

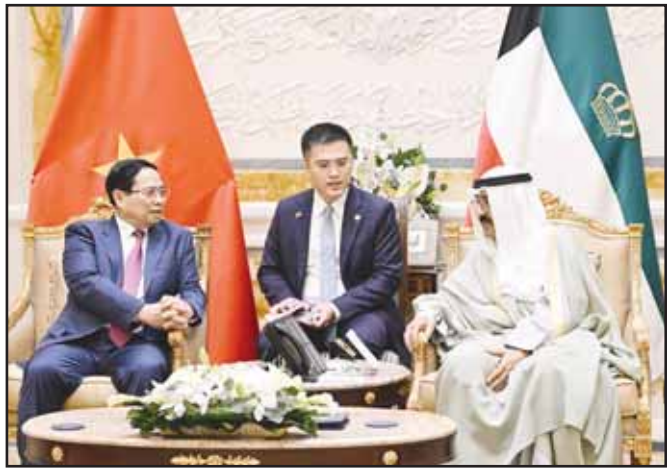


Scan the QR code to access the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel



HH AMIR CALLS TO ENHANCE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TWO NATIONS

Kuwait, Vietnam ink visa immunity pact



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh, along with his accompanying delegation.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh, along with his accompanying delegation.

Need to diversify cooperation

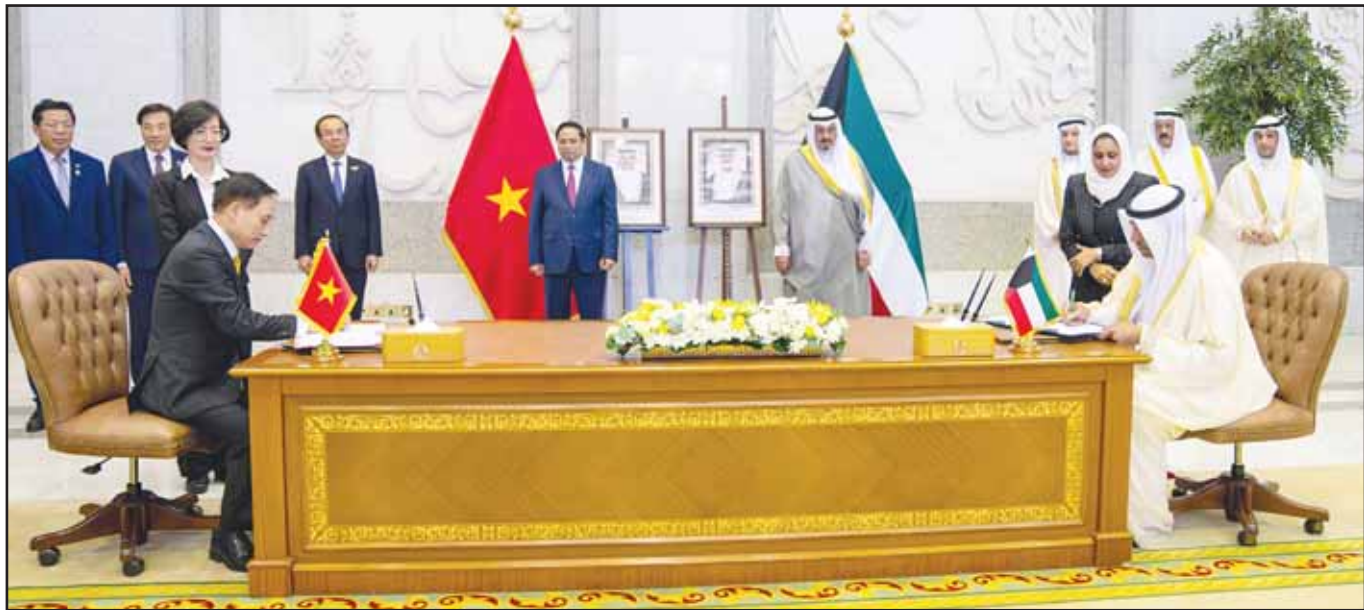
KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and visiting Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh held official talks at Bayan Palace on Monday.

They discussed bilateral relations and frameworks of expanding cooperative horizons in various fields to serve the common interests of both peoples and friendly countries.

They exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest, and underlined willingness to develop strategic bilateral relations to cover new domains.

The talks were attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Abdullah Al-Mousherji, Chairman of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Minister of Public Works Dr. Nora Al-Meshaan, Minister of Trade and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel, Minister of Oil Tareq Al-Roumi, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Acting Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem and Advisor at His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan and Chief of the Accompanying Mission of Honor Sheikh

Continued on Page 5



Kuwait and Vietnam signed a protocol of the revised agreement for visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports.

'Nazaha' keen to involve national stakeholders in integrity strategy

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: "Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) is keen on involving all national stakeholders in implementing the new integrity strategy project, including the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, oversight bodies and law enforcement agencies, in order to contribute to its development," says Chairman of Nazaha Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim.

In a speech at a workshop titled, "Towards a New Strategic Framework for Enhancing Integrity and Combating Corruption in Kuwait," organized by Nazaha on Monday, Al-Ibrahim stressed that the series of consultative workshops contributes to stimulating discussion and shaping shared and integrated visions regarding the directions of the next



Photo by Samer Shaqair
Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim

strategy and its key components, such as the vision, mission and general objectives, as well as the specific objectives of the participating entities.

Continued on Page 5



The helicopter belonging to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior is part of the State of Kuwait's participation in the Dubai Airshow.

Kuwait participates as air show 'The Future Begins Here' opens

DUBAI, Nov 17, (KUNA): The Dubai Airshow 2025 opened Monday under the slogan "The Future Begins Here," with Kuwaiti participation led by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah and Chairman of Kuwait's Public Authority for Civil Aviation Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Kuwait's Interior Ministry is also taking part with a security helicopter, highlighting the country's police aviation capabilities and efforts to strengthen field operations.

The ministry's presence reflects its focus on keeping pace with the latest global technologies, upgrading its air fleet, and enhancing security and safety readiness.

Running until November 21, the airshow brings together global leaders in aviation, space, and defense to shape the future of the sector, covering the latest trends, innovations, and major airport developments.

This edition hosts more than 1,500 exhibitors, 148,000 visitors, and 490 military and civilian delegations from 115 countries, along with 98 additional display zones spanning 8,000 square meters, 120 startups, and 50 investors.

Over 200 aircraft are on display, including commercial, military, business, and unmanned aircraft, in both flying and static shows, making this the largest edition in the event's history.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait oil sector issues multiple tenders for supplies and services

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced a non-divisible international public tender for Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) for the supply of chemicals and gas cylinders for KOTC's fleet, in accordance with the specified terms and conditions.

KPC stated that the tender is open from the date of publication in the official gazette "Kuwait al-Yaum" with a deadline for submitting bids on December 16, 2025.

It also announced a separate tender for the supply of printer ink cartridges, with a tender period from November 16 to December 16.

KPC announced a tender for the supply, installation, operation, and maintenance of a cybersecurity training and awareness platform, starting on November 16. The preliminary meeting is scheduled for November 26, with the closing date for bids set for November 16.

It explained that the tender is internal and public, open to specialized companies, and indivisible. Alternative bids are not allowed, and participants cannot attend the preliminary meeting without proving they have obtained the tender documents. Participants must also notify KPC of the names and positions of their nominees at least two days before the meeting. No individual or group may register under multiple

Continued on Page 5

'AMR key pillar of good governance'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed that the establishment of the Authority for Medical Responsibility (AMR) is a key pillar in promoting good governance within the health system and in consolidating justice and transparency in handling medical complaints and cases.

In his opening speech at the AMR's second conference, Dr. Al-Awadhi said that AMR represents an important institutional step toward safeguarding patients rights, supporting healthcare professionals, and strengthening mutual trust among all parties within the health sector.

He explained that the conference comes as part of a broader vision to raise legal and health

awareness in society and to benefit from international experiences in managing medical risks and regulating professional relationships.

The minister pointed out that the presence of AMR as an independent body entrusted with reviewing complaints and providing expert technical opinion reflects a serious commitment to an integrated health system that protects all parties. This, he noted, has been realized through Law No. 70 of 2020 on the Practice of Medicine and Allied Professions.

Al-Awadhi stated that the role of AMR is not limited to examining complaints and investigating medical incidents, but also extends to contributing to the development and improvement of service quality in both public and private sectors through its recommendations and corrective measures that help enhance performance and promote a culture of safe professional practice.

Continued on Page 5



Dr. Al-Awadhi



KFH celebrates 8 graduates of the 4th Leadership Academy Program



ABK becomes Gold Sponsor of HR Excellence Conference 2025

Day by Day

THERE is an old saying – "Smile when you are with your family, as there are many people who wish they had a family."

Smile on your way to work, for there are many people searching for a job.

Smile because you are healthy, as there are many who cannot smile because of their painful illnesses.

Smile, for you have a Lord in Heaven to whom you can raise your hands to seek help, while others bow down to worship animals and idols.

Smile because you are who you are... there are many others who wish they could be in your place.

All praise and thanks are due to God. Hopefully the message is received.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahid Matar

Death sentence in killing of 'grandmother' upheld

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: The Court of Appeals on Monday upheld the ruling of the Criminal Court to execute a citizen for killing his 85-year-old grandmother inside her home in Rumaihiya.

This closes the second appeal in one of the most heinous cases of domestic murder that the country witnessed recently.

The Public Prosecution demanded before the Criminal Court the maximum penalty for the accused, describing the crime as "heinous by all standards," as the accused brutally slaughtered the victim, showing no humanity and no regard for her weakness or old age.

Details of the case date back to the announcement of the Ministry of Interior on Sept 27, 2024 that the Criminal Investigation Department, with the support of the

Public Security Sector, apprehended the accused hours after the crime was committed, in response to a report about the murder inside a house in Hawally Governorate. It was later revealed that the grandson was involved in the murder of his grandmother.

□ □ □

From jail to just fine: The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling in an appeal filed by a doctor accused of medical malpractice, which commuted his imprisonment sentence to a fine of KD75.

The court rejected the petition of the Public Prosecution to impose a harsher penalty, while the lower court previously sentenced the doctor to six months in prison.

Attorney Sarah Al-Jassem Al-Qenaei defended the doctor and appealed the initial ruling.

Continued on Page 5

Drifters, road racers cars crushed as Mol gets tough

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior announced on Monday that several vehicles were crushed as part of strict measures taken against their drivers for committing serious traffic violations.

The ministry said in a press statement that concerned authorities sent the vehicles to a metal recycling facility after the General Directorate of Traffic completed all necessary legal procedures.

It added that the action reflects a firm approach adopted by the ministry toward traffic behaviors that threaten public safety or disrupt road security, within a comprehensive plan aimed at protecting lives and reducing dangerous conduct.

The ministry stressed that the law will be applied against anyone who endangers others, noting that inspection campaigns will continue, and urged all motorists to act responsibly and follow traffic officers' instructions to protect themselves and the public.

Good conduct pledge

Ex-MP freed after appeal

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: The Court of Appeals suspended the implementation of the ruling of a lower court, which sentenced former MP Saleh Al-Mulla to two years in prison with hard labor, for a period of three years and obligated him to sign a pledge of good conduct.

Last March, the Criminal Court convicted Al-Mulla of challenging the powers of HH the Amir, disseminating false news and misusing his telephone, based on the statements he posted on his X account.

In another case, the Court of Appeals rejected the appeal filed by the Public Prosecution against the ruling of the Criminal Court that acquitted him of insulting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas through the X platform.

In the first hearing, the Criminal Court confronted Al-Mulla with the charges filed against him in a State security case, based on a complaint from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Continued on Page 5



The site where the ancient kilns were discovered.

Ancient kilns, artifacts unearthed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17, (KUNA): The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) announced the discovery of more than 20 kilns dating back around 7,700 years, along with various remains at the Bahra 1 site in Subiya, northern Kuwait.

The discoveries include a half-figurine of a winged owl, local barley remains from 7,500 years ago, shattered fired pottery, a small clay human head, miniature figurines, a model boat, and cooking ceramics.

Continued on Page 5

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:51	Asr	14:32
Sunrise ..	06:13	Maghrib ..	16:52
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:12

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Mild with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-40 km/h.
By Night: Rather cold with light to moderate freshening at times over

Weather			
coastal areas northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-42 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	30	22	
Kuwait Airport	30	20	
Abdaly	31	15	

Bayan	26	14
Jahra	31	19
Failaka Island	27	19
Salmiyah	28	24
Ahmadi	28	20
Nuwaisib	33	19
Wafra	32	19

Fink hails Kuwait's economic transformation and pledges deeper collaboration

Amir hosts BlackRock Chairman, affirms investment priorities

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Monday, in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, BlackRock Chairman and CEO Larry Fink and members of the company's board of directors, on their visit to the country.

His Highness the Amir affirmed Kuwait's priority and strong commitment to enhancing new investment pathways and expanding economic cooperation, expressing appreciation for BlackRock's decision to open an office in Kuwait, noting that the move will contribute to improving the business environment, supporting global institutions, and encouraging capital investments that help drive the country's development.

In turn, Fink commended Kuwait's longstanding efforts of more than two decades, which he said contributed to the economic transformation witnessed under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, and His Highness the



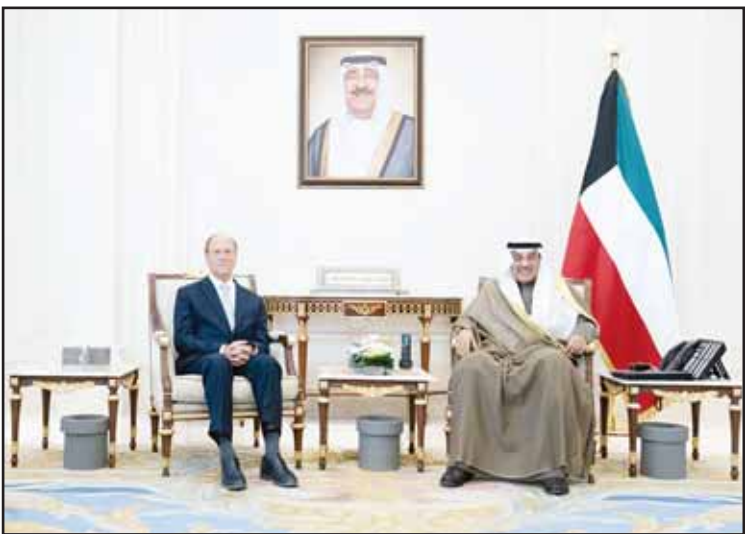
Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir with BlackRock Chairman and CEO.

Prime Minister.

He stressed the company's aspiration to further strengthen its partnership with Kuwait in support of its

economic vision for prosperity and sustainable growth.

Fink also expressed gratitude for the trust placed in BlackRock, noting



Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince with BlackRock Chairman and CEO.

that the company is proud to be the first global asset management firm operating at full capacity in Kuwait, a reflection of the shared commitment to

advancing the country's development objectives.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh

Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah; Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; Director of His Highness the Amir's Office retired Lt. Gen. Jamal Mohammad Al-Thiyab; Amiri Diwan Undersecretary Sheikh Abdulaziz Mishal Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; Deputy Foreign Affairs Undersecretary at the Amiri Diwan Mazen Issa Al-Issa; and the Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Monday BlackRock Chairman and CEO Larry Fink and members of the company's board of directors, on their visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah and other officials.

Vietnam's PM strengthens ties with Arab Development Funds

Prime Minister's spouse visits girls' school

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17, (KUNA): Visiting Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh and his accompanying delegation met Director-General and Chairman of Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) Fawzi Al-Hunaif and Acting Director-General of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) Waleed Al-Bahar at the AFESD headquarters on Sunday.

The Vietnamese guests then toured the AFESD building, where they were briefed on the fund's development efforts and financing activities for public and private investment projects.

They were accompanied by Advisor at His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan and Head of the accompanying mission of honor, Sheikh Dr. Basel Hamoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah and Ambassador of Kuwait to Vietnam Yousef Al-Sabbagh.

Visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh's spouse Le Thi Bich Tran visited Asmaa Bint Yazeed Al-Ansaryea Elementary School for Girls on Monday as part of an official visit to the country.

She was accompanied by Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, who presented a traditional Kuwaiti dress to the Vietnamese guest as a symbol of generosity and warm welcome.

During her visit, the Vietnamese prime minister's spouse toured the school's facilities, was briefed on syllabi and sophisticated educational methods and attended some classes for girls.



Prime Minister Diwan photos
His Excellency the Prime Minister of the friendly Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Pham Minh Chinh, and his accompanying delegation, met with His Excellency Fawzi Yousef Al-Hanif, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and His Excellency Waleed Shamlan Al-Bahr, Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, at the headquarters of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.



KUNA photos
Vietnamese PM's spouse Le Thi Bich Tran tours Asmaa Bint Yazeed Al-Ansaryea School for Girls.

States assess Beijing+30 process

Kuwait partakes in Arab Forum on Women with Disabilities in Cairo

CAIRO, Nov 17, (KUNA): The Fifth Regional Conference of the Arab Forum of Women with Disabilities (AFOWD) kicked off on Monday in Cairo, with Kuwait and other Arab countries participating to review the Beijing+30 process and the Arab Disability Decade initiatives.

In her opening remarks, Director General of the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD) Jahda Abou Khalil said the conference sets out an ambitious Arab roadmap to advocate the right of women and disabilities.

She noted that the Beijing+30 review reaffirms that empowering all women, including women with disabilities, is essential to any comprehensive development effort.

She described the conference as more than just a meeting but a platform to assess progress under the Arab Disability Decade and Beijing+30, evaluate commitments made, and examine cultural, social and political challenges that continue to restrict women's participation.

She noted that it also serves as a workshop to develop practical solutions and realistic policy proposals, and as a space to strengthen solidarity and renew commitments.

For his part, Director of Development and Social Policies at the Arab League's Social Affairs Sector Tareq Al-Nabulsi said the conference brings together a wide range of groups addressing both international and Arab dimensions, including organizations of persons with disabilities and relevant institutions, reflecting the importance of coordination between both sides.



KUNA photo
Conference for Arab women with disabilities kicks off in Cairo, Kuwait partaking.

He said this role is carried out the League in cooperation with the International Disability Alliance, the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND) and the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities.

He also stressed the difficult conditions faced by women in Gaza and Sudan, noting the grave humanitarian situation, including limited access to persons with disabilities and uncertainty about their needs, combined with a bleak outlook amid the absence of a clear path forward.

He emphasized the League's role, alongside its partners, is to develop plans and policies that support intervention for persons with disabilities, reaffirming the League's commitment to adopt and follow up on the conference's recommendations and outcomes through ministerial councils and relevant Arab organizations.

KDA sets Nov 20-22 for 2nd national dental conference

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: President of Kuwait Dental Association (KDA) Dr. Saad Al-Shammari disclosed that the second national conference of the association will be held on Nov 20-22 at Jumeirah Hotel, under the patronage of Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi.

In a press statement on Monday, Al-Shammari affirmed that this year's conference has a distinct national character, as it is limited to the participation of Kuwaiti dentists with scientific and practical experience as lecturers. He pointed out that this is one of the priorities of the association to support and highlight national competencies

and take pride in their achievements in various dental specializations.

He said the conference aims to develop the skills of Kuwaiti dentists, exchange experiences among them guarantee the scientific and professional development of dentists in Kuwait by showcasing the latest scientific advancements, modern technologies and treatment methods in the field, and facilitating the exchange of expertise among Kuwaiti dentists with various specializations.

He added that the conference program includes scientific lectures to be presented by 33 Kuwaiti professionals within three days, confirming that the heads of several Gulf and Arab associations and unions will participate in the event.

Envoy hails expanding bilateral cooperation

Brazil celebrates 203rd Independence, honors Kuwait 57 years of partnership

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Brazilian Ambassador to Kuwait Rodrigo d'Araújo Gabsch affirmed the strength of bilateral relations between Brazil and Kuwait, which span 57 years.

Gabsch made the statement at the celebration of the 203rd anniversary of independence at the Embassy of Brazil, with Deputy Foreign Minister for the Americas and Minister Plenipotentiary Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad and a number of ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps in attendance.

In his speech during the celebration, Gabsch disclosed "this year marks a pivotal moment in our relations, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of our embassies. This is a tribute to all those who have contributed to establishing this friendship and developing it for decades to come."

He emphasized that 2025 witnessed significant progress in economic cooperation between the two countries, indicating that two Brazilian trade and investment delegations visited Kuwait this year and

held fruitful discussions with their counterparts. He added "Brazil and Kuwait are reliable partners in food security and energy security. We are currently updating the legal framework that unites the two countries through new agreements under negotiation."

He called to mind various aspects of his country's history of independence in 1822, pointing out that this historic moment remains "a source of pride and inspiration for Brazil in its modern journey." He confirmed the intensive diplomatic activity of Brazil this year, including its presidency of the BRICS group and its hosting of the first summit of the group after its expansion, which discussed several issues, such as multilateralism, United Nations reform and climate.

He added that his country is also hosting the 30th Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, in the heart of the Amazon rainforest, explaining that holding the conference in this location gives participants a rare opportunity to see the most important environmental assets upon which the world depends on to confront climate change.



Photos by Samer Shaqir
Top & above: Photos during Brazil's celebration of the 203rd anniversary of independence at the Embassy of Brazil.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

3rd fingerprint system...
is it the right solution?

“MORE than a year after the implementation of the third fingerprint system, has this procedure been properly evaluated, or has an administrative study been conducted on the matter? This is a logical question, which I raise even though I am retired and do not directly benefit in any way,” columnist Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“However, the question remains - Has it truly helped increase employee productivity? Some reports indicate that the productivity of a Kuwaiti government employee may reach only about 45 minutes per day, despite the third fingerprint system. So how can we rely on a procedure designed to control employees when it is generally understood that laws are often bent or broken? It would be naive to assume otherwise.



Adel Al-Kharafi

“We must speak the truth, however bitter. This solution amounts to inaction. To escape the challenge of motivating employees to work and be productive, the “third fingerprint” was invented, which was an entirely unprecedented measure. What is truly needed is the establishment of a productivity culture, recognizing that employment is not a handout designed to grant citizens a share of the nation’s wealth through disguised unemployment, but a responsibility through which they fulfill their national and legal duty.

“The absence of a strong work ethic has led to numerous policies that fail to create a healthy work environment, unlike the early days of the state’s institutions when employees worked tirelessly throughout their shifts. At that time, employment was regarded as a national duty. Over time, however, employment came to be seen as an acquired right rather than a genuine commitment to productivity. Unfortunately, Article 41 of the Constitution is often misinterpreted, stripping it of its true meaning. It states, “Every Kuwaiti has the right to work and to choose the type of work. Work is a duty for every citizen, dictated by dignity and required by the public good. The state is responsible for providing work to citizens and ensuring fair working conditions.”

“The final phrase of this article has often been misunderstood to suggest that “the state is responsible for providing work for citizens,” which does not reflect the full reality. The intended meaning is that the state does provide employment, but in accordance with laws and regulations. This indicates that work is not an inherent right if it is unproductive; rather, employees are obligated to fulfill their role in serving the state effectively.

“Consequently, reports showing that the average productivity of a government employee in Kuwait is only 45 minutes per day are deeply concerning. By comparison, the average weekly productivity of a government employee in the United States is approximately 34.39 hours, and in the United Kingdom, around 38 hours. In some Gulf countries, government employees work an average of 2 hours and 53 minutes per day, which is still higher than their Kuwaiti counterparts.

“We must therefore approach this measure with careful consideration, rather than dismissing it as ill-conceived or impulsive. In Kuwait, the prevailing perception is that employment is an inherent right, and no one should be denied this right. However, there is a widespread misconception that employment entitles citizens to a share of the nation’s wealth, regardless of whether they actually work. This mindset undermines the development of a sense of employment as a national duty, irrespective of one’s position. The “third fingerprint” requirement, much like the higher-degree privileges introduced in the early 1990s, has previously contributed to the problem of “fake degrees,” a phenomenon whose consequences and associated corruption are well known.

“Therefore, fingerprinting is not a solution in itself, as true progress depends on employee productivity. To overcome Kuwait’s productivity slump, it is necessary to cultivate a culture of work rather than rely on disguised unemployment.

Correction and apology - In my previous article, part of the title was inadvertently omitted. The article referred to “Fahad Abduljalil - a Kuwaiti Model,” but the correct name is “Fahad Ghazi Al-Abduljalil.” We issue this correction and apology accordingly.

Also:

“There is much work ahead for the Cabinet to restore Kuwait to the leading position envisioned by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, and to achieve the ambition of making Kuwait a modern state by all standards,” columnist Sheikh Engineer Fahad Dawoud Al-Sahab wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“Therefore, any positive step taken deserves praise. The ongoing efforts to develop the air transport network aim to make Kuwait a central hub connecting East and West, due to its strategic geographical location, which qualifies it to play a significant role in this field. Achieving this goal requires organ-

izing the supporting infrastructure to serve the air transport network. In this context, the efforts of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah represent a major incentive to advance all sectors, with the air transport sector being the most prominent.

“Based on this, we regard His Highness’s interest in the new airport and his encouragement of officials to implement the project, particularly the Chairman of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) Sheikh Hamoud Mubarak Al-Hamoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as highly commendable. He works tirelessly to develop civil aviation and oversee the construction of the new airport through continuous coordination between the Ministry of Public Works, PACA, and all relevant government agencies and regulatory bodies, ensuring the project is completed according to the established timeline.

“For decades, Kuwait has faced a pressing need to develop its air transport sector in order to capitalize on its strategic geographic location as a vital link in the Middle East, thereby strengthening its position as a regional hub for transport and logistics. Kuwait lies on an air route connecting East and West. Developing this system will enable it to become a regional hub for civil aviation and air cargo, boosting trade. A modern airport network means increased capacity. The construction of new runways enhances the ability to accommodate a greater number of flights and passengers, supporting the airport’s role as a vibrant air gateway.

“An open skies policy, supported by modern infrastructure, improves operational flexibility and encourages international airlines to operate flights to Kuwait, making global connectivity more dynamic. This policy strengthens the transport sector and positions it as a strategic pillar for achieving the economic development goals of “New Kuwait 2035” vision. In this context, the efforts of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah regarding the new airport can be seen as a move to expand international partnerships with Kuwait, which reflects the focus of the country’s political leadership.”



“After the world breathed a sigh of relief with the ceasefire in Gaza, another dire crisis emerged, no less tragic—the crisis in Sudan,” Kuwaiti writer Saud Bader Al-Azmi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“Sudan, that great country, the land of civilizations and the Nile, of pure hearts and kind souls, has always been a land of revolutions as well as wealth since its independence in 1956. Sudan was once known as the “breadbasket of the Arab world,” thanks to its vast natural resources, including fertile lands suitable for agriculture, abundant water, and a large livestock population. However, unfortunately, Sudan has also witnessed many revolutions and upheavals that have led to its devastation. The greatest tragedy is that, according to official statistics, the number of martyrs in Sudan has surpassed the number of martyrs in Gaza. The figures indicate that more than 150,000 Sudanese have been martyred, while the number of martyrs in Gaza is approximately 76,000.



Saud Al-Azmi

“The painful reality is that the media has failed to cover this tragedy adequately, in proportion to its scale. The suffering is not limited to those who have fallen as martyrs in Sudan. Over 170,000 displaced Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia are living without the most basic necessities - no shelter, no food, and no medicine. Graphic videos circulating on social media show the killing of innocent people, a situation that evokes outrage and condemnation and calls for vigilance and urgent action from the international community. In this regard, we extend our gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its statement and honorable stance in support of the Sudanese people, its unequivocal condemnation of the massacres, and its call for the protection of the Sudanese population.

“I believe that the appropriate solutions to preserve Sudan and its unity lie in the following:
1- An immediate cessation of hostilities, with efforts to protect innocent civilians.
2- Preserving the unity of Sudan, rejecting any separatist calls aimed at dividing the country, and ignoring the Rapid Support Forces’ calls for the secession of Darfur.
3- Protecting state institutions and preventing the establishment of any parallel entities that would weaken the authority of the state and undermine its stability.
4- Refusing foreign interference, rejecting military solutions, and adhering to political dialogue as the only way to resolve the crisis.

“I strongly support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s call to resume dialogue sessions between the Sudanese parties in Jeddah. I pray that God rewards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, protects the lives of the Sudanese people, and restores security and stability to Sudan.”

— Compiled by Simi K.Kutty

Kuwaiti Navy vessel joins Omani celebrations



Kuwait’s Ambassador to Oman Dr. Mohammad Al-Hajri poses for a picture with the Kuwait Navy vessel ‘Istiqlal’ officers.

MUSCAT, Nov 17, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Navy vessel “Istiqlal” arrived in the Sultanate of Oman on Sunday, anchoring at Sultan Qaboos Port to take part in Oman’s National Day celebrations.

“Istiqlal” is participating in the “Fleet Review 2025” hosted by the Royal Navy of Oman, highlighting the strong fraternal ties between Kuwait and Oman, alongside several other friendly nations.

Kuwait’s Ministry of Defense stated in a press release to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that Kuwait’s Ambassador to Oman Dr. Mohammad Al-Hajri visited the vessel, inspected its readi-

ness, and received a briefing on its role in the national event.

Ambassador Al-Hajri praised the efforts of the vessel’s crew and Kuwaiti Navy personnel for their distinguished representation of Kuwait in joining their counterparts in Oman’s national celebrations.

The ministry emphasized that this participation reflects its commitment to strengthening naval cooperation with sisterly and friendly nations and to showcasing the Kuwait Armed Forces in various military events, reflecting the deep historical and fraternal ties between the two countries.



KUNA photos

Kuwait Navy vessel arrives at the Sultan Qaboos Port.

Sentence suspended in
expat building fire case

3 years jail for ex-MP

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: The **Misdemeanor Court of Cassation** decided to suspend the execution of the sentence issued against the director of Al-Badah Company pending the appeal filed by his defense attorney Sultan Hamad Al-Ajmi, and adjourned the case until the session on November 23 to hear arguments and complete the review of the appeal.

The Public Prosecution had previously referred the case file to the General Department of Investigations at the Ministry of Interior, classifying it as a misdemeanor rather than a felony, based on technical reports confirming that the fire was unintentional and caused no deliberate harm.

The case dates back to June 2024, when a massive fire broke out in a building used as workers’ accommodation in Mangaf, resulting in the deaths of 49 workers and injuries to a similar number, most of whom were Indian nationals.



Jail for ex-MP: The Criminal Court issued a ruling in absentia against former MP Mohammad Barak Al-Mutair, sentencing him to three-

year imprisonment with hard labor on charges of spreading false news via social media.



Bar removes lawyer: The Disciplinary Board of the Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge Younis Al-Yassin, has decided to remove a lawyer from the Kuwait Bar Association following a complaint filed by a client accusing him of serious professional misconduct.

The decision was issued after reviewing the complaint and confirming the validity of the accusations, which included a breach of professional duties. Striking the lawyer from the rolls is one of the most severe disciplinary penalties under the Law Regulating the Legal Profession.

Two perish
in road hit

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Two expatriates died when a vehicle hit them on Mutlaa Road, reports Al-Anba daily.

Traffic and rescue patrols responded to the accident report and forensic investigators took the bodies.

A security source told the daily that the accident led to the deaths of the two expatriates at the scene due to the severity of their injuries. The source added that the driver, a Kuwaiti citizen, was taken into custody pending legal procedures.



44 minors held: Intensive campaigns conducted by the General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry to apprehend violators of traffic rules and regulations resulted in the issuance of 23,827 traffic violation citations in a single week, in addition to impounding 636 vehicles and 33 motorcycles, and the referral of 44 juveniles to the Juvenile Prosecution for driving without a license.

Cams installed in malls
to trap wanted people

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: The Ministry of Interior installed a number of smart cameras that identify wanted individuals through a database, and then the security personnel will immediately apprehend and refer them to the concerned authorities, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source explained these cameras function like security checkpoints, indicating they were installed in certain malls. The source revealed these cameras contain comprehensive information on individuals wanted by law for involvement in various cases.

Traffic violation leads
to drug-related arrest

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: A traffic violation led to the discovery of a citizen wanted by the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) at the Ministry of Interior.

He was accompanied by another citizen and an Iraqi expatriate, and all three were referred to the concerned authorities.

A security source told the newspaper that traffic patrol officers were on duty along King Fahd Road opposite Julaia, when they spotted a vehicle with three occupants. After verifying the identity of the driver, it was discovered that he is wanted by DCGD. Paraphernalia suspected of being used for drug consumption were found inside the vehicle as well.

The source added that the officers immediately apprehended the wanted man, seized the drug paraphernalia and arrested his companions. They were referred to DCGD to complete the legal procedures.

Meanwhile, in view of the ongoing security efforts exerted by patrol units in various governorates, 15 individuals in an abnormal state were apprehended within a week and these individuals were found to be in possession of substances suspected to be narcotics.

In addition, the officers dealt with 11 fights, while 64 individuals wanted by the judiciary were arrested.

The weekly statistics for patrol units affirmed the issuance of 2,816 citations for various traffic violations, impoundment of 29 vehicles, arrest of 15 individuals without identification and seizure of 25 vehicles wanted by the courts, while 175 traffic accidents were dealt with.

A security source confirmed to the newspaper that the campaigns conducted by patrol units are continuing in all governorates. These campaigns aim to maintain security, as well as track down wanted individuals and those who violated the law. The source also indicated that checkpoints will continue to be established to ensure the highest level of security and safety throughout the country.

مفـل محـل
MUGHAL MAHAL

SCAN FOR
A-UKRA 08080

QR CODE

NOW
OPEN

GATE MALL - EGAILA

FOOD COURT

دجاج لوليبوب
Chicken Lollipop
KD 1.750

بروناي دجاج برون عظم
Chicken Biryani Boneless
KD 1.750

كنداري / زوايي / ملاي ليكا
Kandhari / Samosa / Malya Tikka
5 Pcs | KD 2.450

دجاج زوايدة
Butter Chicken
KD 1.750

1800 188

900126 47 / 900126 48 www.mughalmahal.com @mughalmahalkuwait

Kuwait and UNDP explore new cooperation avenues

Financial reform, capacity building on agenda

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Minister of Electricity, Water, Renewable Energy and Finance and acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem recently met with Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kuwait Emma Morley and her team of advisors.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on existing and new areas of cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the UNDP, particularly in macro-strategic planning, modernization of financial policies and capacity building.

They also discussed the development of practical mechanisms to measure the contributions of the financial sector to the ongoing efforts to work on national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Ministry of Finance photo

Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem, discusses matters with the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Emma Morley, and her accompanying advisors.

Sheikha Souad Al-Sabah honored at Nador Film, Shared Memory Festival



KUNA photo

International tribute to Sheikha Dr. Souad Al-Sabah at the Nador Film and Shared Memory Festival.

AL-NADOR, Morocco, Nov 17, (KUNA): The Centre for Shared Memory for Democracy and Peace honored Sheikha Dr. Souad Al-Sabah during the International Festival of Shared Memory Cinema in Nador, Morocco, in recognition of her great humanistic, literary, and intellectual endeavors.

The festival confirmed that the honoring “is a tribute to humanity and to the noble values that Sheikha Souad Al-Sabah defended throughout her literary and intellectual journey.”

In a speech delivered on her behalf, Sheikha Souad made an appeal to the world to save humanity from violence, childhood from hunger and devastation, women from exploitation, and Gaza from siege and slow death.

The ceremony was attended by many different human rights activists, intellectuals, former prime ministers, writers, the King of Morocco’s advisor Dr. Omar Azhiman, and Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah on behalf of his mother Sheikha Souad Al-Sabah.

Kuwait expands clean power

MEW, KAPP open tender for next phase of Shagaya energy project

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Official spokesperson of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Eng. Fatima Hayat announced the opening of bids from qualified companies to participate in the Shagaya Renewable Energy Project -- Phase Three-Project Two (Zone Two), which has a production capacity of 500 megawatts, in cooperation with Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP).

In a press statement on Sunday, Hayat disclosed this is the fourth project of the ministry in coordination with KAPP. She confirmed that in August, a commitment document was signed between the ministry, KAPP and the winning investor for the implementation of the North Zour North Power Plant Project – Phases Two and Three, with a production capacity of up to 2,700 megawatts using combined cycle technology, in addition to producing 120 million imperial gallons of fresh water per day.

She added the first phase of the Khairan Power Plant Project, with a production capacity of 1,800 megawatts and 33 million imperial gallons of fresh water per day, was launched in June, followed by the launching of Al-Dibdibah Project and Al-Shagaya Project -- Phase Three-Project One (Zone One) in August, with a production capacity of 1,100 megawatts.

She said the total production capacity of

electricity projects currently being offered in partnership with KAPP reached 6,100 megawatts, equivalent to about 30 percent of the current electricity production capacity of the country. She affirmed this is in line with the commitment of the State to expand modern and renewable energy projects, and enhance the security and sustainability of the electricity grid.

She stated that opening the door to international investor participation is a crucial step to attract expertise and advanced technologies, contributing to raising the quality and efficiency of projects in the country, while achieving the energy transition goals and Kuwait Vision 2035.

It is worth noting that the aim of offering the project through partnership is to encourage private sector participation in construction and development projects.

In another development, the ministry announced a tender for the supply, installation and operation of Global Positioning System (GPS) devices. The deadline for submitting bids is on Nov 30.

This project includes the installation of tracking devices to monitor vehicles assigned to ministry employees, in accordance with the nature of their work, and to implement Ministry of Finance Circular No. 1/1994 on regulating the use of government vehicles and prohibiting their use outside of official working hours and for purposes other than those for which they were designated.



Capital Governorate photo

Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, with project officials in a group photo.

Capital Governor reviews Salhiya expansion

Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali affirmed that the expansion of the Salhiya Complex is a vital project for the governorate, as it contributes to boosting economic activity and improving the urban environment and commercial services, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During a field visit to the project on Sunday, Nov 16, the governor reviewed the work phases, development plans, and progress.

Sheikh Abdullah praised the efforts of those overseeing the project and emphasized the governorate’s commitment to monitoring projects that serve the community and enhance the urban landscape of the capital.



Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 50.000	BHD 111.000/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 61000/-net	BHD 136.198

Terms & conditions apply*

Applications by citizens rise 37%

Kuwaitis opt for private sector jobs

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: The private sector witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of applications from citizens, around 37 percent of those who registered in the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) from the beginning of 2025 until mid-November, reports Al-Rai daily.

Statistics from the Authority revealed that more than 6,200 citizens applied for jobs in the private sector, compared to around 10,500 who opted for the public sector. This means the citizens’ desire to join the private sector increased by about 1,600 since the beginning of 2025, compared to 4,562 applications recorded last year, reflecting a growing trend towards job opportunities in private institutions and companies.

It also showed that the total number of citizens registered as job seekers for more than six months, currently unemployed, not receiving a pension, and not enrolled in any educational institution, reached around

29,000.

Among the job seekers, about 34 hold doctoral degrees, 550 hold masteral degrees, 15,300 hold university degrees and 6,350 hold diplomas.

The statistics indicated that there are around 3,400 high school graduates, and 54 percent of whom have completed a two-year or longer course in addition to their diploma. The authority divided this category into four: high school graduates with a two-year or longer course, high school graduates with a one-year course, high school graduates, and high school graduates with one year experience.

Those with intermediate certificates, totaling about 2,400 citizens, were divided into five categories. The number of registered citizens who completed vocational training or parallel education programs reached 78, while 468 have qualifications below the intermediate level.

KU 2nd semester registration set

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Kuwait University has announced the course registration dates for the second semester of the 2025/2026 academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to sources from the university, the Deanship of Admissions and Registration has completed all preparations to ensure a smooth registration process, offering students the necessary guidance and support.

Registration for new students will begin on January 4, 2026. Continuing students can register starting January 13, 2026, following schedules issued by the Deanship based on each student’s allowed credit

hours and the approved timetable system.

The university emphasized the importance of students checking for any course conflicts before starting the registration process to ensure stable schedules and support improved academic performance throughout the semester.

It encouraged students to consult their academic advisors for guidance or assistance in selecting appropriate courses.

The sources expect a smooth registration process this semester, thanks to recent technical updates to the university’s registration systems and the deployment of technical teams to address any issues or concerns students may encounter.

News in Brief

Haji 1447 hits 50K registrants: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs announced that the number of applicants for Haji registration for the 1447 AH (2026 CE) season has reached 50,000 since registration opened four weeks ago, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry also received 1,500 inquiries via its WhatsApp number allocated for public communication and 200 calls via the hotline during the same period.

□ □ □

Sabahiya Street 8 partially closed: The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), in cooperation with the General Traffic Department, announced a partial closure of Street 8 in Sabahiya between Roundabout 25 and the Sabahiya Cooperative Society Roundabout in front of the banks area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PART stated in a post on its X account that the closure began on Sunday at 12:00 midnight.

□ □ □

DGCA tender cancelled: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) confirmed the cancellation of Tender No. 6-2022/2023 for the design, construction, operation, maintenance and renovation of Kuwait International Airport Hotel (ground floor), which was announced on Nov 9, 2025, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The announcement, which was published in the official gazette, ‘Kuwait Al-Youm’, states that the tender is canceled, hence, it is considered null and void.

Project expansion

MPW announces 17 major road tenders

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: The Ministry of Public Works announced that 17 tenders will be issued within the current fiscal year (2025/2026) as part of the annual plan of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), indicating each tender is valued at more than KD75,000.

These tenders include the construction of roads, bridges and drainage systems for a section of the Kabad/Sulaibiya Industrial Area link, completion and maintenance of a road connecting the existing section of the Seventh Ring Road with the Regional Road, sand removal works in the southern and northern parts of the country, maintenance of storm water pumping stations for highway tunnels, and general cleaning and maintenance of the highway storm water drainage network, along with emergency rain works.



The Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute signs a memorandum of understanding with the Turkish SETA Center.



Group photo after the signing of memorandum of understanding.

KUNA photos

Kuwait Diplomatic Institute signs MoU with Türkiye’s SETA

ANKARA, Nov 17, (KUNA): Saud N. Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute signed on Sunday a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Türkiye’s Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (SETA).

In a statement, the Institute told KUNA that the agreement was signed by Kuwaiti Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Saud N. Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute Nasser Al-Sabeeh and Türkiye’s SETA General Coordinator, Nebi Mis.

The signing ceremony was attended by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Türkiye Abdulaziz Al-Adwani and members of the embassy.

KUNA Center launches training on speaking and spokesperson skills

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17, (KUNA): The KUNA Center for Development of Media launched on Sunday a training program titled “Speaking Skills and Official Spokesperson Techniques,” presented by the Director of Communication at the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), Dr. Barakat Al-Wuqayan, which runs until November 20.

Employees from KUNA, Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA), the Ministry of Social Affairs, the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, the State Audit Bureau, the Public Authority for Youth, and the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development will take part in the program.

The program aims to strengthen participants’ communication capabilities through learning the scientific foundations for addressing the media and building a positive institutional image that reflects organizational identity and values.

Established in December 1995, the KUNA Center for Development of Media is regarded as one of Kuwait’s leading media-training hubs. Since its inception, it has offered hundreds of specialized courses across various media fields with the objective of developing professional competencies and advancing the standards of media work.



Director of Communication at the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), Barakat Al-Wuqayan, during the KUNA ‘Speaking Skills, Official Spokesperson Techniques’ training program.

KUNA photo

Kuwait pledges stronger cultural role at UNESCO

Ministry, NCCAL highlight int’l initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to UNESCO Dr. Ali Al-Mudhaf discussed Sunday cooperation between the Ministry of Information and international cultural institutions.

During the meeting, the minister said Kuwait is proud of its cultural and intellectual role in international forums, boasting that Kuwait having an efficient representative like Al-Mudhaf reflects its commitment to promoting its presence in UNESCO and supporting its cultural, educational and scientific message, the Ministry of Information said in a press release.

He added that the ministry and National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) are seeking to develop their cultural and media programs in line with the State’s orientations towards promoting the national identity and beefing up Kuwait’s soft diplomacy.



Ministry of Information photo

The Minister of Information and Culture during his meeting with the Permanent Delegate of the State of Kuwait to UNESCO.

He underlined the significance of cooperation with UNESCO in backing cultural initiatives and highlighting Kuwait’s cultural role and spurring youth participation in creative and intellectual fields.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait, Vietnam

Dr. Basel Humoud Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of His Highness the Prime Minister’s Diwan Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Deputy Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Sheikh Khaled Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Jawhar Hayat and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Vietnam Yousuf Al-Sabbah.

The Vietnamese side was represented by the Prime Minister’s accompanying delegation.

Both sides signed a protocol of the revised agreement for visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports, along with a memo of understanding between the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry’s Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute and the Vietnamese Diplomatic Academy of the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

His Highness the Prime Minister then held a luncheon in honor the Vietnamese Prime Minister and his accompanying delegation.

Amir meets Vietnam PM
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Monday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh, along with his accompanying delegation, on their official visit to the country.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the distinguished bilateral relations between Kuwait and Vietnam and ways to further enhance and expand cooperation to serve their mutual interests. The discussions also emphasized strengthening the strategic partnership between the two friendly nations, in addition to addressing issues of common concern and the latest regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Advisor at the Prime Minister’s Diwan and Head of the Honorary Mission Sheikh Dr. Basel Hamoud Al-Sabah; Director of His Highness the Amir’s Office retired Lt. Gen. Jamal Mohammad Al-Thiyab; Amiri Diwan Undersecretary Sheikh Abdulaziz Mishal Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; Deputy Foreign Affairs Undersecretary at the Amiri Diwan Mazen Issa Al-Issa; Deputy Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah; and Kuwait’s Ambassador to Vietnam Yousif Ashour Al-Sabbagh.

Crown Prince
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Monday Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh, along with his accompanying delegation, on their official visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by the Head of the Crown Prince’s Diwan, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Advisor at the Diwan of His Highness the Prime Minister and Head of the accompanying delegation of honor, Sheikh Dr. Basel Hamoud Al-Malik Al-Sabah, the Vice Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Sheikh Nawaf Saud Nasser Al-Sabah, and senior officials.

Prime Minister
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Monday Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Pham Minh Chinh, and his accompanying delegation.

An official ceremony was held for the guest, during which the national anthems of the two states were played.

Receiving the guest were First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereedah Al-Mourshejri, President of the Prime Minister’s Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajil, Minister of Oil Tareq Al-Roumi; and Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance, and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem.

Also present were Advisor at the Prime Minister’s Diwan and head of the honorary mission Sheikh Dr. Basel Al-Sabah; Undersecretary of the Prime Minister’s Diwan Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Sabah; Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Johar Hayat; Kuwait’s Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Yousif Al-Sabbagh; along with senior commanders of the Army, Police, National Guard, the Fire Force, as well as senior state officials.

‘AMR key

He stressed that the Ministry of Health believes that protecting patients and protecting practitioners do not conflict but rather complement each other, noting that fair treatment and sound professional accountability encourage more committed and confident practice.

This, he added, is being pursued by strengthening the culture of medical responsibility, developing training systems, and updating health legislation.

The minister affirmed that the Ministry will remain a strong supporter and strategic partner of the Authority for Medical Responsibility to ensure that it carries out its mandate with the highest levels of neutrality and transparency, within a complementary framework with other state institutions.

He concluded by emphasizing the importance of the conference as a platform for exchanging expertise and further developing the health system in Kuwait.

For his part, Chairman of the Authority for Medical Responsibility Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah said in a similar address that the conference is aligned with the “New Kuwait 2035” Vision and aims to discuss leading experiences and share best health, legal, and regulatory practices in the field of medical responsibility.

Dr. Al-Sabah reviewed AMRs most prominent achievements since Law No. 70 of 2020 came into force, noting that the Authority has moved from being a legislative text to a fully operational institutional system.

He explained that AMR has contributed to developing work mechanisms and improving the performance of technical investigation committees, which has positively impacted the judicial system by “reducing litigation periods and enhancing the judiciary’s handling of medical cases,” thanks to accurate and objective technical reports.

He added that the Authority has succeeded in “training and qualifying national medical and legal cadres” and has worked on “promoting the culture of medical responsibility” through a wide series of lectures and workshops targeting legal professionals, practitioners, and medical students.

Dr. Al-Sabah also announced the launch of the “Kuwait Medical Responsibility Classification” project, the first unified national framework for classifying types of medical responsibility, aimed at facilitating the work of committees and generating accurate statistical data to improve healthcare quality.

On the digital transformation front, he stated that AMR has completed the first phase of its comprehensive governance plan, which includes “an integrated electronic platform enabling the public to submit complaints and follow up on them easily and transparently.”

He added that the Authority has strengthened its international presence by joining leading global organizations and participating in international conferences and training programs, noting that AMR has received international recognition that “made the Authority a pioneering model in the field of medical responsibility.”

Dr. Al-Sabah affirmed that the coming phase will see “greater opportunities to create a wider impact on awareness, policy, and professional practice” and further consolidate Kuwait’s regional and international standing in this field.

He concluded by expressing thanks to “Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences” for its support of the conference.

For his part, World Health Organization (WHO) representative Dr. Asad Hafeez praised what he described as a

“significant step” taken by the State of Kuwait in establishing the AMR, which laid the legal foundations for medical responsibility in the country.

Dr. Hafeez said that AMR has, in a relatively short period of time, succeeded in developing structured expert review processes, clarifying professional standards, and handling an increasing number of cases “in a consistent and transparent manner”, stressing that these important achievements place Kuwait “as a reference point” for organized medical responsibility processes in the region.

He commended the leadership of the Minister of Health and the Chairman of the Authority in positioning Kuwait “not only on the regional map, but also on the global map” in this vital and sensitive field.

He pointed out that Kuwait this year led a dedicated side event at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, which highlighted the global importance of this topic and Kuwait’s emerging role in international discussions on medical responsibility and regulation.

Dr. Hafeez revealed that WHO is currently in discussions with the relevant authorities at the AMR “to explore the possibility of recognizing Kuwait as a global Center of Excellence” in this field, expressing hope that this would be achieved soon with the support of the leadership in Kuwait. He affirmed that WHO remains a committed partner in providing technical assistance and global expertise to strengthen regulatory systems, wishing the conference fruitful and successful deliberations.

Ancient kilns,

NCCAL Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Antiquities and Museums Mohammad bin Reda told KUNA that Bahra 1 is the oldest and largest known Ubaid-period settlement in the Arabian Peninsula, dating to about 5,700 BC, and that the discoveries reflect the community’s life thousands of years ago.

He said the Polish team focused this season on field and laboratory analyses to reveal daily practices, including ornament-making, supported by ground-penetrating radar surveys showing buried cultural remains that may guide future excavations.

Archaeology professor Dr. Hasan Ashkanani told KUNA that the findings offer significant insight into Subiya’s early society, while Polish deputy director Dr. Agnieszka Binkowska said the results clarify food preparation and pottery production.

Professor Anna Smogorzewska described the pottery and workshop as major recent achievements at the site.

Death sentence

The two sides also reviewed draft cooperation agreements and affirmed their keenness to strengthen institutional partnership to support joint efforts in crime prevention and community protection.

The Vietnamese delegation expressed gratitude for the warm reception and emphasized its interest in expanding future avenues of joint security cooperation.

The talks were held as part of the official visit to Kuwait by Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and his accompanying delegation.

‘Nazaha’ keen

He said the workshop provides a specialized platform for entities responsible for providing essential services in the country, enabling them to contribute to formulating the upcoming strategy in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 and its commitments under the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

He added the workshop focuses on enhancing the quality of vital public services and ensuring fair and equal access to them for all citizens and expatriates. “This will boost public trust in institutions and guarantee the optimal use of resources within a framework based on transparency, accountability, participation and the rule of law. It aims to establish institutional pathways to safeguard service delivery from the risks of corruption, in accordance with international standards and comparative experiences,” he elaborated.

On the other hand, Director of the Planning and Follow-up Office at Nazaha Khaled Al-Muzaini stated that the workshop aims to establish a foundation and preparatory framework for the new strategy of Kuwait to promote integrity and combat corruption. He said the previous strategy, launched in 2019, will conclude at the end of 2025, indicating that Nazaha has adopted a participatory methodology based on the involvement of the public and private sectors, in addition to civil society organizations, in developing the new anti-corruption strategy.

In a similar statement, Emma Morley, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kuwait, asserted that integrity is a shared responsibility and no single entity can lead the way. She said “national strategies are a fundamental tool for defining roles and tasks, distributing responsibilities among all parties, and developing their sense of shared responsibility.”

Head of the Regional Advisors for Integrity and Anti-Corruption for Arab States at UNDP Arkan Al-Sablan confirmed that the workshop supports efforts to realize the shared objectives

between UNDP and Nazaha to engage the largest possible number of institutions and stakeholders in Kuwait on anti-corruption issues.

Kuwait oil

names or submit more than one bid during the classification process, except for alternative bids.

However, an individual owning shares in separate companies, each with its own legal personality, finances, engineers, employees, and administrative structure, may register themselves and each of their independent companies during the classification process. Any bid submitted in violation of these rules will be considered null and void.

Meanwhile, KOC announced a tender for the investment of vacant company-owned spaces located in Ahmadi City and other locations – Mini 1B – within the KOC complex.

The tender period is from November 16 to December 22, 2025. The Higher Procurement Committee for KPC and its subsidiaries recently held a meeting to open several bids, including one from Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC), and reviewed tenders and transactions exceeding KD 75,000.

The committee discussed the reports and bid opening schedules and forwarded them to the relevant company for review, requesting the submission of necessary recommendations within 30 days. This included a tender for security services at the KGOC headquarters.

Ex-MP

The complaint concerned a post deemed offensive to the Palestinian president in light of events in Gaza and Palestine.

During the proceedings, Al-Mulla denied all the charges. The Criminal Court acquitted him due to the absence of criminal intent, ruling that his actions are within the scope of freedom of expression.

Kuwait participates

Attendees gain global insights across the full aviation and space ecosystem through panel discussions and interactive workshops, with a special focus on advanced air mobility that underscores Dubai’s role as an innovation hub.

For the first time, the show features flights by electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, confirming its status as a global platform for the future of air transport, with public and private airlines from around the world displaying their latest technologies and solutions.

‘We’ll work something out’

Trump plans to meet with Mamdani

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Nov 17, (AP): US President Donald Trump indicated Sunday that he plans to meet with New York City’s mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani and said they’ll “work something out,” in what could be a detente for the Republican president and Democratic political star who have cast each other as political foils.

Trump has for months slammed Mamdani, falsely labeling him as a “communist” and predicting the ruin of his hometown, New York, if the democratic socialist was elected. He also threatened to deport Mamdani, who was born in Uganda and became a naturalized American citizen, and to pull federal money from the city.

Mamdani rose from an obscure state lawmaker to become a social media star and symbol of the resistance against Trump during his mayoral campaign. He campaigned on an array of progressive policies and a message that was stark in its opposition to the aggressive, anti-immigrant agenda Trump has rolled out in his second White House term.

The 34-year-old appealed to a



New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani greets people while attending the SOMOS Puerto Rico conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Nov 8. (AP)

broad cross-section of New Yorkers and defeated one of its political heavyweights, former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, by nearly 9 percentage points.

In his election night victory speech, Mamdani said he wanted New York to show the country how

to defeat the president. But the day after, while speaking about his plans for “Trump-proofing” New York once he takes office in January, the incoming mayor also said he was willing to work with anyone, including the president, if it can help New Yorkers.

In reversal, US president says House GOP should vote to release Epstein files

WASHINGTON, Nov 17, (AP): US President Donald Trump said House Republicans should vote to release the files in the Jeffrey Epstein case, a startling reversal after previously fighting the proposal as a growing number of those in his own party supported it.

“We have nothing to hide, and it’s time to move on from this Democrat Hoax perpetrated by Radical Left Lunatics in order to deflect from the Great Success of the Republican Party,” Trump wrote on social media late Sunday after landing at Joint Base Andrews following a weekend in Florida.

Trump’s statement followed a fierce fight within the GOP over the files, including an increasingly nasty split with Georgia Rep Marjorie Taylor Greene, who had long been one of his fiercest supporters.

The president’s shift is an implicit acknowledgement that supporters of the measure have enough votes to pass it the House, although it has an unclear future in the Senate.

It is a rare example of Trump backtracking because of opposition within the GOP. In his return to office and in his second term as president, Trump has largely consolidated power in the Republican Party.



US Rep Thomas Massie, speaks as FBI Director Kash Patel appears before the House Judiciary Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington on Sept 17. (AP)

“I DON’T CARE!” Trump wrote in his social media post. “All I do care about is that Republicans get BACK ON POINT.”

Lawmakers who support the bill have been predicting a big win in the House this week with a “deluge of Republicans” voting for it, bucking the

GOP leadership and the president.

In his opposition to the proposal, Trump even reached out to two of the Republican lawmakers who signed it. One, Colorado Rep Lauren Boebert, met last week with administration officials in the White House Situation Room to discuss it.

Visa processing continues to lag in some countries

Foreign enrollment at US colleges holds steady, for now, despite Trump’s visa crackdown

WASHINGTON, Nov 17, (AP): Foreign students enrolled at US colleges in strong numbers this fall despite fears that a Trump administration crackdown would trigger a nosedive, yet there are signs of turbulence as fewer new, first-time students arrived from other countries, according to a new report.

Overall, US campuses saw a 1% decrease in international enrollment this fall compared with last year, according to a survey from the Institute of International Education. But that figure is propped up by large numbers of students who stayed in the US for temporary work after graduating. The number of new students entering the United States for the first time fell by 17%, the sharpest decrease since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some universities are seeing backslides that have punched big holes in tuition revenue, but overall the falloff is less severe than some industry groups had forecast. Researchers credit colleges for helping students navigate visa issues through the summer.

“I think colleges and universities did absolutely everything in their power to advocate to get these students to the United States,” said Mirka Martel, head of research, evaluation and learning for the institute.

At DePauw University, a Catholic university in Chicago, the number of international graduate students fell by almost 62% this fall, a driving factor in recent spending cuts. The university president blamed student visa troubles and declining interest to study in the US, calling it a “massive” disruption.

Overall, nearly 60% of colleges reported a decrease in new foreign students this fall, the survey found, while 30% saw increases and others held even. More than 800 schools responded to the survey, which offers an early look at trends before full data is released next year.

The Trump administration has sought to reduce America’s reliance on foreign students. The White House is pushing colleges to cap enrollment of foreign students and enroll more from the US. In June, the State Department began screening visa applications more closely after temporarily halting all interviews.

Visa processing has continued to lag in some countries, including India, the largest source of America’s foreign students. Education firms have reported that future college students are now showing decreased interest in the US and more in Europe and Asia. While international enrollment remained relatively steady, there



Students attend commencement ceremonies in the State Farm Center at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Ill, on May 12, 2013. (AP)

are concerns about its sustainability.

“There are warning signs for future years, and I’m really concerned about what this portends for fall ‘26 and ‘27,” said Clay Harmon, the executive director of AIRC: The Association of International Enrollment Management, which represents colleges and recruitment agencies.

Foreign students make up about 6% of America’s college students but they play an outsized role in campus budgets. Most pay higher tuition rates and don’t get financial aid, effectively subsidizing US students. Their numbers are far higher at elite campuses, often making up a quarter or more of the student body.

International students at the graduate level saw the biggest backslide this fall, with a 12% drop. That was mostly offset by rising numbers of students participating in Optional Practical Training, which allows students to stay in the US for temporary work after graduating. Undergraduate numbers ticked up slightly.

Graduate students make up the biggest share of foreign students in the US, often coming for science, math and business programs. Numbers had already started leveling off last year after a post-pandemic surge, but the recent turmoil appears to have accelerated the downturn. In the survey, colleges that saw decreases cite factors including visa issues and other travel restrictions.

Many smaller and regional colleges have reported downswings, especially among master’s and doctoral students.

In a recent campus address, the president of the University at Albany said a decrease in foreign graduate students was having a “disproportionate impact” on the school’s budget. At Kent State University in Ohio, falling international numbers required an additional \$4 million in cuts to balance the budget, the president wrote in an October update.

Even the biggest public universities weren’t immune. The University of Illinois’ flagship campus saw its international numbers dip, fueled by a 6% drop in graduate students. At the University of Michigan, foreign graduate enrollment fell by a similar share. Arizona State University, which has more foreign students than any other public campus, saw its overall numbers fall by 3%.

Universities are offering wider flexibility to students who couldn’t make it to campus this fall, according to the survey. Almost three-quarters are allowing foreign students to defer their enrollment to the spring term, and more than half are allowing deferrals until fall 2026.

Colleges in other countries, meanwhile, have sought to capitalize on the disruption, said Joann Ng Hartmann, senior impact officer at NAFSA, an agency that promotes international education. In Germany, Canada and some other countries, colleges are ramping up efforts to recruit students who might be rethinking college in the US.

“They have friendlier policies, and students realize that,” she said. “They have friendlier messaging for students that welcomes them.”

America

Indiana lawmaker victim of swatting: An Indiana lawmaker who resisted US President Donald Trump’s push to have Republicans redraw the state’s congressional boundaries was the victim of a swatting call Sunday that brought sheriff’s deputies to his home.

The call, in which someone reported a fake emergency at the Terre Haute home of state Sen. **Greg Goode**, came hours after Trump criticized the lawmaker and another state senator for their opposition to his plan. Trump has been trying to persuade Republican-led states across the country to aggressively redraw their congressional maps to help the GOP hold the US House in next year’s midterm elections.

Deputies were sent to Goode’s home after receiving an email “advising harm had been done to persons inside a home,” according to a statement from the Vigo County Sheriff’s Office.

“All persons were secure, safe, and unharmed. Investigation showed that this was a prank or false email (also known as ‘swatting’),” the statement said. The incident is under investigation. Goode, a Republican, wrote on social media that the responding deputies were “under the impression of a domestic violence emergency.” He thanked the deputies for acting professionally.

“While this entire incident is unfortunate and reflective of the volatile nature of our current political environment, I give thanks to God that my family and I are ok,” Goode wrote.



Goode

Earlier Sunday, Trump criticized Goode and Indiana Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray for opposing a redistricting plan for Indiana. Republicans already hold a 7-2 advantage in the state’s congressional delegation.

“Because of these two politically correct type ‘gentlemen,’ and a few others, they could be depriving Republicans of a Majority in the House, a VERY BIG DEAL!” Trump wrote on his social media platform.

The White House didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment. The goal of swatting is to get authorities, particularly a SWAT team, to respond to an address by making bogus claims of violence happening inside. (AP)

□ □ □

S.California house explosion injures 8: A house exploded in a Southern California neighborhood, injuring eight people and damaging two homes nearby, with firefighters evacuating a total of 16 homes.

Firefighters in Chino Hills did not say what caused the explosion Sunday, but said that a gas leak had been stopped. Photos and video from the scene showed the house reduced to a pile of rubble.

“Crews will remain on scene to continue the overhaul and investigation,” the Chino Valley Fire District posted online.

The fire department said four people were taken from the home to a hospital, and four others brought themselves. Their conditions were not immediately known.

KABC-TV reported witnesses said they saw people running from the exploded home, including children crying for help. People whose homes were not damaged were later allowed to return.

A phone message seeking comment was left with the Southern California Gas Company.

Chino Hills has about 78,000 people and is about 35 miles (56 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles. (AP)

Weekend rail line explosion near Warsaw act of ‘sabotage’: PM Tusk

WARSAW, Poland, Nov 17, (Agencies): A railway line linking Warsaw to southeastern Poland was damaged by a weekend explosion that the prime minister called an “unprecedented act of sabotage.” Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who visited the site Monday, said the line is “crucially important for delivering aid to Ukraine.”

“Unfortunately, the worst fears have been confirmed,” Tusk said in a statement Monday. “An act of sabotage has occurred on the Warsaw-Lublin route (in the village of Mika). An explosion has destroyed the railway track.”

A train driver on the line between the capital Warsaw and Lublin reported track irregularities around 7:40 a.m. Sunday. Further inspection determined there was damage to a section of track near the village of Mika, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) southeast of Warsaw, officials said. It was not immediately clear whether the explosion and damage occurred late Saturday or early Sunday. Two passengers and several staff members were on the train but no injuries were reported, officials said.

Also:

WARSAW: Poland plans to reopen two road border crossings with Belarus on Nov 17, the Polish Press Agen-



Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, second right, visits site of the rail line Mika, that was damaged by sabotage, near Deblin, Poland on Nov 17. (AP)

cy reported.

A draft regulation proposed by the Polish interior ministry proposed restoring operations at the two currently closed road border crossings with Belarus, **Bobrowniki-Bierestowica** and **Kuznica Bialostocka-Bruzgi** crossings.

The measure aims to resume the

flow of people and goods, responding to demands from businesses, transport operators and commuters traveling from Belarus to Poland, the ministry said. Polish Prime Minister **Donald Tusk** said in October that the reopening would be introduced on a trial basis and carried out in consultation with Lithuania.

Election campaign in Hungary heats up as Magyar gains rural support

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Nov 17, (AP): With Hungary’s parliamentary elections still five months away, the country is already immersed in an intense political campaign between Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and his challenger, Péter Magyar, that promises to be the biggest challenge of the nationalist leader’s career.

Elected for a first term in 1998 and then for four more terms beginning in 2010, Orbán has stood at Hungary’s helm for 20 years. Beloved by his supporters but accused by his critics of corruption and authoritarian tactics, he has overseen a political system in which his far-right Fidesz party has exercised nearly unchecked power.

But now, support for Europe’s longest-serving leader is declining amid poor economic performance and chronic inflation, and a challenger who has shifted the political tides by promising to dismantle Orbán’s system and put Hungary on a more prosperous, democratic track.

“Viktor Orbán’s despicable, corrupt government will do everything to preserve their stolen loot and their power, we have no doubt,” Magyar, a 44-year-old former Fidesz insider, told The Associated Press. “This power cannot be reformed, it is not able to regain contact with the people. This power has become inhumane.”



Leader of the Hungarian opposition Tisza Party Peter Magyar delivers his speech during the party’s nationwide roadshow in Győr, Hungary on Nov 15. (AP)

Most polls show Magyar and his Tisza party with a solid lead over Orbán’s Fidesz - a feat nearly unprecedented for any opposition force in the past two decades.

Many observers in Hungary have puzzled over how Magyar, unlike generations of Orbán’s previous political opponents, has in fewer than two years managed to emerge from relative obscurity to build a party with such substantial support.

András Bíró-Nagy, director of the Budapest-based Policy Solutions think tank, says Magyar’s near-constant “grassroots campaigning” in rural Hungary - and his focus on bread-and-butter issues like the cost of living and poor public services - have contributed to his success in small towns that traditionally gravitated toward Orbán’s nationalist message.

UK poised to overhaul its asylum system as political storm brews over migration

LONDON, Nov 17, (AP): The British government plans to tighten its asylum system in a series of sweeping changes modeled after Denmark that aims to reduce immigration and quell the political storm over migrants making dangerous English Channel crossings to enter the country without authorization.

The policy changes to be announced by Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood on Monday in the House of Commons are yet another attempt to make the UK less attractive to those seeking refuge and easier to remove migrants who don’t qualify for asylum.

Mahmood said it was a moral mission to control the borders and reunite a divided country on the flashpoint issue that has helped fuel the rise of the hard-right Reform UK Party, though as the daughter of migrants she denied the ruling center-left Labour Party was adopting far-right talking points.

“People can see huge pressure in their communities and they can also see a system that is broken, and where people are able to flout the rules, abuse



Migrants walk in the water to board a small boat in an attempt to reach Britain on Nov 6, in Gravelines, northern France. (AP)

the system and get away with it,” Mahmood told the BBC.

Successive governments have failed to halt the flow of migrants to British shores through a variety of efforts that included the previous Conservative government’s plan to send arrivals to Rwanda for asylum processing that never took effect. That policy was scrapped last year when Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who leads the Labour

Party, was elected last year and vowed to crack down on migrant smuggling gangs.

More than 39,000 migrants have arrived by boat in the U.K. this year, surpassing the almost 37,000 who arrived in 2024, according to the latest Home Office figures. The number, though, is still shy of the nearly 40,000 who had arrived at this point in the year in 2022, which recorded the highest number ever.

Interim government to hold next elections in February

Bangladesh tribunal sentences ousted leader Hasina to death for crimes against humanity

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Nov 17, (AP): A special tribunal sentenced Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to death on charges of crimes against humanity for her crackdown on a student uprising last year that killed hundreds of people and led to the toppling of her 15-year rule.

The Dhaka-based International Crimes Tribunal also sentenced former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan to death for his involvement in the use of deadly force against protesters.

Both Hasina and Khan fled to India last year and were sentenced in absentia. A third suspect, a former police chief, was sentenced to five years in prison after becoming a state witness against Hasina and pleading guilty.

Hasina and Khan were accused over the killing of hundreds of people during a student-led uprising in July and August of 2024. The country's health adviser under the country's current interim government said more than 800 people were killed and about 14,000 were injured. However, the United Nations in a February report said up to 1,400 may have been killed.

Hasina says the charges are unjustified, arguing that she and Khan "acted in good faith and were trying to minimize the loss of life."

"We lost control of the situation, but to characterize what happened as a pre-meditated assault on citizens is simply to misread the facts," she said Monday in a statement denouncing the verdict.

The verdict comes as the country still grapples with instability after Hasina was ousted on Aug. 5, 2024. Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus took over as the head of an interim government three days after her fall. Yunus has vowed to punish Hasina and banned the activities of her Awami League party.

A three-member tribunal, headed by Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder, announced the tribunal's ruling, a session that was broadcast live.

Some of those in the packed courtroom cheered when Mazumder announced the death penalty for Hasina. He admonished them, telling them to express their



Police use tear gas to disperse protesters gathered outside the demolished residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's former leader and the father of the country's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after the verdict against Hasina, in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Nov 17. (AP)

feelings outside the courtroom.

Many families of the killed and the injured during last year's uprising waited for hours outside the tribunal ahead of the verdict.

Asia

South Korea offers talks with North Korea: South Korea proposed talks with North Korea to clarify the rivals' border line and ease military tensions, saying Monday that North Korean soldiers' repeated border intrusions have raised worries about an armed clash.

South Korea's military says it has been firing warning shots to repel North Korean troops who violated the border's military demarcation line numerous times since they began engaging in work to boost front-line defenses last year. North Korea has denied that and threatened unspecified responses, saying its soldiers worked within the North's territory. Kim Hong-Cheol, South Korean deputy minister for national defense policy, said Monday that South Korea was offering military talks to prevent an accidental armed clash and lower tensions with North Korea.

Kim said that the North's border intrusions were likely caused by the rivals' different views on the border line, because many of the military demarcation line posts established at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War have been lost.

It's unclear if North Korea would accept South Korea's calls for talks, because it's been shunning all forms of dialogue with South Korea and the U.S. since its leader Kim Jong Un's high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with U.S. President Donald Trump fell apart in 2019. Some observers say South Korea's offer for talks was part of efforts by its liberal government led by President Lee Jae Myung to reopen communication channels with North Korea.

Last year, Kim declared that North Korea was abandoning its long-standing goals of a peaceful unification between the Koreas and ordered the rewriting of the North's constitution to mark the South as a permanent enemy. South Korea's military said that it has since detected North Korea adding anti-tank barriers and planting more mines at border areas.

The Koreas' 248-kilometer-long (155-mile-long), four-kilometer-wide (2½-mile-wide) border is one of the world's most heavily armed frontiers. An estimated 2 million mines are peppered inside and near the border, which is also guarded by barbed-wire fences, tank traps and combat troops on both sides. It's a legacy of the Korean War, which ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. (AP)

□ □ □

Heavy rain triggers landslides in Vietnam, killing 7: Heavy rain swept central Vietnam on Monday, triggering landslides and floods, killing at least seven, injuring dozens and stranding thousands.

The deluges have wreaked widespread destruction across a region already bat-

It appeared unlikely that Hasina would return to Bangladesh to face her sentence. India had not responded to requests by Bangladesh to extradite her to face the trial.

The interim government beefed up security ahead of the verdict, with paramilitary border guards and police deployed in Dhaka and many other parts of the country.

Hasina's Awami League party called for a nationwide shutdown to protest the verdict on Monday.

Hasina denounced Monday's ruling, calling it "biased and politically motivated" in a statement. She also denounced the tribunal as "rigged" and alleged that it was "established and presided over by an unelected government with no democratic mandate."

"In their distasteful call for the death penalty, they reveal the brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures within the interim government to remove Bangladesh's last elected prime minister, and to nullify the Awami League as a political force," Hasina said.

Hasina cannot appeal the verdict unless she surrenders or is arrested within 30 days of the judgment.

Tensions and disruptions grew in the country in recent days ahead of the verdict. Nearly 50 arson attacks, mostly targeting vehicles, and dozens of crude bombs explosions were reported nationwide over the past week. Two people were killed in the arson attacks, local media reported.

Authorities at the Supreme Court, in a letter to army headquarters on Sunday, requested the deployment of soldiers around the tribunal premises ahead of the verdict. Yunus said his interim government would hold the country's next elections in February, and that Hasina's party would not get a chance to contest the race.

Bangladesh's politics under Yunus has remained at a crossroads with limited signs of stability.



A passenger bus is crushed by a fatal landslide on Khanh Le pass in Khanh Hoa province, Vietnam on Nov 17. (AP)

tered weeks ago by floods from record rainfall and the powerful typhoon Kalmegi.

Rainfall through Wednesday is expected to reach 30-60 centimeters (12-24 inches) in parts of central Vietnam, with some areas likely to exceed 85 centimeters (33 inches).

The hard-hit province of Khanh Hoa, a coastal region with hilly inland terrain, recorded one of its heaviest rainfall in years on Sunday night when earth and rocks collapsed on a bus traveling through the Khanh Le pass in the central highlands, state media reported.

The landslide crushed the front of the bus at around 9.30 pm local time, killing six people and trapping many passengers. Rescuers struggled for hours to reach the scene as heavy rain had also caused landslides on both sides of the pass, cutting off access. Rescue teams were only able to reach the bus after midnight, according to state media. "Rocks and soil fell down with a loud bang. I was thrown on the roof of the bus before falling down," Nguyen Long Cuong, the 39-year-old bus conductor, told state media VN Express. (AP)

Dozens of Indian pilgrims killed in Saudi bus accident: officials

NEW DELHI, Nov 17, (AP): Dozens of Indian pilgrims are feared dead after a bus was in collision with a diesel tanker on Monday near the holy city of Medina in Saudi Arabia, Indian officials said.

The bus with 46 people onboard was travelling from Mecca to Medina when the incident happened on a highway, Gaurav Uppal, a senior official of Telangana state, told The Associated Press.

"Around 45 people from Telangana are feared dead in the accident, while one person is injured," said Uppal, who is based out of New Delhi and is involved with coordinating rescue efforts with Indian authorities in Saudi.

Relatives of the victims gathered outside the office of the Fly Zone travel agency, in Hyderabad, seeking information about their family members.

Saudi officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar and Telangana's highest-elected official, Revanth Reddy, offered condolences to the bereaved families. In a post on X, Jaishankar said the Indian embassy in Riyadh and the consulate in Jeddah were offering support to the relatives of the victims.

Mohammed Tehseen said seven members of his family were on the bus, of which all but one had died. The injured survivor had "called after the accident to inform us about the tragedy," he said.

Vishwanath Channappa Sajjanar, the police chief of Telangana's state capital, Hyderabad, said preliminary reports suggests that at least 18 of the deceased were from Hyderabad. He said most of the victims were from two families, and that the injured passenger was named as Mohammed Shoaib. "I spoke to the Consul General of India and got the details," Sajjanar told a press conference. "There were 46 people in the bus and one passenger survived with injuries."



Modi

Ecuadorian voters reject proposal to host foreign military bases

QUITO, Ecuador, Nov 17, (AP): Ecuadorians voted Sunday to strike down a proposal that would have let foreign countries run military bases in the South American country where drug gangs are extorting communities and killing politicians as they fight for territory.

Another proposal rejected in the four-part referendum asked voters if they wanted to launch a process that could lead to a new constitution. Six out of 10 voters said no.

It was a significant defeat for President Daniel Noboa, a conservative who is closely aligned with the Trump administration and had pushed Ecuador's courts to include the question about rewriting the constitution.

Noboa said in an X message after the results were released that his government will "respect the will of the people" and would continue to fight for the country that "everyone deserves."

Andrea Endara a political science professor at Casa Grande University, said the rejection of Noboa's proposals presented Ecuador's 37-year-old president with a "shower of humility."

"Those who voted against the proposals are not just opposition activists, but people who are worried with democratic stability, and who are upset with a government that has not fulfilled promises" like keeping gas prices low, or improving security, she explained.



Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa, accompanied by his family, votes in a referendum on whether to allow foreign military bases in the country and rewrite the constitution through a constituent assembly, in Olon, Ecuador on Nov 16. (AP)

Ecuador, a nation of 18 million people, has struggled to control violent crime as it becomes a key transit point for cocaine produced in neighboring Colombia and Peru, with drug trafficking gangs attacking presidential candidates, mayors and

journalists, as they fight for control over ports and coastal cities. Recently, Noboa met with US officials to discuss regional security and migration cooperation and gave U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem a tour of a military base along Ecuador's coast that could possibly host US troops.

"International cooperation is the only way to dismantle these (drug trafficking) groups, which are transnational criminal networks," Noboa said after casting his ballot.

Ecuador has had three constitutions since the country returned to democracy in 1979, but Noboa had argued it was time to "rebuild" the country because the current constitution does not give the government enough tools to fight crime.

Voters were also asked if Ecuador should set up a constituent assembly, a legislative body that would be in charge of rewriting the nation's constitution, with Noboa arguing that a new constitution should seek tougher punishment for criminals and greater measures to control Ecuador's borders.

Critics of the president said that a constitutional rewrite will not solve problems like insecurity and poor access to health and education services. And some feared that a new constitution would decrease legislative and judicial oversight of the executive branch.



Presidential candidate Jeannette Jara of the Unidad por Chile coalition, center, addresses supporters after early results in the general elections in Santiago, Chile on Nov 16. (AP)

Chile's hard-right holds upper hand as presidential election goes to a runoff

SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov 17, (AP): A hard-right former lawmaker and admirer of US President Donald Trump held the upper hand as Chile headed to a polarizing presidential runoff against a member of Chile's Communist Party representing the incumbent government.

José Antonio Kast, an ultraconservative lawyer appears to be in pole position after nearly 70% of votes went to right-wing candidates in Sunday's first round, as many Chileans worry about organized crime, illegal immigration and unemployment in one of Latin America's safest and most prosperous nations.

Kast is a surprise front-runner who speaks fondly of aspects of the country's period of dictatorship and broke with the traditional conservative party to found his own Republican Party.

He came in second with nearly 24% of the vote after campaigning on plans to crack down on crime, build a giant border wall and deport tens of thousands of undocumented migrants.

Jeannette Jara, a former labor minister in President Gabriel Boric's left-wing government, eked out a narrower-than-expected lead with 27% of the vote. She wants to expand Chile's social safety net and tackle money laundering and drug trafficking.

Neither contender received more than 50% of the overall vote count, sending the poll to a second round of voting on Dec 14.

The mood was ebullient at Kast's campaign headquarters early Monday, where young Chileans wrapped in national flags drank beer and rolled cigarettes as workers took down

the stage where Kast had proclaimed a radical transformation in the country's security.

"We needed a safe candidate, someone with a firm hand to bring economic growth, attract investment, create jobs, strengthen the police and give them support," said Ignacio Rojas, 20. "Chile isn't safe anymore, and he'll change that."

The results seemed set to extend a growing regional shift across Latin America, as popular discontent with the economy simmers and right-wing challengers take over from leftist politicians who shot to power in the wake of the pandemic on lofty promises of social change and more equitable distribution of wealth, but largely failed to deliver.

"Economies are not growing, there are no new jobs, and people remember that 10 years ago they used to pay lower prices for almost everything," said Patricio Navia, a Chilean analyst and professor at New York University.

"Voters are upset with governments all over the region," he added.

Conservatives led the pack in Chile's eight-candidate field, with populist businessman and celebrity economist Franco Parisi surprising pundits by securing 20% of the votes and third place. Like Kast, he ran a tough law and order campaign, vowing to plant land mines along Chile's porous northern border to prevent people from crossing.

Another 14% of the votes went to Johannes Kaiser, a libertarian congressman and a former YouTube provocateur who campaigned as an even more radical alternative to Kast.

Chile's traditional center-right coalition landed in fifth place, with establishment candidate Evelyn Matthei winning 12.5% of the vote.

Aircraft carrier arrives in Caribbean

'US may have discussions with Maduro'

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida, Nov 17, (AP): US President Donald Trump said Sunday the US "may be having some discussions" with Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, a potential diplomatic avenue as the US further builds up its military presence near the South American country with the arrival of its most advanced aircraft carrier.

Trump didn't offer details about the possible discussions with Maduro, but he said "Venezuela would like to talk."

The US military has been carrying out a series of strikes against vessels suspected of transporting drugs. The arrival of the USS Gerald R. Ford and other warships, announced by the Navy in a statement, marks a major moment in what the administration insists is a counterdrug operation but has been seen as an escalating pressure tactic against Maduro.

When asked Sunday what he meant when he said Maduro wants to talk, Trump simply said: "What does it mean? You tell me, I don't know."

"I'll talk to anybody," he added a few moments later. "We'll see what happens."

Venezuela's government didn't immediately reply to a request for com-



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro addresses civilians taking an oath to join a state-organized defense network in the Petare neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela on Nov 15. (AP)

ment. Maduro, who faces charges of narcoterrorism in the US, has said the US government is "fabricating" a war against him.

The Ford rounds off the largest buildup of US firepower in the region in generations. With its arrival, the "Operation Southern Spear" mission includes nearly a dozen Navy ships and about 12,000 sailors and Marines.

The carrier's arrival coincided with

the military announcing its latest deadly strike on a small boat it claims was ferrying illegal drugs. The military's Southern Command posted a video on X on Sunday showing the boat being blown up, an attack it said took place Saturday in international waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean and killed three men. The military did not immediately respond to a request for more information.

Africa

32 killed in Congo bridge collapse: A bridge at a copper and cobalt mine in southeastern Congo collapsed due to overcrowding, killing at least 32 people, a regional government official said Sunday. The bridge at the Kalando mine in Mulondo in Lualaba province fell on Saturday, Roy Kaumba Mayonde, the province's interior minister, said during a press conference.

A report by the Congo's Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Support and Guidance Service, or SAEMAPE, government agency on Sunday said the gunfire from soldiers at the site sparked panic among the miners who rushed to the bridge resulting in the fall that left them "piled on top of

each other causing the deaths and injuries."

While Mayonde put the death toll at at least 32, the report said at least 40 people had lost their lives. (AP)

□ □ □

25 girls abducted, 1 dead in Nigeria school: Gunmen attacked a high school in northwestern Nigeria before dawn on Monday and abducted 25 schoolgirls, police said. One staffer at the school was killed and another was wounded in what was the latest incident of school abductions in Nigeria's northern region.

No group has claimed responsibility for the abductions from the boarding school in Kebbi state.

The incident took place at 4:00 a.m., according to police, which said the girls were abducted from the dorms. (AP)

Boursa Kuwait general index edges up 0.16%

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Monday's trading session with a modest gain, as the general market index rose 14.10 points, or 0.16 percent, to close at 8,852.45 points. Trading activity reached a total of 439.4 million shares through 23,704 cash transactions, with a market value amounting to KD 90 mil-

lion (about USD 274.5 million). The main market index moved lower, shedding 27.28 points, or 0.32 percent, to settle at 8,380.50 points. This segment saw 305.8 million shares exchanged across 15,151 transactions, valued at KD 41.3 million (approximately USD 125.9 million).

Business

Held in Madrid in cooperation with Headspring

KFH celebrates graduates of the 4th Leadership Academy Program



Kuwait Finance House executives and graduates of the 4th Leadership Academy pose with representatives from Headspring and IE University during the graduation ceremony held in Madrid.



Yousef Almutawa and the talent management team with graduates of the 4th Leadership Academy Program.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) successfully concluded the 4th edition of its Leadership Academy in a special ceremony held in Madrid. The Academy was run in cooperation with Headspring, the joint venture between IE Business School and Financial Times. The event was attended by KFH Group Chief Corporate Banking Officer, Yousef Almutawa, who honored the participants and commended their commitment and dedication to advancing their capabilities.

Over 50 distinguished participants

Almutawa, speaking on the sidelines of the ceremony, expressed his great pleasure at the graduation of over 50 distinguished participants from the Leadership Academy Program. Selected from across the KFH Group, including staff from Turkey, Bahrain, and Egypt, these participants are now qualified to drive the bank toward greater success and strengthen its leading position in the local and regional banking sector.

Highlighting the significance of collaboration, Almutawa noted that this promotes integration and knowledge sharing across the Group which positively impacts performance development.

Meanwhile, Acting Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer at KFH, Ahmad Alhammad, noted that holding the Leadership Academy for the fourth consecutive year reflects KFH's strong belief in investing in its people and developing future leaders capable of driving excellence and innovation in the banking industry.

He mentioned that KFH's vision to invest in human capital represents a key driver of performance excellence and value creation for both customers and shareholders. He added, "From this perspective, KFH remains dedicated to providing promising leadership talents and employees with cutting-edge training programs and plans to hone their skills."

Various experiences in leadership

Alhammad further noted that through this year's edition, KFH Leadership Academy succeeded in enriching diversity among participants in terms of managerial levels. The program also equipped them with the essential



Yousef Almutawa speaking at the graduation ceremony for Kuwait Finance House employees.



Ahmad Alhammad



Antonio Montes, Headspring CEO

Almutawa:

- Over 50 participants qualified to advance KFH's growth and leading position

Alhammad:

- KFH strongly believes in investing in human capital and developing future leaders

knowledge and insights necessary to successfully navigate the current business environment. This, in turn, enhances their opportunities to benefit from diverse leadership experiences and approaches.

Leading the future

He explained: "KFH is recognized for its strong commitment to supporting its human capital and investing in outstanding national talents, empowering them to lead the future of the banking sector. This is achieved by providing top-tier programs aligned with the latest management practices, in collaboration with leading global training institutions. These efforts ultimately contribute to the ongoing development and advancement across

KFH's various sectors."

Alhammad affirmed that this program, which includes the Enterprise Leadership Program (ELP) for executive managers and the Building Leadership Excellence (BLE) for senior managers, will be a turning point in the participants' career paths, wishing them continued growth and success within KFH.

Strategic cooperation

It is worth noting that KFH's Leadership Academy is a fruitful result of a strategic collaboration with Headspring, the joint venture between IE Business School and Financial Times. Antonio Montes Headspring CEO "Our collaboration with Kuwait Finance House reflects

a shared vision to empower leaders who can shape the future of financial services. At Headspring, we are deeply committed to supporting KFH's transformation journey by bringing world-class learning experiences that connect strategy, leadership, and purpose. Together, we are helping build the leadership capabilities that will sustain KFH's growth and innovation in the years ahead."

Headspring's methodology features a seamless blend of in-person sessions, conducted in Kuwait and Madrid, and virtual sessions led by renowned academics from IE University.

The robust and enduring partnership between KFH and Headspring, which began in 2019, is founded on aligned objectives and a shared belief in the significance of leadership. Consequently, the program's design transcends individual development. Its core goal is to empower strong teams of leaders capable of navigating complexities and driving purposeful change.

Additionally, the partnership involved close engagement with KFH's Talent Development Department to deeply understand their challenges, objectives, and values. This understanding has enabled the co-design of exclusive executive programs specifically crafted to support KFH's leadership in shaping the future of the bank and its strategy to lead the Islamic finance industry. Bassém Banna, Headspring Vice President, Corporate Partnership MEA "The KFH Leadership Academy has become a true benchmark in executive development in MEA. A flagship programme built on a deeply customized approach that delivers world-class learning and measurable impact. Its global recognition by Brandon Hall Group stands as a testament to the strength of our partnership with KFH group and the excellence we continue to achieve together."

Brandon Hall award

It serves to note that the Leadership Academy program earned a prestigious award from the renowned Brandon Hall Group, a global monitor of institutional performance. This recognition contributed significantly to KFH receiving nine global human resources awards for 2025, marking the fourth consecutive year it has achieved the highest total both locally and regionally.

Bank showcases talent strategy

Customers can now send money abroad through KIB app

ABK becomes Gold Sponsor of HR Excellence Conference 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced its Gold Sponsorship of the HR Excellence Conference & Awards, taking place on 18-19 November 2025. The conference brings together distinguished specialists, experts, thought leaders in the field of human resources.

This conference serves as a key platform for exchanging expertise, showcasing the latest global trends in human resources, and strengthening collaboration among professionals across the sector.

The Bank's sponsorship reflects ABK's ongoing commitment to contributing to the development of human resources practices in Kuwait, sharing its accumulated expertise, and remaining open to successful approaches applied across local and international institutions.

Through this sponsorship, ABK aims to highlight its journey in organizational culture, talent development, compensation and rewards strategies, and workforce planning, while benefiting from the diverse perspectives and experiences presented by speakers throughout the event.

On this occasion, Afrah AlArbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, affirmed that the conference represents an important opportunity for HR professionals to exchange practical insights and learn about emerging trends that support the advancement of this field.

She said, "At ABK, we believe in the importance of sharing our knowledge with the professional community while ensuring we remain aligned with the best practices applied across other institutions. This exchange of expertise elevates the capabilities of professionals in the sector, strengthens workplace cultures, and contributes to the broader development journey within the State of Kuwait."

As part of the conference, Jamil Girgis, Assistant General Manager of Human Resources, will join a specialized session on compensation and benefits, where he will present insights based on the Bank's experience in designing competitive reward structures, assessing market indicators, and aligning compensation policies with long-term strategic objectives.

He will also take part in expert roundtables held across both days of the conference, offering attendees the opportunity to engage directly and benefit from his experience in rewards, performance, and HR analytics.



Ms. Afrah Al Arbash, GM of Human Resources at ABK

Additionally, Abdullah Behbehani, Head of Talent Development at ABK, will participate in a session on talent management and leadership development, where he will outline the Bank's approach to identifying high-potential talent, building specialized leadership pathways, and designing development programs that foster professional growth and support the institution's long-term goals. This reflects ABK's commitment to empowering and strengthening its internal capabilities.

AlArbash emphasized that human capital remains the true engine of growth and success for institutions worldwide, noting that the role of HR has expanded far beyond administrative functions to become a strategic partner in achieving organizational objectives.

She underscored ABK's dedication to equipping its employees with the latest knowledge and tools that enable them to apply leading practices, enhance their productivity, and increase their overall satisfaction. She added that the conference serves as a valuable platform for building professional networks and exchanging experiences with HR leaders across diverse sectors, helping drive innovative solutions to shared challenges.

The conference program features a series of keynote addresses, panel discussions, and workshops covering a broad range of topics, including strategic HR management, workforce analytics, diversity and inclusion, employee well-being, training and development, compensation and rewards, and professional coaching and mentoring. With the participation of international experts, attendees will gain global perspectives and advanced insights tailored to the evolving needs of the modern workplace.

KIB launches new Western Union Cash Pickup service through its Mobile App

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the launch of its new Western Union Cash Pickup service through the KIB Mobile App. The new service enables customers in Kuwait to send international money transfers digitally with just a few taps, while beneficiaries abroad can conveniently collect the funds in cash from Western Union agent locations across more than 200 countries and territories. This step aligns with KIB's strategy to continue expanding its digital banking experience and provide innovative, accessible financial solutions that support customers' evolving lifestyles.

Commenting on the launch, Laila Naserallah, Senior Manager of Product Development at the Digital Innovation and Data Intelligence Department at KIB, stated: "We are happy to expand our remittance offering through this new Western Union Cash Pickup service, giving our customers even more choice and convenience directly through the KIB Mobile App. Many families in Kuwait depend on fast and reliable international transfers, whether for family support, education, personal obligations, or urgent financial situations. This feature was designed to support that need with greater ease and flexibility."

Naserallah highlighted: "The Bank continues to invest in digital services that deliver flexibility, speed, and convenience, while maintaining the highest security standards and supporting Kuwait's transition toward smarter and more connected financial services. Our goal is to keep delivering customer-centric solutions that simplify financial transactions, save time, and offer instant access to essential banking services at any time of day."

From his side, Amar Maqamess, E-Banking Manager at KIB, said: "This launch reflects our commitment to advanced, secure and scalable digital banking services. By integrating Western Union's extensive global network into the KIB Mobile App, we are enabling customers to initiate international cash transfers within minutes, supported by enhanced se-



Laila Naserallah



Amar Maqamess



curity, real-time processing, and an intuitive user journey."

Maqamess highlighted that the service is effective immediately, and is available 24/7, giving KIB customers around-the-clock access to international remittances through a secure digital channel. He added: "Through this feature, beneficiaries around the

world can receive cash quickly and securely from any nearby Western Union agent, offering a practical solution for individuals living in markets where digital or bank transfers may be less accessible."

The development and rollout of the Western Union Cash Pickup service were led by KIB's Digital Innovation

& Data Intelligence Department, in cooperation with the Retail Banking Department, ensuring a seamless and compliant transfer process that adheres to global security protocols and regulatory standards. This feature is part of a broader roadmap to enhance cross-border payment services, while giving customers full control through a single, powerful digital platform.

It is worth noting that this launch supports KIB's mission of making financial services more adaptable and inclusive. With its constant banking experience upgrades, KIB continues to strengthen its commitment to innovative digital banking, and to delivering convenience, security, and real value to its customers, in line with its guiding vision and main slogan, "Bank for Life".

About KIB

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

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

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

New TiSeat 2X cuts fuel burn, CO₂ emissions for Jazeera

Jazeera Airways takes delivery of TiSeat 2X seats for A320 fleet from Expliseat

PARIS, Nov 17: Jazeera Airways and Expliseat today announced the delivery of TiSeat 2X seats for Jazeera’s Airbus A320 family fleet at the Dubai Airshow 2025. This marks Expliseat’s entry into the Middle East market, and highlights it’s commitment to supporting carriers through their growth phases with proven lightweight technology.

The TiSeat 2X delivery represents a significant milestone in the partnership between the two companies. The carrier is receiving both TiSeat 2X lite and TiSeat 2X prime configurations, providing versatility to tailor cabin layouts to specific route requirements while maximizing operational efficiency.

With the new seats, Jazeera Airways will benefit from approximately 1.2 metric tons of weight reduction per aircraft, translating to lower fuel burn and up to 126 kg less CO2 emissions per flight hour.

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer of Jazeera Airways, said: “As Jazeera scales toward a 50-aircraft fleet and a 100-destination network, investing in the TiSeat 2X positions us for smarter, more efficient growth. This upgrade gives us a decisive edge in opening new routes—particularly longer sectors and thinner, underserved markets—while strengthening the economics of our existing network. This level of efficiency directly supports our strategy for sustainable expansion and reinforces our confidence in the investments we are making for the next phase of growth. As we mark our 20th anniversary year, this partnership marks another step in our commitment to innovation, operational excellence, and an enhanced customer experience. These new seats will not only offer passengers a more comfortable journey but also enable us to extend our range and bring more destinations into the Jazeera network.”

Jazeera’s inaugural TiSeat 2X flight, scheduled for November 28, 2025, will mark the first Expliseat seat in commercial service on an A320 neo aircraft. This delivery positions Expliseat strategically in the Middle East regional aviation market, building on global momentum from recent deployments including Air France (first flight September 1, 2025) and Air Canada’s cabin upgrade announcement.

Driving Efficiency Through Next-Generation Seating Solutions

Built with a proprietary titanium and carbon fiber composite frame, the TiSeat 2X achieves up to 30% weight reduction compared to conventional economy seats. The innovative design, protected by more than 100 patents, delivers enhanced durability, lower lifecycle maintenance costs, and improved passenger comfort.

The reduced footprint of the seating technology creates opportunities for cabin optimization, enabling airlines to adjust capacity configurations while



Jazeera x Expliseat

maintaining passenger experience standards.

Amaury Barberot, CEO of Expliseat, said: “Jazeera Airways continues to demonstrate a forward-looking approach in leveraging cabin technology to enhance its operational efficiency and competitive advantages. This delivery validates our approach to supporting carriers through their growth phases, whether that’s network expansion, fleet optimization, or operational cost management. We look forward to continuing this partnership with Jazeera as they pursue new opportunities.”

Selected by over 20 airlines including operators such as Air France, Air Canada, and Porter, Expliseat has more than 10,000 TiSeats in operation worldwide. With over 60 million flight hours logged, Expliseat’s seating technology delivers reliability and performance that dynamic, growing airlines demand. As Jazeera Airways continues scaling its operations, with 26 additional aircraft on order for delivery from 2027, the carrier’s investment in proven, efficient cabin technology provides a foundation for sustainable growth.

About Expliseat

Expliseat is the leader in lightweight aircraft seats, combining elegance and functionality to create a new standard in the industry. With more than 10,000 TiSeats in operation and over 60 million flight hours, Expliseat is redefining aircraft interiors with seating solutions that enhance passenger comfort while reducing operational costs and environmental impact.

As a well-established French aerospace company, Expliseat produces the lightest aircraft seats in the world—30% lighter than traditional models—while ensuring durability and sustainability through its innovative titanium and composite alloy technology.

Founded in 2011 and primarily focused on the aeronautics industries, Expliseat employs over 230 people and has won multiple design awards for its groundbreaking technology, reinforcing its reputation as an innovator in mobility solutions. Expliseat has earned the trust of leading operators including Air France, Air Canada, Falko, Jazeera, Porter, Nolinor (OWG) and Jettime. Additionally, the company is recognized by all major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), including Airbus, Boeing, Embraer, and Bombardier. The company has been a multi-winner of government investment programs and raised euro 36 million in June 2025.

News and information are available at <https://expliseat.com> or follow us on LinkedIn.

About Jazeera Airways

Founded in 2004, Jazeera Airways is a leading low-cost carrier based in Kuwait, serving over 5 million passengers across a network of more than 60 destinations in the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Africa, and Europe. Dedicated to offering affordable, high-quality air travel, Jazeera Airways caters to business, leisure, religious, and weekend travellers, all while maintaining the highest standards of safety and customer service.

Jazeera Airways currently operates a modern and efficient fleet of 24 Airbus A320ceo and A320neo aircraft, enabling it to optimize fuel efficiency and reduce environmental impact. 26 new aircraft from its orderbook, 18 A320neos and 8 A321neos are expected to arrive in 2027 onwards.

The only publicly traded airline on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (Boursa Kuwait), Jazeera Airways was recognized as a Fortune 500 Arabia company and named “Great Place to Work” in 2023.

A trailblazer in the aviation sector, Jazeera Airways has introduced several digital initiatives to its customer experience and is one of the first to design, build, and operate its own terminal, Jazeera Terminal 5 (T5), at the Kuwait International Airport.

For more information visit: www.jazeeraairways.com



Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates and the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, centre, is briefed by Russian officials at the Russian pavilion during the opening day of the Dubai Air Show, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Nov. 17, 2025. (AP)

Airshow spotlights aviation growth

Emirates orders 65 Boeing 777-9 jets worth \$38 billion

DUBAI, Nov 17, (AP): The biennial Dubai Air Show opened on Monday with hometown airline Emirates ordering 65 of Boeing’s upcoming 777-9 aircraft, as the carrier looks to increase its fleets off record earnings and unending demand for flights through this East-West travel hub.

Emirates valued the deal with Boeing and GE Engines at \$38 billion at list prices, although airlines often negotiate lower prices in major orders.

The announcement brings the total of Boeing 777-9s on order for Emirates to 270, making it Boeing’s largest customer for the aircraft, even as the plane has suffered repeated delays in entering service. Emirates relies heavily on the double-decker Airbus A380 and the Boeing 777, and has also started flying the Airbus A350.

“It’s a long-term commitment that supports hundreds of thousands of high-value factory jobs, and it reinforces our 40-year partnership with Boeing and GE,” said Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the chairman and chief executive of Emirates.

“Emirates is already the world’s largest operator of the 777 - all powered by the GE engines - and after today’s order, I expect to remain the biggest 777 operator for the years to come.”

Sheikh Ahmed added that Emirates continued to encourage manufacturers to build larger aircraft with more capacity as air travel is only expected to grow. However, he smiled and looked at Boeing when putting forward his hoped-for timeline for putting the 777-9 in service for Emirates.

“We look forward to receiving delivery of our first 777-9s starting from the second quarter of 2027,” he said.

Stephanie Pope, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, offered no timeline for the plane’s entry to service in her brief remarks.

“The 777-9 will further support Emirates mission to connect people and places around the globe like never before,” she said.

The officials took no questions from journalists after the announcement.

Meanwhile, Boeing announced a firm order of 11 Boeing 737-8 MAX aircraft by Ethiopian Airlines and Air Côte d’Ivoire made a firm order of four Embraer E175 aircraft. Air Senegal later ordered nine Boeing 787-8 MAX aircraft as well.

The air show will also see renewed interest in flying taxis, something the sheikhdom long has promised and now hopes to deliver on next year. Military sales as well remain a focus, with Russia again taking part despite facing Western sanctions over its grinding, yearslong war on Ukraine. Meanwhile, Israeli firms won’t be attending over lingering anger from the devastating Israel-Hamas war in the

Gaza Strip.

Emirates, the state-owned flagship airline of Dubai, earned annual profits of \$5.2 billion in the last fiscal year and passenger numbers remain record-breaking at Dubai International Airport, the world’s busiest for international travel. The airline made a \$52 billion purchase of Boeing Co. aircraft at the 2023 edition of the air show, which takes place at Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central.

FlyDubai, the lower-cost sister to Emirates, also has seen record-breaking earnings, and likely wants to expand its fleet of single-aisle aircraft. The airline currently flies 95 Boeing 737 variants, with Airbus wanting to break into the carrier’s fleet. FlyDubai ordered \$11 billion worth of 30 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners at the last air show, which when delivered will be the airline’s first wide-body aircraft.

Al Maktoum airport itself is on the agenda for Dubai’s government. It plans a \$35 billion project to expand to five parallel runways and 400 aircraft gates, to be completed within the next decade. The airport now has just two runways, like Dubai International Airport. Those additional slots coming online will help Emirates and FlyDubai grow their network, and require more aircraft to fly those routes.

Meanwhile, Rosoboronexport, Russia’s main arms exporter, displayed its aircraft and weapons systems at a massive pavilion at the far end of the air show. The UAE has maintained economic ties and flights to Moscow despite the war on Ukraine and Western nations levying heavy sanctions on the country.

Rosoboronexport showcased a stealth fighter, the Sukhoi Su-57, and the full-scale Pantzir-SMD-E surface-to-air missile system. Air defense systems have taken on a new importance in the Mideast after Qatar came under attack by both Israel and Iran this year. Iran also saw its systems devastated by Israel in a 12-day war between the countries in June.

Underscoring the UAE’s ties to Russia, the Emirati president and ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, walked through the Russian pavilion first thing on Monday. He stopped to watch a short video with graphics of a Russian drone striking an armored vehicle. Sheikh Mohammed, himself a helicopter pilot, walked up the stairs to look in the cockpit of the Su-57 as well.

Earlier, U.S. fighter pilots from the 55th Fighter Squadron, which flies F-16 Fighting Falcons, stopped to look at the Su-57.

Asked if they thought they could shoot it down, one airman smiled and just said: “It looks cool.”

Non-oil sector to drive 4%+ UAE expansion

UAE economy set for strong 2026 growth

By National Bank of Kuwait

We see the UAE’s stellar economic performance being sustained in 2026, with robust 4%+ non-oil expansion augmented by accelerating growth in oil production. Non-oil activity will be underpinned by strong consumption, reforms and investments linked to the “We the UAE 2031” vision. Meanwhile, the de-escalation in both regional geopolitical and global trade tensions – if sustained – removes two key downside risks and should lift sentiment in the region’s most externally-exposed economy. Relatively advanced diversification metrics versus peers help insulate the UAE economy against the expected drop in oil prices, though a severe drop in oil prices would still jeopardize domestic reform and project execution progress.

Stellar economic performance to continue in 2026

The UAE’s economic outlook for next year remains strong despite the boom entering its sixth year. Non-oil GDP growth in 2026 is projected at a robust 4.5% – only slightly down from 4.8% this year and would be the fastest in the Gulf region. The positive outlook is underpinned by strong consumption and personal credit growth, a real estate boom, large investments in strategic sectors such as energy, transport and AI, and a fast-expanding population (averaging 7.5% in Dubai and Abu Dhabi in 2024). The authorities are doubling down on various reform and diversification plans (“We the UAE 2031”, Dubai’s D33 agenda and Abu Dhabi’s Economic Vision 2030) and government spending will remain elevated to help complete a raft of high-profile projects including the Al-Azeerah solar complex (\$6billion), Stargate AI (\$8billion) and the Etihad high speed railway (\$14.6billion).

High levels of investment and expanding international trade have been critical to the recent growth story but are jeopardized by a complex global backdrop of slower global growth, trade

tariffs, lower oil prices and regional geopolitics. Although tourism and business sentiment were affected in 2025, the UAE economy has ridden these headwinds well thanks to strong competitiveness metrics, increasing diversification levels, sound macroeconomic balances, and minimal direct tariff impact (mostly steel and aluminum). Our base case is that this remains the case in 2026. The recent de-escalation in the US-China tariff war and the peace process in Gaza – if sustained – also remove key downside risks and should reinforce positive investor sentiment towards the region’s most globally-integrated economy next year, giving the expansion fresh momentum.

Meanwhile, for the first time since 2022, crude oil production is on the rise (3.4 mb/d by 2026), driven by the unwinding of OPEC+ cuts and a higher production baseline. With spare capacity of 1.6 mb/d expected after completion of the Upper Zakum/Dalma fields in 2026, the UAE will be well positioned to take advantage of OPEC+’s new tilt towards supply increases and recapturing market share.

Real estate market still buoyant, price rises easing

Both the Dubai and Abu Dhabi property markets saw strong sales activity in 2025 (Dubai +20% y/y in Q3, Abu Dhabi +40% y/y). Demand has proven even stronger than we had expected and the upbeat trend is expected to persist into 2026, albeit at a slower pace, especially in Abu Dhabi, where investor interest is surging and valuations are lower than in Dubai. Sales remain supported by strong foreign demand and a weaker US dollar versus recent years.

But there is evidence in Dubai especially that price growth is easing (to 13% y/y in Q3 from 21% in 2024) amid ongoing government initiatives to expand housing supply, such as Dubai’s affordable housing plan of more than 17k units. Abu Dhabi intends to deliver 40k units by 2029. Meanwhile, despite the rap-

idly growing economy, CPI inflation is forecast to remain below 2% in 2026, reflecting softer rental price growth in Dubai, subdued food inflation, and lower pump prices.

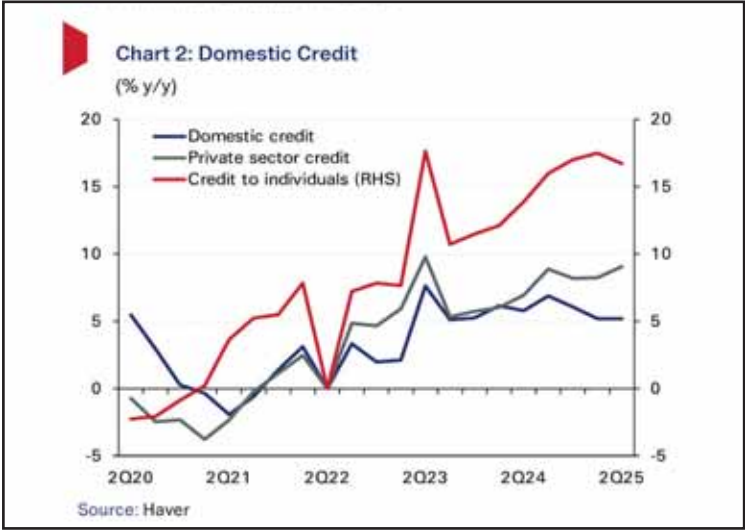
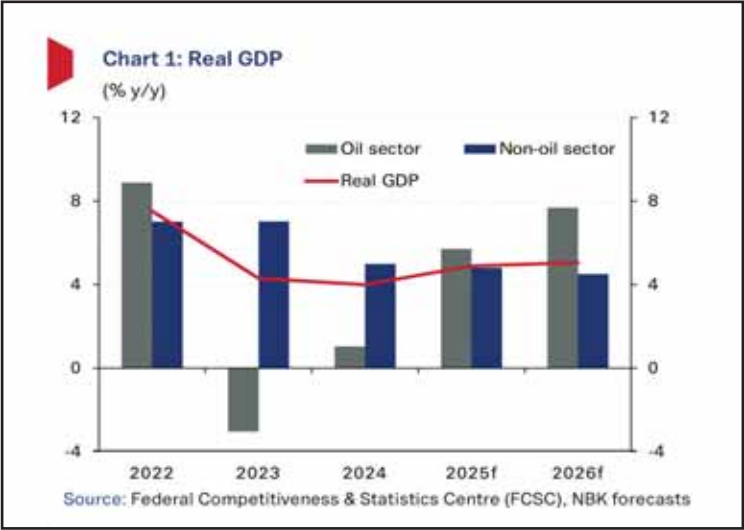
Elevated public spending but fiscal balance in surplus

The fiscal surplus shrank in H1 2025 to 4.3% of GDP on strong rises in both current (+12% y/y) and capital spending (+30%). We expect some slowdown ahead and full-year rises of about 4% in both 2025 and 2026. Signals from the federal budget – especially on capex – are supportive (spending hikes of 12% and 29% in 2025 and 2026, respectively), although the federal budget accounts for only 15% of the consolidated budget.

The introduction of the 15% Domestic Minimum Top-up Tax on multinational firms in 2025 will strengthen the revenue base while reducing the impact of lower oil prices on revenues. Consequently, the fiscal surplus is expected to narrow modestly to 4.2% of GDP in 2025 and 3.7% in 2026, from 5.4% in 2024. On the external front, the current account surplus will be broadly steady at 13% of GDP next year, with higher oil export volumes and higher precious metals prices (42% of non-oil exports) helping to offset lower oil prices. Sovereign buffers remain ample, providing resilience against shocks.

Risks to the outlook center on oil, trade and geopolitics

Given an already-robust growth forecast and the lengthy duration of the current upswing, risks to the growth outlook look skewed to the downside. A severe drop in oil prices would hit the public finances, confidence and investment. Rapid economic growth could trigger higher inflation, the property market could undergo a correction, slower global growth could hit trade, while resurgent geopolitical tensions could hurt sentiment. Conversely, higher oil prices, a further lessening in global trade tensions and successful reform and projects progress would strengthen growth prospects.



Airlines to resume normal schedules Monday morning

FAA lifts flight restrictions after record shutdown

WASHINGTON, Nov 17, (AP): The Federal Aviation Administration said Sunday it is lifting all restrictions on commercial flights that were imposed at 40 major airports during the country’s longest government shutdown.

Airlines can resume their regular flight schedules beginning Monday at 6 a.m. EST, the agency said.

The announcement was made in a joint statement by Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy and FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford.

Citing safety concerns as staffing shortages grew at air traffic control facilities during the shutdown, the FAA issued an unprecedented order to limit traffic in the skies. It had been in place since Nov. 7, affecting thousands of flights across the country.

Impacted airports included large hubs in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Atlanta.

The flight cuts started at 4% and later grew to 6% before the FAA on Friday rolled the restrictions back to 3%, citing continued improvements in air traffic controller staffing since the record 43-day shutdown ended on Nov. 12.

The number of flights canceled this weekend was

at its lowest point since the order took effect and was well below the 3% cuts FAA was requiring for Saturday and Sunday.

Data from aviation analytics firm Cirium showed that less than 1% of all flights were canceled this weekend. The flight tracking website FlightAware said 149 flights were cut Sunday and 315 were canceled on Saturday.

The FAA statement said an agency safety team recommended the order be rescinded after “detailed reviews of safety trends and the steady decline of staffing-trigger events in air traffic control facilities.”

The statement said the FAA “is aware of reports of non-compliance by carriers over the course of the emergency order. The agency is reviewing and assessing enforcement options.” It did not elaborate.

Cancellations hit their highest point Nov. 9, when airlines cut more than 2,900 flights because of the FAA order, ongoing controller shortages and severe weather in parts of the country. Conditions began to improve throughout last week as more control-

lers returned to work amid news that Congress was close to a deal to end the shutdown. That progress also prompted the FAA to pause plans for further rate increases.

The agency had initially aimed for a 10% reduction in flights. Duffy had said worrisome safety data showed the move was necessary to ease pressure on the aviation system and help manage worsening staffing shortages at air traffic control facilities as the shutdown entered its second month and flight disruptions began to pile up.

Air traffic controllers were among the federal employees who had to continue working without pay throughout the shutdown. They missed two paychecks during the impasse.

Duffy hasn’t shared the specific safety data that prompted the cuts, but he cited reports during the shutdown of planes getting too close in the air, more runway incursions and pilot concerns about controllers’ responses.

Airline leaders have expressed optimism that operations would rebound in time for the Thanksgiving travel period after the FAA lifted its order.

What's On

SPOTLIGHT



Got a birthday or event?
Share your story and snapshots with Arab Times!
Email your write-up and photos to
arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com
We'll feature it on our What's On page!

Company sponsored Your Voice Reflects Your Humanity conference at JACC

Zain strengthens joint efforts to combat violence against women

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Zain Kuwait sponsored the Your Voice Reflects Your Humanity conference to raise awareness about verbal abuse against women, held at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC) in conjunction with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The event was held under the patronage of H. Dr. Amthal Hadi Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social, Family, and Childhood Affairs and Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.

Zain took part in the opening of the conference, joined by the Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Muna Fajhan Hilal Al-Mutairi, Zain Kuwait's Corporate Relations Department Manager Hamad Al-Musaibeeh, along with a group of specialists and representatives of participating entities.

Zain's support for this event reflects its keenness to contribute to national initiatives that strengthen joint efforts to protect women's rights and create a



Muna Al-Mutairi honoring Hamad Al-Musaibeeh in recognition of Zain's support.

safe environment free from all forms of violence, particularly verbal abuse, which leaves deep impacts on fam-

ily stability and individuals' mental health.

The conference was organized by



From the panel discussion.

the Supreme Council for Family Affairs in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Community Affairs at

the Kuwait Lawyers Association, and featured a panel discussion on verbal abuse against women and its psycho-

logical, social, and legal effects.

The event brought together representatives of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, psychologists, family relationship consultants, representatives of the Public Prosecution and the Cybercrime Department, as well as lawyers and specialists, who presented the psychological, legal, and procedural dimensions related to verbal abuse and explained the mechanisms for filing complaints and handling cases inside and outside the State of Kuwait, supported by real-life stories and illustrative court rulings.

Zain affirmed that its support for this initiative is in line with its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 16 on building peaceful and just societies. The company is keen to harness its capabilities in support of initiatives that protect the rights of women, while fostering a community culture based on mutual respect and shared responsibility.

Over 2,600 students join competition

Kala (Art) Kuwait holds NIRAM Children's Day painting contest

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Kala (Art) Kuwait conducted "NIRAM-2025" Children's Day Painting Competition in association with American Tourister, on Friday, 14th November 2025 at Indian Community School Kuwait, Khaithan, on the occasion of Children's Day celebration by marking the 137th birth day of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of India. Kala (Art) Kuwait is delighted to celebrate its 21st Anniversary of "NIRAM" Painting Competition with elegance and glory which is opened for all students of Indian Schools in Kuwait.

All roads led to the venue of Kala (Art) Kuwait "NIRAM 2025" and the entire venue was full crowded with little artists from various corners of Indian Expatriate Community in Kuwait, as well as from Arab, Philippines and Sri Lankan nationals studying in Indian Schools, flashing with different colours and lines created a festive atmosphere.

There were more than a 3120 entries out of which 2685 children took part in the competitions. Various Gift items were distributed to all participants immediately upon conclusion of the competition of each group. Clay Sculpture was also a competition item for the students and the parents were actively participated in the open canvas as well.

Metro Medical Care Marketing Manager Mr. Basheer Batha inaugurated the event NIRAM 2025. Kala (Art) Kuwait President Siva Kumar, Program General Convener Ji-yash Abdul Kareem, Treasurer, Ajith Kumar, Public Relation Convener, Mukesh V.P., Our Main Sponsor American Tourister Representative Mr. Noufal, Executive member Ragesh P D, Registration Convener, Sunil Kumar, Prominent Community Leaders Najeeb P.V, Aniyar Kunju, Sumesh, Anil P.Alex, Hanif, Binu Sukumaran were attended the inaugural function and the compereing were led by Aneecha Shyith & Lincy George.

Well Known Artists Mr. Sasi Krishnan, Mr. Hari Chengannur and Mr. Sunil Kulana-da had done the overall supervision of the competition. A team of more than 100 Volunteers of Kala (Art) Kuwait controlled the program lead by Shyith, Johney, Kanakaraj,

Mustafa, Ashraf, Anil, Rijo, Vishnuraj, Sarath, Prince, Vishnu, Praveen, Prajesh, Jayesh, Manoj, Rijin, Pramod, Jyothi Sivakumar, Rekha & Bindu.

The results of the Competitions will be announced by the organizing committee as well as the judging committee on 10th December 2025 through leading newspapers and also websites and the prize distribution ceremony will be held in the month of January 2026 at Indian Community School, Khaithan and the date will be announced accordingly.

Kala (Art) Kuwait, announce exclusive prizes for the winners. The first place winners of each group will receive a Gold coin & Gold medal, second place winner with silver medal and third place winner with bronze medal apart from memento & certificate. Besides the 1st, 2nd & 3rd, places, there will be Merit Prizes and Ten (10) percent of the participants will be awarded with consolation prizes. Apart from the individual winners, there will be Overall Championship Trophy for the Schools who topped in the first three places in rating.

Also, a Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the School from which the maximum numbers of students were participated in this event, as a tribute to our beloved Late. Mr. C Bhaskaran, one of the founder and advisory board member of Kala (Art) Kuwait.

The organizers proudly express their satisfaction on the successful completion of the competition and take this opportunity to thankall Children, Parents, Management and Teachers of all Indian schools in Kuwait, Representatives of various Indian socio-cultural organizations in Kuwait and all our Sponsors for their active participation and wholehearted support for making the event a grant success. Kala(Art) Kuwait has once again proved beyond doubt that it upholds the interests of all Art lovers in Kuwait and will continue its support for promotion of Art (Kala). Students and parents are familiar with 'NIRAM', and they can no longer be deceived, as this is the 21st consecutive year Kala(Art) Kuwait has been successfully conducting this prestigious painting competition on the occasion of Children's day.

As part of its support for youth and the 'Diraya' campaign

Gulf Bank welcomes students from the Center for Child Evaluation & Teaching

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: As part of its efforts to promote community sustainability standards and its continuous support for youth, Gulf Bank welcomed a group of students from the Center for Child Evaluation and Teaching to learn about the bank's services, the importance of saving, and the risks of online fraud.

The visit included an introductory tour inside the bank, where the students received a detailed explanation of how bank accounts work, as well as deposit and withdrawal services. They were also introduced to modern digital products such as mobile applications and online banking services. Additionally, the students learned how to carry out bank transfers securely.

Gulf bank employees highlighted the many benefits the bank offers to encourage various segments of society to save and invest, including the advantages of the red account and the red plus prepaid card. The students were also invited to participate in the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, the first and only globally accredited marathon in Kuwait.

In support of the "Diraya" campaign, the bank made sure to inform students about Gulf Bank's significant role in supporting the initiative launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with the Kuwait Banking Association. The campaign aims to educate bank customers about the key banking services available to them, enhance their ability to complete transactions safely, ensure secure operations, and promote financial inclusion as well as monetary and economic stability. It also focuses on raising awareness of customer rights and responsibilities, the benefits of electronic financial transactions, ways to avoid related risks, and the importance of cybersecurity.

For their part, the students expressed their happiness with the experience, affirming that the visit was a valuable opportunity to understand how to manage their money better and to learn about modern financial services.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading bank in Kuwait, by enabling its employees to work in an inclusive and diverse environment to deliver exceptional customer service while ensuring sustainable community support. Thanks to its wide branch network and innovative digital



A group photo of the students and teachers with the Gulf Bank team.



Students visit Gulf Bank branch in Crystal Tower.

services, the bank offers customers the freedom to choose how and where they complete their banking transactions, ensuring a fast and seamless experience.

As part of its support for Kuwait Vision 2035: "New Kuwait", and its commitment to

collaborating with various entities to achieve it, Gulf Bank is dedicated to making strong progress in sustainability across environmental, social, and governance levels through a variety of strategically selected initiatives both inside and outside the bank.

FID conducts 11th Inter-School Health Quiz 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: The Forum of Indian Doctors (FID) successfully concluded the 11th edition of its prestigious Inter School Health Quiz 2025 at the Indian Embassy Auditorium, marking another milestone in its decade long mission to promote health awareness among students in Kuwait.

Held under the leadership of FID President Dr. Sameer Humad, the event saw enthusiastic participation from 18 schools across Kuwait, drawing an impressive audience of students, parents, teachers, and distinguished guests.

The ceremony was graced by Her Excellency Paramita Tripathi, Ambassador of India to Kuwait, who attended as the Chief Guest. In her address, Ambassador Tripathi commended FID for its valuable contribution to the community through impactful educational initiatives. She highlighted the importance of health literacy among youth and applauded the forum's continued dedication to nurturing future healthcare leaders.

The competition began with a rigorous preliminary round featuring all participating schools, assessing students' knowledge across various domains of health and medicine. While scores were being compiled, the audience took part in an interactive session featuring questions from the preliminary round, adding to the excitement and engagement.

The quiz was expertly conducted by Dr. Imtiyaz Nawaz and Dr. Ananta Priya, supported by an energetic quiz team including Dr. Umar, Dr. Soumya Shetty, Dr. Ali Asgar, Dr. Neha, along with other office bearers and volunteers. Their efficient coordination and enthusiasm ensured a seamless and captivating event.

Six schools advanced to the final round, showcasing exceptional knowledge and quick thinking. After a closely contested finale, Fahheel Al-Watanieh Indian Private School (FAIPS-DPS) emerged as champions, earning resounding applause from the audience. The winning team received trophies and certificates in recognition of their outstanding performance from Ambassador Tripathi.



Photo during the event.

FID also used the occasion to honour academic excellence by felicitating high achieving students from Grade 10 and Grade 12 board examinations (2024-2025), acknowledging their dedication and hard work with certificates and awards presented by Ambassador Tripathi. Ms Andrea Shirley D'Cruz, daughter of Dr Antony Sebastian D'Cruz and Dr Anila Albert was felicitated by Ambassador madam for being the Kuwait Topper in Class X CBSE examinations 2025

The event received widespread appreciation from parents, educators, and students, many of whom praised FID for consistently organizing high quality educational programs. The overwhelming participation reflected the com-

munity's strong support for initiatives fostering health awareness and academic excellence among youth.

Expressing his gratitude, Dr. Sameer Humad, President of FID, remarked, "The success of our 11th Inter-School Health Quiz reflects our community's commitment to educating and empowering the next generation. We are proud to uphold this tradition and look forward to many more successful editions in the years ahead."

The Forum of Indian Doctors continues to play a pivotal role in promoting health education and community welfare in Kuwait, with the annual Inter-School Health Quiz remaining one of its signature programs.



Photos during the event.

Action thriller ‘The Running Man’ falls short of expectations

‘Now You See Me 3’ races past ‘The Running Man’ at box office

LOS ANGELES, Nov 17, (AP): It’s no magic trick: The third installment in the thieving magician “Now You See Me” series beat the high-profile action pic “The Running Man” at the North American box office this weekend. Lionsgate’s “Now You See Me: Now You Don’t” pulled in \$21.3 million, while Paramount’s “The Running Man” made \$17 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

“Now You See Me: Now You Don’t,” which cost a reported \$90 million to produce, comes almost 10 years after the second film. Including ticket sales from 64 international territories, its worldwide opening is estimated to be around \$75.5 million. Going into the weekend, it was expected to be a closer race between the two newcomers.

“Honestly, I didn’t see us being number one for the weekend about 10 days ago,” Kevin Grayson, the president of worldwide distribution for Lionsgate’s motion picture group, said Sunday. “But as we started to get closer and ticket sale numbers started to pop, we saw that there was going to be a horse race. Then we pulled away Saturday morning.”

Grayson said it’s a testament not only to the franchise but the marketing and publicity strategies which, “really helped us get into a position where we now can play all the way through the holiday corridor.”

The first two movies in the “Now You See Me” series, released in 2013 and 2016, earned over \$686 million worldwide. This installment, directed by Ruben Fleischer, sees the return of the original “Four Horsemen,” Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Isla Fisher and Dave Franco, and introduces three younger magicians into the mix: Dominic Sessa, Ariana Greenblatt and Justice Smith. A fourth film is already in the works.

Reviews were mixed on Rotten Tomatoes, coming in at 59%. According to PostTrak polling, audiences were a bit more positive, with 63% saying they would definitely recommend.

Audience scores were slightly less for “The Running Man,” which had a 58% “definitely recommend.” Both earned a B+ CinemaScore, but more people chose the franchise. One key difference is that women made up more of the “Now You



This image released by Lionsgate shows Ariana Greenblatt, (from left), Jesse Eisenberg and Dave Franco in a scene from ‘Now You See Me: Now You Don’t.’ (AP)

See Me” audience (54%). They only accounted for 37% of “The Running Man” ticket buyers.

Edgar Wright directed and co-wrote “The Running Man,” the second adaptation of Stephen King’s novel, first published in 1982. The first film starred Arnold Schwarzenegger and was released in 1987 to mixed reviews and a tepid box of-

fice, earning only \$38 million against a \$27 million budget. The new version stars Glen Powell, who has had a good track record starring in box office hits, from the romantic comedy “Anyone But You” to “Twisters.”

Paramount Pictures released “The Running Man” in 3,400 domestic locations and 58 international markets. Worldwide, it earned \$28.2 million against a reported \$110 million budget.

The weekend’s other new opener, “Keeper,” the third feature from “Longlegs” filmmaker Oz Perkins, cratered with \$2.5 million and a D+ CinemaScore. But as an acquisition title for Neon, it’s also not a disaster.

Third place went to “Predator: Badlands” with \$13 million in its second weekend, followed by “Regretting You” in fourth with \$4 million. “Black Phone 2” rounded out the top five with \$2.7 million, bringing its domestic total to \$74.7 million after five weeks in theaters.

In anticipation of the big budget musical “Wicked: For Good,” which opens next week, Universal Pictures put “Wicked” back in 2,195 theaters, where it made \$1.2 million — barely missing a spot in the top 10.

The box office should pick up considerably when “Wicked 2” blows into theaters, followed by “Zootopia 2” before the Thanksgiving holiday. Comscore’s Paul Dergarabedian said it could be one of the highest grossing five-day Thanksgiving frames of all time. “After a terrible October, the lowest grossing in decades, it’s just warming up,” Dergarabedian said. “It’s never too late to get the momentum moving in the right direction.”

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. “Now You See Me: Now You Don’t,” \$21.3 million; 2. “The Running Man,” \$17 million; 3. “Predator: Badlands,” \$13 million; 4. “Regretting You,” \$4 million; 5. “Black Phone 2,” \$2.7 million; 6. “Nuremberg,” \$2.6 million; 7. “Keeper,” \$2.5 million; 8. “Sarah’s Oil,” \$2.3 million; 9. “Bugonia” and “Chainsaw Man – The Movie: Reze Arc,” (tie) \$1.6 million

Governors Awards

Actor celebrated for 40 years in film

Tom Cruise finally ‘wins’ his first Oscar

LOS ANGELES, Nov 17, (AP): Tom Cruise, at 63 still the biggest movie star in a room full of them, finally got to hold his own Oscar on a Hollywood stage on Sunday night.

“Making movies is not what I do, it’s who I am,” said Cruise. He was composed as always, but at moments seemed near tears as he spoke, grasping the gold honorary statuette that celebrated his more than 40 years at the apex of the industry at the film academy’s annual Governors Awards.

“In that theater we laugh together, we feel together, we hope together,” he said after a two-minute ovation.

Production designer Wynn Thomas and choreographer and actor Debbie Allen were also selected by the academy’s board of governors to be honored for their storied careers, and an absent Dolly Parton was honored for a lifetime of philanthropy at the ceremony at the Ray Dolby Ballroom in Los Angeles.

A competitive Oscar has eluded Cruise, who’s been nominated four times: as an actor for 1989’s “Born on the Fourth of July,” 1996’s “Jerry Maguire” and 1999’s “Magnolia,” and as a producer for 2022’s “Top Gun: Maverick.”

Before he took the stage, the audience saw a long montage of clips from those and his other films - loaded with death-defying stunts he often did himself - from 1981’s “Taps” through this year’s “Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning.”

It was fitting that the Governors Awards aren’t televised. Tom Cruise doesn’t do TV, and he’s been among the biggest champions of the theatergoing experience over streaming.

Support

“I will always do everything I can to help this art form,” Cruise said. “To support and champion new voices, to protect what makes cinema powerful. Hopefully without too many more broken bones.”

Oscar-winning director Alejandro González Iñárritu presented Cruise the award. The two have spent several months shooting a film in London set for release in 2026. The collaboration suggests that Cruise, who has stuck to blockbuster franchise fare in recent years, might not be done trying to win an Academy Award the old-fashioned way.

“This may be his first Oscar,” Iñárritu said, “but from what I have seen and experienced, this will not be the last.”

The list of stars who attended suggests that the campaign for the next competitive Oscars is low-key underway. The banquet tables were filled with potential nominees, including Leonardo DiCaprio, Michael B. Jordan, Sydney Sweeney, Dwayne Johnson, Ariana Grande and Jacob Elordi.

Here’s a look at Sunday night’s



Tom Cruise, winner of an Academy honorary award poses onstage during the 16th Governors Awards on Sunday, Nov. 16, at The Ray Dolby Ballroom in Los Angeles. (AP)

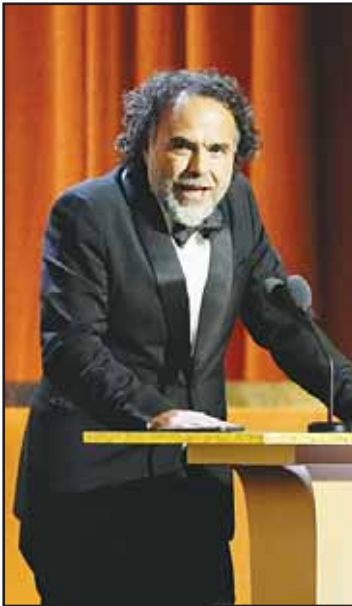


Debbie Allen receives an Academy honorary award. (AP)

other honorees:

Debbie Allen: Allen, 75, has never been nominated for an Oscar. But the multi-hyphenate entertainer has played an integral role in the Oscars show, having choreographed seven ceremonies over the years, four of them nominated for Emmys.

As an actor she appeared in “Ragtime” and both the film and television series “Fame.” She was also a producer of the film “Amistad,”



Alejandro González Iñárritu speaks during the 16th Governors Awards. (AP)

whose director, Steven Spielberg, hugged her as she took the stage.

A tearful Allen thanked the room for “this glorious golden moment in the sun.”

Cynthia Erivo presented the award to Allen, whom she considers an “aunt,” and praised her for lifting up her fellow Black artists.

“Debbie, you have not only shown us the great heights dedication to the arts can take us, you have



Wynn Thomas receives an Academy honorary award. (AP)

fought to bring all of us along with you,” Erivo said.

Allen thanked her sister, actor Phylicia Rashad, and her husband of 40 years, former NBA all-star and LA Laker Norm Nixon, both of whom sat at her table.

Looking at her statuette, she said it feels like she and Oscar “got married. Sorry, Norman!”

Wynn Thomas: Thomas was honored for the decades of visual

imagination he brought to films as one of the first Black production designers and art directors of Hollywood films.

His movies have included director Ron Howard’s best-picture winner “A Beautiful Mind” and director Tim Burton’s sci-fi farce “Mars Attacks.”

But he’s best known for his decades of collaborations with director Spike Lee on films including “Do The Right Thing,” “Malcolm X” and “Da 5 Bloods.”

Storytelling

“My journey to storytelling began as a poor Black kid in one of the worst slums in Philadelphia,” Thomas said after accepting his statuette from Octavia Spencer. “The local gangs looked down on me and called me sissy. But that sissy grew up to work with some great filmmakers.”

Dolly Parton: Parton was the recipient of the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for her decades-long charitable work in literacy and education.

The country music giant had to miss the show, her representatives said, because of a long-established scheduling conflict, and not health difficulties that prompted her to cancel several recent concerts.

Parton has twice been nominated for best original song Oscars, including for “9 to 5,” the title song of her first film in an acting career that also included “Steel Magnolias.”

Her “9 to 5” co-star Lily Tomlin presented the award, turning her struggles to read the teleprompter into comic improv. She fondly recalled the baby-doll pajamas Parton wore at the impromptu slumber parties they had with co-star Jane Fonda.

Tomlin said the song “9 to 5” became “an anthem for our times” and was itself an example of Parton’s philanthropy with its emphasis on worker struggles.

She said it’s ironic that there is so much artifice in Parton’s appearance, because “she is the most authentic person I have ever known.”

Cruise, in typically hyper-prepared fashion, didn’t just shout out his fellow nominees from the stage, but gave each their own detailed tribute. He told Thomas the exact date and theater he first saw one of his films, Spike Lee’s “She’s Gotta Have It.” He praised Parton for showing that “compassion and creativity are not separate.” And for Allen he quoted from the work of her mother, poet and playwright Vivian Ayers Allen.

Allen gave her own tribute to Cruise, recalling the early-career signature moment when he danced and lip-synced in his underwear in “Risky Business.”

“Honey, we loved when you slid out in those tighty-whites,” she said.

Variety

LHASA: The Potala Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in southwest China’s Xizang Autonomous Region, will implement a Monday closure policy effective Dec. 1, according to an announcement released on its official website on Monday.

This measure, aiming to strengthen the protection of its cultural relics and ancient architecture, enhance infrastructure maintenance and improve services and tourist experience, aligns with common practices in the museum industry, said its administration office.

The closure will apply every Monday, except on national statutory holidays.

During closure days, the management office will conduct routine activities such as inspections and repairs of cultural relics, updates to exhibitions, maintenance of public facilities

and environmental sanitization.

Built in the 7th century, the Potala Palace, a typical Tibetan traditional earth-stone-wood structure with more than 1,200 rooms, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1994.

Notably, it attracted over 2 million domestic and international tourists in 2024. (Xinhua)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates: Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, ICOM Dubai 2025 concluded its historic edition, marking the first time the event was hosted in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. The conference, held under the theme ‘The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities,’ saw over 4,500 participants from museum professionals, cultural leaders, and decision-makers from around the world, underscoring Dubai’s role

as a global hub for culture, creativity, and innovation.

The final day featured key discussions, including the session ‘Cultural Diplomacy from an Emirati Perspective: Bridges of Connection and Dialogue,’ led by Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of Dubai Culture. During the session, Sheikha Latifa highlighted the UAE’s cultural unity. Her Excellency Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of State, joined her, emphasising the importance of cultural diplomacy as a practice, not just a concept.

The conference also included the session ‘The Power of Narrative, Heritage, and Youth,’ which featured Her Excellency Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, who discussed the role of museums as vital platforms for dialogue and mutual understanding.

During his keynote, His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nus-seibeh, Cultural Advisor to the UAE President, spoke about the challenges museums face in preserving the essence of

creativity while adapting to change, stressing that museums are not just observers but active participants in societal transformation. (AP)

HARBIN: China Snow Town, one of the most renowned ice-and-snow tourism destinations in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, officially opened to the public on Monday.

Located in the city of Mudanjiang, the scenic area has planned more than 30 cultural and tourism activities, including traditional folk customs, modern performances, and technological light shows, aiming to provide visitors with an immersive ice-and-snow experience this winter.

According to the scenic area management, the first snowfall of the season occurred in the “Snow Town” on Oct. 17 this year, which was six days earlier than the previous year. (Xinhua)

'Come See Me' captures poet's story of love, humor and resilience

In docu, Gibson shared terminal cancer journey to help others

PARK CITY, Utah, Nov 17, (AP): Andrea Gibson would be the first to tell you that they never expected a documentary about their life with a terminal cancer diagnosis to be funny. No one did. But Gibson, a celebrated poet and performance artist who died in July at age 49, also didn't expect to see the film at all. They weren't alone in that either. Three years after the ovarian cancer diagnosis, life was day-by-day.

Yet by some miracle Gibson was able to see "Come See Me in the Good Light," to look at a living document of their life over the past year with their partner, Megan Falley, from coffee chats to chemotherapy appointments, and to realize that yes, that dinner table conversation about a certain intimate act that they had about two hours after first meeting the documentary crew made the final cut.

"I don't think that they had any expectation that it would be fun," Gibson told The Associated Press in January at the Sundance Film Festival. "They're like, 'OK,' we're creating a death documentary about serious poets."

In that moment at the dinner table, everyone involved seemed to understand that this was a collaboration that was going to work. It was the kind of silly, intimate and deeply authentic interaction that would serve not only as an ice-breaker with the group of strangers following them around with a camera, but set the tone for the film (now streaming on Apple TV).

"I remember having my jaw open," said filmmaker Ryan White. "You never get that kind of stuff on Day One. But that scene turns from funny to deep real fast. Andrea and



This image released by Apple TV shows Andrea Gibson in a scene from the film 'Come See Me in the Good Light.' (AP)

Meg have this way of doing those shifts in everyday life that just made every scene magic: Belly laughter and tears in the same 20 minutes."

For the next year, the filmmaking crew would visit Gibson and Falley every three weeks and film everything for three days straight, never knowing if it was going to be the last time they saw Gibson. Two weeks before it premiered, they were still shooting.

The idea started in part with comedian Tig Notaro, who

had known Gibson for many years. Notaro thought Gibson was one of the funniest people she knew. White and his producing partner had been bugging Notaro to bring them a funny documentary. And while a stage 4 cancer, slam poetry film wasn't even remotely what he had in mind, all those hesitations washed away as soon as he saw Gibson on stage - not just the material, but that star quality that had some calling them the "James Dean" of the spoken word poetry world.

"It's a really hard film to pitch or to put into a log-line without it sounding really heavy and heartbreaking and sad," White said. "And it is all of those things. But it is so much more than that."

Gibson and Falley had been going through the roller coaster essentially alone for two years when they were approached. Their yes was immediate.

"The presence of a camera being there, we thought, would help us do what we were already trying to do, which was take all that was happening and make it beautiful and make it something that could help others or be a gift in some way," Falley said.

Gibson agreed - here was a direct way to share everything that they learned, everything they were feeling. It wasn't about legacy, they said, it was about creating art that might help.

Neither Gibson nor Falley could believe they had made it to the Sundance Film Festival at all earlier this year.

The week prior had been one of the worst they'd ever experienced, but Gibson woke up one morning feeling better and decided to trust that in-the-moment feeling, pack up

some things and head to Park City, Utah, with Falley, for the film's world premiere. It was risky being out at all, with tumors in their lungs and liver: And yet sitting in a cozy condo next to Falley, just a few steps away from a wood burning fire and some of their closest friends nearby, the couple was happy to be in the moment feeling love and loved.

"Our hope for the film is that it just helps anybody going through something very challenging that the whole culture says, 'That's impossible. You should be miserable going through that,'" Gibson said. "Just keeping the door open to a possibility that maybe it doesn't have to be that way."

Sundance was the last time that Gibson traveled out of state with the film. They died a month shy of their 50th birthday. White decided to keep the film as it played in January and to not note Gibson's death.

"We felt like the film was perfect the way it ended," White said. "I felt very strongly that I didn't want to update it because I feel very strongly that it's not a film about dying. I'm very, very at peace with that and so is Megan."

Falley, now a 37-year-old widow, has continued to tour with the film around the world. Though it often has her crying throughout, White said she gets to watch her love story 20-feet-tall and talk to audiences about the love of her life every night.

"It is devastating that Andrea is not with us in person anymore, but I almost think it all worked out beautifully, that Andrea got to see this film, and they know that Megan will carry this mantle now," White said. "It's just so beautiful and perfect watching this legacy of Andrea live on."

Heritage



One of the passageways connecting the buildings in the Roman district.



A square in the district where the residents used to gather.



Mosaics adorn most of the floors in homes and were a popular art form in that era.



Small rooms with domes were dedicated to raising animals, birds of prey, and even lions that were used in shows.

Roman Villas in Carthage highlight evolving Mediterranean architecture

The archaeological park known as the Roman Villas is situated on one of the hills of ancient Carthage, presenting well-preserved remains dating to the Roman period and illustrating refined residential architectural styles.

These villas derive their name from the luxurious aristocratic residences of the Roman era,

and they occupy the scenic Odeon Hill, the one of four prominent heights in Carthage.

Built atop a Punic cemetery from the Hellenistic period, the district follows the cadastral plan introduced under Emperor Augustus, dividing the area into standardized urban blocks that reflect prevailing aristocratic architectural norms of

its time.

Alongside its residential buildings, it includes the Odeon Theater for musical and literary performances and several spaces decorated with mosaic and marble floors, forming a cultural landmark that attracts researchers throughout the year. (KUNA)

Priceless manuscripts escaped extremists

Rescued Timbuktu manuscripts still face risk

TIMBUKTU, Mali, Nov 17, (AP): Thirteen years ago, Abdoulaye Cissé risked his life to smuggle tens of thousands of fragile manuscripts out of Timbuktu as al-Qaida-linked extremists swept into the desert town.

At night, he loaded crates of manuscripts from the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Islamic Studies and Research onto donkey carts, aware that their pages carried evidence of his people's glorious past. They were taken to the river, where wooden boats and then buses took them to Mali's capital, Bamako - a 1,200-kilometer (750-mile) journey.

"It was dark, but we knew the route by heart," said Cissé, the institute's general secretary.

Moving the manuscripts took a month. The institute's staff knew they risked their lives.

The 28,000 manuscripts returned safely to Timbuktu in August after a request from local leaders and civil society. It reflected both the city's pride in cultural preservation and concerns about the potentially damaging humidity in Bamako. Mali's government has portrayed it as a victory.

Smuggled

But al-Qaida remains a threat. Its fighters attacked Timbuktu as recently as June, and affiliated fighters with the JNIM group have imposed a fuel blockade on landlocked Mali, threatening to bring down the military regime.

Beyond the institute, which is owned by the government, Timbuktu is home to private libraries holding an estimated 377,000 manuscripts in total. All were smuggled to the capital, where they remain.

"What we find in these documents does not exist anywhere else in the world," said Mohamed Diagayeté, director of the institute, who specializes in old manuscripts.

The trove contradicts assumptions that African history has been primarily oral. The manu-



Manuscript pages are being scanned at the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Islamic Studies and Research in Timbuktu, Mali, Sept. 4, 2025. (AP)

scripts are an archive of dealings among West African empires and tribes, with histories dating back centuries.

A world comes to life on their pages. Letters between scholars and emirs debate whether tobacco was sin or solace, and outline demands by officials to shrink women's dowries so poor men might marry.

Scribbled notes in the margins detail events that shaped history, like earthquakes that shook the region in the 15th century.

Timbuktu was once a center of Islamic learning, with scholars also coming to study mathematics, science, astrology and governance.

The manuscripts offer evidence that Islam in the region was long marked by tolerance and respect. One manuscript in a private library records a local decree warning men not to impose themselves on women, and granting women the right to seek justice if they do.

The brutality of al-Qaida's arrival in 2012 was a shock. The militants destroyed more than

4,000 manuscripts, some dating back to the 13th century, according to the findings of a United Nations expert mission. They also destroyed the mausoleums of Timbuktu, which are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and the city's "sacred gate."

Al-Qaida's rampage was a wake-up call for protecting Timbuktu's treasures.

Before the manuscripts were smuggled out of the city, only 20% of the institute's manuscripts had been digitized, Cissé said. Now nearly all are digitized, and the archives are backed up on servers based elsewhere.

"Even if one server is damaged, we can still recover these manuscripts," he said.

Archivists and librarians say challenges remain.

Surveillance

The manuscripts are still stored in aging mud-brick libraries, though staffers of the institute say their holdings are now in "a secure place." They plan to install surveillance cameras inside.

Timbuktu's history-loving residents try to balance protection with accessibility.

"As long as these manuscripts remain in trunks, they remain dead because people cannot enjoy them," said Sane Chirfi Alpha, a founding member of a local nonprofit, SAVAMA-DCI, for their preservation.

For students like 24-year-old Baylaly Mahamane, the manuscripts offer fresh insights from traditional practices. One text describes doctors crushing white wormwood leaves to soothe the stomach, blending millet with mutton to stop vomiting, and packing swollen feet with clay and henna.

"I want to study the Timbuktu manuscripts on herbal medicine so that I can help doctors in Timbuktu hospitals treat patients who cannot obtain medication at home," Mahamane said.

'Who tells your story?'

Burns and Miranda offer history lesson to students

NEW YORK, Nov 17, (AP): On a chilly midweek afternoon, hundreds of New York City high school students gathered in the pews of Trinity Church in Lower Manhattan. The lesson was "Who tells your story?" The teachers, credentialed with prizes both competitive and honorary and with popular acclaim, were filmmaker Ken Burns and "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda.

"I can't believe there has been a louder sound in this church until today," Burns said as the kids clapped and screamed for the two featured speakers.

"Hamilton" fans know well the origins of "Who tells your story?" The Wednesday event was timed for one of Burns' most ambitious projects, "The American Revolution," a 6-part, 12-hour documentary that premiered Sunday on PBS stations. He has promoted the film everywhere from Monticello to "The Joe Rogan Experience" and now has shared a stage with Miranda at the centuries-old parish where George Washington once worshipped and Alexander Hamilton and his wife, Eliza, are buried, a draw for "Hamilton" fans bearing flowers and other tributes.

"We're in the business of telling stories," Burns explained, as he and Miranda sat under the towering vaulted ceiling of Trinity, as if the church itself were a stand-in for history's might. "I deal in fact. And Lin-Manuel can make things up. This question, though, who tells your story, is the animating question of humanity. It's this story of great men, capital G, capital M, and rarely do we have an opportunity to widen that lens and tell everyone's story."

Historical

Burns, co-directors Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt and screenwriter Geoffrey Ward (co-author with Burns of a companion book) drew upon thousands of books and other historical materials. The film's narrators comprise what Miranda calls an "Avengers"-worthy cast, from Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep to Morgan Freeman and Laura Linney. And dozens of historians, spanning age and perspective, provided on-air commentary: eminences Gordon Wood and Bernard Bailyn (who died in 2020), non-academic historians such as Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Stacy Schiff and Pulitzer-winning military authority Rick Atkinson, and leading scholars from a range of other fields, including slavery (Vincent Brown), Native American history (Ned Blackhawk) and the British Empire (Maya Jasanoff).

Students listened to history, watched history - Burns showed a brief clip from his documentary, about the deadly winter at Valley Forge - and created their own. If Miranda can make music out of federal debt or the election of 1800, then Shacoy Moodie and Arianna Richards of Equality Charter High School can rap an original piece about a good friend of Hamilton's, John Laurens, a Southerner who sought in vain to enfranchise enslaved Black people and have them fight the British. "They deserve it all/each and every one/they deserve it all," the students chanted in homage to the would-be freemen, as Burns smiled and Miranda leaned and nodded in rhythm.

Interviewed briefly after their joint appearance, Burns and Miranda said that their friendship began around 10 years ago, when the filmmaker visited backstage after a performance of "Hamilton." They are a generation apart - Burns is 72, Miranda 45 - but very much in sync on their mission to educate. Burns speaks proudly of his documentaries on the Civil War and other subjects being part of course curricula, and Miranda welcomes the countless school productions of "Hamilton," calling himself a theater kid whose subconscious goal is "to write the best school play possible."

Burns thought it ideal for Miranda to appear with him at Trinity, if only because of all the interest in the revolution "in the wake of 'Hamilton.'" Miranda added: "When Ken Burns calls, you say 'Yes.'"

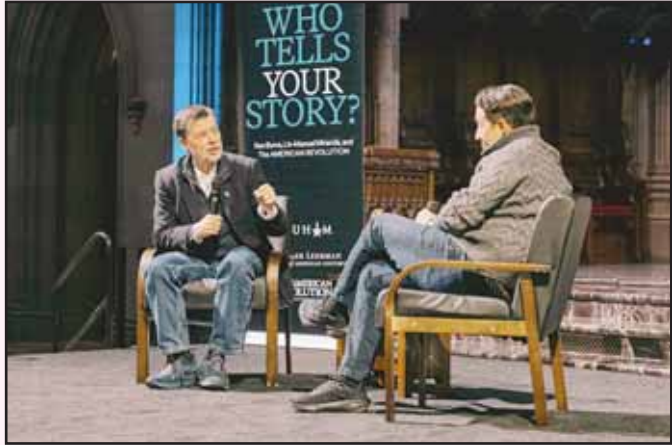
Burns says he keeps a neon sign in his editing room that reads: "It's complicated." Whether speaking with the AP or with students, Burns emphasized the need to move beyond "top-down" history, while still appreciating the founders' achievements. One student asked him about the legacy of George Washington.

Flawed

"He's deeply flawed. He owned hundreds of human beings, knew slavery was wrong, and not until the end of his life freed them. He was rash on the battlefield, running out, risking his life, and therefore the future of the United States," Burns responded. "Having said this, we don't have a country without him. He is tall and imposing, and he has a kind of dignity. Dr. Benjamin Rush said that the other monarchs of Europe would look like a 'valet de chambre,' a butler next to George Washington. He's able to inspire men in the dead of night to fight for a cause."

The Burns documentary arrives less than eight months before the country's 250th anniversary, a time of deep political and social division that extends to how the founding story should be told. Beyond the will to break from the British, there has never been a consensus over the aims and meaning of the revolution, not even while it was being fought; the upcoming semiquincentennial has only heightened the differences. President Donald Trump has called for a "grand celebration" in July 2026, and denounced "woke" history, criticizing the Smithsonian Institution for being preoccupied with "how bad slavery was." The scholarly community - including some featured in Burns' film - aims for a broader narrative, highlighting the contributions of women, the perpetuation of slavery and the uprooting and killing of Native Americans.

Burns' aversion to the president is well documented. During a 2016 commencement speech at Stanford University, he called then-candidate Trump an "insult to our history." Eight years later, addressing Brandeis University students, he called Trump "the opioid of all opioids, an easy cure for what some believe is the solution to our myriad pains and problems" and urged attendees not to vote for him in November.



This image released by Trinity Church NYC shows Ken Burns, left, and Lin-Manuel Miranda at a 'Who tells your story?' event at the church in New York on Nov. 12. (AP)

Ancient remedy lowers respiratory virus transmission risk

Nasal irrigation effective at fighting common cold: studies

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

□ □ □

By Mary J. Scourboutakos, Macon & Joan Brock
Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University

It starts with a slight scratchiness at the back of your throat. Then, a sneeze.

Then coughing, sniffing and full-on congestion, with or without fever, for a few insufferable days.

Viral upper respiratory tract infections - also known as the common cold - afflict everyone, typically three times per year, lasting, on average, nine days.

Colds don't respond to antibiotics, and most over-the-counter medications deliver modest results at best.

In recent years, research has emerged demonstrating the effectiveness of the ancient practice of nasal saline irrigation in fighting the common cold in both adults and children.

Not only does nasal saline irrigation decrease the duration of illness, it also reduces viral transmission to other people, minimizes the need for antibiotics and could even lower a patient's risk of hospitalization. Better yet, it costs pennies and doesn't require a prescription.

I'm both an adjunct assistant professor of medicine and a practicing physician. As a family doctor, I see the common cold every day. My patients are usually skeptical when I first

recommend nasal saline irrigation. However, they frequently return to tell me that this practice has changed their life. Not only does it help with upper respiratory viruses, but it also helps manage allergies, chronic congestion, postnasal drip and recurrent sinus infections.

Nasal saline irrigation is a process by which the nasal cavity is bathed in a saltwater solution. In some studies, this is accomplished using a pump-action spray bottle.

In others, participants used a traditional neti pot, which is a vessel resembling a teapot.

This practice of nasal irrigation originated in the Ayurvedic tradition, which is a system of alternative medicine from India dating back more than 5,000 years.

The neti pot can be traced back to the 15th century. It garnered mainstream interest in the U.S. in 2012 after Dr. Oz demonstrated it on the "Oprah Winfrey Show." But it's not the only device that has historically been employed for such purposes. Ancient Greek and Roman physicians had their own nasal lavage devices. Such practices were even discussed in medical journals such as The Lancet over a century ago, in 1902.

Nasal saline has a few key benefits. First, it physically flushes debris out of the nasal passage. This not only includes mucus and crust, but also the virus itself, along with allergens and other environmental contaminants.

Second, salt water is slightly lower on the pH scale compared with fresh water. Its acidity creates an environment that is inhospitable for viruses and makes it harder for them to rep-

licate.

Third, nasal saline helps restore the actions of part of our natural defense system, which is composed of microscopic, hairlike projections called cilia that line the surface of the nasal passage. These cilia beat in a coordinated fashion to act like an escalator, propelling viruses and other foreign particles out of the body. Nasal saline irrigation helps keep this system running effectively.

A study of more than 11,000 people published in The Lancet in 2024 demonstrated that nasal saline irrigation, initiated at the first sign of symptoms and performed up to six times per day, reduced the duration of symptomatic illness by approximately two days. Meanwhile, smaller studies have reported that the reduced duration of illness could be as high as four days.

Research has also demonstrated that nasal saline irrigation can help prevent the spread of illness. A study in hospitalized patients showed that after detection of COVID-19 via nasal swab, nasal saline irrigation performed every four hours over a 16-hour period decreased COVID-19 viral load by 8.9%. Meanwhile, the viral load in the control group continued to increase during that time.

The benefits of nasal saline also extend beyond acute infectious illnesses. When performed regularly by patients with allergic rhinitis, also known as hay fever, a meta-analysis of 10 randomized controlled trials showed that nasal saline irrigation can enable a 62% reduction in the use of allergy medications. It's also effective for chronic congestion, postnasal drip and recurrent sinus infections.

Besides helping patients feel better faster, one of the most valuable benefits of nasal saline irrigation is that its use can help decrease unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions, which are a major contributor to antibiotic resistance.

It is well established that antibiotics do not shorten the duration or reduce the severity of respiratory tract infections. Despite this, studies have shown that patients are happier when they leave their doctor's office with an antibiotic prescription in hand.

This may be why 10 million inappropriate antibiotic prescriptions are given each year for viral respiratory tract infections. In one study of more than 49,000 patient encounters for respiratory infections, antibiotics were unnecessarily prescribed to 42.4% of patients.

One reason patients with upper respiratory viral infections tend to initially feel better with antibiotics is because of their off-target, anti-inflammatory properties. However, this benefit can be better achieved with anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen or naproxen, that can be taken in conjunction with nasal saline irrigation.

Overall, nasal saline irrigation is a cheap, effective, evidence-based alternative that will not only shorten the duration of illness but also prevent its spread, minimize the need for unnecessary antibiotics and keep people out of the hospital.

For those who want to try it, you don't need anything fancy. Even a neti pot is not necessary. Many pharmacies sell salt water in a container with a nozzle and even spray bottles that can be refilled with a homemade saltwater solution. (AP)

Gene study breakthrough

Patients' AI 'digital twins' to predict their future health

MELBOURNE, Nov. 17, (Xinhua): A research led by Australia's University of Melbourne has developed an artificial intelligence (AI) tool capable of creating "digital twins," or virtual patient replicas, to predict individual health trajectories.

Researchers used three datasets containing thousands of electronic patient health records to train an existing large language model, according to a university statement released Monday.

The AI model called DT-GPT, hailed as "a potential gamechanger for the clinical trial sector," analyzed medical data of patients with either Alzheimer's disease or non-small cell lung cancer, as well as patients admitted to intensive care units, it said.

The model created digital twins of patients and accurately forecast their health changes over time by leveraging pre-existing medical knowledge and analyzing patient histories, including lab results, diagnoses, and treatments, it added.

The model wasn't provided information on the health outcomes of the patients, allowing researchers to validate its predictions, the statement said, adding the DT-GPT model outperformed 14 other state-of-the-art machine learning models in predictive accuracy.

"This technology paves the way for a shift from reactive to predictive and personalized medicine," said University of Melbourne Associate Professor Michael Menden, lead researcher of the study published in NPJ Digital Medicine.

"It could enable doctors to anticipate if their patient's health will deteriorate so they can intervene earlier," Menden said, adding it could also predict medication side effects, helping doctors customize treatments to each patient's unique profile and improve health outcomes.

The model quickly interprets complex data and features a chatbot-like interface for users to explore its predictions, he said, adding DT-GPT uses generative AI to make "zero-shot predictions," meaning it can make educated guesses about lab values even without prior training on them.

□ □ □

Genome: A landmark study has used whole-genome sequencing to measure how strongly genes shape traits like height, weight, and risk of diseases such as Type 2 diabetes.

The study, published in Nature, used the DNA sequences of 347,630 people of European descent from the UK Biobank to quantify how much trait differences between people can be explained by genetic factors, known as heritability, according to a Thursday news release from Australia's University of Queensland (UQ), which co-led the study with U.S. biotechnology company Illumina.

Whole genome sequencing allows the accurate measurement of most genetic variants, unlike traditional methods using data from relatives and twin studies, said Professor Loic Yengo from UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

"An outstanding question in human genetics has been how much twin-based estimates of heritability could be replicated using modern genomic technologies when applied to unrelated individuals," Yengo said, adding the study demonstrates for the first time that this approach works.

Among 34 traits and diseases studied, including height, body mass index (BMI), cholesterol, and heart disease, researchers found genetic factors explain on average 30 percent of differences between people, ranging from 74 percent for height to 12 percent for fertility.

Traditional methods can overestimate genetic effects since relatives and twins share not only genes but also environmental factors, Yengo said, noting that while family-based estimates put genetic influence on a person's BMI at 50 percent, genomic sequencing put it at 35 percent.

The next step is to map gene variants to explain why some people develop diseases and others don't, enabling early identification and prevention, he added.

'You have to listen to any pain'

Olympic champion offers best swimming advice for seniors, comeback swimmers

NEW YORK, Nov 17, (AP): Olympic gold-medalist Rowdy Gaines has swimming tips if you're an older swimmer, or returning to the pool after years away.

Gaines won three Olympic gold medals at the 1984 Los Angeles Games and is widely known as the "voice of swimming" for his coverage of the Olympics with American network NBC.

Swimming is an all-around exercise with water providing mild resistance. It's low-impact, offers a complete workout and is suitable for all ages.

"Of course I'm biased, but I will stack swimming against any other exercise out there, especially as we age," Gaines told The Associated Press. "And swimming is one of the few sports you can do forever."

Gaines missed out on a shot at winning a handful of medals at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, which the United States boycotted. Gaines set 10 world records between 1978 and 1984 and was the heir in American sprinting to Mark Spitz and a predecessor to Michael Phelps.

Gaines is 66 and said his 90-year-old father, Buddy, is back training for a meet for older swimmers early next year. He said his father has not swum seriously in, perhaps, 70 years.

Gaines stayed away from advice around strokes, detailed workout plans, and specific training suggestions. His tips are geared for older swimmers and those returning after a long layoff - perhaps decades.

Defog your goggles, slip into the



Former Olympic swimmer Rowdy Gaines swims, Tuesday, Nov 11, 2025 at a pool in Salt Lake City. (AP)

pool, grab your kickboard and let's get motivated.

Take time to work on your technique. Most recreational swimmers use the freestyle stroke, also known as the front crawl. But his advice also applies to breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly.

With freestyle, Gaines preaches taking long, smooth strokes - not short, choppy ones. And for freestyle swimmers, keep your head in the water and aligned with your body.

"Water rewards efficiency," said Gaines, who won his three gold medals in the 100 free and two relays. "It has nothing to do with power. I think a lot of first-timers feel like they have to power their way through the water and that is not true."

Build distance and endurance slowly. Maybe a few decades ago you could swim non-stop for 30 minutes. You won't be able to after a long time away.

Start with a 200-yard (meter) workout. Swim 25 yards (meters) and rest

until your heart rate slows. Do this eight to 10 times "and then get the heck out of the pool," Gaines said.

"You don't want to overdo it to start with and then get frustrated and think you can't do it," he said. "You need to increase your total distance little by little."

Gaines suggested the goal is a 20-30 minute workout, three times per week. Swimming relies on getting a feel for the water, which requires steadfastness.

"Three days a week is the sweet spot," he said. "If you are doing less than three days a week, it's really tough to develop the consistency you need."

This is common sense, but take time to warm up. Do this on dry land, perhaps, before hitting the water. Do stretches, work your shoulders, and work on some strength training.

It's no secret that some swimmers experience lots of shoulder pain.

"You have to listen to any pain," Gaines said. "Pain is a lot different than fatigue or strain. Pain is real. If you are feeling fatigue and strain, that's good. If you are feeling pain, that's bad."

If something hurts, stop and change your workout.

If you swim freestyle, Gaines suggested adding in a bit of backstroke to loosen the shoulders and add strength. Breaststroke is also easier on the shoulders. Butterfly, however, is tough on the shoulders.

Gaines emphasized keeping it fun and getting comfortable in the water. Not fighting it.

Experts raise concerns over wellness trend

A closer look at the unapproved peptide injections promoted by influencers, stars



In this image taken from video, an IV infusion is administered at Pure Alchemy Wellness, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, in Chula Vista, Calif. (AP)

tides.

"These influencers are often advocating taking a stack of peptides each month, so it could be two, three, four different peptides," said Dr. Eric Topol of Scripps Research Translational Institute. "This is really what I consider dangerous."

Interest in the trend is being amplified by celebrities.

Joe Rogan has repeatedly talked about using BPC-157 to recover from injuries. Jennifer Aniston has talked about using weekly peptide injections to improve her skin and currently serves as a paid spokesperson for a company selling peptide-enriched supplements.

"If any celebrity is using a peptide, and they're saying this is what worked for me, then of course it's going to be more mainstream and people are going to be looking into it," said Kay Robins, a clinical nurse and operator of Pure Alchemy Wellness, a clinic outside of San Diego that sells peptide infusions and injections.

Robins says she no longer offers BPC-157 and other peptides that have been targeted by the FDA.

Most of the unproven peptides promoted online are technically being sold illegally.

Any substance that is injected to produce a health benefit or prevent a

medical condition is classified as a drug, which cannot be sold without FDA approval.

The agency considers many peptides to be biologics, the most complicated and potentially high-risk type of drugs, requiring extra precautions in their manufacture and storage. In recent years, the agency has added more than two dozen peptides to a list of substances that should not be produced by pharmacies due to safety risks.

Some companies market their peptides as dietary supplements, particularly those sold as pills, gummies or powders.

While dietary supplements are less tightly regulated than drugs, the FDA still requires them to only contain ingredients found on a list of approved substances. Most peptides are not on that list and therefore are ineligible to be sold as supplements.

Experts generally agree that consuming peptides by mouth likely has little or no effect, since they will dissolve in the gut.

Most of the injectable peptides sold in the U.S. are produced by compounding pharmacies, which custom-mix medications that aren't available from drug manufacturers. Pharmacies are regulated at the state level and are generally not subject to the same scrutiny as companies overseen by FDA.

Asbestos risk

Diabetes surges in young Fijians

SUVA, Nov. 17, (Xinhua): Diabetes is no longer just an elderly disease but one affecting young people and working-age Fijians, said Fiji's Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services Penioni Ravunawa on Monday.

The latest data revealed that 16.6 percent of the 588,000 adult population aged 20 to 79 are currently living with diabetes in Fiji, with many more still undiagnosed, placing the country among the worst-hit in the world.

Ravunawa said the disease was cutting lives short and pushing households into poverty, threatening families and the workforce in the island country, according to Fiji Broadcasting Corporation.

The official said wellness must go beyond hospitals into schools, workplaces, and places of worship.

Every rising case is not just a number, he warned, but a family impacted and a future lost.

Ravunawa called for a united effort to reverse the rise of diabetes and embed wellness into Fiji's culture. Enditem

□ □ □

Asbestos: More than 70 schools in the Australian capital of Canberra were ordered to close on Monday due to growing concerns about possible asbestos contamination from decorative sand products.

The government of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) said that 71 of 94 public schools in Canberra and surrounding suburbs would be closed on Monday after an audit found widespread use of sand products in which asbestos had been detected.

It comes after 24 ACT schools and preschools were fully or partially closed on Friday, with two reopening on Monday.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on Wednesday issued a recall notice over a type of decorative colorful sand after laboratory testing detected chrysotile asbestos. On Sunday, the ACCC revealed that asbestos had been detected in four more sand products and said they may cause a risk to public health.

ACT's education minister Yvette Berry told Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio that the health risk to students and staff is small but that closures could last several days.

New US-EU satellite to monitor sea levels

China's observatory unravels key mystery of cosmic ray formation

BEIJING, Nov. 17, (Xinhua): Scientists using China's Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) found that black holes, devouring material from their companion stars and producing jets, act as powerful particle accelerators and may play a key role in the production of high-energy cosmic rays in the Milky Way.

"The studies not only uncover the key mechanisms behind cosmic ray origins but also advance our understanding of the extreme physical processes of black hole systems," said Cao Zhen, principal investigator of LHAASO and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Cosmic rays are charged particles from outer space, mainly composed of protons. The origin of cosmic rays is one of the most important frontier issues in modern astrophysics.

Measurements of cosmic rays over the past decades have revealed a turning point around 3 PeV (peta-electron volt) in the energy spectrum, called the "knee" because its shape resembles a knee joint. The origin of cosmic rays in the "knee" region is one of the most intriguing topics in cosmic ray research in recent years.

The LHAASO research team found that microquasars driven by accretion onto black hole systems are powerful particle accelerators in the Milky Way and are likely the sources of the "knee."

The research, conducted by researchers from the Institute of High Energy Physics of the CAS, Nanjing University, the University of Science and Technology of China, La Sapienza University of Rome, and other institutions, was published in National Science Review and Science Bulletin on Sunday. Black holes, among the most enigmatic objects in the universe, generate relativistic jets when they accrete material from companion stars in binary systems, forming "microquasars," the scientists explained.

In this study, LHAASO systematically detected ultra-high-energy gamma rays from five microquasars.

For instance, analysis of the microquasar SS 433 showed that the proton energy in this system exceeds 1 PeV, with a power output per second equivalent to the energy released by 400 trillion of the most powerful hydrogen bombs.

The gamma-ray energy from the microquasar V4641 Sgr reached 0.8 PeV, indicating that the parent particles generat-

ing these gamma rays likely had energies exceeding 10 PeV.

These results prove that microquasars are significant PeV particle accelerators in the Milky Way, Cao said.

To fully understand the "knee" of the cosmic-ray spectrum, precise measurements of the energy spectra of various cosmic ray species, including their respective "knees," are essential, Cao said.

Located on a mountain at an elevation of about 4,410 meters above sea level in southwest China's Sichuan Province, and covering an area of 1.36 square km, LHAASO is an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Leveraging its world-leading ground-based cosmic-ray observation equipment, LHAASO developed multi-parameter measurement techniques. The measurement revealed an energy spectrum structure that was entirely unexpected.

The new discovery not only marks a significant advancement in resolving the long-standing mystery of the "knee" origin, which has puzzled the academic community for nearly 70 years, but also offers crucial observational evidence for understanding the role of black holes as the origin of cosmic rays, Cao said.

LHAASO, which was designed, constructed, and is operated by Chinese scientists, has taken the lead in high-energy cosmic-ray researches due to its sensitivity in both gamma ray astronomical exploration and cosmic ray precision measurements. It has achieved a series of discoveries that have a global impact, thereby contributing to the understanding of the extreme physical processes in the universe, Cao added.

□ □ □

A new satellite developed by NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) was launched on Sunday night to track sea levels across more than 90 percent of the world's oceans.

The ocean-monitoring satellite, named Sentinel-6B, was launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in the U.S. state of California at 9:21 p.m. Pacific Time (0521 GMT).

Orbiting Earth every 112 minutes at about 7.2 km per second, Sentinel-6B will eventually succeed its twin, Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich -- launched five years ago -- continuing a decades-long record of sea level measurements from space, according to NASA.

Pakistan completes series sweep of Sri Lanka



Pakistani players and officials pose for photo with ODI series winning trophy on the end of the third one day international cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. (AP)

Rizwan and Zaman (55) score their second successive half-centuries

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Nov 17, (AP): Pakistan completed a 3-0 series sweep of Sri Lanka with a clinical six-wicket victory in their third and final ODI with 32 balls remaining.

Mohammad Rizwan (61 not out) and Fakhar Zaman (55) scored their second successive half-centuries and eased Pakistan to 215-4 in 44.4 overs.

Sri Lanka earlier wasted a brisk start before it was bowled out for 211 in 45.2 overs after Afridi won the toss and elected to field.

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by six runs in a thrilling first ODI, and Babar Azam’s first international century in over two years anchored Pakistan to a thumping eight-wicket victory in the second game at Pindi Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi returned to lead the side after missing the second game with a fever.

“Winning the series 3-0 is always good,” Afridi said. “Senior players like Babar and Rizwan are the backbone of our team, and they delivered throughout the series.”

Zaman followed his 78 in the second game with a fluent half-century after co-opener Haseebullah Khan, one of the four changes Pakistan made, fell for a 12-ball duck in his first game of the series.

Zaman and Babar (34) then controlled the chase with a 76-run stand as Sri Lanka’s pace bowlers struggled with a wet ball because of dew.

Fast bowlers Eshan Malinga and Pramod Madushan conceded 100 runs in their combined 18 overs without a wicket after Sri Lanka rested frontline pacers Dushmantha Chameera and Asitha Fernando for the dead rubber and also made four changes.

Zaman completed his half-century off 39 balls with seven fours before leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay (3-42) picked up three wickets in the middle overs.

Kamindu Mendis took a brilliant diving catch at deep mid-wicket to end Zaman’s 45-ball knock in the 16th over, and Babar’s off-stump got clattered when he misread Vandersay’s ball.

Vandersay then successfully went for an LBW review against Salman Ali Agha (6) as Pakistan slipped to 115-4 in the 25th over.

But Rizwan, playing in his 100th ODI, and Hussain Talat (42 not out) navigated Pakistan’s comfortable chase with an unbroken century-stand.

Kamil Mishra (29), who made his ODI debut in the series, and Pathum Nissanka (24) again provided a decent start of 55 before Pakistan’s pace pegged back Sri Lanka’s progress.

Nissanka dragged Haris Rauf’s (2-38) short ball back onto his stumps, and Mohammad Wasim (3-47) had Mishra caught behind.

Stand-in captain Kusal Mendis, who led the side after Charith Asalanka missed out because of illness, was clean bowled for 34.

Sadeera Samarawickrama top-scored with 48 before he fell to wrist spinner Faisal Akram (2-42), who played his first ODI in a year as Pakistan tested its bench strength and rested frontline spinner Abrar Ahmed.

Debutant Pavan Rathnayake showed some resistance and made 32 off 37 before he was the last man to go in a runout as Sri Lanka was dismissed for the lowest total of the series.

“Five of our top batters started well, but didn’t continue, and that’s why we struggled,” Kusal Mendis said. “Hope we improve going forward ... Vandersay bowled really well, he gave everything.”

Zimbabwe will now join Sri Lanka and Pakistan in a T20 tri-series as part of preparation for next year’s T20 World Cup.

Moody scores 32 as Warriors cruise past Pelicans

Hawks storm back from 22-point deficit to stun Suns, extend streak

PHOENIX, Nov 17, (AP): Onyeka Okongwu had 27 points and the Atlanta Hawks overcame a 22-point deficit in the fourth quarter to stun the Phoenix Suns 124-122.

Atlanta won its fifth straight and ended Phoenix’s winning streak at five. The Hawks finished 4-0 on a western trip.

Nickell Alexander-Walker had 26 points for Atlanta, making the first of two free throws with three seconds to go. Royce O’Neale rebounded the miss on the second one his shot from beyond halfcourt bounced off the rim.

Josh Johnson had 25 points and 10 rebounds, and Dyson Daniels 11 points and 12 assists for the Hawks, who won without All-Star guard Trae Young (right knee sprain) and center Kristaps Porzingis (right knee soreness).

Dillon Brooks had 34 points for Phoenix. Devin Booker added 27, and Colin Gillespie had 15 points, and team highs with nine rebounds and eight assists.

Warriors 124, Pelicans 106

In New Orleans, Moses Moody hit a career-high eight 3-pointers and scored a career-high 32 points, and the Golden State Warriors beat New Orleans in what was also James Borrego’s debut as Pelicans interim coach.

Jimmy Butler added 18 points and 10 assists for the Warriors, who led by as many as 25 points in the second half and whose arrival in New Orleans a day earlier coincided with Pelicans’ firing of fifth-year coach Willie Green.

Brandin Podziemski scored 19 points, Al Horford added 11 points and Draymond Green grabbed 10 rebounds during a performance in which he also had a brief confrontation with a fan along the baseline.

Mavericks 138, Trail Blazers 133 OT

In Dallas, P.J. Washington Jr. and Cooper Flagg scored 21 points apiece and teamed

Change Name

I, SHAKIR HUSSAIN holder of Indian Passport No. W4670314 having permanent address, State: Rajasthan, Country: India, Pin Code: 327022 residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under : Given name: SHAKIR HUSSAIN and Surname: DHIYA



Houston Rockets guard Amen Thompson (1) controls the ball against Orlando Magic guard Anthony Black (0) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Houston. (AP)

up on a crucial basket late in overtime to help the Dallas Mavericks to a victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Dallas led 130-129 with 1:39 remaining when Flagg grabbed the rebound of a missed 3-pointer by Portland’s Shaedon Sharpe and delivered an outlet pass to Washington for a jam during a 6-0 Dallas run.

Daniel Gafford added 20 points, including seven in overtime, and was one of seven Mavericks who scored in double figures. Dallas (4-10) snapped a three-game skid with the win.

Sharpe scored a season-high 36 points for the Trail Blazers (6-7), who have lost four of their last five games. Deni Avdija scored 29 before fouling out with 1:39 left on the play that resulted in Gafford hitting two free throws and putting Dallas ahead for good at 130-129.

Portland’s Jerami Grant scored 26 points in his first start this season in place of Jrue Holiday, who sat out with right calf soreness.

Dallas hit all seven of its field-goal attempts in overtime, all 2-pointers.

Rockets 117, Magic 113 OT

In Houston, Kevin Durant scored 35 points and Alperen Sengun had 30 points and 12

rebounds to help the Houston Rockets rally for a overtime victory over the Orlando Magic.

Orlando led by a point when Amen Thompson put the Rockets on top on a dunk with an assist from Durant with less than a minute left in overtime. Jabari Smith Jr. blocked a layup by Franz Wagner and Durant’s step-back jumper made it 113-110 with 9.2 seconds left.

Wagner made two free throws with 8.7 seconds to go, pulling the Magic within 1. But, Reed Sheppard made two free throws for Houston to extend the lead to 115-112 with 4.1 seconds left.

Wendell Carter Jr. made one free throw, but was called for a lane violation on the second attempt, making it Houston leading 115-113. Thompson made two free throws after that to seal Houston’s fourth straight victory.

Wagner scored a season-high 29 points and Desmond Bane also set his season high with 26 points to lead the Magic on a night they were missing both Paolo Banchero and Jalen Suggs because of groin injuries.

Jazz 150, Bulls 147 2OT

In Salt Lake City, Keyonte George made 3-pointer with 2 seconds remaining in

the second overtime, Lauri Markkanen scored 47 points and the Utah Jazz beat the Chicago Bulls in the NBA’s highest-scoring game of the season.

George finished with 32 points - including six in the second OT. Isaiah Collier and Brice Sensabaugh each had 16 points, and Kevin Love and Svi Mykhailiuk each added 10 as the Jazz won for the second time in three games after losing six of seven.

Coby White scored 27 points and Josh Giddey had 26 points, 12 rebounds and 13 assists for the Bulls, who have lost five straight. Nikola Vucevic had 21 points, Matas Buzelis and Ayo Dosunmu each scored 18 and Julian Phillips 10.

White, who’s layup with 0.2 seconds left in the first OT tied the score at 136, made two free throws with 8.4 seconds to go in the second OT to tie it at 147. After George’s go-ahead 3, Vucevic missed a potential tying basket at the buzzer.

Spurs 123, Kings 110

In San Antonio, De’Aaron Fox had a season-high 28 points along with 11 assists and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Sacramento Kings with Victor Wembanyama missing his first game of the season with a calf injury.

Harrison Barnes added 20 points and Devin Vassell had 16 points as San Antonio snapped a two-game skid.

Wembanyama was ruled out prior to the game due to a strained left calf. San Antonio coach Mitch Johnson said the injury was progressive and not due to any single play. Wembanyama’s status is day to day.

San Antonio also lost Stephen Castle following the first half with an injured left hip. Castle had four points while playing 15:34 in the first half and closing the second quarter on the court. His status is unknown but he was on the bench in the second half.

The Spurs continued their balanced attack without Wembanyama leading the way.

Nets 129, Wizards 106

In Washington, Michael Porter Jr. scored 34 points and Tyrese Martin scored seven straight points late in the third quarter and finished with 20 as the Brooklyn Nets sent the Washington Wizards to their 11th straight loss, in a match-up of one-win teams.

The Nets snapped a four-game skid and won for the first time since beating Indiana 112-103 in the first week of November, a victory that ended a run of seven straight losses to open the season.

Liu captures first Skate America gold

Chock-Bates earn fifth title

LAKE PLACID, Nov 17, (AP): It was a golden day for the U.S. figure skating team at Skate America.

It bodes well for more gold at the Milan Cortina Olympics in February.

Madison Chock and Evan Bates won a record-tying fifth ice dance title at their home Grand Prix event, while world champion Alysa Liu captured her first title on skating’s premier series with a free skate that vaulted her from second place into first.



Liu

Chock and Bates, the three-time reigning world champs, showed exactly why they will be favored to win gold at the Winter Games in less than three months. They won the rhythm dance, then pulled away with their free dance choreographed to a version of the Rolling Stones hit “Paint It Black” from the dystopian sci-fi western series “Westworld,” finishing with a score of 212.58 points.

Marjorie Lajoie and Zachary Lagha of Canada were second with 197.16 points. Evgeniia Lopareva and Geoffrey Brissaud of France were third with 192.61 points, while the U.S. team of Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko finished in fifth.

“Every opportunity we have to compete lends us a new insight and new things to take away,” Chock said, “and this is no different. We are certainly going to take away the good things and good feelings from this performance.”

Chock and Bates were sharper than they were in winning the Cup of China last month in a program that seemed to mesmerize an appreciative crowd in Lake Placid, New York. Chock and Bates have become known for their creative storytelling, and the flamenco-

style program they’ve designed for the Olympics is no different, with Chock playing the role of the matador and Bates the bull.

Good luck to anyone getting in their way.

While scores generally improve as the season progresses, Chock and Bates’ score Sunday surpassed the previous world’s best mark this season, a 211.01 from the French team of Laurence Fournier Beaudry and Guillaume Cizeron at the Grand Prix de France.

“We can make a lot of improvements on both programs, especially this free dance,” said Bates, who, along with Chock, helped the U.S. win team gold at the Beijing Olympics but has never stood on an Olympic podium in the actual ice dance competition.

“We feel like it has the potential to be a compelling free dance,” he said.

In the women’s event, Liu opened with a triple flip, slightly under-rotated the back half of a triple lutz-triple toe loop combo, but was otherwise largely clean in a free skate set to a medley of Lady Gaga music and choreographed by her coach, Massimo Scali. It was enough for her first Grand Prix gold medal after a second-place finish at the Cup of China - her first podium after four previous misses.

The 20-year-old from Clovis, California, finished with 214.27 points. At the same time, short-program winner Rinka Watanabe was second with 210.96 after a free skate that included a step on her triple axel and a pair of under-rotated jumps that ultimately made the difference.

Anastasia Gubanova of Georgia was third with 204.69 points, while Starr Andrews finished fifth in the next-best U.S. performance.

The Grand Prix schedule concludes next week at the Finlandia Trophy in Helsinki, Finland. The top performers in each discipline after their two Grand Prix assignments then qualify for the Grand Prix Final, which takes place in December in Nagoya, Japan.

Best of the Rest

Greco, Paralympic gold medalist, dies: Australian cyclist Paige Greco, a Paralympic gold medalist, has died. She was 28.

A joint statement by the Australian Paralympic Committee and Australian cycling federation said that Greco “passed away in her Adelaide home after experiencing a sudden medical episode” on Sunday.

“Paige meant everything to us,” her mother Natalie Greco said. “Her kindness, her determination and her warmth touched our family every single day. She brought so much joy and pride into our lives, and the pain of her passing is something we will carry forever.

“While we are devastated by her loss, we are incredibly proud of the person she was and the way she represented Australia.” (AP)

Liu Guoliang re-appointed: International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) president Petra Sorling has re-appointed Liu Guoliang as the ITTF deputy president, the global table tennis governing body announced on Monday.

The re-appointment was made during the ITTF Executive Board’s first meeting of the new term, which was chaired by Sorling and attended by all eight newly elected executive vice presidents including Liu.

“His experience, his understanding of our sport, and his long-standing commitment to the ITTF are important assets for our organization,” Sorling said of Liu’s re-appointment. Liu was elected as the ITTF executive vice president in 2021 and appointed as the ITTF deputy president in 2022. (Xinhua)

Third successive Rally Japan win in four editions

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing clinches stunning 1-2-3 finish at Rally Japan

TOKYO, Nov 17: TOYOTA GAZOO Racing World Rally Team pulled off a late-season hat trick with their one-two-three finish at the 2025 FIA World Rally Championship's Rally Japan. Eight-time world champion Sébastien Ogier and co-driver Vincent Landais led the charge in the No. 17 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1, followed closely by teammates Elfyn Evans and Scott Martin in the No. 33 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1, while newcomer Sami Pajari and Marko Salminen claimed third place in the No. 5 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 to complete a dominant home podium.

This achievement marks TGR-WRT's third successive Rally Japan win in four editions and its second all-Toyota podium lockout. It also represents Ogier and Landais' first Rally Japan victory, achieved after a closely fought battle with Evans and Martin that saw the two crews separated by under 10 seconds for most of the weekend.

Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, who has continuously spoken about 'Japan Pride' in various places, was finally able to return as Morizo on Thursday. He said: "Upon the team's arrival in Aichi, I went to see everyone to say 'Welcome back to your home rally!' But instead, Morizo was greeted by them saying 'Welcome back to the home team!' It reminded me that TOYOTA GAZOO Racing WRT is a team with such 'warm companions' and it made me feel very happy and instantly blew away all my fatigue. I also want to express my sincere thanks for the team to return to Japan after securing the manufacturers' title for the fifth consecutive year."

Toyoda added: "This time, it was a 1-2-3 finish by Seb, Elfyn, and Sami! Thank you all. During the weekend, I was able to see many fans on the liaison sections. Rally Japan in Aichi and Gifu has now been held four times,



TGR-WRT celebrates three straight Rally Japan victories with an all-Toyota podium.

and it seems this kind of roadside scenery has become established. We are gradually getting closer to the 'European motorsport culture' that I have always admired. I am truly happy. I want to thank everyone who planned Rally Japan and has continued it up to this point. Elfyn, Scott, Seb, Vincent, Kalle, Jonne... this is the last season where these six can compete in such a high-level and exciting battle. Please give your best performance in Saudi Arabia with no regrets!"

Ogier carried a slender 6.5-second advantage into the final day, which unfolded in challenging wet conditions. Evans made a strong start to the morning's first stage and appeared poised to take the lead, but

Ogier responded decisively in a particularly tricky final section to retain the top position. He then delivered another stage win, and the fastest time in the penultimate test extended his lead to 11.5 seconds heading into the final stage.

In a thrilling finish, Ogier and Evans were separated by just 0.096 seconds in the rally-ending Power Stage. Also topping the Super Sunday classification, Ogier secured the maximum 35 points, closing to within three points of championship leader Evans with one rally remaining.

Pajari and co-driver Salminen rounded off the podium by claiming third place after an eventful rally.

Competing in Japan for the first time in Toyota GR Yaris Rally1 machinery, Pajari was rewarded with a solid and mature drive that perfectly exemplified his impressive rookie campaign.

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), World Rally Championship (WRC), and the Nürburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established TGR, to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota's be-

lief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' TGR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to 'making ever-better cars'. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, TGR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

Round 14 of the 2025 FIA WRC is Rally Saudi Arabia (November 26-29), a brand-new gravel event that will mark the season finale. Taking place around Jeddah, the rally features fast and varied stages across mountain, volcanic, and desert ter-

rain, offering an exciting new challenge for drivers and teams.

Race Notes:

- No. 17 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 (Sébastien Ogier and Vincent Landais)
- Position: 1st
- Time: 3 hours, 21 minutes, and 8.9 seconds
- No. 33 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 (Elfyn Evans and Scott Martin)
- Position: 2nd
- Time: 3 hours, 21 minutes, and 25 seconds
- No. 5 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 (Sami Pajari and Marko Salminen)
- Position: 3rd
- Time: 3 hours, 23 minutes, and 25.5 seconds

Lions hold a slight advantage

Iraq eyes win in crucial playoff against UAE

BASRA, Iraq, Nov 17: Basra International Stadium is set to host a crucial showdown tonight at 7:00 p.m., as Iraq takes on the United Arab Emirates in the second leg of the final Asian playoff for 2026 World Cup qualification.

The winner will advance to the global playoff in March, the final stage of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers for the tournament in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Iraq enjoys a slight advantage, having secured a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Abu Dhabi. Iraqi coach Graham Arnold has called up Mohammed Jawad Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya to strengthen the attack after striker Ali Al-Hamadi of Luton Town suffered an injury in the first leg. Al-Hamadi scored Iraq's goal in Abu Dhabi and was a key offensive weapon before his injury. Arnold also added Ammar Mohsen from Swedish side Brage to the squad, while Rabien Sulaja, Youssef Al-Amin, Maathar Majid,



Iraq and UAE players clash for possession in the 2026 World Cup qualifier held in the UAE.

and Ibrahim Baish remain sidelined due to injuries.

For the UAE "White Team," victory—or a high-scoring draw of 2-2 or more—is essential to secure passage to the global playoff. A repeat

1-1 draw would push the match into extra time.

The match promises to be a thrilling encounter as both teams' fights for a place in the next stage of World Cup qualification.

Yemen battles Bhutan in Kuwait as 2027 Asian Cup spot heats up

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium will host Yemen against Bhutan today at 5:30 p.m., in the fifth round of Group B for the Asian qualifiers for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia.

In the same group, Lebanon will face Brunei at Brunei's home ground.

Lebanon leads the group with 10 points, followed by Yemen with 8 points. Brunei sits third with 3 points, while Bhutan remains at the bottom with 1 point.

The first leg between Yemen and Bhutan ended in a 1-1 draw. Yemen must secure a victory today to keep their qualification hopes alive ahead of their decisive match against Lebanon in March. A draw or loss for Yemen, coupled with a Lebanon win, would see Lebanon secure automatic qualification. If Yemen wins and Lebanon draws or loses, the final qualification will still be decided in March 2026.



Action from the first-leg clash between Yemen and Bhutan.

Only the group winner will advance to the Asian Cup finals, leaving Lebanon and Yemen battling for the sole qualifying spot, while Brunei and Bhutan have already been eliminated.

Kuwait has previously hosted matches in these qualifiers, including Yemen vs. Lebanon in June and Yemen vs. Brunei, as well as Afghanistan vs. Pakistan in October.

Kuwait's 3x3 teams head to Bahrain

Kuwait Club hosts Sharjah in key WASL clash

By Hasan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: Kuwait Club will host Sharjah from the UAE today at 7:00 p.m. at the Kuwait Basketball Federation Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. The match is part of the third round of Group B in the West Asia Super League for the Gulf region, known as "Wasl."

Saudi Arabia's Al-Ula currently leads the group with 5 points from two wins and one loss, followed by Qatar's Al-Arabi with 4 points. Kuwait Club and Sharjah are tied with 3 points each, holding one win and one loss.

Kuwait Club opened the competition with a narrow 78-83 loss to Al-Arabi but bounced back with a 113-108 victory over Al-Ula in the second round. Today, the team aims to secure its second consecu-



Owaid Al-Enezi, acting secretary-general and head of the 3x3 committee.

utive win and reclaim the top spot in the group.

Under the leadership of Serbian coach Dusan Stojkovic, Kuwait's

"White Team" is determined to prove itself as a serious contender for both the Gulf title and the West Asia championship.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's national 3x3 basketball teams are heading to Manama, Bahrain, to compete in the Gulf Youth 3x3 Championship, which begins on November 19 and concludes the following day.

The delegation is led by acting Secretary-General and 3x3 Committee Chair Owaid Al-Enezi, alongside team administrator Khalid Bouzbar, coach Dr. Talal Al-Kallaf, and youth players Mohammed Al-Shammari, Ahmed Al-Rashid, Omar Al-Eissa, and Amir Asadullah. The women's team includes Ghalia Mirza, Shaikha Bou Marzouq, Widad Al-Zaid, and Manar Al-Mutairi.

Al-Enezi emphasized the federation's goal of achieving strong results in 3x3 basketball, noting that Blue Team players have consistently reached the podium in past competitions.

Congo ousts Nigeria on penalties in World Cup playoff

RABAT, Morocco, Nov 17, (AP): Congo advanced to the World Cup intercontinental playoffs after beating Nigeria in a Sunday night penalty shootout.

Chancel Mbemba struck the decisive spot kick to seal a 4-3 shootout victory for Congo after the final playoff match of African qualifying ended 1-1 after extra time in Rabat, Morocco.

Congo's victory secured its place in FIFA's six-team intercontinental playoff tournament in March that will send two teams to the World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Nigeria led after three minutes of the game through Frank Onyeka's goal before Mechak Elia leveled for Congo in the 32nd.

Nigeria striker Victor Osimhen, the leading scorer in the UEFA Champions League, was substituted at halftime.

Mbemba had scored in added time in Congo's 1-0 win against Cameroon on Thursday to secure a place in the final. This time he was the hero in the shootout.

Algeria, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia have already qualified for the World Cup from Africa.



Congo's Ngal'ayel Mukau challenges Nigeria's Wilfred Ndidi during the World Cup African qualifier soccer match between Congo and Nigeria, in Rabat, Morocco. (AP)

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559

NEWS



Congo national team members pose for a photo as they celebrate with their coach Sebastien Desabre after advancing to the World Cup intercontinental playoffs. Congo beat Nigeria in a penalty shootout in Rabat, Morocco. (AP) — See Page 15

Sports

Kuwait faces Saudis in 'decisive' clash at Islamic Solidarity Games

RIYADH, Nov 17: Kuwait's national handball team faces a critical test today against the host nation, Saudi Arabia, in its quest to reach the semifinals of the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games, taking place in Saudi Arabia until November 21. The decisive match is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. as part of the final third round of the preliminary Group B stage.

Earlier in the day, Bahrain faces Iraq at 2:00 p.m., while Group A action sees Qatar take on the Maldives at 10:00 a.m., followed by Iran versus the UAE at noon.

Saudi Arabia, leads Group B with two consecutive wins over Iraq and Bahrain. Kuwait currently holds a single victory against Iraq after losing its opening match to Bahrain. With qualification for the semifinals still undecided, Kuwait must win today—by at least a three-goal margin—to secure a spot. Any draw or defeat will eliminate it from the tournament.

Commenting on the team's prospects, Kuwait's delegation head, Retired Major General Mohammed Al-Khelfan, praised the timely victory over Iraq, which has revived hopes of advancing after the opening loss to



A Kuwaiti well defended by Iraqi.

Bahrain. He expressed confidence in the team's ability to deliver a strong performance against Saudi Arabia and achieve a result worthy of Kuwait's sporting stature.

Elsewhere in the Games, Kuwait's Ali Al-Marri will compete in the 2 km camel race at 7:45 a.m., while the nation-

al fencing team continues its foil event with Abdullahah Mohammed and Ali Nassar participating in individual qualifiers at 9:00 a.m. In athletics, Moudawi Al-Shammari will compete in the 100 m qualifiers, while Asian champion Ibrahim Al-Dhafiri and Badr Sweid contest the 800 m preliminary heats.

Kuwait wraps up preparations with Gambia test

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, Nov 17: Kuwait will conclude its training camp in Cairo today when it meets Gambia in a friendly at 7:00 p.m. at Al-Salam Stadium. The camp serves as final preparation for the crucial playoff against Mauritania on November 25, which will determine qualification for the Arab Cup finals in Qatar from December 1 to 18.

Tonight's match is Kuwait's second in the Egyptian capital, following a 4-3 comeback victory over Tanzania last Saturday.

The squad is set to depart for Doha the day after tomorrow to continue its buildup for the Mauritania clash. Should Kuwait advance from the playoff, it will join Group C alongside the UAE, Jordan, and Egypt.

Head coach Hélio Sousa, who took charge last August, is eyeing a second straight win in what will be his fifth match at the helm. Under his leadership, Kuwait previously drew 2-2 with Syria before suffering defeats to Uzbekistan (0-2) and Morocco's local national team (0-1).

Sousa hopes to see the same strong performance his players delivered in the second half against Tanzania,



Kuwaiti players celebrate their victory over Tanzania.

where Kuwait overturned a two-goal deficit to win. A victory tonight, he believes, would be a major morale boost before the team heads to Doha.

During recent training sessions, Sousa focused on correcting defensive lapses seen in the first half against Tanzania, stressing tactical discipline, tighter organization across all lines, and full commitment to the technical staff's instructions.

Meanwhile, Gambia's Northern

Irish coach Jonathan McKinstry is targeting a win to improve his team's FIFA ranking. Since being appointed in May 2024, McKinstry has guided Gambia to several convincing displays.

He has called up 19 players for the Kuwait match, including professionals competing in leagues across Italy, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Poland, Norway, England, Germany, and Denmark.

Ronaldo set for record 6th World Cup; Norway qualifies, Italy in danger again



Portugal's Goncalo Ramos scores his side's second goal during a World Cup 2026 group F qualifying soccer match between Portugal and Armenia in Porto, Portugal. (AP)

Ireland makes playoffs as England completes perfect WC qualifying campaign

LISBON, Nov 17, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo is heading to another World Cup. Erling Haaland is going to his first. Italy risks missing out on sport's biggest global event for the third straight edition.

Portugal sealed its place at next year's tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico with a 9-1 rout of Armenia.

Haaland scored twice as Norway confirmed qualification with a 4-1 win against four-time world champion Italy, which was consigned to the playoffs.

Ireland is also in the playoffs after a stunning late comeback to beat Hungary 3-2, while England ended its qualifying campaign with a 100% record by beating Albania 2-0.

Without the suspended Ronaldo, Portugal ensured the soccer great would have the chance to appear at a record sixth World Cup.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner will be 41 by the time the tournament kicks off next June and Ronaldo recently said it would be his last shot at winning the one major title to elude him. Assuming he retains his fitness, he is expected to be part of coach Roberto Martinez's squad, though he may yet be suspended for as many as two matches after being sent off in Portugal's 2-0 loss to Ireland on Thursday.

That surprise defeat meant Portugal had to beat Armenia to be certain of top place in Group F and hat tricks from Bruno Fernandes and Joao Neves ensured there would be no slippage.

Ronaldo and his great rival Lionel Messi will both appear at their sixth

World Cup if they take part in next year's tournament.

They will surpass greats like Germany's Lothar Mattheus, who appeared in five.

Defending champion Argentina has already secured its place.

Messi fulfilled his career-long ambition by leading Argentina to the title in Qatar in 2022.

Ronaldo, who has won the European Championship and two Nations League titles with Portugal, is still to add a World Cup to a trophy haul that includes five Champions Leagues and league titles in England, Spain and Italy.

Though he is nearing the end of his career and has left top-flight European soccer behind to play in Saudi Arabia, he has continued to further embellish his remarkable career.

He led Portugal to the Nations League earlier this year and last month became the leading scorer in World

Cup qualifying games with 41 goals.

Suspension denied him the chance to add to that tally Sunday, but there was no shortage of goals from Portugal in his absence.

Fernandes' hat trick included two penalties. Neves struck twice in the first half and completed his treble with a goal in the 81st.

Having missed out on the 2018 and 2022 editions of the World Cup, Italy's place is in doubt again.

Only victory by nine goals or more would have been enough to see the Italians overtake Norway at the top of Group I.

Despite going behind to Francesco Pio Esposito's early goal, four goals in the second half - Haaland scored in the 78th and 79th - turned the game around for Norway.

Now Italy faces the 16-team UEFA playoffs, which will determine the last four European nations to advance to the



Norway's Erling Haaland celebrates after the 2026 World Cup Group I qualifier soccer match between Italy and Norway in Milan, Italy. (AP)

World Cup.

An unforgettable week for Ireland was capped off with a dramatic fightback in Hungary.

Troy Parrott scored a hat trick - including a winner in the sixth minute of added time - to send Ireland to the playoffs in second place in Group F.

Parrott struck both goals in the 2-0 win over Portugal and with Ireland trailing 2-1 going into the 80th minute at the Puskas Arena, he proved his country's hero again.

First, he lifted the ball over Hungary goalkeeper Denes Dibusz to level the match at 2-2 and with the clock running down, he converted from close range for the winner deep into added time.

England ended its qualifying campaign with a 100% record by beating second-placed Albania 2-0. Thomas Tuchel's team won its eight games in Group K and didn't concede a single goal.

England star Jude Bellingham appeared unhappy at being substituted in the closing stages of the match. Tuchel said Bellingham had "to accept it, respect it, and keep on going."

The Three Lions' all-time leading scorer Harry Kane got both goals Sunday to extend his record to 78. The Bayern Munich forward struck twice in eight minutes in the second half to break Albania's resistance.

Victory ended Thomas Tuchel's first qualifying campaign as coach in perfect style after the German was hired to lead England at the World Cup, with the challenge of ending its decades-long wait for a major trophy.

Ukraine finished second in Group D and is through to the playoffs after beating Iceland 2-0.

Group winner France beat Azerbaijan 3-1, having gone behind after four minutes to Renat Dadashov's opener.

Kuwaiti taekwondo team secures 3 bronze medals

DOHA, Nov 17, (KUNA): Kuwait's Taekwondo team claimed three bronze medals in the U-17 youth category at the 5th Qatar International Taekwondo Championship.

Khalid Hanif and Yousef Al-Shammari earned bronze in the under-59 kg and under-63 kg weight classes, respectively, while Fares Al-Shammari added a bronze in the under-73 kg category, competing against athletes from multiple countries.

Kuwaiti coach Walid Al-Marshad told KUNA that participating in such international events provides invaluable experience for the team. He also expressed his gratitude to the organizers for their excellent hospitality and seamless management of the championship.

The fifth edition of the Qatar International Taekwondo Championship, organized by the Qatar Taekwondo, Judo, and Karate



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti taekwondo team celebrates with the national flag.

Federation, runs through Monday at Lusail Hall. The tournament features 1,021 athletes from 48 countries, competing across four divisions: cadets, juniors, youth, and seniors.

Sinner retains ATP Finals title

TURIN, Italy, Nov 17, (AP): The final installment of the "Sincaraz" rivalry for 2025 went to Jannik Sinner.

The second-ranked Sinner beat top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (4), 7-5 for the ATP Finals trophy in the sixth meeting this year between the two players who are dominating men's tennis.

Sinner defended the title before his home Italian fans for only his second victory over Alcaraz this year after also beating the Spaniard in the Wimbledon final.

"It was an incredible season," Sinner said. "To finish it this way, before my Italian fans, is very special for me."

Alcaraz had already secured the year-ending No. 1 ranking and was contesting his first final at the event for the year's top eight players.

Alcaraz still leads his career meetings with Sinner, 10-6.

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 at Wimbledon; then Alcaraz again came out on top at the U.S. Open.

They also clashed this year in the Italian Open final (won by Alcaraz) and the Cincinnati Open final (won by Alcaraz when Sinner retired due to illness).

"I hope you are going to be ready for next year because I will be ready to hopefully play more finals against you," Alcaraz said during the trophy ceremony.

To which Sinner added that he hopes they have "great, great battles ahead of us."

Sinner also won the Australian Open - beating Alexander Zverev in the final - so he and Alcaraz each won two majors this year.

In all, Alcaraz has won six majors and Sinner has won four.

Already early in the first set, the pro-Sinner crowd chanted its customary "Ole, Ole, Ole, Ole; Sin-ner, Sin-ner."

One fan even held up an image of Sinner depicted as a saint.

Sinner saved a set point at 5-6 in the tight first set with a big second serve that Alcaraz couldn't return. Then the Italian took control of the tiebreaker by running down a drop shot and responding with a lob that led to an overhead put away.

"I'm extremely happy with how I



Italy's Jannik Sinner holds the trophy after winning the final tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals against Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in Turin, Italy. (AP)

handled the situation," Sinner said of saving the set point.

Added Alcaraz, "He came up with a second serve 185-190 kph (115-118 mph) that surprised me."

Alcaraz had his right thigh treated by a trainer on two occasions - and got it wrapped after the first set.

"Didn't affect me too much, to be honest, because I could run well," Alcaraz said.

Alcaraz broke Sinner's serve in the opening game of the second set but Sinner then evened it at 3-3.

Sinner then got the crowd going again in the next game when he won a long rally and held his finger to his ear - signaling for more noise inside the Inalpi Arena.

Sinner broke Alcaraz again to close it out when the Spaniard missed a backhand wide - then fell down to the court on his back in relief.

"It was a huge emotion," said Sinner, who was banned for three months earlier in the year after settling a doping case.

Alcaraz led 28-25 in winners but also had more unforced errors, 26-24.

Sinner said he wanted to improve his serve after the loss to Alcaraz at the U.S. Open and he led 8-5 in aces but also had five double-faults to Alcaraz's none.

It was Sinner's 10th straight win at the finals stretching back to his loss to Novak Djokovic in the 2023 final. What's more is that Sinner hasn't lost a set in that stretch.