with 20 points, 16 rebounds, two steals and a block for the Lakers, who improved to 2-0 in cup play to remain atop West Group B.

Trey Murphy III scored 35 for the Pelicans, who lost their fourth straight game, fell to 0-2 in the in-season tournament, and to a Western Conference-worst 2-10 overall.

Rui Hachimura scored 14 and Marcus Smart 13 for the Lakers, who led 65-52 at halftime after Doncic fed Ayton for an alley-oop dunk.

Bucks 147, Hornets 134, OT

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points, 18 assists and seven rebounds in his return and the Bucks outlasted former Milwaukee high school star Kon Knueppel and the Charlotte Hornets in overtime

The teams split a home-and-home set, with both also playing the front end of a back-to-back. On Wednesday night in Charlotte, with Antetokounmpo sidelined because of patellar tendinopathy in his left knee, the Hornets beat the Bucks



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) drives to the basket against San Antonio Spurs center Luke Kornet (7) during the second half of an NBA Cup basketball game in San Antonio. (AP)

111-100.

Knueppel scored a season-high 32 points in his first NBA game in his hometown. Drafted fourth overall, he spent last season at Duke after leading undefeated Wisconsin Lutheran High School to the 2024 Wisconsin Division 2 title.

Clippers 133, Mavericks 127, 2OT

In Dallas, James Harden scored four of his 10 overtime points in the second extra period and finished with season highs of 41 points and 14 rebounds, along with 11 assists, as the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Dallas Mavericks.

Harden had the 82nd triple-double of his career and Ivica Zubac added a season-high 27 points and 11 rebounds as

the Clippers (4-8) snapped a six-game losing streak and improved to 2-0 in the NBA Cup.

Naji Marshall, making his first start of the season, and D'Angelo Russell, coming off the bench, scored 28 points apiece to lead the Mavericks (3-10), who are 0-2 in group play. Dallas has lost three straight games and seven of its last eight.

It appeared the Clippers took a 125-123 lead with 1.4 seconds left in the first overtime when Dallas' Daniel Gafford was called for goaltending on a Harden shot, but video review reversed the call.

Rockets 140, Trail Blazers 116

In Houston, Kevin Durant scored 30 points, Alperen Sengun added 25

points, 10 rebounds and nine assists and the Houston Rockets won their third straight with a win over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Durant, who had 16 points in the first period, finished 12 of 19 from the field. Jabari Smith Jr. scored 22 points, Amen Thompson had 19 points and Reed Sheppard 13. Tari Eason left with a bruised right hip after being bumped and falling to the floor. He went to the locker room with a trainer midway through the second quarter.

Knicks 114, Heat 130

In New York, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 39 points and Landry Shamet added a career-high 36 points off the bench as the New York Knicks beat the

Miami Heat.

Jordan Clarkson scored 25 points, Mikal Bridges had 15, and Josh Hart recorded his first triple-double of the season with 12 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists as the Knicks posted a season-high point total.

Jalen Brunson missed his first game of the season due to a sprained right ankle sustained in Wednesday's loss to Orlando. OG Anunoby left the game after two minutes with a left hamstring strain and did not return.

Pistons 114, 76ers 105

In Detroit, Javonte Green scored 21 points and Daniss Jenkins added 19 as the short-handed Detroit Pistons won their ninth straight game, beating the

Philadelphia 76ers.

The Pistons are on their longest winning streak since a 10-game run in 2008 despite playing the last two games without several key players. Cade Cunningham (hip), Tobias Harris (ankle), Ausar Thompson (ankle) and Jalen Duren (ankle) were among the players on the sidelines against Philadelphia.

Duncan Robinson scored 15 and Isaiah Stewart and Caris LeVert each had 14.

Tyrese Maxey had 31 to lead the Sixers, who played without Joel Embiid (knee).

Magic 105, Nets 98

In Orlando, Franz Wagner scored 25 points, Tristan da Silva added 22 points and nine rebounds and the Orlando Magic held Brooklyn scoreless over the final two-and-a-half minutes for victory over the Nets. The win was Orlando's second in NBA Cup Group play and dropped Brooklyn to 0-2.

Michael Porter Jr. had 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Nets, who led 98-94 after a basket by Nic Claxton with 2:37 remaining. But, Wagner hit two 3-pointers, da Silva made one and Brooklyn never scored again.

Desmond Bane scored nine of his 19 points in the fourth quarter for Orlando and Jalen Suggs finished with 14 points, seven rebounds and six assists.

Ziaire Williams had 15 points and a steal late in the fourth quarter - off Orlando's 19th turnover - that put the Nets up 96-92. Noah Clowney had 12 points before fouling out with 1:58 remaining.

Timberwolves 124, Kings 110

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards scored 30 points and Julius Randle added 26 points and 11 rebounds as the Minnesota Timberwolves pulled away in the fourth quarter and beat the Sacramento Kings.

Donte DiVincenzo made five 3-pointers and scored 20 points for the Timberwolves, who have won four in a row and are 2-0 in the NBA Cup. Naz Reid had 12 points and 12 rebounds for Minnesota. Domantas Sabonis led the Kings with 34 points and 11 rebounds. Zach Lavine scored 25 points, while Russell Westbrook extended his NBA record with his 205th career triple-double, posting 13 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds.



Ireland's Jack Taylor, right, tries to block a shot from Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo during a World Cup 2026 group F qualifying soccer match between Ireland and Portugal in Dublin. (AP)

Two or three games suspension looms

Ronaldo faces three-week wait for FIFA verdict on World Cup ban for red card

GENEVA, Nov 15, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo likely faces a three-week wait to discover the length of his FIFA ban ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

The Portugal superstar could be suspended for two or three games for the red card he was shown Thursday for striking Ireland defender Dara O'Shea with an elbow during a 2-0 loss in Dublin.

FIFA has taken three weeks after rounds of 2026 World Cup qualifying games to publish a global list of disciplinary verdicts, including for red cards and incidents such as crowd disorder.

Now, however, FIFA is under less time pressure to process cases with no World Cup playoff games until March, but there is intense interest in the Ronaldo outcome.

FIFA declined on Friday to suggest a timetable for the case.

A one-game ban is mandatory and will be served Sunday when group leader Portugal hosts last-place Armenia. A win will send Ronaldo's team to the finals in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

FIFA disciplinary rules demand a ban of "at least two matches for serious foul play" or "at least three matches for violent conduct."

Those extra games beyond the mandatory sanction must be served in competition, at the World Cup - if Portugal qualifies Sunday as expected - and not in pre-tournament exhibitions.

Ronaldo spun round and swung his right elbow into O'Shea's back as they waited for the ball to be crossed around the hour mark at Aviva Stadium, with Ireland holding a surprise 2-0 lead.

The referee at first showed a yellow card but minutes later upgraded it to red after a video review at the field-side monitor.

"I don't think it's an elbow, I think it's a full body," Portugal coach Roberto Martinez said in Dublin. "Obviously when he tries to get away from the defender, I think the action looks worse than what it actually is."

"But from where the camera is it looks like an elbow," Martinez said. "We accept it. It could be a red card but for the right reasons."

FIFA disciplinary judges must now decide if Ronaldo is guilty of serious foul play or violent conduct.

Bans of two and three games for serious foul play were imposed on players who were sent off last month in World Cup qualifiers.

Qatar defender Tarek Salman got a two-game ban for a serious tackle on a United Arab Emirates opponent. Salman had both feet off the ground and went over the ball, planting his boot into the shin of his opponent.

A three-game ban was imposed on Burundi forward Bonfils-Caleb Bimenyimana for injuring Kenya goalkeeper Brian Bwire. Bimenyimana raised his boot just above the turf and struck Bwire's face as they converged on a low cross to the near post.

Ronaldo deserved credit, Martinez suggested, for not being sent off previously in an international career now in its 23rd season.

Best of the Rest

Hazlewood ruled out of first Ashes: Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood will miss at least the first Ashes test against England beginning in Perth next Friday due to a hamstring injury.

Initial scans cleared him of major damage, but Cricket Australia said on Saturday that a follow-up scan confirmed the strain. He will join captain Pat Cummins on the sidelines for the Perth test, severely depleting Australia's fast bowling attack in the Ashes opener.

Brendan Doggett is poised for an Ashes test debut after secondary scans revealed the extent of Hazlewood's injury. Hazlewood suffered the strain on Wednesday while playing a Sheffield Shield domestic first-class match at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Hazlewood will remain at home, rather than joining teammates on the flight to Perth. It is unclear when or whether he will be fit enough to feature in the five-test series.

It means the hosts will enter the high-profile series without their two highest-ranked test bowlers, with Cummins and Hazlewood currently fourth and sixth in international test rankings. It will mark the first time in nearly three years that Australia has played a test without two of their top three fast bowlers and only the second time since 2014 they've played a home test without Cummins and Hazlewood. (AP)

Babar ends century drought, Pakistan dominates Sri Lanka for series victory

Complete batting performance from the hosts

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Nov 15, (AP): Babar Azam's first international century in more than two years anchored Pakistan's comfortable chase of 289 against scratchy Sri Lanka in their series-clinching one-day international.

Pakistan won by eight wickets, cruising to 289-2 in 48.2 overs on Babar's fluent unbeaten 102 off 119 balls. It has an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, which ends on Sunday.

Sri Lanka was restricted to 288-8 on a perfect batting pitch after six of the top seven batters couldn't convert good starts.

The series was in doubt after Sri Lanka players wanted to leave the country when a suicide bomber killed 12 people outside a court in Islamabad on Tuesday, hours before the first ODI in nearby Rawalpindi.

However, Sri Lanka Cricket directed the team to finish the series after it was reassured about security by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Babar came into Friday's game without an international century in 83 innings across the formats, more than 800 days since a hundred against Nepal in the Asia Cup at Multan in August 2023.

He dug in well against the spin threat of Wanindu Hasaranga, who finished wicketless with 0-35, but the Sri Lanka seamers couldn't control the wet ball because of dew and consistently missed their lengths.

Babar raised his half-century off 68 balls with only three fours and grew in confidence. He pulled Pramod Madushan to midwicket for a single to complete his much-awaited century off 115 balls with eight fours.

The crowd erupted and chanted



Pakistan's Babar Azam plays a shot during the second one day international cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. (AP)

"Babar, Babar" to celebrate the end of the drought by Pakistan's premier batter. His 20th ODI century equaled Saeed Anwar's Pakistan ODI record.

The opening pair of Fakhar Zaman (78) and Saim Ayub (33) provided a rollicking start of 77 off 58 balls.

Zaman was dropped twice in the 20s and a third time at fine leg just before his dismissal, a brilliant catch by Janith Liyanage at short midwicket. But by then, he'd put on 100 runs with Babar to take the game away from Sri Lanka.

Mohammad Rizwan, unbeaten on 51 off 54 balls, and Babar shared a 112-run stand to win.

"It's a complete batting performance from us," stand-in captain Salman Ali Agha said. "We had three very good partnerships. It was a 320-330 wicket for us, so I was very happy to keep them to 290."

Kamil Mishara (27), in his second ODI, and Pathum Nissanka (24) made a decent start of 51 runs for Sri Lanka inside the batting powerplay before Nissanka was run out against the run of play when he tried to go for a third run.

Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed, who recovered from illness, pegged back the visitors with three wickets. He dismissed Mishara, Kusal Mendis, and captain Charith Asalanka and dropped

the visitors to 98-4 in the 22nd over.

Sadeera Samarawickrama (42) and Liyanage (54) revived the innings with a 61-run stand until Haris Rauf knocked back the off stump of Samarawickrama in his return spell.

Rauf followed his four-wicket haul in the first ODI with 3-66, including the vital wicket of Kamindu Mendis (44) in the death overs.

Hasaranga's late flurry of 37 off 26 balls helped to set a total that was thought to be about 30-40 runs short of par.

Asalanka rued a ton of missed opportunities, including good starts by batters and dropped catches in the field.

Loubineaud shatters men's 5,000m world record at speed skating WC season opener

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15, (Xinhua): France's Timothy Loubineaud broke the men's 5,000-meter world record at the ISU Speed Skating World Cup season-opening leg in Salt Lake City with a time of 6:00.23, more than one second faster than the previous mark of 6:01.56 set by Sweden's Nils van der Poel.

"I never expected this in my life. As a French guy, we don't have any tracks in France, and I'm also not the most talented guy," Loubineaud, who transitioned from inline skating only seven years ago, told the ISU official website. "I used to see Sven Kramer, Patrick Roest, Davide Ghiotto ... those guys are way better than I am, and today I'm part of that group." The 29-year-old said he found unexpected strength as the laps unfolded. "I started the race, and I didn't care about the time. I was just going. After a few laps, I don't know what happened, but I felt so good and I just kept improving the pace," he said.

Metodej Jilek of the Czech Republic finished second in 6:02.78 and Norway's Sander Eitrem took third in 6:03.38, both refreshing national records.

In the men's 1,000m, American skater Jordan Stolz, two-time gold medalist over the distance at the World Championships, notched a commanding win over reigning world champion Joep Wenne-mars of the Netherlands. Stolz clocked a winning time of 1:05.66 - 0.29 seconds behind his own record on the same track - thanks to a fastest final lap. "It's a good one for the first World Cup of the year," Stolz said. "Physically, I think I can keep getting stronger. My endurance is good right now."

Poland's Damian Zurek was second in a personal best 1:06.02, while Jennings de Boo of the Netherlands finished third in 1:06.34. China's Ning Zhongyan came fourth in a personal best result of 1:06.47.

The women's 1,000m saw Dutch skaters Jutta

Leerdam and Femke Kok renew their duel, with Leerdam edging Kok by just 0.08 seconds in 1:12.35.

Kok said she lost time in the final corner but still welcomed the battle. "It's good to be paired in the draw. When we face each other, we know it's going to raise the level," she said.

Canada's Beatrice Lamarche had her first career World Cup podium finish, sitting third in 1:12.77.

Elsewhere, world champion Joy Beune of the Netherlands rebounded from illness to post a personal best of 3:53.69 for the women's 3,000m title. Canada's Valerie Maltais claimed a silver in 3:56.53. Norway's Ragne Wiklund finished third in 3:57.19.

This season's Salt Lake City stop is one of four World Cups that double as qualification events for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympic Winter Games. Competitions continue Saturday with the men's and women's 500m and 1,500m golds up for grabs.

Players obligations caused the delay

Kuwait Olympic team camp postponed

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The departure of Kuwait’s Olympic soccer team to Dubai has been postponed to next Thursday, after originally being scheduled for the day before yesterday. The delay comes due to academic commitments preventing some players from traveling on the planned date.

Dubai will host the Olympic team’s training camp until December 2, after which the squad will head to Doha, Qatar, to compete in the Gulf Under-23 Championship from December 4 to 16.

Under Croatian coach Dario Besic, the team continues daily training at the Kuwait Football Association grounds. Besic aims to prepare the players thoroughly to ensure peak performance in the tournament. The squad features players born in 2005 and 2006 as part of a long-term plan to develop a generation capable of representing Kuwait in the AFC Championship qualifiers and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

In the tournament draw held in Doha, Kuwait was placed in Group A with Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, while Group B includes Iraq, the UAE, Oman, and Yemen.

Kuwait’s Under-17 team played to a 0-0 draw against Singapore during its training camp in Bangkok, Thailand. The youth squad is scheduled to play a friendly against Oman today at 1:00 PM.

The team is preparing for Group 6 of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup qualifiers, held in Thailand from November 22 to 30, which will determine



Kuwait's Olympic soccer squad trains hard in Thailand ahead of tournaments.

qualification for the 2026 AFC U-17 Championship in Saudi Arabia. The coaching staff is conducting two daily training sessions, focusing on optimizing player readiness and tactical understanding to achieve the best results in the qualifiers.

Senior squad trains intensively

Kuwait close to appointing Ben Sheikh as youth coach

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Kuwait Volleyball Association is close to appointing experienced Tunisian coach Mohamed Ben Sheikh as the new head coach of the national youth volleyball team. His role may later extend to the senior team, with the contract of current head coach Julián Álvarez set to expire next month.

Ben Sheikh brings an impressive record of achievements, having guided Saudi Arabia to two West Asia Youth Championships, a GCC U-17 title, and an Arab U-17 Championship. He also finished runner-up at the GCC Youth Games, in addition to coaching the Saudi senior national team and Al-Ittihad Club.

As part of a long-term development plan, the Association and the National Teams Committee intend for Ben Sheikh to lead the youth team during its participation in the First Division League. The aim is to develop a strong group of young players who can transition smoothly into the senior national team in the future. This approach will allow both coach and players to build familiarity with each other’s systems, ensuring better cohesion when competing at higher levels.



Mohamed Ben Sheikh, the incoming head coach of Kuwait's national youth volleyball team.

Meanwhile, the senior national team continues intensive daily training under Argentine coach Julián Álvarez and assistant coach Zaid Al-Kadhimi in preparation for the inaugural Arab Men’s Challenge Cup, hosted in Amman from November 28 to December 5.

A foreign training camp is unlikely, as approval from the Public Authority for Sports has not yet been granted. As a result, the national team is expected to travel directly to Jordan on November 26.

Kuwait will kick off its Challenge Cup campaign against hosts Jordan on the opening day, which also features matches between Egypt and Libya, and Bahrain against Palestine.

The preliminary squad for the national team includes: Adhbi Al-Enezi, Abdullah Buftain, Omar Al-Enezi, Nawaf Al-Sanea, Mohammed Al-Dhafiri, Ibrahim Safar, Abdullah Al-Muwaina’, Abdulnasser Al-Enezi, Faris Siraj, Bader Al-Attar, Rashid Anbar, Ahmed Al-Munais, Nasser Dashti, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Yousef Mandeel, Talal Abdulrazzaq, Abdulrahman Al-Mulla, Fahad Saad Yaqoub, Hassan Al-Qattan, Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa, and Saud Al-Duwaisan.

Shiffrin triumphs in Lapland

Colturi equaled her career-best result

LEVI, Finland, Nov 15, (AP): Mikaela Shiffrin opened the Olympic slalom season in convincing style Saturday by dominating a World Cup race in Finnish Lapland for her record-extending 102nd career win.

The American star built on a commanding first-run lead of more than a second, clocked the fastest time again in the final run and won the race by 1.66 seconds from second-placed Lara Colturi.

“It’s for sure a good feeling, it was so nice to race today. I felt really strong on both runs,” said Shiffrin, adding she didn’t want to be too cautious in protecting her big lead.

“I was just feeling like: ‘Oh, don’t mess it up, like it would be embarrassing, kind of.’ But then, in the end, if you are pushing as hard as you can, you can’t mess it up.”

Colturi, an Italian-born prodigy competing for Albania, matched her career-best result. Colturi turned 19 on Saturday.

All-rounder Emma Aicher placed third, 2.59 behind, for her first podium in a tech race. The German, who turned 22 last Thursday, won a downhill and a super-G last March.

Shiffrin’s teammate Paula Moltzan, who finished runner-up in the season-opening giant slalom in Austria three weeks ago, was 2.46 off the lead in 19th but improved to fourth place, which she shared with Aicher’s teammate Lena Duerr.

Shiffrin and Moltzan now rank 1-2 in the overall standings after two races.

Slalom World Cup champion Zrinka Ljutic of Croatia was fourth after the opening run and dropped to sixth.

Shiffrin laid the foundation for her 65th slalom victory with an aggressive first run.

“This was the best run I could do, that was kind of perfect,” Shiffrin said after the opening



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin, center, winner of an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom, poses on the podium with second placed Albania's Lara Colturi, left, and third placed Germany's Emma Aicher, in Levi, Finland. (AP)

run, calling it “a wonderful feeling” to replicate some of her best skiing from training.

“The whole summer prep I was focusing really a lot on giant slalom, so I didn’t get so many slalom days,” said the American, who placed fourth in the GS in October.

“But then when I did train slalom, it was really important to be maximum quality, maximum intensity every run.”

Recovered from a frightening crash in a GS a year ago, Shiffrin announced before the season she planned to reduce her schedule to slalom and GS, and maybe super-G, heading into the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics in February.

Shiffrin won Olympic gold in slalom in 2014

and in GS in four years later.

Nine of Shiffrin’s record 102 World Cup wins have come in the traditional season-opening slalom in Lapland, where the winner is given a reindeer as a prize.

No skier other than Shiffrin or Petra Vlhova of Slovakia has won the race in 14 editions since then overall champion Tina Maze triumphed in 2014.

Vlhova, who is the 2022 Olympic slalom champion, is still recovering from the lingering knee injury she sustained in January 2024.

A men’s slalom on the same hill is scheduled for Sunday. The women travel to Austria for another slalom next weekend.

Springboks overcome red cards to beat Italy

TURIN, Italy, Nov 15, (AP): South Africa absorbed a red card for a second straight test and prevailed again in beating Italy 32-14 on Saturday.

The Springboks played a man short for almost 70 minutes, and even went down to 13 briefly, but showed the adaptability and resilience that helped them beat France in Paris with 14 men a week ago.

The Boks bench was impactful yet again as they led Italy by only six points with eight minutes to go but secured the win with a try by replacement Grant Williams from a counter-attack inside their own half.

They capped a stylish finish moments later when Ethan Hooker, a midfielder moved to the wing, scored his first test try from a kick-pass by replacement Manie Libbok.

Italy flyhalf Paolo Garbisi received the red-card foul but crucially missed three of his six goalkicks - worth eight points - just a week after he was 100% off the tee in a win over Australia.



Italy's Lorenzo Cannone, front, is challenged by South Africa's Edwill Van Der Merwe during the rugby union Nations Series match between Italy and South Africa, in Turin, Italy. (AP)

South Africa’s plans went out the window in the 12th minute when Franco Mostert was issued a permanent red card for his no-arms, shoulder-led high tackle on Garbisi.

For the second straight test, a Springbok lock was sent off. Lood de Jager was marched for a similar tackle against France just before halftime but South Africa prevailed by playing tighter and squeezing the French.

They did the same to Italy in Juventus Stadium.

Coach Rassie Erasmus gradually pulled off test novices Ben-Jason Dixon, Zachary Porthen, Boan Venter and Edwill van der Merwe, replacing them with experienced bomb squaders Ruan Nortje, Wilco Louw, Gerhard Steenekamp and hybrid forward/back Andre Esterhuizen.

They earned the game’s first points after 33 minutes after 10 phases, a penalty kick for Handre Pollard.

Pollard’s value was highlighted by counterpart Garbisi, who missed his

first two penalties but was third time lucky to level the score.

Then right on halftime, South Africa used a scrum penalty to tap and go and No. 8 Marco van Staden crashed over beside the left upright and Pollard’s extras gave them a 10-3 lead into the break.

Two more Garbisi penalties lifted Italy to within one with a two-man advantage after Van Staden was sin-binned.

The advantage was brief, though. Italy No. 8 Lorenzo Cannone was sin-binned and Pollard’s third goalkick made it 13-9.

On the hour, the Springboks gambled again. They waived a penalty kick in front of the posts for a scrum, tighthead Louw twisted it, and scrum-half Morne van den Berg darted over.

Italy renewed hope five minutes later when Ange Capuozzo scored off a Garbisi inside ball but Garbisi missed the conversion to groans from the home crowd.

Qadsia crushes Al-Arabi in one -sided Kuwait derby

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Qadsia dominated the basketball derby against Al-Arabi, claiming a resounding 116-43 victory at the Kuwait Basketball Association Arena in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. The match concluded the fourth round of league action, which also saw Kuwait Club earn a convincing 123-94 win over Sulaibikhat.

The round began on Thursday with two lopsided games: Kazma cruised past Al-Sahel 108-38, while Al-Qurain defeated Al-Nasr 109-70.

Kuwait Club moved to the top of the standings with 8 points from four straight wins. Kazma, Qadsia, and Al-Qurain follow closely behind with 7 points each. Sulaibikhat sits on 6 points, while Al-Arabi and Al-Sahel remain at the bottom with 4 points, having yet to register a win.

The eight-team league is played over three round-robin phases, after which the top four advance to the Final Four playoffs. The semifinals will feature first vs fourth and second vs third in a best-of-three format, with the winners progressing to the final.

Despite the early stage of the com-



Qadsia player drives to the basket during derby against Al-Arabi.

petition, the title race is already taking shape. Kuwait Club, Kazma, and Qadsia have emerged as the leading contenders, while Al-Qurain and Sulaibikhat appear locked in a tight battle for the fourth playoff spot.

In contrast, Al-Nasr has yet to show the strong form it produced last season, and Al-Arabi and Al-Sahel continue to struggle, offering performances far below top-flight expectations.

Italian stays perfect

Sinner beats De Minaur to reach ATP Finals championship match

TURIN, Italy, Nov 15, (AP): Jannik Sinner has done his part. Now it’s up to Carlos Alcaraz to win one more match and set up another important final against his biggest rival.

Sinner beat Alex de Minaur 7-5, 6-2 on Saturday - improving to 13-0 against the Australian - to reach the championship match of the ATP Finals before his home fans.

The second-ranked Sinner is aiming to defend his title in the season-ending tournament for the year’s top eight players.

Alcaraz already secured the year-ending No. 1 ranking but is seeking his first final at this event.

Sinner and Alcaraz have met in the last three Grand Slam finals: Alcaraz beat Sinner in a fifth-set tiebreaker to win the French Open; Sinner gained a measure of revenge by beating Alcaraz for the Wimbledon trophy; then Alcaraz again came out on top at the U.S. Open.

Sinner also won the Australian Open - beating Alexander Zverev in the final - so he and Alcaraz each won two majors this year.

It’s the third consecutive final in Turin for Sinner, who hasn’t dropped a set at finals since getting beat by Novak Djokovic in the 2023 championship match - a run of 18 consecutive sets.

Sinner saved three break points in his opening service game after falling behind



Italy's Jannik Sinner returns to Australia's Alex de Minaur during semifinal tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals, in Turin, Italy, Saturday. (AP)

0-40 and then finally managed to break De Minaur for a 6-5 advantage before serving the set out.

The second set was never really in question, as Sinner jumped out to a 4-0 lead.

Sinner extended his winning streak on indoor hard courts to 31 matches - also stretching back to that 2023 final against Djokovic. He hasn’t dropped his serve this week.

Parker denies taking prohibited substance

LONDON, Nov 15, (AP): Former heavyweight champion Joseph Parker denied taking any prohibited substance and said his failed drug test from last month’s loss to Fabio Wardley was “a real surprise.”

The New Zealander’s voluntary anti-doping test conducted on the day of the bout returned an adverse finding, promotions company Queensberry announced on Friday.

Wardley stopped Parker in the 11th round at the O2 Arena in London on Oct. 25 in a fight to determine who would become the WBO mandatory challenger to undisputed world champion Oleksandr Usyk.

“Before my recent fight I took a voluntary test and have now been informed that it returned an adverse result. This came as a real

surprise to me,” Parker said early Saturday in a statement on Instagram.

“I did not take any prohibited substance, I do not use performance enhancing drugs and do not support their use,” he continued.

“I am cooperating fully with the process now underway, and I am confident the investigation will clear my name.”

The 33-year-old Parker faces a potential lengthy ban by the British Boxing Board of Control.

“Thank you to everyone who has sent messages of support. It means a great deal to me and my family,” Parker’s statement added. “When the investigation is complete, I will speak openly and answer questions.”

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Luxembourg's Leandro Barreiro, second left, fights for the ball with Germany's Leon Goretzka, center, during the 2026 World Cup group A qualifying soccer match between Luxembourg and Germany in Luxembourg. (AP)

Sports

Croatia qualifies for World Cup, Dutch stay on track

Germany and Slovakia set for decisive Group A clash

WARSAW, Nov 15, (AP): Croatia secured a place at next year's World Cup with a 3-1 win that ended the tiny Faroe Islands' dream, and the Netherlands moved closer to qualification by drawing Poland.

Croatia knew before kickoff that avoiding defeat in Rijeka would guarantee qualification, but it was caught cold in the 16th minute when Geza Dávid Turi scored with a deflected shot.

The 2018 World Cup runner-up quickly recovered, however, as Joško Gvardiol leveled in the 23rd. Making his return to the national team after two years away, Petar Musa put Croatia ahead 2-1 after halftime from Josip Stanišić's assist. In complete control, Croatia added a third goal when Nikola Vlašić volleyed in a precise cross from Ivan Perišić at the far post.

"Our goal was achieved with a game to spare in the qualifiers. We can proudly say we've qualified," Gvardiol said. "We'll travel to Montenegro for the final match in a relaxed manner but with the intention of taking all three points, as every game is preparation for what awaits us in the summer."

It was the Faroe Islands' final match in Group L, and the team will finish behind the runner-up, the Czech Republic. The second-placed team advances to the World Cup playoffs, co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Montenegro beat Gibraltar 2-1 in



Croatia's Petar Musa scores during a World Cup 2026 group L qualifying soccer match between Croatia and Faroe Islands in Rijeka, Croatia. (AP)

the group's other game.

Coach Ronald Koeman's Netherlands came from behind in Warsaw to draw with Poland 1-1 and

take a major step toward direct qualification in Group G.

With one match left to play, the Dutch top the group, three points

clear of the Poles after Memphis Depay's second-half equalizer canceled Jakub Kamiński's opener. The Netherlands also has a much better

goal difference before the final match against Lithuania. Poland takes on Malta on Monday.

"I am more disappointed than

happy, but on the other hand, we made another step toward qualification," Koeman said. "It is not easy to play against teams that defend very deep. We had to be patient, we had to try to attack in different ways, but we did not create enough good opportunities."

In Group A, Germany is guaranteed of a top-two finish after Nick Woltemade scored twice in a scrappy 2-0 win at Luxembourg. Slovakia scored late to beat visiting Northern Ireland 1-0.

"In the second half, the commitment was noticeably better, and we also scored two good goals," Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said. "We might have deserved to concede, but we didn't, so we can consider ourselves lucky."

Germany and Slovakia are level on points and will face off on Monday in Leipzig in a match that will decide the group winner. Slovakia had two goals disallowed before Tomáš Bobček broke the deadlock in added time.

Malta snatched its first win in the 2026 World Cup qualifying, converting its only shot on target to stun Finland 1-0 in Helsinki in Group G. According to the Malta Football Association, this was only the fourth win ever by Malta in World Cup qualifying.

Midfielder Jake Grech came off the bench in the 79th minute and scored the decisive goal three minutes later from the edge of the area. It was only Malta's second goal in seven qualifiers, against 16 conceded.

Malta rose to fourth in Europe Group G, five points behind Finland, which can't qualify.

Ravindra Jadeja takes 4-29

India takes control of first test against South Africa as 15 wickets fall on Day 2

KOLKATA, India, Nov 15, (AP): India's Ravindra Jadeja took 4-29 as South Africa was down to 93-7 (35 overs) at stumps on Day 2 of the first cricket test.

Fifteen wickets fell Saturday, as India took control of proceedings after it was bowled out for 189 runs in its first innings.

The hosts took a slender lead of 30 runs before knocking over the majority of the Proteas' batting lineup in the second innings.

South Africa had scored 159 runs in its first innings, with Jasprit Bumrah picking 5-27. Overall, it leads by 63 runs after two days of high attrition on an unpredictable surface.

At stumps, skipper Temba Bavuma was batting on 29 runs off 78 balls with Corbin Bosch (1 not out) for company. Play was called off early once again because of bad light.

Spin was the flavor of the day, and India started off its attack with Axar Patel from one end in the second innings.

Kuldeep Yadav struck right at the stroke of tea - Ryan Rickelton was out lbw for 11 runs, with the score at 18-1.

Another six Proteas wickets fell in the final session. Jadeja struck hard at the South African lineup with his discipline.

Aiden Markram was caught at short leg for four, while Wiaan Mulder was caught behind for 11 runs.

South Africa slumped to 60-5 as Jadeja struck twice in the 17th over - after Mulder, he had Toni de Zorzi caught for 2 runs. Later, Tristan Stubbs failed to read another straight delivery and was bowled for 5 runs.



India's Ravindra Jadeja bats on the second day of the first cricket test match between India and South Africa in Kolkata, India. (AP)

Kyle Verreynne (9) played a poor stroke off Axar Patel and was castled, with the score down to 75-6.

Marco Jansen threw his bat around to score 13 runs before he was caught off Yadav. But it was Bavuma who held one end up for South Africa and pushed the game into Day 3.

Earlier, India was bowled out for a lowly first innings' score as well, with off-spinner Simon Harmer picking 4-30. Jansen also took 3-35, with Keshav Maharaj (1-66) and Bosch (1-32) taking a wicket apiece.

Starting at overnight 37-1, Lokesh Rahul and Washington Sundar had negotiated the first hour of play without loss, adding 38 runs in 14 overs.

In the second hour, South Africa struck back with three wickets even as

India scored 63 runs. Sundar was the first to go out, caught at slip off Harmer, who found ample help from the pitch. He scored 29 runs off 82 balls, with two fours and a six.

Skipper Gill retired hurt after facing only three deliveries - he felt a jerk in his neck when hitting his first boundary and walked off retired hurt.

Gill did not come out to bat again and reportedly is suffering from a neck spasm. Vice-captain Rishabh Pant marshaled India in the second innings in Gill's absence.

Rahul scored 39 and was caught off Maharaj, with Markram taking a low catch at slip.

Pant then scored 27 off 24 balls, including two sixes, to speed the scoring before lunch, before he fell to a

bouncer from Bosch. The first session resulted in 101 runs overall with India 138-4 at lunch.

Dhruv Jurel was the first to go in the second session - a simple, low return catch to Harmer after India crossed 150.

Jadeja crossed 4,000 runs in his test career, as he scored 27 off 45 balls. He joined a select group of all-rounders to pick 300 wickets and score 4000 runs in tests - India's Kapil Dev, England's Ian Botham, and New Zealand's Daniel Vettori.

Jansen then got into the attack and dismissed the lower-order for cheaply. Only Axar Patel resisted with 16 runs, and he was the last man out - caught off Harmer again.

It gave India a slender lead, but the hosts regained control of the match by stumps.

"Playing attacking cricket is the only option as a batter," Axar Patel said. "We can't have a defensive mindset because you are never in. So we have to convert the loose balls. Patience is key on this surface. If we can keep them below 125, it should be chaseable tomorrow."

South Africa hasn't won a test in India in 15 years.

The second test will be played from Nov. 22 at Guwahati's Barsapara Stadium, which hosted multiple games in the 2025 Women's Cricket World Cup but will become a men's test venue for the first time.

Recently, India beat West Indies 2-0, with left-arm wrist spinner Yadav the leading bowler with 12 wickets. South Africa drew a two-test series in Pakistan 1-1.

Kuwait seeks 'redemption' at Islamic Solidarity Games



Kuwait players battling for the ball.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

RIYADH, Nov 15: The Kuwait national handball team will take on Iraq today in the second round of Group B at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games, currently underway in Riyadh. The same group will also feature a clash between Bahrain and host nation Saudi Arabia, while Group A sees Iran face the Maldives and Qatar meet the UAE.

The opening round saw Kuwait fall narrowly to Bahrain 27-28 despite a strong effort. Saudi Arabia defeated Iraq 33-21. Qatar swept past Iran 39-23, and the UAE recorded a commanding 53-10 win over the Maldives.

Head coach Aron Kristjánsson and his assistant Heini Guðfinnsson are looking to address the errors from the first match, even though Kuwait delivered an impressive and spirited performance against Bahrain despite the absence of several key players.

Today's encounter with Iraq is a crucial opportunity for Kuwait to return to winning ways, as a victory would provide significant momentum ahead of their final group-stage matchup against Saudi Arabia in two days. A win would also keep the team firmly in contention for a semifinal berth.

Under tournament regulations, the top two teams from each group advance to the semifinals, scheduled for the 19th of this month, with the final set for the 21st.

The Kuwaiti delegation is headed by Handball Federation Treasurer Khaled Taleb and includes team manager Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi, head coach Kristjánsson, assistant coach Guðfinnsson, performance analyst Ayman Al-Sheikh, goalkeeper coach Marwan Maqayez, physiotherapists Mahdi Bakoush and Ra'i, along with 16 players.

He, Zhang win historic cross-boundary marathon

GUANGZHOU, Nov 15, (Xinhua): He Jie and Zhang Deshun triumphed in the men's and women's races respectively, as the first cross-boundary marathon in the 66-year history of China's National Games was held on Saturday.

As one of two cross-boundary events at the 15th National Games, the marathon started and finished at the Shenzhen Bay Sports Center, linking Shenzhen and Hong Kong. Technology enabled athletes, vehicles and supplies to go through "zero delay, zero contact and zero wait" clearance during the race.

He clocked a winning time of two hours, 12 minutes and seven seconds, earning Ningxia its first National Games gold medal in summer sports in 38 years.

"Ningxia has been waiting for this gold medal for seven years. As I carry the hopes of over seven million Ningxia

people, I need to prove that I can make it," said an emotional He after the race.

Yunnan runner Zhang retained her gold medal in the women's race, improving her result by over two minutes compared to the last Games held in Shaanxi in 2021.

The table tennis competition approached its climax, with the men's and women's singles semifinals featuring clashes between world champions.

Shanghai's Fan Zhendong recovered from a 2-1 deficit in games to defeat Beijing's Wang Chuqin 4-2, setting up a men's singles final encounter with Hainan's Lin Shidong on Sunday.

"It was inevitable to feel pressure in the face of such an outstanding player. I tried to keep a steady mentality throughout the match. I told myself time and time again to focus on winning the next point. A single mistake may change the

whole story," said Fan, who became the 11th player in history to achieve a career Grand Slam of Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cup with his triumph at Paris 2024.

On the women's side, Hebei's Sun Yingsha saw off Macao's Zhu Yuling 4-1, while Heilongjiang's Wang Manyu swept reigning Olympic champion Chen Meng of Shandong in straight games. The world's top two female players will meet in the title showdown.

On the first day of track and field medal events, Team Fujian triumphed in the 4x100m mixed relay in 40.37 seconds. The event has been added to the program for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and features a running order of woman, woman, man, man. Team Guangdong clocked three minutes 17.54 seconds to take the 4x400m mixed relay gold.

Al-Shatti closes in on return to Al-Arabi as head coach

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Nasser Al-Shatti is poised to make a comeback as head coach of Al-Arabi after the club and the coach reached an agreement on all contract terms. Al-Shatti is expected to lead the team for two and a half seasons.

Several meetings over the past days addressed the conditions proposed by both sides, ultimately resulting in a compromise that cleared the way for Al-Shatti's return. He is expected to officially begin work with the team tomorrow, provided all goes according to plan.

Al-Arabi dismissed Croatian coach Marko Vesich last Monday following a loss to Al-Nasr in the eighth round



Nasser Al-Shatti

of the Zain Premier League. The defeat, the team's first of the season, dropped Al-Arabi to third place with

14 points, behind Qadsia in second by goal difference and five points behind league leaders Kuwait Club. Under Vesich, the team also failed to progress past the group stage of the Asian Challenge League.

Last week, the club negotiated with Al-Shatti while reviewing several foreign coaches' résumés before the board ultimately decided to reappoint him.

Al-Shatti previously led Al-Arabi last season before the club opted not to renew his contract. He then signed with Al-Salmiya at the start of this season, but resigned after the first league round following FIFA's decision to prevent the club from registering foreign players due to unpaid dues to former professionals.