



Kuwait nabs cash flash scammer

Police continue crackdown on online fraudsters

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: The joint efforts of the Financial Crimes Department and the Cybercrime Department led to the arrest of a social media user who had posted videos and photos displaying large sums of money and gold, and offering financial assistance to those in need, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Upon the broadcasting of the videos and photos, suspicions were

raised about promoting funds of unknown origin and soliciting money through illegal means. After monitoring the individuals and investigating his activities, it was discovered that he was wanted by law in connection with cases involving misuse of a smartphone, incitement to debauchery and immorality, fraud, and trespassing, as well as other offenses such as disturbing authorities, intentional property damage, and filing a false report.

It was also discovered that he had a criminal history including burglary and robbery with threats of violence, along with outstanding warrants for of-

fenses related to disturbing authorities, inciting debauchery and immorality, and fraud.

After obtaining a warrant from the Public Prosecution, the suspect was apprehended in possession of cash of unknown origin, which he had been promoting through his online account. The individual and the seized items were referred to the competent authorities for the necessary legal action.

The Ministry of Interior confirmed that it is continuing to monitor and apprehend anyone who exploits social media for illegal activities.



HH the PM during the event's official photo session.

KUNA photo

Under PM patronage, KFAS marks 25 yrs of Harvard Kennedy alliance

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27, (KUNA): Under the patronage and attendance of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) celebrated 25 years of its executive program partnership with Harvard Kennedy School.

The event, held at the Scientific Center on Thursday, gathered senior leaders, officials, and decision makers from program alumni across

public and private sectors, alongside an academic delegation, creating a forum for dialogue, networking, and shared strategic experiences.

In his address, the Prime Minister praised KFAS as a national platform supporting research, innovation, and capacity building, emphasizing the Harvard Kennedy partnership as a strategic investment

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Kuwait advances renewable energy, afforestation efforts

PM drives major development projects forward

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired the 36th meeting of the ministerial committee tasked with following up on the country's major development projects, at Bayan Palace on Thursday.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister urged committee members to continue pushing forward national achievements within Kuwait's broader development drive, noting the country is advancing at a steady and rapid pace toward a promising future.

He emphasized the need to launch additional pioneering development projects aligned with sustainable development goals.

The committee received a briefing from representatives of the Ministry of Public Works on the construction progress for the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project, including measures taken and the preparation of the required contractual documents.



PM Diwan photo

HH the PM chairs the 36th meeting of the ministerial committee on major development projects.

Zubana ushers in winter chill

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: Al-Ojairi Scientific Center says Kuwait is currently experiencing the final phase of the Wasim season, known as the Al-Zubana star system, which marks the beginning of winter, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, the center explained that the Al-Zubana star system will continue until December 6, and it is characterized by longer nights, shorter days, and cold winds. Al-Zubana is the last phase of autumn and the first phase of winter, marking the start of the winter solstice. During this period, winter weather becomes more noticeable, with nighttime temperatures dropping further and daytime temperatures becoming milder.

After Al-Zubana ends, the Al-Iklil star system appears, marking the start of the Al-Muraba' aniyah season.

At the beginning of Al-Zubana, the day lasts approximately 10 hours and 30 minutes, while the night lasts about 13 hours and 30 minutes. Nighttime increases by 11 minutes toward the end of Al-Zubana, reaching 13 hours and 41 minutes.

In related news, the Meteorology Department has forecast that the country's weather this weekend will be warm to moderate during the day and cool to cold at night.

Director of the department Dhirar Al-Ali told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the country is under the influence of a high-pressure system extending from the northwest, accompanied by a relatively moderate air mass, with northwesterly to variable winds, light to moderate in speed.

He explained that the weather during the day on Friday is expected to be moderate, with northwesterly to variable winds, light to moderate in speed ranging from 6 to 28

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Embassy of Bangladesh in Kuwait celebrates 55th Armed Forces Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: The Embassy of Bangladesh in Kuwait hosted a reception on November 26 to celebrate the 55th Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh. The reception was organized at the Al Taj Ballroom of Hotel Millennium in Kuwait City.

The event, was graced by the Guest of Honour, Major General Feras Adel Al-Shaheen, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Administration and Manpower of the Kuwait Armed Forces. The reception was attended by a large number of Ambassadors of different countries, members of the diplomatic corps, civil societies of Kuwait, Defence Attaches resident in Kuwait, officers of Bangladesh Military Contingent in Kuwait and members of Bangladesh Community.

In his welcome address, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait Major General Syed Tareq Hussain paid solemn tribute to the heroic freedom fighters and martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War.

He also paid homage to the students and citizens who sacrificed their lives during the July - August 2024 Movement.

He highlighted the historic roots and evolution of the Bangladesh Armed Forces, noting their role in safeguarding national sovereignty, contributing to national development, and upholding Bangladesh's global reputation as a leading participant in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

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Photos by Rezk Tawfiq and Bangladesh Embassy
Photos during a reception to celebrate the 55th Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh.

Kuwait parks set for private boost

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: Municipal Council members Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader and Ismail Behbehani submitted a proposal to support and activate private investment in public parks throughout the country.

This initiative is in line with their efforts to improve the quality of public facilities and develop green spaces in residential and urban areas.

In their proposal, the two members explained that parks development will be achieved through a structured partnership between the Council, Kuwait Municipality and the private sector. They said a technical committee shall be responsible for identifying parks eligible for development and monitoring implementation mechanisms, without imposing financial burdens on the State.

The proposal includes involving architecture students from Kuwait University in preparing innovative designs that reflect

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Uzbekistan grants 30 days visa-free travel to Kuwaitis

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Kuwait Ayubkhan Yunusov announced that the Kuwait-Tashkent route has an average of 11 flights per week, while clarifying that statistics on the annual number of flights or the number of direct flights between the two countries are not yet available.



Yunusov

Yunusov told the newspaper that the decision of Uzbekistan to exempt the citizens of Kuwait and three other Gulf countries from visa requirements for 30 days, starting in June 2025, will lead to a remarkable increase in the number of

Vacant land ruling sparks cautious moves in market

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: The Constitutional Court on Wednesday rejected the appeals against Law 126/2023 on combating the monopoly of vacant land, with real estate experts expressing different opinions about the impact of the law on correcting prices and stimulating the real estate market, especially in the residential sector, which is the greatest source of concern for citizens.

Real estate expert Suleiman Al-Dulaijan told the newspaper that implementing the Vacant Land Law is a vital step, but it is not enough to enable citizens to own houses. He pointed out that while the law is important for regulating the real estate market, addressing the real estate issue is linked to implementing comprehensive solutions and other laws, particularly the Mortgage and Land Liberalization laws, and a thorough review of the Residential Building Law, in order to narrow the gap between purchasing power and the actual income of citizens.

He explained that although vacant land prices are expected to decrease by five percent to 15 percent in 2025, rejecting the appeals against the Vacant Land Law is not enough to adjust prices to match the citizens' financial capabilities. "The average price of a house is estimated at around KD340,000 and land at KD300,000. These figures far exceed the purchasing power of citizens, especially given the accumulation of housing grant applications over many years and the fact that rent consumes more than 25 percent of citizens' salaries,"

he elaborated.

He stated that even if the Constitutional Court upheld the law and its implementation in January 2026, the real estate market is subject to the supply and demand principle. "While there has been an increase in the supply of residential land, demand is typically driven by investors rather than ordinary citizens who are still unable to afford private housing. Therefore, the decision of the Constitutional Court will have a partial, rather than a complete, impact," he clarified.

He said the citizens have certain options -- selling or developing or constructing properties exceeding 1,500 square meters. "In this case, will development include construction in accordance with the regulations of the State Ministry for Municipality Affairs and other relevant authorities? Or will some resort to registering their properties under other people's names to avoid escalating fees?"

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GCC eyes unified aviation

Kuwait steps up traveler protections

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27, (KUNA): As complaints and grievances against travel agents' malpractices have been on the rise, Kuwait's concerned agencies have adopted strict measures against violators in a bid to protect travelers' rights.

The complaint and arbitration committee of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation has recently taken a set of penalties against violating travel offices and unlicensed brokers, who are mainly to blame for financial losses and flight cancellations.

For instance, on October 22, 2025, the committee took action against 66 violations made by travel agents for breaking social media license rules and other relevant guidelines. In addition, two people were prosecuted for breach-

ing business license rules.

On November 13, the committee adopted new penalties, including fines against eight travels agents and one aviation firm for breaking relevant guidelines.

In this context, Abdullah Al-Rajhi, the authority's air transport department director and the committee's chief said the agency has an updated database of 890 offices and firms involving 728 travel offices, 89 shipping offices and 73 airlines, which are all subject to the authority's oversight.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Rajhi said the Public Authority for Civil Aviation is playing a holistic control role to check licensed offices and monitor violations, if there.

He added that the agency commits itself to overseeing the air transport market in order to protect travelers and safeguard their rights, pointing out regulatory decisions to prevent any malpractice or fraud.

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Sheikh Humoud



Kuwait needs
2 scientific rather
than emotional
approach

Whispers of the
wind: Rock
paintings of
La Rumorosa,
Baja California

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:58	Asr	14:30
Sunrise ..	06:21	Maghrib ..	16:50
Zohr	11:36	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 06-28 km/h.

By Night: Rather cold to cold with light to moderate northwest-

Weather

erly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	27	17
Kuwait Airport	30	13

Abdaly	30	10
Bubyan	24	09
Jahra	30	16
Failaka Island	26	14
Salmiyah	24	20
Ahmadi	28	15
Nuwaisib	30	13
Wafra	30	14

Other Voices

Kuwait needs scientific rather than emotional approach

By Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

For years, Kuwait has voiced its ambition to transform itself into a financial and commercial hub capable of attracting foreign investment and improving the business environment. These goals are laudable, but they are often met with polite applause rather than genuine confidence. The issue is not a shortage of vision; it is the widening gap between official promises and measurable results.

Repeated attempts to reform Kuwait Airways exemplify this disconnect. Despite restructuring efforts, the airline continues to post losses amid shrinking routes, declining regional competitiveness and a weakened international presence. Similar patterns appear in public transportation, healthcare insurance systems, livestock services, public facilities and tourism projects. Even ongoing initiatives face structur-

al flaws that raise doubts about execution rather than intent. The recently announced “Kuwait Storage Company” seems to repeat the longstanding habit of creating new state entities instead of addressing deeper systemic problems.

Meanwhile, official statements frequently reference “structural reforms,” “transformative change” and “surges in foreign investment.” Yet the economic indicators tell a different story. Kuwait remains the lowest in the Gulf in capital expenditure and foreign investment inflows, and no publicly accessible data suggests any meaningful improvement in the investment climate. Optimism, detached

from measurable progress, risks widening the gap between rhetoric and reality and heightening public frustration.

International experience shows that well designed privatization and public private partnerships deliver far better outcomes than direct state management. The UAE and Saudi Arabia offer instructive examples: public utilities transformed into competitive corporations, increased efficiency and market value, and higher state returns from smaller ownership stakes.

Kuwait would benefit from rebuilding trust with the private sector and establishing transparent, fair partnerships. Even scientific laboratories operate with rigorous methodology, documentation and continuous evaluation. If experiments on mice and primates require disciplined frameworks to minimize error, how can an entire state apparatus function with anything less?



KUNA photo

President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan holds cordial talks with the visiting First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al Sabah.

UAE & Kuwait stress unity, strong inter-GCC relations

ABU DHABI, Nov 27, (KUNA): President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan received recently the visiting First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al Sabah at Qasr Al Bahr in Abu Dhabi.

The meeting touched on the close fraternal ties between the two Arabian Gulf countries and ways to strengthen cooperation across various fields to serve mutual interests and support the development aspirations of both nations, the UAE official news agency (WAM) reported.

It added that discussions also covered the importance of reinforcing joint Gulf cooperation to advance the shared interests of all GCC member states and their peoples.

During the meeting, Sheikh Fahad conveyed to the UAE President the greetings of His Highness the Amir

of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah along with his warm wishes for the UAE's continued progress and prosperity.

He delivered a message of thanks and appreciation from the Amir of Kuwait to the UAE President, expressing gratitude for the recent initiative to celebrate the longstanding and historic ties between the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, beginning on 29 January.

In his message, His Highness the Amir of Kuwait hailed the Emirati gesture as a reflection of the deep-rooted bonds of friendship between the two nations and their peoples.

In response, Sheikh Mohammad asked Sheikh Fahad to convey his own greetings and best wishes to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, wishing the country and its people continued growth and prosperity under his leadership.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27, (KUNA): Kuwait's Defense Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah affirmed Kuwait's firm commitment to supporting the Chemical Weapons Convention, preventing its proliferation, and working to ensure that the Middle East and the entire world are completely free of such weapons.

The Ministry of Defense stated to KUNA on Thursday that Dr. Al-Sabah delivered Kuwait's address to the 30th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in The Hague from November 24 to 28.

He underscored the importance of all State Parties fully adhering to verification mechanisms and upholding accountability for any violations, stressing Kuwait's unwavering support for the Palestinian people and its categorical rejection of any use of pro-



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Defense Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah addresses the convention.

hibited chemical agents against civilians in all circumstances.

Dr. Al-Sabah reiterated Kuwait's condemnation of military operations targeting Palestinian civilians as a blatant breach of international humanitarian law, expressing Kuwait's aspiration for forming new scientific teams to strengthen the Organiza-

tion's research and verification capabilities.

He further affirmed Kuwait's support for establishing a specialized scientific laboratory in the State of Kuwait, calling at the conclusion of his speech for enhanced international cooperation to prohibit chemical weapons and for maintaining constructive

dialogue to safeguard global peace and security.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Defense Undersecretary and the accompanying delegation held several bilateral meetings with heads of delegations and international officials to discuss opportunities for enhanced cooperation and exchanges of technical and legislative expertise related to implementing the Convention.

Kuwait's delegation included Acting Charge d'Affaires at Kuwait's Embassy in The Netherlands Ibrahim Al-Duai and several representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Sabah examined, on Wednesday, issues of common interest with Omani Ambassador to the country, Dr. Saleh Al-Kharousi.

Sheikh Abdullah received the Ambassador in his office, mentioned a statement issued by the Defense Ministry.

Attending the meeting was Deputy Head of Mission and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Embassy of Oman, Shihab Al-Rawas.

Cooperation boost eyed

Rights bureau wins UN praise

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27, (KUNA): The National Bureau for Human Rights and the United Nations held a coordination meeting recently to strengthen bilateral partnership and develop cooperation programs in human rights, chaired by Anas Al-Shaheen and UN Coordinator Ghada Al-Taher.

In a statement to KUNA, the Bureau said the UN reaffirmed its commitment to support the Bureau's efforts and expand cooperation on shared programs and projects, contributing to institutional capacity development and reinforcing national initiatives aimed at advancing the human

rights agenda.

Both sides discussed multiple areas, including alignment with international standards, preparation of action plans, implementation of training programs, and awareness activities designed to enhance public understanding of human rights issues at national and regional levels.

The meeting included executive specialists from the Bureau who presented major initiatives, upcoming priorities and cooperation opportunities with the United Nations system, supporting Kuwait's national efforts to promote and protect human rights more effectively nationwide.

Dr. Al-Huwailah visits social dept

‘Restore trust in charitable sector’

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah on Thursday visited the General Directorate of Social Development and several of its vital departments to personally look into the flow of work and evaluate the services provided to the public.

Al-Huwailah started her tour at the Family Welfare Department, where she reviewed the case reception mechanism and the role of the department in providing social and psychological support, during which she underscored the need to streamline procedures and expedite the processing of family requests to ensure family stability.

She also visited the Department of Charitable Societies and Foundations, where

she assessed the supervision and monitoring procedures and the mechanisms for organizing charitable work according to the regulations. She stressed the importance of reinforcing trust in the charitable sector and maintaining the leading position of Kuwait in humanitarian work.

She then went to the Department of Non-Governmental Organizations, where she reviewed its role in supporting civil society institutions and regulating their work. She called for activating the participation of non-governmental organizations in social development and to support community initiatives.

At the conclusion of her tour, she affirmed that this field visit reflects the commitment of the ministry to improve services and empower departments to perform their duties efficiently. She pointed out that social work is vital in maintaining solidarity within society.

Pakistan, Kuwait to scout new opportunities in energy sector

ISLAMABAD, Nov 27, (KUNA): Pakistan and Kuwait on Thursday discussed ongoing collaboration and explored future avenues of partnership between the two countries.

According to an official press release, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Malik, met with the Ambassador of Kuwait to Pakistan, Nassar Al-Mutairi, to review current cooperation and potential opportunities, particularly in the petroleum sector.

During the meeting, Malik warmly welcomed the ambassador and praised his constructive role in strengthening bilateral ties, describing him as “a true friend of Pakistan.”

He highlighted that the relationship between the two countries is built on mutual respect, trust, and decades of cooperation, with a special focus on en-

ergy and petroleum.

The Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further deepening bilateral cooperation, noting that the petroleum partnership has thrived over many decades, emphasizing the importance of expanding collaboration to align with evolving global energy dynamics.

The Kuwaiti envoy expressed gratitude for the warm sentiments, acknowledging Pakistan's progress and stability despite external challenges, stressing that Kuwait firmly supports Pakistan's continued prosperity and development across all sectors.

Both sides agreed to maintain close coordination, explore new opportunities in the energy sector, and further strengthen the historic ties between Pakistan and Kuwait, according to the petroleum ministry's official statement.

SAB nods ministry call for repair of exchanges

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) has approved the Ministry of Communications' request to directly contract a company for maintenance and development work on Siemens exchanges in Kuwait, at a cost of KD 1.5 million.

According to informed sources, the project is part of a comprehensive plan to develop the telecommunications infrastructure, improve service quality, reduce outages, and ensure faster technical response times.

Meanwhile, the acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications Meshal Al-Zaid stated in a press release that the ministry, in cooperation with the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), has finalized the general and specific specifications for contracting a consulting firm to prepare all necessary requirements for establishing Kuwait Post Company.

He emphasized that bidding companies must adhere to the terms and conditions outlined in the announcement, including having at least eight years of experience in technical, financial, and legal consulting, and at least five years of experience in environmental consulting for regional or international projects carried out within the framework of public-private partnerships.

Al-Huwailah dissolves Sulaibikhat, Doha co-op boards

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah issued a ministerial decree dissolving the Board of Directors of Sulaibikhat and Doha Cooperative Society for committing serious financial and administra-

tive violations that harmed the shareholders' funds and contravened the laws and regulations governing cooperative work.

The decree included the appointment of an interim manager to administer the cooperative for a specified period, during which he will have full oversight of the operations of the cooperative, control administrative and financial processes, take the necessary

measures to protect shareholders' rights, and follow up the investigations and the completion of required reports.

Al-Huwailah emphasized that this measure is in line with the commitment of the ministry to protect cooperative funds, preserve shareholders' rights, and ensure that all cooperative societies adhere to governance, regulations and transparency in their operations.



KUNA photo

Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian held talks with Major General Yousef Huneiti, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF), on means of boosting cooperation in the military field.

Boost eyed in military ties

Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian on Thursday held talks with Major General Yousef Huneiti, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF), on means of boosting cooperation in the military field.

The military said in a statement that the discussions were held when Lt. Gen. Al-Shuraian received Maj. Gen. Huneiti and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of their official visit to the country.

The Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff and his guests visited Mubarak al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College (MAJCS).

Maj. Gen. Huneiti was briefed about the college's role in habituating military commanders, its academic and training programs for enhancing leaders' skills and officers' operating potentials.

The meeting was attended by the Jordanian Ambassador Senan Al-Majali and senior Kuwaiti and Jordanian officers. (KUNA)

Scholarships aligned with labor market demand

MoHE launches ‘Guide Me’ awareness campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education Dr. Bader Al-Basiri confirmed that the scholarship plan for the 2026/2027 academic year has been designed to align with labor market demands, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He highlighted the directives of Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nader Al-Jalal to announce the scholarship plan early for giving students sufficient time to review available specializations and requirements.

Dr. Al-Basiri explained that the plan includes medical and paramedical specializations, as well as technical and technological fields to develop and qualify national talent capable of supporting vital and future-oriented sectors.

This year, the ministry adopted a balanced distribution of specializations across scholarship destinations based on carefully considered

academic criteria. This approach is intended to prevent overcrowding of students in any single country, promote academic and institutional diversity, and ultimately enhance the quality and efficiency of educational outcomes.

Dr. Al-Basiri stated that registration for the scholarship plan will open after the 2025/2026 academic year for all graduates of public and private schools under the Ministry of Education, based on a specific time frame designed to ensure students are prepared to apply.

He explained that the ministry is preparing to launch its annual national campaign



Bader Al-Basiri

“Guide Me” on Thursday in an enhanced format, coinciding with the announcement of the scholarship plan. The campaign aims to raise awareness among twelfth-grade students about scholarship opportunities and future specializations, helping them make informed and confident decisions about their fields of study.

The campaign will be launched in two phases. The first phase will be informational, involving field visits to public and private schools in cooperation with the Ministry of Education as part of a comprehensive guidance program. The second phase will focus on direct guidance through the campaign’s field office at Grand Avenues Mall for providing students and parents with detailed information about specializations, scholarship requirements, and the registration process.

Cabinet approves new PAMA board

Minister Al-Sumait appointed Chair

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: The Cabinet has approved the formation of the new Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA), approximately three months after issuing a decree amending certain provisions of Law No. 14/1984 on the establishment of the authority.

According to the Cabinet’s decision, the reconstituted Board is chaired by Minister



Al-Sumait

of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait, and has the following members:

- The acting Director General of PAMA Alia Al-Sager as Vice Chair
- Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority Sheikh Saud Salem Al-Sabah
- Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Marwa Badah Al-Jaidan
- Deputy Secretary General for Support Services at the General Secretariat of Awqaf Jenan Muslim Al-Zamil.

In September, the Cabinet approved a decree to reconstitute the PAMA Board of Directors to ensure representation of relevant entities and to provide additional safeguards for the interests and funds of those under PAMA’s care.

The decree stipulates that the Minister of Justice, in his official capacity, would appoint the Board members, who are seconded from their workplaces for a four-year term, renewable only once.



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah conducts a field visit to Ardiya.

Farwaniya Governor inspects Ardiya road works

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah conducted a field visit to Ardiya on Wednesday morning to inspect the quality of road maintenance work, which is expected to be completed soon.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, Director of Farwaniya Security Command Brigadier General Mohammed Al-Ghasab, Director of Sahara Al-Rawla Company Abdulaziz Al-Anzi and representatives of

the Ministry of Public Works, including Supervisor of Contract No. 11 Eng. Abdullah Al-Mutairi, Eng. Mohammed Al-Rashid, Eng. Nawaf Al-Gharib, and a number of security officials were present.

The governor praised the efforts of the officials and work teams, stressing the importance of adhering to technical standards and accelerating the pace of work to improve traffic flow and enhance services for citizens and residents.

U-turn plan pending

Hawally clears Salwa projects

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: The Hawally Governorate Committee at the Municipal Council, chaired by Nasser Al-Jadaan, held its meeting on Wednesday.

The committee approved the following during its meeting:

- Request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to allocate two sites for secondary electricity substations in Salwa,
- Proposal of the Council chairman to create a secondary entrance opposite Rumaithiya.

The committee retained on its agenda the proposal of the chairman to create a U-turn on Al-Mu’taz Street in Salwa, while inviting the General Traffic Department and the Ministry of Public Works to discuss the mechanism for implementing the proposal, as well as its feasibility.

Mobile RO project 65% complete

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: The project to supply and install 30 mobile reverse osmosis units, each with a capacity of 100,000 imperial gallons per day, for desalinating brackish water at various locations, had reached 65.5 percent completion as of June.

According to informed sources, KD one million has been allocated to the project in the current budget, with full completion scheduled for April 2026. The project is part of the development plan in which the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy is participating.

Each unit includes a mobile diesel generator, as well as civil works such as offices, warehouses, canopies, fences, and water tanks, aiming to utilize groundwater in emergencies.

The ministry recently received approval from the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to award five items of the tender for upgrading data collection and analysis equipment for power generation plants and main substations, at a total cost of KD 18.436 million.

The tender aims to upgrade equipment for collecting data from production and transmission stations, ensuring its readiness and high efficiency in performing tasks and gathering accurate information and data.

Other Voices

Separating the General Traffic Dep’t from Ministry of Interior

By Ahmad alsarraf

A veteran MP, who left office after growing frustrated with repeatedly submitting proposals to grant the General Traffic Department the independence it deserves, said he first submitted his proposals in 1981, but they were rejected. He tried again in 1994, and the proposal was rejected a second time, despite being supported by the directors of the General Traffic Department at the time and later, including Yousef Al-Saad, Fouad Musaed Al-Saleh, Abdulhamid Al-Hajji, and Thabet Al-Muhanna.



alsarraf

The department should have an independent budget. Since the majority of the General Traffic Department’s work is technical, there is no reason the Director of the department cannot be a civilian employee, as is the case in Britain. Of course, the director could also be a military officer.

The officers and personnel of the General Traffic Department could form a highly trained, specialized force, similar to firefighters. Training programs could be organized, both internally and externally, tailored to the duties of a traffic police officer, whether on patrol or managing traffic on the streets, and to interacting with drivers. The caliber of these personnel differs from their counterparts in other departments within the Ministry of Interior.

The significant increase in the number of vehicles, the resumption of family visits for residents, and the resulting expansion of the road network all make it necessary to have dedicated and independent traffic officers. The practice of assigning general security personnel to traffic management should be discontinued. Traffic management requires specialized expertise that should remain within the department and not be transferred to other departments within the Ministry of Interior, as is currently the case.

Structural and philosophical factors have led many developed countries to establish civilian and independent traf-

fic authorities.

The tasks of traffic management focus on regulating traffic flow, ensuring road safety, enforcing civil laws related to vehicles and drivers, and providing direct services to the community, such as issuing driver’s licenses and vehicle registration plates.

These tasks are primarily service-oriented and administrative rather than security-related. For this reason, modern states tend to separate military and security functions, such as defense, combating organized crime, and national security, from civilian functions like health, education, transportation, and others.

Treating traffic departments as civilian entities avoids the rigidity and strict military discipline associated with them, allowing greater flexibility in cooperating and engaging with the community, and reducing the militarization of daily life.

In developed countries, traffic departments are managed according to modern scientific and administrative principles, including traffic analysis, smart management systems, decision-making frameworks, and the use of AI in traffic control. These tasks are not carried out under strict military discipline.

Granting administrative independence to traffic departments enables them to cooperate more effectively with the private sector, municipalities, research centers, and smart transportation companies, while also enhancing transparency and accountability to parliamentary or municipal authorities.

Moreover, the experience of developed countries has shown that introducing a military character into traffic departments often leads to a decline in service quality, and consequently, a decrease in effectiveness and public acceptance.

I would like to commend the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior for his efforts to increase penalties for traffic violators, particularly for serious offenses.

We have seen cases where vehicles of violators were impounded. I suggest that, instead of simply impounding these vehicles, they should be confiscated and sold, with the proceeds benefiting the state.

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Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
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LOCAL

Kuwait's first woman ambassador shares memoirs at Oxford seminar

LONDON, Nov 27, (KUNA): The Middle East Centre at St Antony's College, University of Oxford has organized a seminar chaired by the Center director Professor Eugene Rogan about a book written by the former Kuwaiti Ambassador Nabeeleh Al-Mullah titled "Breaking New Ground on the Global Stage: Memoirs of Kuwait's First Woman Ambassador".

The Middle East Centre said in a statement that the seminar was held last evening with the book following the four-decade diplomatic career of Al-Mullah, the first woman ambassador from the State of Kuwait. Though she planned on an academic career, Al-Mulla found her true calling when she changed course to serve in the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, beginning in the 1970s. It added that Al-Mullah is the first woman ambassador from the Gulf region, the first Arab woman to chair the IAEA Board of Governors, and the first Arab woman Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

The seminar was attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK Bader Al-Munayekh, former UK Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport, and distinguished members of the faculty.

Al-Mullah told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) today, Wednesday "I was honored to speak at the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College, Oxford University, as part of its seminar series to introduce my memoirs.

Visiting academic on sabbatical



The book by former ambassador Nabila Al-Mulla: Opening new horizons on the international scene ... Memoirs of the first female ambassador of Kuwait.

from the UK foreign office at St Antony's College Oxford Edwin Samuel, who attended the seminar, told KUNA that the book is an "energisingly candid account of small power diplomacy by one of the Arab world's greatest female diplomats; a generation before her time. And as a fan of Kuwaiti quiet diplomacy, Ambassador Al-Mullah provides a role model for Kuwait's next generation of diplomats."

The book was first launched in Kuwait at the Diplomatic Institute of the Foreign Ministry last April.

Kuwait partners with IAEA to combat plastic pollution

KISR showcases microplastics research

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27, (KUNA): Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Director General Dr. Faisal Al-Hamidan highlighted Kuwait's active role in addressing plastic pollution through its participation in the High-Level International Forum on Nuclear Technologies for Controlling Plastic Pollution, held in the Philippines.

Speaking after the Manila forum on November 25-26, Dr. Al-Hamidan said Kuwait's engagement underscores its commitment to global environmental challenges, with KISR leading research initiatives and establishing international standards to monitor and understand microplastic pollution in oceans, soil, and air.

He emphasized that KISR scientists, through pioneering projects and strategic collaborations, have developed unified protocols with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), now adopted in more than 75 countries to measure and mitigate microplastics, positioning Kuwait as a key partner in the IAEA's NUTEC Plastics initiative.



KISR photo
Dr. Faisal Al-Hamidan, Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

Dr. Al-Hamidan noted that KISR produced certified reference materials shared with the

IAEA for global laboratory validation, supporting inter-laboratory comparisons across 55 countries to enhance the accuracy of measurements that inform international policy decisions on plastic pollution.

He stressed that KISR's contributions go beyond national environmental protection and food security, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and noted that KISR's microplastic detection and quantification protocols are now used widely across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Highlighting the institute's research impact, Dr. Al-Hamidan said KISR has published more than 26 major papers in leading international journals over the past five years, widely cited by the scientific community and reinforcing Kuwait's reputation as a center of excellence in microplastics research.

He also praised the support of Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Mission to the UN in Vienna, and Kuwait's Embassy in the Philippines, led by Ambassador Mishari Al-Nibari, for their prompt coordination and backing of the Kuwaiti delegation at the forum.

Gulf ambassadors in Delhi discuss ways to strengthen GCC-India ties



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to India, Meshal Al-Shamali, with the ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in New Delhi.

NEW DELHI, Nov 27, (KUNA): Ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries discussed Gulf-India relations and ways to enhance it and coordinating stands that serve the common interests of the GCC and India.

This came during a meeting of the GCC ambassadors in New Delhi at the invitation of Kuwait Ambassador to India, Meshal Mustafa Alshemali as the current chair of the GCC Ambassadors Council.

The meeting discussed GCC-India relations and ways to strengthen it while exploring bolstering coordinated positions.

Ambassador Al-Shemali told Kuwait

News Agency (KUNA) that the GCC ambassadors praised Kuwait's efforts during its presidency of the 45th session of the Council, which represented a significant milestone that embodied the journey of joint Gulf cooperation and reinforced the principles upon which this entity was founded.

He added that the meeting witnessed sharing of Gulf visions and ideas to support the joint Gulf action to tackle current challenges and achieve a brighter, more stable, and more prosperous future for the GCC and its people.

Discussions focused on the latest developments on the local, regional, and international scenes, as well as progress on the free trade agreement be-

tween the GCC and India.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of strengthening economic and trade relations with India, increasing mutual investments, and exploring new areas of cooperation, particularly in food security, cybersecurity, energy, trade, and investment in education and modern technologies.

Ambassador of Bahrain Abdulrahman Al-Qaoud, Ambassador of Oman Issa Al-Shaibani, Ambassador of Qatar Mohammad Al-Jaber, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Haitham Al-Maliki, and the Charge d'Affaires of the UAE Embassy, Abdulaziz Al-Hashemi took part in the meeting.

Continued from Page 1

PM drives

Members were also briefed on components of the North Kabb Wastewater Treatment and maintenance project and its related works, which contribute to improving Kuwait's sewage infrastructure.

For his part, Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs and rapporteur of the committee Ambassador Sameeh Johar Hayat said the meeting reviewed updates from relevant government bodies on major development projects at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, cooperation in the electrical energy sector and renewable energy development, progress on green low-carbon waste-recycling initiatives, housing development cooperation, and environmental infrastructure projects related to wastewater treatment, cooperation in environmental protection and anti-desertification efforts was also discussed.

In this context, the committee heard from the visiting technical team assigned to environmental rehabilitation and afforestation programs and sand-drift mitigation, where they presented a visual report outlining recent progress in various project sites and showcased modern technologies used to address these natural challenges.

The Prime Minister discussed with the head of the visiting team mechanisms to incorporate these initiatives into national strategies aimed at creating practical solutions that generate job opportunities and support food and water security.

Attending the meeting were President of the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakhil, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Public Works Dr. Nora Al-Mashaan, Minister of Municipality and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Mashari, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy as well as Acting Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem.

Also present were Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department Counselor Salah Al-Majed, and Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Johar Hayat, and Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works Eid Al-Rashidi.

Uzbekistan grants

balance between authenticity and the demands of comfort and quality.

He disclosed that Samarkand, a symbol of spiritual grandeur and historical architecture, is now acquiring new dimensions through cultural and international projects, which transformed it into a global center for conferences and cultural exchanges, particularly after hosting the 43rd session of the UNESCO General Conference. "This event improved the diplomatic standing of the country

and the quality of its tourism services. Bukhara, with its historical schools, fortresses and timeless Eastern atmosphere, embodies the enduring power of tradition to remain at the forefront of the cultural landscape, while Khwarezm stands as an open-air museum, preserving every detail of a heritage spanning thousands of years," he added.

He indicated that hosting major international events contributes to the development of transportation infrastructure, hotels and tourism-related services, making Uzbekistan a convenient and accessible destination year-round. His country is also working hard to build a sustainable tourism model by improving connectivity between cities, supporting local initiatives, developing its air infrastructure, and offering diverse travel options, including cultural tours, culinary tourism and high-level business trips.

He affirmed that Uzbek cuisine, with its rich and layered flavors, has become a tourist destination in its own right, alongside traditional craft schools that continue to attract enthusiasts and collectors. He stressed that the policy of openness plays a vital role in fostering cultural dialogue, explaining that his country relies on tourism as a tool to consolidate peace and strengthen mutual trust between peoples.

He said Uzbekistan is one of the safest and most stable destinations in the region, with modern services including high-speed rail, hotels of all categories, tourist resorts, and digital services that provide a comfortable and enriching experience for visitors. "The country also boasts of a diverse climate that makes it accessible year-round, from the cool colors of spring to the desert landscapes of summer, from the vibrant hues of autumn to the tranquility of its historic cities during winter," he concluded.

Embassy of

The Ambassador reaffirmed the deep and historic ties between Bangladesh and Kuwait, acknowledging Kuwait as the first Gulf country to recognize Bangladesh in 1973. He praised the steady growth of bilateral relations under the leadership of both nations. He expressed profound gratitude to the leadership of the State of Kuwait for hosting nearly 290,000 Bangladeshi nationals, including members of the Bangladesh Military Contingents stationed in Kuwait since 1991. He underscored that defence cooperation remains a cornerstone of this partnership and thanked the Kuwait Armed Forces for their continued support.

Brigadier General Rakib, the Defence Attaché, in his remarks, reflected on the historical significance of Armed Forces Day, recounting how the coordinated operations of the newly formed Army, Navy and Air Force beginning on 21 November 1971 accelerated the march toward Bangladesh's independence. He paid tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War and reaffirmed the Armed Forces' commitment to protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bangladesh.

He also emphasized the strong de-

fence cooperation between Bangladesh and Kuwait, noting the technical and professional support provided by the 11 Bangladesh Military Contingents currently serving in Kuwait. He highlighted recent high-level exchanges between the armed forces of both countries and conveyed appreciation to the Chief of Staff of the Kuwait Armed Forces for his continued cooperation.

The event concluded with expressions of gratitude to all dignitaries, guests and members of the Bangladeshi community for joining the celebration, and a reaffirmation of the enduring friendship between Bangladesh and Kuwait.

Long live the friendship between Bangladesh and Kuwait!

Zubana ushers

km/h. Maximum temperatures are expected between 27 and 29 degrees Celsius, and the sea will be light to moderate, with waves between one and three feet.

The weather will be cool to cold on Friday night with northwesterly to variable winds, light to moderate in speed ranging from 6 to 28 km/h. Some scattered clouds are expected, with minimum temperatures between 9 and 11 degrees Celsius, and the sea will be light to moderate, with waves between 1 and 3 feet.

On Saturday, the weather during the day will be moderate, with northwesterly to variable winds, light to moderate in speed ranging from 6 to 28 km/h. Some scattered clouds will appear, with maximum temperatures between 26 and 28 degrees Celsius, and the sea will be light to moderate, with waves between one and three feet.

On Saturday night, the weather will be cool to cold and partly cloudy, with variable winds, light in speed, ranging from 6 to 22 km/h. Minimum temperatures are expected between 9 and 11 degrees Celsius, and the sea will be light, with waves between one and two feet.

Kuwait steps

The aviation official noted that the authority's grievance department had received a total of 3,012 grievance complaints during the period between January 1 and September 2025.

Al-Rajhi underlined that the agency deals seriously with the latest cyber scams, including fake sites and payment links and misleading ads, in collaboration with the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA).

In this regard, he cited such violations as fake air ticket sales via internet, illegal brokers or unlicensed offices, unlawful additional fees and fake promotions.

Therefore, the official urged travelers to make bookings only through licensed travel offices, rather than individuals, and to check booking-bearing information and terms, as well as payment links.

He added that the authority commits itself to a future plan designed to tighten

control over the local air transport market by means of updating electronic systems to monitor malpractices, to promote co-operation with security and trade bodies and launch extensive public awareness in this regard.

For his part, Chairman of Kuwait Travel And Tourism Agencies Association Mohammad Al-Mutairi lashed out at brokerage and unlicensed travel agents as tarnishing the reputation of the country's tourism and travel sector and undermining consumers' confidence.

He remarked that licensed travel offices are doing their business in line with official regulations and hold legal and professional responsibility towards their customers.

Al-Mutairi cited key travel grievances as fake air tickets, cancellations without prior notice and unrealistic tourism promotions via fake social media sites.

He stressed that his association is closely working with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Public Authority for Civil Aviation for carrying out media and awareness campaigns regarding secure bookings, unlicensed offices and fraud-reporting.

However, he cited recent statistics as showing a big drop in the number of complaints against travel fraud compared with last year thanks to the concerted efforts of the association and government bodies.

In other news, Chief of the Kuwait Civil Aviation Authority Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Sabah said on Thursday that the GCC Executive Committee for Civil Aviation has recommended approving the establishment of a unified GCC Civil Aviation Authority, with the decision to be submitted to the GCC Supreme Council for endorsement.

This came in a statement made by Sheikh Humoud Al-Sabah to KUNA during the 21st meeting of the GCC Executive Committee for Civil Aviation, currently held in Kuwait.

In his opening remarks, Sheikh Humoud Al-Sabah emphasized the importance of strengthening joint GCC cooperation in the field of civil aviation and deepening integration among its authorities to advance the sector and ensure the highest standards of safety and security.

He added that adapting artificial intelligence and digital technologies has become a pivotal factor in developing the air transport system by improving procedural efficiency, facilitating passenger flow, and enhancing safety and quality standards across all stages of travel.

He noted that this requires issuing legislation and unifying operating systems across GCC states in line with the high directives of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Sheikh Humoud also congratulated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the State of Qatar on winning seats on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the years 2025-2027.

He extended congratulations as well to the Sultanate of Oman for being endorsed to preside over the 42nd session of the ICAO Assembly, and to the Kingdom of Bahrain for receiving the ICAO Council Presidents Award in recognition of its excellence in civil aviation security.

disrupted the market nor shocked landowners. On the contrary, many landowners anticipated the rejection of the appeal from an early stage and had already started preparing for it by constructing on their plots in accordance with municipal regulations or by restructuring their real estate portfolios to minimize their exposure to vacant land fees," he added.

He pointed out that these pre-rule preparations acted as a buffer for the market. He said "the market today is more mature than it was in the initial shock phase and there is rationality in investment behavior. Thus, we will not witness a wave of panic buying or haphazard sales, but rather calculated and deliberate steps."

He stressed that real change requires other parallel steps. He indicated that "implementing the Vacant Land Law is a crucial step, but it will not enable citizens to own private housing. The equation requires activating new financing tools and restructuring land management policies to make houses affordable for citizens."

Kuwait parks

local identity and provide practical opportunities for students. Its main points include allocating a commercial percentage for Kuwaiti nurseries to strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors, allowing nurseries to display their products in certain locations in the gardens to encourage the acquisition of local plants, and assigning contracted nurseries to maintain the gardens and care for the plants as per the approved quality standards.

Under PM

in Kuwaiti leadership through modern scientific tools for policymaking and governance.

He highlighted how the program equips national leaders with advanced methodologies in leadership, decision making, and public policy analysis, enabling them to respond effectively to rapid global transformations in economics, governance, and emerging technological sectors including artificial intelligence.

KFAS also reviewed its broader international academic network, including London Business School, National University of Singapore, Wharton, Cambridge, LSE, and ESMT Berlin, noting these collaborations have strengthened knowledge transfer and benefited more than 1,500 participants.

The foundation explained that Kuwait's Program at Harvard, launched in 2000, has produced 770 graduates, 450 of whom occupy leadership positions, while fostering joint research, fellowships, and academic exchanges between Kuwaiti and Harvard scholars.

Concluding its statement, KFAS reaffirmed its commitment to deepening and expanding the partnership with Harvard Kennedy School, supporting Kuwait's vision for a diversified knowledge-based economy, and strengthening its regional and global scientific presence under the nation's wise leadership.

Afghan national in custody after shooting of 2 Nat’l Guard members near WH

US President Trump says lax migration policies top national security threat

WASHINGTON, Nov 27, (AP): US President Donald Trump said Wednesday’s “heinous assault” on two National Guard members near the White House proves that lax migration policies are “the single greatest national security threat facing our nation.”

“No country can tolerate such a risk to our very survival,” he said.

Trump’s remarks, released in a video on social media, underscores his intention to reshape the country’s immigration system and increase scrutiny of migrants who are already here. With aggressive deportation efforts already underway, his response to the shooting showed that his focus will not waver.

The suspect in the shooting is believed to be an Afghan national, according to Trump and two law enforcement officials. He entered the United States in September 2021, after the chaotic collapse of the government in Kabul, when Americans were frantically evacuating people as the Taleban took control.

The 29-year-old suspect was part of Operation Allies Welcome, the Biden-era program that resettled tens of thousands of Afghans after the US withdrawal from the country, officials said. The initiative brought roughly 76,000 Afghans to the United States, many of whom had worked alongside American troops and diplomats as interpreters and translators.

It has since faced intense scrutiny from Trump and his allies, congressional Republicans and some government watchdogs over gaps in the vetting process and the speed of admissions, even as advocates say it offered a lifeline to people at risk of Taleban reprisals.

Trump described Afghanistan as “a hellhole on earth,” and he said his administration would review everyone who entered from the country under President Joe Biden - a measure his administration had already been planning before the incident.

During his remarks, Trump also swung his focus to Minnesota, where he complained about “hundreds of thousands of Somalians” who are “ripping apart that once-great state.”



Members of the National Guard gather after reports of two National Guard soliders were shot near the White House in Washington on Nov 26. (AP)

Minnesota has the country’s largest Somali community, roughly 87,000 people. Many came as refugees over the years.

The reference to immigrants with no connection to Wednesday’s developments

was a reminder of the scope of Trump’s ambitions to rein in migration.

Administration officials have been ramping up deportations of people in the country illegally, as well as clamping down on refugee admissions. The focus has involved the realignment of resources at federal agencies, stirring concern about potentially undermining other law enforcement priorities.

However, Trump’s remarks were a signal that scrutiny of migrants and the nation’s borders will only increase. He said he wants to remove anyone “who does not belong here or does not add benefit to our country.”

“If they can’t love our country, we don’t want them,” Trump added.

Afterward, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services announced it would indefinitely stop processing all immigration requests for Afghan nationals pending a review of security and vetting protocols.

Supporters of Afghan evacuees said they feared that people who escaped danger from the Taleban would now face renewed suspicion and scrutiny.

“I don’t want people to leverage this tragedy into a political ploy,” said Shawn VanDiver, president of #AfghanEvac.

He said Wednesday’s shooting should not shed a negative light on the tens of thousands of Afghan nationals who have gone through the various legal pathways to resettling in the U.S. and those who await in the pipeline.

Under Operation Allies Welcome, tens of thousands of Afghans were first brought to US military bases around the country, where they completed immigration processing and medical evaluations before settling into the country. Four years later, there are still scores of Afghans who were evacuated at transit points in the Middle East and Europe as part of the program.

Those in countries like Qatar and Albania, who have undergone the rigorous process, have been left in limbo since Trump entered his second term and paused the program as part of his series of executive actions cracking down on immigration.



People gather for a vigil and procession at a federal courthouse where they say immigrants are being detained in the basement by federal authorities on Nov 13, in San Diego. (AP)

Judge expands access to bond hearings for detained immigrants nationwide

McALLEN, Texas, Nov 27, (AP): A federal judge in California has expanded a decision granting more detained immigrants the ability to request a bond hearing after the Trump administration ended the practice in July. Lawyers say thousands could benefit from the order, but it’s expected to be appealed.

US District Judge Sunshine S. Sykes on Tuesday expanded an order from last week granting detained immigrants with no criminal history the opportunity to request a bond hearing. Now, instead of only impacting a few named in the California lawsuit, the decision will apply to immigrants held in detention nationwide.

It’s part of an ongoing lawsuit challenging changes the Trump administration made over the summer when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it was revisiting its authority to detain people and would make noncitizens ineligible for bond hearings before an immigration judge.

Prior to the policy change, most

noncitizens with no criminal record who were arrested away from the border had an opportunity to request such a hearing and if bond was granted remain free while their cases wound through immigration court.

Sykes issued an order on Thursday that found the new policy unlawful.

A spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, Tricia McLaughlin, released a statement Wednesday that pointed to a September decision from the Justice Department’s Board of Immigration Appeals allowing the new policy.

She said the previous policy “dangerously unleashed millions of unvetted illegal aliens into American communities-and they used many loopholes to do so.”

Her statement did not say whether Sykes’ decision would be appealed and the department did not respond to questions on the matter.

Tuesday’s decision could impact thousands of immigrants but not all. Those with criminal convictions or

who have an expedited removal order would still not be allowed a bond hearing.

Matt Adams, lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said he has heard of immigration judges already advising some immigrants of their right to a bond hearing since Sykes’ orders were filed.

Also:

CONCORD, NH: A Massachusetts woman who was once engaged to the brother of White House press secretary **Karoline Leavitt** remains in ICE custody two weeks after being arrested on her way to pick up the son she shares with her former fiancé.

Bruna Ferreira, 33, was driving to her son’s school in New Hampshire on Nov 12 when she was pulled over in Revere, Massachusetts, her attorney, Todd Pomerleau, said Wednesday.

“She wasn’t told why she was detained,” he said. “She was bounced from Massachusetts, to New Hampshire, to Vermont, to Louisiana on this unconstitutional merry-go-round.”

Czech leader ready to swear in Babis as PM if conflict of interest resolved

PRAGUE, Nov 27, (AP): The Czech president said Wednesday he was ready to swear in populist billionaire Andrej Babiš as prime minister within a week if the businessman clarifies how he plans to avoid a conflict of interest that will arise from his private dealings and his new political status.

A law, amended in 2023 and lambasted by Babiš and his supporters, tightened the country’s conflict-of-interest legislation to prevent politicians from combining wealth and power and banned the transfer of ownership to trust funds or relatives as it was possible before.

Babiš owns some 200 companies under the Agrofert conglomerate and is heavily invested in the health care sector. He also has to meet the requirements of a conflict of interest law, or else businesses would not be eligible for state and European Union subsidies.

President Petr Pavel asked Babiš last month to form a new government after his ANO (YES) movement won parliamentary election. ANO and two other small political groups, the Freedom and Direct Democracy anti-migrant party and the right-wing Motorists for Themselves, agreed to form a majority coalition government

The parties have agreed to create a



Chairman of opposition ‘ANO’ (YES) movement Andrej Babis leaves after talking with Czech Republic President Petr Pavel a day after he won the parliamentary elections, in Prague, Czech Republic on Oct 5. (AP)

16-member Cabinet with ANO holding eight posts and the prime minister. The Motorists would have four and the Freedom party three.

During a meeting with the president on Wednesday, Babiš presented his proposed lineup and said he would like

to have his new government appointed by the middle of December. Pavel expressed a wish to meet with the candidates.

The most controversial figure suggested by the coalition to join the government was Filip Turek, honorary president of the Motorists, who came under fire after a daily published some posts from his Facebook page, found to be openly racist, homophobic and sexist.

Turek apologized for some, but denied that he posted the others.

Pavel refused his candidacy on Wednesday, saying he was ineligible to become a government minister.

Babiš said after the meeting: “The position of the president is that Mr. Turek should not be a member of the government.”

The role of the president in the Czech Republic is largely ceremonial, but he has to ratify international agreements and Cabinet appointments, including the prime minister.

The three parties forming the coalition are critical of the EU and reject several of its policies, particularly on environment and migration. They are also expected to steer the country away from supporting Ukraine in its war against Russia’s invasion.



A young protester shouts anti-government slogans as thousands took to the streets of Bulgaria’s capital, Sofia, to denounce steep tax hikes in next year’s draft budget before being finally voted on in parliament on Nov 26. (AP)

Bulgaria withdraws budget proposal following street protests

Bulgaria’s government announced Thursday that it is withdrawing its 2026 draft budget, following street protests at home over steep tax increases included in the budget, and warnings from abroad.

The surprise move was announced by the leader of the ruling center-right GERB party, Boyko Borissov, who asked the govern-

ment to restore dialogue with employers and labor unions to reach consensus on the state finances. The turmoil surrounding the budget comes as the Balkan country prepares to join the euro currency union next year.

The protests have reflected widespread concern over the budget’s economic impact on individuals and businesses. The

disputed budget included increases in social security contributions and the doubling of the dividend tax.

Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov said that the budget, which had already been approved on a first reading in parliament, will be revised after talks with social partners and opposition parties to iron out its “defects.” (AP)

8 get life over Crimea blast

MOSCOW, Nov 27, (AP): A court in Russia on Thursday convicted eight people on terrorism charges over an attack on a bridge linking Russia to Moscow-annexed Crimea that is a key supply route for Kremlin forces in the war with Ukraine.

The court sentenced all of the defendants to life in prison.

The October 2022 attack on the bridge came when a truck bomb blew up two of its sections and required months of repairs. The blast killed the truck driver and four other people in a car nearby. Moscow decried the attack as an act of terrorism and retaliated by bombarding Ukraine’s civilian infrastructure, targeting the country’s power grid over the winter.

The Ukrainian Security Service, known as the SBU, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Eight people including Russian, Ukrainian and Armenian citizens were arrested. Five others, including three Ukrainian and two Georgian nationals, were charged in absentia.

Artyom and Georgy Azatyan, Oleg Antipov, Alexander Bylin, Vladimir Zloba, Dmitry Tyazhelskykh, Roman Solomko and Artur Terchanyan were charged with carrying out a terrorist attack and illegal arms trafficking. Solomko and Terchanyan also were accused of smuggling explosives.

The Russian authorities accused them of aiding Ukraine in organizing the attack. All of those arrested have denied the charges and insisted they didn’t know the truck carried explosives, according to Russian media reports.



Pope Leo XIV is greeted by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as he arrives at the Presidential Palace in Ankara, Turkey on Nov 27. (AP)

Pope Leo XIV visits Turkey

Pope Leo XIV arrived in Turkey on Thursday on his first foreign trip, fulfilling Pope Francis’ plans to bring a message of peace to the region at a crucial time in efforts to end the war in Ukraine and ease Mideast tensions.

Leo was welcomed on the tarmac of Ankara’s Esenboga Airport by a military guard of honor. Strolling along a turquoise carpet, he shook hands with Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy, other officials and senior church figures from Turkey.

Later, he had a meeting planned with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and a speech to the country’s diplomatic corps. He’ll then move late Thursday on to Istanbul for three days of ecumenical and interfaith meetings that will be followed by the Lebanese leg of his trip.

Speaking to reporters on board his plane, Leo acknowledged the historic nature of his first foreign trip and said he has been looking forward to it because of what it means for Christians and for peace in the world.

“We hope to also announce, transmit and proclaim how important peace is throughout the world. And to invite all people to come together to search for greater unity, greater harmony, and to look for the ways that all men and women can truly be brothers and sisters in spite of differences, in spite of different religions, in spite of different beliefs.”

Ankara has hosted rounds of low-level talks between Russia and Ukraine and has offered to take part in the stabilization force in Gaza to help uphold the fragile ceasefire, engagements Leo may applaud in his arrival speech. (AP)

Macron unveils new voluntary military service for volunteers aged 18 and 19

VARCES, France, Nov 27, (AP): French President Emmanuel Macron unveiled a new national military service plan Thursday as France seeks to bolster its armed forces to address growing concerns over Russia’s threat to European nations beyond the war in Ukraine.

Macron announced that volunteers aged 18 and 19 will start serving next year in a 10-month new military service program.

“A new national service is set to be gradually established, starting from next summer,” Macron said in a speech at the Varcès military base, which is located in the French Alps.

Young volunteers will serve in France’s mainland and overseas territories only, not in France’s military operations abroad, Macron said.

Earlier this year, Macron announced his intention to provide French youth with a new option to voluntarily serve in the military. Conscription, which France ended in 1996, is not being considered. He said France is seeking to boost its defenses as Russia’s war in Ukraine puts the European continent at “great risk.”

“The day that you send a signal of weakness to Russia - which for 10 years has made a strategic choice to become an imperial power again, that’s to say advance wherever we are weak



France’s President Emmanuel Macron, reviews troops and students of an army high school prior to his speech at the military base in Varcès, French Alps on Nov. 27. (AP)

- well, it will continue to advance,” he told radio RTL on Tuesday.

Macron has announced 6.5 billion euros (\$7.6 billion) in extra military spending in the next two years.

He said France will aim to spend 64 billion euros in annual defense spending in 2027, the last year of his second

term. That would be double the 32 billion euros in annual spending when he became president in 2017.

France’s military currently comprises around 200,000 active personnel and over 40,000 reservists, making it the second largest in the European Union, just behind Poland. France wants to increase the number of reservists to 100,000 by 2030.

3 arrested on suspicion of manslaughter

Hong Kong fire death toll rises to 75

HONG KONG, Nov 27, (AP): Firefighters battled a blaze at a high-rise residential complex in Hong Kong for the second day on Thursday, as the death toll rose to 75 in one of the deadliest blazes in the city's modern history.

Thick smoke continued to pour out of some apartments in the Wang Fuk Court complex, a dense cluster of high-rise towers housing thousands of people in Tai Po district, a northern suburb near Hong Kong's border with the mainland. Flames could still be seen inside the buildings Thursday evening.

Hong Kong leader John Lee said contact had been lost with 279 people earlier Thursday. Rescues were continuing in some of the towers, but authorities did not provide updates on the missing or how many were still trapped inside the ravaged buildings Thursday during a press conference.

Firefighters have been trying to control the flames since midafternoon Wednesday, when the fire started in bamboo scaffolding and construction netting and then spread across seven of the complex's eight buildings. Fires in four buildings had been effectively put out, with the remaining three towers under control, authorities said Thursday afternoon.

One firefighter was among the dead, and 70 people were injured, authorities said. About 900 people were evacuated to temporary shelters overnight.

Resident Lawrence Lee was waiting for news about his wife, who he believed was still trapped in their apartment.

"When the fire started, I told her on the phone to escape. But once she left the flat, the corridor and stairs were all filled with smoke and it was all dark, so she had no choice but to go back to the flat," he said, as he waited in one of the shelters overnight.

Winter and Sandy Chung, who lived in one of the towers, said they saw sparks fly around as they evacuated Wednesday afternoon. Although they were safe, they were worried about their home. "I couldn't sleep the entire night," Winter Chung, 75, told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Three men, the directors and an engineering consultant of a construction company, were arrested on suspicion of manslaughter. Police have not directly named the company where they work.

"We have reason to believe that those in charge of the construction company were grossly negligent," said Eileen Chung, a senior superintendent of police.

Police on Thursday also searched the office of Prestige Construction & Engineering Company, which the AP confirmed was in charge of renovations in the tower complex. Police seized boxes of documents as evidence, according to local media. Phones for Prestige rang unanswered.

Authorities suspected some materials on the exterior walls of the high-rise buildings did not meet fire resistance standards, allowing the unusually fast spread of the fire.

Police also said they found Styrofoam -- which is highly flammable -- attached to the windows on each floor near the elevator lobby of the one unaffected tower. It was believed to have been installed by the construction company but the purpose was not clear. Secretary for Security Chris Tang said they would investigate the materials further.

The housing complex consisted of eight buildings with almost 2,000 apartments for about 4,800 residents, including many older people. It was built in the 1980s and had been undergoing a major renovation. Hong Kong's anti-corruption agency said on Thursday it was launching a probe into possible corruption relating to the renovation project.



Firefighters work at a residential area fire site in Hong Kong, south China on Nov 27. (Xinhua)

Asia

Indonesia intensifies search for flood victims: Rescuers searched Thursday in rivers and the rubble of villages for bodies, and when possible survivors, after flash floods and landslides on Indonesia's Sumatra island left 69 people dead and 59 missing.



Walintukan

Monsoon rains over the past week caused rivers to burst their banks in North Sumatra province Tuesday. The deluge tore through mountainside village, swept away people and submerged more than 2,000 houses and buildings, the National Disaster Management Agency said. Nearly 5,000 residents fled to government shelters.

Seventeen bodies were recovered by Thursday in South Tapanuli district and eight bodies in Sibolga city, North Sumatra provincial police's spokesperson **Ferry Walintukan** said in a statement. In the neighboring district of Central Tapanuli, landslides hit several homes, killing at least a family of four.

Rescue workers also recovered two bodies in Pakpak Bharat district and were searching for five people reported missing in Humbang Hasundutan, another district devastated by landslides that killed two villagers, Walintukan said.

At least one resident died when mud and debris struck a main road on a tiny Nias island, he added. (AP)

Thailand flood death toll rises to 82: The death toll from severe flooding in southern Thailand climbed to more than 80 people as floodwaters began to subside Thursday, officials said.

About 1 million households and more than 3 million people have been impacted by floods triggered by torrential rains in 12 southern provinces, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said Thursday.

Government spokesperson Siripong Angkasakulkiat said in a news conference in Bangkok that flood-related deaths in Songkhla province surged from six to 55 on Thursday, sending the overall death toll across the seven provinces to at least 82 people. (AP)

11 dead in China train accident: Eleven people were killed and two others injured in the early hours of Thursday, after a test train collided with maintenance workers on the track in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, local railway authorities said. (Xinhua)

BANGKOK, Nov 27, (Agencies): Excited families greeted relatives released from Myanmar's Insein Prison on Thursday as part of a mass amnesty granted by the country's military rulers ahead of next month's election.

At least eight buses carrying prisoners were welcomed outside the gate of the Yangon prison at 11:30 am by relatives and friends who had been waiting since early morning.

The military administration granted amnesty to more than 3,000 people locked up for opposing army rule and dropped charges against more than 5,500 others, state-run broadcaster MRTV reported Wednesday. The amnesty was intended to ensure eligible voters could participate in the Dec 28 elections, it said.

An official from Insein Prison, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to release information, confirmed prisoners would be released starting Thursday but did not say how many or who they were. In past amnesties, releases have taken several days.

There was no sign that the prisoner release would include former leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who led the National League for Democracy government ousted in the military takeover in 2021 and who has been held virtually incommunicado since then.

Among those freed were Kyi Toe,



Released prisoners on bus are welcomed by family members and colleagues outside the main gate of Insein prison on Nov 27, in Yangon, Myanmar, after Myanmar's military rulers granted a mass amnesty ahead of elections. (AP)

a member of NLD's central information committee, and freelance journalist Zaw Lin Htut, also known as Phoe Thar. Both were arrested in 2021.

"I am determined to work with Aunty until I am 90 years old," Kyi Toe told journalists as he arrived outside the prison gate. Aunty is a common expression of respect for Suu Kyi among senior NLD members.

He added that other senior NLD

members still remain in prison.

Critics have asserted Myanmar's election will be neither free nor fair because there is no free media and most of the leaders of the dissolved NLD have been arrested.

MRTV said the National Defense and Security council, a constitutional administrative government body controlled by the military, granted amnesties covering 3,085 prisoners convicted under

the part of the penal code known as the incitement law, which makes it a crime to spread comments that create public unrest or fear, or spread false news. It has been widely used to arrest critics of the government or military and is punishable by up to three years in prison.

Conditional release was granted to 724 prisoners, who would have to serve the rest of their old sentence if they commit a new offense, and 5,580 people who are either being prosecuted or are in hiding, will receive amnesty and have their incitement cases closed.

Also:

YANGON: Sixty-eight people were killed and 116 were injured in fire accidents in Myanmar during the first 10 months of 2025, according to the country's fire services department on Tuesday.

From January to October this year, a total of 850 fire accidents occurred, damaging 2,644 houses, 13 factories, and 38 warehouses, said U Thein Tun Oo, director of the Myanmar Fire Services Department.

Most fire accidents during the period occurred in Yangon region with 180 cases, followed by Mandalay region with 132 cases and Shan state with 101 cases, he said.

The number of fire accidents recorded this year has decreased compared with 1,017 accidents reported in the same period last year, he said.

Dominican Republic grants US access to restricted areas for fight against drugs

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Nov 27, (AP): Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader announced that he has authorized the US government to operate inside restricted areas in the Caribbean country to help in its fight against drug trafficking.

For a limited time, the US can refuel aircraft and transport equipment and technical personnel at restricted areas within the San Isidro Air Base and Las Americas International Airport, said Abinader, who made the announcement with US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth at his side.

Hegseth was in Santo Domingo Wednesday to meet with the country's top leaders, including Abinader and Minister of Defense Lt Gen Carlos Antonio Fernández Onofre.

It is the first major public agreement that the US has struck with a Caribbean nation as it seeks friendly allies to support its attacks against alleged drug-smuggling boats in the region and beyond. Since the strikes began in early September, at least 83 people have been killed.

Hegseth said the Dominican Republic was a regional leader willing to take on hard challenges. "That's why I'm here today. That's why we decided to come here first," he said. "The Dominican Republic has stepped up."

Hegseth said the US would respect the Caribbean country's sovereignty and laws as U.S. service members and



US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth (left), and Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader speak during a press conference at the National Palace in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on Nov 26. (AP)

aircraft prepare to deploy to the Dominican Republic. He did not provide additional details.

Meanwhile, Abinader said the scope of the agreement is "technical, limited, and temporary."

"The purpose is clear: to strengthen the air and maritime protection ring maintained by our Armed Forces, a decisive reinforcement to prevent the entry of narcotics and to strike a more

decisive blow against transnational organized crime," he said.

After a news conference where no questions were allowed, the office of the president issued a statement with more details, noting that several KC-135 tanker aircraft would be present to support air patrol missions, expanding monitoring and interdiction capabilities over a large portion of the maritime and air domains.



Residents take shelter with their belongings in an open area after a major fire engulfed Korail slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Nov 25. (AP)

Thousands left homeless by Bangladesh slum fire

Hasina gets 21 years in land corruption case

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Nov 27, (AP): Bangladesh's ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina was sentenced Thursday to 21 years in prison in three corruption cases related to allocations of land in a government project.

She was sentenced to death earlier this month for crimes against humanity involving the crackdown on the mass uprising that ended her 15-year rule last year. She is in exile in India, and all of the trials have been conducted in absentia.

The three verdicts found Hasina guilty of illegally securing plots in the Purbachal New Town project for herself and her family despite their ineligibility.

Each sentence was seven years in

prison, and Dhaka Special Court Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun said Hasina would need to serve them consecutively.

Her son Sajeeb Wazed and daughter Saima Wazed were each sentenced to five years in prison in one of the three cases.

Other details of the verdict were not available immediately.

Hasina and her former ruling Awami League party have denounced the trials against her. She did not appoint a defense lawyer, and global human rights groups have questioned the credibility and fairness of the trial process against Hasina.

The Anti-corruption Commission filed the three cases against Hasina and

her son and daughter and others after her ouster. Other cases also involve the land project, and another verdict is expected Dec 1 in a separate case.

Also:

DHAKA, Bangladesh: A fire in a crowded slum in Bangladesh's capital has burned or damaged 1,500 shanties, leaving thousands homeless, authorities said Wednesday. No casualties were reported.

The blaze, which began Tuesday evening at the Korail slum in Dhaka, was doused Wednesday after 16 hours, said Rashed Bin Khalid, a duty officer at the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defense.

being swept away by floodwaters near the eastern town of Ampara about 410 kilometers (256 miles) east of Colombo.

The severe weather has affected about 5,000 families, the center said.

Also:

COLOMBO: A total of 365,951 Sri Lankans are currently unemployed, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya told Parliament on Wednesday.

She said the unemployment rate for the first quarter dropped to 3.8 percent, down from 4.5 percent during the same period in 2024. The rate for the second quarter also stood at 3.8 percent, compared with 4.7 percent a year earlier.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Nov 27, (AP): Sri Lanka stopped passenger trains and closed roads in some parts of the country where landslides and floods triggered by heavy rains have caused more than 40 deaths, officials said Thursday.

The government's disaster management center said 25 of the reported deaths occurred in the mountainous tea-growing regions of Badulla and Nuwara Eliya in the country's central province about 300 kilometers (186 miles) east of the capital, Colombo.

Another 21 people were missing Thursday due to landslides in the same areas, while 10 people were injured, the center said.

Sri Lanka began grappling with severe weather last week, made worse by downpours over the weekend that wreaked havoc by flooding homes, fields and roads.

Reservoirs and rivers have overflowed, blocking roads. Some key roads connecting the provinces have been closed, officials said.

Authorities stopped trains in some areas in the mountainous region after rocks, muds and trees fell onto railway tracks, and local television showed workers removing the debris. In some areas, floods have inundated the tracks.

Local television also showed navy vehicles transporting residents and a car

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau, Nov 27, (AP): Soldiers in Guinea-Bissau on Thursday announced a new junta leader for the country, cementing a forceful takeover of power that began after the country's presidential election.

The military high command inaugurated Gen Horta N'Ta as the head of the military government, which will oversee a one-year transition period, according to a declaration announced on state television.

N'Ta was the army chief of staff until the coup and a close ally of deposed President Umaro Sissoco Embaló.

Embaló's whereabouts remained unknown Thursday. He told French media Wednesday that he was arrested by soldiers as gunshots rang out near the presidential palace.

The opposition, meanwhile, alleged Embaló had fabricated the coup to avoid an election defeat in Sunday's closely contested presidential vote.



Dinis N'Tchama, military spokesperson, speaks on Nov 26, in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau. (AP)

The military takeover and the reported arrest of Embaló was "fabricated" to disrupt election results expected Thursday, according to his rival Fernando Dias, who, like Embaló, claimed to have won the vote.

Kuwaiti oil price falls to \$63.57 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27, (KUNA): Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Kuwait crude oil dropped 51 cents during Wednesday’s trading to reach USD 63.57 per barrel compared with USD 64.08 pb the day before, Kuwait edged 70 cents higher to USD 58.65 pb.

KPC, OQ weigh next steps

Duqm Petrochemical Complex faces delays

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: The implementation of the Duqm Petrochemical Complex project between Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and Oman’s OQ was delayed due to the late response of the third partner, say reliable sources.

Sources confirmed that the Kuwaiti and Omani sides will proceed with implementing this project independently or by seeking a new third partner. Sources revealed this project was supposed to have commenced some time ago, specifically with the official start of operations at the Duqm Refinery in 2025. “However, the COVID-19 pandemic hindered the implementation of feasibility studies for several years, until they were finally completed at the beginning of last year and presented to the KPC Board of Directors in April of last year.

The feasibility studies confirmed the importance of moving forward with this massive project due to its expected huge returns for Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, and the potential third partner. KPC previously disclosed that its goal in developing the complex is to achieve integration between refining and petrochemicals. This is important since Duqm refinery is a leader in producing products that will provide a continuous feedstock for the planned complex, such as naphtha and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The complex benefits from readily available natural gas from Omani gas fields,” sources explained.

Sources said KPC focuses on the

petrochemical industry, considering that its global sales exceed \$700 billion annually, and that global demand for petrochemicals is growing at a rate of three to four percent per year.

Sources added “the growth in global demand for petrochemicals is attributed to the use of their products as essential raw materials in numerous industries, including packaging, automotive parts, certain medical devices, and rubber materials used in aircraft and vehicle windows. They are also used in the production of fibers, detergents and cosmetics. The plastics industry also relies on petrochemicals for over 90 percent of its production. KPC achieved remarkable profit growth in fiscal 2024/2025, exceeding KD58 million, despite supply chain disruptions resulting from geopolitical events in 2023 and 2024. KPC anticipates continued profit growth in the coming years, coinciding with its acquisition of several international petrochemical companies. This includes the acquisition this year of a 25 percent stake in a group of petrochemical plants in Yintai, China, owned by Wanhua Chemical Group.”

Sources also indicated that KPC approved the construction of the fourth olefins plant, the cost of which is expected to exceed half a billion dollars. Sources said the approval of this project followed the confirmation of the availability of the necessary feedstock, which will enable Kuwait to expand its production of polyethylene and ethylene. “The process of selecting a joint venture partner is currently underway,” sources concluded.

Brent & WTI futures rise 2%

AEO sees upbeat 2025 outlook on AI, demand

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27, (KUNA): The Arab Energy Organization (AEO) on Thursday released its third quarterly report for 2025, providing a comprehensive overview of global petroleum developments, including supply, demand, prices, refining activity, and market trends impacting both regional and international energy sectors.

AEO Secretary-General Jamal Al-Loughani stated that global economic growth slowed slightly in the third quarter of 2025, but demonstrated significant resilience due to temporary trade agreements, redirected trade flows, improved emerging market finances, cautious expansionary policies, and rising investments in artificial intelligence.

He noted that global economic growth forecasts for 2025 were revised upward to 3.2 percent from the previous three percent, emphasizing that AI-driven productivity gains could enhance worldwide economic output and positively influence global energy consumption and petroleum sector performance.

Al-Loughani highlighted that the average spot price of the OPEC crude basket rose quarterly by approximately 4.3 percent to USD 70.4 per barrel, supported by strong seasonal fundamentals, including increased travel, summer fuel demand, higher refinery throughput, and greater global consumption.

Average futures prices for Brent and West Texas Intermediate crude increased by 2 percent to USD 71.8 and USD 64.9 per barrel respectively, driven by supply concerns, positive demand projections, and geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe, affecting global

energy market stability and investor sentiment.

Global crude oil and natural gas liquids supplies rose 1.9 percent from the previous quarter to 106.1 million barrels per day, reflecting higher production from OPEC+ members and increased output in the Americas, while global oil demand increased 1.2 percent to 105.5 million barrels daily.

Al-Loughani reported that total global commercial and strategic petroleum inventories increased 1.8 percent to approximately 9.41 billion barrels by the end of Q3 2025, with OECD commercial stocks reaching five-year average levels to help stabilize global oil markets.

He added that global crude oil refining activity improved, supported by higher refinery margins in the US, strong demand for transport fuels, naphtha, and liquefied petroleum gas, which drove operating rates in July to their highest levels since December 2018.

Regarding short-term market outlook, Al-Loughani noted that oil markets remain uncertain, with OPEC forecasting that non-OPEC+ supply will decline to approximately 53.6 million barrels per day in Q4 2025, while global demand is expected to rise to around 106.6 million barrels daily.

He concluded by praising OPEC+ efforts, including six Arab member states, for their continuous coordination to maintain precautionary measures, achieve market balance, and support stability and sustainable growth in the global petroleum sector amid ongoing economic and geopolitical uncertainties.

Main market index rises 0.30%

Boursa Kuwait general index falls 0.20% to 8,837.17 points

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27, (KUNA): The Boursa Kuwait ended Thursday’s trading session with mixed performance across its indices. The general market index declined by 17.42 points, or 0.20 percent, settling at 8,837.17 points. Total trading reached 371.4 million shares through 19,865 cash transactions, with a combined value of KD 86.9 million (approximately USD 265.9 million).

The main market index recorded an increase of 24.74 points, or 0.30 percent, closing at 8,278.42 points. Trading volume in this segment stood at 227.5 million shares, executed through 11,678 transactions

worth KD 33.4 million (around USD 102.2 million).

Conversely, the premier market index edged down by 28.59 points, or 0.30 percent, to 9,412.91 points. A total of 143.8 million shares were traded in 8,187 transactions, valued at KD 53.5 million (approximately USD 163.7 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index advanced 27.63 points, or 0.33 percent, reaching 8,405.16 points. Trading in this category involved 84.7 million shares through 4,755 cash transactions amounting to KD 14.15 million (around USD 43.2 million).

Business

Company sponsored KAFO Forum on ‘AI for Impact: Prompting with Purpose’

Zain empowers young people to lead the future of AI

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: Zain Kuwait has supported the KAFO 2025 Forum, titled AI for Impact: Prompting with Purpose. The forum was organized by the KAFO platform for the second consecutive year, in partnership with the Youth Public Authority and under the patronage of H.E. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs.

Zain took part in the forum, joined by Dr. Yousef Al-Ibrahim, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the KAFO platform, Dr. Fatemah Al-Mousawi, CEO of the platform, Hamad Al-Musaibeeh, Corporate Relations Department Manager at Zain Kuwait, along with a distinguished group of experts, academics, entrepreneurs, and representatives from government entities and the private sector.

Zain’s participation in the forum builds on its strategic partnership with KAFO, which places sustainability at the heart of youth empowerment through a series of initiatives and projects that encourage social innovation and turn young people’s ideas into practical solutions that support the Sustainable Development Goals. These include the Sustainability Challenge that addresses textile waste, along with joint environmental and educational initiatives.

The forum highlighted the purposeful use of artificial intelligence technologies and their role in empowering national talent and advancing the shift toward a knowledge and innovation based economy. This was explored through panel discussions that covered AI in the public sector, youth skills development, the role of innovation in the banking sector, and maximizing social impact, in addition to showcasing examples of startups that employ these technologies to address social and environmental issues.

During the forum, Corporate Relations Department Manager Hamad Al-Musaibeeh presented Zain’s vision of artificial intelligence as a tool for positive impact. He focused on the importance of directing this technology toward addressing real challenges in education, health, environment, and entrepreneurship, and on embedding sustainability principles and impact measurement into the design and implementation of youth initiatives supported by the company in collaboration with its partners.

As part of the forum’s activities, Zain took part in a dedicated panel discussion on the social impact of its various initiatives and projects, including the success story of the intercontinental robotic surgery, which enabled a remote operation to be performed using the advanced connectivity technologies it provided, which culminated in Kuwait achieving a historic milestone in the Guinness World Records. The session highlighted the technical and organizational dimensions of such pioneering projects, and how data, digital infrastructure, AI, and youth-focused community programs can work together to support them.

The panel featured Humoud Al-Khamees, Cloud Networking Manager, Mohammed Adnan Al-Ruwayeh, Data Office and Quality Assurance Department Manager, and Faisal Al-Duwaihees, Youth and Partnerships Specialist, who shared their experiences in leveraging cloud platforms, data, and youth programs to drive innovation.

The forum also showcased the top five innovative youth projects, where participating teams presented AI-based solutions tackling various development challenges, reflecting the growing in-



Al-Ibrahim and Al-Mousawi honoring Al-Musaibeeh and the Zain team.



From the panel discussion on Zain and technology’s impact in society.

terest of Kuwaiti youth in advanced technologies and their ability to turn them into initiatives with lasting impact.

This forum represents a key milestone within a broader collaboration between Zain and KAFO that extends across the 2025 and 2026 seasons. The partnership includes a series of specialized activities such as the Sustainability Challenge, the Ramadan without Waste campaign, and the Green Hackathon, all aimed at stimulating creativity among young people and generating practical solutions to pressing environmental and social challenges, with a focus on designing initiatives

that are measurable and scalable at the community level.

Through these strategic partnerships, Zain continues to translate its commitment to corporate sustainability and social responsibility into practical programs that help build a sustainable economy and a more inclusive digital society. This is achieved by investing in national youth talent, enabling the social innovation ecosystem, and strengthening collaboration between the public sector, private sector, and civil society in support of the New Kuwait 2035 vision in the fields of knowledge, innovation, and quality of life.

CINET aims to become a leading regional hub for credit data

CBK chief sees credit data as driver of economic growth

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27, (KUNA): Kuwait’s central bank chief Basel Al-Haroun on Wednesday underlined the “vital” role of credit information firms towards luring foreign investment and bolstering economic growth, saying that their activities contribute to higher productivity and more job gains.

Hosting the Arab Committee on Credit Information’s annual talks for the first time, the Kuwaiti central bank governor said it was part of national efforts to “foster knowledge and drive innovation,” in a bid to solidify Kuwait’s position as a regional “financial hub,” he told the gathering of monetary authorities and credit information companies from across the wider Arab region.

On the “growing significance” of creditors, he described them as “essential enablers” who provide support for businesses and individuals through proper funding that helps expand economic activities, which in turn, gives impetus to efforts aiming to attract foreign investment, he said.

Outlining the committee’s primary objectives, Dr. Fahad Al-Turki, who serves as the dual chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab

Committee for Credit Information, cited an integrated financial environment built on “knowledge exchange and unified standards” among Arab credit institutions as the ultimate aim.

He went on to hail the talks as a “milestone” in advancing Arab financial integration, providing an opportunity to strengthen cooperation among Arab countries in sharing regulatory and technological practices, subsequently building a “financial ecosystem rooted in trust and efficiency,” the official emphasized.

Kuwait Credit Information Network Company (CINET), which is hosting the talks, is committed to developing the credit information sector and cementing its role as a “leading regional hub” for credit data, its chairperson Alia Al-Humaidhi said amid the talks, highlighting the gathering as crucial towards the exchange of insights about the credit information industry.

The talks delve into topics pertinent to the credit information industry, including the applications of credit data in fields such as finance, telecommunications and real estate, while exploring opportunities linking credit information companies and global leaders in credit risk management.

Underscoring the efficiency of the Bank’s digital solutions

High demand for AFAQ service on KFHOnline

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced that its AFAQ service has seen strong demand. The service, which is available on KFHOnline, enables customers to instantly transfer funds from their accounts to participating GCC banks. This reflects the significance of the service and the efficiency of the digital solutions offered by the Bank. It also highlights the capacity of these offerings to meet customers’ aspirations for cross-border services that are secure, fast, and accessible 24/7.

By using AFAQ service through KFHOnline, customers can instantly transfer funds for a flat fee of KD 2 per transaction, regardless of the transfer amount, without additional charges from the beneficiary bank. Moreover, this service allows customers to make transfers with ease through clear, simple steps and the highest security standards.

The new service offered by KFH aligns with the Central Bank of Kuwait’s vision to enhance GCC currency transactions and expedite money transfers. It also supports instant money transfer among customers in the GCC countries.

To benefit from the service, KFHOnline users can navigate to the financial transfers page on the app and choose the “Other Banks Transfers Status” option. They can then select a previously added beneficiary and click the “transfer through AFAQ” option. This option will only be activated if the beneficiary is on the list of the



KFH AFAQ enables instant, secure GCC fund transfers with flat fee of KD 2.

GCC banks participating in the service.

The success of this service and the strong demand for it affirm KFH’s leading role in banking and digital innovation. This initiative demonstrates its dedication to enhancing customer experience and advancing the interna-

tional bank transfer service to a new level of speed, accuracy, and security. By utilizing the fastest technical means and quick payment solutions that meet the highest quality standards, KFH is boosting financial and trade exchanges, as well as cooperation across the GCC nations.

Including a multistorey car park and a public park valued approximately at KD 7 mln

NBK organizes a field visit to the Sharq Area Development Project attended by the Asimah Governor



NBK visits Sharq development site as project progresses.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: National Bank of Kuwait organized a field visit to the construction site of the Sharq Area Development Project, to which the bank is contributing, in collaboration with Kuwait Municipality and Al-Shaab National Real Estate Company. The project includes the development of a multistorey car park and a public park with a land area estimated at 12,000 square meters and a value of approximately KD 7 million.

At the forefront of visitors, who came to learn about the progress of the project and explore the completed construction work during the past period, were Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the Governor of the Capital (Asimah), and Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO at the National Bank of Kuwait.

Car Park and Green Spaces

The project extends over a total land area that exceeds 12,000 square meters, includes the construction of parking spaces with an area of about 5,900 square meters, while the building area reaches approximately 41,000 square meters, in addition to the development of a public park containing green spaces, open squares and ornamental plantings.

The car park building consists of a basement and a ground floor in addition to five upper floors. It provides approximately 1,175 parking spaces, including 40 spaces designated for people with special needs and 12 spaces for charging electric vehicles. The top floor will also be completely covered with solar panels to generate up to 500 megawatts of electricity annually, which will enhance energy efficiency and keep pace with modern environmental trends.

The project utilizes the latest technology in parking design and operation, in addition to developing and beautifying the surrounding areas. It is expected to be fully completed by the end of 2026, achieving several objectives, most notably:

- Addressing the severe shortage of parking spaces within Kuwait City, according to the project's traffic studies approved by the Ministry of Interior.
- Providing green spaces and landscaping to improve the surrounding environment and create a public space for visitors.

A Distinctive Step

On this occasion, Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO at

Al-Sager:

- This distinctive step embodies NBK's commitment to supporting Kuwait's development vision through initiatives that follow the highest sustainability standards.
- The project contributes to enhancing the quality of life in Asimah Governorate by diminishing traffic and providing green spaces.
- The use of solar energy in this project confirms NBK's keenness to integrate sustainability in all its operations.
- NBK places social responsibility at the heart of its strategies by making initiatives that promote partnerships with the public sector and bring an added value to society.

the National Bank of Kuwait, commented: "This project is a distinctive step in the heart of the capital that contributes to enhancing public-private partnerships, and it embodies NBK's commitment to supporting Kuwait's development vision through practical initiatives that follow the highest international sustainability standards".

Al-Sager added: "With this vital project, we are not only creating modern infrastructure but also enhancing the quality of life through solutions that reduce traffic in Kuwait City, in addition to providing green havens for citizens and residents visiting this area".

Additionally, Al-Sager noted that the adoption of solar energy technologies in the project comes within the framework of NBK's keenness to integrate sustainability in all its operations, and in support of the country's plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, in addition to developing green spaces in line with modern environmental trends.

Finally, he stressed that NBK places social responsibility at the heart of its strategy by making initiatives that promote public-private partnerships and bring an added value to all segments of society, further noting that these efforts confirm the bank's leadership in supporting sustainable development and Kuwait Vision 2035.



Project Details:

- Total land area of 12,000 square meters.
- A 5,900 square meters parking area and 41,000 square meters building area.
- Parking accommodates 1,175 cars and consists of a basement, ground floor, and five upper floors.
- Covering the top floor with solar panels to generate approximately 500 megawatts of electricity annually.
- Utilizing the latest technologies in the design and operation of the parking facilities, along with developing and beautifying the surrounding areas.
- Completing the entire project by the end of 2026.

Social Responsibility Leadership

NBK had signed the project contribution agreement in May of last year with Kuwait Municipality, in collaboration with Al-Shaab National Real Estate Company, as part its social responsibility initiatives and in support of environmental and development projects in Kuwait.

The initiatives launched by the bank recently include the Shuwaikh Beach Development and Beautification Project, which witnessed a generous donation from NBK amounting to KD 3 million and was officially opened last October, making a unique addition to the recreational and tourism infrastructure in Kuwait.

Furthermore, the foundation stone was recently laid for the expansion project of the new building of NBK Children's Hospital for the treatment of blood diseases, cancer, and stem cell transplantation, which extends over an area exceeding 22,000 square meters of specialized medical infrastructure valued approximately at KD 19 million. This project reflects NBK's unwavering commitment to society and its leading role in supporting the health sector.

Lastly, it should also be noted that the value of NBK's community investments amounted to approximately KD 30 million during 2024, registering an increase of 9% compared to 2023, which confirms the bank's position as one of the largest contributors in the field of social responsibility in Kuwait.

Fiscal deficit to narrow amid higher oil output

Saudi growth seen rebounding to 5% in 2026

By National Bank of Kuwait

Economic growth is expected to improve further to 5% in 2026, lifted by a significant recovery in oil output coupled with robust growth in the non-oil sector. The fiscal deficit, widening in 2025 on lower oil revenues, should narrow in 2026 on higher oil output and non-oil receipts as well as continued spending control. Downside risks to the outlook stem mainly from oil market volatility, adverse geopolitics and a slower pace of government-led investment, while key upside risks include stronger than-expected private investment, part of which could result from a pick-up in FDI.

Strong non-oil growth, driven by domestic demand

The Saudi non-oil economy is projected to grow by an upwardly revised 4% in 2025 and 2026 on still-strong domestic demand and continued progress on Vision 2030 economic diversification. The Saudi non-oil sector has been among the most robust in the GCC post-pandemic – a testament to the authorities' transformational reform and investment initiatives – and we expect this momentum to continue. Socio-economic gains have accrued from historically low citizen unemployment, high female labor participation (6.8% and 37% in Q2 respectively), and faster wage growth, widening the kingdom's productive base and expanding private consumption. In tandem with declining interest rates and continued re-

form progress, a positive outlook for the Saudi non-oil economy is well supported. This is even as the authorities are now looking to recalibrate their ambitious investment goals amid lower oil prices, de-emphasizing some mega-projects and shifting the focus of the PIF to more sustainable projects with higher near-term returns and lower execution risks.

At the sectoral level, we expect greater output gains from retail/trade & hospitality activities, with an increasing contribution to GDP coming from tourism. These activities collectively account for almost 21% of non-oil GDP, up from 18.5% in 2022. Manufacturing and transportation will also figure more, supported by rising industrial capacity and continued investment in logistics/transport. Higher frequency metrics, such as the PMI and industrial production indices, back this up, consistently signaling expansion. The former was back at near-series-high levels (60.2) in October. Meanwhile, bank lending growth, though slowing, is still very robust (14.3% y/y in September), which will support the ongoing expansion in private sector activity. That said, the moderation in bank credit growth, to closer to the deposit growth rate, is welcome as it will help ease rising liquidity pressures in the banking sector (LDR of 111% as of September).

Oil output rising as kingdom prioritizes market share

We have significantly revised up-

wards our oil GDP forecast, with the Saudis spearheading a faster-than-expected unwinding of OPEC-8 oil production cuts from 2023-24 to claw back market share. We now expect crude output to rise from an expected 9.48 mb/d on average in 2025 to 10.22 mb/d in 2026. This should boost oil GDP by 7.8% y/y in 2026 from 5.8% in 2025. Total GDP growth will reach 5% in 2026.

Inflation to moderate, housing rent inflation to subside

Inflation is expected to remain at around 2% on average in 2026, helped by disinflation in housing rents (20% of the CPI basket and down to a 3-year low of 5.7% y/y in October), despite rising price pressures in food and other consumer categories. The authorities' move to freeze rents in Riyadh for 5 years will reduce inflationary impulses in this category by Q4 2026. Meanwhile, in line with loosening US Fed's monetary policy, further cuts to Saudi benchmark rates (repo rate is currently 4.5%) are expected in 2026.

Fiscal deficits to be sustained over the medium-term

We see a fourth consecutive fiscal deficit in 2026, at 4% of GDP, narrower than 2025's estimate (5% of GDP) which is the largest since 2020 and broadly in line with the authorities' pre-budget figure of 5.3% of GDP. The wider 2025 deficit is due to expectations of reduced oil revenues (reduced dividend/royalty payments from Ar-

amco) on the back of lower oil prices, though the ramping up of oil production and buoyant non-oil revenues should mitigate some of the expected decline in oil prices. Meanwhile, expenditure growth is set to decelerate significantly from the double-digit rates of previous years as the government exercises greater fiscal discipline. In fact, spending is on track for a slight decline in 2025 before returning to modest growth of around 2.5% in 2026. Central government debt will climb to 33% of GDP in 2026 from 30.5% in 2025. The government has reaffirmed its commitment to a fiscal stance that supports consumption and advances the investment-heavy Vision 2030 diversification strategy. Recently, S&P upgraded the kingdom's sovereign credit rating to A+, citing solid fiscal and external fundamentals and continued progress on diversification.

Oil prices, geopolitics, investment momentum main risks

Mounting fiscal pressures amid lower oil prices is the main downside risk, as it could force a pull-back in government spending. External and geopolitical risks, from trade to regional tensions, could dampen growth, but we think the exposure is limited. Bank liquidity is also worth watching, though banks remain well-capitalized. On the upside, the PIF's recent strategic shift could auger well for stronger private investment and FDI outcomes.

Strengthening customer protection

KIB launches fraud awareness campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: In line with its ongoing commitment to strengthening financial literacy and supporting national awareness initiatives, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the launch of fraud awareness campaign in recognition of the 2025 International Fraud Awareness Week. This effort falls under the wider umbrella of the 'Let's Be Aware' (Diraya) campaign, which was launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in cooperation with local banks to empower all segments of society with the knowledge needed to make informed and secure financial decisions. As such, KIB continues to highlight essential anti-fraud tips, reinforcing the importance of vigilance in an increasingly digital financial landscape.

Commenting on the initiative, Mohammad AlSarraf, Anti-Fraud Manager at KIB, said: "KIB noted that the rising sophistication of fraud schemes, especially in digital channels, has made awareness more crucial than ever. As part of its social responsibility and its role as a notable financial institution, the Bank continues to emphasize the importance of staying informed and taking proactive steps to safeguard personal financial information. Awareness remains the strongest deterrent to fraud, and even small, but prudent actions can significantly reduce risks."

AlSarraf encouraged customers to pay close attention to any unexpected messages or unusual requests, as these often serve as early warning signs of fraudulent attempts. He advised community members to verify unfamiliar information through trusted sources before taking action, noting that a moment of caution can prevent long-lasting consequences.

Highlighting that KIB is committed to exploring new methods, technologies, and preventive frameworks designed to strengthen its defenses and ensure a secure banking experience, AlSarraf explained that fraudulent activity can take many shapes, from attempts to steal identities to phishing schemes and online scams.

To help customers stay protected, he emphasized that customers should immediately report any suspected fraud, unusual account activity, or irregularities involving debit or credit cards by contacting the Bank's customer service center at 1866866. Additionally, he highlighted that customers could report any suspicious messages or unknown links directly to the Bank through its dedicated service at phishing@kib.com.kw, where such emails are evaluated and addressed promptly.

AlSarraf further pointed out that enabling account notifications is mandatory for monitoring financial transactions in real-time, helping customers verify the accuracy of



Mohammad AlSarraf, Anti-Fraud Manager at KIB

each operation, particularly when using digital payment channels. He also encouraged customers to review their statements regularly and update their PINs and online banking passwords frequently, noting that these simple measures significantly enhance personal security.

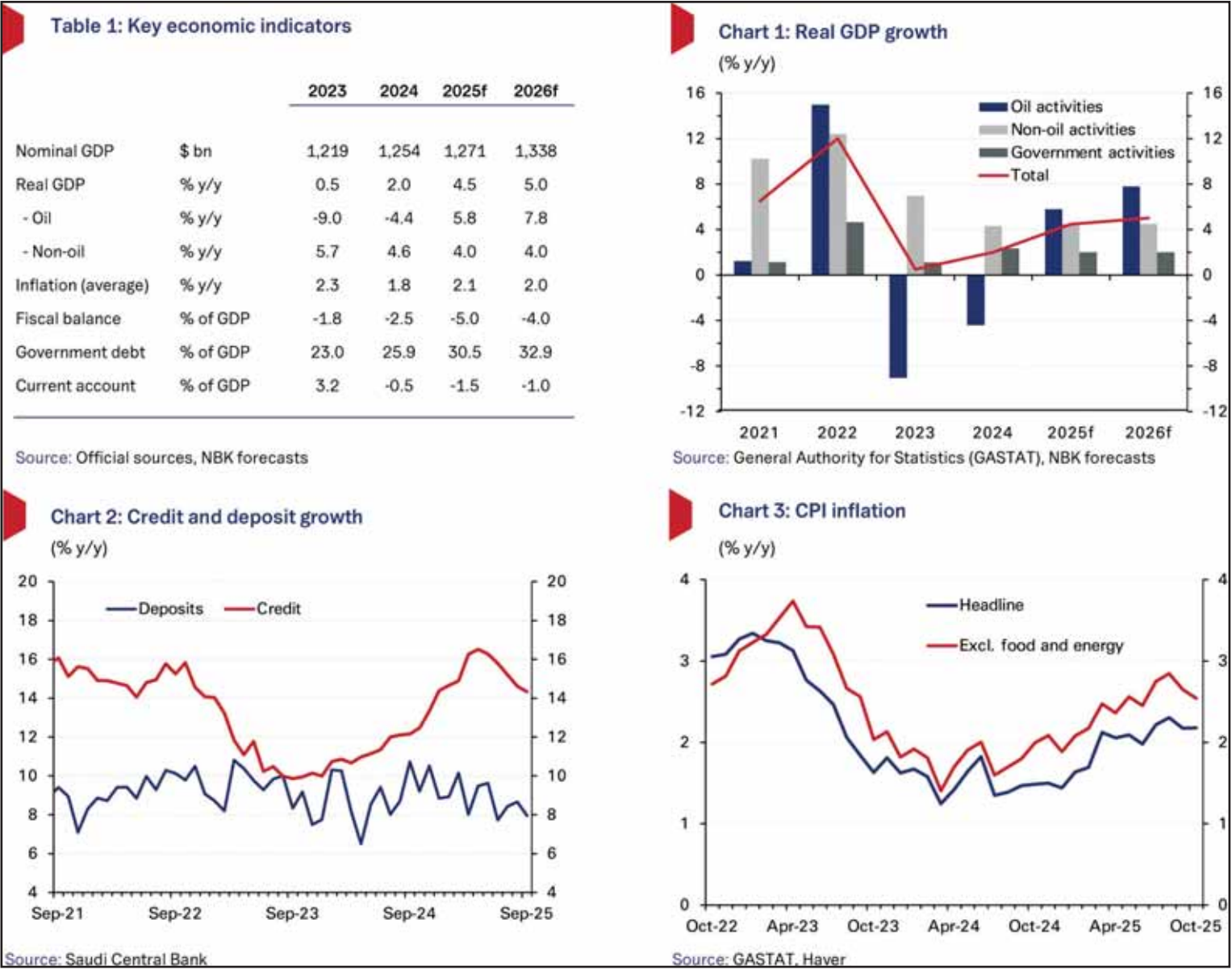
KIB's participation in this international awareness week builds on its long-standing efforts to keep customers and the public informed about spotting, avoiding, and responding to potentially fraudulent activity. Through its digital platforms, the Bank continues to share educational content, reinforcing that financial literacy and safe online practices are integral to its year-round commitment to empowering and protecting customers.

About KIB

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

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

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



Enhancing convenience and choice for residents of Sabah Al-Ahmad City

talabat signs partnership with Sabah Al-Ahmad Co-op Society

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: As part of its continued efforts to grow its network of partners and strengthen its market presence, talabat, the leading on-demand online ordering platform in the MENA region, announced its partnership with Sabah Al-Ahmad Co-op Society. The announcement was recently made during a signing ceremony held at the Co-op's main supermarket, attended by representatives from both talabat and Sabah Al-Ahmad Co-op. This partnership is part of talabat's mission to extend its services to every area in Kuwait, maximizing convenience and choice by collaborating with leading retailers including co-operatives and grocery hypermarkets.

With this collaboration, residents of Sabah Al-Ahmad City will now have full access through the talabat app to the hypermarket's wide assortment. This includes all grocery categories, fruits and vegetables, food, personal care, skin care, and more. Customers will enjoy the same trusted products and promotions they are used to in-store, now available with just one tap. Orders will be delivered directly to their doorsteps within an average of 30 minutes, ensuring round-the-clock convenience.

Commenting on the platform's newest partnership, Abdullah Al-Mansour, Director of Communications, Public Affairs and Corporate Responsibility of talabat, stated:



Abdullah Al-Mansour and Mohammad Khashman Al-Ajmi with the talabat and Co-op teams.

“Our mission is to deliver greater convenience and variety to customers across Kuwait by bringing the best retailers onboard. Sabah Al-Ahmad is a fast-growing community with evolving needs, and this partnership enables us to bring its residents access to their Co-op hypermarket through talabat for the very first time.”

Al-Mansour added: “With its strong track record of growth and its

vital role in serving one of Kuwait's most dynamic and rapidly developing areas, Sabah Al-Ahmad Co-op was the natural choice for talabat to expand its offerings in the area. As Sabah Al-Ahmad continues to develop, we believe this partnership will ease the daily lives of both current and future residents, while contributing to the area's growth across multiple fronts. It reaffirms talabat's role not only as a delivery platform, but

also as a key enabler of progress for communities, cooperatives, and the wider national digital transformation journey.”

From his side, Mohammad Khashman Al-Ajmi, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Sabah Al-Ahmad Co-op Society, said: “Joining talabat is an important step for us as it empowers our Co-op to reach more customers, provide them with greater convenience, and strengthen



Orders are now delivered straight to customers' homes in just 30 minutes.

our contribution to the local economy. By partnering with talabat, we are confident we can better serve our community, leveraging the platform's technology, logistics services and data-driven insights to enhance our offerings and ensure they evolve in step with Kuwait's expanding digital economy.”

Through such partnerships, talabat aims to provide a seamless digital channel that supports the

growth of cooperative societies, strengthens their sales cycle, and reinforces their central role in the local economy. Building on this momentum, talabat is steadily redefining convenience in Kuwait by expanding its partnerships to cover everyday needs and beyond, reflecting its commitment to accelerating the country's digital transformation in retail and commerce as part of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Biggest Black Friday sale of the year

Lulu Hypermarket launches ‘Super Friday’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: Lulu Hypermarket has officially unveiled its largest annual shopping event, Super Friday, a mega Black Friday campaign running from November 26 to December 2, 2025.

The launch ceremony took place at the Lulu Qurain branch, attended by prominent Kuwaiti tech influencers alongside Lulu Kuwait's top management.

This year's Super Friday promises an unparalleled shopping experience, offering customers up to 70% off across a wide selection of products. Shoppers can expect weeks of exclusive promotions, exciting deals, and heavy discounts available at all Lulu outlets throughout Kuwait.

One of the major attractions of the campaign is the “Buy 20, Get 20” fashion promotion, giving customers even more value on their apparel purchases.

The hypermarket has announced a record-breaking “Suuuper Sale” across an extensive list of categories, including Mobiles, Tablets, TVs, Laptops, Electronics, Wearables, IT Accessories, Gaming, Home Appliances, Beauty Gadgets, Fashion, Footwear, Luggage, Fragrances, Eyewear, Makeup, Beauty & Lifestyle Products, Home Furnishings, Toys, and all Supermarket essentials such as Groceries and Fresh Foods.

To enhance convenience, all offers are accessible both in-store and online, supported by value-added services such as extended warranties and easy credit options.

Adding to the festive shopping atmosphere, Lulu has introduced interactive activities such as Digital Spin & Win and a Surprise QR Code Hunt, giving customers additional chances to win exciting rewards throughout the campaign.

With its biggest ever Super Friday event, Lulu Kuwait invites shoppers



Lulu Hypermarket launches biggest annual Super Friday sale.

- to enjoy unbeatable deals, exceptional savings, and a vibrant, family-friendly shopping experience across all its stores.
- Major Campaign Highlights
- #One Day Wonders
- #Hourly Sale
- #Digital Sale
- #In-Store Exclusive Deals

Participation strengthens Kuwaiti legal firms’ presence

Dalal Al-Mulla Legal Group joins ‘Sand & Fun’ Airshow

RIYADH, Nov 27: Dalal Al-Mulla Legal Group took part in the “Sand & Fun” Airshow, the first comprehensive event for general and recreational aviation in Saudi Arabia, inaugurated by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman, and attended by senior Air Force officials, aviation decision-makers, and specialized global aerospace companies.

Founder and CEO of the Group, Attorney Dalal Al-Mulla, stated that the Kuwait-based firm's participation comes as part of its strategic expansion in the regional aviation sector, presenting specialized legal services in civil aviation law, private and light aircraft licensing, recreational aviation regulation, commercial aviation-related legislation, operational governance, and regulatory compliance.

She noted that the Group's pavilion welcomed military and civilian delegations, along with international and local companies, where ongoing legal co-operation projects in both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were presented, in addition to discussions on future partnerships at a time when the aviation sector in the Gulf is witnessing rapid growth and major regulatory transformation.

Al-Mulla emphasized that participation in the event came at a pivotal moment for the industry, saying:

“Being present at an event of this scale and with this caliber of participants is not simply ceremonial—it is a reaffirmation of our commitment to building a robust legal ecosystem that supports aviation in the Gulf region, particularly amid the accelerated transformation we are witnessing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.”

She further highlighted the Group's work to develop collaborative frameworks aligned with global standards and compatible with the evolving vision for aviation, whether in operation, ownership, licensing, or the resolution of commercial and technical disputes.



Dalal Al-Mulla Legal Group participates in Saudi Arabia's first comprehensive general aviation event.

Al-Mulla added that the legal environment surrounding aviation has become a core component of the industry's development, noting that success in modern aviation relies not only on technology, but also on an advanced legal framework that ensures safe and sustainable growth. She stressed that the Group focuses on providing specialized legal advisory services that support investors, operators, and regulators simultaneously — fostering a business

climate aligned with both Saudi Vision and Kuwait's ambitions in advancing civil and recreational aviation.

She affirmed that the presence of Dalal Al-Mulla Legal Group at “Sand & Fun” reinforces the growing role of Kuwaiti legal firms in regional industry forums and opens new avenues for collaboration between the legal and aviation sectors across the Gulf.

Online sales jump 7.5%

Black Friday kicks off amid tariff concerns

NEW YORK, Nov 27, (AP): Black Friday may no longer be the retail bacchanalia of years past, when the promise of one-time bargains caused people to leave Thanksgiving tables for malls where some customers got into fistfights over toys or TVs. But the event still has enough enthusiasts to make it the biggest shopping day in the U.S.

For that reason, the day retains its crown as the official start of the holiday shopping season. This year's kickoff comes as companies navigate an uncertain economic environment and wrestle with the volatility of President Donald Trump 's wide-ranging tariffs on imported goods.

Many have absorbed some of the costs and pulled back on hiring instead of raising prices for customers. Consumer confidence in the U.S. economy fell this month to the lowest since April - when Trump announced his tariffs - in the aftermath of the government shutdown, weak hiring and stubborn inflation, according to a report The Conference Board issued Tuesday.

Shoppers nonetheless have remained resilient and willing to spend, at least judging by the solid quarterly sales reports from Walmart, Best Buy and other retailers. But many retail executives also say customers are focusing on deals and have been selective in what they're buying.

Aron Boxer, 50, from Greenwich, Connecticut, said he delayed buying a car this year amid worries about tariffs. He said he'll be looking for deals on toys on Cyber Monday but is also willing to wait to the end for the best discount.

“The tariffs definitely are not behind me, and I am concerned about it,” the founder of an educational services company and a life coaching service said. “I did consider buying earlier this year, but I feel like some people made some pretty bad business decisions anticipating tariffs to have a bigger impact than they did.”

Still, analysts and mall executives cited solid momentum heading into Black Friday week.

“We're seeing a very positive start to the holiday season,” said Jill Renslow, chief business development and marketing officer at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, which plans to give gift cards and other giveaways to the first 250 customers who show up at 7 a.m. on Friday. “The last few Saturdays in November have been very strong.”

Mall traffic heading into Black Friday surpassed the numbers from pre-pandemic 2019, Renslow said.

A forecast from the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, predicted a healthy increase in holiday sales. The group estimated that shoppers would collectively spend between \$1.01 trillion and \$1.02 trillion in November and December, or 3.7% to 4.2% more than last year.

Retailers rung up \$976 billion in holiday sales last year, or a 4.3% increase from 2023, the group said.

Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks spending across all payment methods including cash, predicted a 3.6% increase in holiday sales from Nov. 1 through Dec. 24. That compares with a 4.1% increase last year.

“Clearly, there's uncertainty,” Mastercard Chief Economist Michelle Meyer said. “Clearly, consumers feel on edge. But at the moment, it doesn't seem like it's changing how they are showing up for this season.”

Online sales have been strong so far. From Nov. 1 to Sunday, consumers spent \$79.7 billion, according to Adobe Analytics. That represented a gain of 7.5% from a year earlier and was bigger than Adobe's 5.3% growth forecast for the season.

Tariffs have played a role in stores' merchandising and pricing strategies. Many retailers accelerated shipments of some holiday merchandise before the tariffs took effect while also absorbing some of the extra import costs. But stores still have passed on some of the expense for items like toys, which are largely sourced in China.

Market research firm Circana's retail tracking service examined various subcategories of general merchandise and found 40% of all general merchandise sold in September saw a price increase of at least 5% compared with the first four months of the year.

Toys, baby products, housewares, and team sports equipment were among the hardest hit. For example, 83% of toys sold in September saw an increase of at least 5%, Circana said.

That number was up from 32% in June and will go even higher in coming months, according to Marshal Cohen, the firm's chief industry advisor.

Some executives have noticed retailers advertising tamer holiday discounts. Mall of America's Renslow said deals didn't show up at the mall as early as she anticipated. But she estimated store tenants had ramped up this week with discounts in the range of 30% to 50%. She thinks they'll likely go deeper for the weekend.

Stephen Lebovitz, CEO of CBL Properties, which operates 85 shopping properties, also noted unimpressive holiday discounting.

“I think one of the benefits of the tariffs or the silver lining is that the inventory levels for the retailers are leaner, and they've tried to allow themselves to keep pricing power,” he said.



From top: These computer generated images released by Apple TV show the *Arctotherium angustidens*, the biggest bear to ever live; a *Stegodon*, a tiny elephant relative and a *Mammuthus columbi*, the warm-weather relative to the woolly mammoth, stepping in tar in scenes from 'Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age.' (AP)

A foot-tall elephant?

'Prehistoric Planet' reveals rare giants

NEW YORK, Nov 27, (AP): If you've seen any of the "Ice Age" animated Disney movies, we have some bad news: You don't know the real ice age.

It was an incredible time when the Earth was going through immense systemic changes and was filled with often nightmarish creatures - carnivorous kangaroos, 14-foot-tall bears and armadillos bigger than cars. Sid the sloth's eyes would bulge even more.

A hyper-realistic picture of life during that Pleistocene era emerges with Apple TV's five-part, computer-driven "Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age," which takes place millions of years after the dinosaurs' extinction.

"Nobody's made a natural history representation of these creatures behaving and interacting in the way that we have in this series," says Mike Gunton, co-executive producer and senior executive at the storied BBC Natural History Unit.

This is the third chapter in the "Prehistoric Planet" series, blending cinematic storytelling with photorealistic visual effects and the latest scientific knowledge to give viewers a treat: Nostrils flare, fur is rustled by howling winds and eyelashes twitch.

"Within one second of turning the show on, I do not want people to think, 'Oh, it's a CGI show.' I want them to think, 'Oh my gosh, what's that animal? Where did they film that?'" Gunton says.

The filmmaking style mimics the visual vocabulary of documentary nature shows like "Planet Earth" or "Blue Planet" but conjures up animals dead for millions of years with the latest digital innovations.

"Even five years ago, we couldn't have done it," says Gunton. "Even in the time we've been making it, the acceleration of the power of the visual effects has been absolutely noticeable."

The series is narrated by Golden Globe- and Olivier Award-winner Tom Hiddleston, with an original score by Hans Zimmer, Anže Rozman and Kara Talve from Bleeding Fingers Music.

Jon Favreau is co-executive producer and came at the series after directing the live-action/CGI "The Jungle Book" in 2016 with Idris Elba, Lupita Nyong'o and Scarlett Johansson, and 2019's "The Lion King," with a voice cast including Donald Glover and Chiwetel Ejiofor.

Photorealism

"I was very struck by the photorealism we were able to achieve in both of those projects and this seemed like a really good application for using realism in both animation and environmental design and render to create the illusion that you're actually looking at something real and to apply it to dinosaurs and ice age megafauna," he says.

Gunton, who has produced such nature shows as "Hidden Kingdoms" and "The Green Planet," turned to the topic of the ice age more than three years ago after wrapping up two dino-filled previous chapters and quickly learned he had a lot to learn.

"I was thinking, 'Well, this is all going to be ice and woolly mammoths and mastodons and saber-tooth tigers,'" he says. What he found out was there wasn't just one ice age but a series of eight, and while as much as a quarter of Earth's landmass was covered by ice, the rest was becoming arid and desert, changing animals' evolution.

There were Diprotodons, rhino-sized relatives of wombats and the largest marsupials of all time. There were giant short-faced kangaroos and 14-foot-tall bears.

One of the cutest creatures is a dwarf *Stegodon*, which resembled a 3-foot elephant. The filmmakers added its baby, standing just 12 inches, and we meet him playing with a butterfly.

"A swishing trunk and tail means a *Stegodon* wants to play," says Hiddleston. But the little guy gets into trouble when a gang of 6-foot giant storks come hunting. Mom, thankfully, comes to the rescue. "In a world where birds can eat elephants, you should never stray too far from Mother," Hiddleston concludes.

"These animals feel alive," says Gunton. "That comes from spending 35, nearly 40 years filming animals, watching animals, knowing how they react to each other and also knowing how to photograph these kind of behaviors."

While the look of the series is cutting edge, Favreau points out that it was crafted with artists and traditional technological techniques, not AI, and that helps it connect.

"At the end of the day, to be working side by side with artists, animators, filmmakers - there is something that creates a very specific and personal and emotional connection with tremendous specificity, which is still something that eludes the other technologies."

During the ice age, sea levels dropped, creating land bridges and connecting North and South America to create a kind of animal superhighway, with creatures going in both directions and encountering new rivals and food.

The filmmakers leaned on the visual effects company Framestore and consulted over 50 ice age specialists to create the series, often using puppets to get the shots right before removing them and adding the visual effects. Fossil records are better than with dinosaurs because many of the ice age creatures were captured in the permafrost.

Actors' raw and soulful performances fuel Oscar buzz

How Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal found the emotional power of 'Hamnet'

TORONTO, Nov 27, (AP): During the emotionally wrecking final scene of "Hamnet," Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal had an issue.

"There were moments where the camera was obstructing us," Buckley recalls. "We were like: 'No, we have to see each other.'"

"And then the minute we did see each other, it was like 'Oh, no,'" Mescal says, laughing. "What a glorious thing."

In "Hamnet," Chloé Zhao's adaptation of Maggie O'Farrell's prizewinning 2020 novel, Mescal plays William Shakespeare and Buckley his wife, Agnes. It's a fictional, speculative drama with basis in historical fact. One of the couple's three children, Hamnet, died in 1596 at the age of 11. Within a handful of years, "Hamlet" would premiere at the Globe Theatre. The names, scholars have noted, were essentially interchangeable in 16th-century England.

Zhao's film imagines the possible connection between the death of the Shakespeares' son and the birth of the playwright's greatest work. It's a portrait of a marriage, in grief and literary greatness. In many ways, it's also a movie about seeing and being seen. Both William and Agnes are drawn together as misunderstood near-outcasts. William is dismissed as "a pasty-faced scholar." Agnes is branded a "forest witch." Gaps of misperception and solitude are bridged by love in the film's first half, and art in its overwhelming final act.

In both cases, Buckley's and Mescal's eyes tell much of the story. Their performances - raw, earthy, soulful - have been hailed as among the best of the year. Both are widely expected to land Oscar nominations. Though they acted in separate timelines in Maggie Gyllenhaal's "The Lost Daughter" (2021), "Hamnet" is the first time on screen together for the two young, acclaimed Irish stars.

Respect

"We entered the film at the perfect juncture. I had huge respect for Jessie and loved spending time with her," Mescal says. "But we were also at the point where we didn't know each other all that well. So there was a kind of mystery."

Before beginning production, Zhao staged a chemistry read for the two. It might go down as the most unnecessary chemistry read in Hollywood history. "We'd forget that we were saying lines," says Mescal, sitting beside Buckley.

"There was such a kinetic energy already between us," Buckley agrees. "It just felt so possible."

Buckley and Mescal met this reporter earlier this fall just as "Hamnet" was making its prizewinning premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film's extreme emotionality was by then already earning an almost mythic reputation for turning moviegoers into puddles.

But Buckley, the 35-year-old star of "Wild Rose" and "Wicked Little Letters," and the 29-year-old Mescal, who was soon to embark on playing Paul McCartney in Sam Mendes' four-film series, entered jovial and wisecracking. Buckley, a new mother, made a remark about nursing before requesting it not be printed, and then reversing herself. "Ah, print it. What do I care!"

Once they settled in, though, both actors struggled to capture the enormity of their experience making "Hamnet." If "Hamnet" has moved audiences, it has shaken its stars.

"We worked with Kim (Gillingham, a coach) for subconscious and dreams. She asks you these prompts as you start to work. One was: Why are you making it?" Mescal recalls, turning toward Buckley. "I don't want to get into why I initially thought I was making it. But I remember sitting with you and looking up at the stars two weeks in. Something personal had been going on in my life before. I remember turning to you and going, 'Oh, that thought was way too small.'"

Little is known about Shakespeare's life and even less Agnes'. That meant the actors were using their own experiences as artists to try to better understand their characters. Each day of production, Zhao led the cast in a meditation of three deep breaths, a practice she's continued at screenings.



This image released by Focus Features shows Jessie Buckley, (left), and Paul Mescal in a scene from 'Hamnet.' (AP)

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Prosecutors charged three men Wednesday with murder in the death of 22-year-old Maria De La Rosa, who was shot over the weekend while sitting in a parked car in Los Angeles.

De La Rosa, a Latin artist who performs under the name DELAROSA, was with two other people Saturday morning in the neighborhood of Northridge when three men came up to the car and demanded money, prosecutors said. Then, prosecutors said, they fired multiple rounds, hitting all three occupants.

De La Rosa later died at a hospital. The two other victims suffered critical injuries, prosecutors said.

"This was a ruthless and targeted attack that stole the life of a young woman and artist and inflicted profound lifelong trauma on her family and the two survivors," LA County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said in a news release Wednesday.

A 27-year-old man was arrested the same day, and another 27-year-old man was arrested the next day. An arrest warrant has been issued for the third man, a 21-year-old. Attorneys for the first two could not be reached for comment.

All are from Northridge and were charged with one felony count of murder and two felony counts of attempted second-degree robbery.

DELAROSA has more than 40,000 followers on



Jessie Buckley, (right), and Paul Mescal, cast members in the film 'Hamnet,' pose for a portrait during the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 7, 2025. (AP)

"As actors, sometimes people just want you to wear a mask and put coats on, and I never find that satisfying," Buckley says. "What Chloé wants you to do is move somewhere deeper within yourself to meet the person you're going to come to understand. It's not about masks. If anything, it's about becoming more human and pulling off a layer of skin that you've maybe kept around yourself too tightly."

Zhao, the Oscar-winning "Nomadland" director who last directed the Marvel movie "Eternals," says she challenged Mescal and Buckley to play "extreme masculine and extreme feminine." Since emerging with a pair of lyrical Lakota dramas, "Songs My Brothers Taught Me" and "The Rider," Zhao has refined a rough-hewn naturalism that actors gravitate toward. To find a very different Shakespeare, she relied on those instincts.

"What we have to do as artists is try to find that commonality that transcends time and space and gender and religion," says Zhao. "You say: What is the bone-deep humanity of that man that is also in Paul Mescal? That's my job, to open that portal."

"Hamnet" dares to suppose that all art, even something as epochal as "Hamlet," comes from somewhere profoundly personal. Mescal's Shakespeare, for instance, doesn't go around eloquently spouting verses.

"How boring would that be!" says Mescal. "Anyone who writes like that isn't walking around waxing lyrical. I think there's a real engine underneath him. There's someone who wanted to escape his life and love his life at the same time. He loved his life and loved his work. This constant conflict in him, charging around his life, restless-like."

"That's also you," interjects Buckley.

"That was just the version of him that made the most sense to me," Mescal responds. "I'm sure there will be someone at Oxford who'll be like, 'He would have spoken with a weird hybrid accent because of the time period.' OK, whatever. I don't care."

"Hamnet" reaches a remarkable crescendo in a performance of "Hamlet" at the Globe that opens up deep wells of sorrow and oceans of empathy. It has already become one of the most talked-about finales of the year, and it's when the movie's belief in the transference of feeling becomes most

palpable. Yet, cameras aside, it was a scene they struggled to find.

"To be completely honest, we had gone on this ginormous, epic journey of the heart. We got to the Globe. I had not a clue what to do. I was totally lost. I think Chloé was lost," Buckley says. "The Globe flooded. There was a rainstorm for two days. You go on this huge journey and you're like: Where does this end?"

But on the third day, something clicked for Buckley when composer Max Richter's "On the Nature of Daylight" came on her playlist. She shared it with Zhao and something shifted.

"Sometimes as an actor, you feel like you have to do it yourself," Buckley says. "She was like this lone wolf in the middle of this ocean of people. I realized on the third day how everyone around me was crucial. It became about surrendering to the community of feeling."

Resolved

Buckley and Mescal have already resolved to work together again.

"I feel like we're going to meet each other at pinnacles of our lives and help each other unravel the next layer," says Buckley.

"Hands down, it was one of the most important collaborations that I've ever had," Mescal says. "It'd be insane for that to be the only time we did it."

But it's also possible that the final moments of "Hamnet" will forever stay with them. The scene's power is owed, also, to the hundreds of extras who play a poignant role. Buckley's and Mescal's eyes are locked on one another, but the play's the thing - not just its transmutation of their private grief, but the play's resonance with all around them.

"Why we go to the cinema, why we go to the theater, why we tell stories is for these places to contain the parts of ourselves that are too hard to hold by ourselves," says Buckley. "There's this unspoken ocean between the person sitting next to you and the story, and the play is the vessel through which that transcends through."

Buckley shakes her head. "It was incredible. Standing at the lip of the stage, I could just feel a tsunami of 300 people behind me opening up their hearts."

Instagram and released a single in August called, "No Me Llamas," which in English translates to "Don't Call Me." Under her most recent post on Instagram, many people acknowledged and commented on her death, including Jimmy Humilde, a founder of record label Rancho Humilde. (AP)

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NEW YORK: After President reported intervention, Paramount Pictures is set to distribute Brett Ratner's "Rush Hour 4," a project that Hollywood had eschewed after earlier sexual misconduct allegations against the director.

Paramount Pictures on Tuesday was in closing talks to distribute the film, according to a person close to the negotiations who requested anonymity because they weren't authorized to announce a deal. Paramount would be stepping in to take a distribution fee on the film, not finance it.

In 2017, during the #MeToo movement, six women said Ratner sexually harassed them in a Los Angeles Times report. Warner Bros., which had a \$450-million co-financing deal with his production company, severed ties with Ratner. Ratner, who denied the allegations, hasn't produced a



Trump

film this decade.

But on Sunday, Semafor reported that Trump personally requested Paramount take on "Rush Hour 4." Paramount recently merged with Skydance in a \$8 billion deal that required regulatory approval from the Trump administration. Trump has praised the studio's new chairperson and chief executive David Ellison, the son of Oracle executive chairperson and prominent Trump supporter, Larry Ellison. (AP)

□ □ □

NEW YORK: Prize-winning military historian Rick Atkinson, a comic book fan growing up, hadn't imagined his own work being suitable for the illustrated format.

Ten Speed Graphic announced Tuesday that a graphic edition of "The British Are Coming," the first volume of Atkinson's acclaimed Revolutionary War trilogy, will be out next June, shortly before the country's 250th anniversary. Five more graphic books are planned, to be written by Nora Neus and illustrated by Federico Pietrobon, with Atkinson in close collaboration.

"They are entirely amenable to my suggestions. 'This isn't quite right,' or 'I think this needs to be explained,'" Atkinson told The Associated Press. "With the drawings, I pointed out that John Adams, at the time the revolution began was a relatively young man. And they had made him look like the paunchy, bald John Adams of the vice presidency. And they fixed it." (AP)



The Ministerial Council honors Ibrahim Matqi, Director of Development and Follow-up at the Ministry of Information of the State of Kuwait.



Kuwait TV wins the 2025 Media Excellence Award for best television report. KUNA photos

Kuwait TV wins Arab League’s Media Excellence Award for best TV report

CAIRO, Nov 27, (KUNA): Kuwait Television and Kuwait’s Ministry of Information’s Development Sector won the Arab League’s Media Excellence Award for the best works nominated from Arab countries in the audio-visual and print media fields.

This took place during the 2025 Media Excellence Award ceremony, themed “Arab Youth and New Media,” at the conclusion of the 55th session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers.

The winners were honored by the award’s patron Kuwait’s Minister of Information and Culture and State

Minister for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Arab League Secretary-General Ahmad Abul-Gheit, and Syrian Information Minister Hamza Al-Mustafa, who chaired the current session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers.

Kuwait Television won the award for best television report, titled “Youth’s Relationship with Social Media,” while Iraq Television won the award for best documentary film on digital youth.

In the radio category, Algerian Radio won the award for best radio report on youth, social media, and arti-

ficial intelligence, and Egypt’s Youth and Sports Radio won the award for best radio awareness report for youth.

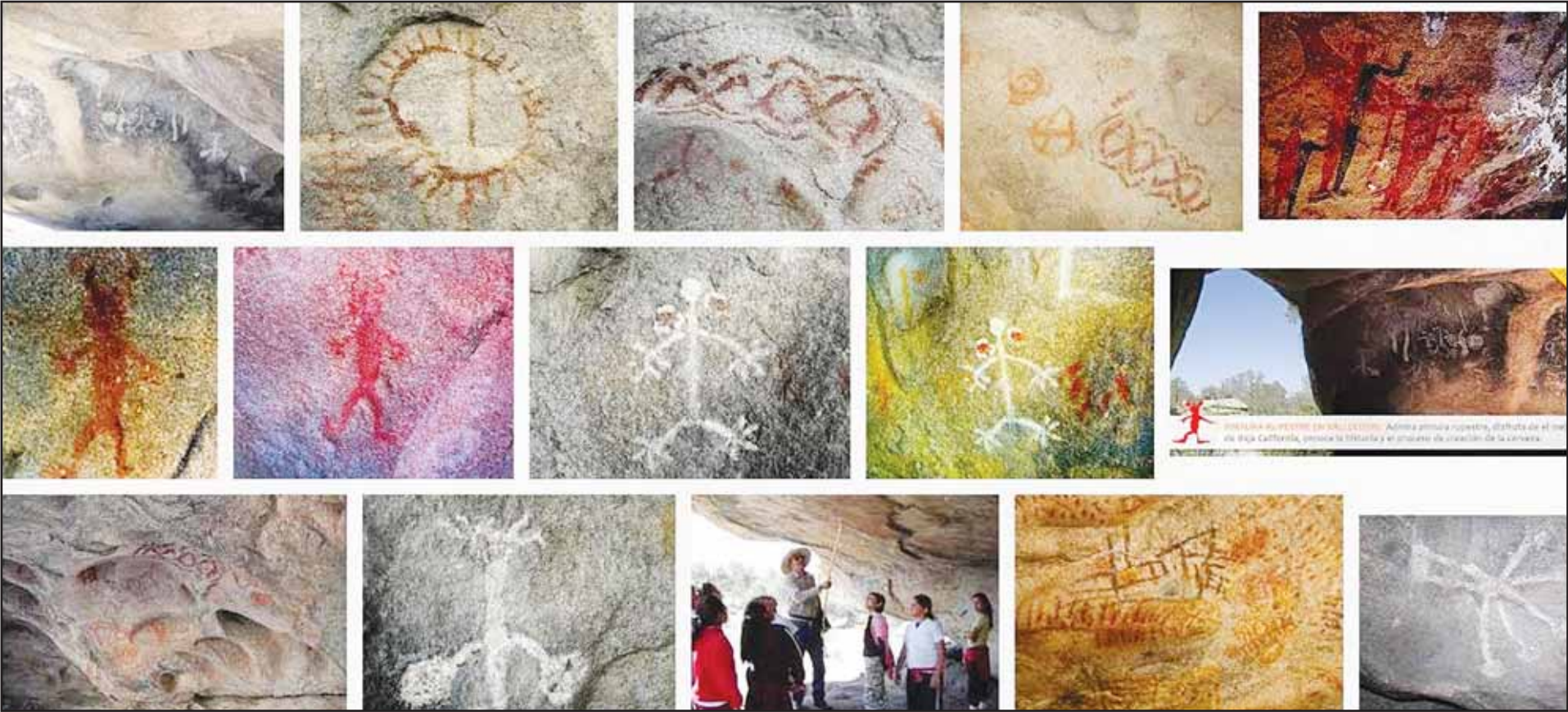
In the field of print journalism, Emirati journalist Hazza Abu Al-Raisi won the award for best investigative report titled “Arab Youth and New Media,” while the Jordanian newspaper Ad-Dustour won for best opinion column on the impact of hate speech on youth.

In the field of digital media, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) won for best photograph, taken by Faisal Al-Wahima, and for best digital report on youth media

sources, taken by Bandari Habram, while Amal Nawfal from Palestine won for best digital video.

The Ministerial Council also honored Ibrahim Matqi, the Director of Development and Follow-up at Kuwait’s Ministry of Information, in recognition of his significant contributions to the Arab media landscape.

Additionally, the Council honored Editor-in-Chief of the Saudi newspaper Al-Jazirah, Minister Ahmad Assaf who oversees Palestinian media, and Ali Saleh Al-Sada Director of Qatar TV.



A collage of prehistoric rock paintings and caves in La Rumorosa, Baja California, Mexico.

Ancient rock art offers insight into early inhabitants

Whispers of the wind: Rock paintings of La Rumorosa, Baja California

By the Embassy of Mexico in Kuwait

In northern Mexico, between the desert and the mountains, lies a place where time and wind seem to speak the same language. Known as La Rumorosa, this striking region of Baja California owes its name to the constant whisper of the wind through its massive granite rocks. Yet among the echoes and shadows of its cliffs lies another kind of whisper — one painted by human hands thousands of years ago.

A window to prehistory

La Rumorosa is home to some of Mexico’s most enigmatic prehistoric rock paintings, part of a vast network of ancient art found across the country. Experts estimate that Mexico contains more than 3,700 sites of rock art, each revealing stories of the country’s earliest inhabitants. Among them, La Rumorosa stands out not only for the



Some of the prehistoric rock paintings in La Rumorosa, Baja California, Mexico.

beauty of its mountain landscape, but for the diversity and preservation of its paintings.

These ancient works are believed to have been created by the Kumey-ayay (Tipai) people and their ancestors, hunter-gatherers who lived in the region more than 2,500 years

ago. Using pigments made from minerals, charcoal, and plants, they painted on granite walls figures of humans, deer, bighorn sheep, birds, suns, moons, and spirals, as well as mysterious geometric patterns. Some figures are shown in motion — dancing, hunting, or reaching toward the sky — sug-

gesting ritual or spiritual meaning.

An open-air museum of humanity

La Rumorosa and nearby sites such as El Vallecito, in the municipality of Tecate, form an open-air museum of pre-Columbian imagination. El Vallecito alone contains more than 18 panels of paintings, including the famous “El Diablito” (The Little Devil), a red figure aligned precisely with the winter solstice sunrise. This alignment demonstrates the ancient people’s advanced understanding of astronomy and their spiritual relationship with the cycles of nature.

The UNESCO World Heritage List currently includes several Mexican rock-art zones — most notably the Great Mural Rock Paintings of the Sierra de San Francisco in Baja California Sur, inscribed in 1993. While the La Rumorosa and El Vallecito paintings are not yet individually inscribed, they are officially recognized by Mexico’s National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) as part of the nation’s protected archaeological heritage.

Researchers continue to advocate for their inclusion in the broader UNESCO framework, highlighting their artistic and scientific value.

Where the desert breathes

Traveling through La Rumorosa is an experience that stirs all the senses. The road that connects Mexicali and Tecate climbs through sharp turns and dramatic cliffs, revealing views that stretch endlessly toward the desert below. The combination of altitude, wind, and silence gives the landscape an almost mystical character.

Local folklore tells of the voices of the wind — a constant, ghostly hum that inspired both the site’s name and its legends. Some say it is the sound of the ancient spirits still guarding their sacred paintings; others, that it is the earth itself remembering. Scientists, of course, attribute it to the unique acoustics of the canyon — but few visitors leave without feeling the magic.

Echoes that cross the desert

For readers in Kuwait, the story of La Rumorosa carries a familiar resonance. Like the deserts of Arabia, Baja California’s landscapes have shaped cultures of endurance, spirituality, and artistry. Both regions reveal how human creativity thrives even in the harshest environments — how stone, pigment, and silence can become a language that transcends time.

Mexico’s prehistoric artists did not sign their names, yet through their work they left something more enduring: a message of wonder and belonging. Standing before these painted walls, one senses that art — whether carved in rock or sung by the wind — remains humanity’s oldest way of saying, “We were here.”



La Rumorosa’s granite cliffs showcase Mexico’s enigmatic prehistoric art.

Kuwait audience immersed in Chinese culture

Chinese night showcases art, language, cuisine in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov. 27, (Xinhua): A Chinese culture night featuring food, music and Mandarin activities was held on Wednesday at the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait.

The event brought together cultural displays, culinary stations, and language-themed performances, offering local audiences an immersive experience of both traditional and contemporary Chinese culture.

A series of stage performances formed the highlight of the evening, showcasing the accomplishments of Chinese-language learners in Kuwait. A children’s choir opened the performance with Let’s Paddle Together, followed by a piano rendition of

The Butterfly Lovers. The students also recited classic Chinese poetry and delivered speeches on their personal experiences in China.

Additional performances included a duet of Iron, Blood and Loyal Heart, a XiangSheng (crosstalk) piece, a recital titled The Chinese Language and a Hanfu show. The program concluded with traditional instrumental works by musicians from the China Conservatory of Music.

Alongside the performances, cultural workshops allowed visitors to experience Chinese craftsmanship. Participants tried lacquer fan making, lantern crafting, Song-brocade wind chime assembly and

Miao-silver ornament magnet design. A calligraphy station offered guests personalised name cards written by teachers, while a tea-art booth introduced traditional tea preparation methods.

Food also drew significant crowds, with five culinary stations presenting classic Chinese dishes and snacks to highlight the regional diversity of Chinese cuisine.

Liu Xiang, charge d’affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait, said at the event that the program aims to use food as a bridge and culture as a link to deepen mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.



Chinese musicians perform at the China Cultural Center in Hawalli, Kuwait, on Nov. 24.

Variety

LHASA: Southwest China’s Xizang Autonomous Region has discovered 3,346 new cultural relic sites during the second phase of the fourth national cultural relics census, raising the region’s total to 7,623, its regional cultural relics bureau said Thursday.

The survey, which began in April 2024, covered all county-level units across Xizang. Significant findings include rock paintings in Sagya County, located at an altitude of 5,303.8 meters, making it the highest-altitude discovery in terms of newly recorded relics in China.

Newly documented relics span ancient tombs, architectures, cave temples, stone carvings and modern historical sites. Special investigations were also conducted in 21 border counties -- adding 254 relics related to territorial defense and the garrisoning of borders. (Xinhua)

BEIJING: “There’s a valley in Spain called Jarama. It’s a place that we all know so well. It was there that we gave of our manhood, where so many of our brave comrades fell.”

These plaintive strains of the folk ballad “Jarama Valley” are more than a memorial -- they are a portal to the stories of the International Brigades. This diverse group of anti-fascist fighters, drawn from across continents, now takes center stage in a touching exhibition in Beijing.

Titled “For a Common Cause: From the Spanish Battlefield to China’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression,” the ongoing exhibition opened in August at the Museum of the Communist Party of China (CPC), marking the 80th anniversary of victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Through more than 260 photographs, 150 cultural relics and historical footage, the exhibition shows how anti-fascist volunteers of the International Brigades fought bravely on both the Spanish and Chinese battlefronts -- unfolding an inspiring chapter of mutual aid in the global struggle against fascism.

“This marks the first time China has contextualized the two battlefields within a single exhibition space, underscoring the united anti-fascist spirit of people across the world,” said Zhao Jiaojian, planner of the exhibition, which will run through the end of 2025.

Organized by the Comintern -- an international communist alliance -- the International Brigades mobilized over 40,000 volunteers from more than 50 countries to defend the Spanish Republic against forces including those sent from fascist Italy and Nazi Germany during its civil war (1936-1939). They fought in brutal battles such as the Defense of Madrid and the Battle of Jarama, where an estimated 10,000 lives were lost.

Less widely recognized is the Chinese dimension of this chapter. Among the International Brigades’ volunteers were more than 100 Chinese, many of whom were CPC members. (Xinhua)

Kuwait plans liver and lung transplant

Kuwait has made major strides in organ transplantation: MoH

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27, (KUNA): Kuwait has been among the region’s countries that made great steps in organ transplant, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said on Wednesday.

Delivering a speech during the opening the 19th Congress of Asian Society of Transplantation (CAST) in Kuwait for the first time, the minister added Kuwait has commenced the journey of kidney transplant decades ago and has recently launched a program of heart transplant.

The country is also about to activate liver and lung transplant within months, he told the four-day conference, which witnesses global participation.

The Gulf and Middle East regions are witnessing growing demand for organ transplant services, he noted, highlighting professional national cadres in this matter.

Meanwhile, head of the conference Dr. Mustafa Al-Moussawi said the event aims to discuss ways of dealing with the shortage of organs and provide the latest knowledge in all domains of this practice.

The event is featuring 300 lecturers, multiple scientific workshops, 700 participants and 100 speakers of 28 countries across the globe, he noted.

Dr. Turki Al-Otaibi, head of the conference’s scientific committee, said Kuwait started the first kidney transplant in 1979, and it is committed to boosting the program of organ donation.



Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi during the opening of the 19th Congress of the Asian Society of Organ Transplantation.



In this photo released by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, the Nuri rocket lifts off from a launch pad at the Naro Space Center in Goheung, South Korea, Thursday, Nov. 27. (AP)

Seoul marks milestone

S. Korea launches largest satellite on its Nuri rocket

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 27, (AP): South Korea launched its largest satellite yet on its nationally developed space rocket early Thursday in the fourth of six launches planned through 2027.

The three-stage Nuri rocket lifted off from a spaceport on an island off the southwestern coastal county of Goheung. Aerospace officials said the rocket placed a 516-kilogram (1,137-pound) science satellite and 12 microsatellites into a target orbit about 600 kilometers (372 miles) above Earth.

The Korea Aerospace Administration said the main satellite made contact with a South Korean ground station in Antarctica about 40 minutes after liftoff at 1:55 a.m., confirming normal function and deployment of its solar panels. The satellite later established links with ground stations in South Korea’s central Daejeon city and Svalbard, Norway, as well as further contact with the King Sejong Station in Antarctica.

Five of the 12 microsatellites had contacted ground stations as of Thursday afternoon, and the rest were expected to do so in a scheduled sequence.

Kyunghoon Bae, the country’s science minister, said the successful launch reaffirmed that South Korea had independent space launch and transport capability.

He said the launch was a turning point as the first time a private company, Hanwha Aerospace, assembled the rocket under a technology transfer from the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, the national space agency.

“Building on today’s success, we will steadfastly pursue the development of next-generation launch vehicles, lunar exploration and deep-space missions,” Bae said.

The main satellite launched Thursday is equipped with a wide-range airglow camera to observe auroral activity and separate systems for measuring plasma and magnetic fields and for testing how life-science experiments perform in space.

The dozen smaller “cube” satellites, developed by university teams and research institutions, include GPS systems to study Earth’s atmosphere, infrared cameras to track plastic in the oceans, and systems for testing solar cells or communication equipment.

Thursday’s event was the country’s first launch involving a Nuri rocket since May 2023, when it successfully placed a 180-kilogram (397-pound) observation satellite into orbit, and the fourth overall since its first attempt in October 2021, which failed to deliver a dummy device.

Further launches are planned in 2026 and 2027 to advance the country’s space technologies and industries, and to reduce the gap with leading Asian space powers, such as China, Japan and India.

Nuri is a three-stage rocket powered by five 75-ton-class engines in its first and second stages and a 7-ton-class engine in its third stage, which releases the payloads at the desired altitude. It’s the country’s first space launch vehicle built primarily with domestic technology, a core asset for a nation that had largely relied on other countries to launch its satellites since the 1990s.

The Naro Space Center, South Korea’s lone spaceport, saw its first successful launch in 2013 with a two-stage rocket built with Russian technology, following years of delays and repeated failures. The rocket reached its target altitude during its first test in 2009 but failed to deploy a satellite, and then exploded shortly after liftoff during its second test in 2010.

Space farms roadmap

US-Russian crew of 3 blasts off to ISS in Russian Soyuz spacecraft

MOSCOW, Nov 27, (AP): A US-Russian crew of three began a mission to the International Space Station aboard a Russian spacecraft following a successful launch Thursday.

A Soyuz booster rocket lifted off at 2:27 p.m. (9:27 a.m. GMT) from the Russia-leased Baikonur launch facility in Kazakhstan to put the Soyuz MS-28 into orbit.

The spacecraft carried NASA astronaut Chris Williams and two Russian crewmates, Sergei Mikaev and Sergei Kud-Sverchkov. They were scheduled to dock at the station about three hours after liftoff.

All three are expected to spend about eight months at the orbiting outpost. NASA said this is the first spaceflight for Williams, a physicist, and Mikaev, a military pilot. This is the second flight for Kud-Sverchkov.

At the International Space Station, the trio will join NASA astronauts Mike Fincke, Zena Cardman and Jonny Kim, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency’s astronaut Kimiya Yui and Russian cosmonauts Sergei Ryzhikov, Alexei Zubritsky and Oleg Platonov.

Williams will conduct scientific research and technology demonstrations at the orbiting outpost aimed at advancing human space exploration and benefiting life on Earth, NASA said.

In another related development, scientists have outlined a roadmap



In this image released by Roscosmos space corporation, the Soyuz-2.1 rocket booster with Soyuz MS-28 space ship carrying NASA astronaut Chris Williams and Roscosmos cosmonauts Sergey Kud-Sverchkov and Sergey Mikaev, a new crew to the International Space Station, ISS, blasts off in Russian leased Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, Thursday, Nov. 27. (AP)

for using plants to support long-term human life on the Moon and Mars, using technologies that could also transform sustainable food production on Earth.

Experts create guidelines to fight loneliness

Strong social connection is as vital as exercise and healthy eating: study

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

By Daniel P. Aldrich, Northeastern University and Kiffer George Card, Simon Fraser University

Social isolation kills. It increases your risk of death by 30% - roughly the same as smoking cigarettes and much worse than factors such as obesity and sedentary living.

Americans are living through what researchers call a friendship recession, spending less time with friends than at any point in recent history.

In 2023, the US Surgeon General declared loneliness an epidemic. Deaths from factors like suicide, addiction and alcoholism, referred to as deaths of despair, continue climbing. While doctors routinely check patients’ blood pressure and ask about exercise habits, they rarely assess social health.

Public health guidelines urge Americans to eat their vegetables, exercise for 150 minutes weekly, sleep seven to nine hours nightly and drink less than one or two alcoholic beverages per day. But few public health bodies have addressed social connection - until now.

As scholars who focus on public policy and social determinants of health and well-being, we are part of an international team of more than 100 experts who undertook the first systematic effort to develop evidence-based guidelines for social connection.

These guidelines, which are now publicly available, aim to do more than offer advice. Elements of them are already being embedded into policies in the Netherlands and the UK.

Our hope is that the guidelines can elevate the importance of social connection to the same level as basic public health practices such as exercising, not smoking and relying on a designated driver when you go out drinking with friends.

Research has shown for decades that social connection is crucial for good health. The World Health Organization’s constitution, adopted in 1946, defines health as “complete physical, mental and social well-being.”

Codifying different dimensions of health into evidence-based guidelines matters because guidelines allow people to put recommendations into action. Nutrition labels help people understand what they’re eating. Exercise recommendations help people know how much movement protects their health. Blood pressure cutoffs tell both patients and clini-

cians when it’s time to intervene.

Guidelines also shape systems in ways people feel every day. Exercise guidelines, for example, helped motivate cities to invest in walkable streets and bike lanes, workplaces to design wellness programs, and schools to include physical activity in curricula.

Social health guidelines can play a similar role. Standardized metrics for social well-being can help health care providers identify when someone is socially isolated, enable employers to design workplaces that foster connection, and give schools and cities clearer targets for building socially supportive environments.

They also lay the groundwork for “social prescriptions” - structured ways to connect people with community programs or group activities - which some health care systems are already beginning to test.

Beginning in the summer of 2023, our team spent more than two years developing a set of international guidelines for social health by drawing on more than 40 plain-language evidence summaries, numerous case studies, conversations with marginalized communities, and extensive consultation with global experts.

What we found highlights several foundational principles of social well-being.

First, there are no universal rules for social health. There is no magic number of friends or ideal number of weekly social hours. Social needs vary widely. Both introverts and extroverts need connection, but they meet that need differently. A new parent’s social world is completely unlike a retiree’s. And quality trumps quantity: One meaningful conversation can be more nourishing than a dozen quick exchanges.

Second, technology is not the villain it’s often made out to be. Passive scrolling can harm well-being, but active, intentional use can strengthen bonds - whether through video calls with distant family, group chats that sustain friendships or apps that help neighbors organize local meetups. The key is using technology to facilitate real connection rather than replace it.

Third, relationships are shaped as much by systems as by individuals. Social health isn’t just about personal effort. It emerges from local environments that make connection possible. Research shows that investments in social infrastructure - the places and spaces where we connect, such as libraries, parks and cafes - measurably improve well-being. And communities that have denser concentrations of such spaces have better health outcomes after disasters. (AP)

Oral therapy

Nano-tech offers hope for cancer

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 27, (Xinhua): Russian scientists have developed nanoparticles to protect anticancer drugs from being destroyed in the gastrointestinal tract, potentially enabling an effective oral treatment in tablet form for aggressive melanoma, local media reported Wednesday.

The nanoparticles are based on gelatin and chitosan, TASS news agency reported, citing the press service with Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University.

The newly created nano-formulations allow the drug to reach the intestines intact and be absorbed efficiently, offering a promising alternative to current melanoma therapies that typically require intravenous administration, said the press service.

In experiments on mice with solid melanoma, oral administration of the compound using the new formulations suppressed tumor growth by 88 to 95 percent compared with the control group, said Sergei Shipilovskikh, a leading researcher at the university’s Laboratory of Nano- and Microencapsulation of Biologically Active Substances.

He added that in a metastatic melanoma model affecting the lungs, the nanoform of the drug reduced metastasis formation by 82 percent.

Using specialized tracking methods, the scientists confirmed that the nanoparticles were not destroyed in the stomach and successfully reached the intestines, staying long enough to deliver the drug to targeted areas, according to the university’s press service.

Tests on internal organs and blood samples of laboratory animals revealed no serious side effects, confirming the safety of the new treatment, it said.

The press service added that the developed strategy opens new prospects for creating effective and safe oral medicines for targeted cancer therapy. Enditem

Meanwhile, Australian government report published on Thursday estimated that over 20,000 Australians are living with terminal breast cancer, doubling a previous estimate.



This image provided by NSF NOIRLab shows NGC 6302, a billowing planetary nebula that resembles a cosmic butterfly. (AP)

Telescope in Chile captures stunning cosmic butterfly

A telescope in Chile has captured a stunning new picture of a grand and graceful cosmic butterfly.

The National Science Foundation’s NoIRLab released the picture Wednesday.

Snapped last month by the Gemini South telescope, the aptly named Butterfly Nebula is 2,500 to 3,800 light-years away in the constellation Scorpius. A single light-year is 6 trillion miles.

At the heart of this bipolar nebula is a white dwarf star that cast aside its outer layers of gas long ago. The discarded gas forms the butterflylike wings billowing from the aging star, whose heat causes the gas to glow.

Schoolchildren in Chile chose this astronomical target to celebrate 25 years of operation by the International Gemini Observatory. (AP)

‘It’s like finding a missing piece of puzzle’

Experts capture ‘sound’ of lightning on Mars

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Nov 27, (AP): Scientists have detected what they believe to be lightning on Mars by eavesdropping on the whirling wind recorded by NASA’s Perseverance rover.

The crackling of electrical discharges was captured by a microphone on the rover, a French-led team reported Wednesday.

The researchers documented 55 instances of what they call “mini lightning” over two Martian years, primarily during dust storms and dust devils. Almost all occurred on the windiest Martian sols, or days, during dust storms and dust devils.

Just inches (centimeters) in size, the electrical arcs occurred within 6 feet (2 meters) of the microphone perched atop the rover’s tall mast, part of a system for examining Martian rocks via camera and lasers. Sparks from the electrical discharges - akin to static electricity here on Earth - are clearly audible amid the noisy wind gusts and dust particles smacking the microphone.

Scientists have been looking for electrical activity and lightning at Mars for half a century, said the study’s lead author Baptiste Chide, of the Institute for Research in Astrophysics and Planetology in Toulouse.

“It opens a completely new field of investigation for Mars science,” Chide said, citing the possible chemical effects from electrical discharges. “It’s like finding a missing piece of the puzzle.”

The evidence is strong and persuasive, but it’s based on a single instrument that was meant to record the rover zapping rocks with lasers, not lightning blasts, said Cardiff University’s Daniel Mitchard, who was not involved in the study. What’s more, he noted in an article accompanying the study in the journal Nature, the electrical discharges were heard - not seen.

“It really is a chance discovery to hear something else going on nearby, and everything points to this being Martian lightning,” Mitchard said in an email. But until new instruments are sent to verify the findings, “I think there will still be a debate from some scientists as to whether this really was lightning.”

Lightning has already been confirmed on Jupiter and Saturn, and Mars has long been suspected of having it too.

Many are transforming empty plots into padel facilities

Padel surges in popularity as Indonesia embraces new sport, business booms

JAKARTA, Nov 27, (Xinhua): Padel is rapidly gaining traction in Indonesia, especially among middle- and upper-income groups. The racket sport, which combines elements of tennis and squash, has attracted urban residents with its social nature, energetic rallies and relatively low barrier to entry.

According to local padel field contractor Padelnesia, Indonesia now has around 134 padel courts. The sport’s swift expansion has encouraged entrepreneurs and property owners to view padel courts as a lucrative new venture. Many are transforming empty plots into padel facilities, while others are converting existing futsal venues to meet rising demand.

Harlan, 64, a futsal court owner in Bekasi, West Java province, is among those shifting direction. He is currently renovating his futsal court to create two padel courts, saying bookings for futsal have declined over the past year. “Renting out padel courts will be far more profitable,” he told Xinhua.

He explained that futsal courts typically rent for 50,000 to 150,000 rupiahs (about 3 to 9 U.S. dollars) per hour, whereas padel courts command significantly higher rates of 250,000 to 450,000 rupiahs (15.01 to 27.03 dollars) per

hour. “With such a substantial price gap and demand being so strong, I’m confident I can earn three to four times more,” he said.

Harlan has also mapped out additional revenue sources beyond hourly rentals, including coaching programs, membership packages, tournaments, and food and beverage services.

Navega Titi, a 58-year-old property owner in Cibubur, East Jakarta, sees similar gains. After buying a plot of land near her residential complex and building three padel courts, she now earns hundreds of millions of rupiahs each month. “Demand for padel has risen rapidly, and my courts are consistently booked by clubs, trainers and recreational players. These courts have become a highly profitable asset, bringing me a steady monthly net profit of up to 200 million rupiahs (12,011 dollars). I can recover my investment in just 1.5 to 2 years,” she told Xinhua.

During construction last year, Titi said many key materials, from turf and lighting to glass walls and fencing, were imported from China, allowing her to obtain high-quality components. “It is a multi-billion rupiah investment. But

renting padel courts has become one of the most reliable and profitable parts of my property business, and I expect growth to continue as the sport becomes even more popular,” she added.

Padel’s appeal among Indonesia’s urban residents stems from several factors. Players say it is easier to learn than tennis, naturally suited for doubles, and highly social. Its small court size keeps rallies lively and helps beginners reach a comfortable playing level quickly.

The sport also aligns with Indonesia’s expanding lifestyle fitness trend, with young professionals and families increasingly seeking active leisure options. Expat communities and social media have further amplified padel’s visibility and aspirational image. “Although this sport can be quite expensive, I still choose to play regularly because it gives me a great workout without feeling overwhelmed, and every match leaves me energized,” said Sarahine Bella, 28, from North Jakarta. “But what keeps me coming back is the social side. Even though the price can be high, the mix of enjoyment, fitness and social recognition makes it absolutely worth it,” she added.

Bad weather halts round 1

Fox shares first-round lead at Australian PGA Championship

BRISBANE, Australia, Nov 27, (AP): Sebastian Garcia had a good round going Thursday at the Australian PGA Championship until bad weather got in the way.

The Spanish golfer had completed 15 holes at the par-71 Royal Queensland course and was 7-under before a mid-afternoon thunderstorm delay. Spectators were later ordered by tournament organizers to vacate the course.



Fox

The weather delay and later suspension meant about half of the 156-player field will be forced to complete their first rounds on Friday morning. Round 2 tee times were to be delayed by 90 minutes.

Earlier, and fresh from an eight-week break after a season that included his first two tournament wins on the PGA Tour, Ryan Fox shot a 4-under 67 and was tied for the lead among those who had finished their rounds.

The 38-year-old New Zealander bogeyed the par-4 second hole but had five birdies the rest of the way.

The tournament is co-sanctioned by the PGA Tour of Australia and the European tour, which is starting its 2025-26 season just two weeks after Rory McIlroy won the Race to Dubai title.

Fox won this year’s Myrtle Beach Classic and Canadian Open on the PGA Tour.

Fox was level with Australian Anthony Quayle and 2024 Asia-Pacific amateur champion Ding Wenyi in a group at 4-under. Adam Scott, the 2013 Masters champion, and fellow Australian Min Woo Lee each shot 68 and were a stroke behind the early leaders.

Quayle had a familiar name as caddie - Steve Williams. On the bag for 13 of Tiger Woods’ major titles, Williams also caddied for Scott when he won the Masters in 2013.

“I met him at the New Zealand

Open earlier this year ... got on fairly well and I said, ‘Do you mind if we go grab a coffee afterwards, I’d love to pick your brain?’” Quayle said after his bogey-free round Thursday. “He said ‘I’ll give you my number, I’ll come caddie for you.’”

Scott’s five-birdie round ended with his second bogey of the day.

“It’s tricky around the greens,” Scott said. “If you’re just a little bit outside the circle, it can get hard to make putts and you can’t really force it because then you can make mistakes.”

Former British Open champion and LIV Tour regular Cameron Smith, winless in more than two years, shot 69, as did the defending champion Elvis Smylie.

Smith, who has won the Australian PGA three times and was runner-up last year, had five top-10 finishes in 13 regular LIV Golf events this season. But he missed his sixth straight cut at last week’s Saudi International in Riyadh.

He was pleased to be back in his home state of Queensland.

“I think I just have a sense of just being at home, feel comfortable sleeping in my own bed,” Smith said. “Lots of familiar faces around, so yeah, it’s just always good to be back.”

Marco Penge, who won three times on the European tour this year and is the tournament’s highest-ranked player at No. 30, shot 70.

On Wednesday, the big-hitting Englishman withdrew from the pro-am and said he had been receiving physiotherapy treatment for a neck strain.

“No, it’s not great,” Penge, 27, said Wednesday at Royal Queensland. “The physios here are helping me out. I think I’ve had five physio sessions in the last 24 hours, so we’re doing everything I can to feel OK.”

There were two aces on Thursday - Kazumu Kobori’s wedge into the 17th party hole went for a hole in one before Daniel Gale won a sponsor’s car with his effort on the 11th. Gale was at 5-under after 12 holes when play was suspended.

McIlroy will highlight the field in next week’s Australian Open at Royal Melbourne beginning Dec. 4.



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) drives against Minnesota Timberwolves center/forward Naz Reid (11) during the first half of an Emirates NBA Cup basketball game in Oklahoma City. (AP)

Gilgeous-Alexander leads Thunder to 10th straight victory

BOSTON, Nov 27, (AP): Jaylen Brown, Derrick White and the Boston Celtics ended Detroit’s winning streak at a franchise record-tying 13, outlasting Cade Cunningham and the Pistons 117-114.

The Eastern Conference-leading Pistons squandered a chance to break the record they share with the 1989-90 and 2003-04 championship teams. They are 15-3 two seasons after losing 28 in a row to break the NBA season record.

Brown had 33 points and 10 rebounds, and White scored 11 of his 27 points in the final 4 1/2 minutes to help the Celtics overcome Cunningham’s 42-point night.

With Detroit down 3, Cunningham was fouled near mid-court just as he was about to go up for a 3-pointer. After a review, the officials ruled he was indeed in the act of shooting. Cunningham hit the first two, but missed the third. Payton Pritchard grabbed the rebound for Boston, was fouled and hit two free throws with 2.4 seconds left.

Boston stole a pass before Detroit could attempt a potential tying 3.

Thunder 113, Timberwolves 105

Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 40 points despite being ill and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Gilgeous-Alexander, who was listed as questionable on the injury report, made 12 of 19 field goals and 15 of 17 free throws.

Oklahoma City won its 10th straight and became just the fifth team in NBA history to start a season 18-1. The Thunder improved to 4-0 in West Group A and are well-positioned to reach the knockout round.

Gilgeous-Alexander has scored at least 20 points in 91 consecutive games, the third-longest streak in NBA history behind two streaks by Wilt Chamberlain. Gilgeous-Alexander can match Chamberlain’s



Houston Rockets guard Reed Sheppard shoots during the first half of an Emirates NBA Cup basketball game against the Golden State Warriors in San Francisco. (AP)

second-place run of 92 straight on Friday against Phoenix.

Anthony Edwards had 31 points and eight rebounds and kept the Timberwolves in the game by making several difficult shots, but couldn’t stop Minnesota from losing its third straight. Minnesota made just 22 of 37 free throws.

Raptors 97,Pacers 95

In Toronto, Brandon Ingram made a 15-foot jumper with 0.6 seconds left to give the Toronto Raptors held off Indiana Pacers for their ninth straight victory.

Toronto wrapped up a top-two seed and homecourt in the NBA Cup quarterfinals with the victory and Milwaukee’s loss to Miami.

Ingram had 26 points and eight rebounds to help Toronto finish the Cup group stage 4-0 and improve to 14-5 overall. Scottie Barnes had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Immanuel Quickley added 15 points.

Heat 106, Bucks 103

In Miami, Tyler Herro scored 29 points, Bam Adebayo finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds and the Miami Heat beat the Milwaukee Bucks.

The win was the 800th for Heat coach Erik Spoelstra.

Norman Powell, Andrewiggins and Kel’el Ware each scored 11 for Miami, which improved to 3-1 in Cup games and 9-1 at home this season. Miami would win Group C if Milwaukee beats New York on Friday; if the Knicks win that game the Heat would need some help to reach the quarterfinals.

Ryan Rollins scored 26 for Milwaukee, which got 24 from Myles Turner and 15 from Gary Trent Jr. The Bucks have dropped six straight, the last four of those without Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Spoelstra is the 17th coach in NBA history with 800 wins and only the third to reach that total with one franchise in regular-season play, joining Gregg Popovich (1,390 with San Antonio) and Jerry Sloan (1,127 with Utah).

Rockets 104, Warriors 100

In San Francisco, Reed Sheppard scored a career-high 31 points to go with nine rebounds and five assists, and the Houston Rockets rallied from 12 points down at halftime to beat the Warriors in a rematch from the first round of last season’s playoffs when Golden State won Game 7 as the seventh seed.

Jimmy Butler had 21 points, five rebounds and five assists, Stephen Curry scored 14 points, and rookie Will Richard 18 for the Warriors.

Moses Moody, who reached 2,000 career points, hit a 3-pointer with six seconds left to pull Golden State within two. Then Moody fouled Sheppard, who converted both free throws to seal it.

Alperen Sengun added 16 points, six rebounds and six assists for Houston, which scored 22 points off Golden State’s 16 turnovers to win for the seventh time in eight games.

Knicks 129, Hornets 101

In Charlotte, Jalen Brunson scored 33 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 19 points and 10 rebounds and the New York Knicks handed the Charlotte Hornets their seventh straight loss.

Josh Hart added 22 points for the Knicks, who made 13 of 26 shots from 3-point range to improve to 3-1 in NBA Cup group play.

Brandon Miller had 18 points in his second game back from a shoulder injury for the Hornets, who’ve lost 10 straight Cup games over the past three seasons and were eliminated from this year’s competition.

Suns 112, Kings 100

In Sacramento, Mark Williams had 21 points and 16 rebounds, Collin Gillespie also scored 21 points and the Phoenix Suns jumped to a big early lead before beating the Sacramento Kings.

The 7-foot Williams shot 9 of 12 from the field and had nine offensive rebounds, dominating in the paint. Gillespie added nine assists.

The Suns improved to 3-0 in the NBA Cup standings. The Kings fell to 0-3.

Spurs 115, Trail Blazers 102

In Portland, De’Aaron Fox had 37 points and eight assists as the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 115-102 on Wednesday night in an NBA Cup group stage game.

Devin Vassell added 23 points for the Spurs, who kept their NBA Cup hopes alive.

Deni Avdija led Portland with 37 points and eight assists.

Grizzlies 133, Pelicans 128 OT
In New Orleans, Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 27 points, Jaylen Wells added 25 and the Memphis Grizzlies outlasted the New Orleans Pelicans.

Zach Edey had 21 points, 15 rebounds and two blocked shots for the Memphis, which improved to 2-1 in West Group B, while the Pelicans completed in-season tournament play at 0-4. The Grizzlies outscored New Orleans by 39 points during the 35 minutes Edey was on the court.

Jose Alvarado scored 24 for the Pelicans, who dominated when Edey was on the bench. They went up by 17 in the first half and led for most of regulation.

Best of the Rest

Olympic season over for Gut-Behrami: Lara Gut-Behrami will miss the rest of the Olympic season because of a severe knee injury she suffered while crashing in training in the United States, the Swiss ski star said on Thursday.

The 34-year-old Gut-Behrami would have been the defending Olympic champion in super-G at Cortina d’Ampezzo in February, and planned to retire when the season ends in March.

She was injured while training in super-G in Copper Mountain, Colorado, last week and has now confirmed earlier reports she ruptured ligaments in her left knee and damaged the meniscus.

“I consider that a knee injury, as complex as it is, cannot be considered a tragedy,” Gut-Behrami said in a statement that noted the recent deaths of young skiers who crashed in training.

The two-time World Cup overall champion will have surgery next week and did not formally end her career, saying she would wait to see what the future holds after the injury heals. (AP)

Froome back on the road after surgery: Four-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome is back in the saddle.

Less than three months after undergoing surgery following a serious crash, the 40-year-old British cyclist posted a selfie on his Instagram page showing him on a Cote d’Azur road. Wearing his training gear and smiling, he posed with the sunrise in the background.

Froome sustained a fractured vertebrae, collapsed lung and five broken ribs in the training accident in France.

“It’s been a tough road back after my latest crash but it feels so good to finally be out here spinning the legs and on the road again,” Froome wrote. “Every setback teaches you something... this one reminded me to slow down, heal and enjoy the simple things in life.”

Froome’s contract with Israel-Premier Tech - which is rebranding to NSN Cycling Team in 2026 - expires this year. He has yet to announce his plans for next season.

Froome won the Tour de France in 2013 and three in a row from 2015-17. (AP)

Newey to become Aston Martin’s team principal next season

LONDON, Nov 27, (AP): Adrian Newey will become Aston Martin’s team principal next season as part of the Formula 1 team’s restructuring.

Newey committed his long-term future to Aston Martin in September 2024 after his departure from Red Bull sparked a bidding war for his services. He’s widely considered the greatest technical mastermind of his generation.

Pressure has built on Andy Cow-

ell, the current team principal and CEO, amid a disappointing season and reported disagreements with Newey, whose current role is managing technical partner.

After speculation linking former Red Bull team principal Christian Horner with the team resurfaced, Aston Martin announced on Wednesday that the 66-year-old Newey will step up to take charge of trackside operations from 2026.

Cowell will take on a new role as chief strategy officer.

“Over the last nine months, I have seen great individual talent within our team,” Newey said.

“I’m looking forward to taking on this additional role as we put ourselves in the best possible position to compete in 2026, where we will face an entirely new position with Aston Martin now a works team combined with the consider-

able challenge faced by the new regulations.”

Newey has played a significant role in 13 drivers’ world championships and a dozen constructors’ titles with three different teams but has never previously held the role of team principal.

He ended a near two-decade association with Red Bull before committing to Aston Martin, where he is also a shareholder.

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Kuwait volleyball team kicks off Arab Challenge Cup in Amman



Head coach Alvarez directs the players during the training session.

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

AMMAN, Nov 27: Kuwait begins its journey in the first-ever Arab Volleyball Challenge Cup, which kicks off today in Amman, Jordan and continues through December 5. The team will face host nation Jordan at 6:00 p.m. in the opening round.

Other matches include, Egypt vs. Libya and Bahrain vs. Palestine. Kuwait will meet Bahrain tomorrow, take

on Palestine on November 30, Tunisia on December 3, and Libya on December 4, and conclude the competition against Egypt on December 5.

Kuwait prepared for the tournament through daily training sessions at the national federation hall, foregoing an overseas camp. The coaching staff selected 14 players to represent the country:

Abdulnasser Al-Anzi, Abdullah Al-Mulla, Abdullah Al-Mouin'a, Fares Siraj, Badr Al-Attar, Rashid Anbar,

Ahmed Al-Munees, Nasser Dashti, Abdullah Fares, Talal Abdulrazzaq, Abdulrahman Al-Mulla, Fahad Saad Yaqoub, Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa, and Saud Al-Dwaisan.

The delegation is led by Board Member Jassim Al-Felkawei and includes team manager Mohammed Al-Balushi, Argentine head coach Julian Alvarez, his assistants—Kuwaiti Zaid Al-Kazmi and Argentine Lux—and physiotherapist Mohammed Bin Al-Yamam.

Leech scores a game-high of 38 points

Kuwait loses second friendly to Thailand

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: Kuwait's basketball team lost their second friendly against Thailand 109-100 at the Kuwait Basketball Federation Hall, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. In contrast, Kuwait had won the first friendly 84-71.

These matches are part of Kuwait's early preparations for the upcoming Asian Cup qualifiers and other regional competitions.

The second match saw a different lineup and style of play. Key contributors for Kuwait included Hamad Adnan (25 points), Abdulaziz Al-Humaidi (23), Imran Johar (16), Alexander Al-Ghaith (9), Turki Al-Shammari (7), Saho Al-Saho (8), Ali Al-Haddhoud (3), Adel Al-Saeed (3), and Yousef Nasseeb (2).

Thailand's standout performer was Frederick Leech, who scored a game-high 38 points.

The first quarter was evenly matched, and Kuwait took a narrow lead at halftime 56-52. In the third quarter, Thailand dominated both offensively and defensively, outscoring Kuwait 33-20 to take an 85-76 lead into the final quarter. Both teams scored 24 points in the fourth, resulting in a 109-100 win for Thailand.



A Kuwait player goes up for a basket during the game.

Gunners look to cement lead in crucial clash with Chelsea

Liverpool's title defense is at crisis point

LONDON, Nov 27, (AP): The top of the table clash between Arsenal and Chelsea on Sunday has the potential to blow the Premier League title race wide open.

Alternatively, it could leave it in danger of turning into a procession.

Arsenal, six points clear at the top, heads to Stamford Bridge on a wave of optimism and a growing belief it will end its long wait for a first league title since 2004. With a squad regarded as possibly the strongest in Europe, Mikel Arteta's team is undefeated in 16 games in all competitions, with 14 wins on that run.

After three straight years as runner up, it feels like Arsenal's time has come and Wednesday's demolition of European powerhouse Bayern Munich was further evidence of its credentials to win the biggest prizes, not only the title but perhaps the Champions League as well.

With defending champion Liverpool in freefall and Manchester City also off the pace, it could be Arsenal's title to lose.

The closest challenger is second-place Chelsea, winner of the Club World Cup in July and with a squad that cost more than \$1 billion. But it is possibly ahead of the curve in terms of mounting a serious title charge.

Coach Enzo Maresca is only in his second season in the Premier League and has a squad packed with inexperience, but Chelsea produced its standout performance of the campaign to beat Barcelona 3-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday.



Arsenal's Bukayo Saka, left, is challenged by Bayern's Konrad Laimer during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Arsenal and Bayern Munich in London. (AP)

The clash with Bayern will be the sternest test yet of its title credentials.

While Chelsea vs. Arsenal is the biggest match of the weekend, there are key clashes elsewhere for teams hoping to stay in touch at the top.

City can temporarily move up to second with a win against Leeds while Liverpool, on the back of six losses in seven in the league, is at West Ham.

Brazil forward Estevao has quickly established himself at Chelsea and has been one of the most exciting players this season, with nine goals

in his last 13 games for club and country. That included his outstanding strike against Barcelona this week and his late winner against Liverpool last month.

Hugo Ekitike was substituted in Liverpool's game against PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday because of a back complaint.

Matheus Cunha missed Manchester United's defeat against Everton because of what was described as a knock in training. Benjamin Sesko is out with a knee injury.

Leandro Trossard limped off in

the first half of Arsenal's game against Bayern, with Arteta saying afterwards he did not know the extent of the injury.

Liverpool's title defense is at crisis point, with growing scrutiny on coach Arne Slot after a run of nine defeats in 12 games in all competitions.

Slot said he was still "feeling safe" after the latest loss, but it is clear he needs to turn Liverpool's form around after its damaging run.

The pressure could mount further if Liverpool slips up again at an upwardly mobile West Ham.

Event set for Dec 6

Kuwait hosts prestigious FEI Global Dressage Challenge

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: Sheikh Sabah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, President of the Dressage Committee at the Kuwait Equestrian Federation, announced that Kuwait will host the Global Dressage Challenge under the umbrella of the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) on Saturday, December 6. He noted that organizing such international dressage events in Kuwait will play a key role in developing this elegant sport, which is considered the foundation of equestrianism.

The Kuwait Equestrian Federation held a training camp with supervision and support from the FEI Solidarity Committee. The camp was led by Moroccan Olympic rider Yassine Rahmouni, who has participated in three Olympic Games and represented Morocco in numerous international competitions.

Rider Alaa Salem Al-Sultan, a member of the Dressage Committee, said that participants were selected based on their results from the current and previous seasons. The focus is on preparing the most skilled and committed riders for the upcoming Global Dressage Challenge while benefiting from



Sheikh Sabah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, President of the Dressage Committee at the Kuwait Equestrian Federation

the guidance of an Olympic-level trainer. Riders were split into morning and evening sessions to ensure all could attend.

Kuwait's Al-Ajmi joins IIHF meeting

ZURICH, Nov 27: Mishaal Al-Ajmi, Director of Development at the Kuwait Winter Games Club, took part in a meeting of the Facilities Committee of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) to review the latest updates on arenas for next year's Ice Hockey World Cup in Switzerland.

The meeting, held at the IIHF headquarters in Zurich, also explored innovative ideas for designing ice rinks that will host international competitions, ensuring player safety and enhancing overall game quality.

Al-Ajmi highlighted the committee's efforts to develop world-class venues for this fast-paced sport—the third most popular sport globally—and praised the productive discussions and the IIHF's commitment to improving facilities across all member nations.

On the local front, Snares defeated Warriors 8-1 in the Kuwaiti Men's Ice Hockey League, moving to 29 points, while Warriors remain at 27 points.



Mishaal Al-Ajmi

Napoli seeks to close gap on Roma

MILAN, Nov 27, (AP): Napoli is back.

And just in time as the defending champion visits Serie A leader Roma on Sunday, with just two points separating the sides.

After a series of disappointing results in Serie A and the Champions League, Napoli has bounced back with a 3-1 triumph over Atalanta followed by Tuesday's 2-0 victory over Qarabag.

"We'll enjoy it then we'll put back on the helmet because on Sunday we have Roma," Napoli coach Antonio Conte said.

Napoli started to struggle as the injury problems kept mounting up, with key players Romelu Lukaku, Kevin De Bruyne and Frank Anguissa ruled out for lengthy spells and others facing shorter periods on the sidelines.

Conte's team hadn't won since the end of October before breaking that streak with the victory over Atalanta last weekend.

"Napoli wasn't dead, it's not a question of being alive or not alive, but of continuing to work, always giving everything we have," Conte said. "Then games can be won or not, but we know that we must always give everything."

"It's a moment of great difficulty for the availability of the players ... we have to start from the assumption that the players go on the pitch. If we don't have any, we need to find different solutions ... we are moving forward, we have played two excellent matches."

AC Milan will be looking to take advantage of any slip up from Roma.

Milan is level with Napoli, two points below the capital side, and hosts Lazio on Saturday. The Rossoneri will be brimming with confi-



Napoli's Mathias Olivera and Qarabag's Pedro Bicalho in action during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Napoli and Qarabag in Naples. (AP)

dence after beating city - and title - rival Inter Milan in the derby last weekend.

Inter and Bologna are three points below Roma. Inter visits relegation-threatened Pisa on Sunday, while Bologna hosts Cremonese the following day.

There is a key relegation battle at the other end of the table as bottom club Hellas Verona

visits Genoa, which is also in the drop zone and has just two more points than its opponent.

The other side in the bottom three, 19th-placed Fiorentina, travels to Atalanta.

Substitute Kenan Yildiz starred for Juventus midweek as he had a hand in all three goals to help his team snatch a 3-2 victory at Bodo/Glimt to finally get its first Champions League win of the season.

Juventus is seven points behind Roma and hosts relegation-threatened Cagliari on Saturday.

Scott McTominay scored and also forced an own goal in Napoli's victory over Qarabag and the Scotland international should again be key against Roma.

The often-injured Roma playmaker Paulo Dybala could return from his latest setback.

United States international Christian Pulisic, who has only recently returned from injury, is likely to miss Milan's match against Lazio.

Pulisic has a muscle strain and his condition is being evaluated day by day, but Milan are unlikely to risk one of their top players.

Pulisic scored the only goal in Sunday's derby victory, on his first start since returning from a hamstring injury.

Italian media reports that the Asian Football Confederation has approved holding a Serie A game between Milan and Como in Perth, Australia, in February.

FIFA, world soccer's governing body, would still need to give the green light.

Both Milan and Como fans have voiced opposition to traveling so far for a game between clubs situated less than an hour apart.

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Flamengo soccer fans see their team off as it arrives to the airport before flying to Peru for the Copa Libertadores final, in Rio de Janeiro. (AP)

Sports

U-17 seeks vital win against Maldives

Kuwait resumes Arab Cup preparations

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

DOHA, Nov 27: Kuwait resumed preparations for the Arab Cup with training sessions at Al-Aqila Stadium in Doha, Qatar.

The players were given a two-day break following their 2-0 victory over Mauritania in the playoff match that secured their place in the group stage.

Kuwait will compete in Group C alongside Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan. The team opens its campaign against Egypt next Tuesday, faces Jordan on December 6, and concludes group matches against the UAE on December 9.

Portuguese coach Helio Sousa is focused on fine-tuning the squad, emphasizing concentration and teamwork as the group-stage challenges are tougher

than the playoff.

The under-17 1 team will face the Maldives today at 11:30 a.m. at Chonburi Stadium in Thailand, in the fourth round of Group F matches in the AFC U-17 Asian Cup qualifiers. Later, Thailand will meet Turkmenistan at 3:30 p.m.

Kuwait currently sits second in the group with 6 points, level on points but behind Thailand on goal difference. The group stage concludes Sunday with a crucial match between Kuwait and host Thailand.

The winner of each group will qualify for the Asian Cup finals, joining nine other Asian teams already confirmed for the 2025 U-17 World Cup in Qatar: South Korea, Indonesia, Japan, North Korea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, the UAE, and Uzbekistan. The finals of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup are scheduled next year in Saudi Arabia.



Kuwait senior soccer team intensifies preparation for the Arab Cup in Doha.

Arsenal knocks Bayern off its perch, Mbappé explodes for 4



Arsenal's Myles Lewis-Skelly gets in a shot as Bayern's Aleksandar Pavlovic tries to block during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Arsenal and Bayern Munich in London. (AP)

PSV sends shockwaves through Anfield; PSG storms past Spurs

LONDON, Nov 27, (AP): On a wild Champions League night with stellar teenage scorers, Kylian Mbappé also struck four, including the second-fastest Champions League hat trick ever, to show the old guys have still got it.

Arsenal took Bayern Munich's top spot in the standings with a 3-1 win, title holder Paris Saint-Germain romped to a 5-3 win over Tottenham with Vitorino scoring a hat trick, and Liverpool slumped to another loss at Anfield, 4-1 to PSV Eindhoven.

The 26-year-old Mbappé scored three times for Real Madrid between the 22nd and 29th minutes, and again in the 60th, of a 4-3 win at Olympiakos.

At age 17 - the same as when Mbappé was launching his Champions League career at Monaco - Lennart Karl and Viktor Dadason both scored Wednesday, and so did 18-year-old Geovany Quenda.

Karl's exquisite first-timer for Bayern leveled the game in the first half but barely bothered Arsenal in a clash of the Premier League and Bundesliga leaders. It was Bayern's first loss this season.

Only Arsenal now has five straight wins in the Champions League after Inter Milan lost 2-1 at Atletico Madrid, whose captain José María Giménez won it with a stoppage-time header - the 42nd and last goal on the nine-game slate.



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe controls the ball during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Olympiacos and Real Madrid in Piraeus port, near Athens, Greece. (AP)

In Copenhagen, Dadason set the Danish champion on its way to a three-goal lead in a 3-2 win over Kairat Almaty.

In Lisbon, Quenda opened the scoring in Sporting's 3-0 win over Club Brugge, spinning almost a full circle to hook a left-footed shot into the corner of the net. The exciting wing-back will join Chelsea after the season.

At the other end of the age scale, 38-year-old David Luiz scored with a soaring header to help Pafos to a 2-2 draw with Monaco. He became the second-oldest scorer in the Champions League, behind only another veteran defender, Pepe, who was ap-

proaching his 41st birthday when he scored for Porto two seasons ago.

Atalanta won 3-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt with three goals in five minutes, starting with Ademola Lookman in the 60th.

Three goals in a span of six minutes, 42 seconds was fast by Kylian Mbappé, but not quite the fastest ever in the Champions League.

That was Mohamed Salah's in six minutes, 12 seconds for Liverpool against Rangers in October 2022.

Mbappé is now the second fastest, with his second hat trick in the competition this season, and fifth of his Champions League career. He's also now the top scorer this season

with nine, ahead of the now-injured Victor Osimhen, who has six for Galatasaray.

Viktor Dadason already was the third-youngest scorer in the Champions League's 34-season history last month in Copenhagen's 4-2 loss at Borussia Dortmund. Only Ansu Fati and Lamine Yamal were younger than the Iceland youth international when they scored their first goals for Barcelona.

The 6-foot-3 (1.93 meter) Dadason set Copenhagen on the way to a three-goal lead Wednesday with a header in the 26th. The Danish champion had to hang on for a 3-2 win over Kairat Almaty, which scored twice late on, yet ended the night 35th in the standings above only hapless Ajax.

David Luiz returned to Europe at age 38, after four years in his native Brazil, to help Cyprus champion Pafos in its debut Champions League season.

The former Brazil star scored his first goal in the competition since October 2017 with a powerful header into the Monaco net at a corner. His previous Champions League goal came in his second spell at Chelsea, where he was key in the 2012 Champions League title-winning team.

Monaco held a 2-1 lead from the 26th, when United States forward Folarin Balogun intercepted a pass by goalkeeper Neofytos Michaeland to score with a low shot. Pafos leveled in the 88th when the ball struck Monaco defender Mohammed Salisu after rebounding from the crossbar for an own goal.

Kuwait heads to Malaysia for Kuala Lumpur Squash Open

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 27: The Kuwait youth squash team departed for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to take part in the 17th Kuala Lumpur Squash Open, scheduled from December 2 to 7.

The delegation is headed by Board Member Ahmed Al-Adwani, alongside Board Member Adel Al-Gharib in an administrative role, and coaches Ahmed Abdel Aal and Majid Aziz Khan. The team players include Salman Al-Saleh, Saleh Ashkanani, Abdullah Maayouf, Khalid Al-Madhan, Abdulaziz Al-Mes-

bahi, and Hamoud Al-Sawagh.

Before the tournament, the team will complete a five-day training camp featuring friendly matches against top Malaysian junior players and morning practice sessions. Malaysia is renowned for producing some of Asia's strongest young squash players.

This participation forms part of the Kuwait Squash Federation's ongoing strategy to develop national teams, enhance player experience, and gain international exposure.



The Kuwaiti squash delegation.

'Historic decision'

IJF restores full national status for Russian judokas

ABU DHABI, Nov 27, (AP): The International Judo Federation (IJF) has decided to "reinstate full national representation" of Russian athletes at its competitions starting this weekend, it said on Thursday, despite the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The IJF executive committee voted to allow Russian athletes to compete under their national flag, with their anthem and symbols, beginning with the 2025 Abu Dhabi Grand Slam from Nov. 28-30. "Athletes have no responsibility for the decisions of governments or other national institutions, and it is our duty to protect the sport and our athletes," the federation said.

Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, many athletes were banned from entering competitions. The Russian Olympic Committee has been suspended since 2023 by the International Olympic Committee for breaking the Olympic charter by using an administrative land grab to incorporate regional sports bodies in occupied eastern Ukraine. Russians will be allowed to compete at next year's Milan-Cortina Winter Games, but the IOC will maintain the system it used at the 2024 Paris Games, permitting them to compete only as individual neutral athletes. Sergey Solovveychik, president of the Russian judo federation, praised what he called a "historic decision."

"Thanks to the IJF for this long-awaited, fair and courageous decision," he added in a statement. The IJF said it had previously reinstated full national representation for Belarusian athletes. Belarus allowed Moscow to use its territory as a staging ground for the invasion of Ukraine and later allowed the deployment of tactical nuclear missiles.

The IJF added that it now considers "appropriate to allow the participation of Russian athletes under equal conditions," emphasizing that the sport "cannot allow itself to become a platform for geopolitical agendas."

"Historically, Russia has been a leading nation in world judo, and its full return is expected to enrich competition at all levels while upholding the IJF's principles of fairness, inclusivity, and respect," it added. Russian President Vladimir Putin is a keen judoka and attended the sport at the 2012 London Olympics. Soon after Russia started its invasion, Putin lost his most senior official position in world sports. The IJF cited "the ongoing war conflict in Ukraine" for suspending Putin's honorary president status, and Solovveychik, who at the time was president of the European Judo Union, resigned from his post.

Best of the Rest

UAE pulls back bid to host Cup: The United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAE FA) has withdrawn its bid to host the 2031 AFC Asian Cup, months after officially submitting its proposal in February 2025.

The federation announced the decision on Thursday via its official account on X. With the UAE exiting the race, Kuwait now stands as the only Gulf nation still in contention, alongside Australia, South Korea, Indonesia, India, and a joint bid submitted by Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will continue coordinating with all bidding national associations as it moves toward selecting the host nation for the 24-team tournament. The final vote is scheduled to take place during the AFC General Assembly in 2026.

The AFC had invited member associations to submit hosting bids on November 27, 2024, with March 31, 2025 set as the deadline for final applications. (KUNA)