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KD 800 SALARY AT LEAST FOR EXPAT RESIDENTS TO BRING IN THEIR FAMILIES

Kuwait hikes residency, visit visa fees

Visit to work permit in some cases

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef issued Ministerial Decree No. 2249/2025, stipulating the executive regulations for the Foreigners' Residence Law.

The decree details the conditions and fees for all types of entry visas, as well as all matters related to visit visas, residency and services provided by the General Directorate of Residency Affairs.

The decree, published Sunday in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Yaum', stipulates the following residency fees:

- KD 20 for five categories;
- Government sector employees (Article 17)
- Private sector employees (Article 18)
- Foreign students (Article 23)
- Illegal residents granted residency for the first time after obtaining foreign passports, military personnel who were previously illegal residents and retired after obtaining for-

eign passports, and families of foreign martyrs (Article 30)

- Religious figures, imams and preachers of Hussainiyyas (Article 31)
- KD 10 for two categories:
- Domestic worker residency and those in similar categories sponsored by Kuwaiti families (Article 20)
- Foreign widows or divorcees of Kuwaiti citizens with children (Article 28)
- KD 50 for three categories:
- Foreign partner (Article 19)
- Foreign investor (Article 21)
- Foreign property owner



Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef

(Article 25)

- KD 500 for foreign residents sponsoring themselves (Article 24)

Family joining fees:

- KD 20 for spouse and children
- KD 40 for foreign partners (Article 19), foreign investors (Article 21), property owners (Article 25), and religious figures, imams and preachers of Hussainiyyas (Article 31)
- KD 100 for residents sponsoring themselves (Article 24)
- KD 300 for those other than the wife and children
- KD 20 for foreign nationals who are children of Kuwaiti women who acquired citizenship through marriage to a Kuwaiti citizen
- KD 10 for foreign nationals who are wives of Kuwaiti citizens, and for foreign nationals who are husbands of Kuwaiti women (Article 26)
- Children of Kuwaiti women who are children of Kuwaiti citizens by birth (Article 27) are exempted
- KD 20 for the wives and children of illegal residents who obtained foreign passports and for retired military personnel among them
- KD 20 for the wives and children of foreign martyrs
- KD 10 for foreign children of Kuwaiti citizens
- KD 10 for foreign parents of Kuwaiti citizens
- KD 20 for foreign nationals who are wives and children of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) citizens
- KD 20 for foreign nationals who are husbands and chil-

dren of GCC women

The regulations state that for a foreign resident to obtain a regular residency permit to join a family member, their monthly salary must be at least KD 800. The monthly salary is determined based on the wages earned in the profession for which the residency permit was granted. The Directorate General of Residency Affairs may grant exceptions to the salary requirement for those residing in or born within Kuwait, or for children born outside Kuwait who are under five years old and whose parents are residents of Kuwait, in accordance with the regulations.

Nine categories are exempted from the salary requirement:

- Legal researchers in the government sector
- Professors at universities, colleges and higher institutes
- Supervisors, teachers and social and psychological specialists in the government sector
- Engineers in the government and private sectors
- Imams, preachers, muezzins and Quran memorizers
- Employees of the Ministry of Health and military entities, including pharmacists, nurses, paramedics and all other medical technicians in various fields

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PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the visiting President of European School of Management and Technology (ESMT) in Berlin Jorg Rocholl and his accompanying delegation.

PM welcomes ESMT university chief

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah welcomed visiting President of European School of Management and Technology (ESMT) in Berlin Jorg Rocholl and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace on Sunday.

The meeting was attended by Chief of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Director General of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Dr. Amina Farhan.

Amir receives Crown Prince, Prime Minister, KNG Chief

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Sunday.

His Highness the Amir also received His High-

ness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Sunday.

His Highness then received Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Chief Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Sunday.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah

Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Sunday.

His Highness then received Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Chief Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Sunday.

Public must cooperate: MEW

'Water use in Kuwait one of highest globally'

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Official spokesperson of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Eng. Fatima Hayat confirmed that Kuwait has one of the highest per capita water consumption rates in the world, with a daily average of around 100 imperial gallons per person, hence, the need to raise public awareness on judicious water usage.

In an exclusive interview with the newspaper, Hayat underscored the need for the public to fully cooperate with the ministry in ensuring

the reliability of water services by increasing the reserve water storage capacity in homes and properties to a minimum of 48 hours. She affirmed this ensures coverage during emergencies or in case of temporary supply disruptions.

She said the ministry continues to urge everyone to fully comply with the water conservation guidelines it issued through its official website and social media accounts, given their impact on maintaining the sustainability of this vital service.

Following is an excerpt of the interview:

Question: What role does the Wa-

ter Operation and Maintenance Sector play?

Answer: The Sector receives fresh and brackish water from various water facilities, such as pumping stations and reservoirs, and then distributes it through an integrated network of main and branch lines to all areas of Kuwait to guarantee continuous service for consumers round the clock. This includes new connections for homes and modern facilities to ensure that new customers receive water supply according to approved technical specifications, repair leaks and emergency malfunctions through rapid intervention at fault locations, and immediate

maintenance works to maintain network efficiency and reduce water loss.

Q: Does the sector play other roles?

A: Another important role is coordinating with those in charge of road and infrastructure development projects to ensure the water network is integrated with other public services and to avoid conflicts that could affect the continuity of water supply. The ministry provides 24/7 customer service by receiving complaints and inquiries, and addressing them promptly to ensure customer satisfaction and service sustainability.

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Nationality of seven Kuwaitis withdrawn

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Cabinet issued a decision to revoke Kuwaiti citizenship from seven individuals, as well as from anyone who acquired it based on dependency, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decision was issued under Article 21-bis, Clause A of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 regarding Kuwaiti nationality and its amendments.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior launched a new online service through the Sahel app that enables users to inquire about citizenship revocation under Article 5, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a video posted on its Sahel platform account, the ministry explained that the process begins by logging into the Sahel app, selecting the "Tawassul" service, choosing "Submit a New Request," selecting "Ministry of Interior - Article 5 Requests," specifying the request type, filling in the required information, and submitting it.

Minister reviews as 31 appear for supervisory posts in cooperatives

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The committee for filling vacant supervisory positions in cooperative societies, chaired by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, has started interviewing citizens nominated for supervisory positions in a number of cooperative societies.

The committee members include representatives of the ministry, Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies and Public Authority for Manpower (PAM). The committee is responsible for organizing and finalizing the selection process for candidates who passed the online tests conducted at a private university, in preparation for appointing them to the vacant supervisory posi-

tions.

Meanwhile, Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah observed the interview process on the first day to follow up the selection of qualified Kuwaitis for supervisory positions in cooperatives. The interviewees include 31 applicants for five supervisory positions at Sabah Al-Ahmad Cooperative Society.

The committee started conducting interviews according to the schedule sent to candidates through Short Message Service (SMS) or email. On the first day, all the scheduled applicants attended. The interviews were conducted quickly and smoothly, without delay in receiving or introducing candidates to the committee members.

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Private sector role eyed in new Kuwait Post Company

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Ministry of Communications announced a tender for providing consultancy services for the establishment of Kuwait Post Company through the public-private partnership

(PPP) system.

The ministry invited specialized consultancy firms and consortia to submit their technical and financial proposals for consultancy services to prepare the feasibility study and tender documents for the establishment of Kuwait Post Company, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 116/2014 on public-

private partnerships and its executive regulations.

It revealed that the project aims to develop the postal sector in the country and raise operational efficiency by involving the private sector in the establishment and operation of Kuwait Post Company.

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The winners at the contest.

5 SACGC teams fit for contest

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS)'s Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) announced that five of its teams have qualified to participate in the international Robotex competition, to be held in Estonia this December, after winning the national

Robotex competition.

In a statement to KUNA on Sunday, the center said that the annual international Robotex competition in Estonia is one of the largest and most prestigious robotics competitions in the world, after being launched 25 years

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Newswatch

CAIRO: The Arab symposium for heads of military training bodies began in Cairo on Sunday, to discuss the role of self-learning in developing the capabilities of armies and strengthening their readiness to face future challenges, with the participation of Kuwait.

In opening remarks, **Tarek Abdul-salam**, Minister Plenipotentiary and Director of the Military Affairs Department in the National Security Sector of the Arab League, said the symposium represents an important forum that reflects the depth of Arab military cooperation and supports efforts to enhance the capabilities of the armed forces in Arab countries in line with rapid security and technological changes.

He added that choosing the symposium's topic comes amid the growing importance of self learning in building the military skills needed to keep pace with technological developments and to increase the readiness of personnel and their ability to interact with modern operational environments. (KUNA)

Bid to smuggle big quantity of tobacco from India foiled

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The General Administration of Customs (GAC) foiled an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of prohibited tobacco into Kuwait from India through Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 4, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, GAC explained that X-ray scanners detected a suspicious item inside a large suitcase, prompting procedures to verify its contents after the passenger collected the luggage. A thorough manual inspection uncovered approximately 16 kilograms of tobacco.

A report was filed, and the contraband was confiscated according to standard procedures, pending further legal action against the passenger by the relevant authorities.

GAC reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining strict controls on incoming luggage and parcels at all entry points to protect the public and prevent the entry of prohibited substances.

□ □ □

'Gift' was revoked: The Civil Court ordered a female citizen to pay around KD54,000 to her ex-husband for using his house for six years, reports Al-Seyassah. Attorney Nawaf Al-Wuhaib, lawyer of the ex-husband, filed the lawsuit, explaining that his client previously gifted part of the property to the defendant during their marriage, but the gift was later nullified through a court ruling.

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Photo by Rizk Taufiq

Participants of the gathering in Kuwait.

'Effective municipal work is fundamental to life quality'

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Director General of Kuwait Municipality Manal Al-Asfour affirmed that the convening of the "Third Gulf Municipal Week" highlights the shared destiny of Gulf countries and the belief that effective municipal work is fundamental to quality of life.

Al-Asfour explained that it is a great

honor for Kuwait Municipality to host the event. It reflects the wise efforts of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, who have worked tirelessly to unify the Gulf and strengthen ties among their peoples. The leaders' visionary guidance has been key to achieving this high level of cooperation in municipal and developmental work.

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8 Boursa Kuwait boosts commitment to advancing investor relations

8 InvestGB enters strategic partnership with Arrow Global to expand client access to European asset-backed investment opportunities

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:55	Asr	14:31
Sunrise ..	06:18	Maghrib ..	16:50
Zohr	11:34	Isha	18:11

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Mild with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.
By Night: Rather cold with light variable wind to light to moderate

Weather			
northwesterly wind, with speeds of 06-24 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	27	18	
Kuwait Airport	27	10	
Abdaly	27	11	
Jahra	27	16	
Failaka Island	25	11	
Salmiyah	26	20	
Ahmadi	29	14	
Nuwaisib	25	15	
Wafra	27	12	
Salmiya	25	08	

Amir offers condolences to Bahrain King over Sheikh Ibrahim’s passing

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of condolences to Bahraini King Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa over the demise of Sheikh Ibrahim bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa.

In the cable, His Highness expressed his heartfelt sympathy and wished solace and patience for his family.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah

Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of condolences to Bahraini King Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa over the demise of Sheikh Ibrahim bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa, wishing his family strength and solace.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences on Sunday to Bahraini King Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa over the demise of Sheikh Ibrahim bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa.

Dar Souad Al-Sabah releases new book titled ‘Al-Sheikhan’ by Sheikha Souad

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): As part of its ongoing historical documentation series, Dar Souad Al-Sabah for Culture and Creativity has released a new book by Sheikha Dr. Souad Mohammad Al-Sabah titled “Al-Sheikhan”, featuring the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and Sheikh Ab-

dullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Kuwait’s Deputy Ruler from 1950 to 1961.

The 460-page book is issued in seven chapters and enriched with a collection of photos and documents, publishing house said in a statement on Sunday. The publisher is currently participating in the 48th Kuwait International Book Fair.

The fair was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad AlSabah, Prime Minister, coincides with Kuwait’s selection as the 2025 Capital of Arab Culture and Media. The event runs until November 29 at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref.

Visa-free travel and direct flights boost Kuwaiti tourism to Georgia

Tbilisi and Batumi top travel picks

By JCF
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Georgia is witnessing a surge in Kuwaiti visitors, with tourist numbers rising by 38 percent last year, according to the Georgian Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Noshervan Lomtadidze. He spoke during a Georgian Tourism Promotional Forum held at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, attended by representatives of Georgian tourism companies and their Kuwaiti counterparts. The event aimed to showcase Georgia’s rich tourism potential and highlight investment opportunities in the sector.



H.E. Noshervan Lomtadidze, the Ambassador of Georgia to Kuwait

year thanks to its scenic landscapes, moderate climate, geographical proximity, and ease of travel,” he said. Kuwaiti citizens can enter Georgia visa-free for up to 365 days, while residents with valid Kuwaiti residency permits can stay for 90 days. He encouraged travelers to consult the Embassy’s website for specific requirements depending on passport type.

Tbilisi and Batumi, which have significantly boosted tourist arrivals. During the summer, flight frequencies increase to two daily services to meet demand. Georgia plans to expand cooperation with these airlines and increase routes, with Batumi serving as a major attraction for Kuwaitis seeking coastal destinations.

The Ambassador also highlighted the role of direct flights by Jazeera Airways and Kuwait Airways to

head of branding and promotion at the Georgian National Tourism Administration. She explained that the promotional tour, which also included Dubai and Riyadh, concluded in Kuwait to strengthen bilateral tourism ties and highlight Georgia’s diverse offerings.

Gogelia said Georgia has already welcomed six million visitors, surpassing post-pandemic levels, and aims to attract 11 million by 2026, provided airline support and direct flights continue. She described the ongoing marketing campaign in the Middle East, which includes outdoor advertising, digital media initiatives, exhibitions, forums, and workshops, aimed at promoting Georgia’s tourism products.

During the promotional roadshow, Gogelia highlighted Georgia’s natural, cultural, and culinary diversity. “Georgia is in Europe and has a lot to offer Kuwaiti travelers—from nature to ancient culture and history, stunning landscapes, and delicious gastronomy,” she said. She pointed out that Tbilisi, the capital, blends ancient and modern traditions and offers attractions such as natural sulfur baths. Batumi, known as the “Pearl of the Black Sea,” is a popular summer destination, while the country boasts 13 seaside resorts with black magnetic sand, rocky beaches, and mountainous coastlines.



Visitors engaging with Saudi writer Dr. Sultan Al-Tamiat with his novel ‘Gaza... Remnants of Hope’.

Saudi writer signs novel

‘Gaza... Remnants of Hope’ draws readers at Book Fair

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The third day of the Kuwait International Book Fair included a remarkable cultural event -- the signing of the novel, ‘Gaza... Remnants of Hope’, by Saudi writer and physician Dr. Sultan bin Fahd Al-Tamiat, at the Tarous Center for Awareness Production booth.

A large number of humanistic literature lovers, readers and those interested in Arab issues attended the event.

The novel is part of a series of publications presented by the Center, in which Al-Tamiat presents a profoundly humanistic work that reflects the human spirit in facing cruelty, transcending the scenes of pain to see beyond them, thus, contributing to a genuine understanding of the soul of a city, which continues to resist despite everything.

Through a narrative that blends medical expertise with a humanitarian perspective, Al-Tamiat opens a wide window onto daily life in Gaza, and onto the details of the experience of those trapped between fear and hope, amidst the rubble and lingering light.

During the event, Al-Tamiat disclosed that the novel recounts the experience of a surgeon who entered Gaza as a volunteer with a humanitarian organization. He witnessed firsthand the suffering of medical staff amidst limited resources, shortage of medicine and equipment. Through his story, he presents timeless examples of the resilience of civilians and the wounded, and the doctors’ attempts to save lives as bombs rained down around them. Despite the pain, Gaza remains an unbroken voice and an unquenchable

story. The character of the doctor, Ayad, emerges as a model of humanity, one who captures a glimmer of light from the ashes of suffering and transforms it into a vibrant testament to humanity.

He pointed out that within the context of the novel and its human testimonies, the pivotal role played by doctors in Gaza stands out as the last line of defense for life. These unsung heroes work under extraordinary conditions that exceed human capacity, amidst shortage of equipment, power outages, and overcrowded operating rooms filled with the injured.

Despite this harsh reality, the doctors continue to perform their duty with rare determination, skillfully treating people’s wounds, alleviating their pain with compassion, and transforming the besieged hospitals into spaces of hope and resistance. They are not just doctors, as they are witnesses to the truth, bearing unyielding weariness on their faces and an unwavering belief in their hearts that saving a single life is a small victory in the great battle that Gaza wages daily for survival.

This reflects the high esteem in which Al-Tamiat is held among readers and those interested in cultural and humanitarian affairs.

He is known for focusing on public health issues and his ability to employ his humanitarian and medical expertise in producing literary texts, which offer profound insights into humanity, its suffering and its capacity for resilience.

The Center emphasized the importance of attending such events that combine thought and creativity, and the value of direct interaction with writers who document human experiences in a language capable of touching the heart.

Kuwait Airways adds 4 extra flights to London

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): The Kuwait Airways declared on Friday operating four additional flights to London on December 1, 21, 25 and 29.

In a press release, the company said the step came as part of its efforts

to meet the needs of its customers and provide all comfort methods to them, adding that London is one of the most important destinations that has growing demand of passengers.

The company pursues to implement

its developmental plans, which show commitment to upgrading service value and boosting travel experience in a manner that is consistent with the Kuwait Airways’ status as one of the most venerable airlines in the region, it stated.

Established in 1953 as a private institution under the name of Kuwait National Airways Ltd, the Kuwait Airways launched its first flight on March 16, 1954, and the Kuwaiti government acquired the company’s full ownership in 1962.

Food Festival marks 9th year of cultural exchange

South Korean cuisine wins Kuwaiti hearts

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Chargé d’Affaires at the South Korean Embassy Kim Hyejin said the ‘Korean Food Festival’ in Kuwait is one of the most important cultural bridges between the two countries, indicating this year’s edition marks the ninth year of the event.



Kim Hyejin, Chargé d’Affaires at the South Korean Embassy



Australian envoy with her son dressed in traditional Korean attire.

a broader South Korean cultural package. She said “the power of K-Pop, South Korean dramas and films played a significant role in strengthening this connection.”

Regarding the interest in learning the South Korean language, Kim confirmed that “many Kuwaitis have started learning the language.” She said Daejeon Institute offers South Korean language courses at the university level, indicating some people surprise her by using South Korean words during meetings. “This makes me consider learning Arabic as well, even though it is not an easy language, but I will try,” she revealed.

On the economic front, she affirmed that South Korean companies have a long-standing presence in Kuwait. She disclosed that “one of the country’s main bridges was built by a South Korean company. Seoul intends to expand cooperation to include new areas, especially recycling and green energy. South Korea has technologies that can assist Kuwait in these fields.”

On the arrival of the new South Korean ambassador, Kim admitted she does not have the final information yet. “I will share the information once I receive it, but the official appointment has not been made yet and it is likely to take place sometime next year,” she added.



Crowd explores a variety of South Korean cuisine at the ‘Korean Food Festival’.



KUNA photo Acting Director General of Kuwait News Agency Mohammad Al-Mannai received Ambassador of Mongolia to Kuwait Sergelen Purev.

KUNA Chief, Mongolian envoy explore expanded media ties

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): Acting Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Mohammad Al-Mannai received Ambassador of Mongolia to Kuwait Sergelen Purev on Sunday to discuss ways to enhance media cooperation between KUNA and Mongolia’s news agency in various media fields.

During the meeting, Al-Mannai emphasized KUNA’s commitment to strengthening its professional relationship with the Mongolian news agency, and expanding the exchange of expertise in editorial and technical work to develop media capabilities and enrich shared news content.

For his part, the Mongolian Ambassador praised the strong relations between the two countries, noting the importance of cooperation between the agencies, particularly as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year, affirming his country’s aspiration to broaden media cooperation.

Both sides agreed to continue building upon the close ties between the two agencies by enhancing the exchange of news, photos, and reports, and by activating joint programs that highlight the history of Kuwaiti-Mongolian relations and support media cooperation in a way that serves mutual interests.

UAE and Gulf nations time-tested friends of Kuwait leadership, people

“UNITY of destiny has never been just a slogan, especially among the peoples and nations of the Arabian Gulf. It is a conviction that whatever affects one of them affects the rest,” columnist **Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The closer the Gulf rulers are to one another, the more successful their nations become, as events have consistently shown. When one Gulf people prospers, its positive impact extends to the others. For this reason, the UAE’s celebration of decades of brotherhood with Kuwait is not merely an ordinary occasion, but an expression of a shared destiny and a reflection of the Prophet’s saying - “The believers, in their mutual love, mercy, and compassion, are like a single body. If one part is afflicted, the whole body responds with sleeplessness and fever.”

“Therefore, when Kuwait faced the ordeal of the 1990 invasion, the Gulf states were the first to dedicate themselves fully to its liberation, even as other friendly and brotherly nations also took part. We must highlight the unwavering position of the Gulf states as a whole, expressed by the late King Fahd bin Abdulaziz (May God have mercy on him), who said, “Either Kuwait returns, or Saudi Arabia is lost with it.” The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan also said, “Kuwait’s strength is everyone’s strength, and everyone must exert every effort to support it.”

“There is no doubt that the Gulf states and their peoples do not view Kuwait as just another country. Everyone remembers how the brothers stood together in times of crisis to confront any threat facing any of their people. The Gulf states know well how to stand united in difficult times. When senior officials in the UAE emphasize the lasting mark Kuwait has left on their country, it reflects their deep loyalty to Kuwait.

“The President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed said, “Our relationship with Kuwait is one of brotherhood, affection, and kinship. Kuwait was a pillar of support both before and after the union. It was the helping hand extended in generosity and assistance. Ku-



Adel Al-Kharafi

wait’s noble positions continue to this day, embodying true brotherhood and sincerity.” This recognition of Kuwait’s support for the UAE, both before and after the union, reflects Kuwait’s own view of its sister Gulf states.

“Indeed, this is the UAE in all its authenticity. The Vice President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid expressed this most clearly when he said, “We are bound to Kuwait by unbreakable ties, a brotherhood that time cannot change, and a love that only grows stronger with each passing day.”

“All of this reflects the depth of the historical relationship between the two peoples, a relationship that has remained strong and will continue to do so as long as these nations remain committed to strengthening their shared destiny. What the leaders of the UAE have expressed echoes the brotherly sentiments the Emirati people hold for Kuwait. The UAE’s celebration of decades of affection for Kuwait is, in truth, a reflection of the affection that Kuwait holds for the UAE.”

Also:

“People carry many secrets in their hearts, much sorrow in their souls, and countless thoughts in their minds. Such is the nature of humanity as long as we walk the earth. Life brings both joy and sorrow. Despite the differences in our circumstances, what is required of us is to accept what God has decreed, for we are constantly tested in our faith and patience in the face of adversity,” columnist **Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“We must expand our minds and cultivate forbearance, wisdom, and patience to attain tranquility and peace of mind. It is best to avoid pointless arguments and futile debates, even when we are right, especially with those who refuse to understand. We should not dwell on issues that are difficult to resolve, nor allow a small spark to ignite a fire, particularly given the impulsiveness that often affects the younger generation.

“Let us remain composed and avoid anything that provokes anger, so that we may live safely and peacefully after the age of fifty. All family members should create a supportive environment that allows their elders to find comfort and tranquility after a lifetime spent raising, serving, and caring for others. Children should attend to their parents in old age and not neglect them while giving undue attention to pets. What is gained from being short-tempered? Why hold onto

a harmful trait that will follow you throughout life, affecting your relationships and causing you to lose many friends?

“You have the ability to replace anger with wisdom and patience. Be forgiving and patient to earn the respect and affection of others. His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal said, “A friend who does not rush to your aid in times of hardship is not someone you can rely on.” One of his students added, “A friend who does not keep your secrets is not someone you can depend on.”

“May God protect Kuwait, its people, and its leadership from all harm and evil.”

□ □ □

“I was delighted to attend the Fourth Forum for Women Journalists in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, hosted by the State of Kuwait. The forum was jointly organized by the Gulf Journalists Union and the Kuwait Journalists Association, with wide participation from heads and representatives of media institutions and Gulf journalists,” Yemeni writer **Jamal Al-Fadhli** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Kuwait’s hosting of this forum reaffirms its status as a regional hub for major events, thanks to its many advantages, most notably its warm hospitality. As always, Kuwait was generous in its welcome, heartfelt in its message, and supportive of a vision that goes beyond the profession to touch the very essence of awareness and the responsibility carried by the written word.

“Hosting this event also conveys Kuwait’s deep respect for the journalism profession and for journalists, emphasizing the state’s appreciation for women and its belief in their vital role in media. Kuwait is committed to ensuring that the meetings accompanying the Gulf Journalists Union serve as a bridge linking ideas to meaningful decisions. The forum felt like a welcoming space where the voices of women resonated, women who had taken up their pens to open wider windows onto a changing reality and to create a presence that honors experiences, breaking the glass ceiling with patience and skill.



Jamal Al-Fadhli

“The significance of this forum lies in its role as a platform for testing the Gulf media’s ability to reinvent itself through the voice of women. It brings together female journalists not only for networking but also to share their dreams, aspirations, and concerns. The forum provides an opportunity to exchange perspectives on the pressing questions that occupy our minds - How is the Gulf narrative about women being shaped? And how can the media serve as a source of support rather than a limitation, a space for empowerment rather than a perpetuation of restrictions?

“Each session reinforced confidence in the role of female journalists; it is no longer a marginal position but an integral part of a media landscape moving toward modernization and greater awareness. One of the forum’s achievements was providing participants with a space for collective thinking and the exchange of experiences that make a tangible difference in newsrooms and programming. The forum also reaffirmed that collaboration among Gulf media institutions is the best path to building a media sector capable of keeping pace with digital transformations and producing content that reflects reality accurately, without embellishment or exaggeration.

“The forum highlighted the urgent need to support Gulf women journalists in overcoming the challenges of the profession. They continue to face significant obstacles, including limited access to leadership positions, increasing digital competition, growing professional and social pressures, and a constant need for training and development. These challenges do not diminish the value of the journey; on the contrary, they enhance its significance.

“I extend my gratitude to the Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, the President of the Gulf Journalists Union and President of the Bahraini Journalists Association Issa Al-Shayji, the Board member of the Gulf Journalists Union Adnan Al-Rashed, and the President of the Kuwaiti Journalists Association for their dedicated efforts in ensuring the forum’s success and its outstanding execution. The forum continues to be a highly impactful event, laying a new cornerstone in shaping the image of Gulf women in the media.”

— **Compiled by Simi K. Kuty**

Response speed scrutinized

‘Guard’ launches week-long drills; no cause for concern

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The National Guard’s Moral Guidance Directorate announced that Guard forces will conduct operational training exercises at all locations and camps from November 23–27.

The exercises are part of the annual training plan, which includes a mobilization component to assess the readiness of National Guard personnel and measure their response speed to incidents, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press statement, Director of



Dr. Jada'an Fadhel

the Moral Guidance Directorate and official spokesperson for the National Guard Brigadier General Dr. Jada'an Fadhel confirmed

that the exercises will involve mobilizing personnel outside working hours and deploying vehicles and forces to vital locations secured by the National Guard.

He reassured citizens and residents that the exercises are not a cause for concern, and urged cooperation with the National Guard to support its role in maintaining security and stability alongside the Kuwait Army and Ministry of Interior, under the directives of the wise political leadership.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: In a new achievement added to the record of efforts to protect public funds and combat corruption, the Criminal Security Sector at the Ministry of Interior, specifically the Forgery and Counterfeiting Department, caught a government agency inspector in the act of accepting KD50,000 bribe, reports Al-Anba daily.

The arrest happened after a meticulously planned operation carried out by detectives to document the bribery through audio and video recordings.

A security source told the daily that an expatriate, who owns a large workshop approached detectives, explaining that his workshop had been issued a permanent closure order. He stated that

he received a call from someone who identified himself as an inspector from the relevant government agency and offered to change the permanent closure order to temporary, paying the way for the reopening of the business, in exchange for a total of KD200,000 with an advance payment of KD50,000.

The source disclosed that the complainant said the inspector asked for cash payment inside his farm in Al-Abdally, which prompted the detectives to obtain permission from the concerned authorities and asked the complainant to cooperate with the accused until he was caught red-handed.

□ □ □

Crackdown on e-vice: The Cybercrime Department at the Ministry of Interior announced that an electronic security campaign was recently carried out, which uncovered 48 violations including content violating public decency, incitement to immorality and debauchery, insults to individuals’ dignity, calls to break the law, insults against sister nations, and the identification of fake accounts involved in publishing prohibited and illegal con-

tent, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a statement on its X account, the ministry confirmed that legal action has been taken against all involved, and the cases have been referred to the concerned authorities to complete the necessary procedures.

It emphasized that its electronic monitoring teams continue to work around the clock to protect society, uphold moral values, and promote a safe digital environment.

The ministry urged users of digital platforms to abide by the law and act responsibly when posting, stressing that freedom of expression does not justify insults or violations of public decency.

□ □ □

Beware fake messages: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable warned about fake messages circulating online requesting bill payments, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

The ministry stressed that these text messages claiming to request payment of electricity and water bills are fraudulent and have no connection to it.

GTD crackdown

517 cars seized, 36 minors held in raid

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry continued its campaigns throughout the country to strictly enforce traffic regulations and curb behaviors that threaten road safety.

Last week’s campaigns resulted in the impounding of 517 vehicles and the referral of 36 juveniles to the Juvenile Prosecution for driving without a license.

A security source told the newspaper that the department issued 23,495 traffic violation citations over the past seven days, impounded 32 motorcycles, detained 42 individuals, seized 38 vehicles wanted by law in connection with various cases, apprehended 21 individuals for holding expired residency permits, and referred four people to the Drug Control General Department.

The source revealed that a total of 1,246 traffic accidents were recorded during the same period, resulting in 208 injuries of varying severity. The source urged motorists to fully abide by the traffic regulations to protect their lives and that of others, as well as to avoid violations and vehicle impoundment.

Mixing lineages ruinous for identity

Woman shows son as brother to achieve Kuwaiti citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Citizenship Investigation Department has concluded a thorough investigation into one of the sensitive cases involving mixed lineage and illegal registration, after it was discovered that a Kuwaiti woman, in agreement with her father, registered her son with her Iraqi husband as her brother, in preparation for him obtaining Kuwaiti citizenship by being added to her father’s file, reports **Al-Rai** daily quoting sources.

Sources informed the daily that the woman was married to an Iraqi man and had a son with him before they separated. With her father’s consent, the son was registered under the grandfather’s file as his son, thus, as his mother’s brother.

It was revealed that the son currently works in the oil sector and underwent DNA testing, which proved that he is the

woman’s son, not her brother as stated in the official documents.

Sources added that the investigations uncovered the son’s true Iraqi name, clarifying that he is unmarried and has no other registered dependents.

Sources warned about mixing lineages, which is considered one of the most dangerous forms of forgery in citizenship files, as it affects the family identity and lineage.

Sources indicated that the case file was referred to the Public Prosecution to complete the legal procedures, and that the Iraqi man involved in the forgery is now detained in the Central Prison. They confirmed that the son is aware of his true lineage and nationality, adding that renewing an identification card or official document is forgery, given his knowledge of his real status.

Gang of subsidized food embezzlers nabbed

3 cases for deporting expat despite valid residency permit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Article 38 of the executive regulations of the new Residency Law specifies three cases in which a foreigner may be administratively deported, even if their residency permit is valid, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

These three cases are the following:

1. If they have no source of income in the State of Kuwait.
2. If they work for another party without permission from their government employer or the competent authorities, in violation of Article 19 of Decree-Law No. 114/2024.
3. Cases in which the Minister of Interior deems deportation necessary for public interest, public security, or public morals, including:

- If the expatriate has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude or dishonesty.
 - If the expatriate receives three criminal convictions within five years, one of which includes a prison sentence.
 - If the expatriate receives four criminal convictions of any type within five years.
- □ □

Food embezzlers: Criminal Investigation Department officers arrested five Asians and a Bedoun for embezzling subsidized food supplies from a ration outlet in Jahra Governorate, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

All five suspects were referred to the Pub-

lic Prosecution.

A security source revealed that the department received information about several employees at the subsidized food branch misappropriating portions of beneficiaries’ rations, particularly rice and lentils.

A specialized team was formed to verify the information. The team received the subsidized food supplies, measured them, and compared the results with the quantities that were supposed to be delivered.

The source added that the measurement process revealed a shortage in the delivered quantities.

The suspects were apprehended in a well-planned operation, and then referred to the competent authorities for legal action.

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PAHW reports steady progress in new cities

Projects advance, e-services expand

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Deputy Director General for Public Relations and Development and official spokesperson of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Omar Al-Ruwaieh revealed that infrastructure, road and public building projects in the new residential cities are progressing in terms of actual completion rates.

Reviewing the report of the Authority for October, Al-Ruwaieh affirmed that the work on the main roads contract in South Saad Al-Abdullah City is progressing significantly, with an actual completion rate of 49.16 percent.

Regarding the infrastructure contracts, he stated that they are proceeding at varying paces. The first contract, covering 8,677 plots, recorded an actual completion rate of 3.44 percent, while the second contract, covering 7,649 plots, achieved an actual completion rate of 3.26 percent, and the third contract, covering 7,225 plots, recorded an actual completion rate of 3.82 percent.

On developments in South Sabah Al-Ahmad housing project, he mentioned that the main roads contract recorded an actual completion rate of 67.93 percent, while the first infrastructure contract, covering 7,623 plots, reached an actual completion rate of 22.12 percent, and the second contract, covering 6,189 plots, recorded an actual completion rate of 30.03 percent. The third contract achieved an actual completion rate of 3.82 percent.

Regarding the affordable housing project, the first contract, comprising 1,568 houses, achieved an actual completion rate of 17.03 percent, the second contract for 1,777 houses recorded an actual completion rate of 19.50 percent, the third contract for 1,162 houses reached an actual completion rate of 20.49 percent, the fourth contract for 1,700 houses achieved an actual completion

rate of 1.18 percent, the fifth contract for 1,608 houses achieved an actual completion rate of 1.96 percent, and the sixth contract for 1,985 houses reached an actual completion rate of 1.02 percent.

He pointed out that the institution is monitoring the implementation of 239 public buildings in various residential projects, including 17 buildings in Sabah Al-Ahmad, 74 in the affordable housing project, one in South Khaitan, two in Saad Al-Abdullah, one in Jaber Al-Ahmad, 131 in Mutlaa City and 13 in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

Regarding engineering contracts, he stated that the institution signed contracts last month for the supply, installation, implementation and maintenance of 10 main 132/11 kV substations in suburbs N1, N3, N5 and N11 in the South Sabah Al-Ahmad project. A similar contract was signed for the implementation of 10 substations in suburbs N2, N4 and N6 in the same project, which will support the electrical grid in the new residential areas.

On the services provided by the Authority, he revealed that a total of 43,634 housing services were provided to citizens through the Citizen Service Department. These services are as follows: 25,671 electronic services through Sahel and the website, 3,372 transactions at reception centers in the main building and external centers, and 14,591 contact services through the call center and chat-bot.

He indicated that the Authority continues to issue certificates, disclosing that the 'To Whom It May Concern' Office issued 1,420 out of 1,448 certificates in Khaitan, and 3,248 out of 3,260 in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, while Mutlaa City recorded the highest number of permits issued with 27,758 out of 28,288.

The Authority affirmed its commitment to advance major projects, maintain high completion rates in new cities, and improve services provided to citizens in line with the plan of the State to support housing welfare and accelerate urban development.

It also announced the launching of a new electronic service through Sahel to allow citizens to apply for a rental allowance if they meet the criteria and have not previously applied, either because they received it from their employer in the past or because they own a private land that has yet to be developed.



Group photo during the Hajj lottery for Kuwaiti pilgrims.

Winners given 3 days to finalize caravan registration

Islamic Affairs completes Hajj lottery for 1447 AH

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs announced the completion of the Hajj lottery for Kuwaiti pilgrims for the 1447 AH Hajj season.

Registration ran from Oct 13 to Nov 22, during which 67,087 citizens submitted applications expressing their desire to perform the Hajj pilgrimage.

Acting Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Sulaiman Al-Suwailem explained that the ministry adopted a lottery system for selecting pilgrims to ensure integrity, transparency and equal opportunities for more than 67,000 applicants.

Al-Suwailem made the statement during the lottery for Kuwaiti pilgrims for the 1447 AH Hajj season, held Sunday at the theater of the ministry in Al-Ruqai. Representatives from the Kuwaiti Hajj Caravans Union, Information Technology Authority, and several

other entities involved in organizing Hajj affairs attended the event.

He said the Information Technology Authority supervised the data review and ensured the integrity of the system. He revealed that the lottery results will be sent to all registered applicants through the Sahel application, indicating that acceptance messages will be sent to those selected starting Monday.

He stressed that the ministry is keen on fulfilling its supervisory role in accordance with its vision of leadership in Islamic affairs and its values of transparency and accountability.

He disclosed that 67,087 citizens submitted applications to perform Hajj this year, reiterating that the Supreme Committee adopted the lottery system to guarantee fairness and integrity among all applicants.

He added that the ministry collaborated with the Information Technology Authority, which supervised the entire system, from data verification and confidentiality to the integrity of processing procedures and the documenta-

tion and archiving of results.

He said the ministry also engaged Microsoft, a neutral global entity, to examine the data, verify the integrity of the lottery system, and guarantee adherence to technical standards, thus, enhancing transparency and assuring the public on the fairness of the procedures.

He confirmed to the public that all those registered through the Sahel application will receive a message indicating their ranking once the lottery process is complete. He said the ministry starts sending acceptance letters to those selected to perform Hajj on Monday, for them to contact the Hajj caravans and complete their registration within three days. He clarified that those selected have the right to postpone their participation once. He added that they will be allowed to perform Hajj next year if they are unable to do so this year, while expressing his gratitude and appreciation to all participating and cooperating entities with the ministry in organizing this important national event.

Mosques proposed for Sheikh Jaber Causeway

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Municipal Council member Nasser Al-Jadaan has submitted a proposal to allocate two or more sites, depending on the need and structural design, for the construction of mosques on the southern and northern islands of Sheikh Jaber Causeway.

Al-Jadaan also proposed coordinating with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to develop the designs and specifications for these mosques, ensuring they align with the modern architectural style of the causeway as a whole. He stressed the importance of providing vital facilities, such as ablution areas, restrooms and parking, while adhering to environmental and aesthetic standards.

He indicated that his proposal aims to

serve a large segment of Kuwaiti society and its visitors, given the significance of Sheikh Jaber Causeway as a prominent development landmark and a future tourist and recreational destination. He pointed out that the southern and northern islands will witness a surge in visitors. "With the constant flow of traffic and visitors round the clock, it is necessary to provide places of worship that serve worshippers and meet their needs," he added.

Boosting inter-agency cooperation

MoCI to launch 'One-Stop Shop' Team for 2026 Nat'l Day events

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Marwa Al-Jaidan issued an administrative decision to form the 'One-Stop Shop' Team under the Supreme Committee for National Day Celebrations 2026.

The team shall unify efforts and procedures related to organizing national celebrations and exhibitions, and to streamline services provided to organizing entities.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the decision, stating that the director of the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Department will head the team, while the members include the director of the International Relations Department, supervisor of International Relations and Exhibitions as vice chairman, head of the Exhibitions Organization Section, and representatives from the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), Ministry of Interior, Kuwait Municipality and Kuwait Fire Force (KFF). Zainab Ahmed Suleiman and

Wissam Taleb Hashem Mohammad, who will serve as rapporteurs, are also members of the team.

The decision stipulates the tasks of the team, such as receiving and reviewing applications submitted to the ministry related to holding national holiday celebrations, coordinating with government agencies and the private sector to organize temporary trade fairs and national events, issuing

temporary electronic trade licenses through a new portal within the digital services platform for temporary exhibitions, removing obstacles, liaising with the Supreme Committee and other relevant authorities, and monitoring companies and institutions participating in celebrations and exhibitions to ensure their compliance with the decisions and regulations of the ministry.

Al-Jaidan

Technical queries drive extension

Khairan power plant project bid deadline pushed to March 2026

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Supreme Committee for Public-Private Partnership Projects postponed the closing date for the Khairan Power and Water Desalination Plant project (Phase one) until March 4, 2026 to give the competing international consortia more time to thoroughly evaluate their technical and financial bids before the final submission.

Reliable sources stated that international gas turbine manufacturers may face difficulties in supplying the turbines for the 1,800-megawatt plant before 2029, given the numerous orders these companies are receiving from various countries keen on increasing their electricity production capacity to meet their needs.

Sources explained that postponing the closing date until March 4 will lead to a delay in awarding the project tender, thereby, delaying the signing of contracts with the preferred investor.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water

and Renewable Energy had earlier announced that it is counting on North Zour Power Plant (Phases Two and Three) and Khairan Power Plant (Phase One) to be completed as scheduled, given the power generation shortage plaguing the national grid for years and the increased demand during peak summer periods. This reduces operational safety margins and increases pressure on existing power plants, necessitating reliance on the Gulf Cooperation Council interconnection system to compensate for the power generation deficit for the coming years.

Moreover, sources indicated that the committee formed to oversee the project is reviewing inquiries from the international consortia that purchased the tender documents. The committee received around 200 inquiries from the four consortia and companies, and it is currently preparing comprehensive responses, while adhering to the principles of transparency and impartiality towards the competing consortia.

Ghiras to hold 'Stay Aware 3' drive

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Dr. Ahmed Al-Samdan, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Association for Drug Awareness and Prevention (Ghiras), announced that the association is preparing to launch the national initiative "Stay Aware 3" in cooperation with the Faith Initiatives Company, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The initiative will take place on Monday, December 8, at the South College of Education Theater at Kuwait University in

Shadadiya.

Dr. Al-Samdan emphasized that the initiative is a continuation of the association's national efforts to protect youth and society from the dangers of behavioral issues and narcotics, adding that it is being implemented in partnership with Kuwait University, which is a leading academic institution locally and internationally, with the participation of several government agencies, universities, and local organizations.



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Festival honors veteran actor Saad Al-Faraj and emerging theatrical talents

Minister Al-Mutairi calls on youth to turn their zest into art

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi delivered a speech to the closing session of the 16 Youth Theater Days Festival at Dasma Theater on Saturday evening.

Commending “the distinguished presence of youth and playwrights” at the event, the minister said the youth theater materialized the ability of youth to turn their zest for art into “sober drama” that reflect their culture and aspirations.”

The week-long festival displayed “inspiring plays” written by creative youth dramatists and reflective of Kuwait’s rich culture and pioneering role on the regional scale, he pointed out.

“The outstanding presence of Kuwaiti youth dramatists at the festival shows the great importance the State attaches to culture and arts in building the capacity of the youth, fostering their skills, and bolstering the national identity and opening up to the modern artistic trends,” Al-Mutairi affirmed.

The Youth Public Authority, the organizer of the event, gives precedence to promotion of cultural and artistic creativity in its strategy for empowering the youth and building their capacity in all areas, the minister went on.

He affirmed that the just-ended festival provided a unique platform for the Kuwaiti youth to assert their excellence and ability to produce innovative works of art that address social



Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi during his speech.

issues in a sober way.

He extolled His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-



A moment of honoring the artist Saad Al-Faraj by the Minister of Information and the Minister of Higher Education.

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His High-

ness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah for their great care for the empowerment of the youth and the promotion of the cultural and artistic movement in the country.

He spoke highly of Saad Al-Faraj, a celebrated Kuwaiti actor and the personality of the year’s edition of the festival, saying he is one of the pioneers of the Kuwaiti theater who has a six-decade legacy of contributions to the Arab cultural movement.

The best complete drama award went to ‘Saydh Thaaheh’ play, the excellence award to Hani Al-Hazza’e for his ‘Kamrah’ play, the best main actor award to Jihad Al-Balloushi and the best main actress award to Raheel Al-Metaqi.

The best second actor award was given to Abdulrahman Al-Fahad, best second actress to Doaa Benyan, the best makeup artist to Abdulaziz Al-Jeraib, the best set designer to Mohammad Behbehani, the best costume designer to Shahad Al-Balloushi and the best lighting designer to Salem Al-Jasmi.

The best playwright award went to Fawwaz Al-Adwani, the best director to Yahya Al-Harrasi and the best music and soundtrack to Hamad Al-Arouj.

Opened at Dasma Theater on Monday, November 17, the Festival featured five plays - ‘Menabeh,’ ‘Kamrah,’ ‘Al-Muqabalah,’ ‘Al-Wahsh Allathi Rabbaitah,’ and ‘Saydh Saaleh.’



Honoring the 16 Youth Theater Days Festival award winners.

KUNA photos

MoF ‘penalizes’ firms for late tax payments

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Ministry of Finance has imposed penalties for the late payment of income tax, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Letters have been sent to three defaulting companies, urging them to expedite the payment of penalties related to their overdue income tax.

The ministry confirmed that the companies in question are liable for late payment penalties accumulated over previous fiscal years.

Sources indicated that these measures fall within the framework of enforcing tax regulations and strengthening oversight to ensure fairness and secure the collection of State revenues.

Sources said the imposed penalties range between 17 percent, 25 percent and 40 percent of the total unpaid tax amount.

They added that the ministry stressed the importance of settling outstanding dues within 30 days, warning that failure to do so would compel it to take legal action.

Sources pointed out that delaying tax payments exposes companies to legal risks and penalties, emphasizing the importance of tax collection following the implementation of several new corporate tax laws.

Kuwait outlines new privatization push in 2025/26 annual dev’t plan

Four key policies aim to boost citizen ownership

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The 2025/2026 Annual Development Plan revealed four key policies in supporting the implementation of the Public Privatization Program -- one of nine programs in the plan.

This program aims to expand the privatization of government assets and services by updating the legislative framework and introducing new privatization initiatives in operational sectors. It will enhance public finance reform,

diversify revenue sources, improve services, and generate job opportunities for citizens in the private sector.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the report, which cited the four policies as follows: develop legislative and regulatory frameworks to increase the citizens’ ownership in companies slated for privatization, support the modification of competition regulations in the relevant sectors (a policy that is underway), establish a company based on a partnership model in the targeted sectors, and allocate shares in the education and health sectors to citizens at nominal prices.

The report called for the development of a social safety net by providing education and health insurance vouchers to citizens upon privatization of operational sectors, reduction of the budget deficit by setting a ceiling of not more than

five percent of current expenditures, investment of surpluses generated from privatization, and distribution of a portion of the returns to citizens.

It indicated that the most difficult challenges in the implementation of the program are the decline in the shares of citizens and the private sector in the ownership of public assets, dominance of the public sector over operational sectors, and imbalance in public finances.

The objectives of the program include involving citizens in privatized assets, gradually privatizing operational sectors, restructuring public finances, and privatization of North Shuaiba Power Plant, which is being implemented through the technical body of the privatization program, using a non-governmental financing mechanism.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait hikes

- Employees of international news outlets, including journalists, media professionals and correspondents
- Coaches and players in government-affiliated sports federations and clubs
- Those who prepare the deceased for burial
- KD 10 residence visa fee for nine categories:
- Employment in the government sector (Article 17)
- Employment in the private sector (Article 18)
- Entry for domestic workers and similar categories (Article 20)
- Engaging in commercial or industrial activities (Article 21)
- Family reunification (Article 22)
- Study (Article 23)
- Foreign investor (Article 21)
- Temporary government contract (Article 17)
- Temporary work in the oil sector (Article 18)
- KD 10 for nine types of visit visas, payable per month:
- Government visit
- Commercial visit
- Family visit
- Private visit
- Medical visit
- Multiple-entry visit
- Tourist visit
- Visit for business activities
- Visits for cultural and social activities
- KD 10 for three types of visas:
- Transit visa
- Entry visa for drivers of transport vehicles (trucks and buses)
- Emergency entry visa
- Domestic workers:
- KD 10 for a Kuwaiti family
- KD 50 for a foreign family
- The number of domestic workers is limited to three for families of six or fewer members, four for families of more than six members, and five for families of more than nine members.
- An employer may be granted an additional domestic worker for each person with a disability in the family, provided this is proven by documents issued by the competent authority.
- Additional Domestic Workers:
- KD 50 for the first additional domestic worker for a Kuwaiti family, and another KD 50 is added to the residency fee for each subsequent additional worker.
- KD 400 for the first additional domestic worker for a foreign family, and KD 100 for each subsequent additional worker
- KD 100 for the first additional domestic worker sponsored by a diplomat, and another KD 100 for each subsequent additional worker
- KD 50 residency renewal fee per year

Additional domestic worker residency fees are waived in cases where the residency is transferred from a deceased, divorced, incapacitated, imprisoned or convicted head of household (or those with court rulings preventing them from sponsoring domestic workers) to a family member (spouse or unmarried children), subject to regulations set by the Directorate General of Residency Affairs.

Fees are determined for nationals of countries that are party to bilateral agreements with the State of Kuwait, in accordance with the provisions of such agreements. Fees for citizens of certain countries are determined based on the principle of reciprocity.

Following are the fees for temporary residency, departure notices and visit extensions:

- Temporary residency (Article 14): KD 5 per month for domestic workers and KD 10 per month for all other categories
- Departure notice (Article 34): KD 10 per month
- Visit extension (Article 15): KD 10 per month.
- Change of nationality: KD 10
- Absence permit outside Kuwait: KD 5 per month, with the exception of three categories -- spouses of Kuwaiti citizens, parents of Kuwaiti citizens, and domestic workers sponsored by Kuwaiti citizens.

The categories classified as ‘employer’ are as follows:

- Head of a Kuwaiti family consisting of a husband and wife or multiple wives.
- Head of a Kuwaiti family consisting of a widowed or divorced father and his children residing with him
- Elderly Kuwaitis or persons with disabilities, male or female, excluding those with intellectual disabilities - Kuwaiti widow or divorcee with children, or a Kuwaiti woman married to a non-Kuwaiti
- Foreign woman divorced or widowed by a Kuwaiti man and with children from him
- Head of a foreign family consisting of a husband and wife, or multiple wives and children residing with him
- Foreign woman residing in Kuwait with children under her sponsorship
- Those exempted from all of the above according to the regulations and conditions set by the Directorate General of Residency Affairs.

The decision specifies five cases in which a visit visa may be converted to a regular residency permit:

- Those arriving on a government visit visa for a ministry, public authority or public institution. This is limited to university graduates and those with technical specializations, subject to the approval of the Director General of the Directorate General of Residency Affairs.

fair.

- Domestic workers and those in similar categories
- Joining a family member who entered on a family visit or tourist visa
- Those who entered Kuwait on a work visa, initiated the residency application process, and then left involuntarily, remaining abroad for no more than one month
- Cases deemed appropriate by the Director General of the Directorate General of Residency Affairs

The executive regulations stipulate that a foreigner who enters the State of Kuwait under one of the residency entry visas specified in Clause One of Article Four of this decision may remain in the country for a period not exceeding two months from the date of entry. During this period, they must complete the procedures for obtaining temporary or regular residency.

According to the regulations, a foreigner’s passport or its equivalent document, must be valid for at least six months at the time of application for regular residency. The duration of regular residency is not linked to the passport’s validity period but rather to its purpose, ending upon the completion of that purpose, even before the expiry of the residency period. Residency may be transferred from one type to another, and from one purpose to another, according to the regulations set by the Directorate General of Residency Affairs.

Bid to

Al-Wuhaib disclosed that in 2019, his client requested the defendant to vacate the property following their divorce and after obtaining a court order to revoke the gift, but she refused, prompting him to evict her.

He added that the defendant failed to pay for her use of the property from 2019 to 2025, so his client decided to file the civil lawsuit, requesting the appointment of an expert to assess the amount due.

‘Water use

Q: How are faults detected in the water network?

A: Faults are monitored and detected by tracking water pressure in main and branch lines and ensuring it matches the approved operational capacity of the network. This helps detect any abnormal pressure drops or malfunctions. The ministry relies on customer reports received through the unified call center (152), whether by telephone, its mobile application or the official website. Furthermore, the Sahel application provides additional

channels for receiving reports and complaints.

Q: What are the most significant updates the ministry has implemented for its fault complaint systems?

A: Over the past period, the ministry developed and updated the system for receiving complaints and service requests through several channels as follows:

- Activate the unified number 152 for receiving complaints through an integrated electronic Outage Management System (OMS), ensuring round-the-clock monitoring of reports until their resolution.
- Activate the website, which allows beneficiaries to submit water connection requests and easily add, transfer or modify connections electronically.
- Link with Sahel to enable citizens and expatriates to access a number of water services electronically.
- Continuous updating of water network data on the Geographic Information System (GIS), facilitating rapid access to the locations of main valves and network components during any emergency or scheduled work.

Q: What are the most common types of complaints received by the ministry?

A: Majority of the complaints revolve around weak or interrupted fresh or low-salinity water pressure in some areas or properties, in addition to complaints related to internal or external leaks, as well as reports about changes in the color or taste of the water. All reports are handled according to approved technical procedures and laboratory tests.

Q: What are the main obstacles that the ministry teams usually face during maintenance and emergency works?

A: One of the most difficult challenges is the presence of encroachments on water lines and services, whether from buildings, crops or other civil works, in addition to the intersection of lines with other services such as sewage, telecommunications or electricity. These cases necessitate prior and on-site coordination with several government entities like Kuwait Municipality, Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), Ministry of Public Works, and Ministry of Interior if traffic must be stopped or the site secured. This may add extra time to reach the leak location and address it safely.

Engineering and technical teams are equipped with specialized devices for detecting invisible leaks, especially in cases where complaints are received about low water pressure without any visible leaks on the surface. These devices are also used for periodic verification of the network’s integrity and contribute to reducing water loss and maintaining network efficiency.

Repair time varies depending on the nature of the fault, its location, and the diameter of the damaged water line. However, the estimated repair times for most faults usually range between two to 16 hours.

Technical teams are working hard to supply the affected areas with water through alternative sources whenever possible in order to reduce the impact of the interruption on beneficiaries.

Private sector

This will contribute to the development of services provided to the public by adopting the latest operational and logistical systems, and raising the level of administrative and financial efficiency to keep pace with global developments.

The deadline for submitting bids is on Feb 23, 2026, while a preliminary meeting to discuss the applicants’ inquiries will be held on Dec 23 at the headquarters of the ministry in the Liberation Tower.

The ministry emphasized that bidding companies are required to submit a set of official documents, including clearance certificates, national employment percentage certificate, commercial license, certificates of registration with Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), articles of incorporation and tax certificate.

It added that bidding consulting firms must have at least eight years experience in technical, financial and legal consulting, as well as at least five years experience in environmental consulting for regional or international projects implemented according to the PPP system.

Minister reviews

The committee will continue the interviews in the next two weeks with the remaining candidates for the vacancies announced at other cooperative societies as follows:

- 37 applicants for five supervisory positions at Jahra Cooperative Society
- 44 applicants for three supervisory positions at Sabah Al-Nasser Cooperative Society
- 69 applicants for five supervisory positions at Jaber Al-Ahmad Cooperative Society
- 138 applicants for five supervisory positions at Kaifan Cooperative Society

The vacant supervisory positions at the aforementioned societies include general manager, deputy manager and department heads.

The ministry will announce the re-

sults, including the online test score, personal interview score and final score, on its website and official platforms upon completion of all interviews, which will take two weeks. This announcement will follow the committee’s work and the approval of the final results, reinforcing the principle of transparency.

‘Effective municipal

She went on to explain that the challenges facing Gulf countries are similar, with shared goals of building smart, environmentally friendly cities that meet the aspirations of future generations. The presence of this distinguished gathering of experts and decision-makers reflects a strong commitment to strengthening cooperation, unifying efforts, and exchanging experiences to enhance the services of GCC municipalities.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Director General for Projects at Kuwait Municipality Maysaa Boushahri highlighted the municipality’s important projects for 2025 and 2026.

She explained that Kuwait Municipality plays a leading role in achieving New Kuwait 2035 vision through the development of public facilities and waterfronts, waste management, and promoting environmental sustainability. These initiatives include infrastructure projects that enhance quality of life and create a modern urban environment that supports investment, culture, and entertainment.

Boushahri also highlighted Kuwait Municipality’s most prominent ongoing projects, including the development and beautification of Shuwaikh Beach, the reconstruction of the damaged area in Mubarakiya Market, and the solid municipal waste-to-dry-fuel conversion plant.

She affirmed that the development plan is part of the implementation of New Kuwait 2035 vision, and is structured around five five-year development plans, adding that five new axes and seven pillars were introduced in 2015 to further emphasize sustainability, the knowledge economy, and infrastructure.

5 SAGCG teams

ago, it continues to be a global hub for innovation and technology.

The center added that the national competition was held at the American University of the Middle East (AUM), and as a result, five of its teams qualified for the international competition in Estonia, scheduled for December 5 and 6, with the participation of teams from around the world.

UK leader suggests former Prince Andrew should testify in US investigation

Republicans hyped Epstein files for years, now Trump under pressure to deliver

WASHINGTON, Nov 23, (AP): What began as a campaign-trail promise to release the Jeffrey Epstein files has become one of the most fraught tests of US President Donald Trump’s second term - opening a rift in his political coalition and raising the stakes for an administration now under intense pressure to produce documents that may fall far short of public expectations.

The issue came to a head this week. After months of efforts by the Trump administration to quash it, both chambers of Congress passed a measure forcing the release of the Epstein files with near-unanimous support. Trump, who changed course days before the vote to bless the effort, signed the legislation Wednesday, starting a 30-day window for the Justice Department to deliver the records.

Expectations are sky-high, fueled by years of conspiracy theories promoted by many now in Trump’s orbit. Yet with some claims - such as a rumored “client list” of prominent men linked to Epstein - already deemed nonexistent by federal officials, the anti establishment coalition Trump built in part by elevating those theories is showing cracks that may widen with the anticipated release.

“Watching this actually turn into a fight has ripped MAGA apart,” Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., said this week, flanked by Epstein survivors ahead of the House vote.

“The only thing that will speak to the powerful, courageous women behind me is when action is actually taken to release these files,” said Greene, who announced late Friday that she will resign from Congress in January.

Epstein’s abuse and 2019 death in a New York jail cell have generated conspiracy theories for years, especially on the political right.

On the campaign trail, Trump expressed openness to releasing the investigative documents, nodding to anti-establishment demands to open up the government’s files on other high-profile cases such as the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

But once Trump was back in office, divulging records from the federal investigations, as well as satisfying the appetites of conspiracy theorists, became less appealing. Attorney General Pam Bondi raised expectations of a full release, only to reverse course over the summer. Her attempt to close the book on the Epstein saga outraged many on the right.

It was the first sign of a rift in



US Rep Thomas Massie and Rep Marjorie Taylor-Greene (right), speak during a news conference as the House prepares to vote on the Epstein Files Transparency Act, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025. They are joined by survivors and family members who recounted their personal stories of Epstein. (AP)

Trump’s coalition, and Democrats took notice.

In Congress, they began looking for ways to force Republicans to take votes

on releasing the Epstein files. Eventually, they found traction with two tracks: initiating an investigation in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and putting full support behind a rarely successful petition that maneuvers around the House speaker’s control of which bills see the floor.

The Democratic effort, joined by a few key Republicans, including Greene, culminated last week in passage of the bill with overwhelming support from both chambers of Congress. It was a sign that the Epstein files had risen from the realm of obscure conspiracy theorists to a political force that neither political party could deny.

Still, it’s not clear whether the complete files will be released - or that the public interest in them will ever be satisfied.

At a Tuesday press conference ahead of the House vote, the bill’s sponsors - Reps. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., and Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., joined Greene and several Epstein survivors in warning the administration not to hold anything back.

Also:

LONDON: Pressure is increasing for

the former **Prince Andrew** to give evidence to a US congressional committee investigating the convicted offender **Jeffrey Epstein** after Britain’s prime minister suggested he should testify.

Keir Starmer declined to comment directly about King Charles III’s disgraced younger brother, but told reporters traveling with him for the Group of 20 summit in Johannesburg that as a “general principle” people should provide evidence to investigators.

“I don’t comment on his particular case,” Starmer said. “But as a general principle I’ve held for a very long time is that anybody who has got relevant information in relation to these kind of cases should give that evidence to those that need it.”

The former prince, now known as Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, has so far ignored a request from members of the House Oversight Committee for a “transcribed interview” about his “long-standing friendship” with Epstein. Andrew was stripped of his royal titles and honors last month as the royal family tried to insulate itself from criticism about his relationship with Epstein.

America

Cargo ship fire in LA nearly contained: A fire on a container ship docked at the Port of Los Angeles was nearly contained Saturday afternoon, though authorities were still assessing whether enough hazardous material burned to cause significant contamination.

The blaze, which broke out Friday night, prompted a shelter-in-place order for surrounding communities over concerns about hazardous materials in the One Henry Hudson’s cargo.

The order was lifted in the morning, and the ship was moved out to sea. Fireboats sprayed water on the vessel to tame “a small section” that was still on fire, Los Angeles Fire Department spokesperson **Adam Van Gerpen** said.

The electrical fire apparently started below deck before spreading to several levels of the ship, leading to an explosion mid-deck, according to the fire department. The cause was under investigation. (AP)

Ex-student gets 5 life sentences: A former University of Virginia student was sentenced on Friday to life in prison for fatally shooting three football players and wounding two other students on the campus in 2022.

Judge Cheryl Higgins gave Christopher Darnell Jones, Jr., who had been on the football team, the maximum possi-



Van Gerpen

ble sentence after listening to five days of testimony. Jones pleaded guilty last year.

The penalty includes five life sentences, one each for the killings of Devin Chandler, Lavel Davis Jr. and D’Sean Perry, and the aggravated malicious wounding of Michael Hollins and Marlee Morgan, Cville Right Now reported.

Authorities said Jones opened fire aboard a charter bus as he and other students arrived back on campus after seeing a play and having dinner together in Washington, D.C. The shooting erupted near a parking garage and prompted a 12-hour lockdown of the Charlottesville campus until the suspect was captured. Many at the school of some 23,000 students huddled inside closets and darkened dorm rooms, while others barricaded the doors of the university’s stately academic buildings. (AP)

Senators want answers from Coast Guard: Two senators who lead a bipartisan antisemitism task force said Friday they want more information from the US Coast Guard about how it will investigate incidents of nooses or other hate symbols being displayed in its ranks.

The Coast Guard released a new, firmer policy addressing the display of such hate symbols, just hours after it was publicly revealed that an emerging policy would have loosened the language to describe them only as “potentially divisive.” That had drawn a swift outcry from Sen Jacky Rosen, D-Nev., and other lawmakers.

Rosen and Sen James Lankford, R-Okla., sent a letter on Friday to Adm Kevin Lunday, the acting commandant of the Coast Guard, who had released the memo late to make clear that “hate symbols and flags are prohibited.” (AP)



People gather in homage to Mehdi Kessaci at the roundabout where he was murdered, as they protest against drug trafficking in Marseille, southern France on Nov 22. (AP)

Thousands march in Marseille to denounce drug violence

Thousands of people marched Saturday in the French southern port city of Marseille to denounce drug trafficking after the killing last week of an activist’s brother shocked the country.

Mehdi Kessaci, 20, was killed in Marseille last week in a shooting officials have described as ordered by drugs criminals to frighten or punish his older brother, Amine, a prominent anti-drugs activist.

An estimated 6,000 people, many dressed in white, gathered behind a “Justice for Mehdi” banner, observing a minute of silence and later raising hands in a sign of rejection of drug violence. Some politicians from across the political spectrum joined the demonstration.

Amine Kessaci, 22, had called for the march to denounce drug trafficking and pay tribute to his brother. Similar gatherings took place Saturday in about 20 other cities across the country. (AP)

Belarus pardons 31 Ukrainians after agreement with US President Trump

TALLINN, Estonia, Nov 23, (AP): Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has pardoned 31 Ukrainians jailed in Belarus on criminal offences, it was reported on Saturday, the latest step in Minsk’s effort to thaw relations with the West.

They were released “as a gesture of goodwill”, in accordance with agreements reached between Lukashenko and US President Donald Trump at Ukraine’s request, Belarusian state agency Belta said, citing Lukashenko’s spokesperson, Natalia Eismont. Those freed were handed over to Kyiv, according to the report.

Earlier this week, Lukashenko pardoned two jailed Catholic priests at the request of the Vatican.

Belarus, Russia’s close and dependent ally, has allowed the Kremlin to use its territory to send troops and tanks into Ukraine, and later to place nuclear weapons there. Moscow and Kyiv have also conducted prisoner swaps on Belarusian land.

Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus with an iron fist for over 30 years, has recently tried to repair relations with the West. Weeks after a phone call with Trump in August, he pardoned 51 political prisoners under a US-brokered deal that saw some sanctions lifted from the country’s national airline, Belavia.

Trump later announced that lawyer



In this photo provided by Belarusian Presidential Press Service, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko addresses the Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security in Minsk, Belarus on Oct 28. (AP)

John Cole, who helped broker the deal, would be appointed U.S. Special Envoy to Belarus and work to release more prisoners.

There are 1,257 political prisoners behind bars in Belarus, according to prominent human rights centre Viasna. They include Ales Bialiatski, the centre’s founder, who has received the Nobel Peace Prize for his activism.

According to Belarusian authorities, Minsk and Washington are set to hold further talks in December.

“Belarus is open to dialogue,” Lukashenko’s press service said in a statement Saturday. “Negotiations with various countries, chiefly the US, are now actively ongoing.”

JFK’s granddaughter reveals terminal cancer diagnosis, criticizes cousin RFK Jr

WASHINGTON, Nov 23, (AP): John F. Kennedy’s granddaughter disclosed Saturday that she has terminal cancer, writing in an essay in “The New Yorker” that one of her doctors said she might live for about another year and criticizing policies pushed by her cousin, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Tatiana Schlossberg, the daughter of Kennedy’s daughter, Caroline Kennedy, and Edwin Schlossberg, said she was diagnosed in May 2024 at 34. After the birth of her second child, her doctor noticed her white blood cell count was high. It turned out to be acute myeloid leukemia with a rare mutation, mostly seen in older people.

Her essay was published on the 62nd anniversary of her grandfather’s assassination.

Schlossberg, an environmental journalist, wrote she has undergone rounds of chemotherapy and two stem cell transplants, the first using cells from her sister and the next from an unrelated donor, and participated in clinical trials. During the latest trial, she wrote, her doctor told her “he could keep me alive for a year, maybe.”

Schlossberg also said policies backed by RFK could hurt cancer patients like her. Caroline Kennedy urged



Tatiana Schlossberg, the daughter of Caroline Kennedy and Edwin Schlossberg, addresses an audience during the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award ceremony, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston on Oct 29, 2023. (AP)

senators to reject his confirmation.

“As I spent more and more of my life under the care of doctors, nurses, and researchers striving to improve the lives of others, I watched as Bobby cut nearly a half billion dollars for research into mRNA vaccines, technology that could be used against certain cancers,” the essay reads.

Schlossberg wrote about her fears that her daughter and son won’t remember her. She feels cheated and sad that she won’t get to keep living “the wonderful life” she had with her husband, George Moran. While her parents and siblings try to hide their pain from her, she said she feels it every day.

Ukraine and Western allies meet in Geneva to discuss US peace plan

GENEVA, Nov 23, (AP): Top European and Ukrainian envoys conferred in Geneva on Sunday ahead of talks with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio over President Donald Trump’s proposal to end Russia’s war on Ukraine.

The head of the Ukrainian delegation, presidential chief of staff Andrii Yermak, wrote on social media said that they held their first meeting with the national security advisers from the U.K., France and Germany. The allies have rallied around Kyiv in a push to revise the plan, which is seen as favoring Moscow.

Rubio was expected to join the talks together with Army Secretary Dan Driscoll and Trump’s special envoy Steve Witkoff.

“The next meeting is with the US delegation. We are in a very constructive mood,” Yermak said. “We continue working together to achieve a lasting and just peace for Ukraine.”

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he was waiting for the outcome of the talks. “A positive result is needed for all of us,” he said.

“Ukrainian and American teams, teams of our European partners -- are in close contact, and I very much hope there will be a result. Bloodshed must be stopped and it must be guaranteed



A view of the US Permanent Mission, in Geneva, Switzerland on Nov 23. (AP)

that the war will not be reignited,” he wrote in a post on Telegram on Sunday.

The 28-point blueprint drawn up by the US to end the nearly four-year war has sparked alarm in Kyiv and European capitals. Zelenskyy has said his country could face a stark choice between standing up for its sovereign

rights and preserving the American support it needs.

The plan acquiesces to many Russian demands that Zelenskyy has categorically rejected on dozens of occasions, including giving up large pieces of territory. The Ukrainian leader has vowed that his people “will always defend” their home.

Bosnian Serbs vote to choose new president

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Nov 23, (AP): Voters in the Serb-run part of Bosnia cast ballots on Sunday to elect a new president after former pro-Russian leader Milorad Dodik was removed from office over separatist policies that were stoking instability in the ethnically tense Balkan nation.

Dodik was ousted in August when a Bosnian court convicted him of disobeying the orders of the international High Representative for Bosnia, sentenced him to a year in prison and banned him from holding any public office. He has since paid a fine to stay away from jail and stepped aside as president while staying at the helm of his governing Party of Independent Social Democrats.

Sunday’s snap ballot pits Sinisa Karan, who is backed by Dodik, against Branko Blanus, a university professor who is a candidate of the opposition Serb Democratic Party. Four more contenders are in the race but they are not considered strong candidates.

Blanus said upon casting his ballot in the northwestern town of Banja Luka that “the election campaign passed in a fair and tolerant atmosphere.”

“I hope the election day will be the same,” Blanus added, urging a high turnout among the 1.2 million Bosnian Serb voters.

Bosnian Serbs are in charge of about one-half of Bosnia, which is called Republika Srpska. The other half is run jointly by Bosniaks, who are mainly Muslims, and Croats. The two entities are bound together by a central administration.

Bosnia’s complex political structure was established 30 years ago in a US-brokered peace agreement to end a bloody 1992-95 ethnic conflict that killed more than 100,000 people and left millions homeless.

The war started when Bosnia declared independence from Yugoslavia and the country’s Serbs took up arms to carve up



Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik casts his ballot in a snap presidential election of Republika Srpska at a polling station in Laktasi, northwest of Sarajevo, Bosnia on Nov 23. (AP)

their own territory, hoping to join with neighboring Serbia. Dodik still advocates eventual separation of the Serb-controlled entity from Bosnia, which he has repeatedly declared unviable.

Dodik had faced U.S. and British sanctions for such policies. But the United States lifted the sanctions last month after Dodik agreed to step down. He also has repeatedly clashed with the international envoy overseeing the peace, Christian Schmidt, and declared his decisions illegal in Republika Srpska.

Dodik has actively taken part in Karan’s election campaign. He told voters that “I will remain with you to fight for our political goals” and Karan’s “victory will be my victory too.”

Asia

Death toll from Vietnam flooding climbs to 90: The death toll from flooding and landslides in Vietnam’s central region rose to 90 as of Sunday, local daily Thanh Nien reported, citing the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority. Twelve people remained missing, according to the report. Torrential rains and flooding have damaged 1,154 houses and more than 80,800 hectares of rice and other crops in the region. Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has called for stepping up response measures to severe flooding and natural disasters in the central provinces. The Vietnamese government has provided emergency aid worth 700 billion Vietnamese dong (about 26.6 million US. dollars) to certain hard-hit regions for recovery efforts, Vietnam News Agency reported. (Xinhua)

Flooding displaces over 5,000 people in Malaysia: Flooding displaced over 5,000 people in Malaysia, with the hardest-hit area being the northern state of Kelantan, according to authorities on Sunday. Kelantan, which has seen continuous heavy rains over several days, recorded 5,142 flood evacuees, who were being housed in 26 flood relief centers. The neighboring state of Terengganu recorded 528 evacuees as of 3 p.m. local time, according to the country’s social welfare department. The meteorological department has issued warnings of continuous heavy rains and strong winds. (Xinhua)

Support on the way after Australia hit by cyclone: The Australian government said on Sunday that it is ready to support the Northern Territory (NT) after Tropical Cyclone Fina hit the city of Darwin on Saturday night. Kristy McBain, Australia’s minister for emergency management, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Sunday that the federal government was working with the NT government to provide support, including any requests for funding from the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The Bureau of Meteorology on Sunday morning downgraded its warning for Dar-



This photo taken on Nov 22, 2025 shows a section of national highway damaged by flood in Dak Lak Province, Vietnam. (Xinhua)

win, the Tiwi Islands and surrounding areas as the cyclone moved southwest over the southern Timor Sea. The cyclone caused damage to buildings and power outages across the city, but as of Sunday morning, there had been no reported injuries, local media said. The bureau said that Fina is forecast to remain a severe tropical cyclone during Sunday as it moves southwest, through the southern Timor Sea. It will start weakening on Monday as it nears the north of the northern coast of Western Australia. (Xinhua)

16-year-old boy charged in Sydney shooting: A 16-year-old boy was

charged following an alleged public place shooting in Bossley Park, a suburb about 36 kilometers west of Sydney’s central business district, police in the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) said on Saturday. A 22-year-old man was also arrested and charged in connection with the incident. NSW Police said in a statement that police were called to a home in Bossley Park at about 6:30 a.m. local time on Friday, following reports of a public place shooting. Officers arrived to find that several shots had been fired into a home from a sedan, which then drove away. No residents in the home were injured during the shooting. Officers later located the sedan that had crashed and was abandoned nearby. During a search of the vehicle, they allegedly located and seized an automatic firearm for forensic examination. The 22-year-old man was arrested later at about 1:30 p.m. local time on Friday, when police executed a search warrant at an address in another western Sydney suburb. A shortened calibre rifle, ammunition and a number of mobile phones were located at the address. He was taken to a police station and charged with firearms and organized crime offences. The 16-year-old boy was arrested at about 6:15 p.m. local time on Friday, after officers stopped a vehicle in southwest Sydney. He was charged with several offences, including a firearms-related charge. At 12 a.m. local time on Saturday, police executed a search warrant at a southwest Sydney address, where ammunition and clothing were seized. Inquiries are ongoing. (Xinhua)

Five teenagers charged over alleged stabbing of worker: Five teenagers have been charged after a worker at a western Sydney convenience store was stabbed, police in the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) said early Friday. The 28-year-old male worker was allegedly stabbed around 2:20 a.m. local time on Thursday when he tried to stop a group of teenagers who allegedly attempted to steal items from the store in Burwood, 10 km west of central Sydney. The worker was treated at the scene by ambulance paramedics before being taken to hospital. He remained in hospital in a critical but stable condition as of Friday, according to the police. NSW Police said that all five teenagers have been arrested. (Xinhua)

China, US militaries hold meeting

Tajik president meets Chinese FM

DUSHANBE, Nov 23, (Xinhua): Tajik President Emomali Rahmon on Saturday met with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. Rahmon asked Wang to convey his warmest greetings to Chinese President Xi Jinping, noting that China is Tajikistan’s friendly neighbor and close partner, and that developing relations with China has always been a top priority for Tajikistan. In recent years, Rahmon said, the Tajikistan-China comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership has grown rapidly. China has become Tajikistan’s largest trading partner and biggest source of investment, and Tajikistan is full of confidence in the prospects of bilateral relations. Tajikistan firmly adheres to the one-China principle, Rahmon said, adding that China plays an increasingly important leading role in international affairs. He said President Xi’s Global Governance Initiative is of great significance and will help lay the foundation for improving the world political and economic order. Tajikistan actively supports the initiative and stands ready to work with China to jointly implement the four major global initiatives, strengthen coordination within the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the China-Central Asia mechanism, and uphold common interests as well as international fairness and justice. Wang conveyed President Xi’s sincere greetings to Rahmon, noting that the two heads of state have maintained close exchanges and strategic communication, built strong mutual trust and deep friendship, and reached important consensus

on jointly building a China-Tajikistan community with a shared future, steering bilateral relations onto the fast track. China is Tajikistan’s most trustworthy partner and most reliable friend, he added, expressing China’s readiness to work with Tajikistan to fully implement the consensus of the two heads of state and advance the China-Tajikistan comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership in the new era. Wang briefed Rahmon on the fourth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, noting that China’s high-quality development and high-standard opening up will bring more development opportunities and broader prospects for Tajikistan and other countries. **Also:** **BEIJING:** The Chinese and US militaries held the second working group meeting and annual session of the **China-US Military Maritime Consultative Agreement (MMCA)** for 2025 from Nov 18 to 20 in Hawaii, the United States, the Chinese navy said on Saturday. The exchanges were conducted on the basis of equality and respect, and the two sides had a candid and constructive exchange of views primarily on maritime and aerial security situations of China and the United States, the Chinese navy said in a statement. They reviewed typical cases of encounters at sea and in the air, evaluated the execution of the Rules of Behavior for Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters, and discussed measures to improve maritime military security between the two countries, the statement said.



Tajik President Emomali Rahmon meets with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on Nov 22. (Xinhua)

Guinea-Bissau votes as president seeks 2nd term, main opposition party barred

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau, Nov 23, (AP): Guinea-Bissau began voting on Sunday as President Umaro Sissoco Embalo seeks a second term in the nation that has endured multiple coups. The presidential and parliamentary elections come at a critical time in West Africa, where democracy has recently been challenged by disputed elections that analysts say could embolden militaries that have forcefully taken power in several countries. Analysts say Sunday’s vote is a close race between Embalo and Fernando Dias da Costa, a little-known 47-year-old backed by former Prime Minister Domingos Simoes Pereira, the runner-up in the 2019 presidential election. The winner needs more than 50% of the votes; otherwise, the election will head to a runoff. Embalo, a 53-year-old former army general who first came to power in 2021, is backed by a political coalition of more than 20 groups. He is being challenged by 11 other candidates. Pereira and the main opposition African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, which he leads, were barred from Sunday’s election after authorities said they failed to submit their application early. Nearly half the country’s population of 2.2 million citizens are registered to vote. It is seen as one of the most contentious votes in recent history because of the exclusion of the main opposition party. “The democracy we knew ... is no longer the model we are experiencing; we are experiencing a model defined by a single person,” said political



People queue at a polling station to cast their ballots during the Presidential and legislative elections in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau on Nov 23. (AP)

analyst Augusto Nansambe. Guinea-Bissau is one of the world’s poorest countries, with half its population of around 2.2 million people considered poor, according to the World Bank. It has emerged as a hub for drug trafficking between Latin America and Europe, and has been dogged by coups and attempted coups since its independence from Portugal more than 50 years ago. The vote comes at a critical time for the African country, which has endured multiple coups, with an attempt reported in October. Embalo has also faced a legitimacy crisis with the opposition saying his tenure had long expired and that they do not recognize him as president. The Guinea-Bissau leader won an election in Nov. 2019, and was sworn in as president in Feb. 2020, but the opposition contested the result and the Supreme Court did not recognize his victory until Sept. 4. The opposition says Embalo’s term should have ended on Feb. 27 of this year, but the Supreme Court ruled it should run until Sept. 4. The vote, however was delayed until November. The legislative election is also being held in unusual circumstances. The opposition-dominated parliament has not convened since December 2023, when it was dissolved by Embalo after an attempted coup. The main opposition party won the legislative election in 2023 and in 2019.



People take part in a protest against Tunisian president Kais Saied’s rule and demanding the release of political prisoners in Tunis, Tunisia on Nov 22. (AP)

Hundreds protest in Tunisia over president’s crackdown on freedoms

TUNIS, Tunisia, Nov 23, (AP): Tunisians took to the streets of downtown Tunis on Saturday over what they described as President Kais Saied’s increasingly authoritarian rule and demanding the release of all jailed political prisoners. The rally, held under the banner “Against Injustice,” brought together families of political detainees and activists from different ideological backgrounds. The demonstration drew more than 1,000 protesters, some dressed in black and chanting anti-regime slogans, including “The people want to overthrow the regime,” “What a great country! Oppression and tyranny!” and “No fear no terror, the street belongs to the people.” The protest came as part of a broader surge in protests nationwide over political and economic turmoil under Saied’s rule. On Thursday, Tunisian journalists protested against the widening crackdown on the freedom of the press and the temporary suspension of several prominent civil society organizations.

Protesters also called out Saied’s interference in the judiciary and accused him of using the police to target political opponents. Ayoub Amara, one of the organizers, told reporters on Saturday that the protest aimed to highlight the plight of those held in Tunisian prisons for their political opinions. He said it also touched on other broader grievances, including environmental protests convulsing the phosphate-producing city of Gabes and arbitrary arrests under anti-terrorism laws. “All the progress of the past 14 years has been overturned,” Amara said. “Tunisia is big enough for all Tunisians, and no single person can rule it according to his whims.” Monia Brahimi, the wife of jailed opposition figure Abdelhamid Jlassi, said she joined the march because she believes “many Tunisians are facing deep injustice.” “I came to defend my rights as a citizen,” she told The Associated Press. “Political prisoners know for a fact that they are in prison to pay the price for their principles, their constitutional

right for civil and political activism, and are being held hostage by the regime established today in Tunisia.” Among those detained, some are currently on hunger strike including constitutional law professor Jawher Ben Mbarek who has been striking for over 20 days. Several rights groups have raised increasing alarm over the growing scale of repression in Tunisia. Human Rights Watch has said that over 50 people, including politicians, lawyers, journalists and activists, have been subjected to arbitrary arrest or prosecution since late 2022, for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly or political activity. The rights group also warned that broad anti-terrorism and cybercrime laws were being utilized to criminalize dissent and tame all forms of free speech. Saied, who suspended parliament and consolidated all branches of power in July 2021, said his actions were necessary to root out corruption, eliminate “traitors” and restore state institutions.

Lat/Am

Quake hits off coast of Costa Rica: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.1 jolted off the coast of Costa Rica at 1841 GMT on Saturday, the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences said. The epicenter, with a depth of 10 km, was initially determined to be at 8.76 degrees north latitude and 84.19 degrees west longitude. (Xinhua)

4 killed, 50 injured in Chile bus collision: Four people were killed and 50 others injured after two intercity buses collided Saturday morning in the northern Chilean region of Antofagasta, the country’s National Service for Disaster Prevention and Response said. The agency said in a statement that, according to first responders, the crash occurred in the Varillas area along Route 5 North in the Antofagasta municipality. (Xinhua)

Mexico bus accident kills 7: At least seven people were killed and many others injured Saturday after a tourist bus overturned in the western Mexican state of Michoacan, local authorities said. The Michoacan Attorney General’s Office said on social media that the bus had departed from Uruapan and was heading to Talpujahua municipality. Investigators and forensic teams have been dispatched to the crash site. (Xinhua)

Mexican woman gets 20 years: A Mexican woman was sentenced to 20 years in prison after she pleaded guilty to robbery with violence in the case of the 2024 killings of an American and two Australian surfers, authorities said Thursday. The prosecutor’s office said that Silva Raya made contact with the three foreigners in the coastal area of Punta San Jose and “instigated her companions to rob them of their belongings.” (Xinhua)

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Nov 23, (AP): Thousands of opposition activists rallied near Sri Lanka’s capital Friday to demand that the government fulfill pledges to ease taxes and restore order, in the first major protest against President Anura Kumara Dissanayake’s administration as it marks one year in office. Opposition parties accuse Dissanayake’s government of failing to deliver on his promises during last year’s election campaign, and say that it has instead politicized law enforcement agencies to stifle the opposition. They say the government has failed to ensure the safety of the public and that crime has spiked in recent months. The government acknowledges there has been a wave of drug gang rivalry but denies that the public has been under any elevated level of danger. Opposition parties are hoping to rebuild their strength after suffering defeats in presidential and parliamentary elections in September and November of last year. Dissanayake’s victory was seen as a rejection of the political old guard after an unprecedented econom-



Sri Lankan lawmaker Namal Rajapaksa, heir to the once-powerful Rajapaksa dynasty, waves to supporters during a public rally in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Nov 21. (AP)

ic crisis in 2022 blamed on decades of mismanagement and corruption. Namal Rajapaksa, the heir to the once-powerful Rajapaksa dynasty that was severely weakened during last year’s election, told rally-goers that the government has neglected its promises to relieve tax and financial burdens on the public. “We are gathered here today to urge the government to deliver what they promised,” Rajapaksa said. “They promised a lot, but they haven’t delivered anything. You can see how the frustration of the people are building up.”

Boursa Kuwait ends Sunday mixed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed trading on Sunday with a mixed performance. The general market index slipped 13.93 points, or 0.16 percent, to end at 8,817.46 points. Overall trading activity reached 326.8 million shares across 18,101 transactions, with a total value of 70.6 million Kuwaiti dinars (around USD 216 million).

The main market index registered a sharper decline, dropping 84.98 points, or 1.02 percent, to settle at 8,254.90 points. It saw 210.6 million shares traded through 11,773 deals worth 28.6 million dinars (approximately USD 87.5 million).

The exchange holds investor-targeting and engagement workshops with the Middle East Investor Relations Association

Boursa Kuwait boosts commitment to advancing investor relations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: In line with its ongoing efforts to strengthen investor relations practices and promote transparency across the Kuwaiti capital market, Boursa Kuwait hosted specialized workshops on targeting and engaging with investors during the Kuwait Chapter meeting of the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) on Wednesday, November 19.

The event brought together distinguished investor relations professionals and capital market experts from Kuwait and the wider region to discuss the latest developments in investor targeting and engagement, as well as the importance of transparency in fostering investor confidence and attracting sustainable capital inflows.

The meeting started with remarks from Mr. Fahad Al-Bisher, Director of Investor Relations at Boursa Kuwait, Mr. Reza Eftekhari, CEO of MEIRA and Mr. Mohammed Abdal, Head of the MEIRA Kuwait Chapter.

Workshops were delivered by Ms. Farah Ezzo, Head of Issuer Services at S&P Global Market Intelligence, and Mr. John Gulliver, Chief Executive Officer of the GCC Board Directors Institute, who explored emerging global trends in investor targeting and communication and presented practical tools to foster effective and sustainable engagement with the international investment community. They also emphasized the vital role of clarity and consistency in disclosure and governance to enhance market credibility and long-term sustainability.

“Boursa Kuwait continues to promote a culture of transparency and disclosure among listed companies, driven by its firm belief that investor relations form a fundamental pillar in developing capital markets and attracting quality long-term investments. The Exchange takes pride in its strategic partnership with the Middle East Investor Relations Association, which has resulted in a plethora of educational and professional initiatives to enhance market efficiency and strengthen the confidence of both local and international investors,” said Mr. Fahad Al-Bisher, Director of Investor Relations at Boursa Kuwait.

“Boursa Kuwait believes that enhancing investor relations practices is an investment in the long-term sustainability of companies and the overall development of the Kuwaiti capital market,” he added. “This approach aligns with Boursa Kuwait’s dedication to upholding the highest standards of governance and disclosure.”

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote international best practices and enhance transparency in the Kuwaiti capital market, Boursa Kuwait recently issued the Investor Relations Best Practice Guide, which aims to equip listed companies with essential knowledge, strategies and tools to strengthen effective communication, improve governance



Group photo during the workshop.

and enhance engagement with key stakeholders, including investors, analysts, and regulatory authorities.

Commenting on MEIRA’s partnership with the exchange, CEO Mr. Reza Eftekhari said: “We are pleased to continue our strategic partnership with Boursa Kuwait, which serves as an outstanding model in fostering investor relations excellence and reinforcing a culture of transparency and disclosure across the region. This meeting reflects our shared commitment to exchanging knowledge and expertise, empowering professionals to adopt more advanced approaches to engage with the investment community and strengthen their presence in capital markets.”

The meeting forms part of the long-standing strategic partnership between Boursa Kuwait and MEIRA. Established in 2017, the partnership aims to promote the highest standards

and best practices in investor relations across the globe, empowering listed companies to develop robust and proactive investor engagement frameworks that support the continued growth of the Kuwaiti capital market and reinforce its position regionally and internationally.

Mr. Mohammed Abdal, Head of the MEIRA Kuwait Chapter, added: “Through these regular informative and best practice workshops, MEIRA and its Kuwait Chapter remain committed to strengthening engagement with the investor relations community in Kuwait and the wider region, keeping pace with the latest global market trends. Our goal is to enhance the competitiveness of listed companies in the Kuwaiti capital market and reinforce its position as a trusted and dynamic investment destination.”

Organizing enlightening workshops and other educational

initiatives form an integral part of Boursa Kuwait’s Corporate Sustainability strategy, which aims to create a lasting and meaningful impact on the communities where it operates. These programs also reinforce the exchange’s unwavering commitment and continuous efforts to equip all market participants with an in-depth understanding of the functioning of capital markets and various tools and techniques required to make informed investment decisions and effectively meet investors’ needs. It also aligns with Goal 4 - Quality Education - and Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals - of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

The establishment of Boursa Kuwait in 2014 marked the first step in the privatization project of the Kuwait Stock Exchange, which was founded in 1977 as the first exchange in the Gulf Cooperation Council region and was reorganized in 1983 as an independent financial institution. The transitional phase began in 2016, with Boursa Kuwait officially assuming the responsibilities and operations of the Kuwait Stock Exchange, replacing it with an official license in the same year after the successful completion of the transitional phase. This ensured that Boursa Kuwait developed the infrastructure and operated according to best practices and international standards. It commenced the creation of an advanced, reliable trading platform built on efficiency, credibility, and transparency to serve all asset classes with a focus on the interests of traders and the national economy.

Boursa Kuwait has undertaken various market reforms as part of its comprehensive plans to enhance it in several stages. It succeeded in introducing innovative investment tools, enhancing transparency, and restructuring the market to increase its liquidity and competitiveness, based on its mission-focused strategy, which emphasizes developing the market to meet international standards. The company’s developmental and improvement efforts have also contributed to the reclassification of the Kuwait market as an «emerging market» among key global index providers, enhancing Kuwait’s position as a leading regional financial center.

In a pioneering step in Kuwait’s privatization field, the privatization of Boursa Kuwait was successful, conducted in two stages. The first stage was in February 2019 when a consortium of Kuwaiti investment companies and a global exchange operator won the privatization bid, acquiring a 44% stake in the company.

In December 2019, the privatization process was completed through the public offering of a 50% stake owned by the Capital Markets Authority to Kuwaiti citizens, with the offering oversubscribed by more than 850%. Boursa Kuwait is listed on the «Premier Market» under the name «Boursa».

Kuwait shifts privatization technical unit’s budget to Ministry of Finance

Budget transfer takes effect in FY 2026/2027

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Decree-Law No. 158/2025 was issued on Sunday for the transfer of the annual financial budget of the Technical Unit of the Privatization Program to an independent program within the Ministry of Finance’s budget, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The law includes the following provisions:

Article 1 - The annual financial budget for the Technical Unit of the Privatization Program shall be allocated to an independent program within the Ministry of Finance’s budget, effective from the fiscal year 2026/2027.

Article 2 - Disbursements from the unit’s budget shall follow applicable financial regulations.

Article 3 - Any provision contradicting this decree-law is repealed.

Article 4 - Ministers, each within their jurisdiction, shall implement this decree-law, which shall be published in the official gazette “Kuwait al-Youm”.

The explanatory memorandum for Decree-Law No. 158/2025 stated that it was issued in accordance with Cabinet Resolution No. 542/II from Cabinet Meeting No. 16-2025/51 dated April 29, 2025, which called for the transfer of the Technical Unit for the Privatization Program’s budget from the Cabinet’s budget to the Ministry of Finance’s budget.

Article 9 of Law No. 37/2010, regulating privatization programs and operations, had stipulated that the unit’s special financial appropriations be included in the Cabinet’s budget. Therefore, a new law was necessary to transfer these appropriations to the Ministry of Finance.

Commerce Ministry detects violations in real estate and gold trading sectors

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced on Sunday that it had uncovered several violations within the real estate brokerage and gold and precious metals trading sectors. The action comes as part of the ministry’s ongoing efforts to promote transparency and support the national system for combating money laundering and terrorism financing.

In a press statement, the Ministry affirmed that these measures reflect its national responsibility and legal commitment to strengthen compliance and deterrence across all business sectors. It noted that financial penalties were imposed for violations detected during the months of August, September, and October.

According to the report, the real estate brokerage sector was fined 500 Kuwaiti dinars (approximately USD 1,627)

for failing to submit a risk assessment study that met the requirements of the law and ministerial decrees.

Additionally, a separate fine of the same amount was imposed for not establishing adequate internal policies and procedures related to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing.

The report also detailed several infractions in the gold, precious stones, and precious metals trading sector.

A fine of 500 Kuwaiti dinars (USD 1,627) was issued for failing to implement proper internal controls and compliance systems.

Another violation involved handling cash amounts exceeding 3,000 Kuwaiti dinars (about USD 9,770) for fewer than 50 invoices, resulting in a fine of 1,000 Kuwaiti dinars (about USD 3,255).

New service offers up to KD 30,000 based on POS sales

NBK launches Kuwait’s first-ever POS financing solution for SMEs

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: In a landmark move that reaffirms its position as a leader in financial innovation, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has announced the launch of Kuwait’s first-ever Point-of-Sale (POS) Financing solution, exclusively tailored for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

This groundbreaking service marks a major milestone in SME banking, offering businesses access to financing of up to KD 30,000, based solely on their sales processed through NBK’s POS devices — a first-of-its-kind offering in the local market.

NBK’s POS Financing solution is designed to meet the real needs of growing businesses. Eligible customers — those with POS sales exceeding KD 50,000 over the past 12 months — can apply easily through NBK’s business banking channels. Once approved, funds are deposited directly into their accounts, enabling swift access to capital for expansion, equipment purchases, inventory management, and day-to-day operations.

“We are proud to be the first bank in Kuwait to introduce a financing solution that is directly linked to business performance,” said Mr. Bader Al-Ansari, Business Banking Sales and Acquisition Manager at NBK. “This initiative reflects our commitment to empowering SMEs with smart, accessible financial tools that



NBK launches Kuwait’s first POS-based financing for SMEs.

drive growth and strengthen Kuwait’s economy.”

NBK’s POS Financing is not only fast and flexible — it is also a strategic enabler for entrepreneurs and business owners seeking to scale efficiently. The application and disbursement process is streamlined, ensuring minimal disruption and maximum impact.

Business banking customers can apply at any of NBK’s designated branches, including:

- NBK Headquarters -main branch
- Surra
- Sharq

- NBK Headquarters - Level 26
- Fintas
- Ghazali
- Ras Al-Salmiya
- Al-Siddiq

Or by contacting their NBK relationship manager directly.

NBK continues to offer a comprehensive suite of business banking services tailored to SMEs, including financing solutions, digital tools, and expert consultations — reinforcing its role as a strategic partner in the growth journey of Kuwait’s business community.

InvestGB enters strategic partnership with Arrow Global to expand client access to European asset-backed investment opportunities

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: In line with its strategic vision to collaborate with top-tier global investment managers to diversify its global platform and provide investment solutions to clients in Kuwait, Gulf Capital Investment Company KSCC – “InvestGB”, the investment arm of Gulf Bank, has entered into a strategic partnership with Arrow Global Group “Arrow Global”, a leading pan-European investment manager specialising in asset-backed private credit and real estate.

This strategic partnership aims to empower InvestGB’s clients with access to a diverse range of asset-backed European investment opportunities, leveraging Arrow Global’s expertise and strong local presence across key European markets. It reinforces InvestGB’s commitment to de-

livering high-quality, diversified investment solutions that meet the evolving needs and goals of its clients

Through the alliance, InvestGB aims to enhance its clients’ access to European asset-backed opportunities, with a focus on delivering attractive, risk-adjusted returns. The company will leverage Arrow Global’s deep local expertise and extensive network of leading asset management and servicing platforms across key European markets, strengthening its commitment to delivering diversified, high-quality investment solutions tailored to client needs. Arrow Global currently manages over £125 billion in assets and operates through 25 local platforms across eight European markets.

Arrow Global’s enduring competitive advantage lies in its op-



Hani AlAwadhi, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of InvestGB



portunistic and dynamic investment approach, enabling it to



Zach Lewy, Founder, CEO and CIO at Arrow Global



navigate across European markets, asset classes, and positions

within the capital structure. Its deep regional expertise and asset class specialisation provide a strong foundation for this strategic partnership.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Hani AlAwadhi, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of InvestGB, said: “This strategic partnership reflects our continued mission to broaden our clients’ access to international investment opportunities that combine stability, innovation, and income potential. Arrow Global’s proven track record in European private markets complements our efforts to deliver sustainable returns aligned with clients’ investment objectives.”

Mr. Zach Lewy, Founder, CEO and CIO at Arrow Global, added: “We are delighted to partner with InvestGB to connect sophisticated capital from the Gulf region

with high-quality, asset-backed mid-market opportunities across Western Europe. This builds on our established presence in the region and reflects our shared ambition to create long-term, risk-adjusted value through disciplined, locally informed investment strategies.”

This strategic relationship represents a significant milestone in InvestGB’s growth story as it continues to build a robust global investment platform and expand its range of alternative solutions. By partnering with leading international managers such as Arrow Global, InvestGB continues to position itself as a trusted partner for clients seeking differentiated, institutional-grade opportunities across global markets, reinforcing its commitment to helping clients preserve, grow, and diversify their wealth.

New PACI–Mol integration enhances security and prevents unauthorized use

Xcite introduces Civil ID verification for digital card purchases in Kuwait



Hussam Ibrahim, Senior Vice President

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Xcite by Alghanim Electronics, an Alghanim Industries company (Kutayba Alghanim Group) has taken a bold step in shaping the future of secure online shopping in Kuwait, by integrating official PACI and Ministry of Interior verification for digital card purchases. This milestone reinforces Xcite’s leadership in digital innovation, compliance, and customer trust.

The new Civil ID verification

feature ensures that every customer purchasing digital cards—such as iTunes and PlayStation Network (PSN) cards—can do so with enhanced security and complete peace of mind. Once verified, customers will continue to enjoy instant digital code delivery, exactly as before, with no added steps or delays.

This initiative marks a one-time verification process designed to protect customers from fraud and unauthorized use while keeping

Xcite’s digital shopping experience fast, simple, and seamless. It also highlights Xcite’s active collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) to strengthen Kuwait’s digital commerce ecosystem.

“This initiative represents more than a new feature — it’s a milestone in Kuwait’s e-commerce journey,” said Hussam Ibrahim, Senior Vice President at Xcite by Alghanim Electron-

ics. “By integrating official Civil ID verification into our digital card platform, we are not only enhancing customer security but also setting a new benchmark” said Iyad Atieh, Chief Information Security Officer at Alghanim Industries.

Xcite’s digital cards — particularly iTunes and gaming cards like PSN — have consistently been among its top-selling online products, offering customers instant access to global enter-

tainment and gaming platforms. With this new verification system, Xcite continues to lead by example, combining innovation with integrity to ensure a safer and smarter shopping experience for all.

As Kuwait’s trusted retailer, Xcite remains committed to pioneering solutions that enhance customer confidence, protect digital transactions, and set new standards for e-commerce excellence.

Experts recommend starting small

Build an emergency fund to handle unexpected expenses

NEW YORK, Nov 23, (AP): Maybe your car broke down, your computer was stolen, or you had a surprise visit to urgent care. Emergencies are inevitable, but you can prepare to deal with them by building an emergency fund.

“There are so many things that happen in our lives that we don’t expect and most of them require financial means to overcome,” said Miklos Ringbauer, a certified public accountant.

The industry standard is to save three to six months of expenses in an emergency fund. However, this can feel daunting if you live paycheck to paycheck or if you have debt. But if you’re in either of these situations, it’s even more crucial to build a financial safety net that can help you in times of crisis.

“Emergency funds allow you to prevent further debt,” said Jaime Eckels, certified financial planner and wealth management leader for Plante Moran Financial Advisors.

Suppose you’re paying multiple credit cards and other loans. In that case, Rachel Lawrence, head of advice and planning for Monarch Money, a financial planning and budgeting app, recommends that you make the minimum payments while you build your emergency fund. Once you’ve hit an amount that feels right for your lifestyle, you can go back and continue tackling your debt more aggressively.

Whether you want to start an emergency fund or create better habits while you save, here are some expert recommendations:

The idea of saving for three to six months’ worth of expenses can be daunting, so it’s best to start with a smaller milestone. Lawrence recommends starting with a goal of saving \$1,000, then moving on to save one, three, and six months of expenses.

The way you approach this goal can vary depending on your income and your budget. But starting with small, attainable goals can help you build an emergency fund without feeling financially strained.

“Starting small is okay. Even if it’s \$20 right out of your paycheck, those small things can add up,” Eckels said.

She recommends building your emergency fund in a separate account from your regular savings account, ideally a high-yield savings account, which offers a higher interest rate than a traditional savings account.

Knowing how much to save for your emergency fund depends on your life situation. Lawrence suggests you gauge your own financial responsibilities to estimate how much your ideal emergency fund should be.

For single professionals with no significant financial responsibilities, such as a mortgage or a car, the amount might be \$2,000 to \$3,000. At the same time, people with children and several pets might aim to save for six months’ expenses.

“There’s no one-shoe-fits-all solution. Everybody is different, especially if you have variable ex-

penses on a monthly basis,” Ringbauer said.

Lawrence recommends that self-employed people maintain two emergency funds: one to buffer low-income months and another for true emergencies. To build your buffer account, Lawrence recommends setting aside some money during high-earning months.

“You set that amount aside in your buffer account until you have two or three months of the amount that you want, she said. “Because that way any month where you have less money, you go pull from the buffer and it’s no big deal.”

Eckels recommends setting up automatic savings as a low-effort way to build your emergency fund.

Scheduling your savings to be withdrawn from your bank account as soon as your paycheck arrives is an effective way to build a savings habit without having to transfer the money manually.

“I always tell people if it was never in your bank account, you never had it, right?” Eckels added.

She also recommends that her clients open a separate account, one that isn’t at the same bank as their checking account, so they aren’t tempted to transfer the money in a non-emergency.

As you’re making progress towards your emergency fund goal, making it visual can help you stay motivated, according to Lawrence.

She recommends getting creative with how you track your progress, ideally with a method that brings you joy.

“You want your brain to get rewarded as often as possible when you’re seeing a bunch of progress,” she said.

Some options to make your progress visual include drawing a thermometer-like tracker and keeping it updated as you advance toward your goal, documenting your progress on a habit-building tracker on your phone, or using a budgeting app with a tracking tool.

If your budget is really tight and you don’t have much wiggle room to set aside money for an emergency fund, Lawrence recommends saving windfalls.

“Unexpected chunks of money that maybe you weren’t expecting, like tax refunds or getting a third paycheck when you normally get paid twice a month, or a bonus, those are your best ways to make progress when you’re tight otherwise,” said Lawrence.

In general, Lawrence recommends that people keep 10% of their windfall for themselves and the rest for their emergency fund. With that breakdown, you can both save and feel rewarded by the unexpected income.

Chances are that an emergency will happen, and when it does, you don’t need to feel guilty for using your emergency fund, Lawrence said. Instead, it’s best to think about how you’ve achieved your goal of building a financial safety net for yourself.

“You wouldn’t feel bad about using your down payment to buy a house, you wouldn’t feel bad about saving for retirement, actually to retire,” Lawrence said.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): Gold prices closed at a slight increase last week at USD 4,062 per ounce supported by renewed expectations of a possible US interest rate cut in December, according to a report issued Sunday by Kuwait’s Dar Al-Sabaek Company.

The report noted that gold gained momentum as market estimates for a December rate cut rose to 70 percent, following remarks by John Williams, President of the New York Federal Reserve, who indicated that policy easing remains possible without undermining efforts to contain inflation.

Gold came under pressure mid-week after stron-

ger-than-expected US labor data showed 119,000 new jobs in September, compared with forecasts of around 50,000.

Figures for the previous two months were revised down by 33,000, while unemployment rose to 4.4 percent, the highest level in nearly four years.

The company added that yields on the 10-year US Treasury fell below 4.1 percent, boosting global demand for gold. It noted that ongoing geopolitical tensions did not translate into significant safe-haven flows, as risk appetite dominated trading amid anticipation of delayed US economic data and the impact of the temporary government shutdown.

Markets also monitored reported US pressure on Ukraine to accept a peace plan involving territorial concessions to Russia, a development that reduced

US job gains beat expectations, Fed rate-cut bets weaken

Global markets struggle for direction as mixed data clouds outlook

By National Bank of Kuwait

Global markets ended the week on a cautious note as mixed data across major economies shaped expectations around central bank policy paths. In the U.S., stronger than expected September nonfarm payrolls (+119K) along with a speech from Fed’s William’s weighed on rate-cut bets, while gold traded lower reaching \$4,040/oz and equities declined, with S&P 500 down 1.7%, the Dow nearly 1.8%, and the Nasdaq 2.3% for the week. Meanwhile, Eurozone Composite PMI held at 52.4, signaling steady expansion driven by robust services activity despite softening export demand and rising cost pressures. In the UK, data pointed to a cooling economy: retail sales fell 1.1% MoM, while the Services PMI eased to 50.5 and Manufacturing PMI improved slightly to 50.2, highlighting softer demand, reduced hiring, and cautious corporate sentiment ahead of the Budget. Across Asia-Pacific, the RBA minutes showed policymakers turning more cautious as inflation remains sticky, while recent Australian labor data continued to outperform expectations: Japan, however, saw GDP contract 0.4% q/q, with weaker consumption offset partly by government spending and infrastructure outlays.

North America

Unemployment Claims Rises, Markets Reassess December Rate Odds

Unemployment claims in the U.S. rose more than expected from mid-September to mid-October, according to delayed labor department data. Initial jobless claims reached 232,000 in the week ending October 18, up from 219,000 in late September and above the 223,000 expected. Continuing claims edged up to 1.957 million. While the Federal Reserve previously pointed to labor market softness when cutting rates, several officials have since downplayed the likelihood of another cut in December, citing persistent inflation despite the government shutdown delaying key data releases.

FOMC Minutes Shows Divided Views

Minutes from the Federal Reserve’s October meeting indicate “strongly different views” amongst policymakers regarding a potential further rate cut in December. Whilst most participants judged additional easing could be appropriate, several favored holding the federal funds rate steady at 3.75%-4.00% for the remainder of the year. The October decision to cut rates by 25 basis points exposed a rare three-way split, with trump ally Stephen Miran advocating a 50-bps reduction and Kansas City Fed president Jeff Schmid calling for no change. The absence of October Labor Data, delayed by a government shutdown, adds uncertainty ahead of the December 9 to 10 FOMC meeting.

U.S. Labor Market Rebounds Strongly with Largest Job Gains in Five Months

U.S. non-farm payrolls rose by 119K in September, rebounding sharply from the revised 4K decline recorded in August and comfortably beating market expectations of 50K. This marks the strongest monthly job gain in five months, driven primarily by broad hiring in the health care sector, which added 43K positions, including ambulatory services (+23K) and hospitals (+16K). Food services and drinking places also contributed significantly with 37K new jobs, while social assistance added another 14K. However, the overall picture was mixed, as transportation and warehousing shed 25K jobs, with notable losses in storage (-11K) and courier services (-7K). Federal government employment continued its downward trend, falling by 3K in September and extending cumulative losses to 97K since January, while the manufacturing sector also contracted, shedding 6K jobs. The release was delayed due to the longest federal government shutdown in US history, and the October report has been cancelled. Overall, the data highlights uneven labor market momentum, with strong service sector hiring offset by persistent

Previous Week Levels					This Week’s Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1620	1.1488	1.1624	1.1511	1.1400	1.1610	1.1568
GBP	1.3135	1.3034	1.3193	1.3094	1.3000	1.3190	1.3090
JPY	154.40	154.40	157.89	156.39	154.80	157.90	154.97
CHF	0.7933	0.7917	0.8098	0.8084	0.8000	0.8200	0.8001

weakness in transportation, government, and manufacturing.

The Green back was last seen trading at 100.18.

Europe

Eurozone PMI Holds Steady Amid Diverging Sector Trends

The Eurozone Composite PMI came in at 52.4 in November, just below October’s 52.5 but still consistent with steady economic expansion. The latest print marks one of the strongest two-and-a-half-year periods of monthly improvement, thanks largely to robust growth in the services sector, which recorded its fastest output increase in 18 months. Meanwhile, manufacturing expanded only marginally and at one of its slowest paces during the current nine-month growth streak. New orders weakened due to softer export demand, and firms held employment levels steady as hiring caution increased. Backlogs continued to decline, while input costs rose at the fastest pace since March, although output-price inflation eased to a one-year low. Business sentiment improved in November, signaling rising confidence even with mixed demand signals. Overall, the data reflects a resilient services-led recovery but highlights vulnerabilities in manufacturing and external demand.

The EUR/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 1.1511.

United Kingdom

UK Retail Sales Slide as Consumers Delay Spending

UK retail sales unexpectedly fell by 1.1% MoM in October, breaking a rising trend and sharply missing expectations for a flat reading. The decline followed a strong 0.7% upward revision for September, making October the first monthly drop since May. Much of the weakness came from supermarkets, which saw sales fall for the second consecutive month, while clothing stores also posted softer numbers as consumers delayed purchases ahead of Black Friday promotions. Online and mail-order retailers reported weaker demand as customers held back spending in anticipation of larger discounts. Over the three months to October, however, sales were still up 1.1%, and 0.4% higher YoY, suggesting a modest underlying improvement. On an annual basis, gains slowed significantly to 0.2%, marking the weakest rise since May and easing from September’s 1% increase. Overall, the report underscores a cautious consumer environment heading into the holiday season.

UK PMI Signals Slowing Momentum as Demand Softens Across Sectors

UK PMI data for November signaled a mixed but still mildly expansionary picture across the economy, with the Services PMI easing to 50.5 and the Manufacturing PMI rising to 50.2. The services sector cooled from October’s 52.3, marking the slowest expansion in its seven-month growth streak as new business contracted for the first time since July amid caution surrounding the November Budget. Hiring softened notably, with many firms opting not to replace departing staff in response to weaker demand and uncertainty around policy direction. In contrast, man-

ufacturing showed a modest improvement, with output expanding for a second month and new orders rising for the first time in over a year, supported by stronger domestic demand. However, manufacturers continued to flag subdued global demand and rising overseas competition, which kept employment trends weak. On the price front, both sectors saw easing inflation pressures, with services output inflation slowing due to competitive pricing and manufacturing input costs falling to a one-year low. Despite softer demand indicators, business confidence improved slightly, suggesting firms expect conditions to stabilize heading into early 2026.

The GBP/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 1.3094.

Asia-Pacific

Australia RBA Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the Reserve Bank of Australia’s November meeting showed policy makers growing more cautious about future rate cuts as inflation remained sticky and the labor market stayed resilient. The bank kept rates on hold at 3.6%, a widely expected decision after a stronger than expected third quarter inflation reading. Officials warned that firmer demand and solid employment growth could rekindle price pressures and limit the scope for further easing, while additional cuts would only be considered if the labor market weakened or the economic recovery slowed more than anticipated. Recent data showed October job gains far exceeding expectations and unemployment falling from a near four year high, underscoring ongoing labor market strength. Australia will also begin publishing full monthly consumer price index reports later this month, giving the RBA more timely insight into inflation. Markets now expect rates to remain steady at 3.6% through 2026.

The AUD/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 0.6454.

Japan’s Economy Contracts in Q3 as Weak Consumption and Trade Drag Growth

Japan’s economy contracted 0.4% q/q In Q3 2025, its first quarterly decline since Q1 of 2024, after a revised 0.6% expansion in Q2. The pullback was slightly better than expectations but reflected weaker private consumption as households faced higher rice prices and rising utility bills. Net trade dragged on growth, with exports dropping 1.2% after the U.S. imposed new 15% tariffs on most Japanese goods, while imports were nearly flat. Offsetting some of the weakness, government spending and business investment posted their strongest increases in over a year due to front-loaded public works and corporate capacity upgrades. The data comes as Prime Minister Takaichi prepares a new stimulus package to ease living-cost pressures and support exporters hit by U.S. tariffs.

The USD/JPY currency pair was last seen trading at 156.39.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30630.

Justice Department urges breakup of Google’s ad network in ongoing trial

Google and US government battle over the future of internet advertising

WASHINGTON, Nov 23, (AP): Google will confront the U.S. government’s latest attempt to topple its internet empire in federal court on Friday as a judge considers how to prevent the abusive tactics that culminated in parts of its digital ad network being branded as an illegal monopoly.

The courtroom showdown in Alexandria, Virginia, will pit lawyers from Google and the U.S. Department of Justice against each other in closing proceedings focused on the complex technology that distributes millions of digital ads across the internet each day.

After a lengthy trial last year, U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema ruled in April that pieces of Google’s ad technology had been rigged in a way that made it an illegal monopoly. That set up another 11-day trial earlier this fall to help Brinkema determine how to remedy its

anti-competitive practices.

Friday’s closing arguments will give both Google and the Justice Department a final chance to sway Brinkema before she issues a ruling that probably won’t come until early next year.

The Justice Department wants Brinkema to force Google to sell some of the ad technology that it has spent nearly 20 years assembling, contending a breakup is the only way to rein in a company that the agency’s lawyers condemned as a “recidivist monopolist” in filings leading up to Friday’s hearing.

The condemnation refers not only to Google’s practices in digital advertising but also to the illegal monopoly that it unleashed through its dominant search engine. Federal prosecutors also sought a breakup in the search monopoly case, but the judge handling that issue rejected



This is the Google logo on a building in New York, Oct. 27, 2025. (AP)

a proposal that would have required Google to sell its popular Chrome web browser.

Although Google is still being ordered to make reforms that it’s resisting, the outcome in

the search monopoly case has been widely seen as a proverbial slap on the wrist. The belief that Google got off easy in the search case is the main reason the market value of its parent company Alphabet surged by about \$950 billion, or 37%, to nearly \$3.5 trillion since U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta’s decision came out in early September.

That setback hasn’t discouraged the Justice Department from arguing for a breakup of an ad tech system that handles 55 million requests per second, according to estimates provided by Google in court filings.

The huge volume of digital ads priced and distributed through Google’s technology is one of the main reasons that the company’s lawyers contend it would be too risky to force a dismantling of the intricate system.

“This is technology that absolutely has to

keep working for consumers,” Google argues in documents leading up to Friday’s hearing. The company’s lawyers blasted the Justice Department’s proposal as a package of “legally unprecedented and unsupported divestitures.”

Besides arguing that its own proposed changes will bring more price transparency and foster more competition, Google is also citing market upheaval triggered by artificial intelligence as another reason for the judge to proceed cautiously with her decision.

In his decision in the search monopoly case, Mehta reasoned that AI was already posing more competition to Google.

But the Justice Department urged the judge to focus on the testimony from a litany of trial witnesses who outlined why Google shouldn’t be trusted to change its devious behavior.

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!

Bank partners with Abbott for employee health initiative

ABK organizes awareness seminar for employees on prostate cancer and diabetes

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) organized an awareness seminar for employees on prostate cancer and diabetes, reinforcing the Bank's ongoing commitment to promoting health and wellness in the workplace and increasing awareness around early detection and essential preventive measures, all of which contribute positively to employee wellbeing and overall quality of life.

The seminar was delivered in collaboration with a specialized medical expert and covered a wide range of topics related to prostate cancer and diabetes, in addition to addressing questions from attendees.

Representatives from Abbott also participated in the event to provide and install the continuous glucose monitoring system (FreeStyle Libre2 Plus) free of

charge for all employees with diabetes, and to answer any technical or usage-related inquiries.

The seminar aimed to highlight the nature of prostate cancer and diabetes, their types, causes, and risk factors, while reaffirming the importance of regular screening for early diagnosis and improved recovery outcomes. It also provided an overview of early and advanced symptoms, the latest diagnostic and treatment methods, and key preventive measures through healthy lifestyle habits, including proper nutrition and physical activity. The session underscored the importance of regular glucose monitoring to avoid long-term complications associated with diabetes.

On this occasion, Afrah AlArbash, General Manager of Human Resources at



Afrah Al Arbash, GM of Human Resources at ABK

ABK, stated, "We believe our human capital is our most valuable asset, and that protecting the health and wellbeing of our employees is not simply a social obligation, but a strategic investment that directly impacts productivity, innovation, and overall employee satisfaction."

AlArbash explained that the seminar aimed to reinforce awareness around maintaining healthy habits and encouraging employees particularly to undergo routine medical checkups to ensure early detection. It also provided employees with the information and guidance needed to improve their personal and family wellbeing.

She added, "Through this awareness session on critical health issues such as prostate cancer and diabetes, we did

more than provide medical information. We reaffirmed to our employees that their wellbeing matters to us. At ABK, we strive to empower them to make informed lifestyle choices and encourage early detection, which can be the key difference between swift recovery and severe complications."

In conclusion, AlArbash emphasized that ABK remains committed to providing all necessary tools that support a healthy, motivating, and productive work environment for all employees. She noted that organizing such initiatives encourages employees to invest in their health, which has a direct positive impact on their performance, wellness, and professional success, and ultimately on the Bank's success as a whole.



Group photo during the event.

Minister A. K. Saseendran inaugurates the event

IACC marks seventh anniversary with 'Pravasi Excellence Awards'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The seventh anniversary celebration and Pravasi Excellence Award distribution of the Indo-Arab Confederation Council (IACC) Kuwait Chapter was inaugurated by Hon Kerala State Forest and Wildlife Minister A. K. Saseendran, by lighting the traditional lamp. The event was held on Thursday, November 13, at the Costa Del Sol Hotel in Kuwait City, presided over by Norka-Loka Kerala Saha representative and IACC Kuwait chapter President Babu Francis. Renowned film director Blessy, and IACC Patron & Kuwait Special Olympics Director Rehab M. Borelsy, attended as distinguished guests and delivered keynote addresses. IACC Secretary Jeevs Erinjeri explained the organization's activities.

Individuals who excelled in various fields—Afsal Khan

Meppathur, Abdul Azeez Mattuvayil, Cheruvathery Mani Pramod, Dr. Abraham Thomas, and Mazhar A. Raheem—were honored with the Pravasi Excellence Award. Minister A. K. Saseendran presented the mementos to the awardees, and Director Blessy handed over the certificates of appreciation. Al Dostur Law Group managing 'director and prominent Kuwaiti lawyer Dr. Talal Taqi and Indian Doctors Forum Vice President Dr. Sushovna Sujith Nair conveyed their felicitations. Also attended prominent guests from Arab community including Mrs Sawzan (HE Sudanees Ambassador's wife), Mrs Huwaida Al Jeelani (Kuwaiti community). Program Convener Shyji K. delivered the welcome address, and IACC Treasurer Biju Stephen offered the vote of thanks.

In collaboration with IDAK

St. George Reesh Church hosts medical camp for NBTC employees in Ahmadi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Health Care Mission, under the patronage of St. George Universal Syrian Orthodox Reesh Church, Kuwait, organised a Medical camp at NBTC in collaboration with Indian Dentists Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK), Forum of Indian Doctors and Indian Physiotherapy Forum on 14th November 2025 for NBTC employees in Ahmadi.

The camp, conducted at the NBTC office Ahmadi, aimed to benefit employees and the laborers and saw them attending in large numbers.

IDAK's Community Welfare Committee represented by Dr. Prashanth R (Chair) and Dr. Ajay Vazhiyodan (Co-chair) and members Dr. E T Roy, Dr. Joshin, Dr. Dhanalakshmi Mannem, Dr. Valentina Fernandes and Dr. Laila Antony actively participated and contributed towards the social cause.

During the felicitation ceremony, Mr. K G Abraham, Managing director of NBTC along with chief guest of the event Mr. Blessy Thomas, renowned Malayalam Movie director extended gratitude to IDAK and all the health care workers who participated for their valuable contribution.

IDAK President Dr. George P Alex and General Secretary, Dr. Jijan Sam, joined the ceremony where Rev. Fr. Stephen Neduvakkattu, the church vicar, presented mementos and certificates to the doctors of IDAK in



Photos during the medical camp.

appreciation of their valuable service.

IDAK extends its appreciation to the health care mission organisers Mr. Jinu M. Baby,

Mrs. JithaJestin, Mr. Eldhose K. J., and Dr. Mebu Joseph, Camp Convener, for their excellent coordination and conducting yet another successful camp.

Kuwait students excel in quiz on Pandit Nehru

Gandhi Smruthi Kuwait organizes 'My Chachaji 2025' quiz on Children's Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: On the occasion of Children's Day, Gandhi Smruthi Kuwait organised the quiz competition "My Chachaji 2025" for students in Kuwait. The event was held on 14 November 2025 at Indian Central School, Abbasiya.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Babu Francis, NORKA Kerala Representative, and was chaired by Shri Prajod Unni, President of Gandhi Smruthi Kuwait. Kumari Prarthana Prajeesh delivered the Children's Day message.

The quiz competition on the theme "Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and His Life" was coordinated by Shri James Mohan, Smt. Sheeba Payton, and Shri Joby Thomas. Winners were awarded trophies, and all participants received certificates.

Winners:

- First Prize: Avanish Kannan & Mayooravan Anbalakan (Fahaheel Al Wathani Indian Pvt. School)
- First Runner-up: Dev Thomas Mathew & Ester Elizabeth Mathew (Indian Community School, Amman)
- Second Runner-up: Daniel Thomas Abraham & Abhiram Sibil Krishnan (Indian Community School, Amman)

Gandhi Smruthi had also conducted a quiz competition last year and aims to continue this initiative annually to enrich students' knowledge and deepen their understanding of India's culture and diversity.

The programme was effectively



Photos during the 'My Chachaji 2025' quiz

managed by Gandhi Smruthi executives: Regi Sebastian, Romanus Peyton, Biju Alexander, Poly Augustin, Shinto George, Sony Mathew, Ajith Poyilloor, Lakh Jose, Rashid Ibra-

him, Vinaya, Saji Chakko, Deepu, Udayan, Jayakumar, Faizal, Bindhji Regi, Chitralkha, and Krishna Kumari.

Indian Ambassador graces the event

Kuwait City Mar Thoma Parish organizes 'Parish Festival 2025'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Kuwait City Mar Thoma Parish enthusiastically organized its 'Parish Festival 2025' - Koythulsavam - under the auspices of the parish. Fulfilling the year's prayer theme, 'Restore us, O God,' and invigorating the faithful community, the event took place on Friday, November 21st, with H. E. The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait attending as the Chief Guest.

The official public meeting was inaugurated by the Suffragan Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos. The proceedings commenced with a vibrant procession, which included 62 children, parish office bearers, parish executive committee members, organization office bearers, invited dignitaries, and Bishops.

The inaugural session, attended by the Indian Ambassador H. E. Smt. Parimita Tripathi as the Chief Guest, was blessed by the Metropolitan of the Knanaya Church, The Most Rev. Kuriakose Mar Severios, and the Mar Thoma Church Delhi Diocesan Episcopa, The Rt. Rev. Zacharias Mar Aprem. Several church and social leaders, including Mr. Aneesh Kunnappuzha, Trustee of the Niranam-Maranam Diocese of the Mar Thoma Church, delivered felicitations.

Following this, the cultural program was led by popular film playback singers Ranjini Jose, Libin Scaria, Anoop Kovalam, and comedy artist Kalabhavan Sudhi. Performances presented by the parish members and various auxiliary organizations added color and



Photos during the event.

splendor to the celebration. Various food stalls also operated from morning until evening.

The successful organization of

the event was led by the Parish Vicar, Rev. Dr. Feno M. Thomas, along with the office bearers and various conveners.

Fish's play draws on 1993 C-Span face-off

New play exploring Kramer and Fauci's friendship in the works

NEW YORK, Nov 23, (AP): A new play exploring the complex relationship between playwright and AIDS activist Larry Kramer and Dr. Anthony Fauci, the longtime top US infectious disease expert, will make its premiere early next year in New York under the direction of Tony Award-winner Daniel Fish.

"Kramer/Fauci" will star Tony-winner Will Brill from "Stereophonic" and Thomas Jay Ryan, who starred in the film "Henry Fool."

It will play The Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts between Feb. 11-21, The AP has learned.

Fish, whose 2019 production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" won the Tony Award for best musical revival, is using the transcript of a 1993 C-Span face-off between the two men as the text of the play, which included call-ins from across the country.

"I'm looking at a particular moment in time, at a



Playwright Larry Kramer appears at the premiere of HBO Films' 'The Normal Heart' in New York on May 12, 2014, (left), and Dr. Anthony Fauci appears during a press briefing at the White House in Washington on April 13, 2021. (AP)

particular exchange that has resonances into their relationship, has resonances into the politics and

culture of the time, and seeing what happens when we do that now. That's really where I'm coming from," said Fish.

Kramer and Fauci went from adversaries to friends as they confronted the AIDS crisis from different sides in the 1980s and '90s. Kramer, who wrote "The Normal Heart" and founded the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, or ACT UP, demanded the government do more and faster for those with symptoms.

Fauci, the longtime director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, insisted on a pragmatic approach.

He would become a lightning rod again as leader of the national response to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

The exchange in 1993 was heated and illuminating, with Kramer acknowledging their complex relationship: "He is a man, an ordinary man, who is being asked to play", Kramer said at the time.

"And he is being punished because he cannot be And that is a terrible position to be in."

After Kramer's death in 2020, Fish stumbled across the C-Span exchange. "I just thought it was really compelling and it kind of just stayed with me," he said.

"And after a while I thought, 'I wonder what would happen if we made a performance out of this?'"

Fish doesn't want to mount a literal recreation of the exchange, instead reaching for something more theatrical. In 1993, Kramer was beamed in from New York while Fauci was in the C-Span studio in Washington, D.C. For the play, Fish will put the two - plus the moderator - in the same room on stage.

"There's a moment where Kramer at one point says, 'You know, I love Tony Fauci,' and later on he says, 'Tony, when you talk like that, I hate you.' And Fauci says, 'I know you do, Larry.'"

Obits

Designer Costelloe dead

Beloved Italian singer Ornella Vanoni dies

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Nov 23, (AP): **Ornella Vanoni**, a beloved performer who had a seven decade-long singing career with such international hits as "Senza Fine" and "L'appuntamento," has died. She was 91.

In a post on X Saturday, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni expressed her deep sorrow for the loss of Vanoni, whose "unmistakable voice" left an imprint on Italian culture for generations. "Italy loses a unique artist who leaves us with an unrepeatable artistic heritage," Meloni said.

Vanoni died of cardiac arrest at her Milan home, Italian newspaper La Stampa reported.

Vanoni recorded more than 100 albums with sales of over 55 million copies, vaulting her to iconic status among generations of fans and earning her the moniker "The Lady of Italian Song," according to LaPresse newspaper.

Born in Milan in 1937, Vanoni's first love was the theater, which culminated with performances on the Broadway stage in 1964. But her passion for music combined with what LaPresse described as a "highly personal and sophisticated performing style" and vast repertoire from jazz to pop led her to collaborate with some of the most important songwriters in Italy and abroad.

Vanoni's partnership - and love affair - with famed Genoese singer-songwriter Gino Paoli produced the hit "Senza Fine" (Without End), which shot her onto the international stage in 1961.

Her later collaborations spanned a range of artistic talent including Gil Evans, Herbie Hancock and George Benson, according to Italy's ANSA news agency.

Vanoni excelled in numerous prestigious music festival awards in Italy, including the country's most popular Sanremo Music Festival in which she participated eight times, earning second place in 1968 with the song "Casa Bianca."

Her talent extended into songwriting which was recognized when she twice won the prestigious Tenco Award - the only Italian singer to be awarded the prize as a songwriter and the only woman to have won it twice.

Paul Costelloe, the Irish-American designer who dressed the late Princess Diana and became a stalwart of the London fashion scene, has died, his company confirmed. He was 80.

In addition to creating evening wear and other designs for Diana, Costelloe established a fashion house that celebrated luxurious fabrics and creativity. He worked in central London and with a family-owned manufacturing site in the Ancona region of central Italy.

"We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Paul Costelloe following a short illness," his label said in a statement on Saturday. "He was surrounded by his wife and seven children and passed peacefully in London."

Born in Dublin in 1945, Costelloe was the son of a tailor who made raincoats at a factory in the city's Rathmines district. He got his own start in the industry at the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture fashion school in Paris, but company lore suggests he learned as much by soaking up the era of designers Emanuel Ungaro and Pierre Cardin as he did in the classroom.

Costelloe began his career as an assistant to designer Jacques Esterel and later moved to Milan to work for British retailer Marks & Spencer when it tried to crack the Italian market. Though that effort was unsuccessful, he stayed in Milan to work for the luxury department store La Rinascente.

Costelloe later moved to the United States, where he worked as a designer for the Anne Fogarty label. He went on to establish his own firm, and the house now features a broad range, including womenswear, menswear, bags and accessories.

In 1983, Costelloe was appointed personal designer to Princess Diana - an association that continued until her death in 1997.

Costelloe's royal connection began when one of Diana's ladies-in-waiting noticed his designs and arranged a meeting, the designer told Irish broadcaster RTE earlier this year.



Irish designer Paul Costelloe is applauded by models after his show during London Fashion Week, in London, Friday, Sept. 18, 2009. (AP)

Film



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Jeff Goldblum, (left), and Cynthia Erivo in a scene from 'Wicked: For Good.' (AP)

'Wicked' sequel offers Grande scale, Erivo power

Sorry, my pretty, 'Wicked: For Good' falls flat

LOS ANGELES, Nov 23, (AP): "Give us a clock tick" is an expression uttered several times in "Wicked: For Good." But Jon M. Chu's two-part musical has asked for quite a bit more than that.

Together, the two halves of this "Wicked" adaptation have run 297 minutes, which, more than the threat of lions and tigers and bears, is enough to make any moviegoer not entirely bewitched by the "Wizard of Oz" revision breathe a sigh of "Oh, my."

So it's a lot of clock ticks, quite a few more than the stage musical, which had roughly half the runtime. But "Wicked" has always been a spectacle of scale: power ballads and sprawling sets, all in retina-testing technicolor. Muchness is part of the point of "Wicked," a song-and-dance assault of allegory and anthems relayed with an earnestness that you might call endearing if you're good or tiresome if you're, well, you, know.

For anyone in the former camp who somehow felt last year's part one wasn't enough, "For Good" will probably be a very welcoming second helping. Since these films were shot at the same time, much of the tone and tenor of the first chapter continues in "For Good." There's more Cynthia Erivo, more Ariana Grande and more soaring soliloquies. For most "Wicked" fans, more is good.

But for those of us who felt - what's a non-wicked way to say this? - mildly waterboarded, in pink and green, by "Wicked," "For Good" doesn't offer much relief. There is, to be sure, great talent on display in these films, particularly in the case of Erivo. But "For Good," like its predecessor, often feels more like a Production than a movie, with characters shuffled on and offstage with Oz-like orchestration.

That may be an unavoidable aspect of a pop amalgamation like "Wicked." This is a big-screen adaptation of a 2003 stage musical (Winnie Holzman and Stephen Schwartz) based on a 1995 book (Gregory Maguire) inspired by a 1939 movie (Victor Fleming and company) and the original 1900 "The Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum. More than a century

of American entertainment is packed inside "Wicked."

So, yes, "The Wizard of Oz" is basically history at this point. And that was much of the wit of Maguire's book, which took Baum's Oz and imagined that all of its apparent dichotomies - the vilified Wicked Witch of the West, the perfect Glinda the Good Witch, the powerful Wizard - were mere propaganda. If history is a set of falsehoods agreed upon, then Oz, too, is a lie.

Those political metaphors move to the forefront in "For Good." Having spent much of part one filling in the backstory of Elphaba (Erivo) and Glinda (Grande) as classmates at Shiz University, the second chapter finds Oz in an increasingly agitated state. Elphaba, demonized as the Wicked Witch of the West, is now living in exile.

"Shield your children," trumpets the government messaging. "Trust no animals!"

Devolving

While the Yellow Brick Road is laid down, like railroad tracks on the frontier in an industrial haze, the hunt for Elphaba ratchets up. A travel ban is put in effect for animals and Munchkins, alike. Oz, it's said, is "a place that seems to be devolving."

No one above the age of 10 will fail to miss the target of these references. "Wicked: For Good" isn't shy about them, and that frankness - and the movie's ardent belief in empathy and multiculturalism - is both the film's most stirring and most heavy-handed trait. Each iteration of "Wicked" has come with its own political relevancy. Maguire, himself, was influenced by the drumbeat leading up the Gulf War. "For Good" may be the most pointed and timely interpretation yet. Some of that is woven into the play, and some of it is expanded upon in Holzman's and Dana Fox's script, which pads the second act with a little more minor character development and a pair of new songs.

The catchiest tunes ("Popular," "Defying Gravity") are in the rearview, though. Instead, "Wicked: For Good" is all

storm clouds and rebellion, as Elphaba mounts a resistance to the Wizard (Jeff Goldblum) and Madame Morrible (Michelle Yeoh). Characters like Fiyero (Jonathan Bailey), captain of the Wizard's guard, are forced to pick a side.

Considering the source material of the 1939 classic - old Hollywood at the very height of its powers - you would think Oz would come through clearly as a setting, only seen from a different perspective. But despite Chu's energetic handling of earlier films like "In the Heights" and "Crazy Rich Asians," "Wicked: For Good" struggles to really orient us in a place. When Dorothy and Toto drop in (they're seen only from afar), you almost yearn for the clear pathway they begin skipping down.

Instead, "Wicked: For Good," rather than conjuring Oz anew, always feels like it's jumping from one set piece to another. Maybe this is a silly gripe for a fantasyland. ("I don't have any idea where the offices of the Lollipop Guild are!") But I rarely found myself lifted into a movie world, but rather sat watching it - sometimes with admiration, rarely with delight - from the mezzanine. The rub of going for maximum effect all the time is that the actors never have a chance to simply be.

All the momentum that "Wicked: For Good" does gather is owed significantly to its stars. To a large degree, these movies have been the Erivo-and-Grande show, a grand spectacle of female friendship that rises above all the petty biases and misjudgments to forge a vision of harmony in opposites. It's a compelling vision, and Chu, as he did in the triumphant "Defying Gravity" culmination of part one, knows how to stick the landing.

Grande is best at the (too few) comic moments, like a brief impression of Margaret Hamilton's cackle. But it's Erivo who really elevates the material. Her Elphaba seems to both believe in the hopeful possibility of "Wicked" and fear its impossibility. When she melancholically sings one of the new songs, "No Place Like Home," Erivo appears to grasp that it's going to take more than a click of the heels, or tick of the clock, to get there.

CONCORD, N.C.: Four people were shot Friday evening at a Christmas tree lighting ceremony in North Carolina, according to officials.

Three people were in critical condition and one in stable condition following the shooting in Concord, which is about 19 miles (30 kilometers) northeast of Charlotte, according to a statement from the city.

It wasn't immediately clear what led up to the shooting. Police are reviewing video footage of the event and speaking with witnesses, according to the city. They've asked anyone with videos or photos to share them with police.

Video and photos posted online show crowds of people fleeing, along with a street lined with emergency vehicles.

The event was advertised as the city's 28th annual tree lighting ceremony and was expected to feature Santa and Mrs. Claus, food trucks, the film "The Grinch" and fireworks, according to the city's website.

"We are praying for the safety of our brave law enforcement officers, first responders, and everyone on the scene," U.S. Rep. Mark Harris of North Carolina said in a post on the social platform X. (AP)

Variety

CAIRO: "The Best" festival honored on Saturday some innovative persons in multiple fields including secretary general of the Arab Media Forum Madi Al-Khamees as the best Arab media personality.

The honoring was held at the Pyramids area, in the presence of the most famous starts of art, drama, media and sports from Egypt and the Arab countries.

Speaking during the annual festival, Al-Khamees said that holding honoring in Egypt is totally different as Egypt with its history, innovation and stars remains the leadership and the security valve of the whole Arab nation.

He added the great history and exceptional present of Egypt over thousands of years gave the country power to overcome crises. (KUNA)

CAIRO: President of the Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF) and famous Egyptian actor Hussein Fahmy praised

China's notable presence at the recently concluded 46th edition of the festival, describing Chinese films as important, longstanding, and highly regarded by Egyptian filmmakers.

"Chinese participation grows each year. This year, we have a Chinese jury member and several Chinese films in the festival. This is very important to us," Fahmy said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

At this year's CIFF, the Chinese film The Botanist, directed by Jing Yi, won the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema Award for Best Asian Feature Film, and the International Critics' Week Special Mention Award. In addition, renowned Chinese director Guan Hu received the festival's Lifetime Achievement Golden Pyramid Award during Friday's closing ceremony.

In addition to The Botanist, this year's CIFF also featured other Chinese works. The China Global Television Network documentary Cherished Land was screened in the International Panorama section, and Guan Hu served on the festival's International Competition's Jury before receiving CIFF's highest honorary award. (Xinhua)

Comic books once stoked fears of crime

US officials push to lift outdated comic book ban for kids

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Nov 23, (AP): On a recent day at Sacramento native Lecho Lopez's comic shop in the city, his 5-year-old nephew read his first word aloud: "bad." It was from a graphic novel.

There was irony in that being his first word, because Lopez credits comic books with many positive things in his life. That is why he supports repealing a city ordinance dating back to 1949 that bans the distribution of many comic books to kids and teens. It is not enforced today.

"It's a silly law," said Lopez, who has a red-and-black tattoo of the Superman logo on his forearm, in an interview at his store, JLA Comics. "A lot of good things come out of comic books."

A City Council committee unanimously voted this week to advance the repeal and designate the third week of September as "Sacramento Comic Book Week." It now heads to the full council for a vote. The ban prohibits distributing comic books prominently featuring an account of crime that show images of illegal acts such as arson, murder or rape to anyone under 18.

In the mid-20th century, as comic books were on the rise, fears spread over their impact on children, with some arguing they could lead to illiteracy or inspire violent crime. The industry decided to regulate itself, and local governments - from Los Angeles County to Lafayette, Louisiana - passed bans to shield certain comics from young people. While some cities like Sacramento still have those laws on the books, they are rarely if ever enforced.

Now, proponents of repealing the Sacramento law say it is necessary to reflect the value of comics and help protect against a modern wave of book bans.

Comic book author Eben Burgoon, who started a petition to overturn Sacramento's ban, said comics "have this really valuable ability to speak truth to power."

"These antiquated laws kind of set up this jeopardy where bad actors could work hard to make this medium imperiled," he said at a hearing Tuesday held by



Lecho Lopez shows comic books at his store JLA Comics on Nov. 18, 2025 in Sacramento, Calif. (AP)

the city council's Law and Legislation Committee.

Sacramento is a great place to devote a week to celebrating comics, Burgoon said. The city has a "wonderful" comic book community, he said, and hosts

CrockerCon, a comics showcase at a local art museum, every year.

Sam Helmick, president of the American Library Association, said "there is no good reason" to have a ban such as Sacramento's on the books, saying it "flies in the face of modern First Amendment norms."

The movement to censor comics decades ago was not an aberration in U.S. history, said Jeff Trexler, interim director of the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, which fights to protect the free-speech rights of people who read or make comics.

New York, for example, created a commission in the 1920s dedicated to reviewing films to determine whether they should be licensed for public viewing, based on whether they were "obscene" or "sacrilegious" and could "corrupt morals" or "incite crime," according to the state archives.

"Every time there's a new medium or a new way of distributing a medium, there is an outrage and an attempt to suppress it," Trexler said.

The California Supreme Court ruled in 1959 that a Los Angeles County policy banning the sale of so-called "crime" comic books to minors was unconstitutional because it was too broad. Sacramento's ban probably doesn't pass muster for the same reason, Trexler said.

There is not a lot of recent research on whether there is a link between comic books and violent behavior, said Christopher Ferguson, a professor of psychology at Stetson University in Florida. But, he said, similar research into television and video games has not shown a link to "clinically relevant changes in youth aggression or violent behavior."

Leafing through comics like EC Comics' "Epitaphs from the Abyss" and DC's and Marvel's collaboration "Batman/Deadpool," Lopez showed an Associated Press reporter images of characters smashing the windshield of a car, smacking someone across the face and attacking Batman using bows and arrows - the kinds of scenes that might be regulated if Sacramento's ban were enforced.

Variety

LONDON: The publisher of Britain's Daily Mail has entered exclusive talks to buy Telegraph Media Group in a deal that would link two news groups that have traditionally supported the right-leaning Conservative Party.

Daily Mail and General Trust plc said on Saturday that the talks were designed to finalize the terms of a 500 million-pound (\$654-million) deal to buy the Telegraph from an Abu Dhabi-backed venture known as Redbird IMI.

The proposed transaction comes after concerns about foreign ownership of British news organizations stalled Redbird IMI's efforts to take control of the Daily Telegraph and its sister Sunday publication two years ago.

Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy said she would review any new acquisition to ensure it protects the public interest and complies with legislation governing "foreign state influence" in media mergers.

DMGT said it expected to complete the transaction "quickly." (AP)

ROME: Pope Leo XIV opened a virtual meeting with American Catholic young people Friday by revealing a closely held pontifical secret: He uses a different Wordle start word each day.

Leo divulged his strategy for the popular New York Times online game before fielding questions via videoconference about artificial intelligence, social media and the future of the Catholic Church.

The Chicago-born pope was hooked up from the Vatican to speak remotely to the National Catholic Youth Conference, an annual Catholic rally held this year in Indianapolis, via a feed from U.S. Catholic broadcaster EWTN.

After Leo's election in May, his brother John Prevost revealed that Leo plays Wordle every day and that the brothers compare scores, as many friends and family do.

Leo was asked about his strategy at the start of Friday's Q&A, which was otherwise somewhat scripted. Playing along, Leo revealed "I use a different word for Wordle every day, so there's no set starting word." (AP)

NEW YORK: It's the ultimate homecoming photo - a smiling family rushing to reunite with a US Air Force officer in 1973 who spent years as a POW in North Vietnam, his oldest daughter sprinting ahead with her arms outstretched, both feet off the ground.

"Burst of Joy," the iconic black-and-white image capturing the Stirn family at Travis Air Force Base in California, was published in newspapers throughout the nation. Taken by Associated Press photographer Sal Veder, it won a Pulitzer Prize and has continued to resonate through the years, a symbol of the end of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

On Veterans Day, retired Col. Robert Stirn, seen in the photo in uniform with his back to the camera, died at an assisted living facility in Fairfield, California, his daughter, Lorrie Stirn Kitching, confirmed Thursday. He was 92.

"It's right in my front foyer," Kitching, 68, of Mountain View, said of the photo. She was 15 when that moment of her running to hug her father was forever preserved. (AP)

NEW YORK: Nobel laureate Han Kang's first book of nonfiction to come out in English will be released next spring.

The Korean author's "Light and Thread" is scheduled to be published March 24 by Penguin Random House imprints in the US, the United Kingdom and other English-speaking regions. Published in Korean this year and translated into English by Maya West, e. yaewon and Paige Aniyah Morris, "Light and Thread" includes Han's Nobel lecture from 2024, along with other writings and photographs.

"As I arranged the essays, poems, diary entries, and photographs to be included in this book, I imagined all of its spaces - from the first page to the last - enveloped in light," Han said in a statement released Friday. (AP)

Stage



Acrobats from a Mexican theater company perform the show titled 'Mortal Leap into Xibalba,' which reinterprets a myth from a sacred Mayan book about creation and the journey to the underworld, in Mexico City, Saturday, Nov. 22. (AP)

'Mortal Leap' blends circus arts with theater

Maya myth finds new life in Mexican circus

MEXICO CITY, Nov 23, (AP): Mexican artistic director Jorge Díaz used to have a unique selection of bedtime stories for his son.

Setting aside well-known books like "Pinocchio," they read tales closer to home. Among their favorites was the Popol Vuh, a compendium of sacred Maya myths.

"Recalling those stories is important," said Díaz, whose grandmother told him legends from her Indigenous lineage as a child. "We have plenty of beautiful, pre-Hispanic tales. But we sometimes forget."

The one he enjoyed with his son recounts the story of hero twins Ixbalanqué and Hunahpú.

In the Popol Vuh, the brothers embark on a perilous journey to the Maya underworld. There, they outwit death, confront its lords and ultimately rise transformed.

The myth inspired Díaz's adaptation, "Mortal Leap into Xib'alb'a." Blending circus arts with theater, the piece employs acrobatics and ritual to reimagine the ancestral story on stage.

"We sought to give the piece its own identity through circus, but I didn't want the work to rely only on tricks or spectacle," Díaz said. "The idea was for the techniques to blend with the story and the characters, creating atmospheres rather than just showcasing skills."

The show has returned to the stage periodically since its debut in 2023. New performances were held in Mexico City in late November.

The troupe behind "Mortal Leap into Xib'alb'a" was founded 20 years ago by Díaz and fellow artist Jessica González. Initially a theater company, "Tránsito Cinco" evolved into a group devoted to circus arts.

"Fresh out of university, we searched for tools that would allow us to grow as actors," said González, who also performs as a narrator in the

Maya myth piece. "We wanted to find something that could connect theater with dance and the circus became a meeting place."

Their current repertoire includes 16 productions. There's not a shared theme among them. Yet Díaz and González aim to create pieces with a clear narrative thread.

"Our shows are built around a theme or storyline," she said. "We believe that circus arts can also be a way to say something, whether it's about social issues or any other subject."

How they work hand in hand with artists is reflected in "Somnia," a documentary about Tránsito Cinco's history and vision.

"This is one of the most influential art forms I've ever witnessed," said director Arely Cantellano during a recent showing of her film. "It opens those doors to many different arts and invites us all to take part."

Performance

Aside from adapting the Maya myth and directing fellow artists, one of Díaz's jobs in "Mortal Leap into Xib'alb'a" is rigging work. That is, as Yareli Reyes performs while being suspended from a rig by her hair, Díaz oversees her safety.

Her performance is close to Díaz's heart. She plays one of the Maya twins, a role the director once envisioned for himself.

His brother - also an actor - plays the main character in the Maya-inspired piece and Díaz dreamed of performing alongside him. "I love that fragment of the Popol Vuh," he said. "It felt important to me to create it onstage together."

He let go of the role so he could avoid overloading himself. But watching his beloved sacred story from a distance provides him with a fresh understanding of his art.

"Circus has the power to astonish and play with

risk," he said. "When I'm holding the performer who does hair suspension, there are moments when I see the light, the atmosphere, and it feels like a ritual."

Several scenes feel full of energy to him. The way the music, the light and the artists' bodies fuse into stagecraft creates an immersive environment for audiences, he said.

"It's fantastic," said marketing strategist Alba Vida about Tránsito Circo's work after the recent showcase of their documentary. "I love circus arts because, within them, the frontier with entertainment shifts."

Díaz's son is now 14. However, the work inspired by their nights delving into the Maya underworld is still aimed at children and families.

For an hour, "Mortal Leap into Xib'alb'a" depicts the twins' journey between the living realm and the underworld. The performance kicks off, portraying how the brothers are born after their mother becomes pregnant when the skull of their father spits into her hand, a symbolic transfer of life.

The twins are raised among humans. Yet as they learn to play a pre-Hispanic ritual sport that infuriated the Xib'alb'a lords, several fights take place and the pair eventually perishes - only to return transformed in the myth's final cycle.

"Under the Mayan worldview, death is not an ending, but a chance to be reborn," Díaz said. "So even as they throw themselves into the fire as a sacrifice, they become the Sun and Moon."

Conveying how the ancient Maya perceive death as a possibility to reinvent oneself is as important to Díaz as taking care of every detail in his colleagues' risky, brilliant acts.

"There are many elements from pre-Hispanic Indigenous traditions that can be brought into circus performance," he said. "Ways to use them, reinterpret them and give them new meaning onstage."

Popular contest aims to ensure fairness

Eurovision plans voting, security changes amid Israel interference

GENEVA, Nov 23, (AP): Organizers of the Eurovision Song Contest announced plans to change the voting system of the popular musical extravaganza to ensure fairness, a move that follows allegations of "interference" by Israel's government.

The European Broadcasting Union, a Geneva-based union of public broadcasters that runs the event, said Friday that the changes were "designed to strengthen trust, transparency and audience engagement."

Israel has competed in Eurovision for more than 50 years and won four times. But calls for Israel to be kicked out swelled over the conduct of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government in the Hamas-Israel war in Gaza.

The allegations of Israeli government interference have added a new twist to the debate.

In September, Dutch public broadcaster AVROTROS - citing human suffering in the Gaza war - said that it could no longer justify Israel's

participation in the contest. Several other countries took a similar stance.

The Dutch broadcaster went on to say there had been "proven interference by the Israeli government during the last edition of the Song Contest, with the event being used as a political instrument." The statement didn't elaborate.

That same month, the CEO of Israeli public broadcaster Kan, Golan Yochpaz, said that there was "no reason why we should not continue to be a significant part of this cultural event, which must not become political."

Kan also said then that it was "convinced" that the EBU "will continue to maintain the apolitical, professional and cultural character of the competition, especially on the eve of the 70th anniversary of Eurovision" next year.

As part of the new Eurovision measures, in next year's contest - scheduled to take place in May in Vienna - the number of votes per payment method will be reduced by half to 10, the

EBU said.

In addition, "professional juries" will return to the semifinals for the first time since 2022 - a move that will give roughly 50-50 percentage weight between audience and jury votes, it said.

Organizers will also enhance safeguards to thwart "suspicious or coordinated voting activity" and strengthen security systems that "monitor, detect and prevent fraudulent patterns," EBU said.

Contest director Martin Green said that the neutrality and integrity of the competition is of "paramount importance" to the EBU, its members, and audiences, adding that the event "should remain a neutral space and must not be instrumentalized."

The EBU's general assembly on Dec. 4-5 is poised to consider whether Israel can participate next year. A vote on that participation will only take place if member broadcasters decide the new steps are "not sufficient," Green said.

College football

Fight songs still 'rule' stadiums

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Nov 23, (AP): The sounds of college football have changed over the years, with pop culture songs becoming part of the show at stadiums across the country.

Fight songs, though, have withstood the test of time and still ring true.

From "Rocky Top" at Tennessee to "Fight On" at USC, school bands cranking up the familiar notes and rhythm and thousands of alumni joining the student body in belting out the long-familiar lyrics are a touchstone of the nostalgia surrounding the game itself. It's a chance to cheer in common or at least try to shake off a disappointment.

Like the teams themselves, fight songs tend to spark much discussion on the topic of which one is the best of the bunch or at least the most familiar.

To Georgia Southern sport management Prof. Chris Hanna, "The Victors" at Michigan and "Notre Dame Victory March" are in the conversation for the mythical national championship of music.

"Those two have separated themselves," said Hanna, who has studied and written about college fight songs. "Those are the two most popular, and well known."

Michigan's familiar fight song dates to 1898 when a music student at the school, Louis Elbel, wrote it following the Wolverines' 12-11 win over the University of Chicago for their first Western Conference football title.

"Hail! Hail! to Michigan, the champions of the West!" Elbel wrote back when the Midwest was still more of a notion than the commonly known region it is now.

Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Chad Smith, who grew up in suburban Detroit rooting for Michigan, used the fight song as part of his act when the Red Hot Chili Peppers made a tour stop near Ohio State's campus just for laughs.

Concert

"At the end of the concert, I came out, I said, 'Hey, I think we got time for one more song. You guys want to hear one more song?' And they're like, 'Yay,'" Smith recalled. "I'm like, 'It's a really good song. I think you're really going to like this one.'"

Then, Smith started signing "The Victors," and heard a chorus of boos before dropping the microphone and walking off stage.

"They screamed louder than they screamed all night," said Smith, who announced earlier this month he's gifting a need-based music scholarship to the University of Michigan. "It was great."

"Notre Dame Victory March," written by Notre Dame graduates and brothers, Michael and John Shea, was copyrighted in 1908 and became even more well known after the 1993 film "Rudy."

"If you've ever seen 'Rudy,' they have it humming in the background at practice," said Detroit Lions tight end Brock Wright, a former Fighting Irish star. "It's just kind of filled with rich tradition."

USC's "Fight On," was born in 1922 after students Milo Sweet and Glen Grant teamed up to create the iconic song kicked off by trumpets. It makes Hanna's list of top fight songs along with Oklahoma's "Boomer Sooner," and "On Wisconsin!"

Hanna was part of research on 130 Division I college football fight songs that found more than 90% of the songs had themes that included the name of the university, an exclamation and togetherness.

"Fight songs ramp up your emotions because of the value you place on the connections to your school," Hanna said. "These songs are passed down by generations and you learn them as kids."

Michigan backup quarterback Davis Warren grew up in Los Angeles rooting for UCLA - which has "The Mighty Bruins" and "Sons of Westwood" for its fans to sing - but quietly digging USC's fight song.

"It's classic," Warren said. "I think ours is the best, but that is one that you hear and it just sounds like college football."

Gastroenterology workshop trains over 36 Kuwaiti and regional doctors

New ultrasound training advances diagnostic capabilities: Dr. Awadhi

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi inaugurated a specialized workshop Saturday to train Kuwaiti and regional doctors on intestinal ultrasound technology. The workshop, organized by the Kuwaiti Gastroenterology and Hepatology Association in cooperation with the International Society of Intestinal Ultrasound (IBUS), is the first of its kind and a scientific precedent in Kuwait and the Middle East.

In a press statement on the sidelines of the event, Minister Al-Awadhi emphasized that hosting this advanced workshop reflects the Ministry's plans to develop the skills of doctors, nurses, and technicians. He explained that training more than 36 doctors from Kuwait, the GCC countries, and other Arab countries



KUNA photo
Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi during a training workshop on intestinal ultrasound technology.

on the use of ultrasound in diagnosing digestive system diseases represents a qualitative leap in diagnostic methods. Al-Awadhi added that the participation of a select group of international experts from Europe, Canada, and other countries enriches the trainees' scientific experience and opens the door to exchanging expertise and benefiting from the latest international practices in this vital field.

For her part, Dr. Heba Al-Farhan, President of the Kuwaiti Gastroenterology and Hepatology Association, stated that the workshop aims to enhance the skills of physicians and enable them to use intestinal ultrasound technology as an advanced diagnostic tool. This non-invasive and more accurate and rapid diagnostic tool is used to assess cases of inflammatory bowel disease, which contributes to improving the quality of care provided to patients, reducing diagnosis time, and better

guiding treatment.

She noted that this event holds special significance, given her position as a board member of the International Bureau of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (IBUS) representing Kuwait and the Middle East. She emphasized that Kuwait was chosen to host this training program due to the international scientific community's confidence in the competence of Kuwaiti medical professionals and the association's ability to organize advanced educational events at the highest level. She emphasized that this workshop is part of her strategic plan to raise the level of continuing medical education, noting that the Thunayyan Al-Ghanim Center for Digestive System Diseases at Al-Amiri Hospital has been accredited as a regional center for training Middle Eastern doctors in "intestinal ultrasound."

Awareness and prevention key

Regular checkups urged as diabetes goes undetected

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Kuwait Diabetes Association organized a series of activities aimed at raising awareness on the health risks associated with the disease and encouraging early screening and the adoption of a healthy lifestyle, as part of the celebration of World Diabetes Day.

In a press statement on Saturday, Consultant Endocrinologist and Diabetologist and Head of the Association Dr. Waleed Al-Dahi confirmed that since its establishment in 1996, the Association has maintained an active presence in the community through the development of programs for the public and medical professionals.

He said this year's events witnessed remarkable youth participation and extensive cooperation among various entities, while examinations and medical advice are provided to attendees.

He revealed that Kuwait has one of the highest rates of diabe-

tes among Gulf countries, with around 800,000 people affected. He pointed out that the disease is now common with serious complications like retinopathy, neuropathy and cardiovascular problems.

He emphasized that diabetes is not limited to high blood sugar level, as it is one of the most serious risk factors leading to chronic diseases. He stressed the importance of adhering to regular checkups and maintaining health protocols, such as keeping glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) below seven percent, controlling blood pressure around 130/80, and undergoing annual foot and eye examinations to prevent complications.

He warned about the dangers of the disease. "Do not underestimate diabetes, as it can strike without symptoms and problems only appear in the long term," he added.

He urged the public to take advantage of the screening and follow up services available at all Ministry of Health facilities.



A medical worker gives a vaccine to a boy during a polio immunization campaign at Sigli Town Square in Pidie, Aceh province, Indonesia, Nov. 28, 2022. (AP)

Yearslong vaccination drive

WHO declares official end of Indonesia's polio outbreak

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Nov 23, (AP): The World Health Organization has declared Indonesia's polio outbreak officially over, following nearly three years of intensive response efforts, officials said Friday.

Indonesia has remained largely polio-free as the highly contagious disease was declared eliminated in the country in 2014. But eight years later, an outbreak emerged in the country's conservative Aceh province, prompted by a dangerous combination of consistently low routine immunization and unhealthy environmental conditions. In 2021, only 50.9% of infants born in Aceh received polio vaccination.

Officials say that polio immunization rates in Aceh are well behind the rest of the country, with efforts hampered by widespread disinformation that the vaccine is incompatible with religious beliefs, among other things. The government has also been prioritizing COVID-19 vaccinations since they became available.

Over the next two years, cases appeared in the provinces of Banten, West Java, Central Java, East Java, North Maluku, Central Papua, Highland Papua and South Papua, prompting the mass immunization and information drive. Nearly 60 million additional doses of polio vaccine were administered to children during the response.

The last confirmed polio case was in South Papua province on June 2024. Since then, no polio has been detected in children or in the environment, prompting WHO to declare the outbreak over on Wednesday.

In a joint announcement on Friday, Indonesian Health Minister Budi Gunadadi Sadikin credited the success to "the dedication of health workers and the commitment of parents and communities," while WHO's Western Pacific Regional Director Saia Ma'u Piukala called the achievement "a critical step toward global eradication," while calling for continued vigilance.

"I urge all our 38 countries and areas to remain vigilant. One day polio will be just a memory. Until then, we vaccinate," Piukala said.

With the end of the polio outbreak,

Sadikin vowed to keep Indonesia polio-free through strengthening routine immunization, enhancing surveillance, cross-sectoral collaboration and community support.

"Every child deserves protection," he said. "We cannot be complacent, however. The risk of polio remains, especially with the gaps in immunization coverage in several provinces in Indonesia."

Indonesia's response included two rounds of nationwide immunization using novel oral polio vaccine type 2 and improved routine coverage. The second dose of inactivated polio vaccine rose from 1.9 million children or 63% in 2023 to 3.2 million children or 73% last year, aided by the introduction of a hexavalent vaccine which expected to reduce the number of injections children receive and accelerate the development of immunity to various diseases.

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Hepatitis A: Hungary's National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy (NNGYK) on Friday reported a further increase in hepatitis A infections this year, urging the public to maintain strict hand hygiene as the most effective preventive measure.

By Nov. 19, Hungary had registered 1,648 cases, with the highest numbers recorded in Budapest, as well as in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplen and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg counties in the northeastern part of Hungary. Men accounted for 56 percent of patients and women for 44 percent. Most infections occurred among children aged 3 to 14, while four adults with underlying chronic illnesses died from complications.

According to the center, the virus spreads primarily via the fecal-oral route, often through contaminated hands, food or water, particularly in environments with poor sanitation. Many infections remain asymptomatic, meaning individuals who feel healthy may still transmit the virus. Typical symptoms -- including abdominal pain, nausea, fever and later jaundice -- can appear after an incubation period of around one month.

BELEM, Brazil, Nov 23, (AP): United Nations climate talks in Brazil reached a subdued agreement Saturday that pledged more funding for countries to adapt to the wrath of extreme weather. But the catch-all agreement doesn't include explicit details to phase out fossil fuels or strengthen countries' inadequate emissions cutting plans, which dozens of nations demanded.

The Brazilian hosts of the conference said they'd eventually come up with a road map to get away from fossil fuels working with hard-line Colombia, but it won't have the same force as something approved at the conference called COP30. Colombia responded angrily to the deal after it was approved, citing the absence of wording on fossil fuels.

The deal, which was approved after negotiators blew past a Friday deadline, was crafted after hours of late night and early morning meetings. After the deal was approved, COP30 President André Corrêa do Lago said the tough discussions started in Belem will continue under Brazil's leadership until the next annual conference "even if they are not reflected in this text we just approved."

Challenges

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the deal shows "that nations can still come together to confront the defining challenges no country can solve alone." But he added: "I cannot pretend that COP30 has delivered everything that is needed. The gap between where we are and what science demands remains dangerously wide."

Many gave the deal lukewarm praise as the best that could be achieved in trying times, while others complained about the package or the process that led to its approval.

"Given the circumstances of geopolitics today, we're actually quite pleased with the bounds of the package that came out," said Palau Ambassador Ilana Seid, who chaired the coalition of small island nations. "The alternative is that we don't get a decision and that would have been a worse alternative."

"This deal isn't perfect and is far from what science requires," said former Ireland President Mary Robinson, a fierce climate advocate for the ex-leaders group The Elders. "But at a time when multilateralism is being tested, it is significant that countries continue to move forward together."

Absent from the talks was the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.

"This year there has been a lot of attention on one country stepping back," U.N. climate chief Simon Stiell said, referring to the United States' withdrawal from the landmark 2015 Paris agreement. "But amid the gale-

No explicit fossil fuel plan

UN climate deal increases money to countries hit by climate change



André Corrêa do Lago, COP30 president, speaks during a news conference at the COP30 UN Climate Summit, Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025, in Belem, Brazil. (AP)

force political headwinds, 194 countries stood firm in solidarity - rock-solid in support of climate cooperation."

Some countries said they got enough out of the deal.

"COP30 has not delivered everything Africa asked for, but it has moved the needle," said Jiwoh Abdulai, Sierra Leone's environment minister. What really matters, he said, is "how quickly these words turn into real projects that protect lives and livelihoods."

U.K. Energy Minister Ed Miliband said the agreement was "an important step forward," but that he would have preferred it to be "more ambitious." He added: "These are difficult, strenuous, tiring, frustrating negotiations."

The deal was approved minutes into a plenary meeting open Saturday to all nations that were present.

Complained

After the main package was approved - to applause by many delegates - angry nations took the floor to complain about other parts of the package and about being ignored as do Lago moved quickly toward approval. The objections were so strong that do Lago temporarily halted the session to try to calm things down.

Colombia's Daniela Duran Gonzalez blasted the conference's president for ignoring her, saying: "The COP of the truth cannot support an outcome that ignores science."

An area that usually gets less attention became a big point of contention. The approved deal established 59 indicators for the world to judge how nations are adapting to climate change. Before the Belem conference, experts crafted 100 precisely worded indicators, but negotiators changed the wording and cut the total.

The European Union, several Latin American countries and Canada said

China launch

'Satellite IoT' trial kicks off

WUHAN, Nov. 23, (Xinhua): China has launched a commercial trial of satellite Internet of Things (IoT) services to diversify the supply in the satellite communication market and support the safe and healthy development of emerging industries such as commercial aerospace and the low-altitude economy, the Science and Technology Daily reported Saturday.

According to the 2025 China 5G + Industrial Internet Conference held in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, the commercial trial will last for two years and support eligible enterprises in conducting satellite IoT services in accordance with laws and regulations.

The trial aims to diversify the supply in the satellite communication market, stimulate the vitality of market entities, enhance industry service capabilities, establish a security regulatory system, and develop replicable and scalable experiences and models.

Satellite IoT utilizes satellite communication technology to connect massive devices on the ground, in the oceans, and in the air, providing data collection and transmission services. Its application scenarios cover marine fisheries, transportation and logistics, energy and water resources, emergency communications, the low-altitude economy, and industrial Internet.

As an important component of new infrastructure, satellite communication development has entered the fast track in China this year, with significant progress made in constellation construction, technological breakthroughs, and industrial development.

Meanwhile, over a thousand Chinese experts and scholars convened on Saturday for the Fourth China Space Science Assembly, engaging in discussions on the latest advancements, major achievements, and emerging trends in space science.

The four-day conference features an opening ceremony, 14 invited reports, a roundtable on international cooperation, an international symposium, and close to 50 specialized academic sessions.

During the invited reports segment, 14 academicians and senior experts presented updates on China's manned space program, lunar and deep space exploration projects, space science satellite missions, and future development roadmaps.

23 kids die of malnutrition within a month in Sudan

Slovenians vote on assisted dying law

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia, Nov 23, (AP): Slovenians on Sunday voted in a referendum on a law to allow terminally ill patients to end their lives.

Parliament in the small European Union nation passed the law in July after voters had backed it in a nonbinding referendum last year. Opponents, however, have forced another vote on the divisive issue after collecting more than 40,000 signatures.

The law envisages that mentally competent people, who have no chance of recovery or are facing unbearable pain have the right to assisted dying. This means that patients administer the lethal medication themselves after approval from two doctors and a period of consultation.

The law does not apply to people with mental illnesses.

Backers include the liberal government of Prime Minister Robert Golob. They have argued that the law gives people a chance to die with dignity and decide themselves how and when to end their suffering.

Opponents include conservative groups, some doctors associations and the Catholic church. They say that the law goes against Slovenia's constitution and that the state should work to provide better palliative care instead.

President Nataša Pirc Musar said it is "extremely important" for the citizens to go to the polls and "not only when there are parliamentary or presidential elections."

"It is right for us as individuals to say what we think about a certain topic," she said. "It is right for us to tell politicians what we think is right and what we think is wrong."

The law will be rejected if a majority of people who cast ballots vote against, and they represent at least 20% of the 1.7 million eligible voters. Turnout after four hours was just over 10%, according to the election authorities.

Recent opinion polls in Slovenia have shown more people are in favor of the law than oppose it.

If the law remains in place, Slovenia will join several other EU countries that have already passed



A voter casts her ballot at a polling station during the referendum on assisted dying for terminally ill patients, in Domzale, Slovenia, Sunday, Nov. 23, (AP)

similar laws, including neighboring Austria and the Netherlands.

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Almost two dozen children died of malnutrition-related causes within a month in central Sudan where fierce fighting between the country's military and a paramilitary group has centered, a medical group said.

The deaths of 23 children in the Kordofan region underscores the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the northeastern African country where famine is spreading after more than 30 months of devastating war.

Sudan plunged into chaos in April 2023 when a power struggle between the military and the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country.

The devastating war has killed more than 40,000 people, according to U.N. figures, but aid groups say

that is an undercount and the true number could be many times higher. It created the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with over 14 million people forced to flee their homes, fueled disease outbreaks and pushed parts of the country into famine.

About 370,000 people had been pushed into famine in Kordofan and the western region of Darfur as of September, with another 3.6 million people one step from famine in the two regions, according to international hunger experts.

The children's deaths were reported between Oct. 20 and Nov. 20 in the besieged city of Kadugli and the town of Dilling, said the Sudan Doctors Network, a body of professionals that tracks the conflict.

The group said late Friday that the deaths were a "result of severe acute malnutrition and shortages of essential supplies" in the two areas, where a blockade "prevents the entry of food and medicine and puts the lives of thousands of civilians at risk."

Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan province, is where famine was declared earlier this month by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. The RSF has besieged Kadugli town for months, with tens of thousands of people trapped as the group tries to seize more territory from the Sudanese military.

Dilling, also in South Kordofan, has reportedly experienced the same hunger conditions as Kadugli, but the IPC didn't announce famine there because of a lack of data, it said.

Fighting for the control of Kordofan intensified earlier this year after the military forced the RSF out of Khartoum. The paramilitary group has since then focused its resources on Kordofan and the city of el-Fasher, which was the military's last stronghold in the sprawling Darfur region.

The RSF drove the military out of el-Fasher earlier this month, and forced tens of thousands to flee to overcrowded camps to escape reported atrocities by the paramilitary force, according to aid groups and UN officials.

Chaos and drama mark the Springboks’ first win over Ireland in Dublin in 13 years

France dazzles with 7 tries and sends Wallabies home from winless tour of Europe

PARIS, Nov 23, (AP): France produced its best attacking performance this year to outscore Australia by a record 48-33 at the Stade de France.

The defense allowed five tries and the Wallabies were in the match until the 72nd minute.

But the attack sparked with seven tries, some of them breathtaking, for their highest score against Australia. They also notched three straight wins over the Wallabies for the first time in 49 years.

Nicolas Depoortere scored his second straight brace for France, and Kalvin Gourgues, a 20-year-old center, debuted off the bench and broke from inside his own half to gift Louis Bielle-Biarrey his second try.

The Wallabies were consigned to a first winless tour of Europe since 1958 and a record 10th loss in a single year.

They were said to be mentally and physically exhausted after consecutive losses to England, Italy and Ireland, but they started brilliantly to set up hooker Matt Faessler to crash through France centers Depoortere and Gael Fickou for the opening try.

Bielle-Biarrey set up the reply by Depoortere, and while Wallabies fly-half Tane Edmed missed his second goalkick, he converted a try by prop Angus Bell, who chucked off Thomas Ramos and broke clear from 40 meters out.

France struck twice in a row when Julien Marchand’s turnover was capped by a try for Ramos, and Bielle-Biarrey finished a sensational solo try from his own chip and running catch.

South Africa beat Ireland in Dublin for the first time in 13 years, winning 24-13 after a dramatic and chaotic incident-packed match .

The Irish struggled to handle the Springboks’ physicality and a green mist descended in which they conceded a 20-minute red card, four yellow cards and an equally uncharacteristic 18 penalties. For a time Ireland was down to 12 men.

The Springboks turned the pressure into four tries, one of them a penalty try. They hadn’t won in Dublin since 2012 and ended up with their biggest win



France’s Louis Bielle-Biarrey crosses the line to score a try during the rugby union Nations Series match between France and Australia in Saint-Denis, outside Paris. (AP)

there over Ireland since 1998. They have three straight wins on their European tour with only lowly Wales to visit.

“We won’t get carried away with the result but the beer tastes a little better,” Springboks coach Rassie Erasmus said. “We are certainly proud after such a long season to grind through a win against a team such as them at home for the first time in 13 years.

The penalty try, awarded against Ireland’s backpedalling scrum in first-half

injury time, lifted the Springboks to a 19-7 lead as a train of Irish players were brandished with yellow cards by referee Matthew Carley.

Carley’s halftime whistle prompted loud booing from the packed crowd in Aviva Stadium.

But short-handed Ireland was all heart after the interval, outscoring South Africa 6-5.

“To be able to win a second half 6-5 under those type of circumstances, I know it doesn’t tell a full story of the second half but it’s actually amazing,” Ireland coach Andy Farrell said.

Italy recovered from a mid-game slump to record a far from comprehensive 34-19 victory over Chile on Saturday in the first international rugby contest between the teams.

The Azzurri scored five tries with Ange Capuozzo setting Italy on the way. Tommaso Di Bartolomeo scored a try in each half before Monty Ioane added another two.

Giacomo Da Re converted three of those tries and added a penalty.

It was a somewhat poor performance from Italy, which allowed Chile to cross for three tries.

“Obviously I’m not happy with the match,” Italy coach Gonzalo Quesada said. “We can find many excuses, but we have to be much more precise. There was a lack of precision in attack, with more than 20 balls lost, so it was a difficult match.

“We have to be able to play these games, that we have to win, dominating a little more. We were never able to really take control, and this is a job we have to do.”

Chile was the 23rd of 24 teams to qualify for the 2027 Rugby World Cup, edging out Samoa in qualifying in September, and will be getting more access to test matches against higher-ranked opposition.

Italy had been leading 15-0 before two of Chile’s tries, from Salvador Lues and Nicolas Saab either side of halftime, saw the visitors slash the margin to one.

Kings end 8-game slide



Memphis Grizzlies guard John Konchar (46) and Dallas Mavericks guard Cooper Flagg (32) chase the loose ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas. (AP)

Clippers rout Hornets in Paul’s likely last game in North Carolina

DENVER, Nov 23, (AP): **Russell Westbrook scored 15 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter against his former team, and the Sacramento Kings withstood 44 points from Nikola Jokic to beat the Denver Nuggets 128-123 on Saturday night, ending an eight-game slide.**

Dennis Schroder also had 21 points for Sacramento, which lost every game during the streak by double digits - the last by 41 points at Memphis on Thursday night.

The Kings appeared on their way to a ninth straight defeat after falling behind by 13 in the third quarter, but they rallied to take the last of three games against Denver this season.

Keegan Murray had 19 points in his second game back from offseason surgery on his left thumb. DeMar DeRozan added 17, including a three-point play with 12 seconds left that sealed it.

It was the second consecutive home game in which the Nuggets fell to a team on an extended losing streak. Chicago handed them their first home loss Monday night to stop a five-game skid.

Clippers 131, Hornets 116

In Charlotte, James Harden made 10 3-pointers and scored a season-high 55 points, and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Charlotte Hornets hours after 12-time All-Star point guard Chris Paul released a video on social media hinting at retirement after the season ends.

Ivica Zubac added 18 points, nine rebounds and six assists for the Clippers, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Rookie Kon Knueppel had 26 points to lead the Hornets, who have lost five straight. Brandon Miller returned from a 13-game absence because of a shoulder injury and finished with 21 points.

Harden erupted for 27 points in the opening quarter on five 3s, helping the Clippers build a 14-point



Chicago Bulls guard Tre Jones (30) shoots the ball over Chicago Bulls center Nikola Vucevic (9) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago. (AP)

first-half lead and erase a fast start by the Hornets, who made seven of their first eight shots.

Charlotte pulled within 74-72 in the third quarter, but the momentum changed when LaMelo Ball exited the game with his fourth foul.

Magic 133, Knicks 121

In Magic, Franz Wagner had 37 points, Desmond Bane scored 27, and the Orlando Magic beat the New York Knicks for their sixth win in their past seven games.

Wagner scored seven of his season-high 37 points during a 13-0 fourth quarter run that helped the Magic pull away to their second win in 11 days over the Knicks. Bane and Jalen Suggs, with 26 points, also had seasons scoring highs.

Bane’s 3-pointer late in the third quarter broke a 93-93 tie and put Orlando in front for good.

Anthony Black came off the bench with 11 points, four assists, and three steals for Orlando.

Grizzlies 102, Mavericks 96

In Dallas, Santi Aldama scored 20 points, including a left-handed driving shot that began a tiebreaking 6-0 run for Memphis in the final minute, and Cam Spencer added 15 of his 17 points off the bench in the second half as the Grizzlies beat the Dallas

streak in franchise history. Detroit won 13 straight games in 1989-90 and 2003-04, and the Pistons went on to win the NBA title both seasons.

Hawks 115, Pelicans 98

In New Orleans, Kristaps Porzingis scored 29 points and Vit Krejci added 21 off the bench on seven 3-pointers to propel the Atlanta Hawks to a victory over the skidding New Orleans Pelicans.

Jalen Johnson had 18 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists for the Hawks, who stopped a two-game skid and won for the eighth time in 11 road games. Dyson Daniels, drafted in the first round by the Pelicans in 2022, provided 14 points and eight rebounds.

Playing its fifth game in seven nights, New Orleans lost its ninth straight overall and fell to 2-15 this season.

Porzingis shot 11 of 17 from the field and Krejci went 7 for 10 from 3-point range.

Atlanta overcame a sluggish start by outscoring the Pelicans 67-45 over the second and third quarters to erase an early deficit.

Johnson scored nine consecutive points to spark a 15-4 run that put the Hawks up 42-36 in the second.

Bulls 121, Wizards 120

In Chicago, Nikola Vucevic had 28 points and 12 rebounds, and the Chicago Bulls handed Washington its 14th consecutive loss with win over the Wizards.

Josh Giddey had 18 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for Chicago, which won for the third time in four games. Coby White scored 20 points, and Matas Buzelis finished with 13.

Washington inbounded the ball with 5.5 seconds left, but Kyshawn George rolled an errant pass out of bounds. Chicago then ran out the clock.

Cam Whitmore and Corey Kispert each scored 20 points for the NBA-worst Wizards, who remained winless against Eastern Conference opponents. CJ McCollum had 18 points, and George added 17.

Laborda scores winner in shootout

Whitecaps down LAFC in Western Conference semis

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Nov 23, (AP): Defender Mathias Laborda scored a first-half goal before delivering the winner in a penalty-kick shootout and the Vancouver Whitecaps beat Los Angeles FC 6-5 in a Western Conference semifinal on Saturday night before a club-record crowd of 53,957 at BC Place.

The second-seeded Whitecaps advance to their first Western Conference final after the two clubs played to a 2-2 draw through regulation and 30 minutes of overtime.

Son Heung-Min, who scored twice in the second half to pull LAFC even, banged his shot off the post to open the penalty-kick shootout while Sebastian Berhalter scored on the Whitecaps’ first attempt. LAFC’s Denis Bouanga and Vancouver’s Jayden Nelson traded goals before Marco Delgado sent his shot over the goal for LAFC. Ryan Gauld scored to give the Whitecaps a 3-1 lead but LAFC evened the score before Laborda found the net.

Vancouver advances to the conference final for the first time since joining the league in 2011. They await the winner of Monday’s match between expansion side San Diego FC, the No. 1 seed, and fourth-seeded Minne-

sota United.

Vancouver took a 1-0 lead in the 39th minute when goalkeeper Yohei Takaoka kicked the ball three-quarters the length of the field to a streaking Emmanuel Sabbi, who finished for his first postseason goal in his third appearance.

The Whitecaps took a two-goal lead into halftime after Laborda scored unassisted in the first minute of stoppage time. It was Laborda’s first postseason goal in seven appearances over the past three seasons.

LAFC cut it to 2-1 early in the second half on an unassisted goal by Son in the 60th minute. It was Son’s first postseason goal in his third appearance after scoring nine goals in 10 appearances during the regular season.

Son delivered a second goal, scoring unassisted off a free kick in the fifth minute of stoppage time to tie it.

Takaoka totaled six saves for the Whitecaps. He has allowed a total of 12 goals over nine postseason starts in the past three seasons.

Hugo Lloris saved four shots for No. 3 seed LAFC in his seventh playoff start over the past two seasons.

The Whitecaps lost in their two previous trips to the semifinals in 2015 and 2017.



Vancouver Whitecaps’ Ralph Priso, left, and Los Angeles FC’s Nathan Ordaz, right, vie for the ball during the first half of the MLS Western Conference semifinal soccer match in Vancouver, British Columbia. (AP)

Benavidez stops Yarde in 7th round to retain WBC light-heavyweight title

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 23, (AP): David Benavidez strengthened his grip on the WBC light-heavyweight championship with a seventh-round stoppage of Anthony Yarde, extending his unbeaten record to 31 fights.

The 27-year-old American, who moved up to the division last year, gradually broke Yarde (27-4, 24 KOs) down with sustained pressure and rapid combinations, leaving the British challenger with a bloody nose in the sixth round before the referee ended the fight at 1:59 into the seventh.

The defeat marked the 34-year-old British fighter’s third failed world-title bid, following previous stoppage losses to Sergey Kovalev and Artur Beterbiev. Despite moments of competitiveness, Yarde spent much of the contest on the back foot as Benavidez’s speed and accuracy took control.

“I’d grade (my performance) a B+, I’m not going to lie,” Benavi-

dez said. “There’s always room for improvement. They said I couldn’t stop this guy and I had no power at 175, I made it look better than Beterbiev and Kovalev.”

Benavidez (31-0, 24 KOs) reiterated his plans to step up to cruiserweight next and pursue WBA and WBO champion Gilberto Ramirez.

In the co-main event, Devin Haney claimed the WBO welterweight title by unanimous decision over fellow-American Brian Norman Jr. to become a three-division world champion.

Haney knocked down Norman (28-1, 22 KOs) in the second round to seize the momentum and stayed in control behind his sharp jab as he closed out a 114-113, 117-110 and 116-111 scorecard.

Haney (33-0, 15 KOs) is a former lightweight and super lightweight world champion. He beat Jose Carlos Ramirez by unanimous decision in a 12-round welterweight bout in Times Square in February.

HIP Fujairah claims first place

Sheikh Mubarak: Hosting XCAT worlds underscores Kuwait’s rising sporting status

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Honorary President of the Kuwait Sea Sports Club, Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, emphasized that Kuwait’s hosting of the penultimate round of the 2025 XCAT World Powerboat Championship marks a milestone that reflects the nation’s growing commitment to developing marine sports and strengthening its international presence.

Speaking at the ceremony — attended by Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sport Bashar Abdullah, representing the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi — Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak highlighted the significance of organizing such a major global event under ministerial patronage and with the supervision of the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM). Delegations from participating countries, racers, and Sea Sports Club members were also present.

Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak noted that Kuwait is proud to host this international championship, stressing the key role played by the Sea Sports Club and the Supreme Organizing Committee in bringing world-class marine sporting events to the country.

He added that Kuwait’s powerboat racing heritage stretches back to the 1980s, when local racers began making their mark on global competitions. The Sea Sports Club held its first local championship in 1981, paving the way for decades of organizing regional and international tournaments, backed by strong government support and consistent official attention.

The second and penultimate round of the 2025 XCAT World Championship concluded the day before yesterday. HIP Fujairah claimed first place in Race 2, followed by Victory 7 in second and TEAM GP in third.



Sheikh Mubarak poses with the organizers of the 2025 XCAT World Powerboat Championship.

Race entries go fully digital

Hunting and Equestrian Club calls for prompt payment

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Hunting and Equestrian Club has issued Administrative Circular No. 4 of 2025 to its main stables and the Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and Sheikh Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah racetracks, calling on all leaseholders to settle their financial obligations. Failure to comply will result in legal action, in accordance with the Public Authority for Sport’s regulations.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Fahad Al-Nasser, Secretary General of the club, highlighted the ongoing development of horse racing in Kuwait. Following the integration of all four local racetracks, trainers and horses are now able to participate at any track, boosting competition and participation.

In a press statement, Sheikh Sabah Al-Nasser said: “Race registration and entries are now fully online, allowing participants to select their preferred race and distance.



Sheikh Sabah Al-Nasser

Opening the tracks collectively has made it easier for horse owners to take part. Prize values have also been increased, with the minimum prize now set at 1,500 Kuwaiti Dinars. All races at the Hunting and Equestrian Club now award trophies, and valuable prizes, including cars, are distributed to winners throughout the season. Additionally, four cars will be awarded at the end of the season to the top point scorers—for the trainer, jockey, owner, and horse with the highest points—alongside cash prizes for second and third place finishers.”

Kuwait joins GCC youth sports volunteering program in Jeddah

JEDDAH, Nov 23, (KUNA): Kuwait is taking part in the “Volunteerism in Youth and Sports” training program in Jeddah, organized by the Saudi Ministry of Sport in collaboration with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat. The program focuses on promoting youth sports volunteering and its role in community development.

Anwr Al-Mikhael, Director of Services at Kuwait’s Public Authority for Youth and head of the Kuwaiti delegation, told KUNA that Kuwait’s involvement reflects its strong commitment to youth and sports initiatives. He emphasized that volunteerism is crucial for building resilient societies and preparing future leaders capable of addressing challenges and driving sustainable development.

Al-Mikhael, who also chairs the GCC Leadership and Entrepreneurship Committee, noted that the program aligns with decisions made during the 38th GCC Youth and Sports Ministers’ meeting. Its goals include fostering a culture of volunteerism among Gulf youth, supporting sports events, and promoting values of social responsibility, community engagement, and civic belonging.

He praised the GCC Secretariat and Saudi Ministry of Sport for organizing the initiative, expressing hope that it will serve as a platform for experience exchange, leadership development, and strengthened cooperation among Gulf youth, while reinforcing volunteerism as a lasting humanitarian value in the region.

The Kuwaiti delegation includes Faleh Al-Ajmi, Abdulrahman Majham, Ahmad Al-Thuwaini, and Nada Binnaji. The program is part of joint GCC activities approved for 2025 at the 38th ministerial meeting held in Kuwait last February.

Running through next Thursday, the program covers youth sports volunteerism, its social impact, and the relevant legal and regulatory frameworks in the Gulf. It also addresses sports event management, volunteer leadership, use of technology for volunteer coordination, governance, recruitment and training, sustainability, risk management, public-private partnerships, and innovative volunteer initiatives.

Ultimately, the program aims to cultivate a strong volunteer culture among Gulf youth, highlight the significance of sports volunteering, enhance volunteer management, and share successful experiences from across the Gulf and internationally.

3x3 Basketball World Tour ends in Manama as Barjas presents awards

MANAMA, Nov 23: The 3x3 Basketball World Tour concluded the day before yesterday in Manama, Bahrain, with Serbia’s UB team taking the championship title. The closing ceremony was attended by prominent figures, including Bahraini Minister of Tourism Fatima bint Jafar Al-Sirafi, Bahraini Olympic Committee Vice President Sheikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Kuwaiti Basketball Federation President Dhari Barjas, Bahraini Basketball Federation President Sheikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, and senior officials from FIBA.

Dhari Barjas actively participated in the awards ceremony, presenting the prize to the three-point contest winner, Jones Forest. He also congratulated the Bahraini Basketball Federation on the outstanding organization of the event, praising Bahrain’s



Dhari Barjas hands over the prize to one of the contest winners.

significant role and proven ability to host major international sporting competitions.

Shiffrin wins 2nd consecutive Cup slalom of Olympic season

GURGL, Austria, Nov 23, (AP): American ski star Mikaela Shiffrin is heading into her home races in Colorado next weekend as the overall World Cup leader on a two-event winning streak.

Shiffrin dominated another slalom Sunday as she made it two convincing wins from two races in the discipline to start the Olympic season.

Racing in sunny but cold conditions in the Austrian Alps, Shiffrin posted the fastest time in both runs to finish 1.23 seconds ahead of second-placed Lara Colturi, an Italian prodigy competing for Albania.

The pair also went 1-2 in the first slalom of the season a week ago in Finland, where Shiffrin also led both runs and won by 1.66.

“I think it’s some of the best slalom skiing I ever did,” said Shiffrin, who got her 66th World Cup win in slalom and 103rd overall, both are records.

Slalom world champion Camille Rast trailed by 1.41 in third, as the podium resembled the one from last year’s race in Gurgl. Her Swiss teammate Wendy Holdener dropped to fourth.

Shiffrin’s next races are a giant slalom on Saturday and a slalom the following day in Copper Mountain, the regular training base of the U.S. ski team.



United States’ Mikaela Shiffrin celebrates winning an alpine ski, women’s World Cup slalom, in Gurgl, Austria. (AP)

The women’s races follow two men’s events in Copper Mountain on Thursday and Friday.

“I am really excited to go to Copper. I mean, I stay in my own bed for the first time during the season since we used to go to Aspen,” Shiffrin said. On Sunday, Shiffrin led Colturi by 0.31 after a tight opening run, but used an all-attacking final leg to make the gap four times as big.

South Africa roars in India with massive 489 1st innings

Muthusamy scores 109 runs off 206 balls

GUWAHATI, India, Nov 23, (AP): A maiden century from all-rounder Senuran Muthusamy helped South Africa score a mammoth 489 runs in its first innings and take control of the second cricket test against India on Sunday.

Muthusamy scored 109 runs off 206 balls, including 10 fours and two sixes, as South Africa pushed on from day one’s score of 247-6 into a commanding position.

Marco Jansen scored 93 runs off 91 balls, including seven sixes, as the Indian bowling attack toiled hard for 151.1 overs without much reward.

In reply, India finished day two at 9-0 with openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (7 not out) and Lokesh Rahul (2 not out) surviving 6.1 overs before bad light forced an end to proceedings once again.

South Africa leads by 480 runs, and has a 1-0 lead in the two-match series, after winning the first test in Kolkata by 30 runs. The Proteas are chasing a first test series win on Indian soil since 2000-01.

Muthusamy started the day on a bright note, putting on 69 runs for the seventh wicket with Kyle Vereyne as India went wicketless in the morning session.

South Africa reached 316-6 at tea, which has been swapped with the longer lunch interval due to light concerns at the Barsapara Stadium. Guwahati is hosting its maiden test and is now the 30th test venue in India.

Vereyne made amends for his rash dismissal in Kolkata, hitting five fours and put on 88 off 236 deliveries with Muthusamy as India’s bowlers searched for answers.

Their partnership lasted another hour into the second session, when Vereyne was stumped off Ravindra Jadeja (2-94) in the 121st over.

Muthusamy, at the other end, marched on to a maiden test hundred off 192 deliveries. He became the third South African batter to register a century from No. 7 or lower against India, after



South Africa’s Kyle Verreyne plays a shot on the second day of the second cricket test match between India and South Africa in Guwahati, India. (AP)

Quinton de Kock in 2019 (Visakhapatnam) and Lance Klusener in 1997 (Cape Town).

“It was a special moment in front of this full house,” said Muthusamy, who enters the record books as the first batter to score a test hundred in Guwahati. “I am glad to contribute and help put up big runs in the first innings, which is always important. The plan was to build partnerships and to extend the innings as much as possible. We will see now how the pitch unfolds over the next three days.”

South Africa crossed the 400-mark shortly after, with Muthusamy putting on 97 off 106 balls with Jansen.

The lanky all-rounder scored his fifth test half-century off 53 balls, and after Muthusamy’s dismissal, drove South Africa past 450.

Jansen joined countrymen AB de Villiers and Quinton de Kock in hitting the most sixes during a test innings - seven. He also hit six fours.

He had vital partnerships with Simon Harmer (5) - 31 off 30 balls - and another 27 off 48 balls with Keshav Maharaj (12 not out). Jansen missed out on his maiden century when Kuldeep Yadav bowled him seven short.

Yadav finished with 4-115 in 29.1 overs and was India’s best bowler. Pacers Jasprit Bumrah (2-75) and Mohammed Siraj (2-106) picked up a brace each.

On Saturday’s opening day, Yadav picked up 3-48 as India led by Rishabh Pant, who is standing in for the injured Shubman Gill, had made good progress late in the day after South Africa had won the toss and opted to bat.

Pakistan dominates Sri Lanka in tri-series

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Nov 23, (AP): Sahibzada Farhan bludgeoned a career-best unbeaten 80 off 45 balls as Pakistan routed struggling Sri Lanka by seven wickets in the T20 tri-series.

Sri Lanka, which lost its opening game against Zimbabwe by 67 runs after getting bowled out for 95, got limited to 128-7 after captain Dasun Shanaka won the toss and elected to bat. Farhan’s blistering knock that featured five sixes and six boundaries sealed a second successive win for Pakistan in just 15.3 overs as the home team cruised to 131-3.

Sri Lanka’s white-ball tour to Pakistan saw them losing the ODI series 3-0 against the hosts and their batters continued to struggle in the T20 format in

the first two games of the tri-series.

“It was a complete game, we were very good with both bat and ball,” Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha said. “We always wanted to start well, and he’s (Farhan) someone who if he bats for three to four overs, he can take the game away from any opposition.”

Kamil Mishara (22) got Sri Lanka going in the first three overs against the pace of Mohammad Wasim after Shaheen Shah Afridi was ruled out from Saturday’s game due to a foot injury. But Sri Lanka lost its way inside the power play when Mishara was deceived by a slower ball from Faheem Ashraf and holed out at mid-on and Kusal Mendis was run-out while going for a needless second run.

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NEWS



Players of Argentina's Lanus celebrate with the trophy after winning the Copa Sudamericana final soccer match, defeating Brazil's Atlético Mineiro in a penalty shootout, in Asuncion, Paraguay. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Sport for All Federation celebrates successful Padel League finale



Champions honored at the Championship finale.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The team of Abdulrahman Al-Awadi and Abdullah Al-Abdullah clinched the title of The Padel League T2, organized by the Kuwait Sport for All Federation from November 14 to 22. The event drew strong participation from local teams and professional players, with competitions held across four categories to maximize player involvement and development.

In the Under-16 division, Saud Al-Nasser and Bader Nasser secured first place, while Mahdi Sabah and Abdulwahab Al-Salahi finished runners-up.

In the Men's Over-40 category, Ahmed Al-Yateem and Hussein Al-Gharib placed second, with the championship going to Ahmed Ashour and Hassan Al-Gharib.

The Women's final saw Maryam Al-Saraj and Dalal Al-Junai claim the top spot, followed by Sarah Bahbahani and Dalal Al-Jazzaf in second place. In the Open Men's final, Abdulaziz Maayouf and Fouad Bahbahani took second place, while the duo of Abdulrahman Al-Awadi and Abdullah Al-Abdullah walked away with the title.

Bashar Abdullah, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sport, commended the high technical level on display throughout the tournament, noting that its four diverse categories expanded participation opportunities.

He also extended his appreciation to the chairman and board members of the Kuwait Sport for All Federation for organizing a highly successful event that attracted strong turnout from both players and enthusiastic crowds, especially during the finals.

Kuwait ready for crucial Arab Cup qualifier amid strong fan backing

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Nov 23: Kuwait to complete its final training session this evening at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, Al-Sadd Club in Doha, Qatar, ahead of playoff match against Mauritania for a spot in the Arab Cup.

Portuguese coach Helio Sousa is set to finalize the squad for the decisive encounter after evaluating players' readiness during the Doha sessions, following the conclusion of their training camp in Cairo, Egypt.

The team's final preparations emphasized improving fitness, strengthening on-field organization, and addressing mistakes observed during friendly matches against Tanzania and Gambia.

Al-Azraq is aiming to qualify after the previous edition. If they defeat Mauritania, the team will join Group D alongside Egypt, Jordan, and the UAE. The squad will continue training in Qatar until their opening group match against Egypt on December 2.

Coach Sousa confirmed that all players are ready for the crucial



Players hold their final training session.

clash, with the exception of forward Shbib Al-Khaldi, who continues individualized training under the medical team as part of his gradual return.

On the fan support front, Football Association President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef is arranging a fourth flight in response to high demand. Previously, three flights,

organized in cooperation with Zain Kuwait and Kuwait Airways, sold out within 30 minutes of ticket sales opening.

Meanwhile, the Mauritanian national team has arrived in Doha and conducted a training session at Qatar University fields, with their main session scheduled for this evening at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium.

Verstappen surges back into title hunt at Las Vegas GPrix

Rivals Norris and Oscar Piastri disqualified

LAS VEGAS, Nov 23, (AP): A fifth consecutive Formula 1 championship is within Max Verstappen's reach following the disqualifications of contenders Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri after Saturday night's Las Vegas Grand Prix. Verstappen won the event for the second time in three years to close the gap on Norris to just 42 points with two races remaining. But three hours after the race concluded, the FIA summoned McLaren to see the stewards for failing inspection.

The measured thickness of the skid wear on the McLarens failed to meet the minimum thickness requirements. Skid wear is the wear on the protective plank on the underside of the cars, and Lewis Hamilton was disqualified for the same infraction earlier this year.

McLaren team principal Andrea Stella said the infraction stemmed from the cars' bottoming out during the race at levels they did not do during practice, leading to excessive contact with the ground. Stella said the damage to both cars was "accidental" and that "the FIA noted the breach was unintentional, there was no deliberate attempt to circumvent the regulations, and mitigating circumstances also existed."

He also apologized to Norris and Piastri. "We apologise to Lando and Oscar for the loss of points today, at a critical time in their championship campaigns after two strong performances from them all weekend," Stella said. "While this outcome is extremely disappointing, we remain fully focused on the last two races of the season."

The DQs made for a wild swing in the standings as both Norris and Piastri were stripped of all points earned in Las Vegas. Norris went from 30 points up on Piastri and 42 points up on Verstappen to just 24 points up on Verstappen and Piastri, who holds the tie-breaker for second in the standings based on his win total. Verstappen has won the last two races in Qatar, where F1 races next week, and four of the last five at Abu Dhabi, where the season will end Dec. 7. It's an incredible comeback for the Dutchman, who seemed out of contention over the summer.

Even after winning Las Vegas for the second time in three years, Ver-



McLaren driver Lando Norris of Great Britain and Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands lead at the start of the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix auto race in Las Vegas. (AP)

stappen wasn't thinking about the championship. "I mean, it's still a big gap. But, you know, we always try to just maximise everything that we've got," he said three hours before the McLarens were called to see the FIA. "This weekend, that was first."

The upcoming weekends we'll again try to win the race. And at the end of Abu Dhabi, we'll see where we end up." Verstappen was by far the biggest winner in Las Vegas, an event he hated before he'd ever turned in a lap. He won for the second time in four races, the second time in three years of the Las Vegas Grand Prix, as the four-time reigning Formula 1 champion continued to claw his way back into the title picture with a Saturday night victory on the streets of Las Vegas. His displeasure with the event stems from the bright spotlight promoters place on celebrities and parties instead of the actual competition. But when it comes time to get in the car, no matter how Verstappen feels about the event, he seems to excel.

"Some people like more show added. Some people like different kinds of tracks as a fan also," he said. "I also have my opinions about what I like. Some weekends I like more than others."

I still like to be in Vegas, but I'm personally less of a showman. I'm not really into that, probably. But I get it, you know, it's part of the calendar. If you're in Vegas, it needs to be like this." Las Vegas was the 69th victory of Verstappen's career. It was his eighth consecutive podium, F1-record eighth win in the United States, and he beat points leader Norris by more than 20 seconds. Verstappen started second but took control of the race in the very first turn when Norris made an aggressive move to cut in front of him at the start, but wound up sliding wide of the

turn in his McLaren. "I let Max have a win," Norris lamented.

"Let him go. Let him have a nice race. I just braked too late. It was my (mess) up." Verstappen moved to the lead, and George Russell darted past Norris into second. "I made the mistake in Turn 1, which cost me," Norris said. "Sometimes a good result is second, and scoring some points. I've had a good run, and I think the pace was still good. Max just drove a good race, and they were quick. I made the mistake in Turn 1, you know, you've got to be punchy into Turn 1. "I was just a bit too punchy, you know, and that cost me." It was the 150th career start for Norris, which tied the McLaren record with David Coulthard.

He will become McLaren's most tenured driver next week in Qatar with his 151st start. But after his slip in the first turn, Norris found himself stuck back in third, and teammate Piastri fared no better as the Australian lost two spots on the start to drop from fifth to seventh. The two McLaren drivers have swapped the lead in the driver standings all season. Norris finished second before the disqualification, and Russell was third. Russell moved to second. Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes crossed the finish line in fourth, but a penalty dropped him a spot to fifth, which moved Piastri to fourth before the disqualification. Antonelli is now third.

Piastri has not won since the final day of August at the Dutch Grand Prix and has just one podium finish in the seven races since. He seemed to accept that his title chances are slipping away. "I don't really know what to think, to be honest. The first lap was eventful, to say the least," Piastri said. "It is what it is. I think I'm going to try my best, obviously, for the next two races and try to put myself in the best position possible."

Kuwait's Ramadan finishes second at Motosurf World Championship

MACAU, Nov 23, (KUNA): Kuwaiti rider Fares Ramadan of the Kuwait Sea Sports Club secured second place overall in the Stock Rookie category of the 2025 Motosurf World Championship, which concluded its fifth and final round in Macau.

Ibrahim Ramadan, head of the Motor Sports Committee at the Kuwait Sea Sports Club for the 2025 championship, told KUNA on Sunday that the tournament was held under the authority of the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) and consisted of five rounds featuring top riders from around the world.

He explained that this year's championship began in April, with the first round in the UAE, followed by rounds in Turkey, Italy, and Croatia, before concluding in Macau.

Fares Ramadan placed fifth in the final round, which started on November 20 in Macau, but his consistent performance across all stages secured him second place in the overall standings.



Kuwaiti rider Fares Ramadan celebrates on the podium.